

NATURE PRESERVE FOUNDATION

ADOPT-A-TREE ACTIVITY



The Nature Preserve Foundation protects 46 acres of land at the Watershed Nature Center in Edwardsville, IL. This area includes a beautiful, lush forest that many animals and insects call home! When you visit, walk our scenic nature trail and choose a tree to "adopt". Visit your tree in each season to observe how it changes throughout the year!

Use this booklet to write and draw your observations.

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MY TREE INFORMATION PAGE

Official Tree Name: _____

My Tree's Nickname: _____

Adopted by: _____

Date adopted: _____

Birthplace: _____

Circumference _____

Height: _____

Identifying characteristics: _____

One especially interesting thing about my tree is:

Is the tree alive? _____

Describe the color and feel of your tree's bark:

Describe the shape, color, and feel of your tree's leaves:

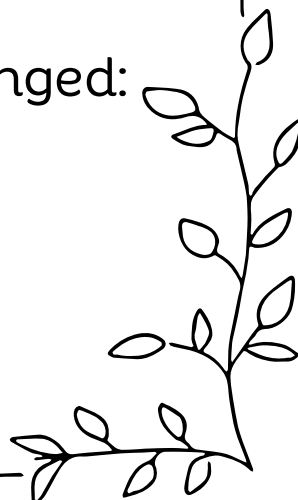
What else do you want to write about the tree?

Use the next pages to draw and record details about your tree. Do leaf and bark rubbings if leaves are present. You can create pressed flowers with clear tape or Press-n-Seal wrap in spring or summer if your tree is a flowering tree and attach them to the pages of this journal.

MY TREE IN SPRING

Animals and insects I observe:

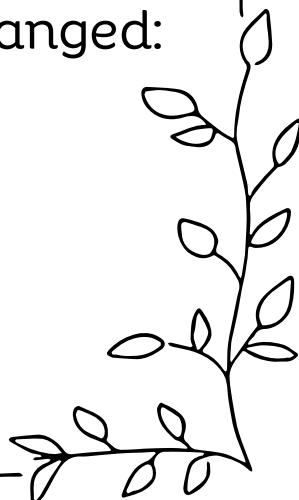
How my tree has changed:



MY TREE IN SUMMER

Animals and insects I observe:

How my tree has changed:



MY TREE IN FALL

Animals and insects I observe:

How my tree has changed:



MY TREE IN WINTER

Animals and insects I observe:

How my tree has changed:



BARK RUBBINGS

LEAF RUBBINGS

FLOWERS

LEAF IDENTIFICATION



Leaf Identification Guide

Looking at the shape of a tree's leaves can help you figure out what kind of tree it is



ash



poplar



aspen



pecan



maple



liquidambar



birch



oak



lilac



chestnut



willow



sassafras



catalpa



rowan



carob tree



beech



elm



magnolia



linden



hornbeam



gum tree



ginkgo



alder



camphor



tulip tree



smoke tree



holly



fig tree



plane tree



mulberry



laurel



olive



palm

FOREST CONSERVATION

Forest conservation is so important! Trees are valuable for many different reasons. They give us flowers, fall colors, and lovely scents. They are homes for birds, squirrels, butterflies, and other wildlife. Their branches are beautiful shapes that beautify urban landscape and even hold tree houses. They shade and cool our streets and buildings and insulate homes from cold winds. They absorb carbon dioxide and pollutants. They prevent erosion and muffle city noises. They are fun to climb!

By completing this activity, we hope that you found a new appreciation for your amazing tree, and all trees! Why stop here? Find more trees to "adopt" and appreciate in more locations! Find different types of trees to adopt. Compare their similarities and differences. When we stop to appreciate how important these trees are to our lives (and the lives of so many other organisms), we are more likely to take care of them and conserve them for future generations to enjoy. Thanks for participating!

Visit www.naturepreservefoundation.org for information on our foundation and upcoming events!

Source: Project Learning Tree Pre K-8 Environmental Education Activity Guide

