QUARTERLY PROGRESS MEETING – June 2024
[DRAFT]
Chesapeake Bay Program

Tree Canopy Updates

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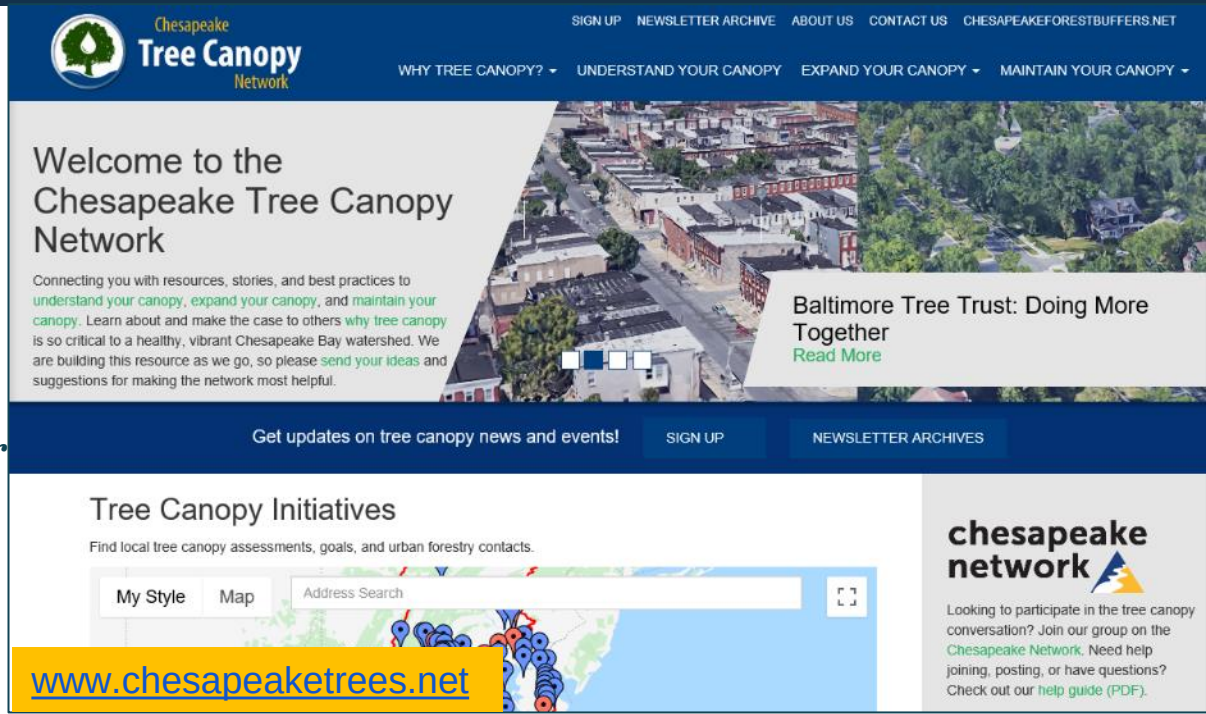


Through the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*, the Chesapeake Bay Program has committed to…*

Goal: *Vital Habitats*

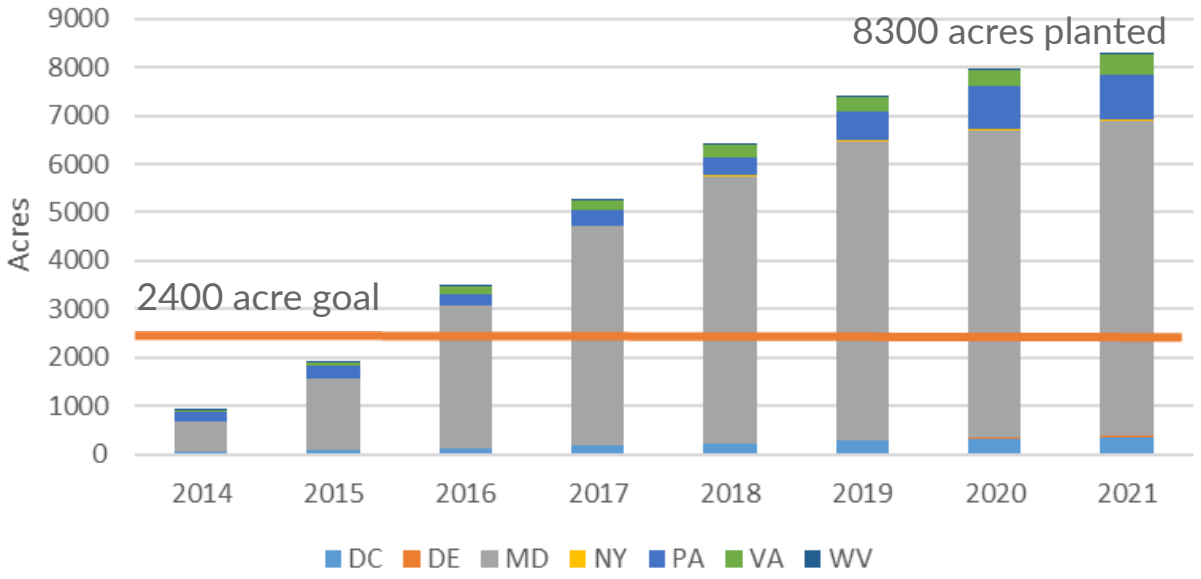
Outcome: *Tree Canopy*

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.**

OUTLOOK OFF COURSE

What is our Expected and Actual Progress?

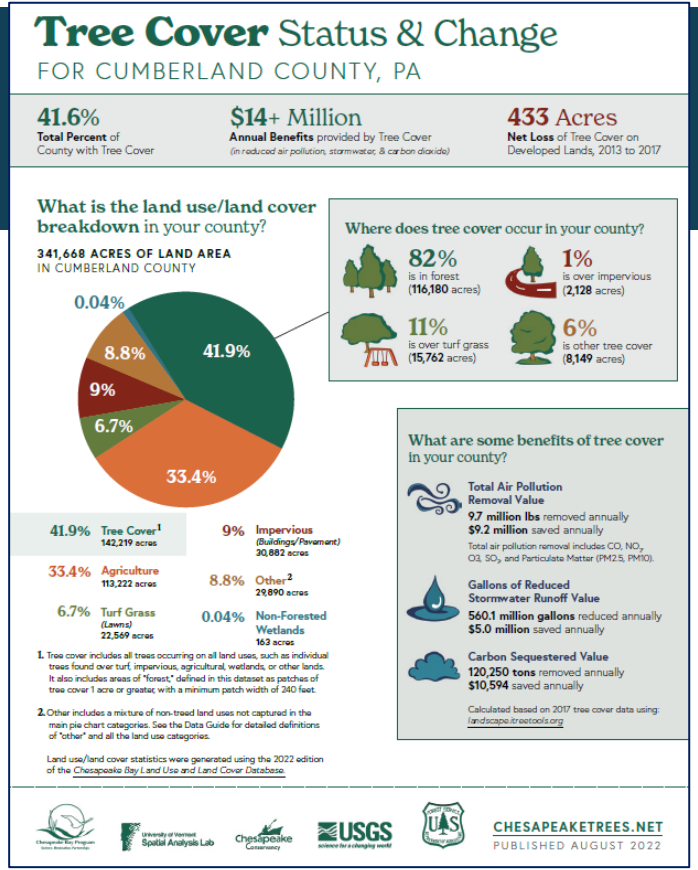
1. Urban Tree Planting BMPs Reported (cumulative acres)

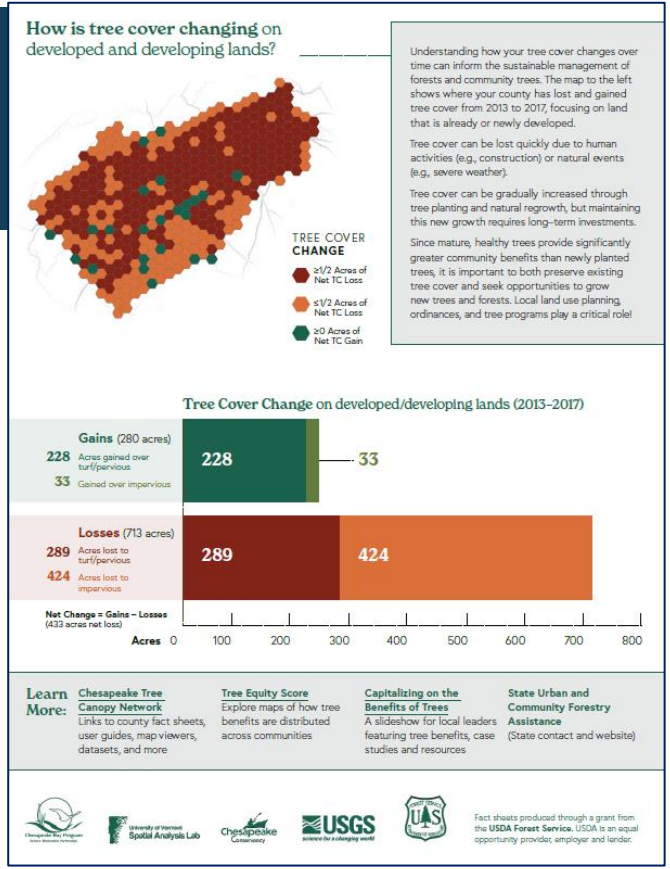


2. Land Use/Land Cover Change Detected from Imagery

Tree Canopy Net Change in Census Places (2013/14-2017/18)	
Jurisdiction (CB Only)	**Net Change** (Acres)
Delaware	-28
DC	21
Maryland	-13,804
New York	78
Pennsylvania	-2,444
Virginia	-9,548
West Virginia	-107
Total	-25,832

Successes: Putting New Data to Use





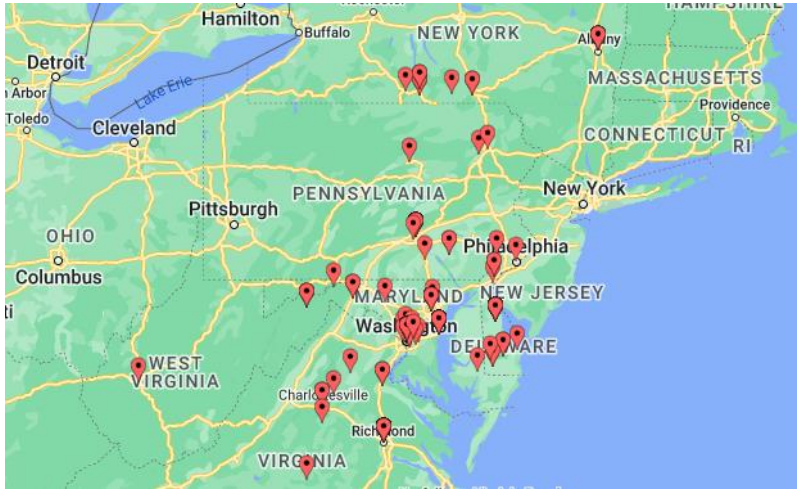
All Chesapeake County Fact Sheets Available at https://chesapeaketrees.net/understand-your-canopy/

Municipal Fact Sheets coming late 2024

Successes: Tree Canopy Funding & Policy Roundtable

Summary

- March 13-14, 2023
- 125 participants
- Themes: **equity, climate resilience, and tree loss**
- Presentations, panels, breakout discussions



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

Final Report, Recordings and Jurisdiction Action Plans Posted here

Successes: Historic Inflation Reduction Act Funding

URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY GRANTS

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

$1.5 Billion to Expand Tree Canopy and Access to Nature

100% of Benefits Will Flow to Communities in Greatest Need

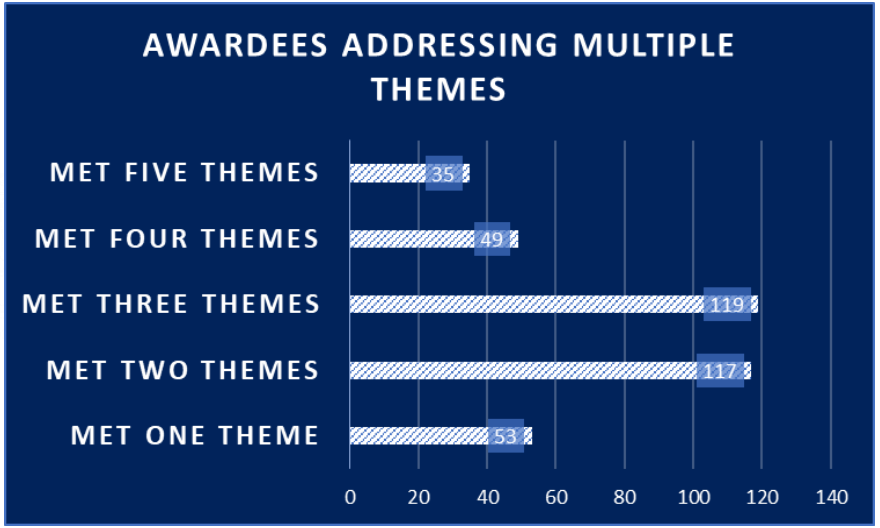
Urban and Community Forestry Grants, authorized under the Inflation Reduction Act, provide funding to community-based organizations, Tribes, State and local agencies, public colleges and universities, and non-profits working to provide equitable access to trees and nature and the benefits they provide to urban communities.

1. Investing in a Healthier Future for America
2. Expanding Tree Canopy in our Communities
3. The Benefits of Trees in our Communities
4. Confronting the Growing Threat of Extreme Heat and Climate Change

USDA

UCF IRA Grant Themes

- Workforce Development
- Extreme Heat
- Restoration & Resilience
- Tree Planting & Maintenance
- Community Engagement & Planning



Award selection prioritized projects that addressed multiple IRA-UCF themes.

IRA UCF State Forestry Funding (5 year grants)

State	State Funding
Delaware	$0.75M
District of Columbia	$0.75M
Maryland	$6.0M
New York	$13.5M
Pennsylvania	$9.8M
Virginia	$6.6M
West Virginia	$0.75M
Total	**$38.1M**

- 80% of the funding delivered through competitive sub-award programs
- 100% focus in Justice 40/disadvantaged communities
- State RFPs open early 2024, various dates

NOFO Awards in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: DC and MD

State	Project	Partner	Funding
DC	Advancing Tree Equity	Casey Trees	$9,115,260
MD	The Mid-Atlantic Environmental Justice Fund	Chesapeake Bay Trust	$17,000,000
MD	Baltimore Tree Trust	Baltimore Tree Trust	$7,000,000
MD	Baltimore Community Canopy	Civic Works, Inc	$3,000,000
MD	Gather and Grow	Chesapeake Conservancy	$2,000,000
MD	Sembrando el Futuro / Embajadores de los Árboles	Defensores de la Cuenca	$2,000,000
MD	Stillmeadow PeacePark and Learning Center	Stillmeadow Community Projects	$2,000,000
MD	Tree-Cosystems for Green Communities	Nature Forward	$1,359,369

For project descriptions, visit https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/urban-forests/ucf/2023-grant-funding.

NOFO Awards in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: PA and VA

State	Project	Partner	Funding
PA	Harrisburg City TreeVestment	City of Harrisburg	$2,000,000
PA	Proactive Systemic Maintenance	City of Lancaster*	$1,000,000
PA	Trees for All	Borough of Mechanicsburg*	$500,000
PA	Borough of State College Urban Forestry Sustainability	Borough of State College*	$369,355
VA	Black and Brown-Led, Coalition-Based Urban Greening	City of Richmond	$6,000,000
VA	Hampton Roads Blue Green Oasis	Norfolk State University	$5,000,000
VA	Norfolk Blue-Greenway Project	City of Norfolk	$4,000,000
VA	Stewarding, Planting, Restoring Our Urban Trees	City of Fairfax*	$1,000,000
VA	Norfolk Urban Forestry Capacity Building	City of Norfolk Parks & Forestry	$1,000,000
VA	Winchester Greening and Urban Tree Maintenance	City of Winchester*	$550,000
VA	Charlottesville Urban Forest Management Planning	City of Charlottesville*	$150,000

**Funded through national pass-through partners*

For project descriptions, visit https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/urban-forests/ucf/2023-grant-funding.

Roundtable Recommendations & Workplan Actions

1. Bolster funding and partnerships

Roundtable recommendations

1. Amend regional and state tree canopy grant funding programs to prioritize equity and maintenance.

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

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.

Workplan Actions

MANAGEMENT APPROACH 1: Bolster funding and partnerships				
Action #	**Description of Step**	**Responsible Party or Parties**	**Geographic Location**	**Expected Timeline**
1.1	Implement funding strategies from state tree canopy action plans	1. DE FS, DNREC and partners 2. DDOT, DOEE and partners 3. MD FS, MDE and partners 4. NYSDEC, Upper Susquehanna Coalition and partners 5. PA DCNR and partners 6. VA DOF and partners 7. WVDEP, WVDOF, Cacapon Institute and partners	Bay-wide	2024-2025
1.2	Implement federal and state IRA grants supporting disadvantaged communities	USFS, DE FS, DDOT, MD FS, NYSDEC, PA DCNR, VA DOF, WVDOF	Bay-wide	2024-2028
1.3	Complete GIT-funded project on Addressing Regional Tree Supply Challenges and Opportunities	University of Florida (contractor), with input from USFS, Forestry Workgroup	Bay-wide	2024

Roundtable Recommendations & Workplan Actions

2. Strengthen policy and ordinances

Roundtable recommendations

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

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.

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.

Workplan Actions

MANAGEMENT APPROACH 2: Strengthen policy and ordinances				
Action #	**Description of Step**	**Responsible Party or Parties**	**Geographic Location**	**Expected Timeline**
2.1	Compile models and best practices for effective incentive-based and regulatory approaches to protect urban tree canopy, including case studies that could be replicated.	Forestry Workgroup – new GIT funding proposal	Bay-wide	2024-2025
2.2	Implement policy strategies from state tree canopy action plans	1. DE FS, DNREC and partners 2. DDOT, DOEE and partners 3. MD FS, MDE and partners 4. NYSDEC, Upper Susquehanna Coalition and partners 5. PA DCNR and partners 6. VA DOF and partners 7. WVDEP, WVDOF, Cacapon Institute and partners	Bay-wide	2024-2025

Roundtable Recommendations & Workplan Actions

3. Increase technical capacity and knowledge

Roundtable recommendations

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

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

Workplan Actions

MANAGEMENT APPROACH 3: Increase technical capacity and knowledge				
Action #	**Description of Step**	**Responsible Party or Parties**	**Geographic Location**	**Expected Timeline**
3.1	Convene annual virtual Tree Canopy Summit to engage urban forestry practitioners and cross-sector partners in best practices and innovative strategies	USFS, Forestry Workgroup, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay	Bay-wide	2024-2025
3.2	Communicate Tree Canopy status & change (2013-2018) to stakeholders through updates to the State of Chesapeake Forests Storymap and new municipal factsheets	USFS, USGS, Chesapeake Conservancy, and Forestry Workgroup, with input from Land Use Workgroup, Local Leadership Workgroup	Bay-wide	2024-2025
3.3	Develop a trees & climate resilience strategy guide for local governments	Forestry Workgroup – new GIT funding proposal	Bay-wide	2024-2025

Roundtable Recommendations & Workplan Actions

4. Expand community outreach and education

Roundtable recommendations

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

10. In communities targeted for tree canopy initiatives, proactively identify and meaningfully partner with community voices.

Workplan Actions

MANAGEMENT APPROACH 4: Expand community outreach and education				
Action #	**Description of Step**	**Responsible Party or Parties**	**Geographic Location**	**Expected Timeline**
4.1	Host quarterly webinars: tree equity community of practice	USFS, Forestry Workgroup, CBP communications, with input from Diversity Workgroup	Bay-wide	2024-2025
4.2	Continue updating the Chesapeake Tree Canopy Network and e-newsletter as our primary hub for resources and sharing community stories	Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, USFS, Forestry Workgroup	Bay-wide	2024-2025
4.3	Develop consistent, customizable, multilingual messaging regarding the many benefits of trees, including guidance on how to address competing priorities.	Forestry Workgroup, CBP Communications, TBD-needs funding/contractor support	Bay-wide	2024-2025

TREES in COMMUNITIES

CREATE VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

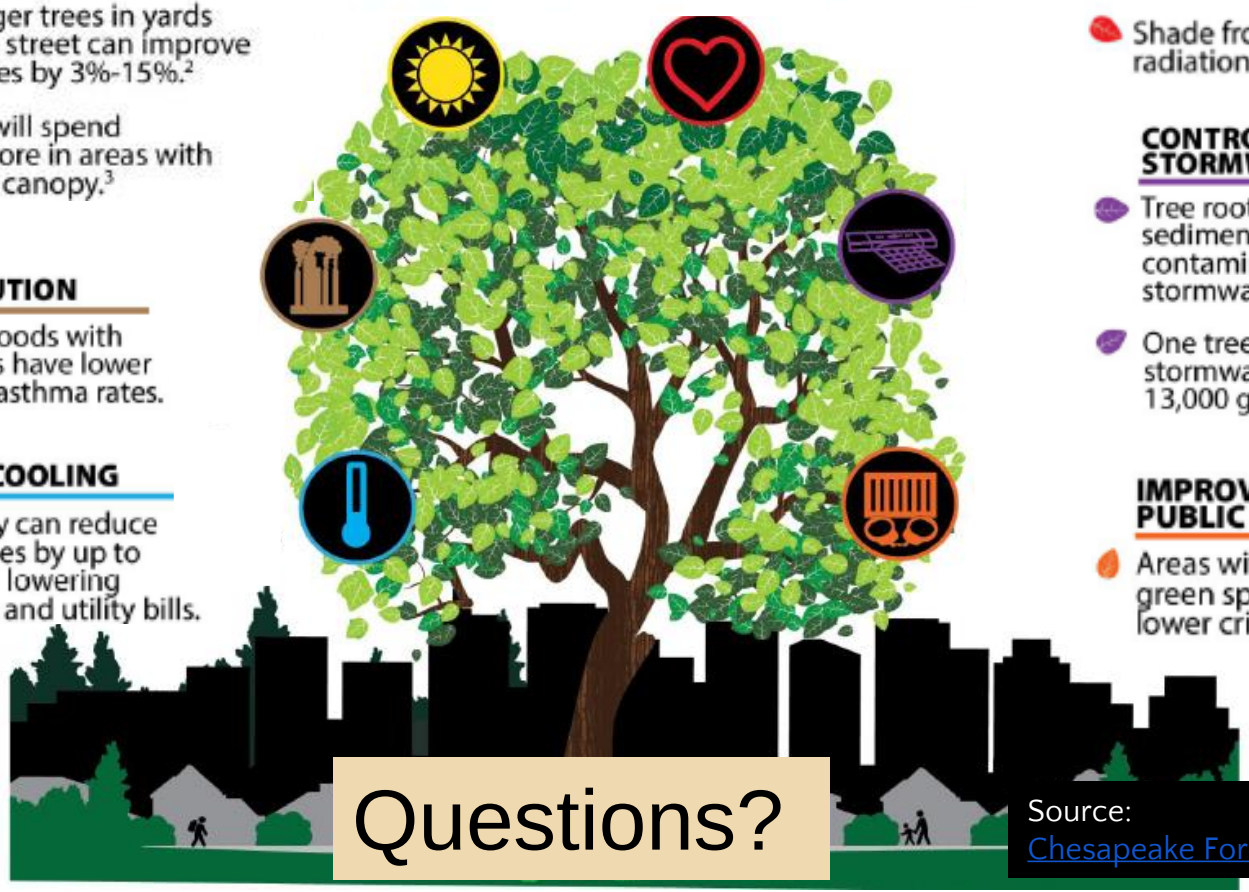
- Incorporating trees into common spaces in public housing increases social activities.[1]
- Having larger trees in yards and on the street can improve home values by 3%-15%.[2]
- Shoppers will spend 9%-12% more in areas with better tree canopy.[3]

REDUCE AIR POLLUTION

- Neighborhoods with lots of trees have lower childhood asthma rates.

PROVIDE SHADE & COOLING

- Tree canopy can reduce temperatures by up to 20 degrees, lowering health risks and utility bills.



IMPROVE HUMAN HEALTH

- Trees help reduce stress, lower blood pressure, and boost the immune system.
- Shade from trees reduces radiation that causes skin cancer.

CONTROL STORMWATER

- Tree roots can trap sediment and filter contaminants from stormwater.
- One tree can reduce stormwater runoff by 13,000 gallons per year.[4]

IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY

- Areas with increased green space have lower crime rates.[3]

Questions?

Source:
Chesapeake Forest Restoration Strategy