



Building Capacity for Chesapeake Bay Watershed Forestry

Katie Brownson, USFS
Beth Ginter, CCLC

What is Watershed Forestry?

○ From [Eastern Region Watershed Forestry Program website](#):

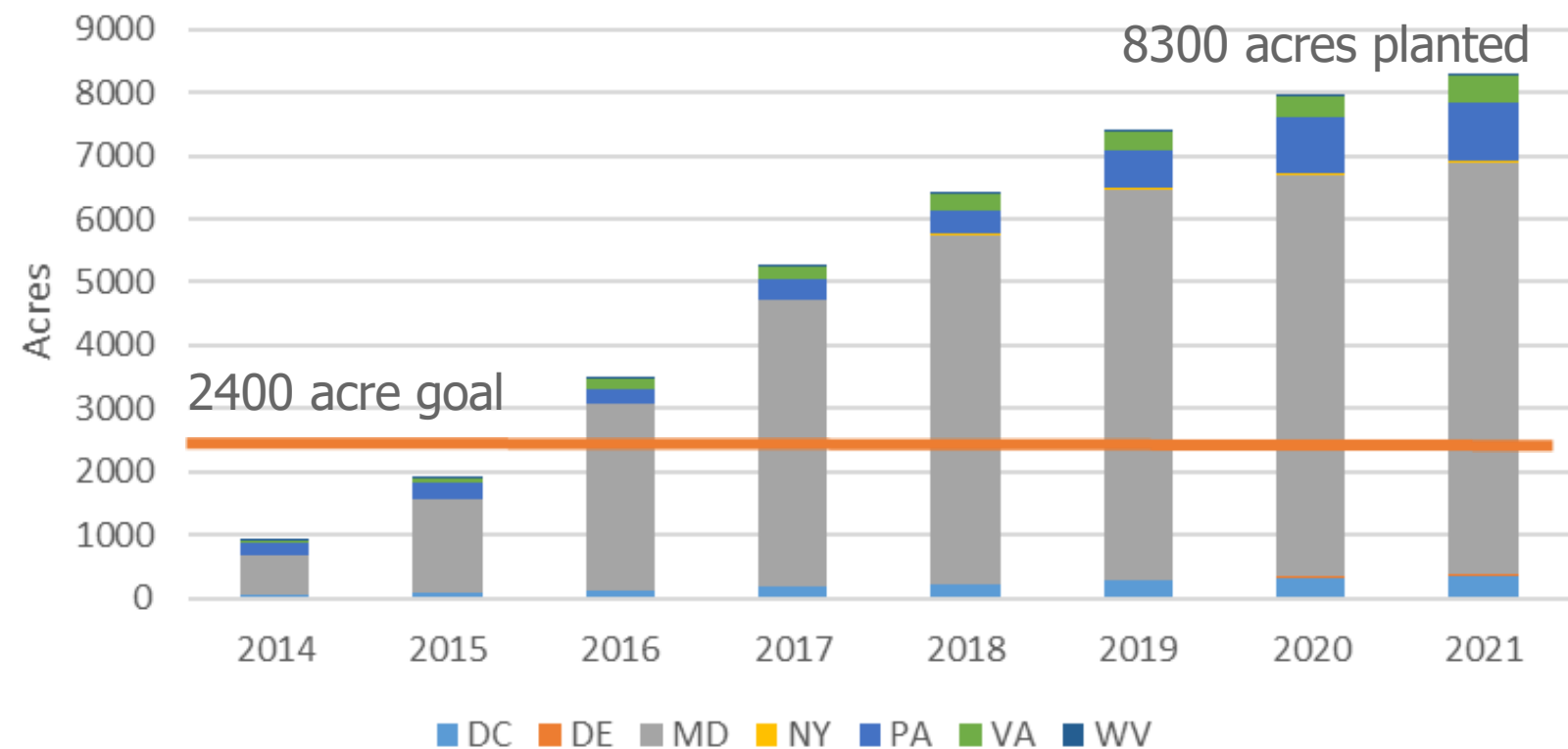
○ Watershed forestry is conserving, restoring, and sustainably managing forested lands explicitly for water resources. While the work is generally terrestrial and may serve multiple goals, watershed forestry helps improve or maintain water quality and quantity



Tree Canopy goal: Expand tree canopy by 2400 acres

1.

Urban Tree Planting BMPs Reported
(cumulative acres)



2.

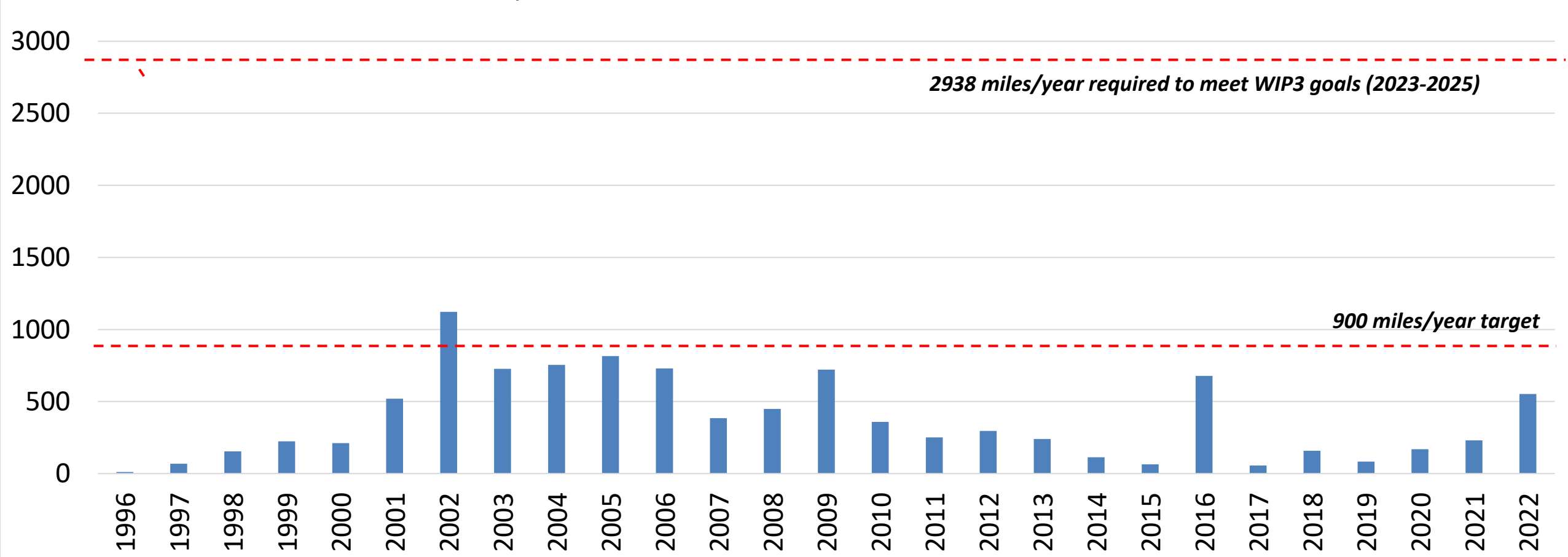
Land Use/Land Cover Change
Detected from Imagery

Tree Canopy Net Change in Census Places (2013/14-2017/18)

Jurisdiction (CB Only)	Net Change (Acres)
Delaware	-28
DC	21
Maryland	-13,804
New York	78
Pennsylvania	-2,444
Virginia	-9,548
West Virginia	-107
Total	-25,832

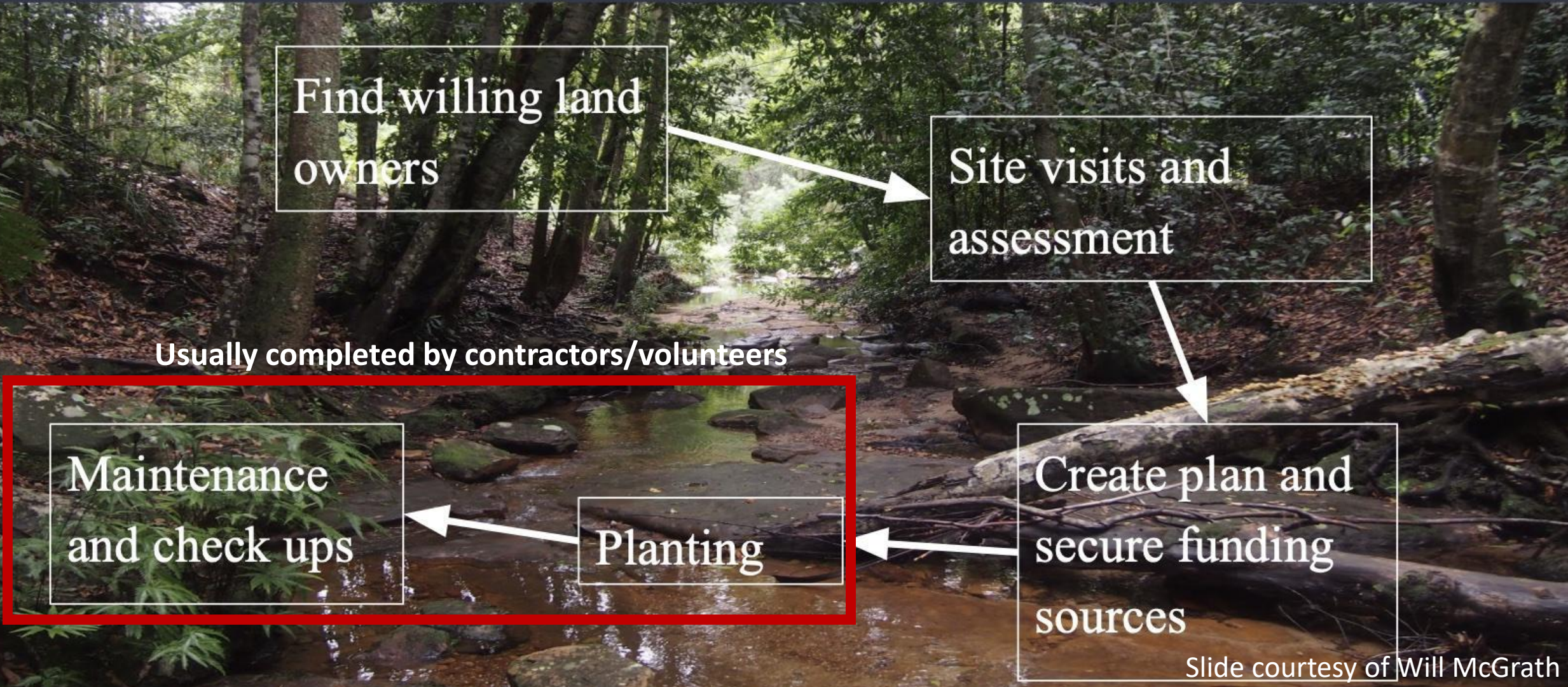
Riparian Forest Buffer goal: Restore 900 miles of forest buffers/year

Miles of Riparian Forest Buffers Planted, 1996-2022*



*2022 numbers are draft

Process of Implementation



How much additional capacity is needed?

- For Riparian Forest Buffers (based on work completed by C-StREAM intern Will McGrath)
 - Average FTE staff person can support the planting of 40 acres/yr
 - As of 2021 data update: 8,113-acre gap to reach 900 miles/year
 - 203 additional staff people needed!
- Caveats:
 - Doesn't account for additional support staff needed within organizations
 - Doesn't account for limitations in contractor availability to do planting and maintenance

Challenges for capacity building

Inadequate funding for maintenance and staff

Limited contractor availability

Broader organizational capacity is also limited

Short-term grants make it difficult to establish new permanent positions within organizations

Opportunities for capacity building

- Improving grant terms to allow for longer projects and more flexibility in funding staff time and maintenance
- Identifying sustained funding sources for effective programs
 - Example: Virginia Environmental Endowment has provided stable, long-term funding for the James River Buffer Program
- Increasing cross-sector collaboration
 - Example: The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's Agricultural program is requiring producers to have riparian forest buffers as a condition for receiving funds for other ag practices
- Improving programs to limit needed outreach
 - Multiple examples of flexible, turnkey models

The background is a solid dark blue. A large, lighter blue circle is positioned on the right side, partially overlapping the edge. Two vertical lines of a slightly different shade of blue run from the top to the bottom of the frame, one on the left and one on the right, creating a sense of depth and structure.

How do we build capacity
for watershed forestry?