PLAN SMART, RETHINKING GREEN

WATER SMART

An Albuquerque study showed municipal trees intercept rain and reduce storm runoff by over 11 million gallons annually, with an estimated value of $56,000 or $2.59 per tree. Trees and community forests absorb and filter rainfall, control surface water run-off, and improve overall water quality in your municipal watershed.

Every Precious Drop

It's no secret that water is an important issue to communities throughout New Mexico. Over 72% of respondents to "The Trees and People" survey, conducted in December 2008, indicated "water conservation is very important to their community". Over 97% of the respondents indicated that the community forest is important or very important to enhancing quality of life. Having vibrant, healthy trees and a strong water conservation program in your town or city depends on a municipal commitment to using strategies that deliver maximum Green Infrastructure.

The **Green Infrastructure** within your community is made up of vegetated areas along sidewalks, street medians, home landscapes, public parks and green spaces, and arroyo systems. This infrastructure is a vital component and compliments traditional gray infrastructure by providing:

- Improved stormwater control
- Water conservation
- Improved air and water quality

Protecting Municipal Watersheds

1. Landscape Design – Design using water harvesting techniques can be incorporated into large-scale landscapes, such as parks, schools, commercial sites, fire stations, and parking lots.

2. Strengthen Stormwater Management & Retention – Support efforts to incorporate Green Infrastructure into stormwater management systems.

3. Encourage Public/Private Partnerships & Increased Awareness – Citizen Groups, Non-Profits, and Private Businesses can work together to maximize benefits from trees, conserve water resources, and identify drought tolerant species. Consider partnering with groups such as: master gardeners, private business, local chambers, local Clean & Beautiful, etc.

"Water is clearly our most valuable resource and anything we do to help make our water supply more sustainable is important."

Ryan Goss, Asst. Professor at New Mexico State University's Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences.

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