

QUARTERLY PROGRESS MEETING – February 2021
Chesapeake Bay Program



Tree Canopy

*Julie Mawhorter,
USDA Forest Service
Tree Canopy Coordinator
Forestry Workgroup*

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

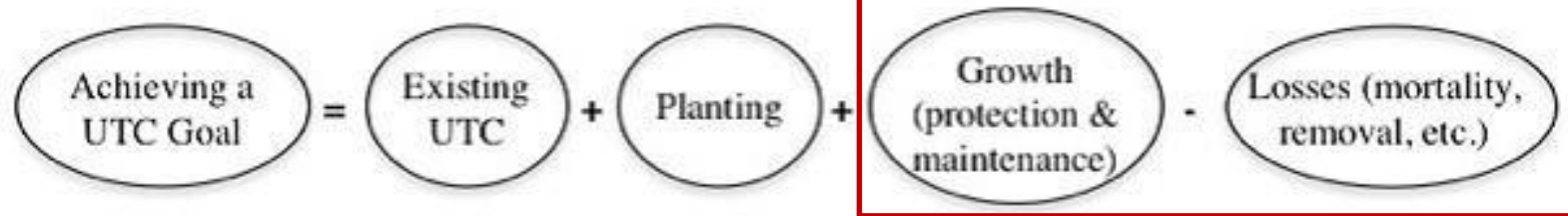


Goal: *Tree Canopy*

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.**

It's not just about planting...

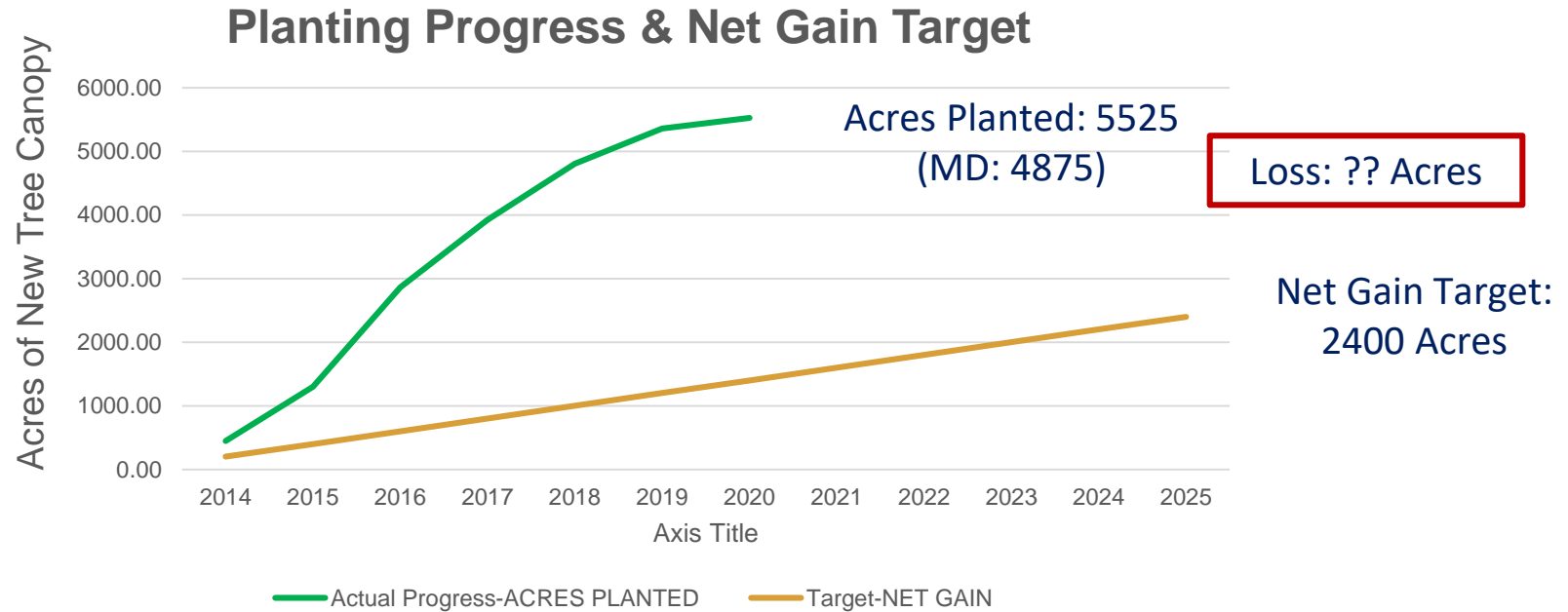


Tree Canopy Indicator has 2 components:

- 1) States report three urban tree planting BMPs annually for TMDL
- 2) Long term progress analyzed through CBP Land Cover updates (2021)



What is our Expected and Actual Progress?





Maryland Tree Canopy Change: Preliminary Results

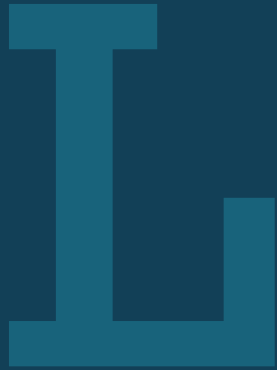
County	Tree Canopy Gain (acres)			Tree Canopy Loss (acres)			
	Total	In 100ft Stream Buffers	In Critical Areas	Total	In Urban Areas	In 100ft Stream Buffers	In Critical Areas
Anne Arundel	188.24	5.33	78.68	2,543.78	1,860.08	83.04	425.51
Montgomery	656.14	52.06	-	6,364.05	4,807.08	666.69	-
Prince George's	518.15	23.42	44.38	7,567.04	5,397.82	649.29	334.24
Calvert	899.24	24.29	117.67	1,566.72	643.00	28.28	134.22
Charles	1,478.35	69.31	65.89	2,529.30	634.85	66.38	87.19
St. Mary's	1,524.98	75.11	266.67	1,897.06	318.22	42.82	208.71
Dorchester	2,111.68	151.91	517.18	1,730.68	26.35	68.92	429.74
Somerset	4,778.99	123.04	626.04	1,258.22	17.18	44.45	123.11
Wicomico	3,703.89	157.95	206.13	2,337.47	288.33	76.60	181.30
Worcester	6,900.44	587.63	350.19	3,514.53	119.08	226.46	193.86
TOTAL	22,760.11	1,270.03	2,272.83	31,308.86	14,111.98	1,952.93	2,117.86

= Baltimore-Washington Corridor

= Southern Maryland

= Lower Eastern Shore

Iris Allen, Maryland Forest Service
July 2020



Learn

What have we learned in the last two years?



Successes – Summit 2.0

You're Invited!

Save the date for the 2020 Chesapeake Tree Canopy Summit

When: Tuesday, January 14, 2020, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Wednesday, January 15, 2020, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Where: [Patuxent Research Refuge - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)

National Wildlife Visitor Center

10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop

Laurel, MD 20708

[Register Now!](#)



Summit Objectives:

- Build participant knowledge and understanding, and advance individual community tree canopy efforts, through hands-on training, facilitated discussion, and presentation by subject matter experts;
- Inform future state and sub-regional trainings and catalyze collaboration with new cross-sector partners; and
- Identify opportunities for continuous improvement in approach to meeting tree canopy goals.





Successes – Summit 2.0

BOLSTER Funding & Partnership



Financing Urban Tree Canopy Programs
Guidebook for Local Governments in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

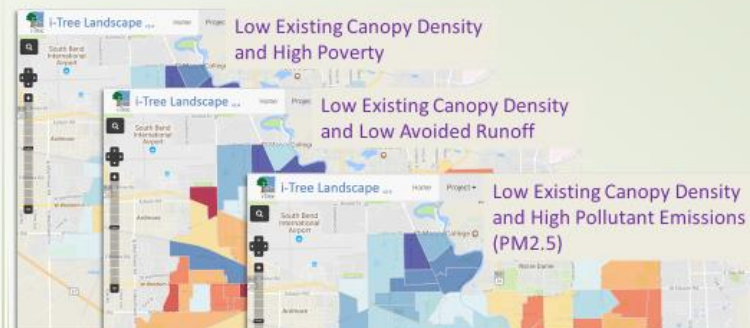
Prepared by
the Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland
and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

MARCH 2019

STRENGTHEN Policy & Ordinances



INCREASE Technical Capacity & Knowledge Inform Community Decisions and City Priorities



EXPAND Community Outreach & Education



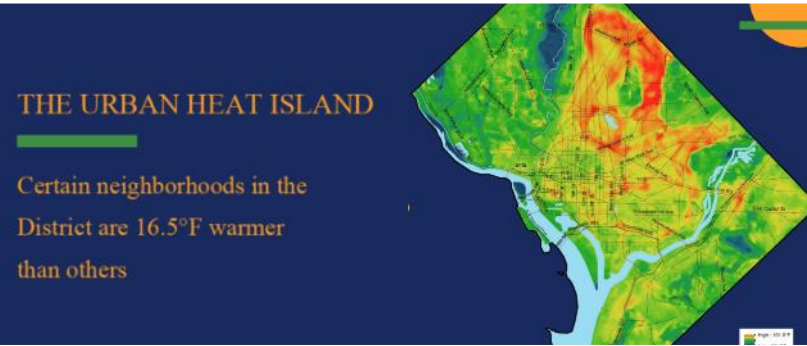
Trees, Equity and Cultural Competency



ACTION 1.1 Implement state programs and grants to incentivize tree canopy progress



Successes – States



Pennsylvania initiative to convert 10,000 acres of lawns into meadows, forests



My Tree Counts A Community Tree Map

Every tree planted makes a difference to the health of our communities and the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) and partners want to highlight tree planting projects from across the state.

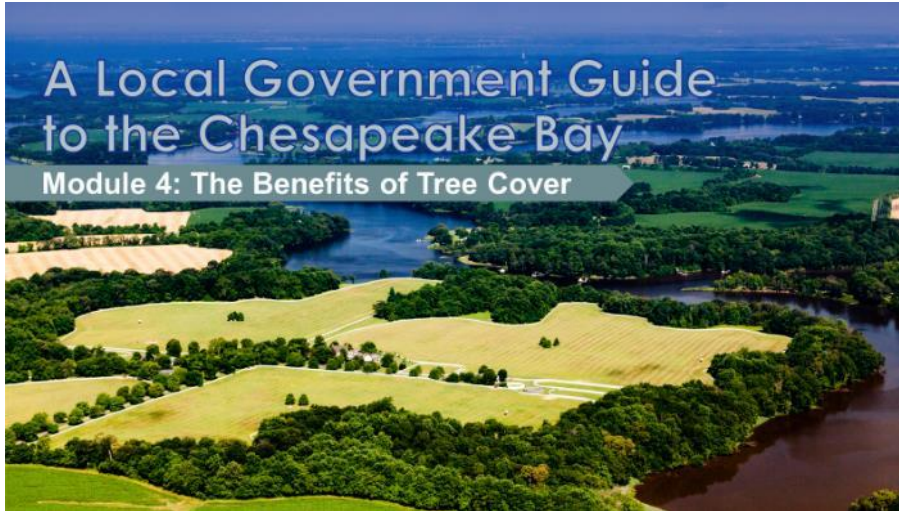
[Our Tree Stories](#) [How My Tree Makes a Difference](#) [Add Your Tree!](#)

Carver Tree Project Cary Elementary Food Forest



Successes – Cross Outcome

Local Leadership



Environmental Literacy

Trees and Schools: Growing the Connection A Resource Guide for Chesapeake Communities



Photo: Tree planting with students at St. Anne's School in Delaware; courtesy of Delaware Forest Service

Draft Version for Stakeholder Input, December 2020

Written by Maya Claggett in collaboration with the Chesapeake Bay Program Forestry Workgroup. Please send inquiries or suggestions for future versions of this Guide to [Julie Mawhorter](mailto:Julie.Mawhorter@delaware.gov), Chesapeake Tree Canopy Coordinator by March 1, 2021.

<https://chesapeaketrees.net/category/schools/>



Challenges

COVID IMPACTS

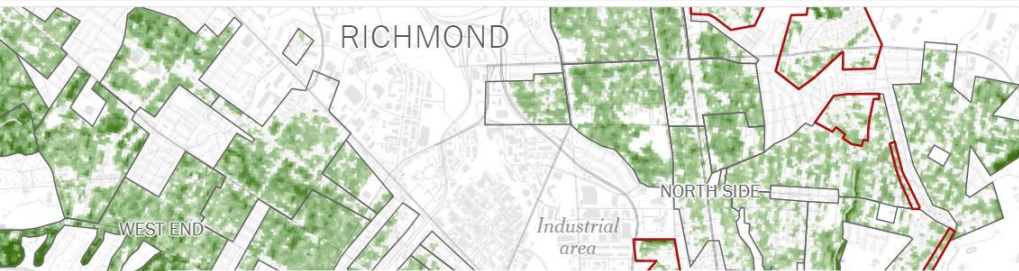
- Delays, budgets, priorities

Delayed workplan action:
Funding & Policy Roundtable

- ✓ Many drivers of loss (development, storms, pests)
- ✓ Weak or nonexistent local ordinances and staffing
- ✓ Inadequate or patchy funding
- ✓ People take trees for granted and sometimes focus on negatives



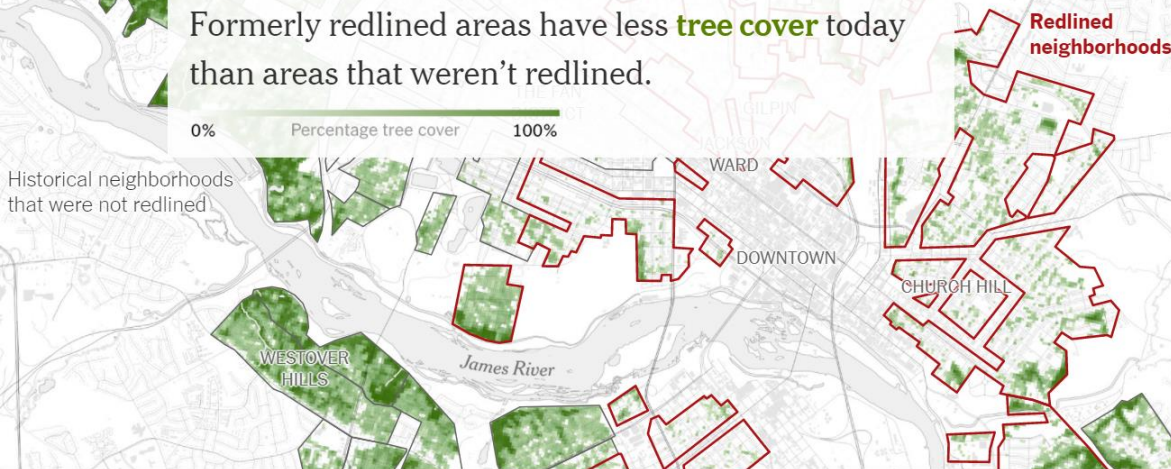
Challenges & Lessons Learned



Formerly redlined areas have less **tree cover** today than areas that weren't redlined.

0% Percentage tree cover 100%

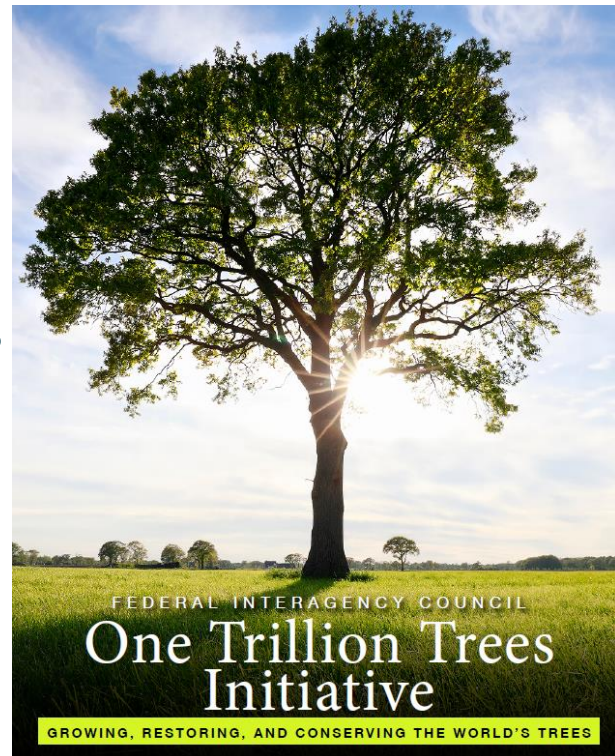
Historical neighborhoods that were not redlined





On the Horizon

- New Land Cover Data & Analysis (2021)
- CBP DEIJ Strategy and Tree Equity Focus
- Continued COVID Impacts
- Climate Initiatives focused on trees (e.g. Trillion Trees)





Adapt

How does all of this impact our work?



Based on what we learned, we plan to ...

- 1. Develop and share data, tools & best practices for Tree Equity**
- 2. Assess and Communicate Tree Canopy Status & Change to Stakeholders**
 - Bay-wide Summary Report and Local Fact Sheets
- 3. COVID- Continue virtual opportunities and plan for 2022 Summit**
- 4. Continue partnership work around priority issues and needs**
 - Funding & Policy Roundtable
 - Collaboration-Local Leadership, Communications, Stormwater, Schools



Help

*How can the Management Board
lead the Program to adapt?*



Help Needed

- Prioritize **CBP DEI** Implementation Plan efforts to grow investments in communities, with **tree equity as a focus**
- Continue and grow the **support for critical state urban and community forestry programs**, through leveraging available programs and policies
- **Request:** in each state, MB member(s) work with State Tree Canopy Lead to document existing programs/policies that could help advance tree canopy (*e.g. water quality, climate, health, community development, workforce*)
- Participate in the **Funding & Policy Roundtable** and next Summit

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Chesapeake Bay Program



Discussion