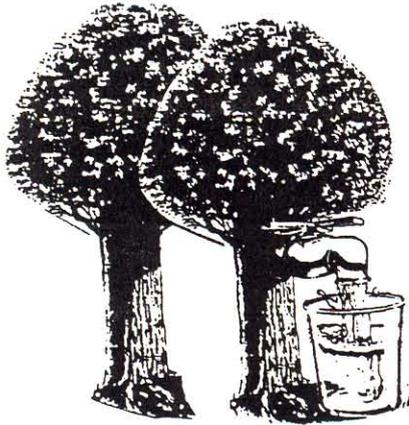


Your Water - A Forest Product



Forests sustain our quality of life in many ways.

The more trees you have, the cleaner the water.

Forests act like a blotter by filtering microscopic organisms and pollutants from the water. Trees help reduce nitrates and phosphates before they enter waterways. In fact, the more trees in a watershed, the cleaner the water. Excessive application of fertilizers and pesticides on lawns can create a nonpoint source of pollution.

Plant trees to ensure clean drinking water.

Where does your drinking water come from?

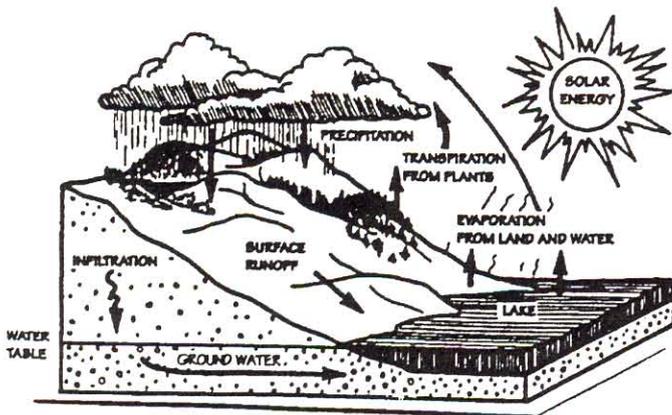
Source of water *	
wells	lakes/ponds/river
0% - 10%	90% - 100%
10% - 50%	50% - 90%
50% - 90%	10% - 50%
90% - 100%	0% - 10%

*NJGS, 1999



Water Cycle

Recycling at Its Best



Forests are an integral part of the water cycle.

Trees absorb large quantities of water; however they lose most of this water through transpiration. The water vapor from trees is carried by wind through the atmosphere, creating clouds which will return water to Earth as precipitation. This recycling process helps purify water and maintains a liveable environment. A tree over a 50 year period will recycle \$37,500 worth of water*.

Plant trees to protect water quality.

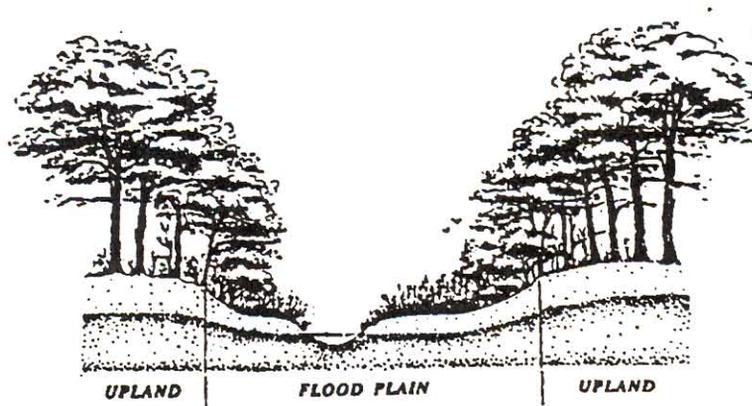


*American Forest Council

Forests are used for riparian buffers.

Trees along a river protect the soil by reducing erosion and runoff. Trees also provide shade. The river is therefore cooler and contains more oxygen for fish and other wildlife.

Plant trees to prevent erosion and improve wildlife habitat.



Forests protect you from floods.

The forest floor becomes an enormous sponge, typically absorbing up to 18 inches of precipitation before gradually releasing it into natural channels and waterways. We need to work with nature to percolate water into natural systems.

A forested watershed has less surface runoff because trees promote the absorption of water into the ground. Therefore, there is more groundwater available.

Plant trees to prevent flooding.

Planting trees improves the quality of life.

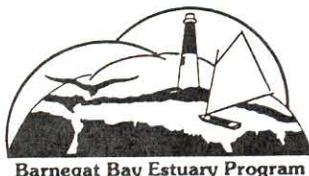
The NJ Forest Service offers assistance in planting, improving, and protecting forests. For your interest the NJ Forest Service has an informative manual, [NJ Forestry and Wetlands Best Management Practices Manual](#).

What if every NJ resident planted just one tree?

We could make a world of difference!

Become stewards of NJ's Future Forests. Just Grow for It!

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