

## Local Action Quarterly Progress Meeting Summary February 11, 2021



# Tree Canopy

<https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/abundant-life/tree-canopy>

**Outcome:** Expand urban tree canopy by 2,400 acres by 2025.

**Tree Canopy Indicator Consists of 2 Components:**

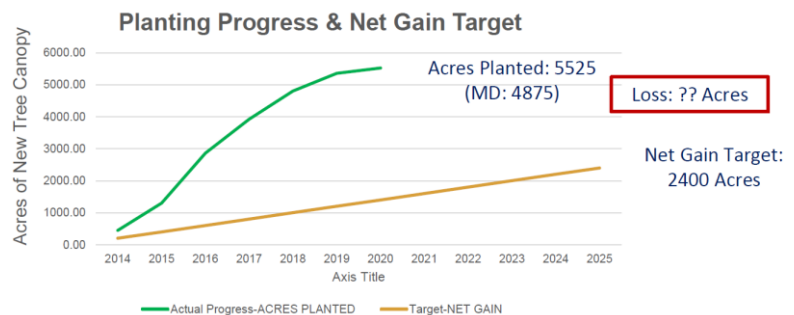
- States Report Urban Tree Planting BMPs
- Long Term Progress Analyzed Through CBP Land Cover Updates (2021)

**Progress:**

- 5,525 Acres Planted
- Unknown Number of Acres Lost
- Loss must be determined to accurately assess progress

**Success**

- 2020 Chesapeake Tree Canopy Summit
- Implementation of State Programs to Incentivize Tree Canopy Progress
  - DC: Urban heat mapping and modeling. Modeling indicated that tree cover was most effective urban heat mitigation strategy.
  - New Tree Stewards Programs in DE and MD.
  - PA launched lawns to forests initiative.
  - VA Department of Forestry staff created new tracking tool for tree planting.
  - NY and WV Tree Cover state/nonprofit initiatives received Arbor Day Foundation Headwaters Awards.
- Cross Outcome Benefits
  - Worked with Local Leadership to promote Tree Canopy Materials through their efforts and a new Local Officials Curriculum.
  - Tree Canopy intern developed a resource guide on Trees and Schools for Chesapeake Communities Environmental Literacy Outcomes.



**Challenges and Lessons Learned**

- Delays on projects due to COVID-19
- Tree loss drivers: development, storms, pests
- Weak or nonexistent local ordinances and staffing
- Inadequate funding
- Benefits of Tree Cover Taken for Granted
- Impacts of historic redlining on tree cover
  - Emphasized need for focusing efforts on achieving equity.

**On the Horizon**

- New Land Cover Data and Analysis (2021)
- CBP DEIJ Strategy and Tree Equity Focus

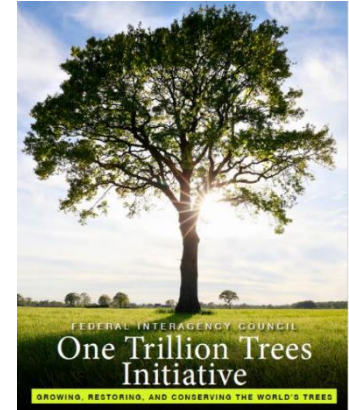
- Continued COVID-19 Impacts
- Climate Initiatives Focused on Trees
  - One Trillion Trees Initiative

#### **We plan to:**

- Develop and Share Data, Tools and Best Practices for Tree Equity
- Assess and Communicate Tree Canopy Status and Change to Stakeholders
- Adapt to COVID Impacts and Continue Virtual Opportunities and plan for 2022 Summit
- Continue Partnership Work Around Priority Issues and Needs

#### **Help Needed:**

- Prioritize CBP DEIJ Implementation Plan Efforts to Grow Investments in Communities with Tree Equity Focus
- Continue and Grow the Support for Critical State Urban and Community Forestry Programs, Through Leveraging Available Programs and Policies.
- **Request:** In Each State, MB member(s) work with State Tree Canopy Lead to Document Existing Programs/Policies That Could Help Maintain and Expand Tree Canopy (e.g. water quality, climate, health, community development, workforce).
- Participate in the Funding and Policy Roundtable and Next Summit



## **Land Use Methods and Metrics Development**

<https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/conserved-lands/land-use-methods-and-metrics>

**Goal:** Conserve landscapes treasured by citizens in order to maintain water quality and habitat; sustain working forests, farms and maritime communities; and conserve lands of cultural, indigenous and community value.

**Outcome:** Assess and understand the impacts of land use change on watersheds, habitats, and communities at a scale relevant to county-level decision-makers.

#### **Committed to:**

- Measure rate of farmland, forest and wetland conversion, and the extent and rate of change in impervious surface coverage.
- Quantify the potential impacts of land conversion to water quality, healthy watersheds and communities.
- Launch a public awareness campaign to share this information with citizens, local governments, elected officials and stakeholders.

#### **Progress:**

- Finalize comparable land cover and land use products for 2013-2017
- Develop land change metrics and communication tools and materials

#### **Success and Challenges**

- Challenges: Automating the classification of land cover and land use
  - Automating the classification of land cover and land use
  - Separating signal from noise when mapping change in land conditions
  - Outdated inventory of non-tidal wetlands
  - Communicating the complexities of high-resolution land change.
- Successes:

- CBP Partnership support for monitoring both land cover and land use change at high resolution
  - Refinement of land cover mapping techniques (USGS, Chesapeake Conservancy)
  - Emerging understanding of land cover/use change and potential impacts to water quality and healthy watersheds.
- Help Needed:
  - Support re-soliciting a Cooperative Agreement to Monitor land use/cover change every 4-5 years through 2030 (e.g., adding 2025/26 and 2029/30 dates).
  - Support integrating this outcome with the Land Use Options Evaluation and Local Leadership Outcomes, and with the Local Engagement Strategy to help ensure that data are used to inform land use planning and land conservation decisions.



## Land Use Options Evaluation

<https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/conserved-lands/land-use-options-evaluation>

**Goal:** *Land Conservation*

**Outcome:** By the end of 2017, with the direct involvement of local governments or their representatives, evaluate policy options, incentives and planning tools that could assist them in continually improving their capacity to reduce the rate of conversion of agricultural lands, forests and wetlands as well as the rate of changing landscapes from more natural lands that soak up pollutants to those that are paved over, hardscaped or otherwise impervious.

**Context:**

- This Outcome was included in the agreement to provide tools and support to local governments to ensure their capacity to plan and mitigate land change impact.
- WIP process revealed that CBP land use data was not at a fine enough scale to be useful to local governments.
- This Outcome responds to public comments related to the need to address the extent and impact of land use change.

**Progress:**

- **Timeline:**
  - **2014:**
    - Identified need for
      - local land use data
      - Increased capacity to reduce conversion
  - **2018:**
    - High Resolution Landcover
    - Developed Resources
  - **2020:**
    - Identified need for
      - Increased coordination
      - Better understanding of local needs/priorities
  - **2025:**
    - Tie pieces together
    - Did we meet our objectives?
- **Potential Metrics to Measure Progress**
  - Land Use Metrics: rate of farm, forest, and wetland conversion through time.

- Assess rate of conversion against key policies to determine if they are having the intended effect.
- Number of projects, presentations tools – total people reached
- Survey of key audience needs. / Does what we have developed meet their needs?
- Web Analytics: Total downloads, site visits, use of resources, tools and information provided on websites.
- Provide a mechanism for feedback directly on the web support tools

### **Successes and Challenges**

- **What have we learned?**
  - We are dependent on the participation of related outcomes and workgroups, as well as their work/products.
- **Local priorities**
  - Provide policies, incentives, plans and tools to empower locals to reduce natural land conversion.
- **Factors Influencing**
  - There is a need to update and reconcile Management Strategy and Logic and Action Table
- **Scientific, Fiscal and Policy-related developments:**
  - Scientific
    - High resolution land cover and related metrics (1m, 10m)
    - LCMAP – Analysis and distillation by Sarah MacDonald, USGS CBP
    - No Communication/outreach plan
  - Policy
    - Better incorporate DEIJ and Climate considerations and metrics
  - Communication, Translation and Engagement
    - Translate, format, package and flow information through trusted sources
    - How to effectively engage locals directly

### **We Plan To:**

- Engagement Coordination and Accounting
  - Determine how to “directly involve local governments”
  - Reinvigorate LUOE and LUMM engagement across the CBP
  - Directly engage CBP teams including: HWGIT, LUWG, CCP, FWG, AGWG, Comm, Diversity, Climate, STAC, STAR, LLWG, LGAC as well as NGOS and locals.

### **How you can help:**

- Organization and leadership from the CBP community.
- Update all management documents
- Gap in knowledge related to the connection to the land use planning process and how it works at the local level.

### **Help needed:**

- Formation of a land use outcomes action team/workgroup
- Resources related to translation of CBP resources pursuant to the Local Engagement Strategy.
- Renewed signatory engagement across living resources and land use related outcomes.



# Local Leadership

<https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/engaged-communities/local-leadership>

**Outcome:** Continually increase the knowledge and capacity of local officials on issues related to water resources and in the implementation of economic and policy incentives that will support local conservation actions.

## Progress:

- A baseline level of knowledge and capacity has not yet been established
- Some qualitative information on outputs - 32 active workgroup members from 30+ associations - 12 workshop/panel sessions have reached 500+ local officials - Virtual resources have reached 5,000+ local officials

## Success and challenges:

- What worked:
  - Building Credibility - committed members
  - Building Relationships - peer to peer, trusted sources
  - Building Inventory – Association Conferences
- What didn't work: poorly coordinated one-off efforts
- Obstacles: A baseline survey and COVID-19 global pandemic
- Gaps Filled: Understanding of current training opportunities, newly created education materials

## On the horizon:

- Fiscal: Impacts of the COVID-19 global pandemic on local governments
- Policy: Shift to prioritizing essential services and urgent matters
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (DEIJ): advancing these principles is a priority for the CBP and many local governments
- Virtual Work: widespread adoption of virtual work has changed local government operations
- Climate Change: local governments are acknowledging and addressing the impacts of climate change, especially flooding

## We plan to:

- Serve as a Broker between trusted sources, our workgroup counterparts, and local leaders
- Continue knowledge transfer for newly elected officials
- Build relationships and capacity with senior staff and planners at the local government level
- Adaptively manage our approach from results of baseline survey
- Focus on virtual learning as a significant part of our approach

## Help needed:



- Accept an invitation from LLWG to attend a meeting with YOUR jurisdictional/regional trusted sources
- At this meeting, identify key strategies/actions for implementation in 2021 – 2023. Examples:
  - Identify conferences/possible engagements where having a state presence is beneficial.
  - Send letters to trusted sources recommending LLWG for future conferences.

