2021-2022 Logic and Action Plan

Tree Canopy

WQGIT Meeting 4/26/21

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TREES in COMMUNITIES

CREATE VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

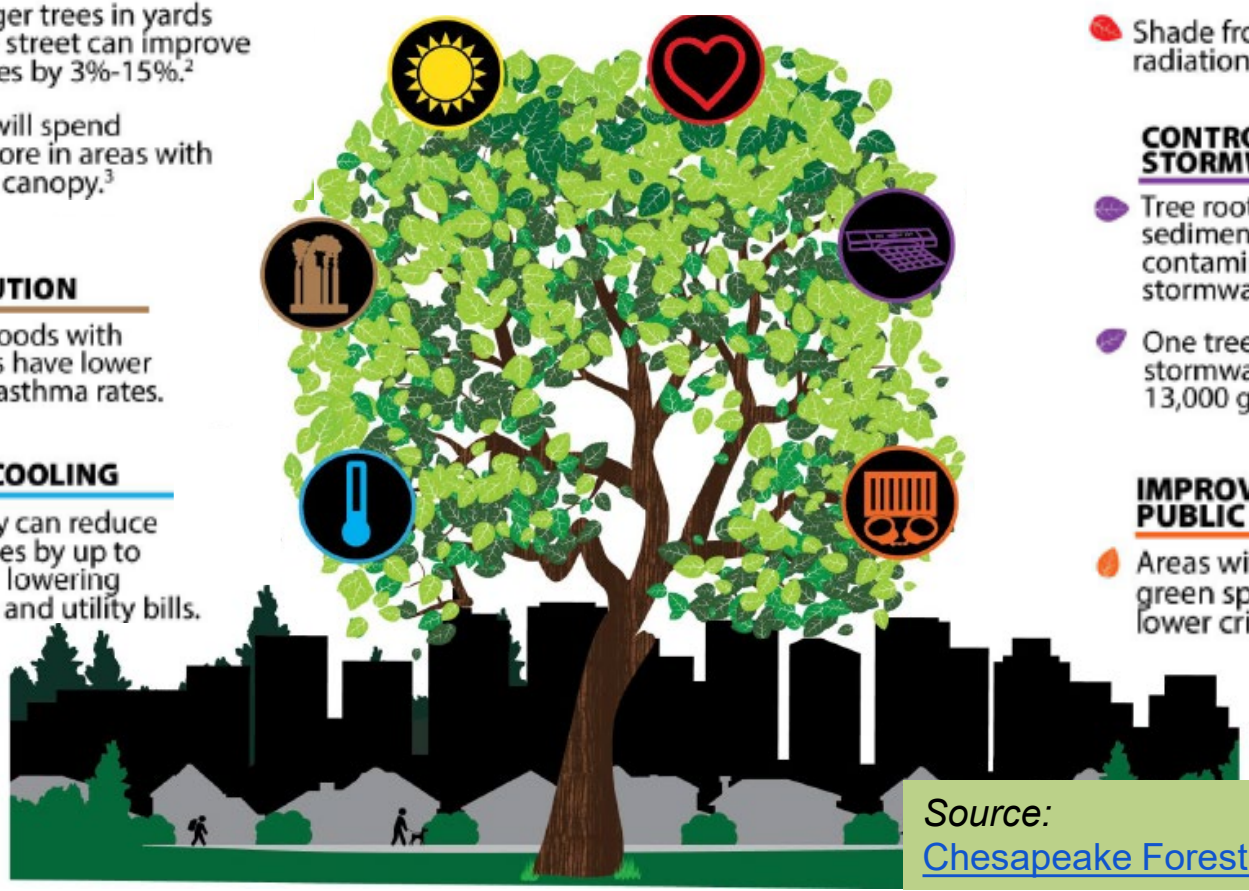
- Incorporating trees into common spaces in public housing increases social activities.[1]
- Having larger trees in yards and on the street can improve home values by 3%-15%.[2]
- Shoppers will spend 9%-12% more in areas with better tree canopy.[3]

REDUCE AIR POLLUTION

- Neighborhoods with lots of trees have lower childhood asthma rates.

PROVIDE SHADE & COOLING

- Tree canopy can reduce temperatures by up to 20 degrees, lowering health risks and utility bills.



IMPROVE HUMAN HEALTH

- Trees help reduce stress, lower blood pressure, and boost the immune system.
- Shade from trees reduces radiation that causes skin cancer.

CONTROL STORMWATER

- Tree roots can trap sediment and filter contaminants from stormwater.
- One tree can reduce stormwater runoff by 13,000 gallons per year.[4]

IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY

- Areas with increased green space have lower crime rates.[3]

Source:
Chesapeake Forest Restoration Strategy

Through the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*, the Chesapeake Bay Program has committed to…*

Goal: *Vital Habitats*

Outcome: *Tree Canopy*

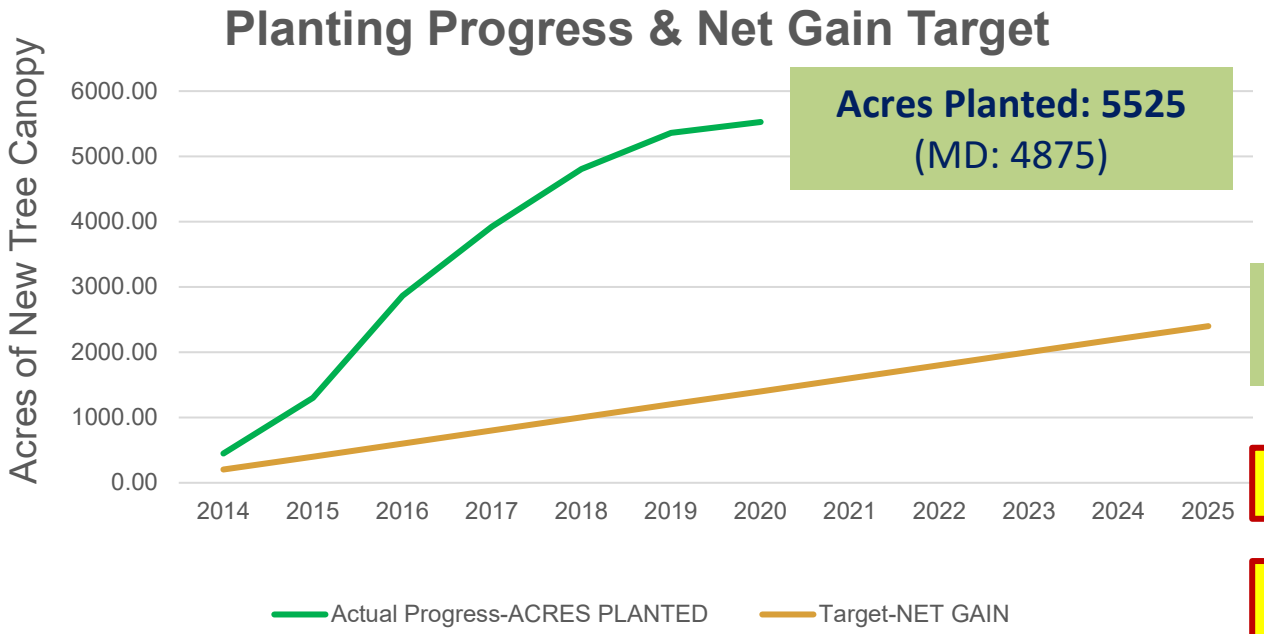
Continually increase urban tree canopy capacity to provide air quality, water quality and habitat benefits throughout the watershed. Expand urban tree canopy by **2,400 acres by 2025.**

Achieving a Canopy Goal: It's not just about planting . . .

Tree Canopy Indicator has 2 components:

1) States report three urban tree planting BMPs annually for TMDL
2) Long term progress analyzed through CBP Land Cover updates (2021)

What is our Expected and Actual Progress?



Acres Planted: 5525
(MD: 4875)

Net Gain Target:
2400 Acres

Loss: ?? Acres

Ph3 WIP Target:
72,230 acres

Challenges & Lessons Learned

Learn more: Heat, Health & Trees Session, Chesapeake Watershed Forum; https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/08/24/climate/racism-redlining-cities-global-warming.html

Key Priorities – 2021-2022 Workplan

1. Funding & Policy Roundtable & Biennial Tree Canopy Summit (2022)

2. Assess and Communicate Tree Canopy Status & Change to Stakeholders

- Use new land cover data/change analysis to develop Bay-wide Summary Report and Local Fact Sheets

3. Continue partnership work around priority issues

- Tree Equity & DEIJ tools, resources, community support
- Climate Resilience, Stormwater
- Local Leadership, Schools

Draft guide posted https://chesapeaketrees.net/category/schools/

Response to WQGIT Comments

Edits to incorporate MDE comments (in red)

- ✓ Outreach needed on public & private land
- ✓ Include more USWG coordination
- ✓ Highlight workforce/green jobs opportunities

Next Steps

Local Action Cohort SRS

- April 30-Near Final LAP Due (approved by FWG & WQGIT)
- May 3-28 - Public & Signatory Feedback
- June 10 – Present Final LAP to Management Board

Questions?