How do DC’s trees help clean our rivers?
THE HEALTH AND VITALITY OF WATERWAYS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO DC AREA RESIDENTS.

~ 5 million people live within the Potomac watershed.

~ 486 million gallons of water is withdrawn daily in the Washington area for water supply.

The aquatic habitat and water quality of our rivers remain vulnerable to all types of pollutants especially those coming from stormwater runoff*.

*STORMWATER RUNOFF
water from precipitation that moves across the land into surface water, instead of seeping into the ground.
HOW DO TREES FILTER STORMWATER AND RUNOFF

When rainwater falls it can either land on **pavement** where it picks up **pollutants**, runs into our sewer system and out **into our rivers**

- OR -

It can land on soil where **trees** and plants **filter that water** before it deposits into groundwater reserves.
HOW MUCH DO DC’S TREES HELP FILTER STORMWATER?

Each year DC’s trees filter 44,274,580 cubic feet of water equating to about $779 million per year. That is equal to about 500 Olympic size swimming pools.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIES NAME</th>
<th>NUMBER OF TREES</th>
<th>AVOIDED RUNOFF VALUE ($/YR)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TULIP TREE</td>
<td>110,911</td>
<td>$117,343,848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMERICAN ELM</td>
<td>47,844</td>
<td>$64,098,587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMON CRAPEMYRTLE</td>
<td>104,387</td>
<td>$39,919,104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMERICAN BEECH</td>
<td>387,101</td>
<td>$98,547,221</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Not all trees filter water the same way. Larger tree species filter more water than smaller trees do, so even though there may be fewer of them, they put in much more work.

- 47,844 American Elm Trees = 41 Olympic Swimming Pools
- 104,387 Common Crapemyrtle Trees = 25 Olympic Swimming Pools
RESOURCES

See the full results of Casey Trees’ iTree Eco Report at caseytrees.org/itreeecoreport

Check out our Large Tree Species page to find which tree would be the best fit for your yard at caseytrees.org/tree-species/

Take a look at the iTree Eco Study and model at itreetools.org/eco/
VOLUNTEER
caseytrees.org/
get-involved

DONATE TO
CASEY TREES

BECOME
A TREE
ADVOCATE

PLANT LARGER
TREES IN YOUR
YARD