# Chesapeake Bay Watershed Tree Canopy Funding and Policy Roundtable

University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center Presentation to CBP Forestry Workgroup July 12, 2023



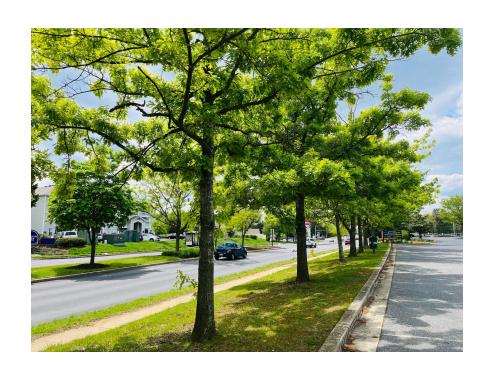
#### Chesapeake Bay Tree Canopy Funding and Policy Roundtable

- March 13-14, 2023
- 120+ participants from across the watershed



Pinpoint funding, policy, and programmatic solution pathways to expand urban tree canopy in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

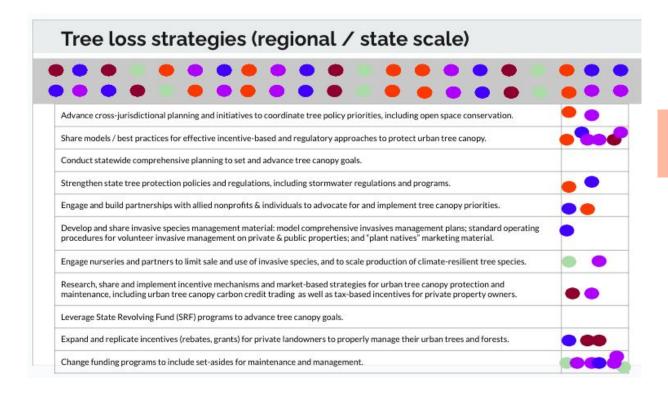
## Tree canopy funding and policy strategies



# **Strategies: IDENTIFY**



## **Strategies: PRIORITIZE**



**34** → **10** 

# **Strategies: ORGANIZE**

Management approach	# of strategies	Roundtable theme area(s)
Bolster Funding and Partnerships	3	
Strengthen Policy and Ordinances	3	<b>♣</b>
Increase Technical Capacity and Knowledge	2	•
Expand Community Outreach and Education	2	•••

#### MA 1 - Bolster Funding and Partnerships (1 of 3)

1. Amend state and regional tree canopy grant funding programs to achieve more equitable outcomes and to prioritize maintenance.



#### MA 1 - Bolster Funding and Partnerships (2 of 3)

2. Build state and local funding for tree maintenance on public and private property.



## MA 1 - Bolster Funding and Partnerships (3 of 3)

3. Invest in target communities through workforce development: hire tree care coordinators and tree maintenance staff from the communities served; provide training, mentorship and support.



#### MA 2 - Strengthen Policy and Ordinances (1 of 3)

4. Share models and best practices for effective incentive-based and regulatory approaches to protect urban tree canopy.



#### MA 2 - Strengthen Policy and Ordinances (2 of 3)

5. Strengthen local codes and ordinances to protect trees, especially during development and redevelopment. Where necessary, amend state policy to enable localities to enact ordinance improvements.



#### MA 2 - Strengthen Policy and Ordinances (3 of 3)

6. Integrate trees for climate resilience into comprehensive plans (and other local plans) with specific goals, and include climate resilience strategies in urban forest plans and projects.



MA 3 - Increase Technical Capacity & Knowledge (1 of 2)

7. Improve utilization of data on tree canopy coverage and economic value of trees, including through the provision of technical assistance.



## MA 3 - Increase Technical Capacity & Knowledge (2 of 2)

8. Provide communities with technical assistance to apply for and manage funding and financing opportunities, and to implement policy and ordinance changes.



**REGIONAL / STATE** 

#### MA 4 - Expand Community Outreach & Education (1 of 2)

9. Develop consistent, customizable multilingual messaging regarding the many benefits of trees, including guidance on how to address competing priorities.



## MA 4 - Expand Community Outreach & Education (2 of 2)

10. In communities targeted for tree canopy initiatives, proactively identify and meaningfully partner with existing champions and trusted voices (e.g. civic associations, faith-based organizations, businesses, local nonprofits, schools). Let the partner lead; spend time in the community; listen; be clear and honest.



# Thoughts, questions?

## State action plan update

- Met with each state in May
- Shared a menu of strategies, drawn from pre-Roundtable sessions and Roundtable state discussion groups
- Prioritized strategies and (attempted to) map out immediate steps
   & involved parties

#### State action plans

# TAKE 3 DOTS Priority strategies: dot voting Implement development incentives to minimize tree canopy loss, especially of old-growth forests. Explore new funding opportunities to expand preservation, planting, and maintenance, including establishing a State Tree Preservation Fund. Ensure tree planting projects are well-maintained; invest in a trained workforce and dedicate adequate funding for maintenance. Expand partnerships to accelerate tree canopy progress. Better align state goals for tree canopy and related areas.

#### **State action plans**

# Priority strategy: Ensure tree planting projects are well-maintained; invest in a trained workforce and dedicate adequate funding for maintenance.

Action step	Who needs to be involved?
Workforce development for tree care professionals: - Investigate programs in other states: Conservation Corps or AmeriCorps - Implement program to pay for new skills	DE Department of Labor Community colleges
Training for residents / volunteers to do maintenance:  - Delaware Tree Stewards (Forest Service and training opportunity is available right now; we need to expand / extend this)	DFS Tree Stewards
Maintenance training for professional maintenance staff:	Facilities Management  County parks managers

## Next steps / deliverables

- State plans
- Roundtable report
- Two-page project summary
- Webinar (public)
- Presentation to CBP leadership