

Stormwater Trees

40%

The level of tree canopy recommended for beneficial coverage

10%

The current level of tree canopy in the older portions of Milwaukee, according to a 2002 analysis by Hey and Associates

"A healthy tree canopy can tremendously reduce stormwater runoff, saving its host city millions of dollars in infrastructure."

- The American Forests

Help Protect Your Watershed

Trees offer vibrant color shows on sunny fall days, and they have many more invaluable qualities that you may not realize. Trees can provide summer energy savings and slow down rainwater runoff, which can help reduce the volume of sewer overflows. Trees are a part of the solution to reducing sewer overflows in our region. Here are a few of the other benefits and facts.

Case Study:

Tree loss in the greater San Antonio, Texas area between 1985 and 2001 resulted in an estimated increase of 73 million cubic feet of stormwater flow during a peak storm event.* Using a cost estimate of \$2/cubic foot to build stormwater systems, this vegetation loss is equivalent in value to a one-time expense of \$146 million.

- American Forest, 2002

* based on a 2-year, 2-hour storm event

Trees improve a city's ability to absorb rainfall in two ways:

- Raindrops cling to leaves and branches slowing their fall and giving the ground more time to absorb excess water. Some raindrops evaporate from trees, never hitting the ground.
- Tree roots break up soil, which allows more water to be absorbed instead of running directly into rivers and lakes, picking up pollution along the way.

Additionally, trees can:

- Help reduce noise in urban areas.
- Create habitat for birds and wildlife.
- Provide natural, aesthetic, and recreational benefits.
- Provide great benefit during light rains by increasing the amount of water that drains into the soil, which helps replenish aquifers for drinking water.



If you would like more information, please check our web site at:
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In cooperation with the
2020 Facilities Plan



MILWAUKEE METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT