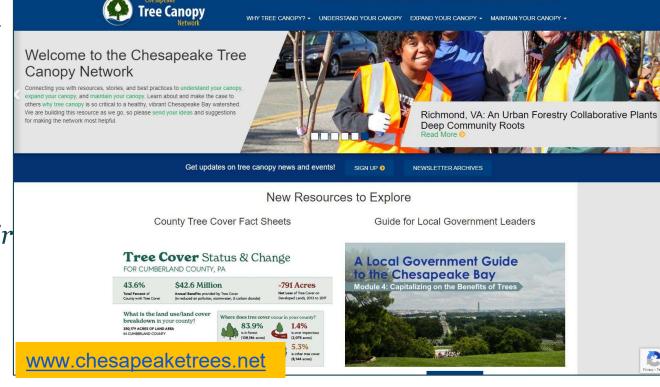**QUARTERLY PROGRESS MEETING – June 2024**
Chesapeake Bay Program

Tree Canopy Updates

Kesha Braunskill
Forestry Workgroup Co-Chair
USDA Forest Service
kesha.braunskill@usda.gov

www.chesapeaketrees.net

Goal: *Vital Habitats*

Outcome: *Tree Canopy*

Continually increase urban tree canopy capacity to provide air quality, water quality and habitat benefits throughout the watershed. Expand urban tree canopy by **2,400 acres by 2025.**
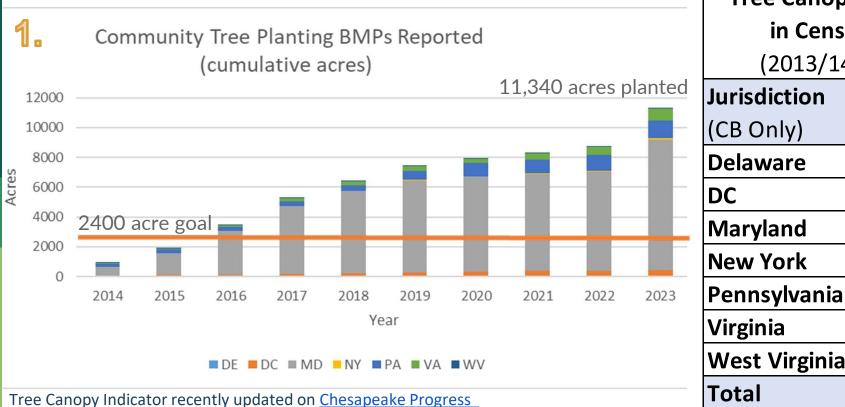
What is our Expected and Actual Progress?

OUTLOOK OFF COURSE

1.

Community Tree Planting BMPs Reported (cumulative acres)

11,340 acres planted

2400 acre goal

Acres (y-axis): 0, 2000, 4000, 6000, 8000, 10000, 12000

Year (x-axis): 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023

Legend: ■ DE ■ DC ■ MD ■ NY ■ PA ■ VA ■ WV

Tree Canopy Indicator recently updated on Chesapeake Progress

2. Land Use/Land Cover Change Detected from Imagery

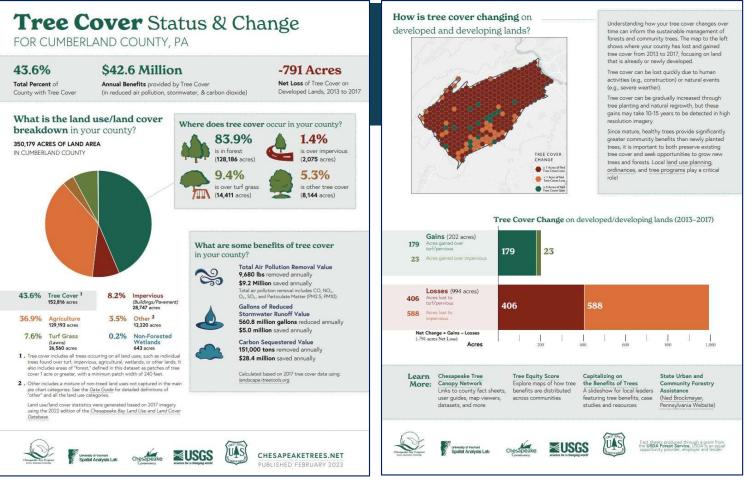| Tree Canopy Net Change in Census Places (2013/14-2017/18)	
Jurisdiction (CB Only)	**Net Change (Acres)**
Delaware	-28
DC	21
Maryland	-13,804
New York	78
Pennsylvania	-2,444
Virginia	-9,548
West Virginia	-107
Total	-25,832

Successes: Putting New Data to Use

All Chesapeake County Fact Sheets Available at https://chesapeaketrees.net/understand-your-canopy/
Municipal Fact Sheets coming late 2024

Successes: Tree Canopy Funding & Policy Roundtable

Summary

- March 13-14, 2023

- 125 participants

- Themes: **equity, climate resilience, and tree loss**

- Presentations, panels, breakout discussions

Goal: identify funding, policy, and programmatic solution pathways to expand urban tree canopy in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Final Report, Recordings and Jurisdiction Action Plans Posted [here](#)

Jurisdiction Action Plans
[New York](#)
[District of Columbia](#)
[Pennsylvania](#)
[Maryland](#)
[Delaware](#)
[Virginia](#)
[W. Virginia](#)

Successes: Historic Inflation Reduction Act Funding (IRA)

Urban and Community Forestry IRA Grant Themes

- Workforce Development

- Extreme Heat

- Restoration & Resilience

- Tree Planting & Maintenance

- Community Engagement & Planning

AWARDEES ADDRESSING MULTIPLE THEMES

Theme	Value
MET FIVE THEMES	35
MET FOUR THEMES	49
MET THREE THEMES	119
MET TWO THEMES	117
MET ONE THEME	53

Award selection prioritized projects that addressed multiple IRA-UCF themes.

IRA Awards in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: DC and MD

State	Project	Partner	Funding
DC	Advancing Tree Equity	Casey Trees	$9,115,260
MD	The Mid-Atlantic Environmental Justice Fund	Chesapeake Bay Trust	$17,000,000
MD	Baltimore Tree Trust	Baltimore Tree Trust	$7,000,000
MD	Baltimore Community Canopy	Civic Works, Inc	$3,000,000
MD	Gather and Grow	Chesapeake Conservancy	$2,000,000
MD	Sembrando el Futuro / Embajadores de los Árboles	Defensores de la Cuenca	$2,000,000
MD	Stillmeadow PeacePark and Learning Center	Stillmeadow Community Projects	$2,000,000
MD	Tree-Cosystems for Green Communities	Nature Forward	$1,359,369

Grants selected from 2023 National Notice of Funding Opportunity

For project descriptions, visit https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/urban-forests/ucf/2023-grant-funding.

IRA Awards in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: PA and VA

State	Project	Partner	Funding
PA	Harrisburg City TreeVestment	City of Harrisburg	$2,000,000
PA	Proactive Systemic Maintenance	City of Lancaster*	$1,000,000
PA	Trees for All	Borough of Mechanicsburg*	$500,000
PA	Borough of State College Urban Forestry Sustainability	Borough of State College*	$369,355
VA	Black and Brown-Led, Coalition-Based Urban Greening	City of Richmond	$6,000,000
VA	Hampton Roads Blue Green Oasis	Norfolk State University	$5,000,000
VA	Norfolk Blue-Greenway Project	City of Norfolk	$4,000,000
VA	Stewarding, Planting, Restoring Our Urban Trees	City of Fairfax*	$1,000,000
VA	Norfolk Urban Forestry Capacity Building	City of Norfolk Parks & Forestry	$1,000,000
VA	Winchester Greening and Urban Tree Maintenance	City of Winchester*	$550,000
VA	Charlottesville Urban Forest Management Planning	City of Charlottesville*	$150,000

Funded through national pass-through partners
Grants selected from 2023 National Notice of Funding Opportunity

For project descriptions, visit https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/urban-forests/ucf/2023-grant-funding.

IRA State Urban and Community Forestry Funding
(5 year grants)

State	Statewide Funding
Delaware	$0.75M
District of Columbia	$0.75M
Maryland	$6.0M
New York	$13.5M
Pennsylvania	$9.8M
Virginia	$6.6M
West Virginia	$0.75M
Total	**$38.1M**

- 80% of the funding delivered through competitive grant programs
- 100% focus on benefiting Justice 40/disadvantaged communities
- Most state RFPs closed by early 2024, DC still open, DE coming soon

Roundtable Recommendations & Workplan Actions

1. Bolster funding and partnerships

Workplan Actions

Roundtable recommendations

1. Amend regional and state tree canopy grant funding programs to prioritize equity and maintenance.

2. Dedicate adequate state and local funding for tree maintenance on public and private property.

3. Invest in target communities through workforce development: hire tree care coordinators and tree maintenance staff from the communities served; provide training, mentorship, and support.

Action #	Description of Step	Responsible Party or Parties	Geographic Location	Expected Timeline
	MANAGEMENT APPROACH 1: Bolster funding and partnerships			
1.1	Implement funding strategies from state tree canopy action plans, with a focus on building dedicated, long-term funding streams for tree maintenance and capacity-building needs.	1. DE FS, DNREC and partners 2. DDOT, DOEE and partners 3. MD FS, MDE and partners 4. NYSDEC, Upper Susquehanna Coalition and partners 5. PA DCNR and partners 6. VA DOF and partners 7. WVDEP, WVDOF, Cacapon Institute and partners	Bay-wide	2024-2025
1.2	Implement federal and state IRA grants supporting disadvantaged communities	USFS, DE FS, DDOT, MD FS, NYSDEC, PA DCNR, VA DOF, WVDOF	Bay-wide	2024-2028
1.3	Complete GIT-funded project on Addressing Regional Tree Supply Challenges and Opportunities	University of Florida (contractor), with input from USFS, Forestry Workgroup	Bay-wide	2024

New 2024- 2025 Workplan now posted on Chesapeake Progress

Roundtable Recommendations & Workplan Actions

2. Strengthen policy and ordinances

Workplan Actions

Roundtable recommendations

4. Share models and best practices for effective incentive-based and regulatory approaches to protect urban tree canopy.

5. Strengthen local codes and ordinances to protect trees, especially during development and redevelopment. Where necessary, amend state policy to enable localities to enact ordinance improvements.

6. Integrate trees for climate resilience into comprehensive plans (and other local plans) with specific goals, and include climate resilience strategies in urban forest plans and projects.

MANAGEMENT APPROACH 2: Strengthen policy and ordinances				
Action #	Description of Step	Responsible Party or Parties	Geographic Location	Expected Timeline
2.1	Compile models and best practices for effective incentive-based and regulatory approaches to conserve existing urban tree canopy, including case studies that could be replicated.	Forestry Workgroup – new GIT funding proposal	Bay-wide	2024-2025
2.2	Implement policy strategies from state tree canopy action plans	1. DE FS, DNREC and partners 2. DDOT, DOEE and partners 3. MD FS, MDE and partners 4. NYSDEC, Upper Susquehanna Coalition and partners 5. PA DCNR and partners 6. VA DOF and partners 7. WVDEP, WVDOF, Cacapon Institute and partners	Bay-wide	2024-2025
2.3	Develop a trees & climate resilience strategy guide for local governments	Forestry Workgroup – new GIT funding proposal	Bay-wide	2024-2025

Roundtable Recommendations & Workplan Actions

3. Increase technical capacity and knowledge

Roundtable recommendations

7. Improve utilization of data on tree canopy coverage and economic value of trees, including through the provision of technical assistance.

8. Provide communities with technical assistance to implement policy and ordinance changes, and to apply for and manage funding and financing opportunities.

Workplan Actions

MANAGEMENT APPROACH 3: Increase technical capacity and knowledge				
Action #	Description of Step	Responsible Party or Parties	Geographic Location	Expected Timeline
3.1	Convene annual Tree Canopy Summit to engage urban forestry practitioners and cross-sector partners in best practices and innovative strategies	USFS, Forestry Workgroup, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay	Bay-wide	2024-2025
3.2	Communicate Tree Canopy status & change to stakeholders through updates to the State of Chesapeake Forests Storymap and new municipal factsheets (2013-2018, and with new 2021/2022 data when released)	USFS, USGS, Chesapeake Conservancy, and Forestry Workgroup, with input from Land Use Workgroup, Local Leadership Workgroup	Bay-wide	2024-2025

Roundtable Recommendations & Workplan Actions

4. Expand community outreach and education

Roundtable recommendations

9. Develop consistent, customizable, multilingual messaging regarding the many benefits of trees, including guidance on how to address competing priorities.

10. In communities targeted for tree canopy initiatives, proactively identify and meaningfully partner with community voices.

Workplan Actions

MANAGEMENT APPROACH 4: Expand community outreach and education				
Action #	Description of Step	Responsible Party or Parties	Geographic Location	Expected Timeline
4.1	Host quarterly webinars: tree equity community of practice	USFS, Forestry Workgroup, CBP communications, with input from Diversity Workgroup	Bay-wide	2024-2025
4.2	Continue updating the Chesapeake Tree Canopy Network and e-newsletter as our primary hub for resources and sharing community stories	Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, USFS, Forestry Workgroup	Bay-wide	2024-2025
4.3	Develop consistent, customizable, multilingual messaging regarding the many benefits of trees, including guidance on how to address competing priorities.	Forestry Workgroup, CBP Communications, TBD-needs funding/contractor support	Bay-wide	2024-2025
4.4	Develop a communication strategy building on recommendations of the Identifying Communications	Forestry Workgroup, CBP Communications, TBD-needs funding/contractor support	Bay-wide	2024-2025

TREES in COMMUNITIES

CREATE VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

- Incorporating trees into common spaces in public housing increases social activities.[1]

- Having larger trees in yards and on the street can improve home values by 3%-15%.[2]

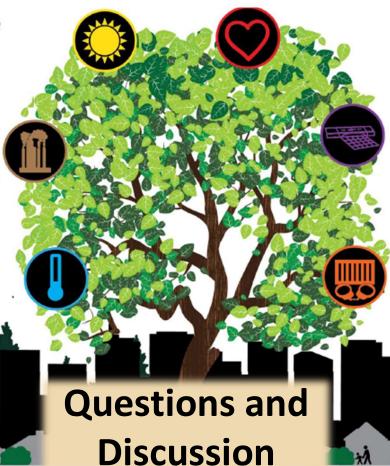- Shoppers will spend 9%-12% more in areas with better tree canopy.[3]

REDUCE AIR POLLUTION

- Neighborhoods with lots of trees have lower childhood asthma rates.

PROVIDE SHADE & COOLING

- Tree canopy can reduce temperatures by up to 20 degrees, lowering health risks and utility bills.

IMPROVE HUMAN HEALTH

- Trees help reduce stress, lower blood pressure, and boost the immune system.

- Shade from trees reduces radiation that causes skin cancer.

CONTROL STORMWATER

- Tree roots can trap sediment and filter contaminants from stormwater.

- One tree can reduce stormwater runoff by 13,000 gallons per year.[4]

IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY

- Areas with increased green space have lower crime rates.[3]

Questions and Discussion

Source:
Chesapeake Forest Restoration Strategy