

ASH IN THE TRAY, BUTTS IN THE TRASH!



- Cigarette filters contain cellulose acetate, a plastic that doesn't biodegrade and harms local wildlife.
- Littering cigarette butts and ash can be a fire hazard.



YOU CAN HELP!



Use portable ashtrays where ash receptacles are not available (car, beach, sidewalk)

Put finished cigarettes into an ash receptacle!



Let's Keep Our Streams Clean!



Stormwater picks up **contaminants** as it travels across our rooftops, lawns, and paved areas, which pollute our streams **and** harm the wildlife around us.

Here are some easy ways to prevent that!



1. Dispose of trash in covered trash cans and keep them covered!



2. Clean up after pets!



3. Keep soaps, oils, fertilizers, & chemicals off the pavement and out of stormwater drains.

To report illegal dumping on the VSU Campus, call (804) 524-5451

9 Ways Trees Benefit Us All Through Ecological Services

Joel Koci – Virginia Cooperative Extension Associate for Urban Forestry
at Virginia State University

Everyone knows trees play an important role in nature.
Did you know trees provide many important benefits to humans, as well?

Trees provide tangible ecosystem services that benefit us all!
Let's look at 9 ways trees contribute positively to human well-being,

1. Photosynthesis

Trees synthesize their own food using carbon dioxide from the air, sunlight, and water.

The benefit: this process, called photosynthesis, releases oxygen back into the air as byproduct.



2. Food Production

Trees produce fruit, sap, nuts, seeds, and berries that feed wildlife and people.

The benefit: we can harvest apples, citrus, avocados, syrup, almonds, paw-paws, coconuts, cherries, and more!



3. Wood Production

People have used wood from different trees for ages.

The benefit: people can build houses, furniture, and instruments.



4. Air Quality

Trees absorb pollutants, including particulates, sulphur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide.

The benefit: our lungs stay healthier as we breathe cleaner air.



5. Carbon Sequestration

Trees store carbon in their roots, trunk, branches, and leaves.

The benefit: carbon storage or sequestration removes carbon from the atmosphere, combating climate change.



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6. Erosion Reduction and Soil Health

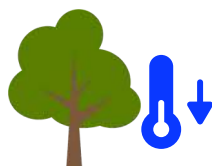
Trees reduce wind velocity, and their roots hold soils in place, reducing harmful stormwater runoff and erosion. Trees also help soils retain moisture, reducing drying near agricultural areas.

The benefit: healthier, more stable soil keeps our waterways cleaner, our roads safer during storms, and helps our crops grow.



7. Solar Radiation Reduction

Tree canopies capture heat from the sun, providing shade and cooling the area.



The benefit: areas under tree canopies can be up to 20 degrees cooler than areas exposed to direct sunlight.

8. Public Health

Trees release Phytoncides, which boost our immune systems when we breathe them in.



The benefit: people experience benefits to their mental and physical health after spending time in nature.

9. Livability

All these ecosystem services come together to benefit our health, safety, and overall well-being. Trees create a healthier, more beautiful space for us to live in!

Your Urban Forestry Expert

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Science-based management of natural resources such as woods, water, and wildlife is essential to ensure maximum benefits for society now and in the future.


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WHAT ARE BMPS?

BMPs take many forms, but they all help reduce the amount of pollution that enters our rivers and lakes!

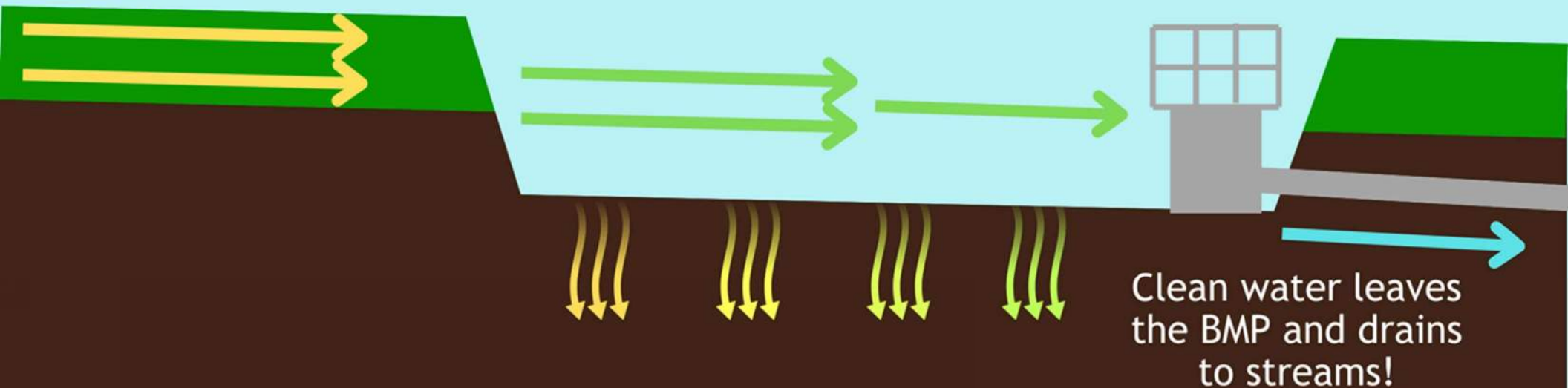
They do this by:

- removing pollutants
- absorbing water
- or both!



As rain moves across landscapes, it picks up pollutants — soil, fertilizer, pesticides, oil, etc.

The BMP filters pollutants and absorbs water, **preventing pollution** in natural areas and **mimicking natural absorption** of water in forested areas

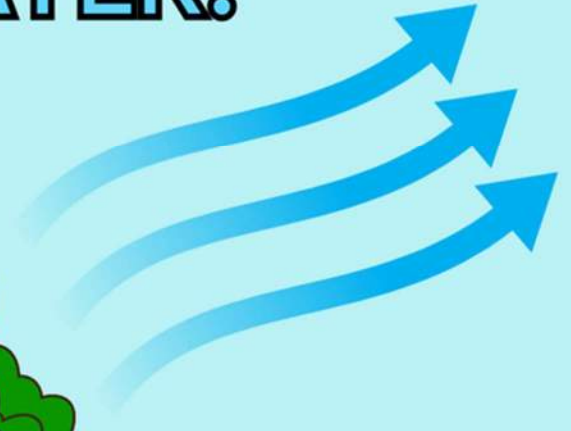
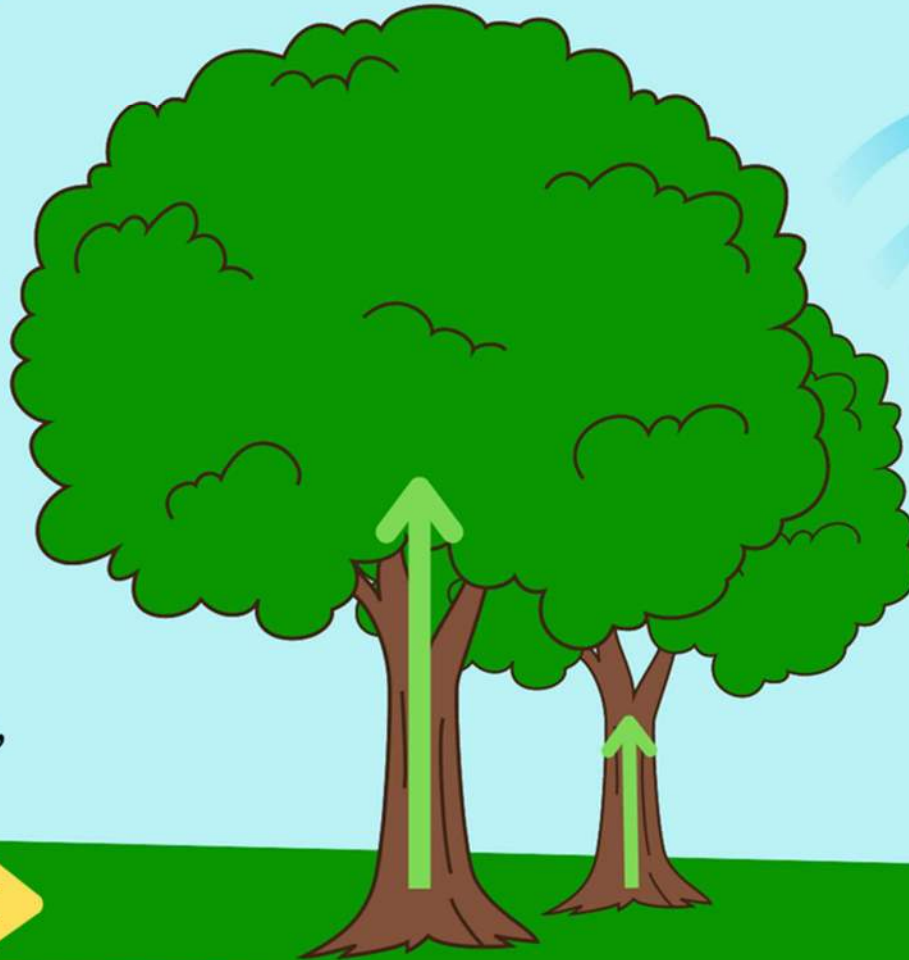


Clean water leaves the BMP and drains to streams!

DID YOU KNOW? TREES PROTECT WATER!



As rain moves across landscapes, it picks up pollutants — soil, fertilizer, pesticides, oil, etc.



As trees use water, they remove pollutants before releasing clean water back into the air!



Trees act as filters for some pollutants carried in water.



Areas with many trees have natural protection from pollutants and erosion - tree canopies slow water, helping it infiltrate where it lands.