

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

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

In Pennsylvania, the Urban and Community Forestry Program is implemented by a broad group of conservation organizations and municipalities. Known as TreeVitalize, the program is a statewide partnership that works with cities and towns to help build capacity to plan for, plant, and care for community trees. With funding support from the USDA Forest Service, this public-private partnership was established by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and now proudly partners with a variety of organizations across the state to work toward shared goals. Collectively, the TreeVitalize partners assist with vital, locally-driven community forestry efforts from downtown neighborhoods to rural townships, and every community in between. TreeVitalize also offers educational trainings to help residents understand the diverse benefits of trees and the importance of properly planting and maintaining them. There are many groups across the state who engage with the TreeVitalize program. Some of the key partners include the DCNR Bureau of Forestry, TreePennsylvania, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Penn State Extension, Pennsylvania's local and county governments, and countless dedicated residents and volunteers.

TREE STEWARDSHIP

Tree Tenders® is a training program that educates citizens about tree biology, tree planting, tree maintenance, and a suite of urban forestry practices. Volunteers help build capacity among local government to understand, protect, and restore their community trees. By conducting tasks such as mulching, watering, pruning, and data collection and entry, volunteers help stretch communities resources. Instruction is provided by DCNR's Bureau of Forestry, in partnership with Penn State Extension, Pennsylvania Horticulture Society, The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, and other local urban forestry experts.



TreeVitalize celebrated the 150th anniversary of Arbor Day in 2022 with the State Forester. Photo courtesy of Kalaia Tripeaux, DCNR Bureau of Forestry.

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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PENNSYLVANIA TREE RESOURCES

GRANTS AND OTHER RESOURCES

DCNR's Bureau of Forestry staff is currently working with Bureau of Recreation and Conservation staff to develop grant opportunities within the agency to support TreeVitalize urban and community forestry work. Other Commonwealth agencies, including the Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Community and Economic Development, also offer grants that can support tree planting projects. As DCNR refines the grants, other partners continue to provide funding support: TreePennsylvania ([Bare Root Tree Program](#)), Western Pennsylvania Conservancy ([TreeVitalize Pittsburgh](#)), and Pennsylvania Horticultural Society ([TreeVitalize Tree Plantings](#)).

Working toward successful community forestry relies upon local champions who are willing to learn about community forestry, invest time and energy into planning, and get in the dirt to help with planting and maintenance. If you and your neighbors are interested in learning more about how you can be better stewards of your community's trees, a good launching point can be a local expert. Connect with your county's [Bureau of Forestry Service Forester](#) and/or [Penn State Extension Regional Urban Forester](#). For those located outside of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, [Pennsylvania Horticultural Society](#) (Philadelphia and suburbs) and [Western Pennsylvania Conservancy](#) (Pittsburgh and western PA) can provide additional assistance.

[The PA DCNR Resource Page](#) contains links to a variety of community tree management resources.

[The Penn State Extension Resource Page](#) is a learning resource of webinars, articles and more covering topics from pests to water quality.


[Tree Tender Training](#) teaches concerned citizens about restoring and caring for their community's tree canopy.

[PA Tree Map](#) can be used to inventory community trees and interactively view tree cover and its eco benefits. You can search by tree species and/or by location.

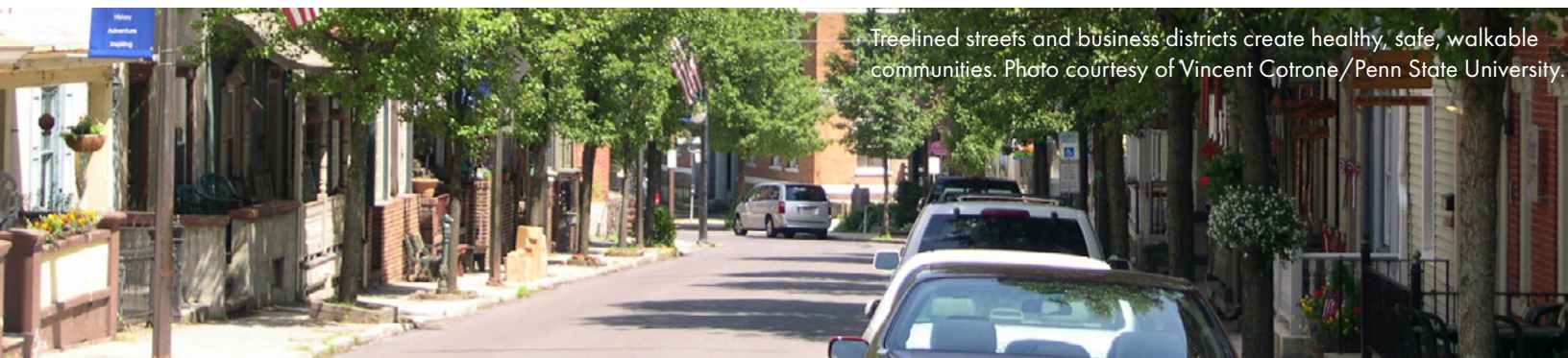
[TreeVitalize Guide for Tree Selection, Planting, and Care](#) has details about choosing, preparing, planting, and caring for trees. It includes common problems and information about ordinances as well.

[Community Tree Plans: A Guide for Tree Commissions and Advisory Councils](#) is a PDF with guidance about creating and implementing a road map to your tree canopy goals.

[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.



Treelined streets and business districts create healthy, safe, walkable communities. Photo courtesy of Vincent Cotrone/Penn State University.