

Have you ever walked down a street that used to be full of trees, only to find it suddenly bare? The shade gone, the air hotter, the birds silent? That's what's happening to my suburb—Greenhollow. Slowly but surely, we are losing the very thing that makes this place feel alive: our trees.

I've lived in Greenhollow my whole life. When I was little, I used to ride my bike under the tall eucalypts by Ridgeview Park. The leaves would whisper stories above my head, and rainbow lorikeets would dart through the branches like fireworks. Now, many of those trees are gone, cut down for more buildings, roads, and parking lots. What used to feel like a green forest is starting to feel like a grey desert.

This isn't just about missing trees. It's about heat waves that hit harder because there's no shade. It's about flooding that happens because tree roots no longer soak up rain. It's about birds losing their homes and the air we breathe becoming harder to clean. According to the Greenhollow Urban Canopy Survey, we've lost 12% of our tree cover in just two years. That's not just a number—that's hundreds of trees, gone.

Trees aren't decoration. They are nature's lungs, and when we chop them down, it's like we're choking our suburb one breath at a time.

We need to act now. Not just to plant new trees, but to protect the ones we already have. I'm asking our council to make stronger rules about tree removal and to invest in replanting. But we can help too—by joining local planting days, reporting illegal tree clearing, and even just talking about it.

So next time you walk down your street, look up. If there's a tree above you, thank it. And if there isn't—ask why.

Let's save the soul of Greenhollow before it's too late.

Thank you.

Audience: General community and local council

Persuasive Techniques Used:

- AIDA structure (Attention, Interest, Desire, Action)
- Figurative language: "whisper stories," "lungs of nature," "grey desert"
- Rhetorical question, repetition, personification
- Emotionally evocative tone and physically descriptive language
- Two symbolic metaphors (trees as lungs and soul of Greenhollow)

Format Adaptation: This speech is from the perspective of a concerned kid. It uses simple but effective rhetorical devices, vivid imagery, and emotional appeals that match a spoken delivery style. The tone is earnest and heartfelt, designed to connect with everyday listeners, not just officials.

