



BIODIVERSITY

What have the forests done for you lately?

From the air you breathe to the ground you walk on, biodiversity improves your quality of life.

Ecosystems, including forests, are made up of living things, their non-living environment, and the interactions among them. These interactions create valuable benefits that are collectively called “ecosystem services.”



One of the goals of sustainable forest management is to protect biodiversity so Canadians can continue to benefit from ecosystem services long into the future.

Ecosystem services:

Providing habitat
> Because species depend on each other, forests create suitable spaces in which various creatures can live.

Cycling nutrients
> Biodiversity helps the efficiency of processes like decomposition and carbon absorption.

Improving resilience
> Forests with high biodiversity are better able to adapt to changing conditions.

Controlling pests
> Having lots of biodiversity means some wasps and beetles prey on pest species that harm trees, keeping natural processes in balance.

Providing recreational opportunities
> Activities like camping, hiking and birdwatching benefit from biodiversity.

Average value of an urban tree in Toronto: **\$700**
Estimated value of Toronto’s urban forest: **\$7 billion**
Estimated value of ecosystem services provided annually in Montreal: **\$4.29 billion**
Estimated weight of carbon absorbed by Canada’s managed forests annually: **424 CN Towers**

