

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

URBAN TREE CANOPY

GOAL: Vital Habitats

OUTCOME: 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.

CURRENT EFFORTS

- Urban tree canopy (UTC) assessments completed for 70 localities and 9 counties; goals set by 40+ localities and implementation plans developed by 20+ localities
- Several state laws (Md. and Va.) and local ordinances
- Jurisdictions' tree planting programs and grants as well as local and nonprofit/private programs.
- State and local citizen stewardship programs and community engagement and outreach programs.
- Some jurisdictions maintain tree planting databases, tree tracking tools.
- Chesapeake Forestry BMP Verification guidance.

GAPS

- Inadequate state and local funding and staffing for programs to achieve goals.
- Lack of tracking data on local tree planting accomplishments and funding mechanisms.
- Most planting opportunities are on private lands, but few incentive programs exist.
- Tree planting has not been well integrated into TMDL/WIP goals.
- Lack of proper maintenance resulting in tree failures.
- Need to develop and use common standards and BMPs to enhance survival.
- Local government and community outreach and commitment.
- No Bay-wide high resolution datasets in place.

MANAGEMENT APPROACHES

- Funding and Partnerships —Develop funding partnerships in arenas with most need and opportunity, e.g. schools, civic groups, underserved communities, etc.
 - ⇒ Assess and summarize federal, state, local and private funding opportunities. Provide guidance, case studies and best practices.
- Policy and Ordinances— Review state and local policies in place to support urban tree canopy and provide recommendations on best practices, model ordinances, etc. for Bay jurisdictions.
 - ⇒ Work with stormwater program managers (federal/state/local) to better integrate urban tree canopy goals with TMDL/WIP implementation.
- Technical Capacity/Knowledge—Provide technical assistance, training, and resources to local governments to enhance tree canopy protection, planting, and maintenance and develop robust urban tree canopy implementation programs.
 - ⇒ Support development of Bay-wide high resolution urban tree canopy data to track progress.
 - ⇒ Work with states to develop user-friendly tracking and verification systems. Provide guidance and standards/best practices for tree planning and maintenance.
- Community Outreach and Education
 - ⇒ Use online tools, webinars and listserves to support ongoing training and information sharing.
 - ⇒ Develop and pilot social marketing and other innovative outreach methods to broaden community engagement.
 - ⇒ Develop communication and outreach strategies targeted to diverse audiences, focusing on areas with greatest need and opportunity.



For the full management strategy, visit: www.chesapeakebay.net/managementstrategies