Tree Canopy–2021-2022

Long-term Target: 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.

Two-year Target:

Instructions: Before your quarterly progress meeting, provide the status of individual actions in the table below using this color key.	
Action has been completed or is moving forward as planned.	
Action has encountered minor obstacles.	
Action has not been taken or has encountered a serious barrier.	

Additional instructions for completing or updating your logic and action plan can be found on ChesapeakeDecisions.

Factor	Current Efforts	Gap	Actions	Metrics	Expected Response and Application	Learn/Adapt
What is impacting our ability to achieve our outcome?	*What current efforts are addressing this factor?*	*What further efforts or information are needed to fully address this factor?*	*What actions are essential (to help fill this gap) to achieve our outcome?*	*What will we measure or observe to determine progress in filling identified gap?*	*How and when do we expect these actions to address the identified gap? How might that affect our work going forward?*	*What did we learn from taking this action? How will this lesson impact our work?*
Funding and Finances	Partners developed a Tree Canopy Financing Guide, a Funding Urban Forestry Online Course, and delivered training at 2020 Chesapeake Tree Canopy Summit.	Funding (federal, state, local) and staffing to support tree canopy efforts (planting, preservation, and maintenance) is still primary need cited by partners. Need further local capacity building, especially in low canopy areas, and at a higher	1.1, 1.2, 1.3	Implementation of new funding strategies/ recommendations that emerge from the Funding & Policy Roundtable process and state-level efforts	Though some new investments might occur in the next 2-year window, change towards a more robust funding framework will likely take longer (2023-2025 and beyond)	

		level, need to work with jurisdictions, funding partners, and subject matter experts to develop new solutions to address gaps.				
	Development of a Natural Filters Revolving Fund Concept for Bay Partners	Grant funding is needed to pilot this concept.	1.4, (also in Riparian Buffer Workplan)	Fund piloted	2022	
Federal and State Government Agency Engagement	State forestry agencies and USFS are main entities engaged and coordinating through Forestry Workgroup.	More engagement with other state programs (water quality, climate, public health, EJ, etc.) and other federal partner agencies is needed to address tree canopy co-benefit opportunities, including tree equity needs and green jobs opportunities in underrepresented communities	1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3	# of new state or federal agency programs integrating tree canopy into their work and contributing to tree canopy partnership efforts; tangible outcomes of their contribution, including number of trees planted, areas conserved, etc.	We hope to see a marked increase in participation by end of 2022, with tangible outcomes likely to come after 2022-2025)	
Local Government Agency Engagement	Some local engagement occurring through Chesapeake Tree Canopy Network and collaboration with Local Leadership Workgroup	Increase CBP local engagement capacity, especially around sharing new land cover/change data and best practices/ resources for maintaining and expanding tree canopy	1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2,	# of new resources developed for local governments, # of local governments using our website, resources, trainings, etc. to strengthen local programs	When the new land cover data are out, 2022 will be a big year for local engagement and capacity building, with much work needed 2023-2025 to apply the data to decision making	

Legislative Engagement at State and Local Level: Policies and Ordinances	Partners developed the guide Making your Community Forest Friendly: A Worksheet for Review of Municipal Codes and Ordinances, and offered training at Summit and recorded webinar. Important 2021 legislative efforts for tree canopy in Maryland, in Virginia, and strengthening of DC tree regulations in prior years.	More partnership focus to assess and help strengthen state and local policies to maintain and expand tree canopy and provide sufficient staffing/resources for their implementation and/or enforcement.	2.1, 2.2	Implementation of new state and local policies and ordinances, including any strategies/ recommendations that emerge from the Funding & Policy Roundtable	Though some new policies will hopefully be adopted in the next 2-year window, change towards a more robust policy framework will likely take longer (2023-2025 and beyond)	
Partner Coordination	Mostly occurring through Forestry Workgroup partners, though we advanced a few cross-outcome projects in prior workplan (local leadership, schools)	Need to keep growing collaboration with related outcomes/ workgroups (local leadership, diversity, urban stormwater, stewardship, schools, climate etc.) and strengthen networks of partner coordination in each jurisdiction	2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 4.1, 4.4	# of CBP cross-outcome projects that advance tree canopy; integration of tree canopy into other outcome efforts whenever relevant	Through cross—outcome projects in 2021-22 and beyond, we hope to see increased local and partner engagement in tree canopy efforts beyond our current limited network of urban forestry practitioners to include underrepresented community groups, local govts, planners, schools, and others.	
Scientific and Technical Understanding: Technical Capacity and Knowledge	CBP tree canopy data now widely available and a variety of resources/tools through the Chesapeake Tree Canopy Network website	Updated high resolution land cover/land use data and change analysis that will quantify gains and losses and help guide future strategies; data and tools to overlay tree canopy data with environmental justice	3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4	Tree canopy status and trends reports (Baywide and local fact sheets) and equity-related tools are easily accessible and widely used by local decision makers,	Hope to see a marked increase in engagement with tree canopy data/planning via use of these new resources by end of 2022	

		and climate resilience priorities		practitioners, advocates, and CBP leadership to strengthen tree canopy strategies.		
Public and Private Landowner Engagement: Education and Outreach	Chesapeake Tree Canopy Network is ready platform for sharing education/ outreach resources; LLWG recent completion of Tree Canopy module within Chesapeake watershed curriculum for local governments	Need to develop a well-defined communications/ outreach/ engagement strategy, informed by lessons learned from prior outreach initiatives for both public and private property plantings; Increase training and capacity to effectively engage underrepresented community groups in tree equity efforts	4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6	Increased # of partnership projects supporting community-based tree equity efforts; a set of well-informed recommendations for communication/ outreach strategies that we can share and implement in 2022-2025 cycle	This will be a longer-term process to engage communities over 2022-2025 but we will aim to support specific projects each year and apply the learning to future year efforts	
Environmental Factors Challenging Tree Canopy progress: Population Growth (Development); Climate Change (storms, drought, etc.) Biota (pests, invasive species, etc.) Habitat Condition (poor soils, utility/infrastructure conflicts, etc.)	Most of these factors are difficult to manage with existing programs, though information resources and technical assistance providers within states are helpful	Further analysis of the new land cover/ change data to help understand relative influence of environmental factors challenging tree canopy progress; need to synthesize best practices for addressing these challenges through the lens of climate resilience	2.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4	New data, tools and guidance that help local managers better respond to the array of threats to canopy and implement best practices to maintain and expand canopy	We aim to get several new resources out by end of 2022, with the intent that they will strengthen on the ground practices in 2023-2025 and beyond	

		ACTIONS – [2021-2022]				
Action #	**Description**	**Performance Target(s)**	**Responsible Party (or Parties)**	**Geographic Location**	**Expected Timeline**

		Management Approach 1: Bolster Funding and Partnerships			
1.1	Implement jurisdictional programs and grants to incentivize tree canopy progress	1. DE – Implement state grant programs to assist communities with tree canopy expansion and expand new DE Tree Stewards program 2. DC – Increase tree canopy on public and private property throughout the District, including priority areas of the MS4 and areas of extreme heat 3. MD – (1) Implement statewide urban and community forestry programs (Forest Conservation Act, Reforestation Law, and Roadside Tree Law) to maintain the net urban tree canopy statewide (2) Increase tree canopy through homeowner tree planting assistance programs such as the Marylanders Plant Trees coupon program and Lawn to Woodland program 4. PA – (1) Increase tree canopy and management through new TreeVitalize grant programs, (2) Assist communities with inventory, i-Tree, UTC assessments, and management plans, (3) Continue to support PA Tree Map (4) Develop capacity for effective tree equity and environmental justice engagement, and (5) Continue to support development of PA Lawn Conversion Program 5. VA – (1) Increase tree canopy on public and private properties through grants and incentive programs, such as Virginia Trees for Clean Water (2) Continued development of the Virginia Tree Stewards which promote good tree care and increase tree planting and	1. DE FS, DNREC 2. DDOT, DOEE 3. MD FS, MSHA, local governments 4. PA DCNR, PSU 5. VA DOF, VA Urban Forest Council, Tree Steward Coordinator 6. WVDEP, WVDOF, Cacapon Institute 7. NYSDEC, Upper Susquehanna Coalition	1. DE 2. DC 3. MD 4. PA 5. VA 6. WV 7. NY	Ongoing

ACTIONS – [2021-2022]					
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		maintenance in their areas of influence (3) The VA Urban and Community Forestry grant will include the opportunity to apply for urban tree canopy assessments, planning and care of urban forests 6. WV – Preserve and enhance tree canopy through Community Environmental Management grants that encourages communities to conduct inventories, adopt TC goals, and perform maintenance. Plant trees through Carla Hardy WV Project CommuniTree and WVDOF Mountaineer Treeways. Promote K-12 education including Project Learning Tree and US Forest Service Green Schools 7. NY - Implement state grant programs (such as NYSDEC's Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program and Trees for Tributaries Program) to assist communities with tree canopy expansion			
1.2	Provide guidance/case studies/best practices for local governments and partner organizations on how to strengthen funding and partnerships for Tree Canopy	1. Work with LLWG and other partners to continue dissemination of Financing Guide, Online Funding Course, and other best resources for local governments	USFS/FWG/ LLWG/Local Engagement Team/Local Action Cohort/ Environmental Finance Center/CBP Communications	Bay-wide	Ongoing

ACTIONS – [2021-2022]					
Action #	Description	Performance Target(s)	Responsible Party (or Parties)	Geographic Location	Expected Timeline
1.3	Explore options for expanding Tree Canopy funding for diverse Chesapeake communities through leveraging federal, state, and private resources (e.g. work with Bay Funders Network)	1. Convene a Funding and Policy Roundtable, engaging jurisdiction leadership, topic experts, and cross-sector partners with interest in tree co-benefits (climate, public health, equity, stormwater, etc.) 2. Prepare Briefing Papers on key topics for use in the Funding & Policy Roundtable and beyond. *Potential topics: Maintenance Investments, Innovative Financing Approaches (incl. State Revolving Funds, etc.), Leveraging Co-Benefits Funding (public health, climate resilience, community development, etc.), Nursery/Tree Stock Supply, Workforce/Green Job Opportunities* 3. In conjunction with the CBP DEIJ Implementation plan and Roundtable, identify strategies to expand and focus the assistance available to support tree canopy efforts in underrepresented communities of color and low-income areas	1. USFS/FWG, with support from CBC, State leadership, NGOs, etc. 2. USFS/FWG/ Communications Team; need contractor support 3. USFS/FWG/ Diversity WG	Bay-wide	1. Spring 2022 2. Summer -Fall 2021 3. Summer 2021-Summer 2022
1.4	Explore opportunities to integrate tree canopy into the proposed Natural Filters Restoration Program being designed and piloted for forest buffers	1. Incorporate tree canopy expansion and maintenance into one pilot project for the Natural Filters Restoration Program	USFS/FWG with support from state tree canopy leads, CBP leadership	MD is initial target for pilot projects, eventually Bay-wide	Spring-Summer 2022

ACTIONS – [2021-2022]					
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Management Approach 2: Strengthen Policy and Ordinances					
2.1	Review state and local policies in place to support urban tree canopy and provide recommendations on best practices, model ordinances, etc. for Bay jurisdictions	1. Prepare Issue Reports on key topics for use in the Funding & Policy Roundtable and beyond. *Potential topics: Tree Conservation Policy, Trees & Climate Resilience, Tree Equity Strategies, Private Property Strategies* 2. Use Funding and Policy Roundtable findings and state-level strategy meetings to develop a set of recommendations for the Executive Council 3. Develop state-specific training materials with guidance on local tree canopy policy/ordinance options, as a supplement to LLWG Local Government Curriculum	1. USFS/FWG/ Communications Team; need contractor support 2. FWG/CBP Management Board-need contractor support 3. USFS/FWG/ LLWG/Healthy Watersheds GIT/Local Action Cohort -need contractor support	Bay-wide	1. Summer-Fall 2021 2. Spring-Summer 2022 3. Summer 2021
2.2	Work with stormwater program managers (federal/state/local) to better integrate urban tree canopy and riparian buffer goals with TMDL/WIP implementation and MS4 programs	1. Collaborate with Chesapeake Stormwater Network (CSN) to expand use of urban tree BMPs by local stormwater managers and engineers and minimize urban tree removal 2. Coordinate with state TMDL/WIP and Stormwater Program Managers to encourage more urban tree BMPs in WIP implementation	1.USFS/FWG/CSN/ USWG 2.USFS/FWG/ USWG	Bay-wide	1.Ongoing 2.Ongoing

ACTIONS – [2021-2022]

Action #	Description	Performance Target(s)	Responsible Party (or Parties)	Geographic Location	Expected Timeline
Management Approach 3: Increase Technical Capacity and Knowledge					
3.1	Provide guidance, training, and technical assistance to help local governments and partners develop robust urban tree canopy implementation programs	1. Convene biennial Tree Canopy Summit to engage urban forestry practitioners and cross-sector partners in best practices and innovative strategies 2. Collaborate with LLWG to incorporate tree canopy strategies into GIT- funded workshop for land use planners	1. USFS/FWG/ ACB/Diversity WG/ CBP Social Science Coordinator 2. USFS/FWG/ LLWG		1. Summer-Fall 2022 2. Fall 2021-Spring 2022
3.2	Support the development of Bay-wide high resolution UTC data updated regularly (e.g. every 5 years) to track progress/net gain;	1. Assess and communicate Tree Canopy status & change (2013-2018) to stakeholders through i) a Bay-wide Summary Report and ii) local (county) fact sheets 2. Test and refine as needed the methodology for the Tree Canopy Indicator; identify and pursue further research, analysis/ interpretation, and tools needed surrounding drivers of losses and gains (potential STAC workshop proposal)	1. USFS/FWG/ USGS/Chesapeake Conservancy/ Communications Team/Local Engagement Team/Local Action Cohort 2. USFS/FWG/ USGS		1. Summer 2021-Spring 2022 2. Summer 2021-Spring 2022
3.3	Develop and share data, tools and best practices for advancing tree equity *(note: action modified from prior workplan to address current priorities)*	1. Building on the CBP Environmental Justice and Equity Dashboard, synthesize and disseminate environmental justice and climate resilience-related datasets, tools and resources that can best support local tree equity initiatives 2. Explore opportunities with the CRWG and Diversity WG to connect the change in high temperature extremes indicator with the tree canopy indicator.	1&2. USFS/FWG/ USGS/NOAA/ Diversity WG CRWG	Bay-wide	1. Summer-Fall 2021

ACTIONS – [2021-2022]					
Action #	Description	Performance Target(s)	Responsible Party (or Parties)	Geographic Location	Expected Timeline
3.4	Provide guidance and standards/best practices for tree planting and maintenance to improve long-term survival	1. Develop a Trees & Climate Resilience best practices technical guide 2. Continue to grow the network of "tree stewards" through new training programs in Maryland and Delaware and expansion of existing programs in other Bay states (USFS grant to ACB and DE FS)	1. USFS/FWG-need contract support 2. ACB, MDFS, DE FS	1. Bay-wide 2. MD, DE	1. Fall 2022 2. Ongoing
Management Approach 4: Expand Community Outreach and Education					
4.1	Work to facilitate greater local participation and engagement of underrepresented communities in tree canopy initiatives	1. Work with Diversity WG, LGAC, LLWG and other partners to connect with underrepresented community groups, identify collaboration opportunities, and provide tree canopy-related resources, assistance, and engagement opportunities, including relevant green jobs/workforce development resources	USFS/FWG/ Diversity WG/ LLWG/LGAC/Local Engagement Action Team	Bay-wide	Ongoing
4.2	Use online tools/webinars/list serves to support ongoing training and information sharing in the urban forestry community of practice	1. Maintain and strengthen the Chesapeake Tree Canopy Network and e-newsletter as our primary hub for resources and communication	ACB/USFS/FWG	Bay-wide	Ongoing

ACTIONS – [2021-2022]					
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4.3	Develop and pilot social marketing and other innovative outreach methods to broaden community engagement in urban tree canopy implementation	1. Work with the CBP Communications Office on communications, engagement and outreach strategies and products to advance tree canopy initiatives and identify lessons learned throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed	USFS/FWG/CBP Communications Team-contract support TBD	Bay-wide	Summer-Fall 2021
4.4	Develop communication and outreach strategies targeted to diverse audiences, focusing on areas with greatest need and opportunity (e.g. low canopy/ underserved communities; schools, faith-based, and other civic organizations; homeowner associations; etc.)	1. Pursue DEIJ-focused training in community engagement best practices for urban forestry partners 2. Collaborate with CBP LLWG on disseminating Tree Canopy module for watershed curriculum for local officials; develop supplemental state-specific resources 3. Work with Education Workgroup to refine and disseminate Trees and Schools Guide and to identify further training/resource needs for school-based tree canopy efforts, in conjunction with the recently completed GIT-funded BMPs on school grounds mapping tool	1. USFS/FWG/ Diversity WG-need contract support 2. USFS/FWG/ LLWG 3. USFS/FWG/ Education WG	Bay-wide	1. Fall 2021 2. Summer 2021 3. Summer-Fall 2021

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ACTIONS – [2021-2022]					
4.5	Continue to increase and promote the number of Arbor Day events and UTC education programs on DoD installations for military community awareness	1. Host Arbor Day/Tree Planting events at select DoD installations	DoD	Bay-wide	Ongoing
4.6	Develop educational resources that expand the awareness, appreciation, planting and stewardship of fruit and nut trees within educational institutions, under-served communities, parks and other public lands	1. Compile and feature resources and community stories on food forests/urban orchards and urban habitat on Chesapeake Tree Canopy Network website	USFS/FWG/ ACB/ Communications Team	Bay-wide	Dec 2021

ACB	Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
BMP	Best Management Practice
CAC	Citizen Advisory Committee (Chesapeake Bay Program)
CBC	Chesapeake Bay Commission
CBP	Chesapeake Bay Program
CSN	Chesapeake Stormwater Network
CWP	Center for Watershed Protection
DDOT	District Dept. of Transportation-Urban Forestry Division
DEFS	Delaware Forest Service
DEIJ	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice
DNREC	Delaware Dept. of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense
DOEE	District Dept. of Energy and Environment
FWG	Forestry Workgroup (Chesapeake Bay Program)
GIT	Goal Implementation Team (Chesapeake Bay Program)
LGAC	Local Government Advisory Committee (Chesapeake Bay Program)
LLWG	Local Leadership Workgroup (Chesapeake Bay Program)
MD FS	Maryland Forest Service
MSHA	Maryland State Highway Administration
MWCOG	Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
NYSDEC	New York Department of Environment and Conservation
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
PA DCNR	Pennsylvania Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources (Bureau of Forestry)
PSU	Penn State University (Urban Forestry Extension)
STAC	Science and Technical Advisory Committee
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
USFS	USDA Forest Service
USWG	Urban Stormwater Workgroup (Chesapeake Bay Program)
USGS	United States Geological Survey
USC	Upper Susquehanna Coalition
UTC	Urban Tree Canopy
VA DOF	Virginia Dept. of Forestry
WIP	Watershed Implementation Plan
WQGIT	Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (Chesapeake Bay Program)
WV DOF	West Virginia Division of Forestry
WVDEP	West Virginia Dept. of Environmental Protection