

# Urban Tree Canopy Expert Panel Urban Tree Planting BMP for Phase 6

Land Use Workgroup

July 6, 2016

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Chair

# Recap

- May 3: Report released for review/comment
- May 4: Introductory briefing to FWG for panel's methods/recommendations.
- May 20: Webinar
- June 1: FWG call, discussed proposal for 2<sup>nd</sup>-tier “urban forest planting” BMP to supplement Urban Tree Planting as recommended by panel for Phase 6
- June 2: Briefed WTWG of FWG proposal
- June 9: Initial 30-day comment period closed
- June 10 – June 22: Neely and Jeremy compile and respond to comments
- June 17 and 20: Neely discussed FWG proposal with the panel
- June 21: Briefed USWG of FWG proposal and panel’s response
- June 23: FWG

# Overview of comments received

- Comments from nine individuals or entities received during initial 30-day comment period, including:
  - MDE
  - MD DNR (2)
  - VA DEQ
  - WV DEP
  - Baltimore County
  - Arlington County (2)
  - USFS (Ken Belt)

No objections raised to panel's recommendations as a technical method to credit trees planted over managed (turf) or impervious understories. However, there is significant support for an alternate BMP to credit planting projects that create forest-like conditions with unmanaged understory.

# Overview of comments: general topics

- Comments covered a range of topics, some were on overall or overarching issues and some on specific statements or parts of the report. The comments fall into the following categories:
  - Comments calling for an option to credit plantings that create forest-like conditions, distinct from tree plantings over turf or impervious areas. This relates to the FWG proposal for an “urban forest planting” BMP
  - Tracking and reporting
  - Modeling
  - Land use loading rate
  - Future research and management needs
  - Editorial

# Overview of responses

- Tracking and reporting (MD, Arlington Co, Baltimore Co, VA DEQ)
  - Will clarify how the revised BMP is tracked towards milestones and used as model input between imagery updates.
- Modeling (MD, Arlington Co, Baltimore Co, VA DEQ)
  - Clarifying definitions and some text to reflect current modeling and land use definitions and procedures.
- Land use loading rate (VA DEQ, Ken Belt)
  - Loading rates were reviewed and approved by the partnership, finding no fatal flaws. If fatal flaws are identified and supporting data is provided then partnership can consider next steps.
- Editorial
  - Typos, grammatical or other miscellaneous edits will continue to be made.

*See memo and table posted for today for more information.*

# Path Forward

- FWG approved the panel's recommendations with contingency that the FWG's proposed 2<sup>nd</sup>-tier BMP is considered alongside the panel's recommendations.
- FWG agreed to modify land use conversion to "Mixed Open" in place of "Forest". This land use provides a lower loading rate than "Tree Canopy Over Turfgrass" but higher loading rate than "Forest"
  - **Mixed Open (MO)** – All scrub-shrub and herbaceous and barren lands that have been minimally disturbed (e.g., periodically bush hogged, meadows, etc.), reclaimed, or that have internal and/or regulated drainage. These include active, abandoned and reclaimed mines, landfills, beaches, waterbody margins, natural grasslands, utility right-of-ways and a portion of herbaceous lands within industrial, transitional (early stages of construction), and warehousing land uses. Also included are potential agricultural lands that were not mapped as either cropland or pasture in the NASS Cropland Data Layers (2008 through 2015).

**Note: These are draft preliminary loading rates from second beta Phase 6 calibration (April 2016) and will change in future beta calibrations and the final calibration. Changes to the ratio are not anticipated. FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY.**

| Phase 6 land use                           | Average TN export rate<br>lbs/ac-year<br>(export rate ratio) | Average TP export rate<br>lbs/ac-year<br>(export rate ratio) |
|--|--|--|
| Mixed Open<br>(Natural)                    | 4.52<br>(1.46)   | 0.82<br>(5.69)   |
| True Forest<br>(Natural)                   | 3.1<br>(1.0)   | 0.14<br>(1.0)  |
| Tree Canopy over Turfgrass<br>(Developed)  | 16.79<br>(0.38)  | 1.32<br>(0.79)   |
| Tree Canopy over Impervious<br>(Developed) | 40.36<br>(0.91)  | 1.51<br>(0.91)   |
| Turfgrass<br>(Developed)                   | 22.04<br>(0.5)   | 1.73<br>(1.04)   |

# Possible Timeline

- Tues. July 26: USWG
- Thurs. August 4: Seek WTWG approval
- Mon. August 8 or Mon. August 22: Potential dates for seeking WQGIT approval, depending on FWG and WTWG approval status and schedule.