Healthy Forests and Trees

Water Quality GIT

Forestry Workgroup

Presenter: Katie Brownson

PROPOSED DRAFT OUTCOME LANGUAGE:

Conserve and restore forests and tree cover to maximize benefits for water quality, habitat and people throughout the watershed, with a particular focus on riparian areas and communities.

EXISTING 2014 AGREEMENT OUTCOME LANGUAGE:

Note the new outcome is consolidating and replacing two outcomes in the 2014 Watershed Agreement.

Tree Canopy: 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.

Forest Buffers: Continually increase the capacity of forest buffers to provide water quality and habitat benefits throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Restore 900 miles of riparian forest buffers per year and conserve existing buffers until at least 70 percent of riparian areas in the watershed are forested.

Healthy Forests and Trees

Water Quality GIT

Forestry Workgroup

Presenter: Katie Brownson

PROPOSED TARGET	New Target / Update of Existing Target	Date estimate for target being developed
Tree Canopy: Working toward a net gain in canopy, reduce the loss of existing canopy and plant and maintain 35,000 acres of community trees by 2035.	Update	Ready
Forest Buffers: Working toward having 75% of riparian areas forested throughout the watershed, plant and maintain 7,500 acres of forest buffers annually. Reduce the loss of existing buffers to achieve no less than 71% of riparian areas forested by 2035.	Update	Ready
Forest Conservation: Working toward a net gain in forests across the watershed, reduce the loss of forests to development and plant and maintain ## acres of new forests by 2035.	New	Summer 25
Forest Stewardship: Under Construction	New	2026?

Healthy Forests and Trees: Tree Canopy

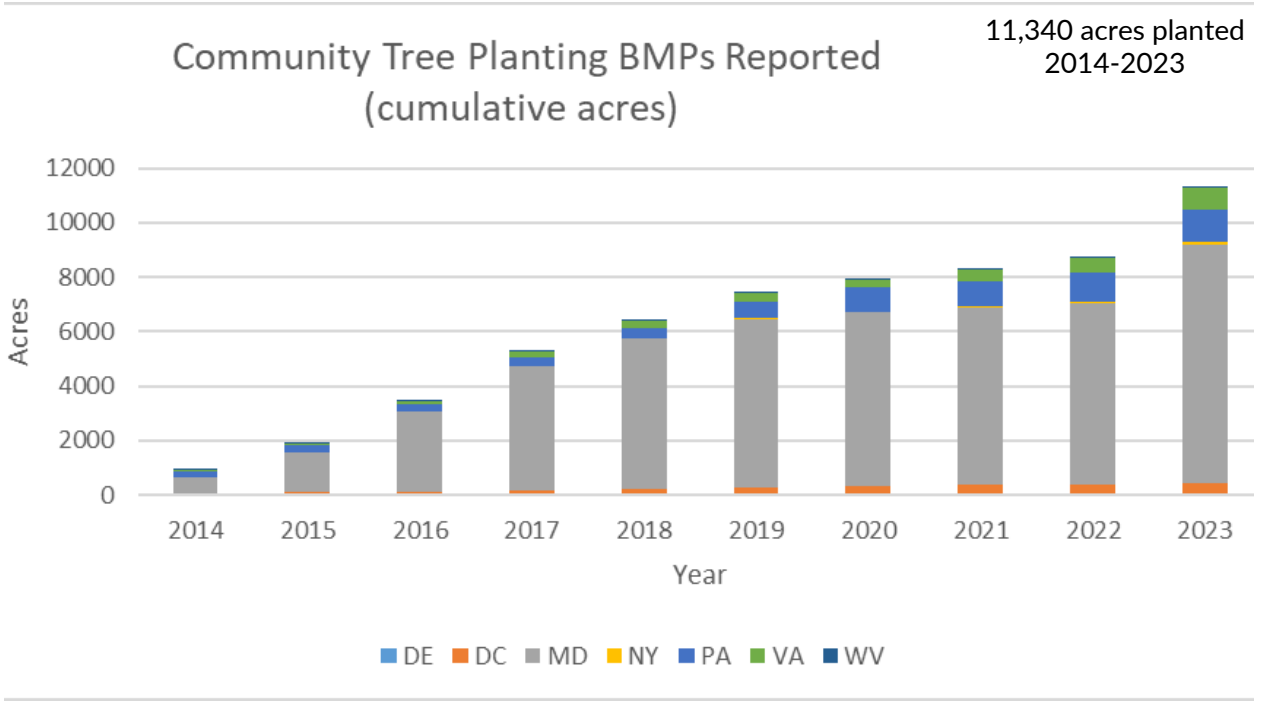
Water Quality GIT

Forestry Workgroup

Presenter: Katie Brownson

Working toward a net gain in canopy, reduce the loss of existing canopy and plant and maintain 35,000 acres of community trees by 2035.

- Focuses on efforts within communities (2010 census places)
- On average, 1,134 acres planted annually
  - 2,577 new acres planted in 2023
- 28,908 total acres lost 2013/14- 2021/22
  - On average, 3,755 acres lost annually
- New 35,000 acres target is from a 2014 baseline
  - 23,660 additional acres needed 2024-2035
  - Would require 1,971 acres on average annually
- Achieving net gain will require reducing rate of loss



Healthy Forests and Trees: Forest Buffers

Water Quality GIT
Forestry Workgroup
Presenter: Katie Brownson

Working toward having 75% of riparian areas forested throughout the watershed, plant and maintain 7,500 acres of forest buffers annually. Reduce the loss of existing buffers to achieve no less than 71% of riparian areas forested by 2035.

- As of the 21/22 LULC data, the riparian area is 69.96% forested watershed-wide
- Average annual rate of loss: 5587 acres
- If we plant **7500 acres/year**, by 2035 we could achieve **71% forested** if we reduce the rate of loss by ~50%, putting us on a trajectory to achieve a net gain in riparian forest cover