



## Great Lakes St. Lawrence Trees Initiative



**The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers are leading a regional effort with the goal of planting 250 million trees by 2033.**

Over the next decade, GSGP will work with the region's eight US States and two Canadian Provinces, federal governments, corporations, cities and other institutions to achieve this goal. Tree planting creates a multitude of benefits for the region's environment, economy and people. These benefits include carbon storage, water quality improvements, habitat, health and recreational access.

The Governors' and Premiers' **Trees Initiative** includes a series of strategic and related actions:

### **Regional leadership**

- The region commits to planting 250 million trees by 2033.
- The region's States and Provinces will collaborate and support one another and other entities to reach their tree planting goals. This will include identifying and developing strategies and policies to maximize tree planting benefits and the "return on investment."

### **New partnerships**

- A new Supporting Partners program to expand support from companies, NGOs, philanthropies and others to foster more tree planting.
- A new Great Lakes Green Events program for conferences and other events to support local tree planting and encourage sustainability.

### **Federal action**

- Advocate for accelerated tree planting on federal lands and greater support for regional efforts.

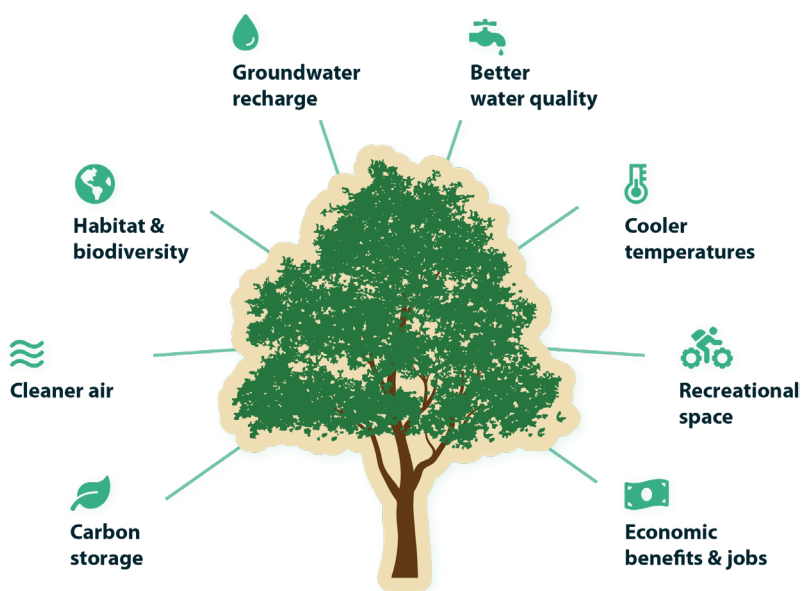
### **Harnessing markets**

- Develop a structure to track and quantify the many benefits of tree planting. The Great Lakes Impact Investment Platform will track progress and estimate these benefits.
- Showcase innovative finance opportunities for private landowners.

## Why trees?

- Trees clean the air by storing carbon and removing other pollutants.
- Trees can save lives by reducing extreme heat and reduce energy use for cooling.
- Trees absorb stormwater to help improve the health of streams and lakes.
- Trees provide habitat for other plants and wildlife.
- Trees create recreational landscapes, economic benefits and jobs.

Widescale tree planting has strong support. A recent Pew Research Center poll found that 90 percent of Americans embrace tree planting to protect the environment.



The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers (GSGP) unites the chief executives from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Ontario, Pennsylvania, Québec and Wisconsin. The Governors and Premiers work as equal partners to grow the region's economy and protect its waters.

**To find out how you can participate or for more information, please contact:**

[gsgp@gsgp.org](mailto:gsgp@gsgp.org)

## Why the Great Lakes St. Lawrence region?

The Great Lakes St. Lawrence region is home to more than 100 million people, a US\$6 trillion regional economy and abundant natural resources including water, forests and agricultural lands. Given ample real estate, a long-standing forestry economy and increasing demand, our region is uniquely positioned to be a center for investment in natural climate solutions - especially tree planting.

Tree planting is a major opportunity for the region and its people to improve the quality of life while offering a high "return on investment." Tree planting creates economic benefits, jobs and myriad environmental improvements, particularly for water.

Demand for tree planting projects is strong and expected to grow significantly in coming years as companies and others look to reduce their carbon emissions. Recent US federal legislation will also provide important new funding for trees and stimulate demand for planting.

## Why now?

A proverb says, "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now." Planting trees today will create environmental and economic benefits for the Great Lakes St. Lawrence region for years to come. As public, private and nongovernmental entities work to reduce emissions and make other environmental improvements, a tree planting initiative can build on the region's strengths to attract new projects and investment.