Stormwater Tip:

Why Tree Roots and Sewer Lines Don't Mix

Tree roots are drawn to the moisture and nutrients often found in sewer pipes. Over time, roots can infiltrate small cracks or joints in the pipes, causing blockages or severe damage. This is especially common with older clay pipes, which are more susceptible to root intrusion than modern PVC materials.

Best Trees to Plant Near Sewer Lines

When planting trees near sewer lines, it's best to choose species with less aggressive root systems. Here are a few tree options that are considered safer:

1. **Dogwood (Cornus species):** These small ornamental trees have relatively shallow root systems that pose minimal risk to sewer lines.
2. **Japanese Maple (Acer palmatum):** Known for their beauty and slow-growing roots, Japanese maples are a great choice for small yards.
3. **Serviceberry (Amelanchier species):** These trees are drought-tolerant and have non-invasive roots, making them sewer-safe.
4. **Crape Myrtle (Lagerstroemia species):** This popular tree stays small and doesn't require deep rooting, reducing the risk to underground utilities.
5. **Redbud (Cercis canadensis):** A native species with manageable roots that rarely cause pipe damage.