OUTCOME: 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.

PROGRESS AS OF 2021: The Tree Canopy Outcome is off course. While the first official update for the tree canopy indicator is pending due to best management practice progress data and land use change data to be finalized, draft data indicates that tree canopy losses across the watershed are significantly outpacing gains. From 2014-2020, the six watershed states and the District of Columbia reported around 5,500 acres of trees planted on developed lands (approximately 1.6 million trees). Despite this progress, the initial version of the Chesapeake Bay High Resolution Land Cover Project (released in 2016 and reflecting the time period of 2013-2014) and draft data from the updated dataset (to be released in 2022, reflecting the time period 2017-2018) show a net loss of over 31,000 acres of tree canopy on developed/developing lands. As this is the first time that the Forestry Workgroup has had access to comprehensive data on tree canopy gains and losses, a Tree Canopy Funding and Policy Roundtable with state and local leaders is planned for 2022 to develop solutions focused on climate resilience and equity to stem future losses and accelerate gains.

BACKGROUND: Expanding tree cover benefits people and the environment. It can enhance air quality, water quality, lead to energy savings, improve public health and allow for community investment. The Chesapeake Bay Program first recognized and set goals related to urban tree canopy in the 2003 Chesapeake Executive Directive on Expanded Riparian Forest Buffer Goals. In the 2007 Forest Conservation Directive, the watershed jurisdictions agreed to have 120 communities increase their tree canopy by 2020. The Tree Canopy Outcome in the current *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement* will track acres of expansion that better reflect changes on the ground that are most beneficial to the Chesapeake Bay watershed. In the outcome, urban tree canopy is broadly defined as tree plantings in communities of any size—including urban, suburban and rural—that are not on agricultural lands. Each jurisdiction will set their own annual and long-term planning targets that contribute to the 2,400 acre goal. The goal is intended to reflect a net gain in tree canopy acreage, after accounting for losses due to development, storms, pests/diseases and natural mortality. Achieving the target requires protecting our existing tree canopy as much as possible and planting enough new trees to mitigate losses and expand by 2,400 acres.

BASELINE: The jurisdictions agreed that 2,400 additional acres by 2025 represented a reasonable goal.

DATA SOURCE: Tree canopy data comes from the Chesapeake Bay High Resolution Land Cover Project, whose datasets are updated every four years. Additionally, the outcome is informed by urban tree planting data reported by each jurisdiction.

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