

# Exploring the Tomorrow's Trees Program



March 8, 2023





# What is Tomorrow's Trees?

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*Formerly known as the  
“Growing Native” program,  
Potomac Conservancy is  
bringing this historic seed  
collection program back to the  
masses with an updated name  
and look!*



**FOUNDED IN 2001**

Founded as a part of the Potomac Watershed Partnership, Growing Native was a First-of-its-kind program that asked communities to gather indigenous tree seeds to help state-run nurseries meet tree planting demands.

# Why now?

## Forest Buffers



RECENT PROGRESS  
**INCREASE**



OUTLOOK  
**OFF COURSE**

Continually increase the capacity of forest buffers to provide water quality and habitat benefits throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Restore 900 miles of riparian forest buffers per year and conserve existing buffers until at least 70 percent of riparian areas in the watershed are forested.



### Forested Buffers

Previous Grade: F



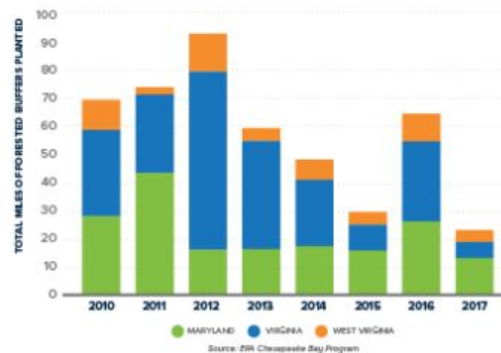
## 2020 POTOMAC RIVER REPORT CARD

#potomacreportcard

Shoreline trees (also called forested buffers) offer crucial protection from the harmful effects of pollution in local streams and creeks. Forested buffers also provide important habitat for wildlife and reduce streambank erosion. Across the Chesapeake Bay watershed, forested buffer programs are falling short of restoration goals. The three states in the Potomac basin reported a combined 23 miles of riparian forest restoration projects in 2017, reaching only 11% of the goal.

### FORESTED BUFFERS

MILES PLANTED PER YEAR



# Why now?

Legislation	Commitment
Tree Solutions Now Act of 2021	5 million Trees
Virginia DEQ – Phase III WIP	30,000 acres (est. 9 million trees)
Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act	



Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District

2h · 🌐

We've sold out of our 7,560 seedlings! Thank you for your incredible support!

Find more seedling sourcing options from Plant NOVA Natives:

<https://www.plantnovatrees.org/free-or-low-cost>

Find more native plant sales from Plant NOVA Natives: <https://www.plantnovanatives.org/local-native-plant-sales>

## WE'VE SOLD OUT

We have run out of seedlings for our seedling sale, but there's still other great places to get native plants

Check Out Plant NOVA Trees' website to find free and low cost native plants

[www.plantnovatrees.org/free-or-low-cost](https://www.plantnovatrees.org/free-or-low-cost)



# Fulfilling a Need

March 1, 2022

- *< 3 hours*
- *630 Seedling Packages*
- *7560 Seedlings*
- *Nurseries are sold out for the season*





# Reimagining the need for speed, and the need for seeds



# Using people power to drive solutions





# Volunteer at a public event





# Host a Kiosk







Volunteer as a Seed  
Collection Leader





# Report



## SEED COLLECTION

# SHARE YOUR SEED COLLECTION DATA

Your data matters! Seed collection data can help us learn about trends in seed species abundance, timing and quality. Only de-identified data is shared with our State Nursery Partners

## YOUR DETAILS

Have an account? Login now! 

Your First Name \*

Alexis

Your Last Name \*

Dickerson

Email Address \*

dickerson@potomac.org

☒ Yes, sign me up for email updates!

# What we tried...

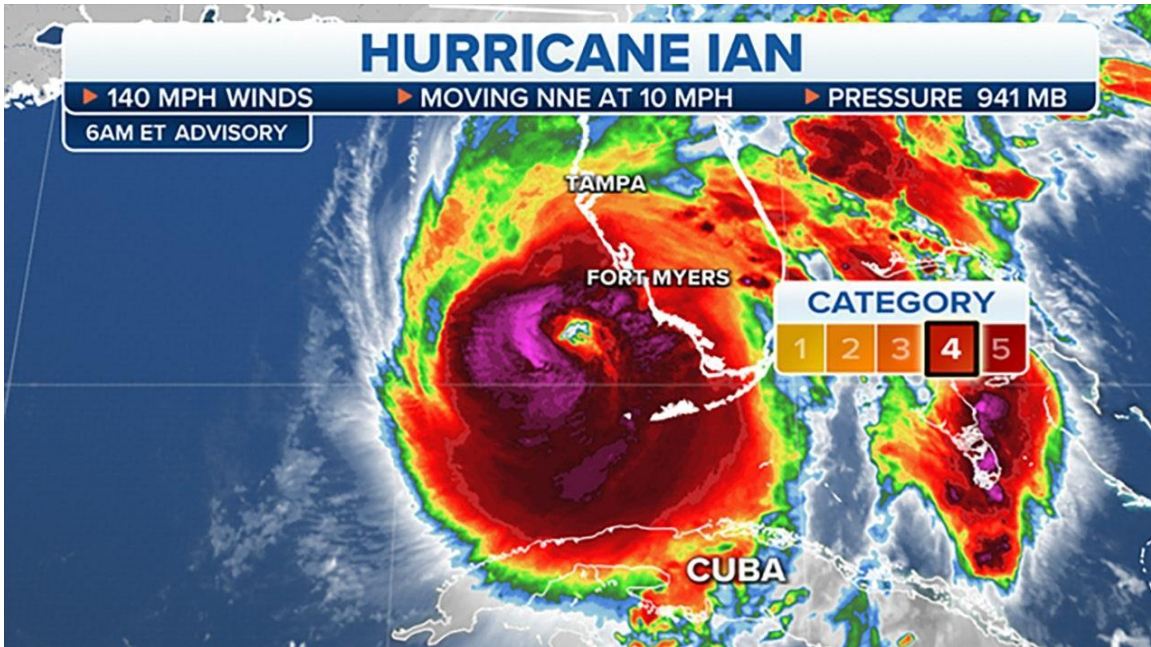
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- **Public events:**

- Streamlink Education w/ MD DNR – 9/17
- EcoAction Arlington – 10/1
- Festival del Rio – 10/1
- Arlington National Cemetery – 10/15
- Prince George's County Green Summit – 10/22







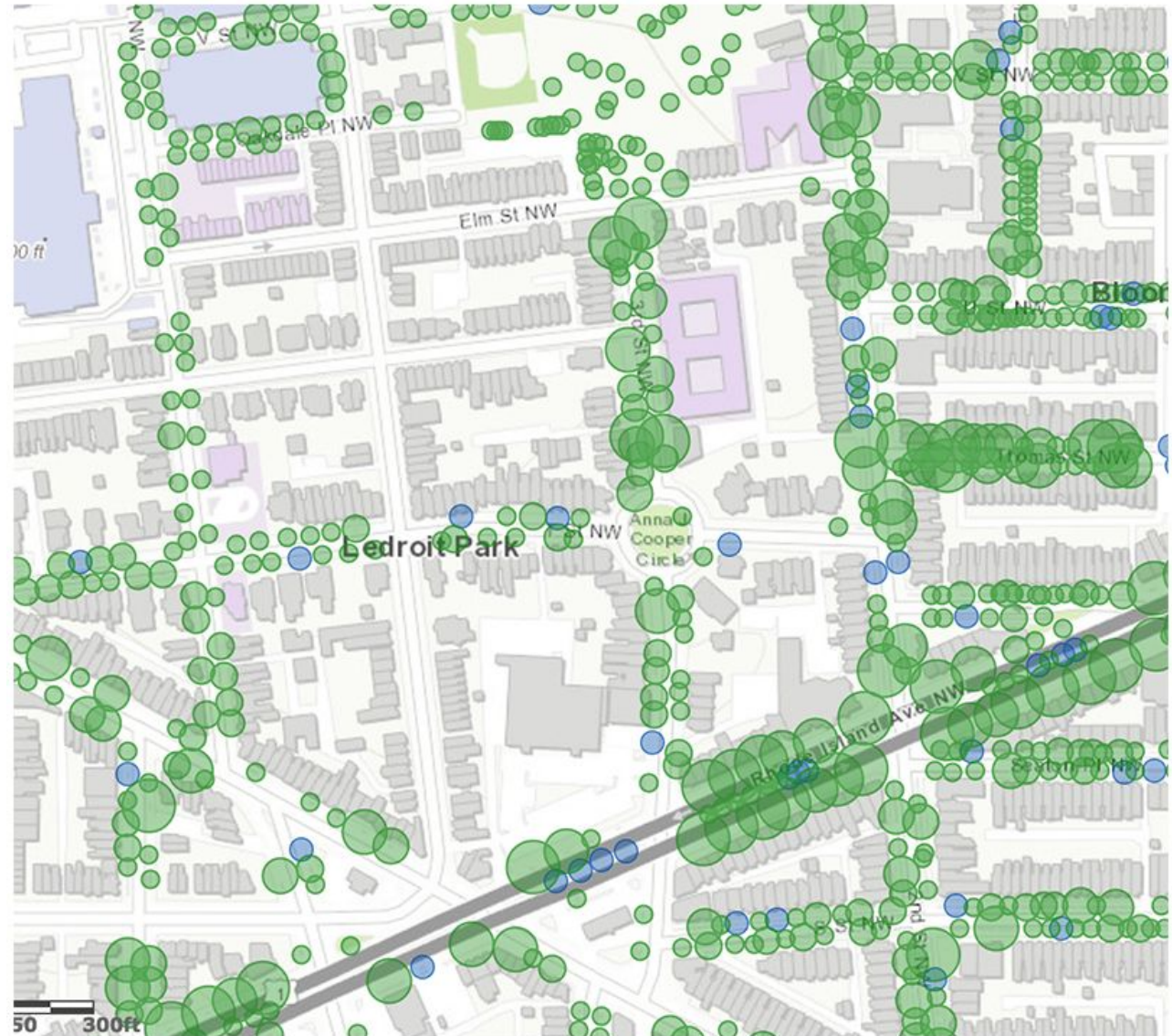
What we  
learned



## DC Street Trees Map

[DDOT's Urban Forestry Division \(UFD\)](#) is keeper of Washington DC's ~145,000 street trees and have created this [map of the street trees](#) to help the public understand the forest that surrounds them. Trees are shown as green circles, sized according to their size in diameter. Open tree spaces are displayed as blue circles. Zoom in to an area and click on the trees that interest you; a popup window will emerge providing details such as common and scientific name, size and condition.

What we  
learned





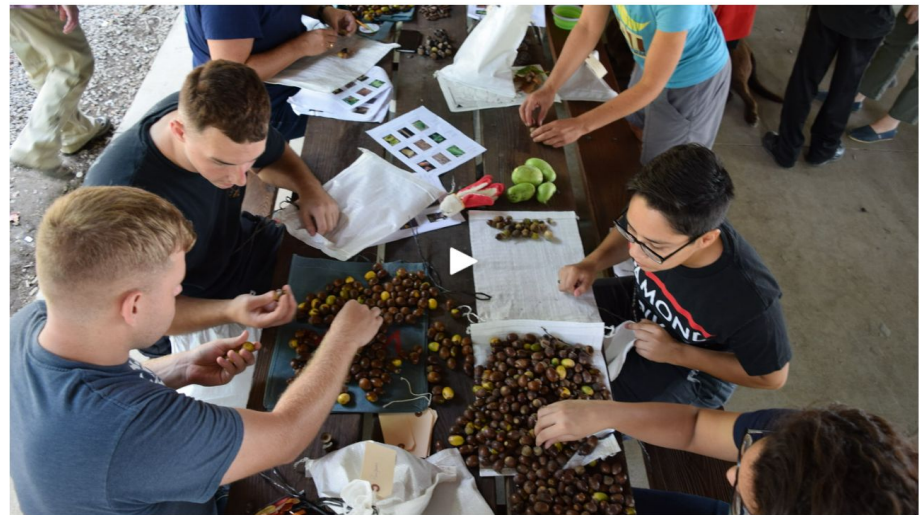
# Potomac Conservancy tree and seed program

## Step 1



Collect Seeds

- Seed collection and drop off points
- Community Kiosks – Education and Access
- Community Engagement – Entry point for conservation behaviors



# Potomac Conservancy Tree and Seed Program

## Step 2



Germinate and Grow

### Critical Pathways for Nursery Success:

- Quantity
- Quality
- Distribution



# Potomac Conservancy Tree and Seed Intervention

## Step 3



Reforest and Maintain  
Critical Areas

### Applied Data with Partners:

- Intercept capacity
- Viability
- Access
- Equity

# Potomac Conservancy Tree and Seed Intervention

## Step 4



Healthy Forests for  
Clean Water

### Ensure Achievability of Conservation Goals:

- Regional
- Maryland
- Virginia





# Join the fun!

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*Coming this spring...*

- Community Mapping projects
- Volunteer training
- Coalition building



# Spread the word!

- [Acorns in Short Supply: Volunteers Collect Acorns for a Cleaner Bay Watershed | Chesapeake Bay Magazine](#)
- [One man has collected more than 8,000 pounds of acorns for Virginia - Virginia Mercury](#)
- [Potomac Conservancy Has Big Goals for 2025 – Ecoprint](#)
- [The Garden Club of Alexandria Goes Nuts for Clean Water | GCA \(gcamerica.org\)](#)
- [Tomorrows-Trees.org](#)







*Today's seeds,  
Tomorrow's Trees*



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