



Riparian Buffer Training and Workforce Development

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Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council

- 
- Education, training, materials, and support for landscape professionals along the career pathway, from entry level to advanced professional training
 - Focus on collaborations, partnerships, community, equity, workforce development
 - Sustainable landscaping: native plants, habitat, healthy soils, invasive management
 - Green infrastructure and nature-based solutions for stormwater and climate resilience



CHESAPEAKE BAY Landscape Professional



**CBLP: Building a Network
of Skilled Professionals
Across the Region**

*Designed to address challenges, meet the demands of
Bay watershed and mid-Atlantic region stakeholders,
and engage and empower the landscaping community*



Development and Oversight

CONSORTIUM PARTNERS:



WWW.WETLANDSWATCH.ORG



CONSERVE. CONNECT. PROTECT.



UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION

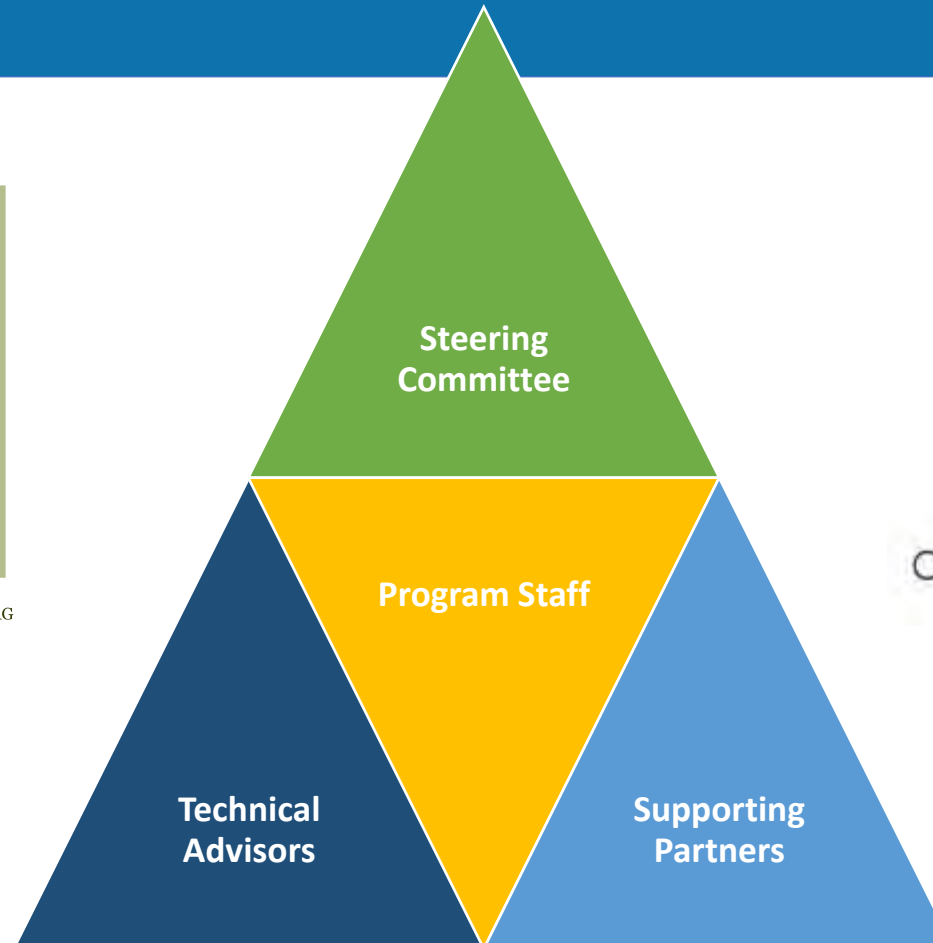


PennState
College of Agricultural Sciences



PennState Extension

Agriculture and
Environment Center



OUR FUNDERS:



PRINCE CHARITABLE TRUSTS



Virginia
Environmental
Endowment



Resilience Innovations





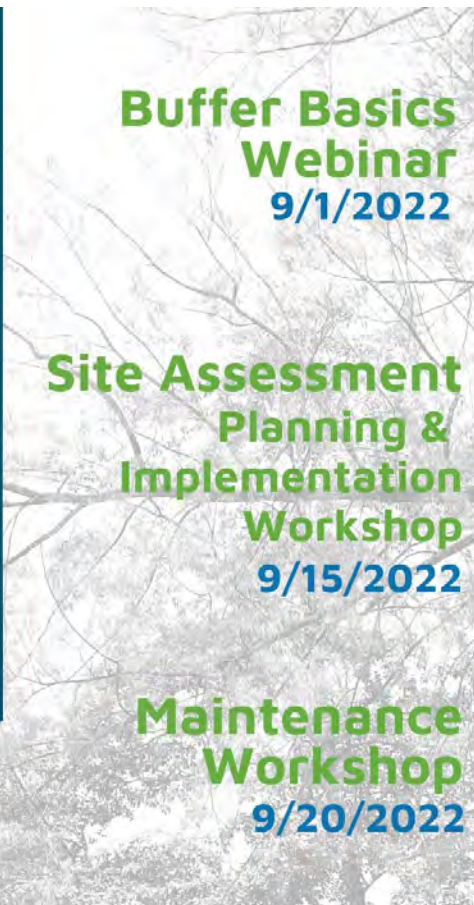
**CBLP
BUFFERS**
Certificate
Course

A comprehensive series on
planning, implementing, and
managing riparian buffers
Includes webinars, in-person
field workshops, and videos

Registration and fee information
<https://certified.cblpro.org/cblp-buffers/>

Offered in Pennsylvania or Virginia

\$25 - \$275



**Buffer Basics
Webinar**
9/1/2022

**Site Assessment
Planning &
Implementation
Workshop**
9/15/2022

**Maintenance
Workshop**
9/20/2022



Goals:

- Define the standard of practice for landscape professionals working on riparian buffers
- Generate interest among landscape pros in doing buffer work
- Help connect landscape pros with NGOs, local/state government partners and landowners

CBLP-Buffers

Three part training:

- Half day “Buffer Basics” online webinar
- Full day field workshop on buffer planning & implementation
- Half day field workshop on buffer management
- Expert instructors, Hands on activities, Interactive discussion
- 3 Cohorts (2020-21 pilot, 2021, 2022) in PA and VA
- Total 86 certificates granted
- Partner-funded scholarships to incentivize participation

Department of Corrections Training – Pathways to Jobs



- Correctional Conservation Collaborative (CCC) with PA DCNR, DOC and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay – curriculum development funded by Chesapeake Bay Trust GIT grant – includes CBLP-Buffers modules
- 2021 pilot with James River Association, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia DOC (State Farm), Hirschman Water & Environment, CCLC
- 8 women participated; 3 received CBLP-Buffers certificate



Photo: Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

Business of Buffers Roundtable June 2022

Riparian
Consortium



To Inform

- Small Business Engagement
- Ongoing Outreach Activities
- Contractor Capacity-Building
- Plans for Workshop and Training

Thank you Town of Scottsville, VA for providing meeting space

Small Group but Great Discussion

20 invited, 8 accepted, 4 showed up

After the Roundtable

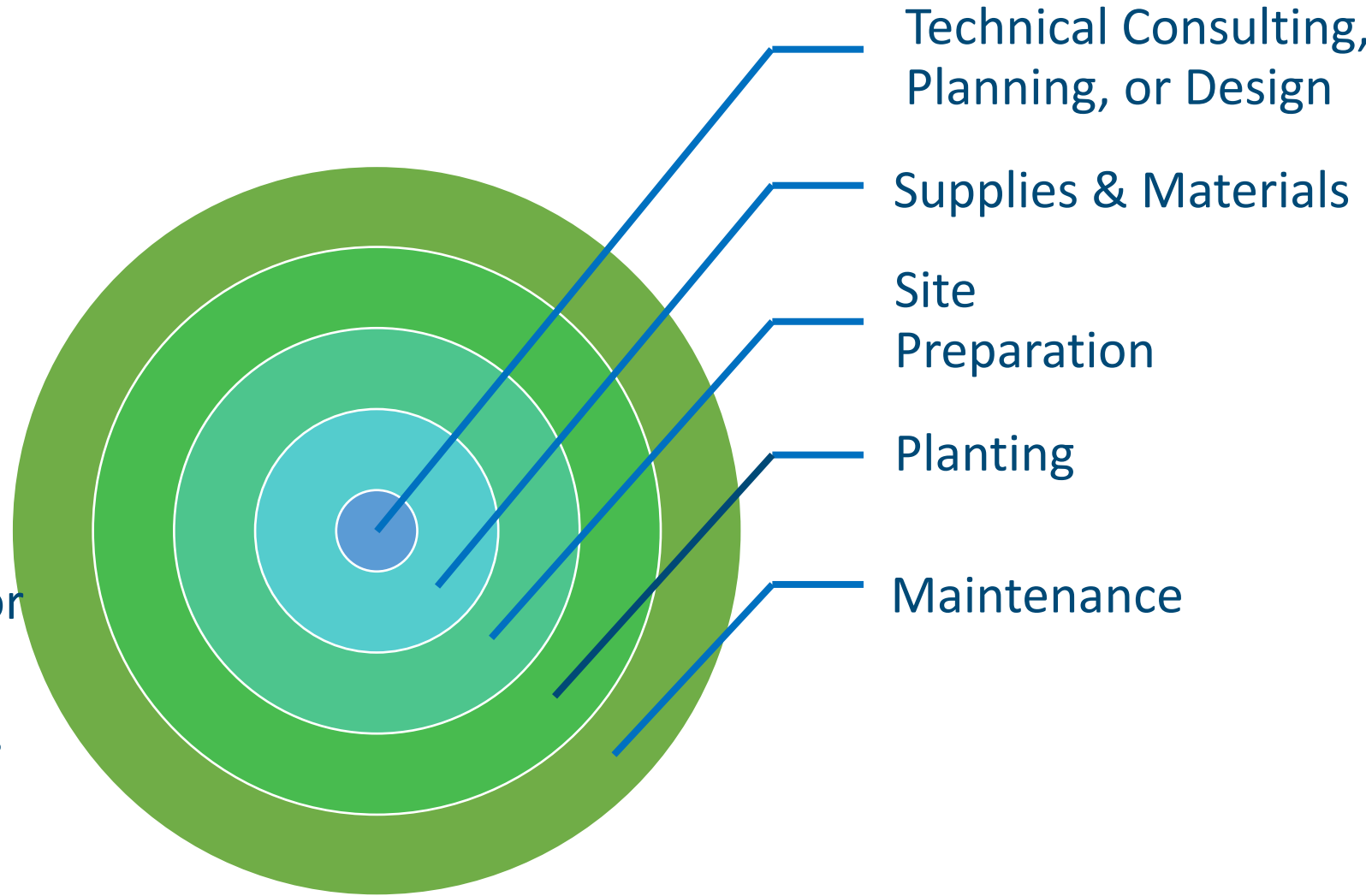
- ✚ More conversations & surveys with other contractors
- ✚ More conversations with small business reps
- ✚ More conversations with potential training partners



Image by Virginia Rockwell for CCLC

Buffer Services

- Larger companies offer a 1-stop shop, managers & crew on staff. Scale up with VISA workers or subcontractors. Prefers large sites, no residential
- Smaller companies may have special expertise, skills, equipment/machinery & proximity - a competitive edge for local work. Scale up with subcontractors or seasonal labor. Small & large lot residential, commercial, urban/suburban, HOAs.





Small Business Engagement and Outreach

Be creative and look for cross-over opportunities

Continue offering partner-funded scholarships to CBLP-Buffers

Work with organizations and entities that support and represent businesses.

Better understand Latinx contractors (one target audience) and their challenges.

Connect with certified pesticide and fertilizer applicators and technicians





Business Capacity-Building

Work with businesses to establish and market clear pipelines from training (or degrees) to employment & careers

- Develop a profile of the ideal buffer worker
- Align with organizations to train young adults for buffer type work
- Attend Career Events at Colleges and Universities





An Idea to Explore

Replicate the mutually supportive business arrangements of the Roundtable Participants

- Additional labor (when needed)
- Cost effective or specialized services (as subcontractors)
- Wholesale suppliers with customers



2022 Business of Buffers Roundtable: Key Learnings

- Buffer businesses share a sense of pride, value and purpose to their work – but unlike non-profits and government agencies, **BUSINESSES ARE IN BUSINESS TO MAKE A PROFIT.**
- Rates for services are often already set (by funding sources or contracts bid/estimated sometimes a year or two in advance) and some services, like planting, often go to the lowest bid in a competitive market.
- Riparian buffer work is demanding and challenging. It is difficult, even for established contractors, to staff their projects. Landscape contractors are having the same problem.
- Costs for buffer work are rising across the board, and contractors are challenged to manage projects profitably. Costs (labor, fuel, supplies) have increased -- sometimes as much as 20%



Thank You!

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