

# Signatory Programs Template

## State of Delaware- Delaware Forest Service & Department of Natural Resources

### Community Trees

- [Urban and Community Forestry](#) – Federally Funded – Provides assistance to help municipalities, nonprofit groups, community associations, and homeowners to plant and care for their trees.

### Riparian Forest Buffers

- [Buffer Incentive Program](#) – (Federally Funded – as funding is available)- Incentive program for implementation of forest buffer and grass buffers in Delaware's Chesapeake Bay watershed, including site prep, materials, installation, and incentives to landowners based on acreage placed into protection for 5-years.
- [Delaware Community Conservation Assistance Program](#) – DeCAP – (Federally Funded – as funding is available)- Program targeted at community and landowner-level implementation of backyard best management practices, including but not limited to tree plantings and riparian tree buffers, in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

### Forest Conservation

- [Forestland Preservation Program](#) - (1 Million for Fiscal Year 2025)- The Forestland Preservation Program protects working forest through perpetual conservation easements, these easements allow forest management activities, including timber harvests.
- [Stewardship Program](#) – ( Federally funded / Timber Harvest Revenue for Fiscal Year 2025) – The Stewardship Program offers multiple tax incentive programs to keep properties in active forest management. It also offers a small state cost share program when timber revenues allows for it.

# Signatory Statutory Authorities Template (Appendix)

## State of Delaware

- [State Forestry](#) (Title 3, Chapter 10)
- [Delaware Agricultural Land Preservation Act](#) (Title 3, Chapter 9, Subchapter V)

# Signatory Programs

## VA. Department of Forestry

### Community Trees

- [Virginia Trees for Clean Water](#). (\$1,100,000 for FY25). Establishment of long-term, sustained canopy cover to improve water quality throughout the state through community plantings, tree giveaways, and riparian buffer plantings
- [Urban and Community Forestry Grants](#). (\$425,000 FY26). Promotes the protection and enhancement of urban and community forest ecosystems, tree planting, and the care of trees in cities, towns, and communities
- [Throwing Shade VA](#). (\$300,000 FY25). Partnership between DOF and retail nurseries to offer discounts on eligible native trees and shrubs

### Riparian Forest Buffers

- [Riparian Forests for Landowners](#). (\$1,000,000 FY25). Zero-cost riparian buffer establishment program for private landowners wishing to establish a buffer on their property. Program covers site preparation, tree planting and one year of maintenance following planting

# Signatory Programs

## VA. Department of Forestry

### Forest Conservation

- Office of working lands preservation. Work with public agencies and private groups to slow the loss of valuable working landscapes in Virginia through education, technical assistance, and accepting open-space easements.
- Forest Legacy. (\$20,000,000 FY25). Partnership between DOF and USDA Forest Service to conserve forestland under threat of conversion to other land uses. Qualifying properties must be within identified Legacy Areas.
- Purchase of development rights program. (\$437,500 FY25, distro. To participating counties with PDR programs). Partnership between DOF and participating localities. DOF equally distributes the funding allocated to the Virginia Farmland and Forestland Preservation Fund to localities that can provide matching funds for the purchase of open-space easements.

# Signatory Statutory Authorities

## **VA. Department of Forestry**

### **Community Trees**

- [Virginia Water Quality Improvement Fund](#)
- [Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978](#)
- [Virginia Water Quality Improvement Fund](#)

### **Riparian Forest Buffers**

- [Virginia Water Quality Improvement Fund](#)

### **Forest Conservation**

- [Code of Virginia 10.1. Conservation, Chapter 11 - Forest Resources & The Department of Forestry](#)
- [Code of Virginia 10.1. Conservation, Chapter 17 Open-Space Land Act](#)
- [Code of Virginia 10.1. Conservation, Chapter 11 - Forest Resources & The Department of Forestry](#)

# Signatory Programs

## Pennsylvania

### Community Trees

- Community Conservation Partnerships Program- Community and Watershed Forestry Grants; Urban and Community Forestry (\$1,000,000.00). Grant program funds community engagement, street tree planting, urban forest planning, planting, and tree care in communities and other publicly accessible spaces throughout the Commonwealth.

### Riparian Forest Buffers

- Community Conservation Partnerships Program- Community and Watershed Forestry Grants; Riparian Forest Buffers (\$1,000,000.00). Grant program funds outreach, implementation, and post-planting establishment/stewardship of riparian forest buffer plantings across PA.

### Forest Conservation

- Community Conservation Partnerships Program—land conservation program provides grant funding to conservation partners for conservation easements and fee simple acquisition. Bureau of Forestry also acquires forest land directly. Funding averages several million total.

# Signatory Statutory Authorities (Appendix)

## Pennsylvania

- PA Act 18 of 1995. Conservation and Natural Resources Act. Provides DCNR the authority for grantmaking, outreach and technical assistance, and land acquisition.  
<https://www.palegis.us/statutes/unconsolidated/law-information?SessYr=1995&SessInd=0&ActNum=0018>.
- HB 374 of 2019. Keystone Tree Fund Restricted Account.  
<https://www.palegis.us/legislation/bills/2019/hb374>
- Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code. Provides the authority to municipalities to enact local ordinances. <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/LI/US/HTM/1968/0/0247..HTM>
- PA Clean and Green Act 319. Provides tax incentive for forest and ag land uses.  
[https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/pda/documents/plants\\_land\\_water/farmland/clean/documents/COPY%20OF%20THE%20ACT%20-%20Current%20through%20Act%2089%20of%202016%20-%20Effective%20072016.pdf](https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/pda/documents/plants_land_water/farmland/clean/documents/COPY%20OF%20THE%20ACT%20-%20Current%20through%20Act%2089%20of%202016%20-%20Effective%20072016.pdf)

# Signatory Programs

## Federal Government

### Community Trees

- [USFS Urban and Community Forestry Program](#) (\$\$ for Fiscal Year 2025) is dedicated to growing and maintaining urban and community trees, forests and green spaces.

### Riparian Forest Buffers

- [FSA Conservation Reserve Program](#) (\$33.7 million for Fiscal Year 2024) is a voluntary program that encourages agricultural producers to convert highly erodible and other environmentally sensitive acres to vegetative cover, such as native trees and riparian buffers

### Forest Conservation

- [USFS Forest Legacy Program](#) (\$0 for Fiscal Year 2025) is a conservation program administered by the Forest Service in partnership with state agencies to encourage the protection of privately owned forest lands through conservation easements or land purchases.
- [NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#) (\$51.8 million for Fiscal Year 2024) helps forest landowners integrate conservation into working lands.
- [NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program](#) (\$20 million for Fiscal Year 2024) is the largest working lands conservation program in the United States that helps producers enhance natural resources and improve their business operations.



# Signatory Statutory Authorities

## Federal Government

- [Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978](#) (16 U.S.C. Chapter 41)
- [Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018](#) (Public Law 115-334)