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Maryland's 2006 Accomplishment Report

Introduction

The Department of Natural Resources preserves, protects, enhances and restores Maryland's natural resources for the wise use and enjoyment of all citizens. The Maryland Urban and Community Forestry Program (UCF) helps the Department accomplish this in urban areas.

Issues/Opportunities: More than 86% of Marylanders live in urban areas, but the majority of this urbanization is highly concentrated in the Baltimore-Washington corridor. Minimizing sprawl through Smart Growth while maintaining natural resource quality in the urban core and minimizing urbanization's impacts on the Chesapeake Bay are our main challenges, along with combating the newly rediscovered Emerald Ash Borer.

FTE capacity: 7 UCF Program-dedicated FTEs. Numerous other field staff perform UCF duties on a part time / as needed basis.

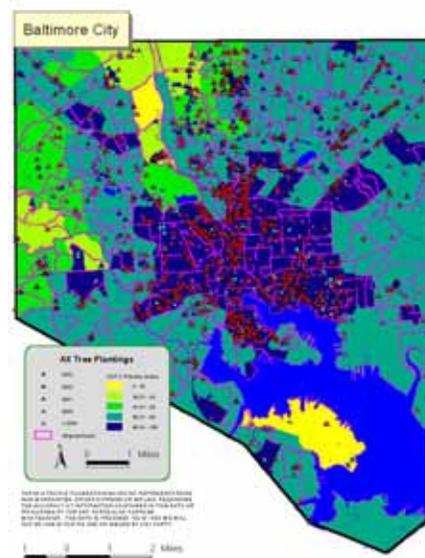
Urban Tree Canopy Initiative

Since the issuance of the Chesapeake Bay Program's Riparian Forest Buffer Directive No. 03-01, Maryland's UCF Program has been a leader in implementing the Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) goal setting strategy in Maryland and beyond. With technical assistance from USDA Forest Service Research, replicable methods to quantify existing and potential UTC have been established. Using these methods, 34 communities to date have formally committed to adoption of UTC goals. More than 25% of Maryland's population lives in these communities. Goals have already been established for Maryland's largest city, Baltimore (<http://www.ci.baltimore.md.us/government/recnparks/press/060328.htm>) and for the State capital, Annapolis (<http://www.ci.annapolis.md.us/headlines.asp?ID=9012>).

Maryland has implemented a tool called *Trib Strategies* as part of the Bay restoration effort. There are 10 *Trib Strategies* watersheds in the state. To date, there are UTC goal communities in 5 of the 10 *Trib Strategies* watersheds.

Tree Expert Licensing

In 2005, the Maryland General Assembly passed a bill modifying the Tree Expert licensing law. The modification required persons performing tree removal for hire to obtain a tree expert



A variety of city characteristics, such as hydrology, social and economic trends, available "green space and tree planting activity (above), are considered when urban tree canopy goals are formulated.

license. Many tree care business owners complained of being unable to meet the requirements for licensure, so in 2006 the General Assembly passed a bill providing a one year grandfathering period allowing owners of existing tree care business to obtain a license without being examined provided they could document that they have operated legitimately for the past three years by submission of tax returns for the business and certain other documents for the business.

Response has been very significant and the bill is changing the face of the licensing program.

Frederick UTC grant planting STRATUM analysis

Due to very low Urban Tree Canopy (UTC; 12%), Maryland DNR Forest Service provided a grant to the City of Frederick to increase tree cover. The planting was completed in 2005. With the release of the USDA Forest Service's iTree software suite in 2006, Maryland ran the data associated with the planting through the STRATUM software to quantify anticipated benefits from the planting. Results included the following:

- The cost was about \$0.84 per capita for Frederick residents and will provide an estimated \$6,800 in total annual benefits, or \$30.35 per tree;
- It provided for approximately 0.82 acres of UTC at the time of planting;
- Total annual rainfall interception/stormwater management benefit is expected to be approx. 57,865 gallons at a value of \$573;
- Annual CO₂ sequestration was estimated at 13,895 lbs and CO₂ avoidance was estimated at 3,063 lbs for a total carbon benefit of 16,776 lbs; and,
- Estimated annual value of energy cost savings via avoidance is \$500.