

Landscape Scale Restoration Project Report



Project Name: Urban/suburban jurisdictions in Maryland in Baltimore or Washington 8-hour ozone non-attainment areas

Funding Year: 2010

Stakeholders

Forest Service Region: USDA Forest Service - R9

Sponsoring Organization: Maryland Forest Service

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Participating Organizations:

Grantee: Chesapeake Bay Trust

Project Funding

Agreement(s): 10-DG-11420004-135

Funding Sources

Project Design

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Project Purpose

This project will support at least two communities with developing an urban tree canopy goal and implementation plan, focusing on areas critical for improving air quality. The Maryland Forest Service and the Chesapeake Bay Trust have already assisted a number of towns with the costs of assessing their urban forest cover, the basic data to allow intelligent planning. This project will be delivered through the Chesapeake Bay Trust's established Urban Greening Initiative. This funding will be used to develop plans and goals that bridge the gap between urban tree canopy (UTC) assessments and getting trees in the ground in suitable locations, and can include early implementation projects. These plans will help guide future tree planting efforts, whether from local investments, grants like the Urban Greening Initiative or other sources, allowing development of a larger network of urban green infrastructure. The plans will coordinate UTC efforts with local zoning, planning and comprehensive plans and identify effective approaches and priority areas. The UTC goal and implementation plan will be determined and adopted by local officials. MD Forest Service will work with communities to integrate the Marylanders Plant Trees Initiative into plans, allowing the new Governor's Initiative to leverage local tree planting.

National Themes & Outcomes

Enhance Public Benefits from Private Forests

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Strategic Issues

The needs that the requested funding would serve are threefold. The first need is stated in the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Strategic Plan Update for FY2008-2012: Objective 2.D, which summarizes the need to "maintain and enhance the benefits that communities within metropolitan areas derive from their forest and trees." This project will serve to engage towns in actively developing a plan to maintain their existing tree canopy and to plant in designated areas to create new canopy coverage. Furthermore, there are several communities that already have or are in the process of getting urban tree canopy analysis in this project area, but only two have already set goals. The Urban Greening Grant Program is designed to encourage additional goal-setting and deliberative planning to optimize tree planting for community benefits. This particular project will be used as a pilot in order to determine the costs, methodology, and pitfalls inherent in developing a UTC goal and the accompanying urban tree canopy management plan. While urban trees offer an important role in water and air quality benefits as well as quality of life, most communities have difficulty obtaining funds to develop management plans to improve tree and forest cover. Most communities also need some additional expertise and personnel to complete a well-thought UTC goal and thorough implementation plan. This project would address both of these related, unmet needs.

Collaboration & Partners

MD Forest Service, Chesapeake Bay Trust

Accomplishments

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Deliverables

This project will be delivered through the Chesapeake Bay Trust's established competitive Urban

Greening Grant Program. The funding requested from the U.S. Forest Service will be used to develop

plans and goals that bridge the gap between urban tree canopy TC assessments and existing trees in the ground in suitable locations. and can include early implementation projects. These plans will help guide

future tree planting efforts, whether from local investments, grants like the Urban Greening Initiative, or

other sources, allowing development of a larger network of urban green infrastructure.

As a whole, the Chesapeake Bay Trust's Urban Greening program will support the following activities:

1. Urban tree canopy assessment work (Chesapeake Bay Trust funding only):

- assessments of the current state of the tree canopy and/or number of trees in the community;
- mapping of the existing trees and tree canopy, establishment of a baseline from which to measure progress

- the creation of targeted geographic priorities for conducting tree canopy restoration projects within its geographic area of responsibility or focus .

2. Urban tree canopy goal setting and goal adoption (USFS and Chesapeake Bay Trust funding):

- engagement of locally elected officials on the importance of goal setting and goal adoption
- engagement of local residents on tree canopy .

3. The creation of tree canopy implementation plans (USFS and Chesapeake Bay Trust funding):

- environmental objectives that specifically seek to improve air and water quality
- connections between urban trees, healthy neighborhoods, stormwater mitigation, and energy efficient housing
- coordination of UTC efforts with local zoning, planning, and comprehensive plans and identify effective approaches and priority areas

4. The implementation of tree canopy plans (USFS and Chesapeake Bay Trust funding only):

- volunteer plantings
- public outreach via awareness campaigns and press releases

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Accomplishments to Date

The Chesapeake Bay Trust provided assistance to four communities in the development of plans and goals to bridge the gap between urban tree canopy assessments and the creation of implementation plans.

City of Bowie: Hired a consultant to analyze UTC data and craft a sensible tree canopy goal and devise a strategic implementation plan for reaching that goal.

Anne Arundel County: Hired contractor to conduct GIS studies and set up informational meetings with state, federal, and local conservation partners to develop UTC goals for priority sub-watersheds.

Town of Betterton: Developed a Betterton Urban and Community Forest Plan and used funds to plant 70 trees towards meeting the urban tree canopy goal of 45%.

Patterson Park Neighborhood Association used funding for community tree planting projects to generate momentum for a Urban Greening & Master Plan Project.

Deliverables in Progress

This grant has been completed.

Challenges

None reported

Information Last Updated

4/4/2016