

Applying Stormwater Credits for Trees

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ABSTRACT

Trees have long been appreciated for the many benefits they provide, but historically they have not been widely touted for their role in stormwater management. As communities throughout the state and nation move toward increased efforts to reduce stormwater volume, trees are now getting increased attention. When considering trees in the context of stormwater volume and pollutant reduction, a challenging question faced by the stormwater community is, How much stormwater benefit do trees really provide, or how much “credit” should a tree be given toward stormwater volume and pollutant-reduction requirements?

Janna Kieffer and Randy Neprash will explore the multiple ways in which trees can reduce stormwater volume and pollutant loading and how these benefits might be quantified in a credit system. They will also discuss approaches others have taken to quantify the stormwater benefits from trees and the efforts underway in Minnesota to develop a tree stormwater credit system as part of the MPCA’s Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS) project.