

FOREST LITERACY HOT TOPIC

PUBLIC HEALTH

Forests and trees supply an abundance of ecosystem services that help in creating healthy living environments and in restoring degraded ecosystems.

In addition to tangible products, forests help to support human health by purifying water; protecting drinking water resources; binding toxic substances; maintaining soil fertility; controlling erosion; and alleviating floods, droughts, and noise. Forests also help to mitigate climate change and to regulate infectious diseases. Woodlands and trees have a positive impact on air quality through deposition of pollutants to the vegetation canopy, reduction of summertime air temperatures, and decrease of ultraviolet radiation. Forests also provide recreational, cultural, spiritual, and aesthetic services.



KEY FOREST LITERACY PLAN CONCEPTS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Forest literacy activities may help to address questions such as:

- How do trees and forests influence the access to clean air and water
- How does interaction with trees and forest influence human physical, mental and spiritual health?

Grade Level	Concepts
K-2	Theme 2, B.6
3-5	Theme 2, A.2 Theme 2, A.4 Theme 2, B.8
6-8	Theme 2, A.5 Theme 2, B.9 Theme 3, B.5
9-12	Theme 1, B.6 Theme 2, B.10 Theme 3, C.4