

# CASEY TREES

## STORMWATER & TREES

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*~ 486 million gallons of water is withdrawn daily in the Washington area for water supply.*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

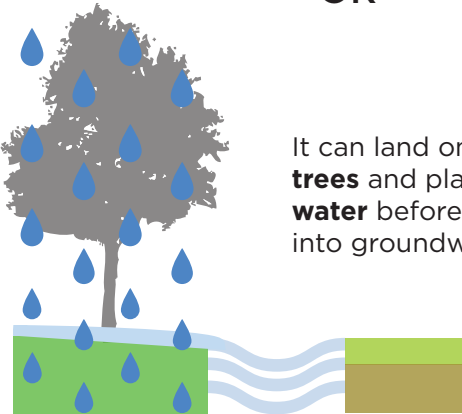
# HOW DO TREES FILTER STORMWATER AND RUNOFF

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.



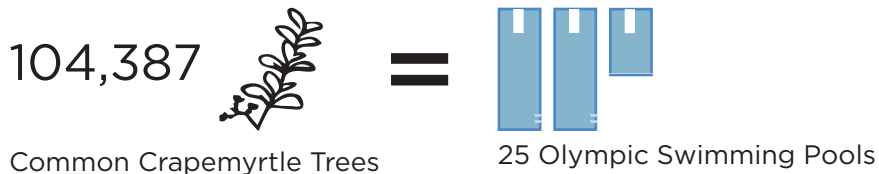
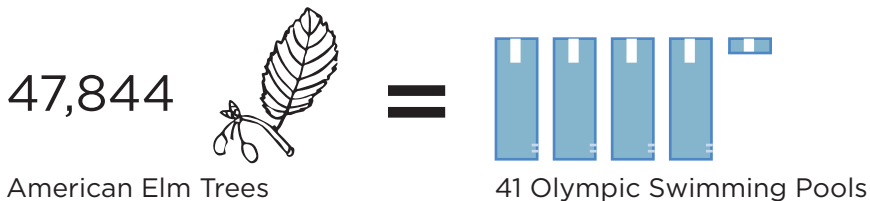
# HOW MUCH DO DC'S TREES HELP FILTER STORMWATER?

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.**

SPECIES NAME	NUMBER OF TREES	AVOIDED RUNOFF VALUE (\$/YR)
 TULIP TREE	110,911	\$117,343,848
 AMERICAN ELM	47,844	\$64,098,587
 COMMON CRAPEMYRTLLE	104,387	\$39,919,104
 AMERICAN BEECH	387,101	\$98,547,221

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.



# RESOURCES



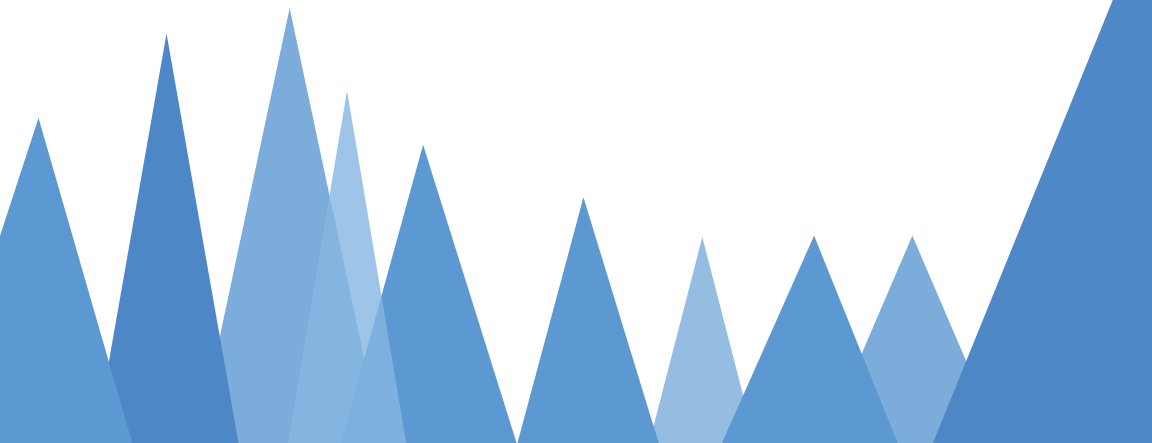
See the full results of **Casey Trees' iTree Eco Report** at [caseytrees.org/itreeecoreport](https://caseytrees.org/itreeecoreport)



Check out our **Large Tree Species** page to find which tree would be the best fit for your yard at [caseytrees.org/tree-species/](https://caseytrees.org/tree-species/)



Take a look at the **iTree Eco Study** and model at [itreetools.org/eco/](https://itreetools.org/eco/)



# HOW TO HELP?

**VOLUNTEER**  
caseytrees.org/  
get-involved

**BECOME  
A TREE  
ADVOCATE**

**DONATE TO  
CASEY TREES**

**PLANT LARGER  
TREES IN YOUR  
YARD**





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