

Pollutant Removal and Contribution of Trees

BRYAN SEIPP

Watershed Manager

Center for Watershed Protection

ABSTRACT

Over the past several years, interest in the use of trees for stormwater management has increased as more communities adopt a “green infrastructure” approach. Trees have well-documented environmental and community benefits, and therefore the concept of incorporating them as a cost-effective stormwater management practices is an appealing one.

However, determining how trees provide benefits and, more importantly, how to calculate the water quality benefits of trees is more difficult, especially when there is little data to document their effectiveness as part of a stormwater management strategy. Additionally, concerns have been raised by the engineering and maintenance practitioners about potential problems with using trees as part of a stormwater management strategy.

This presentation will cover recent research into how trees provide water quality benefits, how some jurisdictions are calculating their stormwater effectiveness, and the limitations of trees as a stormwater BMP.