



TREE CANOPY

SRS 3RD CYCLE: 2024-2025 WORK PLAN

OUTCOME: Continually increase urban tree canopy capacity to provide air quality, water quality and habitat benefits throughout the watershed. Expand urban tree canopy by 2,400 acres by 2025.

Long-term Target: Expand urban tree canopy by 2,400 acres by 2025.

Two-year Target: Completion of the 2,400 acre net gain.

MANAGEMENT APPROACH 1: Bolster funding and partnerships				
Action #	Description of Step	Responsible Party or Parties	Geographic Location	Expected Timeline
1.1	Implement funding strategies from state tree canopy action plans, with a focus on building dedicated, long-term funding streams for tree maintenance and capacity-building needs.	1. DE FS, DNREC and partners 2. DDOT, DOEE and partners 3. MD FS, MDE and partners 4. NYSDEC, Upper Susquehanna Coalition and partners 5. PA DCNR and partners 6. VA DOF and partners 7. WVDEP, WVDOF, Cacapon Institute and partners	Bay-wide	2024-2025
1.2	Implement federal and state IRA grants supporting disadvantaged communities	USFS, DE FS, DDOT, MD FS, NYSDEC, PA DCNR, VA DOF, WVDOF	Bay-wide	2024-2028
1.3	Complete GIT-funded project on Addressing Regional Tree Supply Challenges and Opportunities	University of Florida (contractor), with input from USFS, Forestry Workgroup	Bay-wide	2024

How do we expect the action to fill the priority factor or gap? What do you expect to happen when the action is completed?	What are the goals or metrics you will use to determine the impact of your action?	How will we collect and assess the data that we want to monitor and how will we use the data?	How will we communicate the results?
(1.1, 1.2) Greater funding going to improve quantity and health of tree canopy. With focus on equity/disadvantaged communities. (1.3) Greater coordination and strategic investment to enhance nursery supply for tree planting efforts	(1.1, 1.2) Track federal and state funding including geographic distribution. Track planting/management outcomes. (1.3) use the GIT project recommendation to plan and implement tree supply improvements.	(1.1, 1.2) Tree canopy indicator data, IRA project tracking Federal and state funding data (1.3) Data gathering through GIT project and incorporate recommendations into next 2 year workplan.	Chesapeake Progress, Chesapeake Tree Canopy Network website

MANAGEMENT APPROACH 2: Strengthen policy and ordinances				
Action #	Description of Step	Responsible Party or Parties	Geographic Location	Expected Timeline
2.1	Compile models and best practices for effective incentive-based and regulatory approaches to conserve existing urban tree canopy, including case studies that could be replicated.	Forestry Workgroup – new GIT funding proposal	Bay-wide	2024-2025
2.2	Implement policy strategies from state tree canopy action plans	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DE FS, DNREC and partners 2. DDOT, DOEE and partners 3. MD FS, MDE and partners 4. NYSDEC, Upper Susquehanna Coalition and partners 5. PA DCNR and partners 6. VA DOF and partners 7. WVDEP, WVDOF, Cacapon Institute and partners 	Bay-wide	2024-2025
2.3	Develop a trees & climate resilience strategy guide for local governments	Forestry Workgroup – new GIT funding proposal	Bay-wide	2024-2025

How do we expect the action to fill the priority factor or gap? What do you expect to happen when the action is completed?	What are the goals or metrics you will use to determine the impact of your action?	How will we collect and assess the data that we want to monitor and how will we use the data?	How will we communicate the results?
(2.1, 2.2) Implement stronger tree conservation policies and programs at local and state level.	(2.1, 2.2) Reduce the rate of community tree canopy loss	(2.1, 2.2) Chesapeake high resolution land use/land cover change data	Chesapeake Progress, Chesapeake Tree Canopy Network website

MANAGEMENT APPROACH 3: Increase technical capacity and knowledge				
Action #	Description of Step	Responsible Party or Parties	Geographic Location	Expected Timeline
3.1	Convene annual Tree Canopy Summit to engage urban forestry practitioners and cross-sector partners in best practices and innovative strategies	USFS, Forestry Workgroup, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay	Bay-wide	2024-2025
3.2	Communicate Tree Canopy status & change to stakeholders through updates to the State of Chesapeake Forests Storymap and new municipal factsheets (2013-2018, and with new 2021/2022 data when released)	USFS, USGS, Chesapeake Conservancy, and Forestry Workgroup, with input from Land Use Workgroup, Local Leadership Workgroup	Bay-wide	2024-2025
How do we expect the action to fill the priority factor or gap? What do you expect to happen when the action is completed?	What are the goals or metrics you will use to determine the impact of your action?	How will we collect and assess the data that we want to monitor and how will we use the data?	How will we communicate the results?	
(3.1, 3.2) Stronger local urban forestry programs and partnerships guided by best practices, latest data/tools and innovative models.	(3.1, 3.2) Increase the network of municipalities and partners engaged with our trainings and tools. Develop feedback strategies to gauge impact of training and tools.	(3.1) Participant tracking/ feedback (3.2) User feedback from webinars/website	Chesapeake Progress, Chesapeake Tree Canopy Network website	

NOTE: Include additional Management Approaches by duplicating the template below.

MANAGEMENT APPROACH 4: Expand community outreach and education

Action #	Description of Step	Responsible Party or Parties	Geographic Location	Expected Timeline
4.1	Host quarterly webinars: tree equity community of practice	USFS, Forestry Workgroup, CBP communications, with input from Diversity Workgroup	Bay-wide	2024-2025
4.2	Continue updating the Chesapeake Tree Canopy Network and e-newsletter as our primary hub for resources and sharing community stories	Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, USFS, Forestry Workgroup	Bay-wide	2024-2025
4.3	Develop consistent, customizable, multilingual messaging regarding the many benefits of trees, including guidance on how to address competing priorities.	Forestry Workgroup, CBP Communications, TBD-needs funding/contractor support	Bay-wide	2024-2025
4.4	Develop a communication strategy building on recommendations of the Identifying Communications Needs to Increase Tree Planting and Maintenance report	Forestry Workgroup, CBP Communications, TBD-needs funding/contractor support	Bay-wide	2024-2025
	How do we expect the action to fill the priority factor or gap? What do you expect to happen when the action is completed?	What are the goals or metrics you will use to determine the impact of your action?	How will we collect and assess the data that we want to monitor and how will we use the data?	How will we communicate the results?
	(4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4) Provide educational resources to practitioners throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed, based on demonstrated needs.	(4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4) Number of people reached through webinars and audience participation, tracking engagement from disadvantaged communities. Success in generating ideas for materials based on audience recommendation	(4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4) Attendance data, viewing metrics for website and amount of feedback	Chesapeake Progress, Chesapeake Tree Canopy Network website

Acronyms

CBP	Chesapeake Bay Program
DDOT	District Dept. of Transportation-Urban Forestry Division
DEFS	Delaware Forest Service
DNREC	Delaware Dept. of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation
DOEE	District Dept. of Energy and Environment
GIT	Goal Implementation Team (Chesapeake Bay Program)
MD FS	Maryland Forest Service
NYSDEC	New York Department of Environment and Conservation
PA DCNR	Pennsylvania Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources (Bureau of Forestry)
USFS	USDA Forest Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
USC	Upper Susquehanna Coalition
VA DOF	Virginia Dept. of Forestry
WV DOF	West Virginia Division of Forestry
WVDEP	West Virginia Dept. of Environmental Protection