Updating the Tree Canopy Outcome

March 2025 Forestry Workgroup

TREE CANOPY OUTCOME

OUTCOME DISPOSITION ADVICE TO MANAGEMENT BOARD:

UPDATE

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**.

RECENT PROGRESS
INCREASE

OUTLOOK
OFF COURSE

GOAL: Vital Habitats
LEAD: Water Quality Goal Team- Forestry Workgroup

Assessment

- Outcome is foundational to water quality and other Bay Program goals, with many co-benefits for communities
- Regional collaboration through CBP is a high priority and has yielded valuable data and resources for the network of state and local initiatives

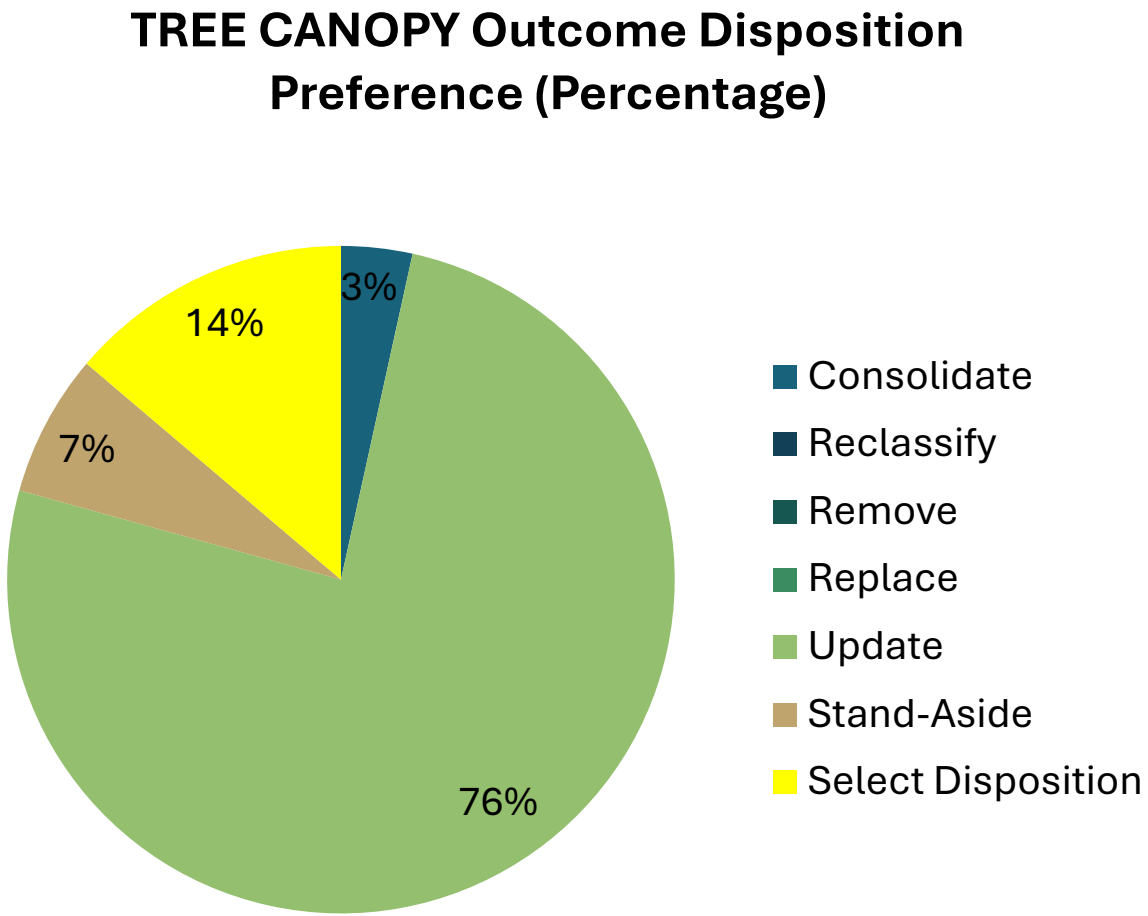
Recommendations

- Maintain outcome with minor updates to wording: shift “urban” to “community,” cite additional public benefits, and increase focus on conservation/maintenance of trees
- Update to set new reasonable numeric target for the next 10 years, guided by latest watershed-wide tree canopy data

Presented by: Anne Hairston-Strang

Feedback from the Management Board

- Generally broad support for the FWG recommendations
- Support shift from urban to community-consider prioritizing low canopy areas
- Support citing public benefits (eg health) and increased focus on conservation, establishment, maintenance
- Push for more attainable/realistic metrics, including adding planting target to show progress since net gain will be difficult



Considerations for general outcome language updates

TREE CANOPY 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

- Urban to community
- Add benefits to people-human health
- Conserve, maintain and expand towards long-term target of net gain (net gain acreage target?)
- Set planting target that is attainable based on available data

Example updated wording for discussion

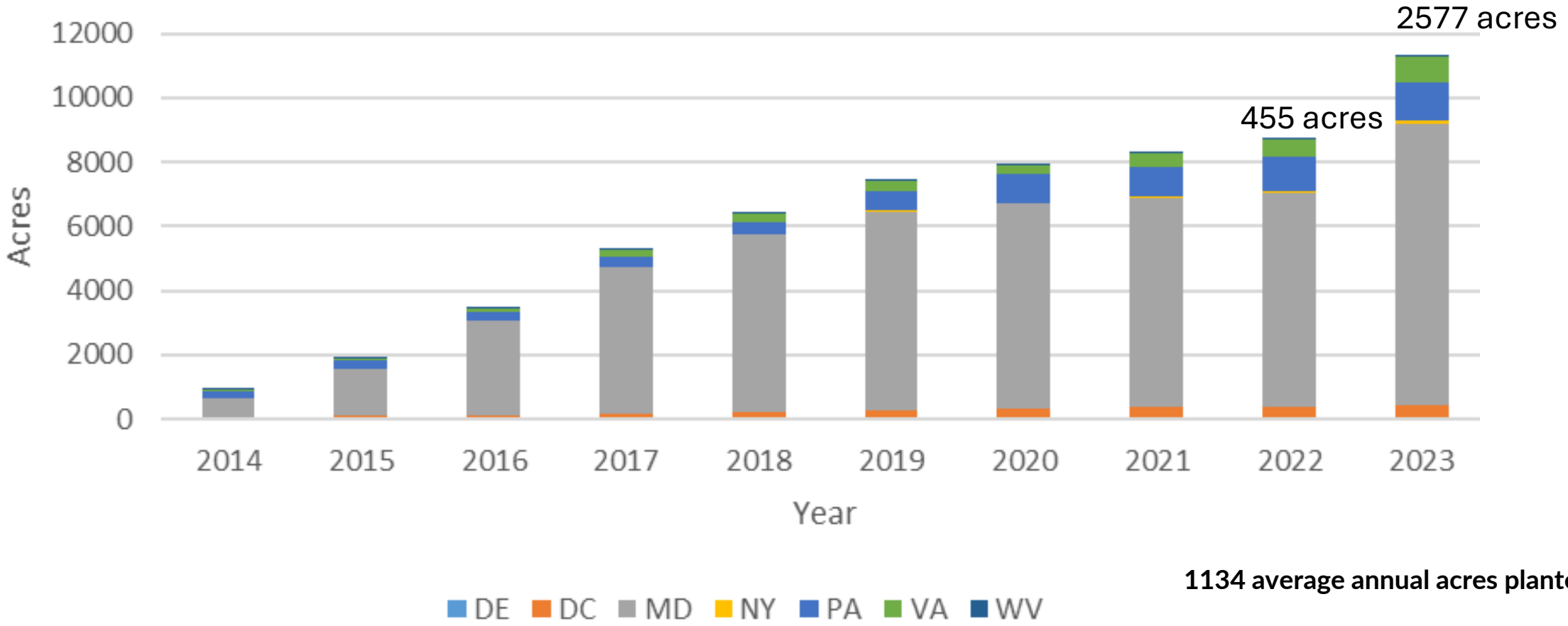
TREE CANOPY OUTCOME: Conserve and expand community tree canopy ~~capacity~~ to ~~provide~~ maximize air quality, water quality and public health benefits throughout the watershed. Working toward a net gain in canopy, plant and maintain ## new acres of community trees by 2035.

Numeric target updates: Community Tree Canopy

Net change in 2010 Census Places, Draft 2024 edition LULC data

	Total Area of Tree Canopy (acres)						Net Change Tree Canopy (acres)			
Jurisdiction	Time 1	Year	Time 2	Year	Time 3	Year	2013/14-2017/18	2017/18-2021/22	2013/14-2021/22	Avg annual change
DE	2,798	2013	2,785	2018	2,766	2021	(13)	(19)	(32)	(4)
DC	13,691	2013	13,675	2017	13,691	2021	(16)	16	0	0
MD	629,827	2013	618,723	2018	617,959	2021	(11,104)	(764)	(11,867)	(1483)
NY	48,437	2013	48,423	2017	47,119	2022	(14)	(1,304)	(1,318)	(146)
PA	300,122	2013	298,637	2017	296,413	2022	(1,484)	(2,225)	(3,709)	(412)
VA	655,850	2014	650,199	2018	643,977	2021	(5,652)	(6,221)	(11,873)	(1696)
WV	14,836	2014	14,775	2018	14,726	2022	(61)	(48)	(109)	(14)
Total Watershed	1,665,560		1,647,216		1,636,652		(18,344)	(10,564)	**(28,908)**	**(3755)**

11,340 acres planted
2014-2023



1134 average annual acres planted

Numeric target updates: net gain, planting?

State	Original Annual Target (New Acres)	Original 2025 Target Net Gain (New Acres)	Acres Planted (2014-2023)	Net Change Acres (2013/14 – 2021/22)	New Annual Target	2014-2035 Target Planting?
DE	5	60	32	-32		
DC	40	480	418	0		
MD	45	540	8739	-11,867		
NY	5	60	88	-1318		
PA	60	720	1200	-3709		
VA	40	480	822	-11,873		
WV	10	120	41	-109		
TOTAL	205	2460	**11,340**	**-28,908**		

Numeric target updates: net gain, planting?

Example scenarios, tree planting targets:

- Continue current avg 1134 ac/yr x 11 yr (2025-2035) = 12,474 additional by 2035; added to prior = **23,814** acres planted 2014-2035 [1134 ac/yr = 340,200 trees]

- Stretch to 1500 ac/yr x 11 yr (2025-2035) = 18,000 additional by 2035; added to prior = **30,474** acres planted 2014-2035 [1500 ac/yr = 450,000 trees]

- Stretch to 3800 ac/yr x 11 yr (2025-2035) to offset avg annual loss (3755 ac) = 41, 800 additional by 2035; added to prior = **53,140** acres planted 2014-2035 [3800 ac/yr=1,140,000 trees]

Other considerations?