Clean water grows on TREES

Keystone 10 MILLION TREES PARTNERSHIP

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Nestled in the Alleghenies' Black Valley, River Mountain rests at the base of Tussey Mountain alongside Sweet Root Creek. Countless fresh water springs flow into the creek on the property, eventually flowing downstream into Town Creek, then into the Potomac, and finally into the Chesapeake Bay. At River Mountain, we feel fortunate to be a part of the Chesapeake Bay watershed community, and the stewardship of our 1.7 miles of springs, creeks, perennial streams, seeps, and wet-meadows is one of our top ecological and community priorities.

CLEAN WATER GROWS ON TREES

Riparian buffers, also known as a vegetated buffer or forest buffers, are vegetated areas along a stream, usually forested, which helps shade and protect a stream. Forested riparian buffers filter pollution, prevent erosion, reduce flooding impacts, stabilize streambanks, improve soil quantity, and create habitat for wildlife. Trees also help address climate change by cooling the air and sequestering carbon. They have so many benefits.

Roughly 28,000 miles of Pennsylvania's rivers and streams are damaged by polluted runoff and the legacy of coal mining. Here at River Mountain, the Eastern Hemlock trees face serious threat from the woolly adelgid (Adelges tsugae). This non-native invasive insect has caused significant hemlock defoliation and mortality across Pennsylvania and the United States. It's important we plant trees today to strengthen the buffer to protect Sweet Root Creek and the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

MORE THAN A TREE

It's so much more - 10 million times more! By planting a tree, you've joined a community with River Mountain and guests aiming to plant 10 million trees across the state of Pennsylvania by 2025 with the Keystone Tree Partnership and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Share a photo with your tree and tag us for progress!

TREE PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Trees are located at Main Camp behind the barn - right next to the greenhouse and the coop.
2. Pick your tree(s).
3. We pre-dug the holes to plant trees. You'll notice holes along the back of the greenhouse and winding down along the trail. Pick your favorite spot!
4. Remove your tree from container by holding the trunk with one hand and pushing away or down on container with the other hand.
5. Remove any excess soil that's above the top of the first woody root.
6. Carefully place the tree in hole, making sure it stands straight and the top of the first woody root is at ground level.
7. Backfill hole with soil by hand to the top of the first woody root, flat and evenly. ***You don't want the soil to look like a volcano around the tree trunk, this can rot the tree.
8. Water your tree using a bucket with water from the creek or water spigot outside the Main Lodge.

River Mountain

@RIVERMOUNTAIN #TREES