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

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

With funding support from the USDA Forest Service, West Virginia's Urban and Community Forestry Program strives to be a source of urban forestry technical assistance to as many communities as possible. Our objectives are to establish long-term tree care programs in municipalities throughout the state to protect and effectively manage the state's valuable trees. The program also provides the necessary knowledge and tools to communities to make comprehensive urban forestry management successful. We focus on establishing and supporting local tree boards and frequently serve as the technical consultant.

From the Cacapon to the Potomac to the Chesapeake Bay, the Cacapon Institute (CI) protects rivers and watersheds using science and education. CI is the urban forestry lead for the WV Chesapeake Bay Program and a member of the Chesapeake Bay Program Forestry Workgroup. We work on local and regional efforts to enhance and protect urban tree canopy by conducting land cover studies, investigating ordinances, and making recommendation to watershed groups, neighborhoods, and municipal leaders.

TREE STEWARDSHIP

Municipal managers are important tree stewards. Cacapon Institute is assisting schools, neighborhoods, park systems, towns, cities and counties with evaluating their tree canopy and inventorying street trees. Understanding existing tree canopy and street tree populations is the first step in establishing plans and goals to increase urban tree canopy.

Coming soon: West Virginia Division of Forestry is working in partnership with West Virginia State University to develop a new WV Tree Minders training program for citizens to learn about planting and caring for trees.

Volunteers plant a tree at a Charles Town Parks and Recreation CommuniTree planting event. Photo courtesy of Tanner Haid/Cacapon Institute.

WEST VIRGINIA TREE RESOURCES

GRANTS AND OTHER RESOURCES

Tree City USA provides the framework necessary for cities to manage and grow their public trees. By meeting four core standards of sound urban forestry management, Tree City USA communities gain access to WV Urban & Community Forestry Program technical and financial assistance with planning, planting, maintenance, and training. The priority for state assistance is based on commitment. Those communities proven to be effectively managing local tree resources receive the highest priority. Additional communities are assisted with the goal of achieving Tree City USA status, but they are not be eligible for financial assistance until a commitment has been demonstrated.

Cacapon Institute manages three tree planting programs for planting on public lands, planting on school grounds, and planting on private lands. Each program provides trees, stakes and ties as well as planning, training, and technical assistance to ensure a successful planting.

- Carla Hardy WV Project CommuniTree provides trees at no cost for organizations to plant on public lands. These include semi-public lands such as fire stations, homeowner's association common areas, faith-based institutions that are technically private land but, practically, they are public and community spaces.
- Potomac Headwaters Leaders of Watersheds (PHLOW) offers trees and education to schools. Schools receive trees for students to plan and care for. This program can include one to six hours of arboriculture education on the benefits of trees. School campuses with healthy trees and abundant tree canopy are cooler and have better air quality. Students who have access to green space and trees have more opportunity for exercise and, studies show, they recover better from stress and have better attention.
- Your Community BMP (Best Management Practices) allows organizations to order trees for their members to plant on private lands, homes and businesses. Groups such as homeowner's associations, watershed associations, scouts, and faith-based organizations coordinate their members to receive trees, collect the necessary cost-share of the tree purchase, and arrange a demonstration planting.

Jefferson County and its municipalities (Bolivar, Charlestown, Harpers Ferry, Ranson, Shepherdstown) have urban forestry plans and goals.

Berkeley County has a Public Service Stormwater District that is promoting trees and forestry for landscape conservation.

Trees for Urban Landscapes and Parking Lots & Trees take you through the important considerations when landscaping with trees.

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.

Volunteers from the Chaple View HOA planted trees in their residential neighborhood. Photo courtesy of Frank Rodgers/Cacapon Institute.