

## APPENDIX 8: VEGETATION CREDITS

### VEGETATION CREDITS

*Prepared by OHM Advisors*

The presence of clay soils with low infiltration rates can pose a significant challenge to the implementation of typical infiltrative practices such as bioretention and rain gardens on certain properties. This is further exacerbated in instances where polluted soils are known to exist. Through the design process, it was asked amongst the design team whether tree installation could be added as a possible practice eligible for credits. The loss of trees from both the Emerald Ash Borer and Dutch Elm disease paired with natural die-off has left many streets with little or no tree canopy. The lack of canopy's negative effects on neighborhoods is well documented. This includes an obvious reduction in aesthetic appeal as well as a less obvious reduction in energy efficiency for nearby buildings. This all equates to lost economic value which will have real consequences for neighborhoods.

The benefits of trees also goes beyond the traditional economic drivers noted above. Recent studies from peer cities have shown promise in the use of trees in GSI practices. Tree root balls and the connected tree structure provide tremendous vertical storage capacity for stormwater. Further, vegetation provides opportunity for evapotranspiration (United States Environmental Protection Agency, 2013). **It is recommended that DWSD and the City of Detroit review tree programs and whether this can be used as a means to enhance the current drainage program.**

Source: United States Environmental Protection Agency. (2013). Stormwater to Street Trees: Engineering Urban Forests for Stormwater Management. Washington, DC.

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### **The City of Baltimore's Stormwater Remediation Fee Regulations include credits for newly planted trees:**

*iii. Trees – Trees reduce stormwater runoff, in addition to decreasing energy needs. Trees planted after 2010 are eligible for credit. The planted tree must be one (1) inch or greater in diameter. Tree plantings must conform to City landscaping guidelines. A minimum of two (2) trees must be planted to be eligible for this credit.*

Source: <https://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/sites/default/files/Stormwater%20Remediation%20Fee%20Regulations.pdf>

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**See Appendix I: GSI Benefits by Practice for additional benefits associated with trees and vegetation.**