



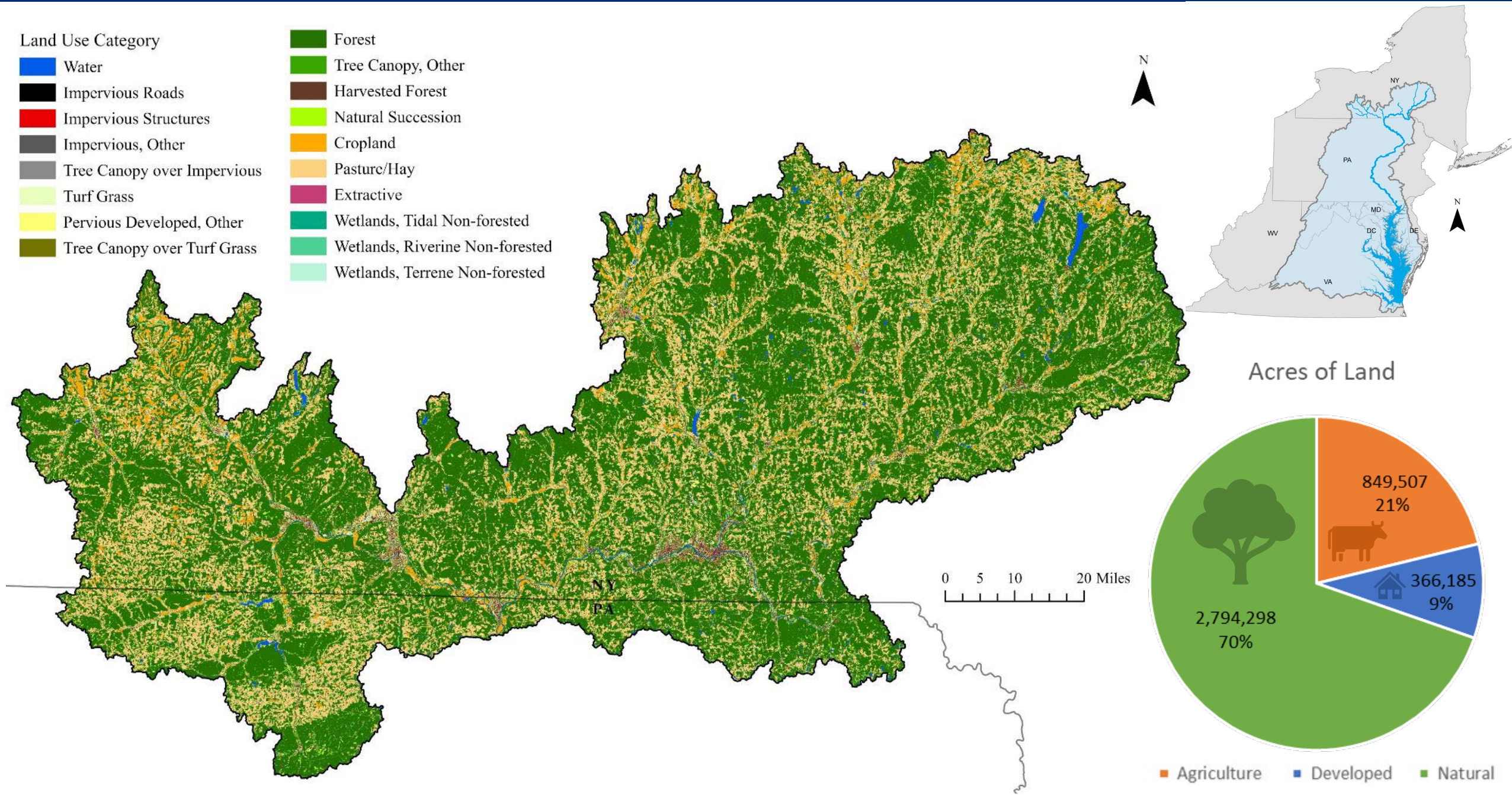
Department of
Environmental
Conservation



NYS DEC & Upper Susquehanna Coalition

Building Capacity through Local Coalitions

Water Quality Goal Implementation Team
September 23, 2024



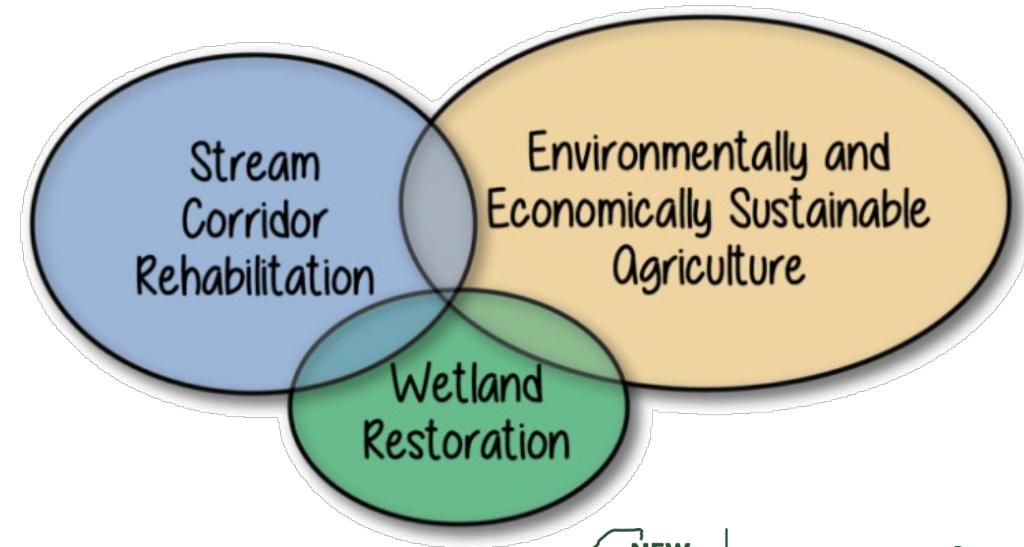
Upper Susquehanna Coalition

- Established in 1992
- Currently has members from 22 Soil and Water Conservation Districts in NY and PA
- USC collects, reports, and verifies all agriculture BMPs in NY's portion of the watershed



Vision:

A well functioning Susquehanna River Headwaters in harmony with itself and the entire Chesapeake Bay Watershed.



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USC – Agriculture Team

- Document farm data and best management practices for Chesapeake Bay
- Site-specific agricultural plans
- Implementation and technical assistance
 - Grazing Initiative
 - Cover Crops
 - Nutrient Management



USC – Buffer Team

- Implementation programs:
 - Trees for Tributaries
 - USC Water Quality Program
 - USC Natural Filter Protection Program
- USC Buffer Steward Program
 - Assess existing buffers
 - Conduct maintenance and replanting
- Community volunteer planting opportunities
- Education and outreach to landowners



USC – Wetland Team

“Vertically and horizontally integrated”

- Site Review
- Monitoring
- Design
- Construction, Restoration, Maintenance
- Research

Goals:

- Attenuate Floods
- Enhance Water Quality
- Increase Wildlife and Habitat Diversity
- Expanding Education and Outreach



USC – Stream Team

- Stream corridor rehabilitation
- Developing watershed assessments
- Regional center for learning watershed and stream principles
- Emergency Stream Intervention Training

STREAM CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT A PROCESS GUIDE



2017

Funding Provided by:
NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets



Agriculture
and Markets



Soil and Water
Conservation
Committee

Outreach

Uniform messaging across the watershed

- Annual Reports
- Newsletter
- Social Media

Shared resources

- Annual retreat
- Trainings

Upper Susquehanna Coalition
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GOT A VOLUNTEER GROUP IN NEED OF A SERVICE PROJECT?

WANT TO WORK OUTSIDE AND IMPROVE YOUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT?

ADOPT A BABY FOREST IN NEED!

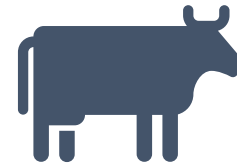
ADOPT US!

The Upper Susquehanna Coalition is committed to reforesting our watershed. Contact us today to see how your group can adopt a newly planted site!

USC
Upper Susquehanna Coalition

✉ bufferteam@u-s-c.org Upper Susquehanna Coalition

Best Management Practice Implementation reported by the USC to EPA



Prescribed Grazing
37,115 acres

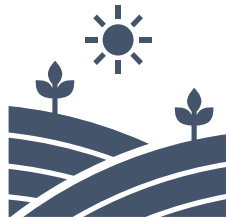


Cover Crops
19,969 acres

Forest Buffers
3,130 acres



Conservation
Tillage
25,148 acres



Wetlands
1,182 acres



Nutrient
Management
124,104 acres

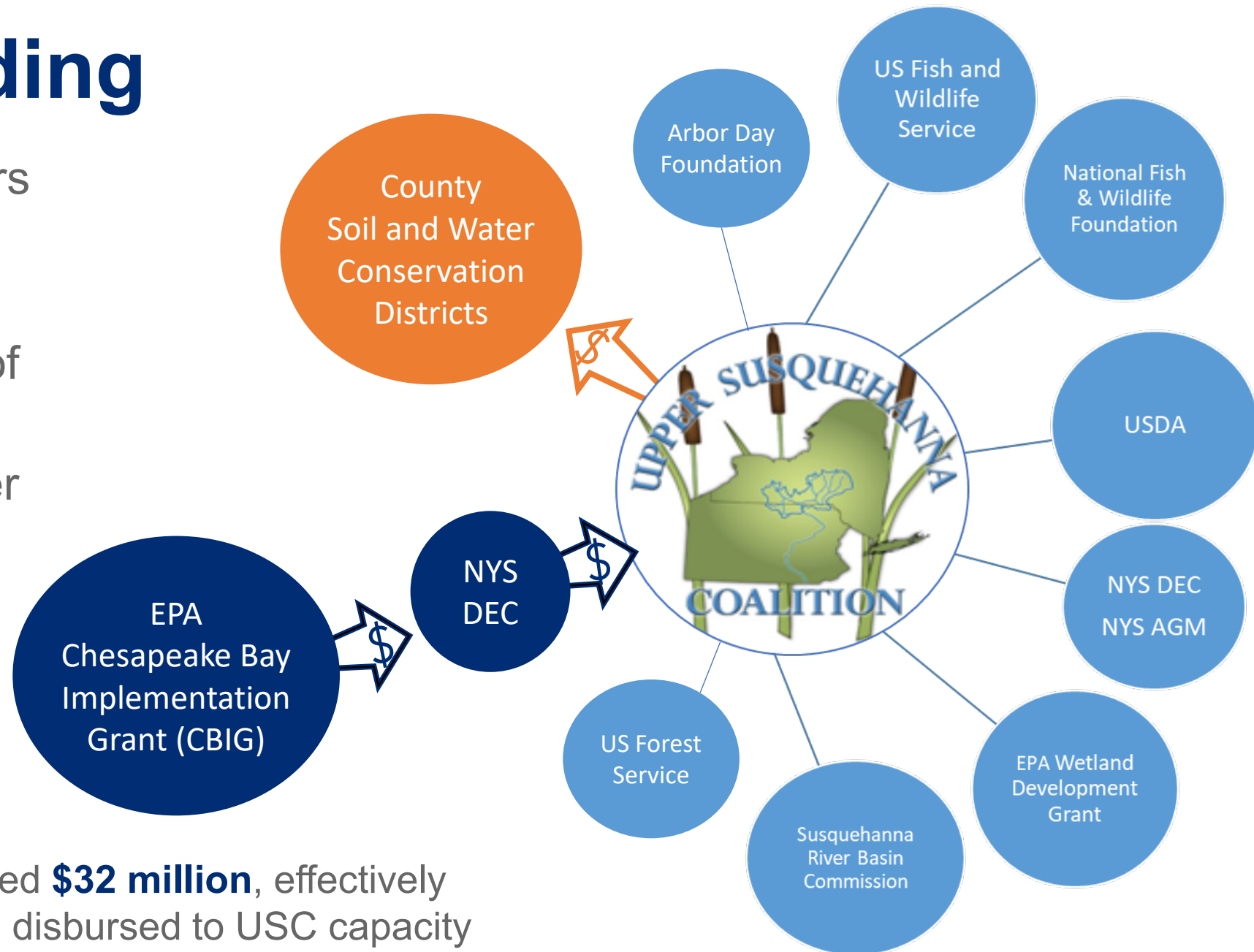
Stream Restoration
12.8 miles



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Capacity Building

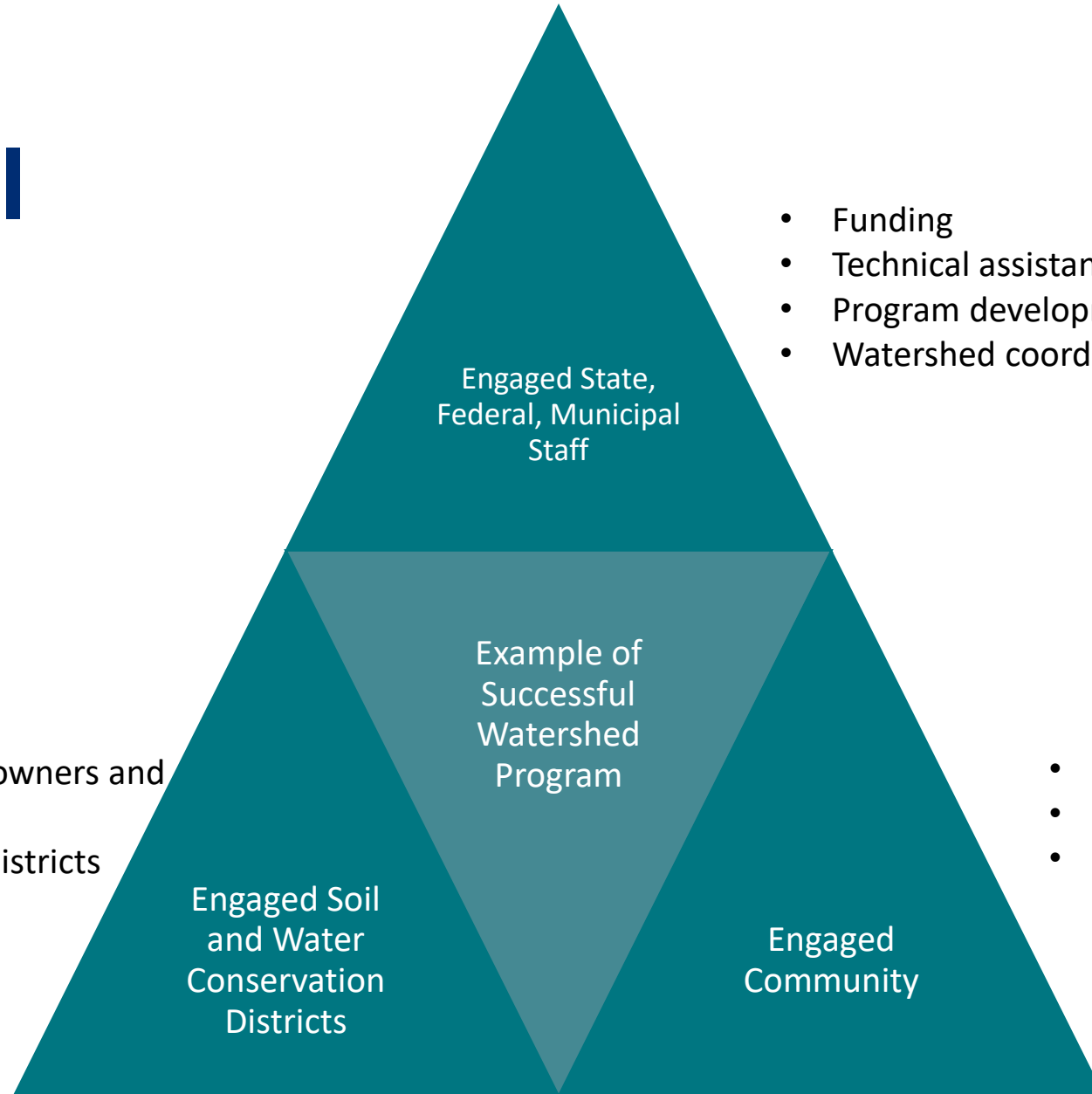
- Explore potential partners
- Increase collaboration between agencies
- Adds flexibility of types of projects implemented
- Provides match for larger funding sources
- Centralized grant management and coordination



Since 2014, the USC has leveraged **\$32 million**, effectively tripling the amount that NYS DEC disbursed to USC capacity

Building a Successful Coalition

- Technical Assistance to landowners and farmers
- Shared resources between districts
- Stronger grant applications



- Funding
- Technical assistance
- Program development
- Watershed coordination

- Community volunteers
- Willing landowners & farmers
- Implementation of best management practices