

Delaware's Riparian Forest Buffer Strategy

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DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES AND
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL



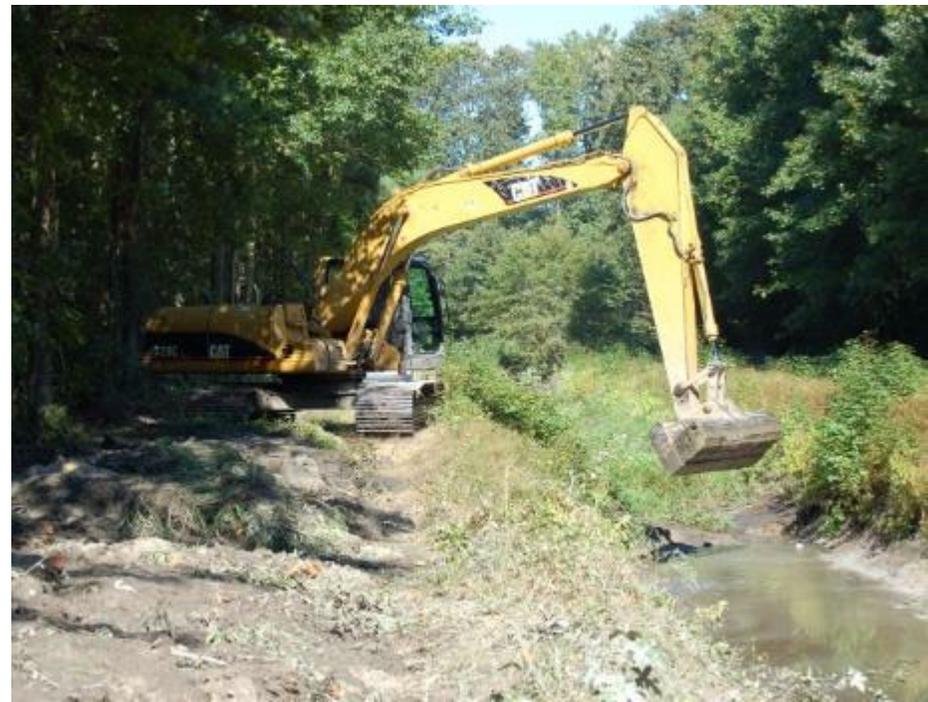


Buffers in Delaware

- Heavily rely on CREP
- No dedicated state cost share
- Opportunistic plantings
- Broad WIP goals
 - Phase II – 7,020 acres
 - Phase III – 688 acres

Barriers/ Challenges

- Shading of row crops
- Loss of ag lands
- Commodity prices
- Complexity of programs
- Sustainable sources of funding
- Tax ditches





Outreach and Education

Almost 1/3 of Delaware's natural drainage system flows into the Chesapeake Bay.

Over the past few years agriculture & urban communities in Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia have worked hard to implement conservation activities that help reduce the amount of nutrients and sediments entering the Chesapeake Bay waterways. **FOREST BUFFERS** along riparian corridors is just one of these efforts!

Working alongside federal, state, and local organizations, **YOU** will receive technical and financial assistance to help develop or widen existing riparian forest buffers - reducing sediment loads to the water source, creating diverse wildlife habitats and improving water quality on **YOUR** land and downstream.

For more information contact your local county office:

USDA-Delaware State Farm Service Agency (FSA)
1221 College Park Drive
Suite 201
Dover, Delaware 19904

USDA-New Castle County FSA
2430 Old County Road
Newark, Delaware 19702-4702
ph: (302) 832-3100 Ext. 2

USDA-Kent County FSA
800 S. Bay Road, Suite 2
Dover, Delaware 19901-6667
ph: (302) 741-2600 Ext. 2

USDA-Sussex County FSA
21315 Berlin Road
Georgetown, Delaware 19947-2144
ph: (302) 856-3999 Ext. 2

RIPARIAN FOREST BUFFERS

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Incentive for **DELAWARE**

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

Potential Riparian Forested Buffer Enhancement Area

A 'Riparian Forest' is a forested area that runs adjacent to open water, streams, ponds, ditches or lakes. These areas not only maintain healthy water quality, they also restrict sediment flow, enhance aquatic life, encourage upland wildlife habits - among many other attributes.

FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITY

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP) PAYS LANDOWNERS FOR INSTALLING AND MAINTAINING RIPARIAN FOREST BUFFERS

- Delaware CREP contracts extend for a minimum of 10 years, not to exceed 15 years.
- Eligible producers can enroll at any time ... *attractive steady rental income!*
- Landowners and farmers retain their property rights.
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Best Management Practice 'CP22 - Riparian Buffer' is designated to install or make wider riparian forest buffers.
- The minimum average width is 35 feet, not to exceed a 180 total feet width.
- The entire length of the buffer on at least one side of the eligible drainage ditch, stream or other waterbody, must be protected.
- At least 80% of the eligible land offered must be physically located within Delaware and the Chesapeake Bay area.

DELTAWARE CREP PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE AN ANNUAL PER ACRE 'INCENTIVE PAYMENT' DETERMINED BY THE PRACTICE AND COUNTY LOCATION, ALONG WITH THE REGULAR PER ACRE RENTAL RATE. THE RIPARIAN BUFFER PRACTICE (CP-22) 'INCENTIVE PAYMENT RATE' FOR DELAWARE IS:

New Castle County = \$138/acre
Kent County = \$122/acre
Sussex County = \$112/acre

In addition to the normal CREP incentive payment, a special one-time Chesapeake Bay Incentive payment for riparian buffers is now a component of the Delaware CREP. First time ... or NEW enrollees, will receive a one-time payment incentive of \$200/acre for each year of the contract, to install riparian forest buffers. Anyone who is interested in re-enrolling in the program will receive \$100/acre for each year of contract enrollment.

For more information on Riparian Forest Buffers visit:
www.chesapeakeforestbuffers.net

PARTICIPATING PARTNERS WILL HELP YOU WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Delaware Association of Conservation Districts
Delaware Department of Agriculture
Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
Kent Conservation District
New Castle Conservation District
Sussex Conservation District
University of Delaware Cooperative Extension
USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
USDA-Farm Service Agency

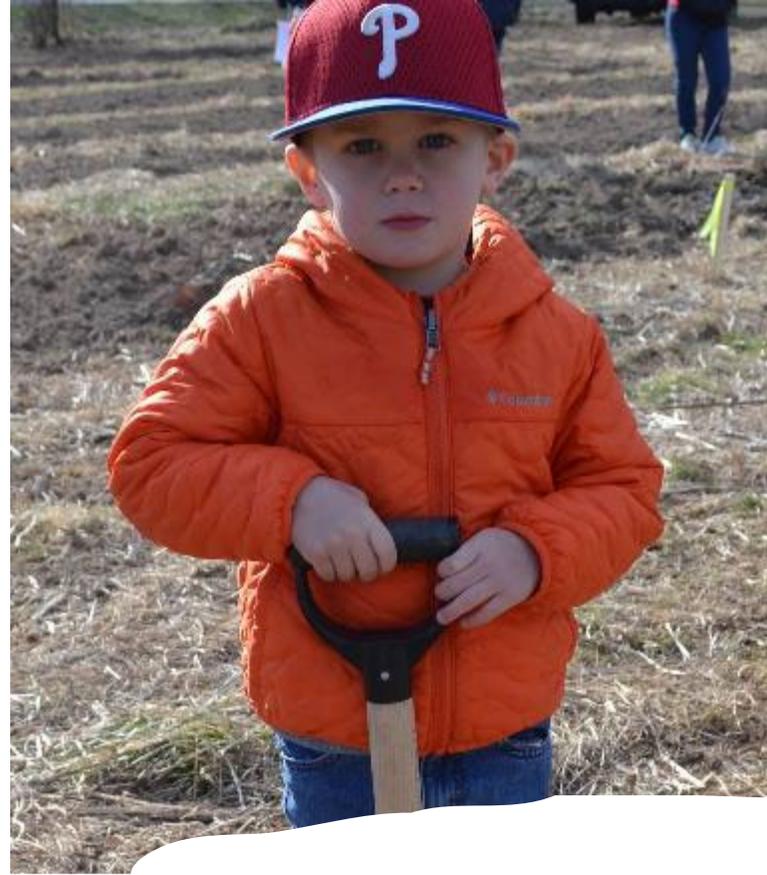
Maintenance

- Funding needed for maintenance, not just implementation.
- Absentee landowners
- Costs of Maintenance
- Contractors to perform maintenance

Jane Pedrik-Horner

Success





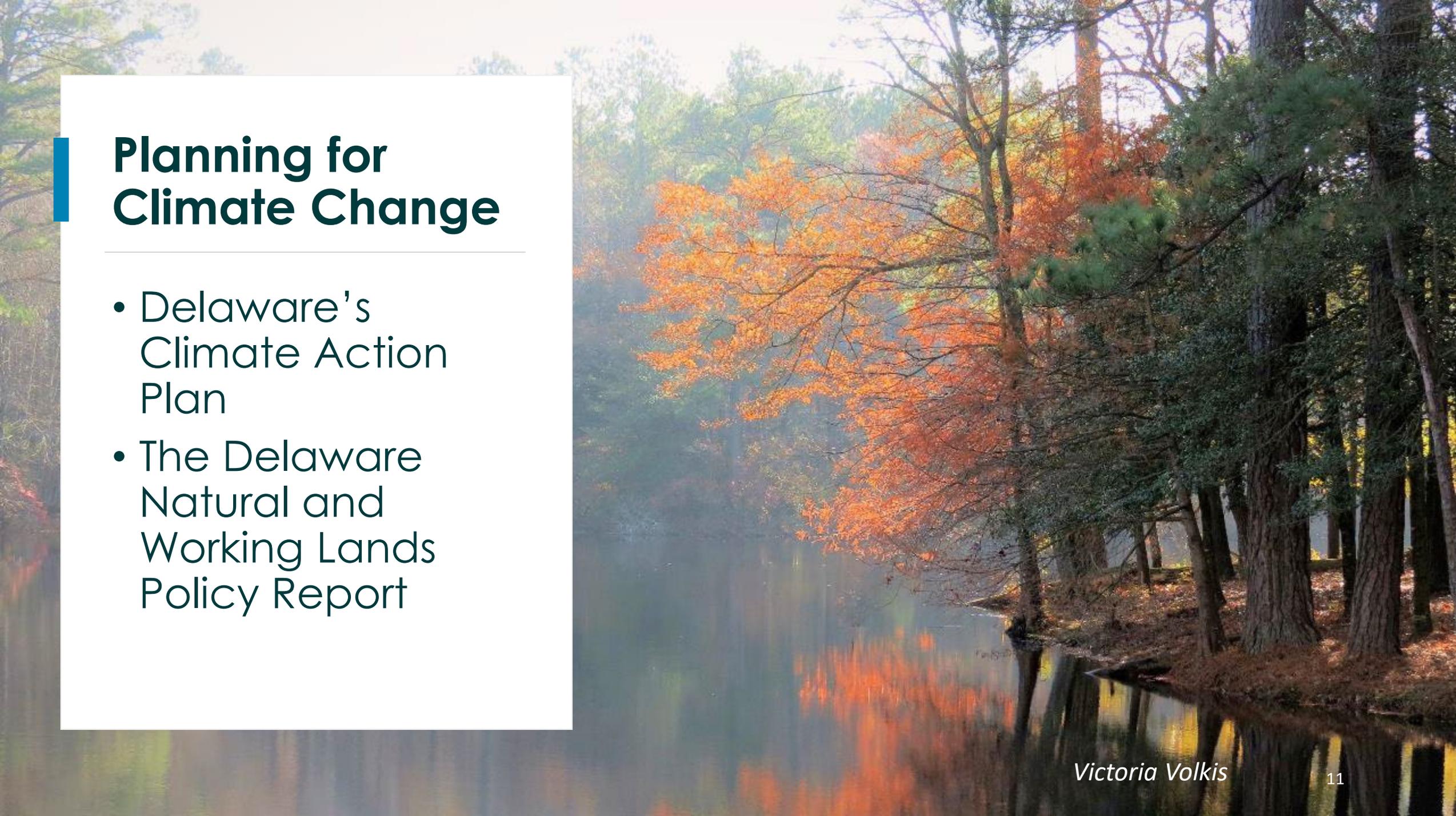
Blackbird State Forest – Girl Scout Planting

Broad Creek Urban Forest Buffer, Laurel





Tree for Every
Delawarean



Planning for Climate Change

- Delaware's Climate Action Plan
- The Delaware Natural and Working Lands Policy Report



Plan for Evaluation

- Acres measured/reported
- Partnerships
- The TEDI tracking tool

Trees planted
(since 2020):

50,721

In organized plantings

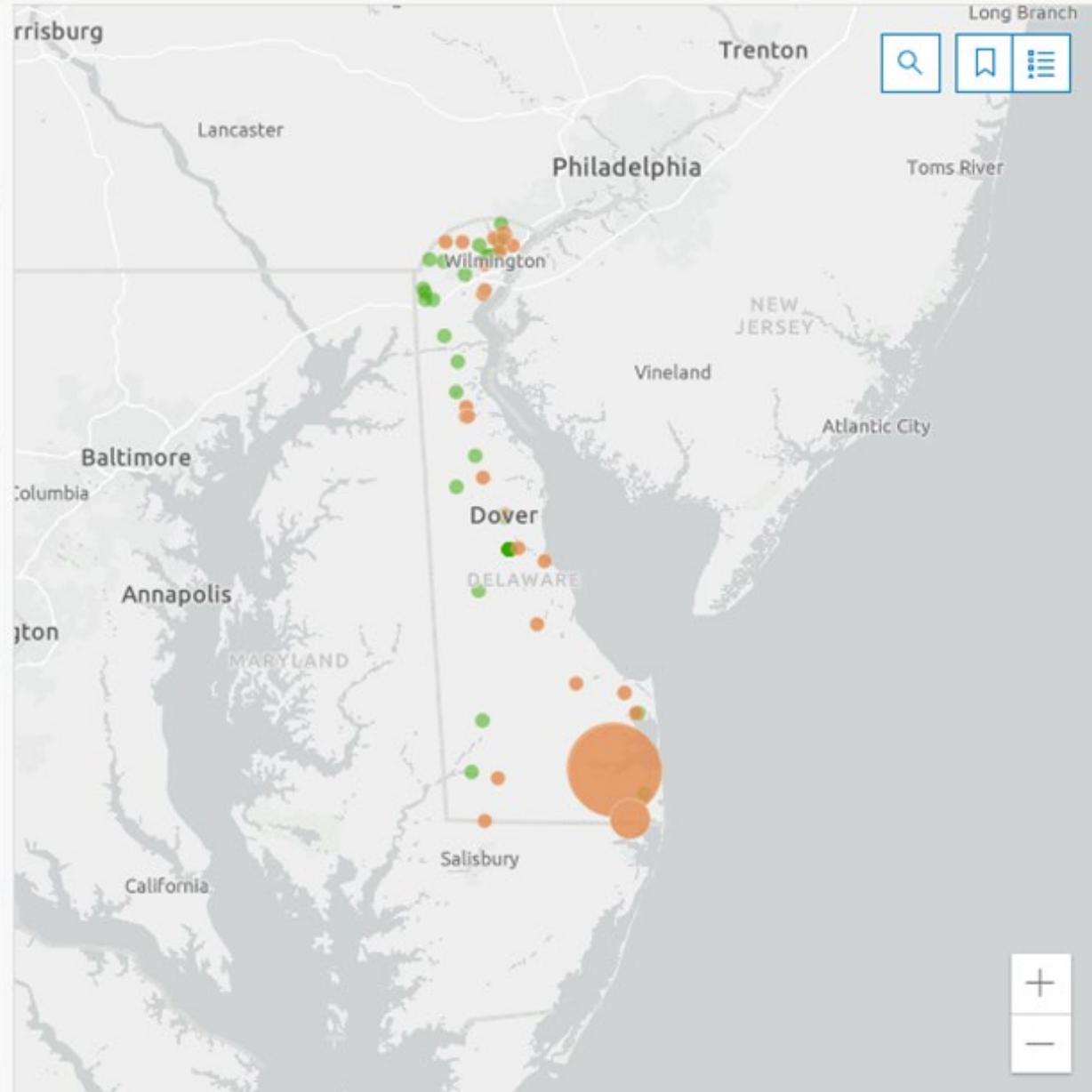
146

In independent plantings

24,330

In private plantings (unmapped)

Planting and nurturing trees is a nature-based solution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions that drive climate change. Trees and forests reduce carbon in the atmosphere by absorbing carbon dioxide from the air and storing it in the tree. The Tree for Every Delawarean Initiative (TEDI) provides an opportunity to work together





Support from Leadership



Marcia Fox

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