

PRE-URBAN DEVELOPMENT: A Healthy Landscape



SOURCE: WWW.FLICKR.COM - DEARON

Figure 1-5: A thick layer of trees, shrubs, groundcovers, and grasses absorbs water before it reaches the soil surface or flows downstream.

A healthy, undisturbed landscape acts like a sponge by capturing, absorbing, and slowing the flow of water from the moment a raindrop lands on the ground. Urban development, though, has dramatically impacted natural hydrologic systems by reducing the landscape's absorptive capacity and introducing pollutants.

