A Local Government Guide to the Chesapeake Bay
DELAWARE TREE RESOURCE GUIDE

This short guide contains tree-related resources that are specific to the state of Delaware, including technical assistance, tools, funding, and training. For an overview of trees in the whole Chesapeake Bay watershed, please see the module Capitalizing on the Benefits of Trees and the accompanying fact sheet.

URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY

Urban forests play a critical role in our quality of life. Delaware's Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Program is committed to the stewardship and enhancement of Delaware's community forests. Our program offers a variety of information and tools for communities throughout the state through technical, educational, and financial assistance. The UCF program is funded in part by the USDA Forest Service and works closely with state and local partners to provide services to Delaware citizens. Annual goals are outlined in our agency forest action plan.

TREE STEWARDSHIP

The Delaware Forest Service UCF Program offers the Delaware Tree Steward Program, which is a volunteer-led program to plant and maintain trees. At the center of this program are workshops that provide the knowledge and conversation that make up a tree steward's training.

Spread over four sessions, the curriculum is complete once a tree steward has finished the sessions and participated in a Delaware Forest Service or partner planting event. Topics covered include: how trees work, tree planting, care, and procurement. Organization, advocacy, and fundraising are also covered. By completing training and networking with other stewards, graduates will recognize opportunities and coordinate tree projects where they are needed most.

Volunteer tree planting in Haynes Park Wilmington Delaware. Photo courtesy of Laura Russum/Delaware Forest Service.

Scan this QR code with your phone camera to open the digital copy of this guide and access the hyperlinks. Or, you can use this shortened link: http://bit.ly/TreeGuides
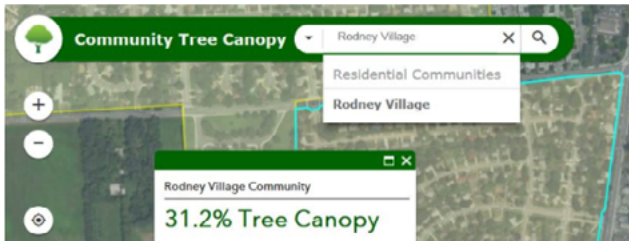
DELAWARE TREE RESOURCES

GRANTS AND OTHER RESOURCES

The online tree canopy tool uses GIS software to help cities, towns, and neighborhoods assess their current tree canopy cover. This is a great way to explore opportunities to plant new trees. Tree canopy provides several natural benefits, such as lowering heating and cooling costs, improving air and water quality, and mitigating storm water run-off in urban areas.

The Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program is a competitive annual matching grant that is available to municipalities, homeowner's associations, and certified non-profit groups in the state. Funding is for tree planting and tree maintenance projects. Since 2000, $1.85 million has been awarded and over 16,000 trees planted.

Chesapeake Bay Tree Planting Grants are for communities within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, such as a municipality or certified 501(c)(3) organization. The grant requirements include a 50-50 cost match that can be met by volunteer hours at no cost to your community or organization. Delaware Forest Service staff will offer assistance at every stage of the tree planting project.

Delaware Tree Friendly Community honors communities and homeowner's associations that are committed to protecting and enhancing our state's urban forest resources. Communities that meet 3 out of 6 criteria receive a sign to display publicly that they are committed to maintaining their forest resources and our state's environment.

The Tree for Every Delawarean Initiative (TEDI) brings conservation partners together and connects the public with tree planting resources and opportunities. TEDI also provides support and funding to enhance tree planting projects across the state. Track your newly planted tree using the TEDI tracker and find additional resources at de.gov/tedi

Delaware Invasive Species Council grant opportunities fund projects that address an invasive species problem in Delaware.

The Chesapeake Tree Canopy Network connects you with resources, stories, and best practices to understand, expand, and maintain your tree canopy.

New Tree Canopy Data Posted!
High resolution tree data are now available for the entire watershed, including local fact sheets showing tree cover status, trends (gains/losses), and i-Tree benefits. Visit Understand your Canopy to learn more.

Tree Planting with volunteers and Tree Stewards. Photo courtesy of Taryn Davidson/Delaware Forest Service