



Laying the groundwork for
the Healthy Forests and
Trees Management Strategy

Direction for Management Strategies in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement

- “..... [CBP] will update or develop Management Strategies for Outcomes and their Targets that support the Goals of this Watershed Agreement. These strategies shall **outline the means for accomplishing each Outcome and its Targets** as well as **monitoring, assessing and reporting progress** and **coordinating actions** among partners and stakeholders as necessary”

Management Strategies in the Watershed Agreement

The Management Strategies will describe:

- How partners will address changing environmental conditions
- How signatories, other state and federal agencies, local governments, Indigenous representatives, nonprofit and private partners are engaged
- Where actions, tools, financial support and technical assistance are needed to empower local governments and others
- What steps are necessary to facilitate greater participation in achieving the outcome

Management Strategies in the Watershed Agreement

- “The Chesapeake Bay Program will adopt a six-year cycle to re-evaluate and update strategies as necessary, with attention to changing environmental and economic conditions”
- “The Chesapeake Bay Program will report progress to the public and update work plans on a shorter-term basis for each Outcome in accordance with adaptive management”

Updates on new Management Strategies

- The Program will develop a strategic plan consisting of a collaborative introduction and executive summary, followed by four goal management strategies that will serve as chapters.
- The Management Strategy template will be approved by the Management Board no later than June (currently in development)
- GIT chairs will be responsible for developing the Management Strategies (with delegation as appropriate to workgroups)
- Strategic plan with Management Strategies will be finalized by summer 2027 with a public input period before finalization

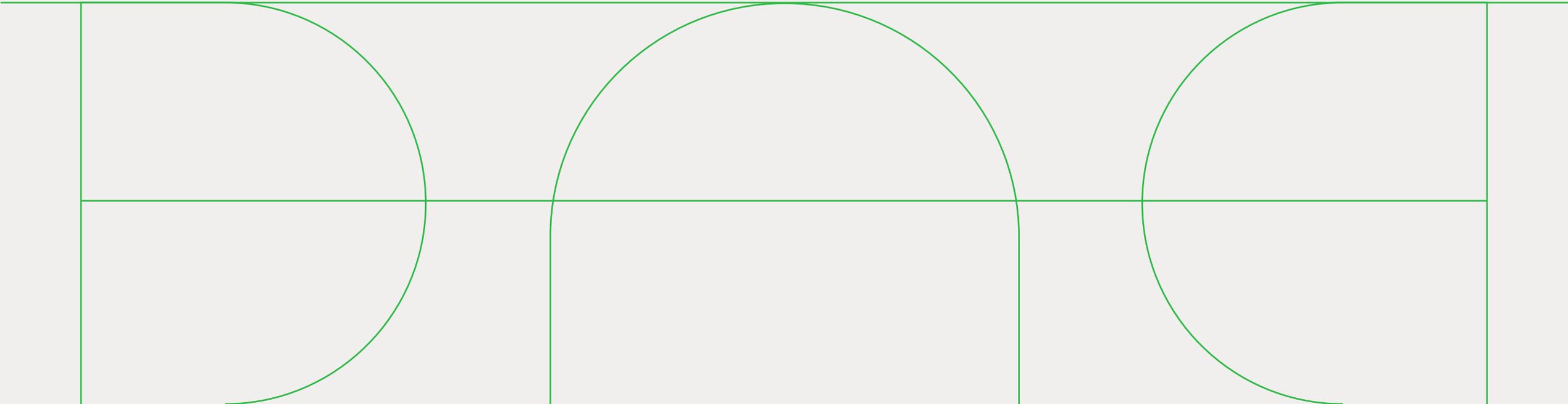
Key Elements of 2014 Management Strategies

- Executive Summary
- Outcomes and baselines
- Jurisdictions and agencies participating
- Factors influencing ability to meet goal
- Current efforts and gaps
- Management approaches
- Monitoring progress
- Assessing progress
- Adaptively manage
- Biennial workplan

Riparian Forest

Buffer Management 2015-2025

Strategy highlights



Factors influencing success

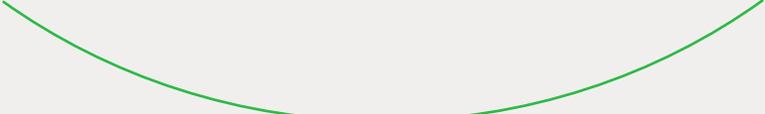
- External factors- market factors, federal policy, ag land ownership
- Partner coordination
- Science and technical understanding
- Improved technical assistance
- Engagement
 - Government agency engagement
 - Legislative engagement
 - Landowner engagement
 - Non-governmental engagement
 - Public engagement
- Funding or financial resources

“Current” efforts and gaps

- **Leadership**- need for a more coordinated response between federal, state and local leaders, ensuring there are effective programs in all jurisdictions
- **Efficient, regularly-funded programs**- developing state programs that include funding for maintenance to complement CREP
- **Federal policy**- Seeking improvements to CRP in the Farm Bill
- **Improved technical assistance and staffing**- increasing capacity for technical assistance for buffers
- **Enhanced engagement at multiple levels**- developing a comprehensive communications and outreach plan

Management approaches

- Renew leadership to achieve an “all hands” approach
- Improve existing Ag programs and continue to develop new ones
- Improve and increase Technical Assistance
- Outreach and communications
- (Developing and expanding utilization of) non-agricultural programs

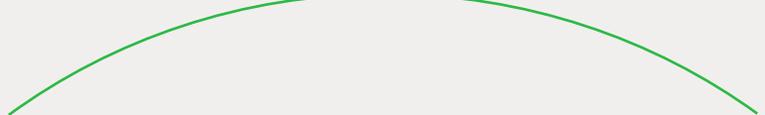


Tree Canopy

Management

2015-2025

Strategy highlights



FACTORS INFLUENCING ABILITY TO REACH URBAN TREE CANOPY GOALS



Funding & Partnerships

Policies & Ordinances

Technical Knowledge & Capacity

Community Education & Outreach

Drivers of Loss:

- Development
- Storms
- Pests/Disease
- Natural Mortality
- Utility Clearing
- Deer Browse
- Improper Maintenance

Factors Influencing Outcome	Gaps
Funding and Finances	Funding (federal, state, local) to support tree canopy efforts (both planting and preservation) is still primary need cited by partners; need to work with jurisdictions and funding partners to incorporate and act on findings from Tree Canopy Financing Guide
Federal and State Government Agency Engagement	More engagement with other state agencies (water quality, etc.) and other federal partner agencies needed next cycle, especially around tree canopy as stormwater/MS4/WIP strategy
Local Government Agency Engagement	Need to ramp up local engagement for tree canopy implementation and tracking through WIP/TMDL process and through UTC network capacity building efforts
Legislative Engagement at State and Local Level: Policies and Ordinances	More partnership focus needed to assess and help strengthen local ordinances and policies for tree canopy planting/preservation and capacity for their implementation and/or enforcement
Partner Coordination	Within jurisdictions, need greater collaboration with state and local water quality/stormwater programs and NGO efforts; at CBP need greater collaboration with related outcomes and workgroups (local leadership, diversity, stewardship, schools, climate etc.)
Scientific and Technical Understanding: Technical Capacity and Knowledge	Need user-friendly tree tracking tool for reporting BMP progress; Need to get data, BMP information, training and resources out to more partners (e.g. local governments, NGOs, stormwater managers, etc.)
Public and Landowner Engagement: Education and Outreach	Need to continue and build on Tree Canopy and Environmental Justice project to reach high need/opportunity communities; Increase collaboration with CBP Green Schools efforts

Management approaches~efforts/progress

Management Approach 1: Bolster Funding & Partnerships

- Partners worked on guide: [Financing Urban Tree Canopy Programs: Guidebook for Local Governments in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed](#)

Management Approach 2: Strengthen Policy & Ordinances

- 2023 [Chesapeake Tree Canopy Funding & Policy Roundtable](#) and state action plans

Management Approach 3: Increase Technical Capacity & Knowledge

- 2024 [Addressing Regional Tree Supply Challenges & Opportunities](#)
- County & Municipal [Tree Cover Status & Change Fact Sheets](#) (2003, 2005)

Management Approach 4: Expand Education & Outreach

- [Trees & Schools: Growing the Connection](#) guide
- Local Government Guide: [Capitalizing on the Benefits of Trees](#)

Next steps...