

# A Local Government Guide to the Chesapeake Bay VIRGINIA TREE RESOURCE GUIDE

This short guide contains tree-related resources that are specific to the state of Virginia, 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 trees are an important part of the local ecosystem providing shelter, food, and other benefits to nearby creatures – including us! As populations in cities and towns continue to grow, creating and caring for green infrastructure (like trees) is increasingly important. Trees help make cities livable – providing shade, clean air, clean water, and other useful benefits for human and environmental health.

[The Virginia Department of Forestry's Urban and Community Forestry Program](#) fosters partnerships between government agencies, businesses, academic institutions, and non-profit organizations to ensure trees in our communities receive necessary care, long into the future. With funding support from the USDA Forest Service and other partners, we provide assistance including education, community engagement, tree selection, and grants for tree planting and local program development.

## TREE STEWARDSHIP

[Virginia Tree Stewards](#) are trained community volunteers committed to promoting healthy urban and rural forests in Virginia. It is a grassroots effort and each Tree Steward group in Virginia is unique and has evolved to meet the needs of its community. Tree Stewards provide training classes, educational programs, and projects in their communities intended to increase public awareness of the value of trees while teaching about trees and tree care. With classroom training and hands-on practice, Tree Stewards are equipped to identify trees, counsel on tree selection, demonstrate proper tree planting and follow-up care, and guide removal of invasive plants that threaten trees. Tree stewards are passionate about planning for the long-term future of the urban forest. There are ten Tree Steward groups in Virginia.



Volunteers planting trees to create an urban orchard at Woodlawn Learning Center. Photo courtesy of Virginia Department 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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# VIRGINIA TREE RESOURCES

## GRANTS AND OTHER RESOURCES

[Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program](#) funds projects that promote the protection and enhancement of urban and community forest ecosystems, demonstration projects, the care of trees, and education on tree issues in cities, towns and communities. It does not fund beautification plantings and research expenses. This program exists to encourage local government and citizen involvement in creating and supporting long-term and sustained urban and community forestry projects and programs at the local level.

[Virginia Trees for Clean Water Grant Program](#) encourages the creation of long-term, sustained canopy cover to improve water-quality across the commonwealth. This grant is used to fund tree-planting efforts that raise public awareness of the benefits of trees and impacts on water quality. It does not fund invasive species or monoculture.

[My Trees Count](#) is an interactive map for submitting and tracking tree-planting projects.

[Community Forest Planning](#) includes resources from the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF), including urban wood use and green infrastructure plans.

[The Virginia Tree Ordinance Database](#) is a repository of municipal ordinances that regulate the use, management, and conservation of trees in urbanized areas. The purpose of this website is to provide citizens, professionals, and elected officials with information they can use to craft tree ordinances for their communities.

[Storm Planning and Recovery](#) includes resources about risk assessment and mitigation. Through the Urban Forest Strike Team (UFST), VDOF can provide disaster planning, Level 1 tree risk assessment, and FEMA debris identification following storms.

[Virginia's Urban Forest Council](#) is a non-profit organization of urban foresters, certified arborists, tree stewards, utility arborists, teachers, consultants, master gardeners who strive to expand public awareness of the role trees and forests play in the urban environment.

[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.

Residents walking along the Low Line in Richmond, Virginia. Photo courtesy of Molly O'Liddy/Virginia Department of Forestry.

