

# DEVELOPING A CHESAPEAKE URBAN TREE CANOPY STRATEGY FORESTRY WORKGROUP, DEC. 3, 2014

JULIE MAWHORTER  
MID-ATLANTIC URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY COORDINATOR  
JMAWHORTER@FS.FED.US



Chesapeake Bay Program  
A Watershed Partnership

# TODAY'S TASK

- Overview of UTC Goal and Management Strategy
- Highlights from Chesapeake UTC Summit
- Discussion of Current Activities, Gaps, and Proposed Actions to support local implementation:
  - UTC Assessments and Planning
  - Tree Canopy Protection
  - Tree Planting
  - Tree Maintenance/Stewardship
  - Outreach/Community Engagement
- Options for Tracking/Reporting Progress
  - Tree Planting
  - Tree Canopy change over time

# WHERE WE'VE BEEN...

## **2003 Chesapeake Executive Council Directive**

...WE FURTHER RECOGNIZE THAT URBAN TREE CANOPY COVER offers stormwater control and water quality benefits for municipalities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed...

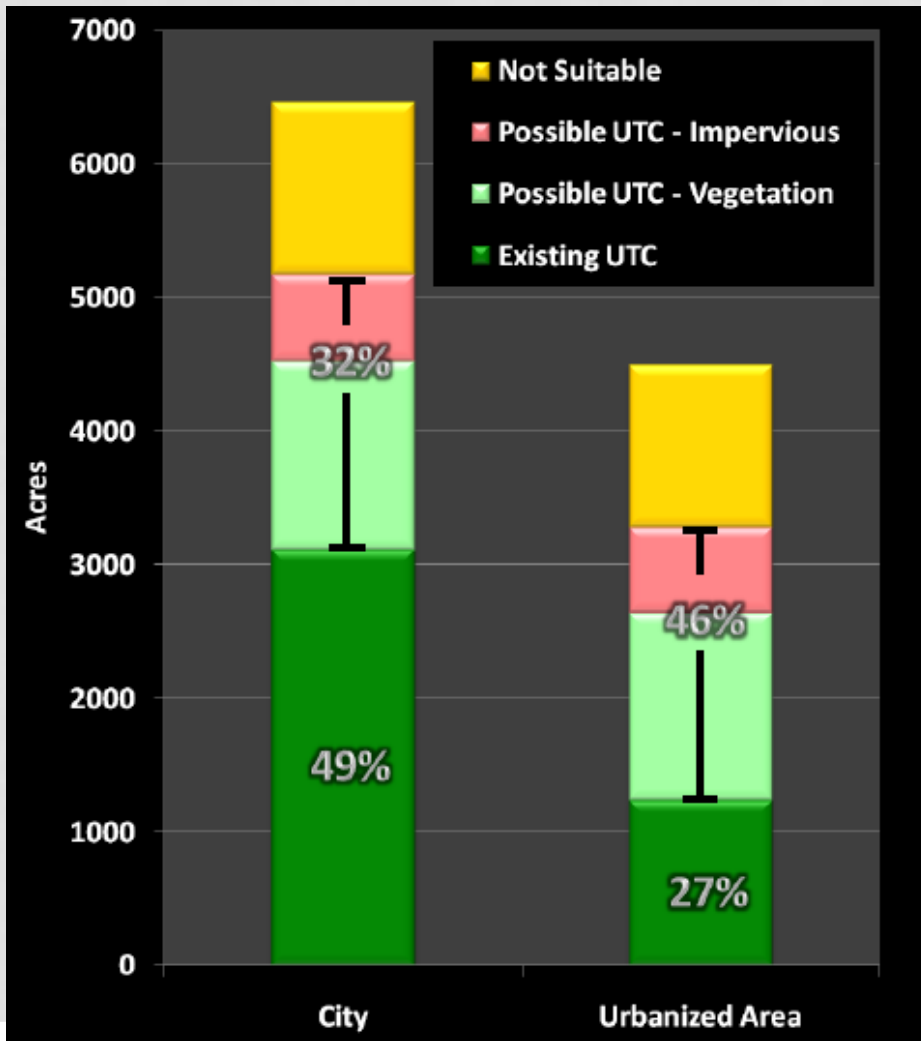
- **By 2010**, work with at least 5 local jurisdictions in each state to complete an assessment of urban forests, adopt a local goal to increase urban tree canopy cover and encourage measures to attain the established goals...

## **And in 2007 Forest Conservation Directive...**

- **By 2020**, accelerate reforestation and conservation in *urban and suburban areas*, by increasing the number of communities with commitments to tree canopy expansion goals to 120.

# PROGRESS: UTC ASSESSMENTS

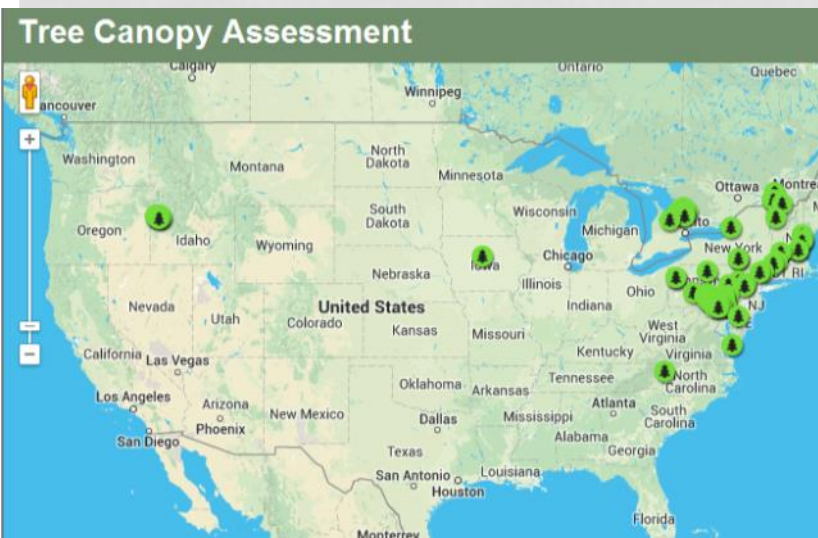
(Cumberland, MD, J. O'Neil-Dunne)



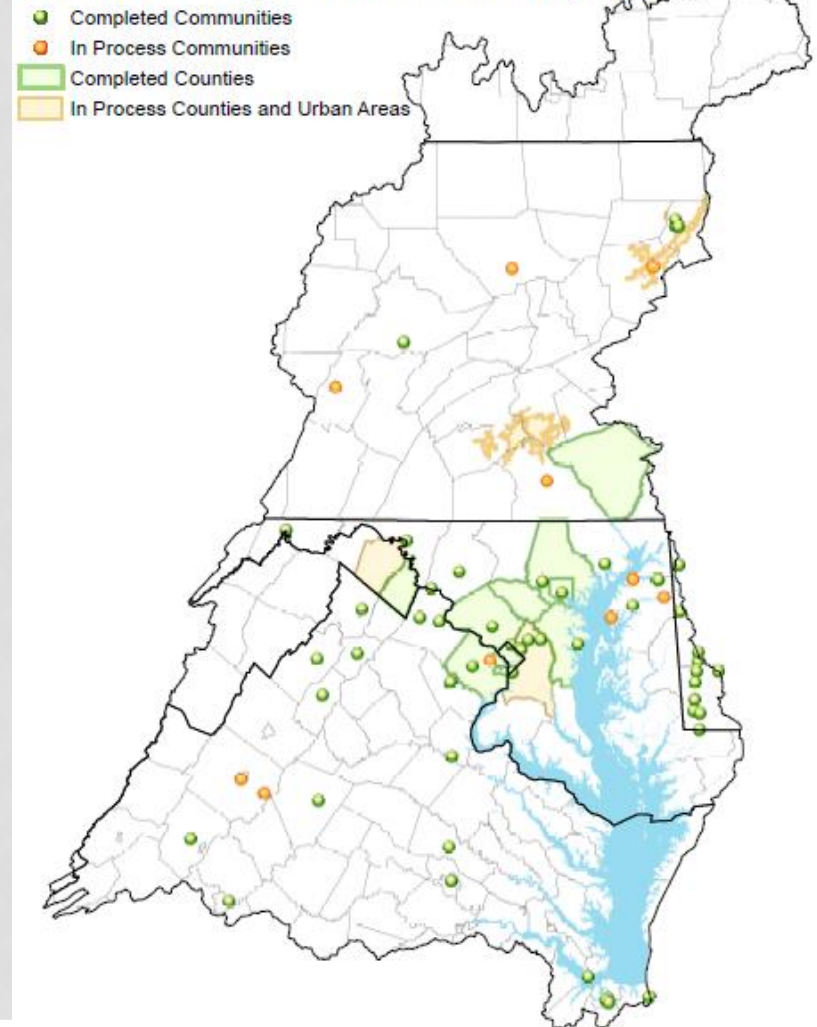


# UTC Assessments in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

~ 70 cities/towns  
9 counties



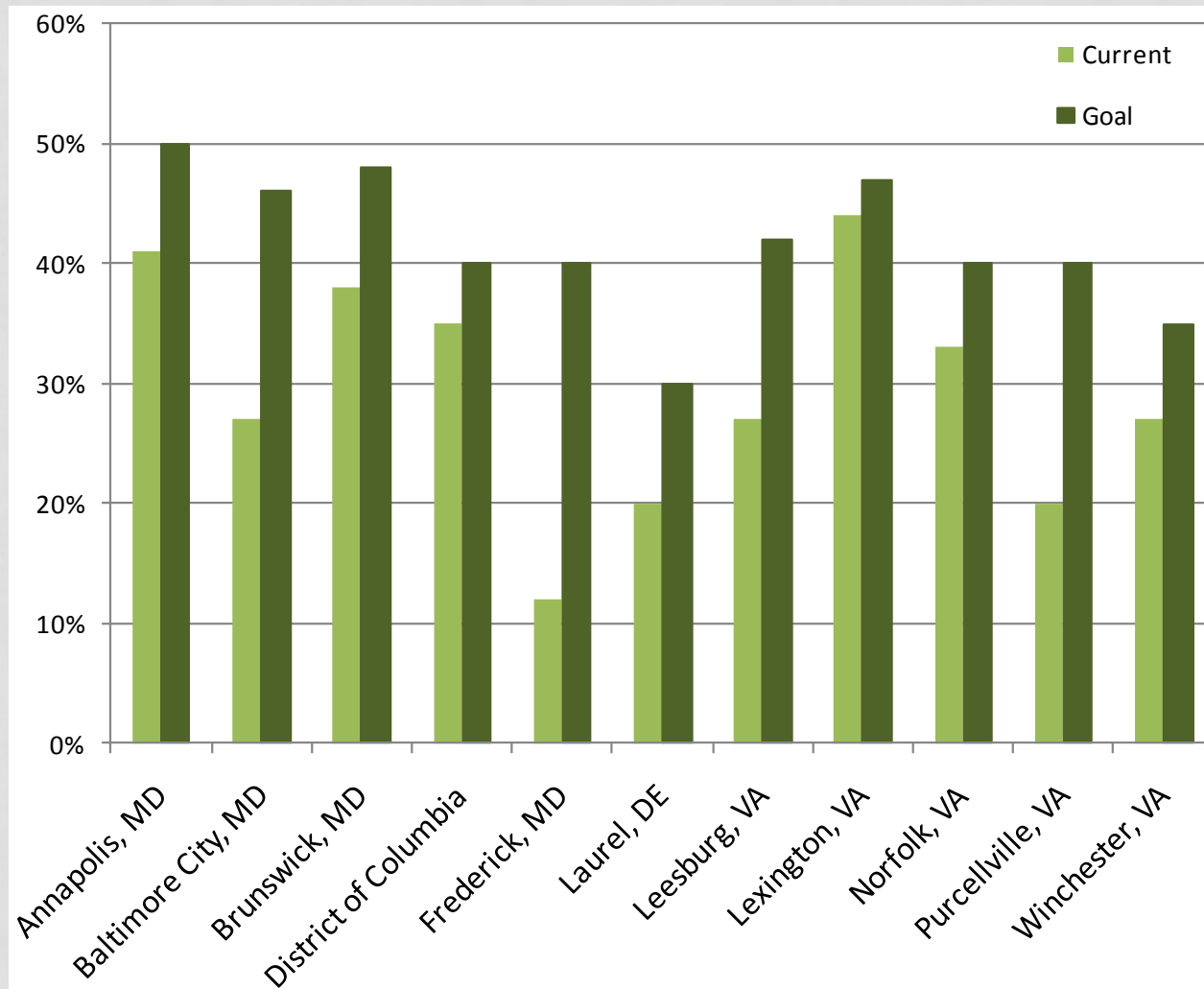
## Urban Tree Canopy Assessment Status (2011)



# PROGRESS: UTC GOALS

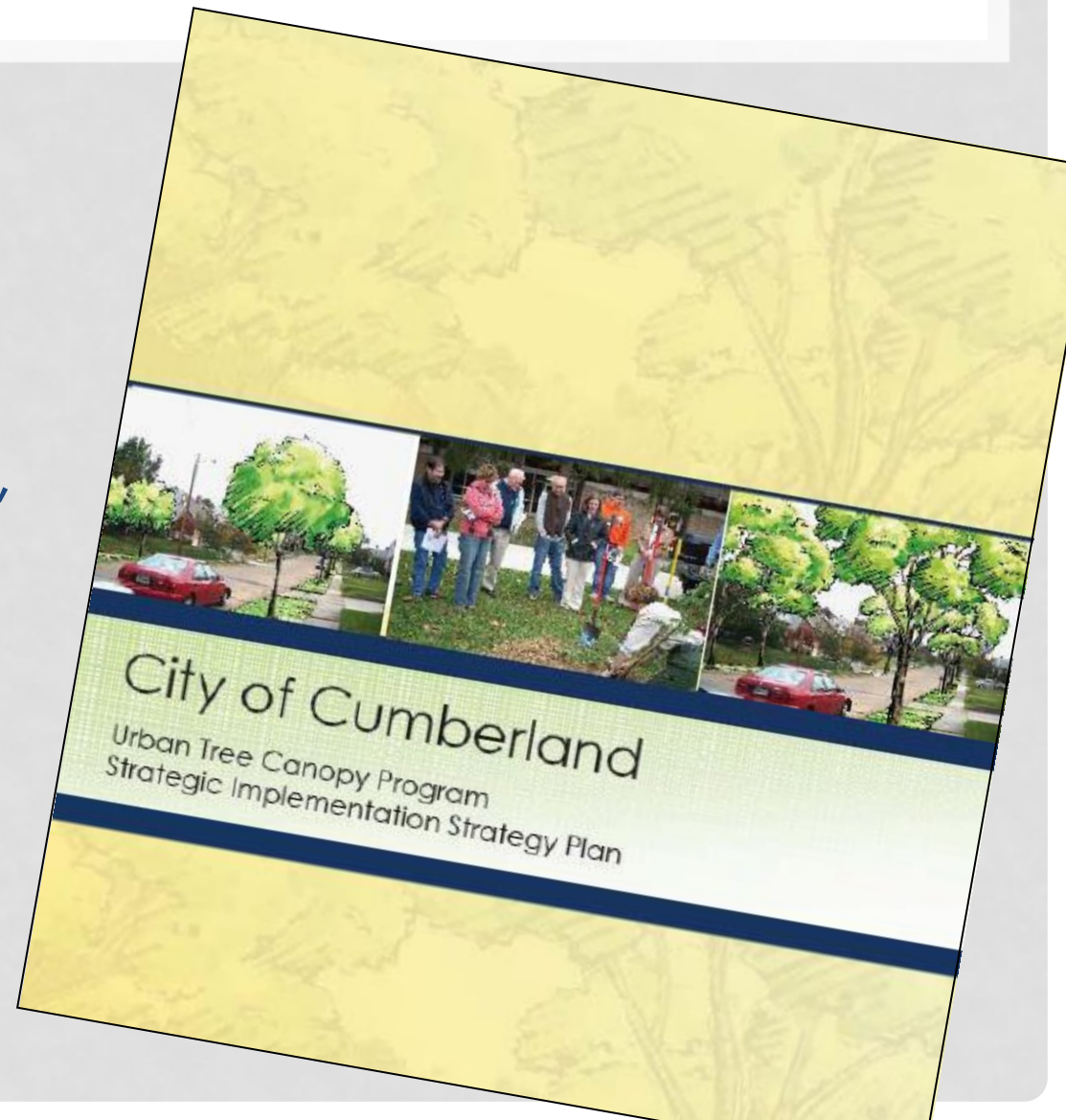
- 5 Counties and ~40 Cities/Towns have set UTC Goals

## EXAMPLES – UTC GOALS



# PROGRESS: IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

- Over 20 UTC Implementation Plans completed, more in progress



# PROGRESS: ON THE GROUND?



- We don't have good information on actions taken and progress made in protecting and expanding urban tree canopy.



# NEW CHESAPEAKE BAY AGREEMENT

## JUNE 2014

- Signed June 2014 by all 6 States and DC
- Urban Tree Canopy one of 29 Outcomes
- Management Strategy needed for each outcome
- Public Draft – March 2015, Finalize June 2015

### **Management Strategy – Key Elements**

- ✓ Executive Summary
- ✓ Outcomes and Baselines
- ✓ Jurisdictions and agencies participation
- ✓ Factors influencing ability to meet goal
- ✓ Current efforts and gaps
- ✓ Management approach
- ✓ Monitoring Progress
- ✓ Assessing Progress
- ✓ Adaptively Manage
- ✓ Biennial Workplan

# STRATEGY ELEMENT: OUTCOME & BASELINE

## TREE CANOPY 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**.

- Must be 2,400 acres net gain, after accounting for canopy losses
- For reporting, 1 acre = 100 trees planted
- Tracked using tree planting data submitted to Chesapeake Bay model, cross-checked with periodic canopy assessments

# PRELIMINARY STATE UTC TARGETS

State	Annual Target (New Acres)	2025 Target (New Acres)
Delaware	5	60
DC	40	480
Maryland	45	540
New York	5	60
Pennsylvania	60	720
Virginia	40	480
West Virginia	10	120
TOTAL	205	2460

## STRATEGY ELEMENT: OUTCOME & BASELINE

### BASELINE:

- USGS/Land Use Workgroup is working on compiling a Baywide tree canopy land use layer for Chesapeake Bay model
  - Using high resolution UTC where available, 2011 NLCD Tree Canopy (30m) where not available
  - Draft by March 2015
- Forestry Workgroup will look at the data when available in 2015 and work on developing a baseline UTC estimate

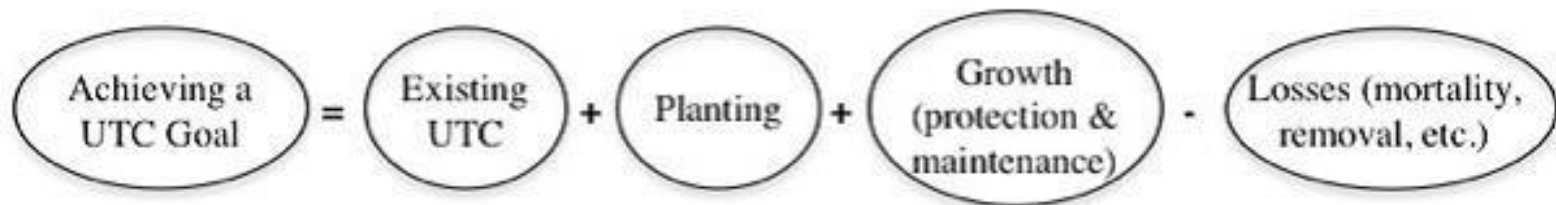


# STRATEGY ELEMENT: PARTICIPATING JURISDICTIONS

- EVERYONE – progress will be driven by local government and partner efforts
- State urban forestry coordinators will gather input on state-specific strategy actions in January

Jurisdiction	Lead Agency/contact
Delaware	Delaware Forest Service Kyle Hoyd, <a href="mailto:kyle.hoyd@state.de.us">kyle.hoyd@state.de.us</a> Kesha Braunskill, <a href="mailto:kesha.braunskill@state.de.us">kesha.braunskill@state.de.us</a>
District of Columbia	DDOT Urban Forestry Administration John Thomas, <a href="mailto:john.pthomas@dc.gov">john.pthomas@dc.gov</a> District Dept. of Environment Steve Saari, <a href="mailto:steve.saari@dc.gov">steve.saari@dc.gov</a>
Maryland	Maryland DNR Forest Service Marian Honeczy, <a href="mailto:marian.honeczy@maryland.gov">marian.honeczy@maryland.gov</a>
New York	NYSDEC, Div. Lands and Forests Mary Kramarchyk, <a href="mailto:mary.kramarchyk@dec.ny.gov">mary.kramarchyk@dec.ny.gov</a>
Pennsylvania	PA-DCNR Bureau of Forestry Rachel Reyna, <a href="mailto:reyna@pa.gov">reyna@pa.gov</a>
Virginia	VA Dept. of Forestry Barbara White, <a href="mailto:Barbara.White@dof.virginia.gov">Barbara.White@dof.virginia.gov</a>
West Virginia	Cacapon Institute (CB UTC Coordinator) Frank Rodgers, <a href="mailto:frodgers@cacaponinstitute.org">frodgers@cacaponinstitute.org</a> WV Div. of Forestry Herb Peddicord, <a href="mailto:Herb.F.Peddicord@wv.gov">Herb.F.Peddicord@wv.gov</a>

# STRATEGY ELEMENT: FACTORS INFLUENCING ABILITY TO MEET GOAL



Funding/Partnerships

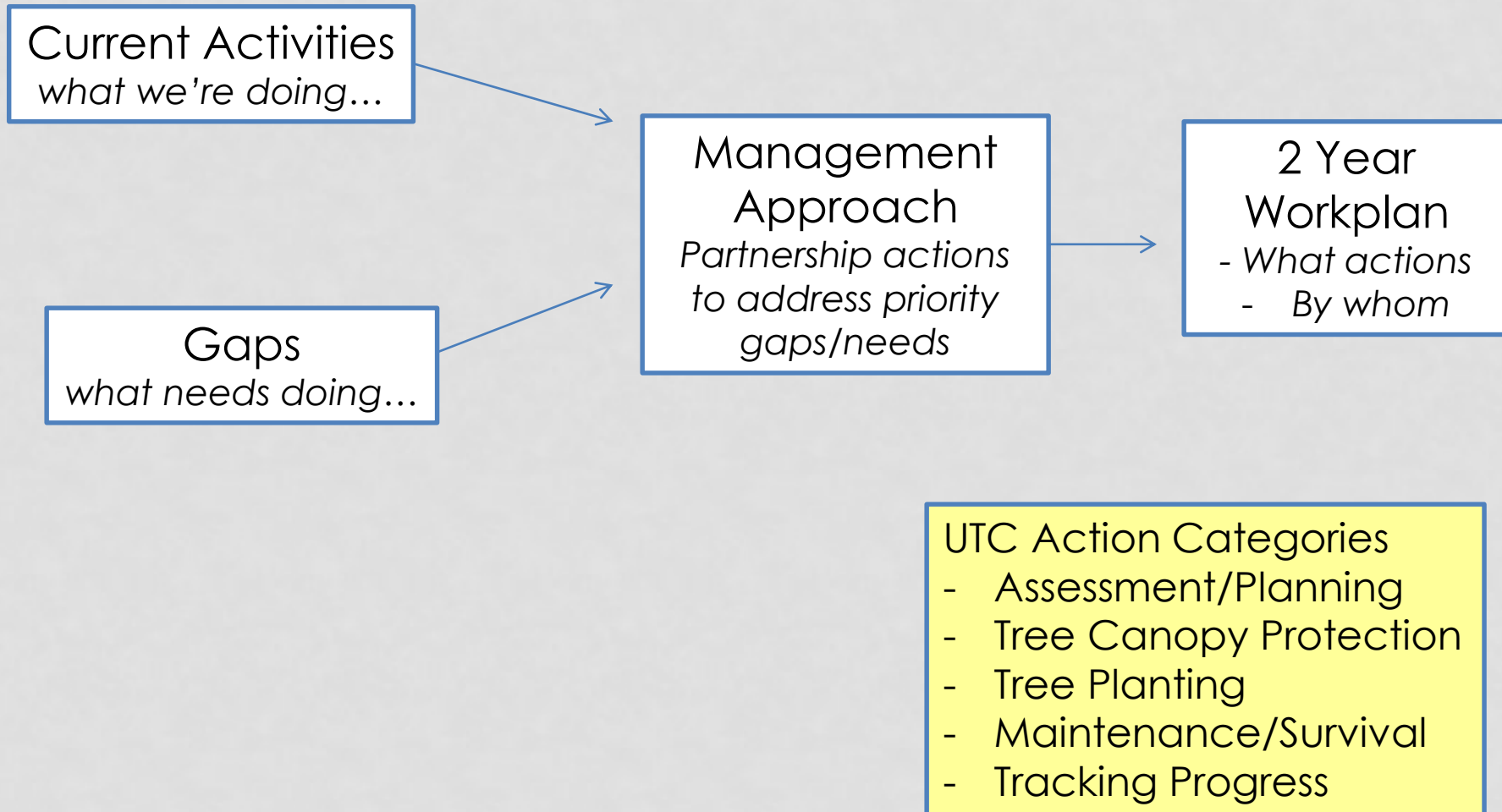
Policies/Ordinances

Community Outreach/Buy-in

Knowledge/Tools/Technical Capacity

Development  
Storms  
Pests/Disease  
Natural Mortality  
Utility Clearing

# STRATEGY ELEMENTS



# STRATEGY ELEMENTS

- Monitoring Progress
  - Tracking/reporting mechanisms for tree planting and canopy change over time will be developed
- Assessing Progress
  - Progress on tree planting acres/canopy data and results of partnership actions will be assessed at end of each 2 Year Workplan period and used to...
- Adaptively Manage
  - Review and adjust next 2 Year Workplan based on progress and learning