



Chesapeake Bay Watershed Tree Canopy Funding and Policy Roundtable

Outcomes Webinar

January 30, 2024



Goals of today's session



- Provide an overview of the Roundtable process
- Share findings and recommendations
- Discuss how this process can guide more equitable, climate-resilient tree canopy implementation throughout the watershed

Agenda



- Context and framing: Baywide goals and progress, update on IRA funding for urban tree canopy
- Roundtable project and event overview
- Recommendations
- Local perspective: DC's event takeaways & planned next steps
- Interactive exercise: moving this forward
- Wrap-up



Chesapeake Bay tree canopy goals and progress

Kesha Braunskill, USDA Forest Service

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.

TREES in COMMUNITIES



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

Source:
[Chesapeake Forest Restoration Strategy](#)

Tree canopy outcome: what is our goal?



Through the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*, the Chesapeake Bay Program has committed to...

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.**

Goal: *Vital Habitats*

Outcome: *Tree Canopy*

It's not just about planting...



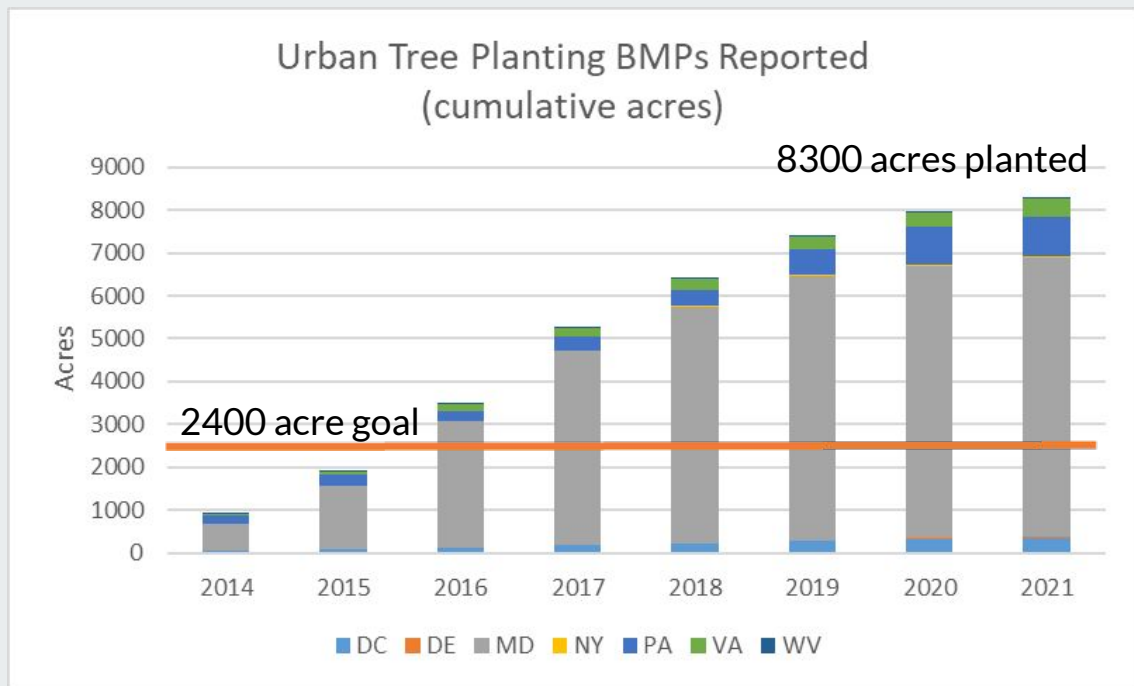
We track Tree Canopy progress in two ways:

- 1) States report three urban tree planting BMPs annually for TMDL
- 2) Long term progress analyzed through high resolution Land Cover/Land Use updates

How are we doing?



New Plantings



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

Data now available...

Tree Cover Status & Change FOR CUMBERLAND COUNTY, PA

41.6% Total Percent of County with Tree Cover

\$14+ Million Annual Benefits provided by Tree Cover (in reduced air pollution, stormwater, & carbon dioxide)

433 Acres Net Loss of Tree Cover on Developed Lands, 2013 to 2017

What is the land use/land cover breakdown in your county?

341,668 ACRES OF LAND AREA IN CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Land Use	Percentage	Acres
Forest	41.9%	142,219
Agriculture	33.4%	119,222
Turf Grass (Lawn)	6.7%	22,569
Impervious (Building/Pavement)	9%	30,882
Other	8.8%	29,890
Non-Forested Wetlands	0.04%	143

Where does tree cover occur in your county?

82% is in forest (116,180 acres)	1% is over impervious (2,128 acres)
11% is over turf grass (15,762 acres)	6% is other tree cover (8,149 acres)

What are some benefits of tree cover in your county?

- Total Air Pollution Removal Value**
\$7 million lbs removed annually
\$9.2 million saved annually
 Total air pollution removal includes CO, NO_x, O₃, SO_x, and Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀).
- Gallons of Reduced Stormwater Runoff Value**
560.1 million gallons reduced annually
\$5.0 million saved annually
- Carbon Sequestered Value**
120,250 tons removed annually
\$10,594 saved annually

Calculated based on 2017 tree cover data using: landscapes.treesource.org

Land use/land cover statistics were generated using the 2022 edition of the Chesapeake Bay Land Use and Land Cover Database.

CHESAPEAKETREES.NET
 PUBLISHED AUGUST 2022

How is tree cover changing on developed and developing lands?

Understanding how your tree cover changes over time can inform the sustainable management of forests and community trees. The map to the left shows where your county has lost and gained tree cover from 2013 to 2017, focusing on land that is already or newly developed.

Tree cover can be lost quickly due to human activities (e.g., construction) or natural events (e.g., severe weather).

Tree cover can be gained through tree-planting programs, natural regeneration, and other activities.

Tree Cover Change on developed and developing lands

Category	Acres	Change
Gains (280 acres)	228	Acres gained over turf/impervious
Losses (713 acres)	289	Acres lost to turf/impervious
	424	Acres lost to impervious
Net Change = Gains - Losses	433	(433 acres net loss)

Learn More:

- Chesapeake Tree Canopy Network**
Links to county fact sheets, user guides, map viewers, datasets, and more
- Tree Equity Score**
Explore maps of how tree benefits are distributed across communities
- Capitalizing on the Benefits of Trees**
A slideshow for local leaders featuring tree benefits, case studies and resources
- State Urban and Community Forestry Assistance**
(State contact and website)

Fact sheets produced through a grant from the **USDA Forest Service**. USDA is an equal opportunity provider; employer and lender.

Factsheets available:
<https://chesapeaketrees.net/understand-your-canopy/>



Urban tree canopy funding update

URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY GRANTS

USDA is an equal opportunity
provider, employer, and lender.

\$1.5 Billion to Expand Tree Canopy and Access to Nature

100% of Benefits Will Flow to Communities in Greatest Need

Urban and Community Forestry Grants, authorized under the Inflation Reduction Act, provide funding to community-based organizations, Tribes, State and local agencies, public colleges and universities, and non-profits working to provide equitable access to trees and nature and the benefits they provide to urban communities.



**Investing in a Healthier
Future for America**

**Expanding Tree Canopy
in our Communities**

**The Benefits of Trees
in our Communities**

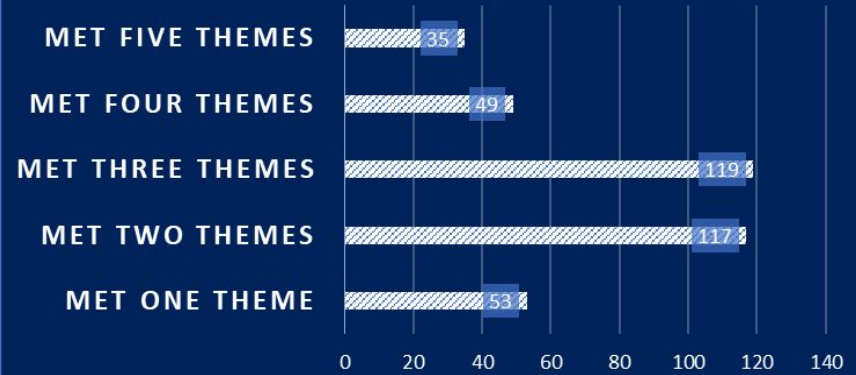
**Confronting the Growing Threat of
Extreme Heat and Climate Change**

UCF IRA Grant Themes

- Workforce Development
- Extreme Heat
- Restoration & Resilience
- Tree Planting & Maintenance
- Community Engagement & Planning



AWARDEES ADDRESSING MULTIPLE THEMES



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



IRA UCF State Forestry Funding (5 year grants)

State	State Funding	RFP status
Delaware	\$0.75M	coming soon
District of Columbia	\$0.75M	coming soon
Maryland	\$6.0M	Jan 15-March 15
New York	\$13.5M	Oct 20-Jan 31
Pennsylvania	\$9.8M	Jan 16 – April 2
Virginia	\$6.6M	closed
West Virginia	\$0.75M	Jan 18 – April 1
Total	\$38.1M	

- 80% of the funding delivered through competitive sub-award programs
- 100% focus in Justice 40/disadvantaged communities

NOFO Awards in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: DC, DE, and MD

State	Project	Partner	Funding
DC	Advancing Tree Equity	Casey Trees	\$9,115,260
DE	The Delaware Forest Service Project	Delaware Forest Service UCF	\$500,000
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

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

NOFO Awards in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: PA and VA

State	Project	Partner	Funding
PA	Harrisburg City Riverside	City of Harrisburg*	\$1,000,000
PA	Harrisburg City TreeVestment	City of Harrisburg	\$1,000,000
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

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

**Funded through national pass-through partners*

Next steps

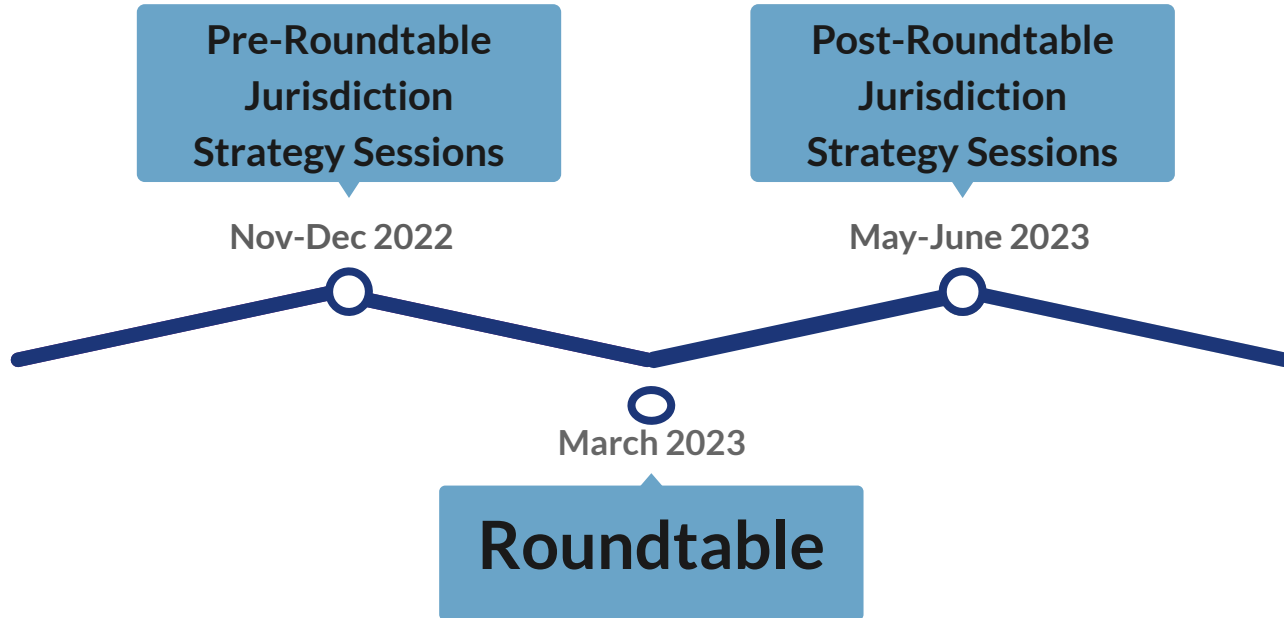


- Developing new Two-Year Tree Canopy Logic and Action Plan
- Building on the Roundtable recommendations



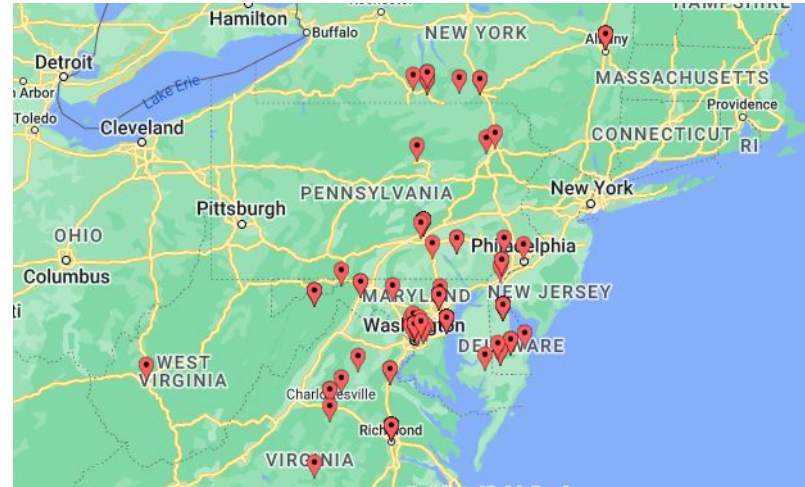
Roundtable event summary

Project elements



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

Agenda



Chesapeake Bay Watershed Tree Canopy Funding and Policy Roundtable

March 13-14, 2023

Agenda

The **Chesapeake Bay Watershed Tree Canopy Funding and Policy Roundtable** is a two-day, virtual event designed to engage selected local and state leaders throughout the Bay Watershed to address challenges and opportunities in advancing tree canopy priorities. The event's goal is to accelerate equitable, climate-resilient tree canopy implementation in the Watershed. The Roundtable is hosted by the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center in collaboration with the Chesapeake Bay Program.

Monday, March 13, 2023 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Eastern	
9:00 am	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Little Sewell, <i>Little Leaf</i> – event facilitator Introduce Roundtable: goals, agenda, schedule
9:15 am	KEYNOTE Prepping the Soil: Chesapeake Bay tree goals and progress; a tree policy and funding success story <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction by <i>Julie Mawhorter, USDA Forest Service</i> • <i>Eori Eutsler, District of Columbia Department of Transportation</i> Broadly overview Chesapeake Bay tree canopy goals and progress; share the story of DC's tree canopy policy and funding journey
9:45 am	Branching out: Leveraging climate goals to achieve tree canopy outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Rachel Lamb, Maryland Department of the Environment</i> • <i>Mark McPherson, City Forest Credits</i> • <i>Beth Krumine, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control</i> • <i>Molly Hassett, New York Department of Environmental Conservation</i> Spark inspiration around Chesapeake Bay states' recent tree canopy and climate pledges, plans and policies; share opportunities to leverage and integrate climate and tree canopy solutions, in order to maximize outcomes in both.
11:00 am	Discussion groups: Climate Participants may choose among breakout rooms: (1) Data and technical assistance needs; (2) Leveraging federal and state funding; (3) Building resilience into state and local policies







Photo credits (L-R): University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center, Betsy Logan, Enrique Araya (@nspash), Ana Essentels (@nspash), Environmental Finance Center | School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation

11:45 am	LUNCH BREAK Participants may join optional networking breakout rooms.
12:45 pm	Stemming the loss: Policy solutions for tree canopy protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Karen Firehock, Green Infrastructure Center</i> • <i>Marian Honeycutt, Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service</i> • <i>Vincent Verweij, Arlington County Parks and Natural Resources</i> • <i>Katie Lautar, Baltimore Greenspace</i> Present Baywide land cover change data and tree loss trends; provide a broad overview of local policy strategies available to minimize tree loss and/or require mitigation, including best practices for implementing fines and fees; give examples of policy approaches at different scales that are having an impact.
2:00 pm	Discussion groups: Tree Loss Participants may choose among breakout rooms: (1) Regional policy; (2) State policy; (3) Local policy: cities and metro areas; (4) Local policy: smaller places
2:45pm	Wrap-up Summarize Day 1 and preview Day 2.
3:00 pm	Adjourn

Tuesday, March 14, 2023 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Eastern	
9:00 am	Welcome Review goals and schedule for the day
9:10 am	KEYNOTE A Community-Driven, Urban Heat Knowledge-To-Action Network in Richmond, Virginia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jeremy Hoffman, Virginia Science Museum</i> • <i>Sheri Shannon, Southside ReLeaf</i> Share the story of Richmond's urban heat mapping and community-led restoration; underscore the importance of incorporating equity into all aspects of tree canopy policy and funding.
9:40 am	Rooted in equity: ensuring tree canopy benefits for all <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Erica Smith Fichman, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation</i> • <i>Brenda Richardson, Anacostia Parks and Community Collaborative</i> • <i>Ruby Stemmle, ecoLatinos</i> • <i>Randy Rowel, Breaking Boundaries Environmental LLC</i> Highlight equity and tree canopy efforts in the watershed, particularly those focused on community engagement, workforce development, and integrating equity into planning and funding programs.
10:55 am	Discussion groups: Equity Participants will be randomly assigned to discussion rooms.
11:40 am	LUNCH BREAK Participants may join optional networking breakout rooms.

Presentations

INTRODUCTION | Chesapeake Bay Watershed tree goals and
Julie Mawhorter, USDA Forest Service

KEYNOTE | City of trees: Then, now, and in the future
Earl Eutsler, District of Columbia Department of Transportation

PANEL | Branching out: Leveraging climate goals to achieve tree
Rachel Lamb, Maryland Department of the Environment
Mark McPherson, City Forest Credits
Beth Krumrine, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environ
Molly Hassett, New York Department of Environmental Conservation

PANEL | Stemming the loss: Policy solutions for tree canopy protec
Karen Firehock, Green Infrastructure Center
Marian Honeczy, Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service
Vincent Verweij, Arlington County Parks and Natural Resources
Katie Lautar, Baltimore Green Space

Slides: go.umd.edu/treeroundtable

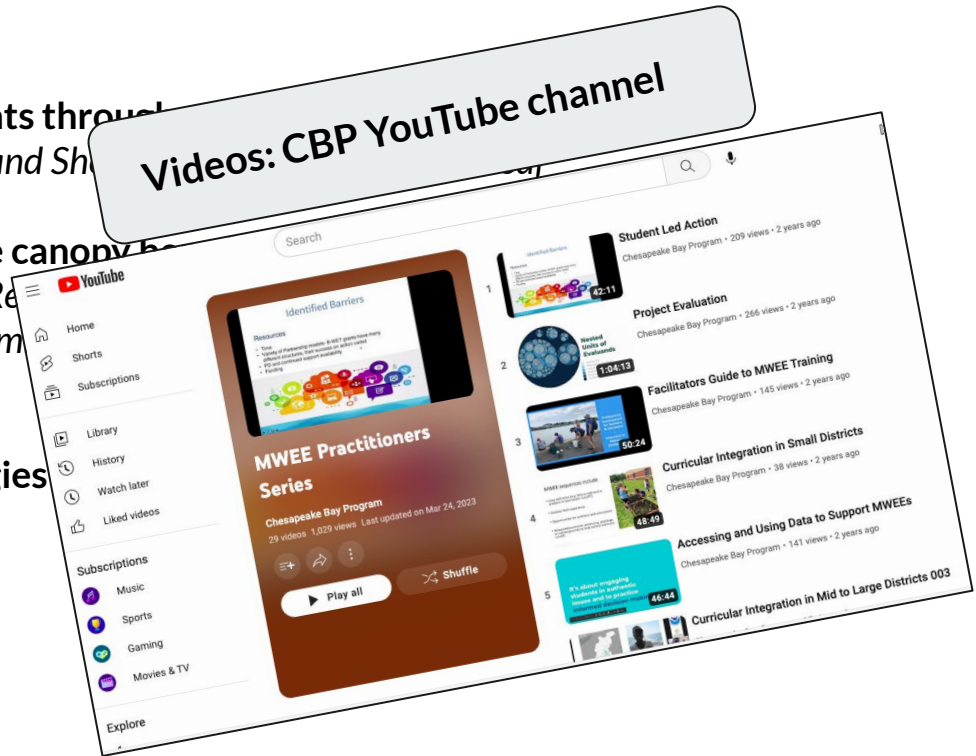


Presentations

KEYNOTE | Mitigating urban heat threats through
Jeremy Hoffman, Virginia Science Museum and Sh

PANEL | Rooted in equity: Ensuring tree canopy b
Erica Smith Fichman, Philadelphia Parks & Re
Brenda Richardson, Anacostia Parks and Com
Ruby Stemmler, ecoLatinos

PANEL | No leaf unturned: Local strategies
Frank Rodgers, Cacapon Institute
Cody Kiefer, City of Lancaster, PA
Ryan Alston, Baltimore Tree Trust



Baywide findings and recommendations



- Distilled from participant input gathered during breakout sessions
- Identified by Steering Committee as the most promising strategies to pursue Baywide
- Correspond to Bay Program's Management Strategy categories

Management Approach 1:

Bolster Funding and Partnerships



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.

Management Approach 2:

Strengthen Policy & Ordinances



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 3:

Increase Technical Capacity & Knowledge



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.

Management Approach 4:

Expand Community Outreach & Education



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.

Read more...



Photo credit: UMD EFC

CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED TREE CANOPY POLICY AND FUNDING ROUNDTABLE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

January 2023 // Prepared by the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center in partnership with the USDA Forest Service and the Chesapeake Bay Program. Support for this project was provided by the Environmental Protection Agency Goal Implementation Team Funding Program.



CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED TREE CANOPY POLICY AND FUNDING ROUNDTABLE: RECOMMENDATIONS

In March 2023, 125 local and state leaders from across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed gathered at the two-day, virtual **Chesapeake Bay Watershed Tree Canopy Funding and Policy Roundtable** to discuss challenges and opportunities in advancing tree canopy goals. Centered around the themes of equity, climate resilience, and tree loss, this event featured expert presentations as well as facilitated discussions to identify data, [goals](#) and approaches to strengthen tree canopy outcomes.

Through the Roundtable's four hours of facilitated breakout group discussions, event participants identified a suite of funding, [policy](#) and programmatic solution pathways, which were prioritized by the project steering committee into the top ten recommendations for the Chesapeake Bay Program to consider in their near-term priorities and actions. These are presented below and discussed in more detail in the [Full Roundtable Report \(LINK\)](#).

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

Communicate to funders that grant programs should (1) be simple to access even for less-experience applicants; (2) include flexible requirements for matching funds; (3) consider the need for many applicants to access upfront funding; (4) allow for longer timeframes for grants and contracts; (5) pay for community outreach and engagement; (6) continue to prioritize projects in and applicants from underserved communities; (7) pay for ongoing, operational work as well as maintenance for at least three years after trees are planted.

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

Ensure sufficient funding to implement tree care strategies, including training utility and maintenance crews, hiring more town arborists, and providing technical assistance [and financial incentives](#) for homeowners.

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.

Increase vocational training at the high school and community college level, invest in professional development for new workers in green infrastructure jobs, and build relationships between economic development and forestry agencies to find overlapping goals. Hire workers from underserved and low-canopy neighborhoods.

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

Assemble and distribute models and case stories of regulatory, incentive, and market-based tree protection approaches, especially model comp plan and state statutory language; examples of pooling conservation funds at a regional level; urban tree canopy carbon credit trading; state tax incentives for preservation on private land; market-based approaches for tree preservation.

January 2023 // Prepared by the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center in partnership with the USDA Forest Service and the Chesapeake Bay Program. Support for this project was provided by the Environmental Protection Agency Goal Implementation Team Funding Program. // <https://ge.umd.edu/treesunstable>

State Tree Canopy Action Plans

CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED TREE CANOPY POLICY AND FUNDING ROUNDTABLE PROJECT

West Virginia Tree Canopy Action Plan

Background

In March 2023, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Tree Canopy Funding and Policy Roundtable convened 125 local and state leaders from across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed to address challenges and opportunities in advancing tree canopy goals throughout the region. Centered around the themes of equity, climate resilience, and tree loss, the event featured expert presentations as well as generative discussions to identify data, tools and approaches to strengthen tree canopy outcomes. The Roundtable was intended to lay the groundwork for each Chesapeake Bay state to develop a two-year **Tree Canopy Action Plan** that pinpoints priority funding, policy, and programmatic strategies to advance tree canopy goals.

West Virginia's Priority Strategies

The priority strategies presented below were identified by a group of stakeholders from West Virginia who participated in pre- and post-Roundtable tree canopy strategy sessions and/or in discussion sessions at the Roundtable. These strategies were identified as having strong potential to advance tree canopy progress in the state in the near term. For each strategy, action steps and potential partners were identified.

- 1. Increase the number of Tree USA-certified communities and organizations in West Virginia's portion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.....2
- 2. Preserve and expand forests, especially through mechanisms that compensate landowners for protecting or expanding tree canopy and buffers.....3
- 3. Explore the potential for seed collection and local tree stock grow-out stations.....4
- 4. Expand capacity of existing programs, and grow partnerships..... 5
- 5. Emphasize maintenance..... 6

The Chesapeake Bay Tree Canopy Funding and Policy Roundtable project was coordinated by the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center in partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Program, with support from the EPA Goal Implementation Team funding program. Learn more: go.umd.edu/treeroundtable

1. Increase the number of Tree USA-certified communities and organizations in West Virginia's portion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Four incorporated communities out of twenty-one in West Virginia's portion of the Chesapeake Bay watershed are certified through the Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA program. Given this program's success in advancing local tree canopy goals, increasing this number is a priority.

Opportunities for action	Who's involved
Complete West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP)'s effort to inventory potential Tree Cities and Tree Campuses within the state and compile contact information.	WVDEP
Contact the entities identified above to (1) make them aware of the benefits of becoming certified (such as ability to get grants to prune/replace trees and eligibility for state forestry grants), and (2) provide support to help them certified (such as sharing model ordinances and good case stories of West Virginia municipalities that are benefiting from certification).	WVDEP (leading effort) WVDOF (already involved; has model ordinances for WV)
Engage partners to assist with Tree City / Campus outreach and support, such as: - West Virginia University (WVU): hiring a new outreach coordinator who could help expand outreach and support to communities - West Virginia Department of Forestry (WVDOF): anticipated additional Forest Service funding for plantings could open the door to new partnerships with cities - West Virginia Conservation Agency: can help identify partners - Martinsburg: wants to be recertified; could be a model success story to help with outreach - Chesapeake Bay funds to support ordinance development	WVDEP (leading effort) WVDOF Urban Forestry (provides technical and financial assistance) WVU WVCA City of Martinsburg
Launch WVDOF's Community Equi-Tree grant program (anticipated early 2024) to reach additional communities and support adoption of Tree City USA elements including formation of a tree board and adoption of municipal tree ordinance and budget.	WVDOF Urban Forestry (in progress)

Local perspective: DDOT Urban Forestry





Interactive exercises

Wrap up



- Recording and all project material will be shared
- We'll email all the links, including state RFPs
- Join the Chesapeake Tree Canopy Network!