

West Towson Tree Replenishment Project

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■ Problem:

The residential streets of West Towson have historically been lined with large oak trees, which beautify the community, buttress property values, and assist with stormwater management. However, many of these trees were being lost each year due to environmental stresses and the trees' age.

■ Solution:

A local reforestation initiative was launched with the support of community volunteers, Blue Water Baltimore, and Baltimore County stormwater fees. In a single day, approximately 75 volunteers – including homeowners and students from nearby Towson University and Goucher College – planted more than 80 trees in the Pickersgill neighborhood. This kick-off project inspired enthusiasm for the community re-greening effort, with thousands more trees planned for the following year. The new trees not only sustain community aesthetics; they provide stormwater uptake capacity, buffer noise, and improve local air quality.



New street trees planted as part of the Blue Water Baltimore's Urban Forestry program.



Homeowners plant a tree in their yard.

Photo credit: Wendy Jacobs

Key Project Facts

Type of Project: Tree Planting

Scale: 86 trees planted in one day

Cost: \$75 per residential tree, supplemented by BWB Urban Forestry Program

Funding Sources: Blue Water Baltimore; MD Department of Environmental Protection; Baltimore County stormwater fees

Partners: Blue Water Baltimore Urban Forestry Program; Goucher College; Pickersgill community residents; Towson University; West Towson Greening Committee

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What is Polluted Runoff?

The growth of our cities has resulted in too many paved surfaces, which prevent rain water from being absorbed by the ground. Instead, the water runs off streets and buildings, collecting trash and dangerous chemicals on its way. This contaminated water overflows into our streams and rivers, creating public health hazards and toxic waters.

Storm water projects create safe paths for polluted runoff to be captured and filtered before it reaches our waterways. They keep communities healthy and the environment clean.

When communities and their local governments work together to solve big problems like stormwater runoff, that's a story worth telling!