Chesapeake Riparian Forest Buffer Network

ABOUT US | CONTACT US | CHESAPEAKETREES.NET

WHY FOREST BUFFERS? | RESOURCES | SUCCESS STORIES | CHESAPEAKE RFB INITIATIVE

Welcome to the Chesapeake Riparian Forest Buffer Network

Connecting you with information and the forest buffer community…

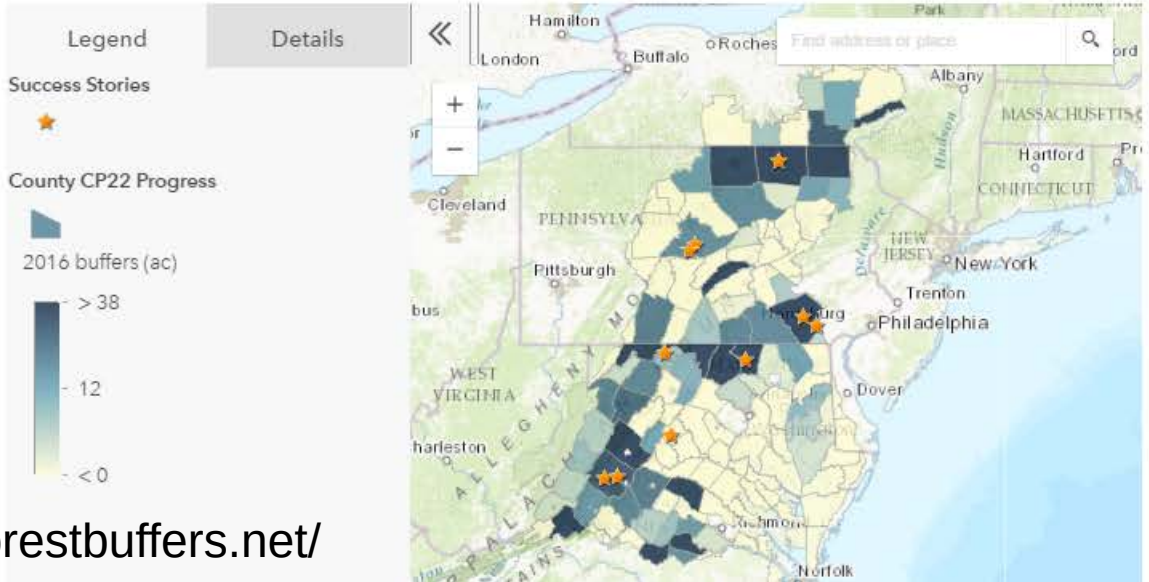
Learn about forest buffer programs, resources, and stories in the Chesapeake. Connect with the forest buffer community. Find out why forest buffers are so critical to stream health and their many other benefits. We are building this resource as we go, so please send your ideas and suggestions for making the network most helpful.

Upper Potomac Riparian Buffer and Floodplain Forest Plantings

Read More

Riparian Forest Buffer Progress in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Find out 2016's new acres of forest buffers in your county and learn about forest buffer initiative success stories from across the watershed.



http://chesapeakeforestbuffers.net/

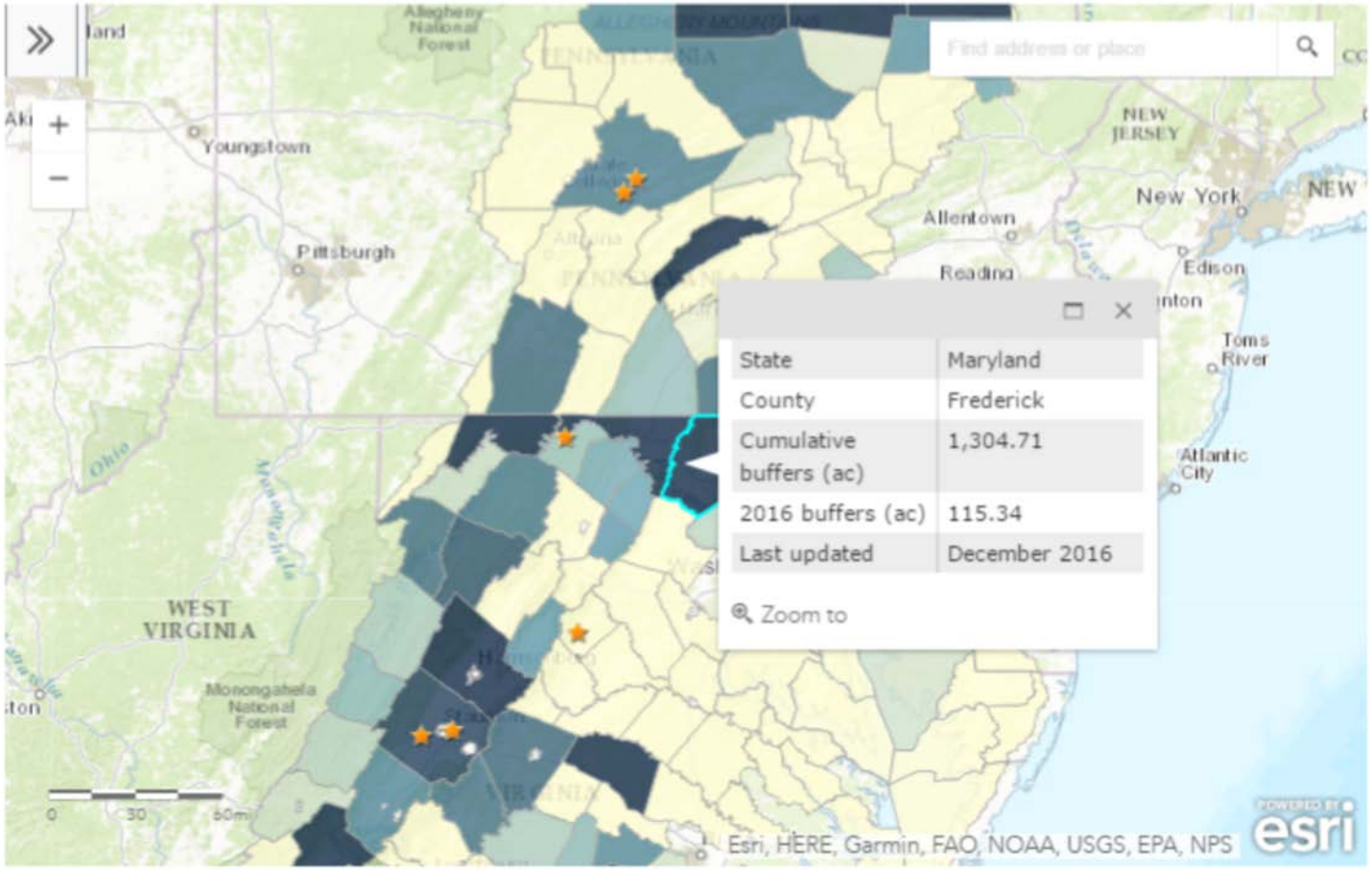
chesapeake network

Looking to be part of the riparian forest buffer conversation? Join our group on the Chesapeake Network.

- $1M in New Conservation Incentives Available for Virginia Counties in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed — 02/09/2017
- Successful Buffer Restoration: Initial Establishment Methods and Post-Planting Care — 02/01/2017
- Pennsylvania DCNR's New Riparian Forest Buffer Grant Program — 01/30/2017
- Webinar: New PA Riparian Forest Buffer Grant Program, 2/8 10 AM EST — 12/30/2016
- WYPR News Piece on the Plain Sect Community and CREP in Pennsylvania — 12/12/2016
- Webinar: Establishing Riparian Buffers in Urban Areas, TODAY 11/15, 12:00 PM EST — 11/15/2016

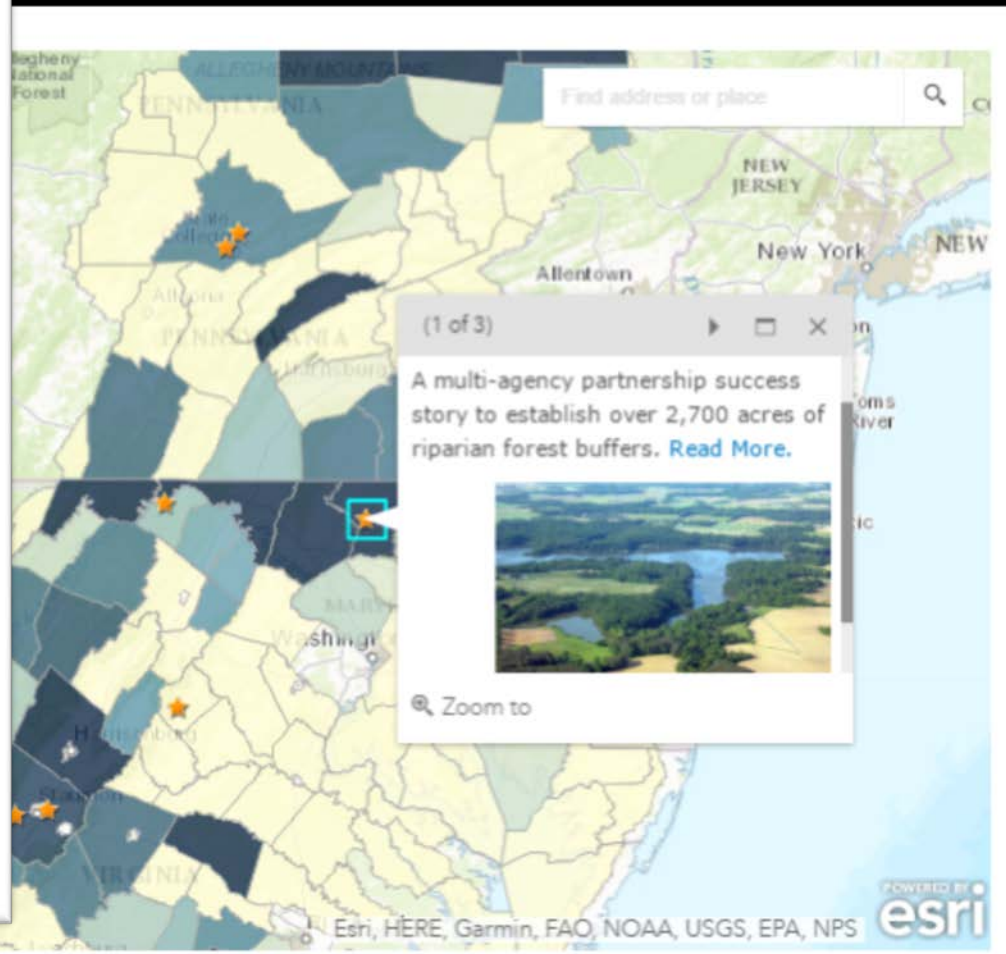
Riparian Forest Buffer Progress in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Find out 2016's new acres of forest buffers in your county and learn about forest buffer initiative success stories from across the watershed.



State	Maryland
County	Frederick
Cumulative buffers (ac)	1,304.71
2016 buffers (ac)	115.34
Last updated	December 2016

Zoom to



(1 of 3)

A multi-agency partnership success story to establish over 2,700 acres of riparian forest buffers. Read More.

Zoom to

chesapeake network

Looking to be part of the riparian forest buffer conversation? Join our group on the Chesapeake Network.

$1M in New Conservation Incentives Available for Virginia Counties in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed
02/09/2017

Successful Buffer Restoration: Initial Establishment Methods and Post-Planting Care
02/01/2017

Pennsylvania DCNR's New Riparian Forest Buffer Grant Program
01/30/2017

Webinar: New PA Riparian Forest Buffer Grant Program, 2/8 10 AM EST
12/30/2016

WYPR News Piece on the Plain Sect Community and CREP in Pennsylvania
12/12/2016

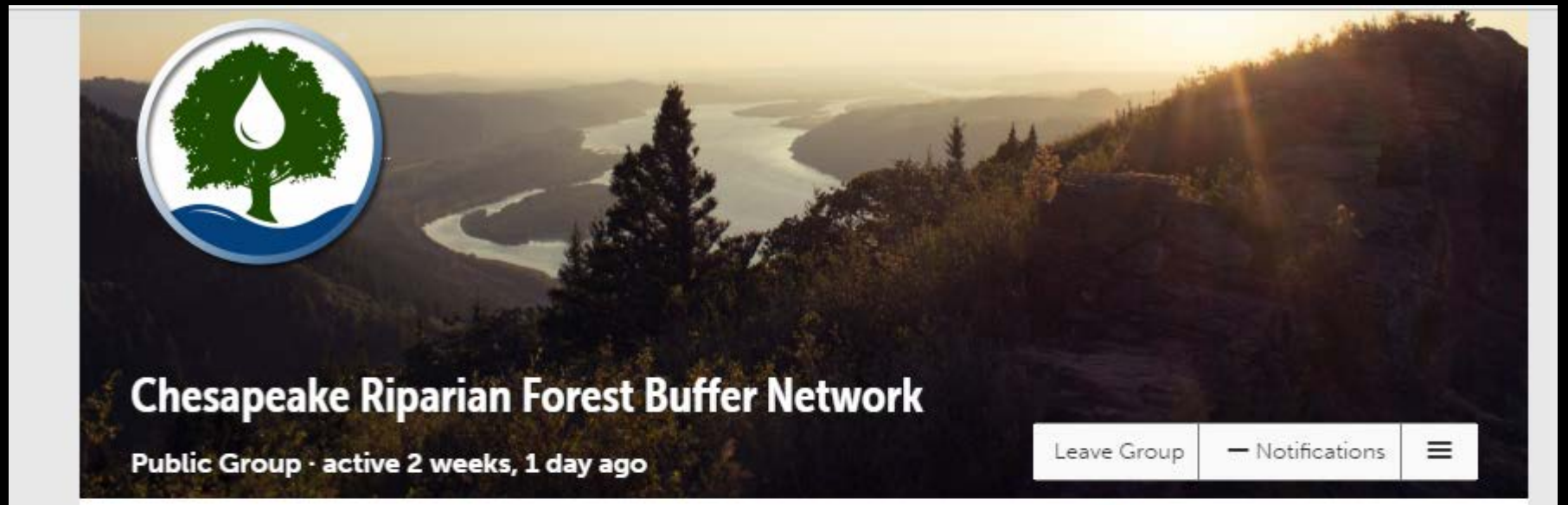
Webinar: Establishing Riparian Buffers in Urban Areas, TODAY 11/15, 12:00 PM EST
11/15/2016

A Buffer Harvest: Article in Lancaster Farming
10/24/2016

Fall Maintenance of Riparian Forest Buffers
10/21/2016

Riparian Buffer Fall Maintenance
10/21/2016

Article: Farming with forests
09/23/2016



Home | Forum | Calendar | Note Pad | Resources | Members 15

ACTIVITY

Filter activity by state.

- Posts +
- Questions +
- Events +
- Resources +
- Job Postings +

Invite members to join this group.

Jenny McGarvey added a new announcement in Chesapeake Riparian Forest Buffer Network
Posted 2 weeks, 5 days ago

$1M in New Conservation Incentives Available for Virginia Counties in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Announcement from the Farm Service Agency regarding a new conservation incentive, the Chesapeake Bay Incentive Payment (CBIP), available for Virginia Counties in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. New and re-enrolling riparian forest

Why forest buffers?

Riparian Forests Buffers: The link between land and water

STROUD WATER RESEARCH CENTER

Why is Restoring Streamside Forest Buffers so Critical to Healthy Streams and a Healthy Chesapeake Bay?

Play Now 1:16:38

What are riparian forest buffers?

Riparian forest buffers are the trees, shrubs, and other vegetation that grows alongside streams, rivers, and other waterbodies. Riparian forest buffers are crucial for the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

What are the benefits of riparian forest buffers?

Cleaner Streams with Better Water Quality: Forest buffers protect streams and local drinking water supplies by helping to intercept and process excess nutrients, sediments, and pathogens from entering them. Scientific studies show that 100 feet of streamside forest will adequately protect the physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of most streams[1]. However, narrower buffers are also beneficial for improving water quality.

Healthier Stream Ecosystems Better Able to Process Pollution: Forest buffers restore the natural in-stream conditions of temperature, oxygen, and food (algae, leaf litter) and stabilize and widen stream channels. The widening of channels creates more habitat and a better-functioning, healthier ecosystem per unit length of streambed. Studies have shown that

Resources

What is a Riparian Forest Buffer?

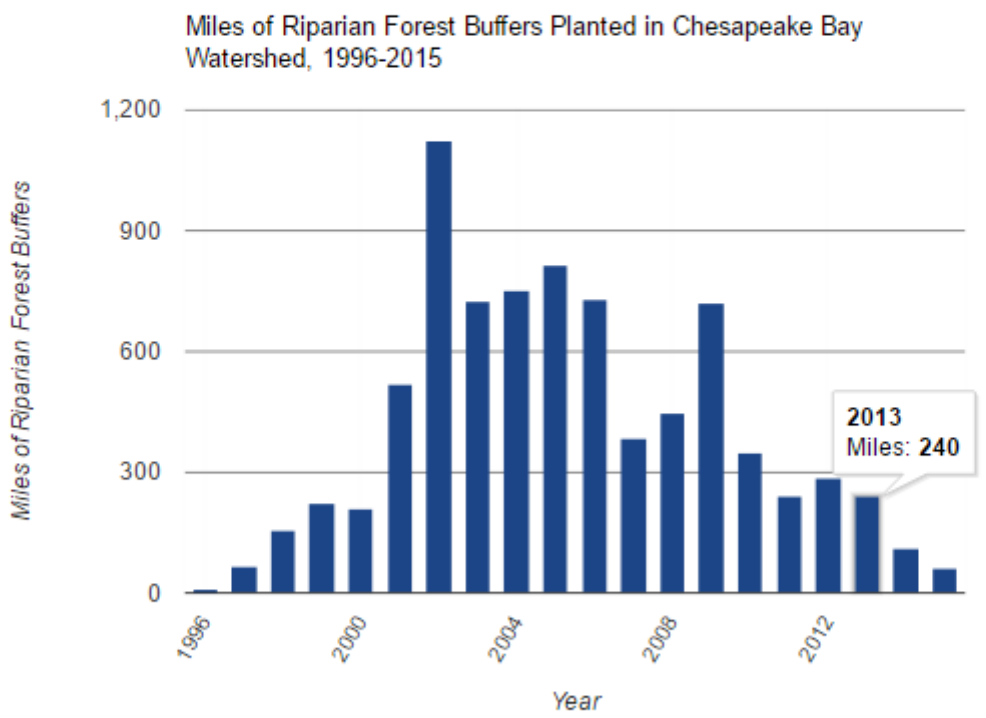
Functions/Values of Riparian Forest Buffers

Buffering the Bay: A Report on the Progress and Challenges

State of Chesapeake Forests: The Key to Watershed Function

Current Status of Riparian Forest Buffer Restoration in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Riparian forest buffers have been an integral part of restoring the Chesapeake Bay since 1994. The Chesapeake Bay Program and its partners have promoted this practice through education, outreach and technical assistance. This effort resulted in over 4,000 miles of riparian forest buffers restored from 2002 – 2007, but since then the rate of restoration has declined despite forest buffers being one of the most cost-effective practices for improving water quality.



Source: Chesapeake Bay Program. Retrieved from http://www.chesapeakebay.net/indicators/indicator/planting_forest_buffers.

Working With Partners

Why work with partners?

A successful and sustainable buffer program requires consistent funding and financing sources, readily available technical assistance, and a strong communications and outreach strategy. Few organizations have the capacity to meet all of these expectations. That is why the most successful buffer programs pool resources and support from various partners, including federal, state, and local agencies, non-profit organizations, volunteers, and the general public. The following is a primer on the groups engaged on riparian forest buffers in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and their roles.

Who are the partners?

The Division of Forestry is responsible for restoring, managing, and protecting their state's forests to sustain its natural resources. This role includes supporting private forest landowners through technical assistance to manage sustainable forests. Service foresters can be found at the local level, often servicing a county or city. The service forester can assist landowners in developing a forest stewardship plan, a planting plan, and follow-up on implemented practices. State forestry departments often work with federal partners like USFS, NRCS and FSA to deliver best management practices on rural lands, including riparian forest buffers.

Links
West Virginia Division of Forestry

The Department of Agriculture promotes agriculture works with farmers and soil conservation districts to plan and implement conservation practices. Agriculture is a major economic driver in the Chesapeake region. At the same time, the watershed is looking to the agriculture sector to provide three-quarters of the total nutrient reductions expected of Bay states by 2025.

Links
West Virginia Department of Agriculture

The Department of Environment Protection enforces environmental policies and regulations. In 2010, the Chesapeake Total Maximum Daily Load, or TMDL, started being enforced. A TMDL is a regulatory term in the U.S. Clean Water Act, describing

Links
West Virginia Department of

Federal Agencies
State Agencies
District of Columbia
State of Delaware
State of Maryland
State of New York
State of Pennsylvania
State of Virginia

Technical Assistance

Conservation technical assistance is the help professionals provide to land users to address opportunities, concerns, and problems related to natural resources. NRCS is the principal agency for providing technical assistance to landowners and organizations. For RFB specifically, most Bay states also have state forestry staff or Technical Service Provider partners who can provide additional help.

Technical assistance can help increase enrollment of riparian forest buffers by:

- Educating the landowner about the many benefits provided by the RFB—especially improvements to water quality and habitat for fish and wildlife;
- Asking landowners directly who do not currently have a buffer, if they would be willing to get one;
- Helping the landowner to enroll their land in riparian forest buffers, preferably through one of the CREP programs (e.g., CP22, CP29) that pays annual rental payments;
- Finding partnership assistance for the landowners who might need help with maintenance.

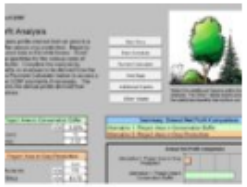
Insufficient Technical Assistance was identified as one reason for the slow restoration of RFB. But as seen on the Homepage map, some counties are very good at delivering RFB. In fact, 75% of the riparian forest buffers in the watershed occur in just 25% of the counties. We can learn from those counties to improve delivery of RFB.

Resources

Conservation Buffers: Design Guidelines for Buffers, Corridors, and Greenways

NRCS Technical Assistance

Penn State Extension Forest Landowner Guide to Tree Planting Success



National Agro Forestry Buffer$ Tool

Funding a Forest Buffer Program

Riparian forest buffers are among the best practices for improving stream health and water quality per dollar invested. However, from an agricultural producer perspective, forest buffers can be cost-prohibitive. Direct costs of forests buffers include site preparation, trees, planting tools such as stakes and tree tubes, and long-term maintenance. For ranchers, the expenses increase with the additional costs of exclusionary fencing, water crossings, and alternative water sources. Agricultural producers may also assume a loss in income from taking land out of agricultural production. Fortunately, there are voluntary conservation programs available to agricultural producers to partially or completely offset these costs. In addition, grants are available to practitioners to support innovative programs that offset the remaining costs of forest buffers to the landowner or incentivize adoption of riparian forest buffers.

What funding resources are available?

Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost Share (MACS) Program provides up to 37.5% cost share of the eligible costs of planting a riparian forest buffer. This program is to be combined with enrollment in CREP. This program is managed by the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

Links

MACS website

Federal Financial Assistance Programs

Maryland Programs

Pennsylvania Programs

Virginia Programs

Private Programs

Outreach to Target Audience

Approaching landowners about adopting riparian forest buffers requires a thoughtful strategy that considers the needs and interests of the individual. Here are existing tools and resources to get you started in your campaign to conduct strategic, coordinated, and cost-effective riparian forest buffer outreach anywhere in the watershed.

Resources for a General Audience

Fact Sheets and Publications

- An Introduction to the Riparian Forest Buffer
- Chesapeake Bay Streamside Forest Buffers – Landowner Testimonials
- Landowner Guide to Buffer Success
- Landowner's Guide to Managing Streams in the Eastern United States
- Riparian Buffers: Pennsylvania's Best Solution for Protecting Its Waters
- Working Trees for Communities
- Understanding the Science Behind Riparian Forest Buffers: An Overview
- Understanding the Science Behind Riparian Forest Buffers: Benefits to Communities and Landowners
- Understanding the Science Behind Riparian Forest Buffers: Effects on Water Quality

General Audience
Aging Landowners
Livestock Producers
Wildlife Enthusiasts
Pollinators
Fish
Birds
Absentee landowners
Multi-Functional Buffers

Sustaining A Healthy Forest Buffer

Prior to planting, site planning and preparation is necessary. After planting, good maintenance means greater tree survival. Grazing by deer and livestock can be a common problem for newly-planted trees as is competition by undesirable plants. A combination of mowing, herbicide and tree tubes are often essential to establish hardwood plantings in the mid-Atlantic region. Three to five years of follow-up care may be necessary.

Resources

Stroud Water Research Center Webinar on Buffer Maintenance

Buffer Design and Maintenance Handbook

Buffer Planning and Restoration

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Landowner Guide to

Success Stories/Innovations

Riparian forest restoration started in earnest in the Chesapeake watershed about 1996. On this page, we have begun to weave together the stories of how partners have restored over 8,000 miles of riparian forest since that time. Here you can find out who, how, why, and what resulted? The projects are also mapped on the homepage with stars. We will continue to gather stories, so be sure to check back to see what's new.

Search Success Stories Search

Centre County Agricultural Conservation Program

The Upper Penns Creek Watershed is 240 square miles in size and includes approximately 30 linear miles of the Penns Creek stream channel and numerous tributaries including Sinking Creek, Elk Creek, and Pine Creek.

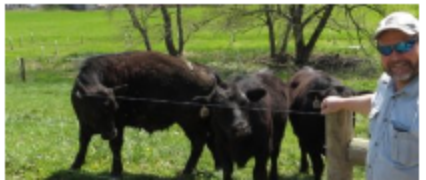
Read More

Restoring Riparian Forests for Water Quality and Brook Trout

The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF), and Trout Unlimited (TU) collaborated to implement conservation practices that would improve water quality and brook trout habitat within the Chesapeake Bay watershed in Pennsylvania.

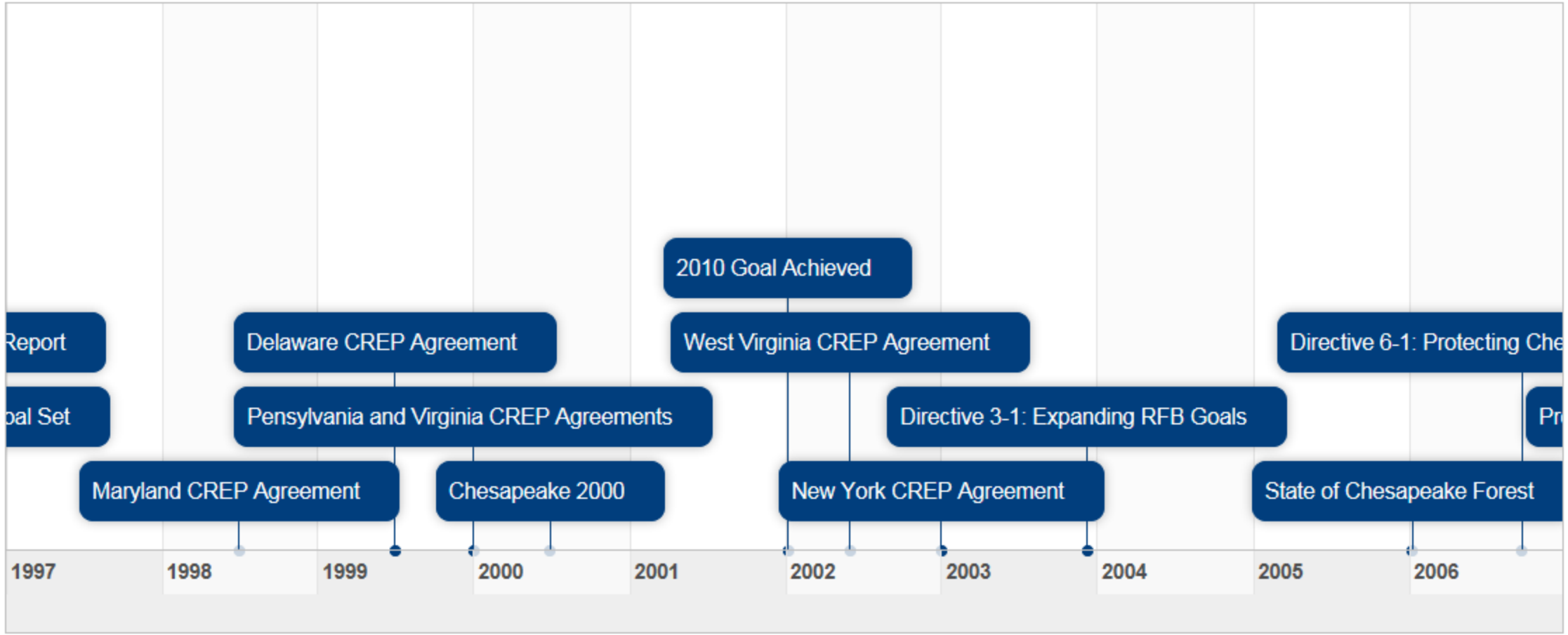
Read More

Upper Potomac Riparian Buffer and Floodplain Forest Plantings



Lancaster County Comprehensive Agricultural Stewardship

*Click and drag to navigate the timeline. Use your mouse wheel to zoom in and out.



Back in Time

Forward in Time

Outcomes

Click here to learn more about the Initiative and read the final State Task Force Reports.

Information from the State Task Force Reports were rolled into the Chesapeake Riparian Forest Buffer Management Strategy and Workplan. This was one of 31 Management Strategies guiding the work of the Chesapeake Bay Program and can be found here.

Welcome to the Chesapeake Riparian Forest Buffer Network

Connecting you with information and the Chesapeake forest buffer community…

Learn about forest buffer programs, resources, and stories in the Chesapeake. Find out why forest buffers are so critical. We are always updating this network, so please send your ideas to improve it.

Upper Potomac Riparian Buffer and Floodplain Forest Plantings

Read More

Riparian Forest Buffer Progress in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Find out 2016's new acres of forest buffers in your county and learn about forest buffer initiative success stories from across the watershed.

chesapeake network

Looking to be part of the riparian forest buffer conversation? Join our group on the Chesapeake Network.

NFWF 2017 RFP– Great for Buffer Projects in the Bay!
03/01/2017

$1M in New Conservation Incentives