

We often judge the aesthetic value of our yards and neighborhoods by the amount of green we see. Here in Warrington, we plant trees and shrubs to beautify our space and attract wildlife without even realizing the ecological benefits of our actions. More specifically, trees help reduce storm water runoff by intercepting and absorbing rainwater. By filtering runoff, potential pollutants are reduced from our storm drains and streams. In addition, the shading of trees helps to reduce temperatures and therefore save on our energy costs. So, can we place monetary value on our existing trees?

In recent months, Warrington Township has launched a project to calculate and predict just how much money can be saved in storm water management through the existing trees in the township. Interns and volunteers have been identifying and inventorying trees in order to enter the information into computer software. The software then calculates the current savings trees provide as well as future savings dependent on their growth. Besides calculating storm water runoff reduction, the software also has the potential to calculate how trees affect water quality, air quality, and carbon storage.

The overall goal of the project is to teach members of the township about the benefits of planting native tree species. If you are interested in your neighborhood energy savings or want to learn valuable tree identification and assessment skills, Warrington Township is looking for volunteers to continue the project beginning spring 2010. Volunteers will receive the necessary on the job training.



For more information on volunteering or the project, please contact the Environmental Advisory Council at [EAC.Warrington@gmail.com](mailto:EAC.Warrington@gmail.com).