

A Local Government Guide to the Chesapeake Bay

MARYLAND TREE RESOURCE GUIDE

This short guide contains tree-related resources that are specific to the state of Maryland, 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

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service is responsible for the management and protection of the state's urban forestry resources. Within the Maryland Forest Service, the [Urban and Community Forestry Program](#) (UCF) has direct oversight of these resources. The UCF program implements four forestry laws that protect trees and conserve trees and forests during development: [Forest Conservation Act](#), [Maryland Reforestation Law](#), [Maryland Tree Expert Law](#), and [Roadside Tree Law](#). The UCF Program is actively supporting the state's goal to plant 5 million trees by 2030.

With funding support from the USDA Forest Service, the UCF program provides opportunities for the public to purchase trees to plant on public spaces or volunteer to plant trees through TreeMendous Maryland as well as assist the Maryland Urban and Community Forestry Committee with their tree planting and maintenance grant program. Lastly, the UCF program has recognition programs for all groups from incorporated towns and counties (Tree City USA), college campuses (Tree Campus Higher Education), health facilities with overnight facilities (Tree Campus Health) as well as unincorporated towns, scout plantings and school plantings (PLANT).

TREE STEWARDSHIP

[Maryland Tree Stewards](#) is an initiative from the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, the Maryland Forest Service and local partners developed to promote, enhance and increase tree canopy coverage in our urban and suburban environments. The program enables Marylanders to connect to their local trees through planting and caring for their trees.

Maryland's trees and forests provide inviting, livable, environmentally viable places to live. Through this program, citizens will become empowered to organize community events to plant and maintain the trees on their streets, in their neighborhoods, in their watersheds and in their county. Training workshops cover tree and soil biology, site assessment and tree selection, tree planting and care, and how to develop plans, organize events, and access resources.



One of many families planting trees at City of Greenbelt's Arbor Day 2019. Photo courtesy of Laura Donaldson/MD 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>



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GRANTS AND OTHER RESOURCES

[The Maryland Urban and Community Forestry Committee \(MUCFC\)](#) has two grant programs. One grant helps community groups, schools, service organizations, homeowner associations and other volunteer groups fund tree planting and education projects statewide to enhance Maryland's urban forest. The projects must be located on public lands in parks, metropolitan areas, cities or towns. Maximum grant awarded is \$1,000. The second program, MDOT Urban Tree grants, is eligible to tree planting projects on public or private land near MDOT transportation facilities that are affected by heat island or environmental justice issues. Those areas affected by the Purple Line construction are also eligible. Maximum grant awarded is \$5,000.

The [Tree-Mendous](#) order form is an agreement between a whole-sale nursery and the Maryland Forest Service to provide quality native trees to be planted on public land including, but not limited to: parks, community open spaces, rights-of-way, government facilities, and school grounds. The hope is to assist local governments and community groups to plant trees at a reduced cost to benefit every Marylander. Tree-Mendous provides free delivery to three locations across the state each Spring and Fall, but groups can also pay a fee for delivery directly to their site.

[The Marylanders Plant Trees](#) coupon program gives citizens a \$25 coupon to purchase a \$50 retail value tree from one of 86 participating nurseries across the state. Only MPT Nurseries will accept and honor \$25 tree coupons.

[The John S. Ayton State Nursery](#) has an order form to purchase tree and shrub seedlings from the state nursery.

[The Backyard Buffers](#) program provides a free "buffer in a bag" to help get homeowners started in buffering their streamside. The bag includes 20-30 native tree and shrub bare-root seedlings, approximately 1 to 2 feet in height, of various species (with fact sheets about them) that are well-suited to streamside conditions.

[The Gift of Trees](#) plants a native tree or trees in Honor or Memory of family and friends, to celebrate special occasions. A Gift of Trees is actually three gifts - one to someone you care for, one to future generations, and one to the environment. Tree-Mendous will arrange the planting in the Maryland county in which the recipient lives and a beautiful certificate is sent to announce your gift.

[The Chesapeake Bay Trust](#) has various grants for environmental education, demonstration-based restoration, and community engagement, including the new [Urban Trees grant program](#) under the state's 5 Million Trees Initiative.

[The Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund](#) allows Maryland to accelerate Bay restoration by focusing limited financial resources on the most efficient, cost-effective non-point source pollution control projects which includes tree planting.

[The Chesapeake Tree Canopy Network](#) connects you with resources, stories, and best practices to understand, expand, and maintain your 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.



Veterans planting trees at Perry Point VAMHCS. Photo courtesy of Anne Gilbert/MD Forest Service.