



# Chesapeake Bay Watershed Tree Canopy Funding and Policy Roundtable

## Event Debrief and Next Steps

Forestry Workgroup, April 5, 2023  
Julie Mawhorter

# Event Summary



- March 13 and 14
- Hosted by UMD EFC
- 125 participants
- Organized around the the themes of **equity, climate resilience, and tree loss**
- Presentations and interactive breakout discussions
- Goal: pinpoint funding, policy, and programmatic solution pathways to expand urban tree canopy in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

# Agenda



## Chesapeake Bay Watershed Tree Canopy Funding and Policy Roundtable March 13-14, 2023

### Agenda

The **Chesapeake Bay Watershed Tree Canopy Funding and Policy Roundtable** is a two-day, virtual event designed to engage selected local and state leaders throughout the Bay Watershed to address challenges and opportunities in advancing tree canopy priorities. The event's goal is to accelerate equitable, climate-resilient tree canopy implementation in the Watershed. The Roundtable is hosted by the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center in collaboration with the Chesapeake Bay Program.

#### Monday, March 13, 2023 | 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Eastern

9:00 am	<b>Welcome</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sarah Little Sewell, Little Leaf – event facilitator</li> </ul> Introduce Roundtable: goals, agenda, schedule
9:15 am	<b>KEYNOTE   Prepping the Soil: Chesapeake Bay tree goals and progress; a tree policy and funding success story</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction by Julie Mawhorter, USDA Forest Service</li> <li>Eeri Eutsler, District of Columbia Department of Transportation</li> </ul> Broadly overview Chesapeake Bay tree canopy goals and progress; share the story of DC's tree canopy policy and funding journey
9:45 am	<b>Branching out: Leveraging climate goals to achieve tree canopy outcomes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rachel Lamb, Maryland Department of the Environment</li> <li>Mark McPherson, City Forest Credits</li> <li>Beth Krumrine, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control</li> <li>Molly Hassett, New York Department of Environmental Conservation</li> </ul> Spark inspiration around Chesapeake Bay states' recent tree canopy and climate pledges, plans and policies; share opportunities to leverage and integrate climate and tree canopy solutions, in order to maximize outcomes in both.
11:00 am	<b>Discussion groups: Climate</b> Participants may choose among breakout rooms: (1) Data and technical assistance needs; (2) Leveraging federal and state funding; (3) Building resilience into state and local policies



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Environmental Finance Center | School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation

11:45 am	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b> Participants may join optional networking breakout rooms.
12:45 pm	<b>Stemming the loss: Policy solutions for tree canopy protection</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Karen Firehock, Green Infrastructure Center</li> <li>Marian Honeycutt, Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service</li> <li>Vincent Verweij, Arlington County Parks and Natural Resources</li> <li>Katie Lauter, Baltimore Greenspace</li> </ul> Present Baywide land cover change data and tree loss trends; provide a broad overview of local policy strategies available to minimize tree loss and/or require mitigation, including best practices for implementing fines and fees; give examples of policy approaches at different scales that are having an impact.
2:00 pm	<b>Discussion groups: Tree Loss</b> Participants may choose among breakout rooms: (1) Regional policy; (2) State policy; (3) Local policy: cities and metro areas; (4) Local policy: smaller places
2:45 pm	<b>Wrap-up</b> Summarize Day 1 and preview Day 2.
3:00 pm	<b>Adjourn</b>

#### Tuesday, March 14, 2023 | 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Eastern

9:00 am	<b>Welcome</b> Review goals and schedule for the day
9:10 am	<b>KEYNOTE   A Community-Driven, Urban Heat Knowledge-To-Action Network in Richmond, Virginia</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jeremy Hoffman, Virginia Science Museum</li> <li>Sheri Shannon, Southside ReLeaf</li> </ul> Share the story of Richmond's urban heat mapping and community-led restoration; underscore the importance of incorporating equity into all aspects of tree canopy policy and funding.
9:40 am	<b>Rooted in equity: ensuring tree canopy benefits for all</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Erica Smith Fichman, Philadelphia Parks &amp; Recreation</li> <li>Brenda Richardson, Anacostia Parks and Community Collaborative</li> <li>Ruby Stemmler, ecoLatino</li> <li>Randy Rowel, Breaking Boundaries Environmental LLC</li> </ul> Highlight equity and tree canopy efforts in the watershed, particularly those focused on community engagement, workforce development, and integrating equity into planning and funding programs.
10:55 am	<b>Discussion groups: Equity</b> Participants will be randomly assigned to discussion rooms.
11:40 am	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b> Participants may join optional networking breakout rooms.

# Agenda - Day One



9:00 am	Welcome
9:15 am	Prepping the soil: Chesapeake Bay tree goals and progress; a tree policy and funding success story
9:45 am	Branching out: Leveraging climate goals to achieve tree canopy outcomes
11:00 am	Discussion groups: Climate
11:45 am	Lunch
12:45 pm	Stemming the loss: Policy solutions for tree canopy protection
2:00 pm	Discussion groups: Tree loss
2:45 pm	Wrap-up
3:00 pm	Adjourn

# Agenda - Day Two



9:00 am	Welcome
9:10 am	A Community-Driven, Urban Heat Knowledge-To-Action Network in Richmond, Virginia
9:40 am	Rooted in equity: Ensuring tree canopy benefits for all
10:55 am	Discussion groups: Equity
11:40 am	Lunch
12:25 pm	No leaf unturned: Local strategies to drive action
1:40 pm	Discussion groups: Advancing state and local action
2:25 pm	Report-out and wrap-up
3:00 pm	Adjourn

# Presentation slides - Day One



## INTRODUCTION | Chesapeake Bay Watershed tree goals and progress

*Julie Mawhorter, USDA Forest Service* [slides](#)

## KEYNOTE | City of trees: Then, now, and in the future

*Earl Eutsler, District of Columbia Department of Transportation* [slides](#)

## PANEL | Branching out: Leveraging climate goals to achieve tree canopy outcomes

*Rachel Lamb, Maryland Department of the Environment* [slides](#)

*Mark McPherson, City Forest Credits* [slides](#)

*Beth Krumrine, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control* [slides](#)

*Molly Hassett, New York Department of Environmental Conservation* [slides](#)

## PANEL | Stemming the loss: Policy solutions for tree canopy protection

*Karen Firehock, Green Infrastructure Center* [slides](#)

*Marian Honecny, Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service* [slides](#)

*Vincent Verweij, Arlington County Parks and Natural Resources* [slides](#)

*Katie Lautar, Baltimore Green Space* [slides](#)

# Presentation slides - Day Two



**KEYNOTE | Mitigating urban heat threats through a community -driven framework**

*Jeremy Hoffman, Virginia Science Museum and Sheri Shannon, Southside [eLeaf](#)*

**PANEL | Rooted in equity: Ensuring tree canopy benefits for all**

*Erica Smith Fichman, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation [slides](#)*

*Brenda Richardson, Anacostia Parks and Community Collaborative [slide](#)*

*Ruby Stemmler, ecoLatinas [slides](#)*

**PANEL | No leaf unturned: Local strategies to drive action**

*Frank Rodgers, Cacapon Institute*

*Cody Kiefer, City of Lancaster, [slides](#)*

*Ryan Alston, Baltimore Tree Trust [slides](#)*

# Breakout room discussions

What solution pathways should we prioritize in Delaware over the next 3 years?

**Policy**

- Understand / inventory incentives for forest preservation (e.g. TDR, bonus density in exchange for preserving forests - either on site or even in different areas within a county; conservation / cluster subdivision ordinances) – essentially smart growth strategies
  - Investigate potential for mitigation fees to fund a state tree preservation fund
  - Another plug for concentrated development
- Align all state goals – environmental, housing, economic development
- Emphasize saving old growth – over planting new trees

**Funding**

- Match waivers for federal funding: local governments don't have sufficient funding for match (waivers are currently only available for specific areas)
- Downtown development district funds – add tree planting or other landscaping as eligible for reimbursement
- Hub for funding sources, for local governments (local government grant assistance program: <https://www.bidenschool.udel.edu/ipa/serving-delaware/grant-assistance>)

**Programmatic**

- Need follow up / verification on grant-funded projects (to make sure maintenance is done)
- Need training for maintenance staff
- NCC public works division – kicking off Memorial Tree program

What does success look like in the District of Columbia – if tree canopy is sufficient, climate-resilient, and equitably designed and delivered?

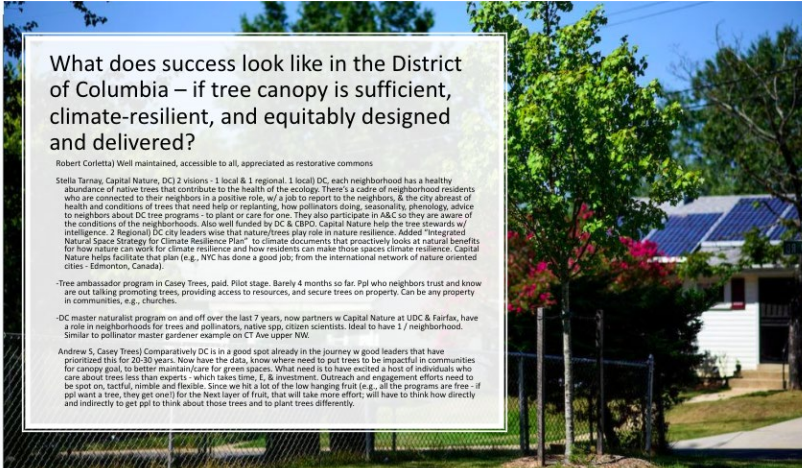
Robert Corletta) Well maintained, accessible to all, appreciated as restorative commons

Stella Tarnay, Capital Nature, DC 2 visions - 1 local & 1 regional. 1 local) DC, each neighborhood has a healthy abundance of native trees that contribute to the health of the ecology. There's a cadre of neighborhood residents who are connected to their neighbors in a positive role, w/ a job to report to the neighbors, & the city abreast of health and conditions of trees that need help or replanting, how pollinators doing, seasonality, phenology, advice to neighbors about DC tree programs - to plant or care for one. They also participate in A&C so they are aware of the conditions of the neighborhoods. Also well funded by DC & CDFP. Capital Nature help the tree stewards w/ intelligence. 2 Regional) DC city leaders wise that nature/trees play role in nature resilience. Added "Integrated Natural Space Strategy for Climate Resilience Plan" to climate documents that proactively looks at natural benefits for how nature can work for climate resilience and how residents can make those spaces climate resilience. Capital Nature helps facilitate that plan (e.g., NYC has done a good job; from the international network of nature oriented cities - Edmonton, Canada).

-Tree ambassador program in Casey Trees, paid. Pilot stage. Barely 4 months so far. Ppl who neighbors trust and know are out talking promoting trees, providing access to resources, and secure trees on property. Can be any property in communities, e.g., churches.

-DC master naturalist program on and off over the last 7 years, now partners w Capital Nature at UDC & Fairfax, have a role in neighborhoods for trees and pollinators, native spp, citizen scientists. Ideal to have 1 / neighborhood. Similar to pollinator master gardener example on CT Ave upper NW.

Andrew S. Casey Trees) Comparatively DC is in a good spot already in the journey w good leaders that have prioritized this for 20-30 years. Now have the data, know where need to put trees to be impactful in communities for canopy goal, to better maintain/care for green spaces. What need is to have excited a host of individuals who care about trees less than experts - which takes time, E. & investment. Outreach and engagement efforts need to be spot on, tactical, nimble and flexible. Since we hit a lot of the low hanging fruit (e.g., all the programs are free - if ppl want a tree, they get one!) for the Next layer of fruit, that will take more effort, will have to think how directly and indirectly to get ppl to think about those trees and to plant trees differently.

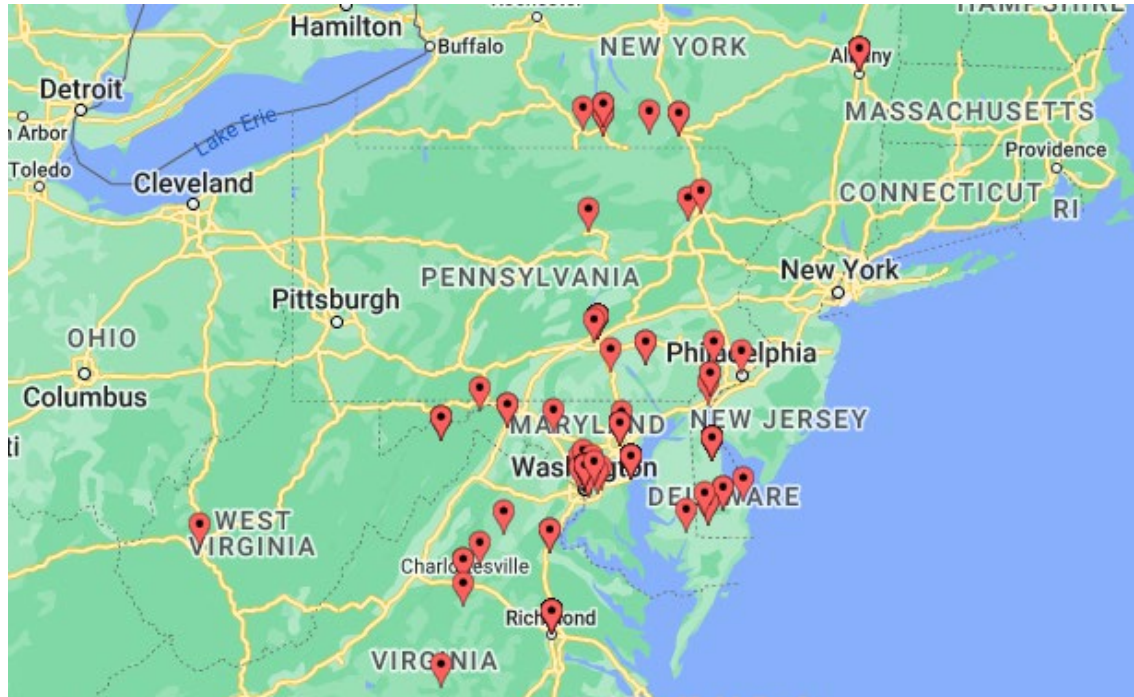


Generated a LOT of input!

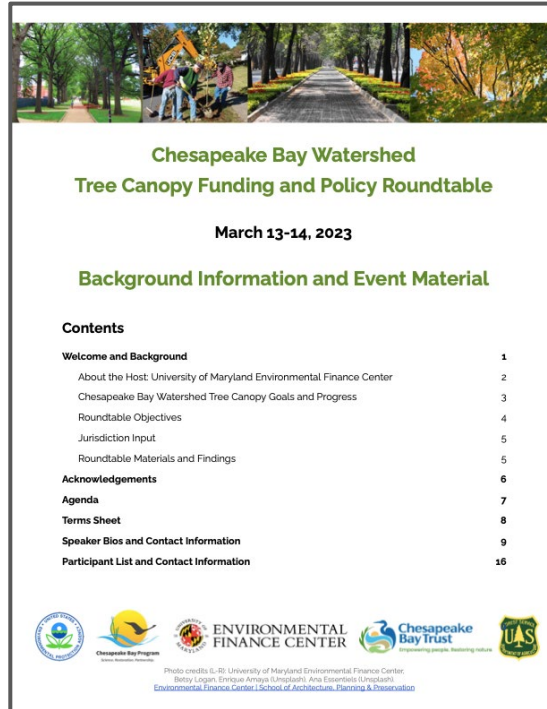
Project team is distilling findings



# Participants



# For more info



Agenda packet, with background info, speaker bios, participant list:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/17\\_GU\\_UwDQc0HGhCDzEI3Y8BCx7LQ62zH/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/17_GU_UwDQc0HGhCDzEI3Y8BCx7LQ62zH/view?usp=sharing)

# Next steps

## Project Elements and Timeframes

Nov - Dec 2022

### Pre-Roundtable Jurisdiction Strategy Sessions

Strategy Sessions in each Bay jurisdiction will gather input on states' tree canopy needs and priorities, to inform the design of the Roundtable's agenda, topics, speakers, activities, invitation lists, and briefing materials. The Sessions will convene 8-10 invited leaders from each jurisdiction.

March 2023

### Tree Canopy Funding and Policy Roundtable

Two-day virtual forum with 100-150 invited guests from across the region designed to develop funding, policy, and programmatic solution pathways to advance tree canopy efforts. It will equip local and state decision makers with data, tools, and innovative approaches to strengthen tree canopy outcomes towards climate resilience and equity.

May - June 2023

### Post-Roundtable Jurisdiction Strategy Sessions

Post-Roundtable Strategy Sessions in each Bay jurisdiction will focus on identifying actionable strategies and creating a two-year workplan that can be adopted in each jurisdiction to accelerate equitable climate resilient tree canopy implementation.

# State action plans



- Co-developed with each state
- Top strategies to accelerate tree canopy progress
- Two-year time frame

# Action plan format



Priority strategy	Actions	Who's Involved
Strengthen local regulations to protect existing tree canopy.	1.Pass tree protection ordinance 2.Review other codes and ordinances to identify barriers	1.Planning Department 2.Green Infrastructure Center
Improve engagement and participation of underrepresented neighborhoods in tree program.	1.Example 2.Example	1.Example 2.Example

# Final slide here?



End with an ASK for the Workgroup, such as:

→ **How to ensure ownership of the Action Plans?**