

# MD's Forest Laws, Management Programs, Policies and the MD's GGRA

June 6, 2018

Forest-Climate Working Group

## Big Picture:

**2013 Forest Preservation Act** – maintain 40% tree canopy statewide

**2014 Chesapeake Bay Agreement** – expand urban tree canopy by 2400 acres by 2025  
(MD: 45 ac/yr; 540 acre by 2025)

**2009 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act** – MD’s goal of 25% reduction in GHG from 2006 levels by 2020

**USFS Forest Action Plan**

- Maryland's Forest Laws:
  - Roadside Tree Law (1914)
  - Licensed Tree Expert (1965)
  - Reforestation Law (1988)
  - Woodland Incentive Program
  - Forest Conservation Act (1991)
  - Sustainable Forestry Act of 2009
  - 2013 Forest Preservation Act

(track gains and losses)

## 20 Years of **Forest Conservation Act** (draft)

	Existing forest	Retained forest	Cleared forest	Planted forest
County	194,487 ac	119,177 ac	70,646 ac	18,132 ac
State	82,216 ac	49,383 ac	27,757 ac	9,857 ac
Municipal	3,626 ac	2,030 ac	1,779 ac	1,485 ac
Total	280,331 ac	170,589 ac	100,183 ac	29,474 ac

- Retained forest - under long term protection (LTP); additional onsite retention may have occurred without LTP
- State program includes state and federal projects and municipalities that didn't adopt an ordinance.

- Maryland's Forest Programs (incentives):
  - Forest Conservation Management Agreement (FCMA)
  - Forest Stewardship Program
  - Tree-Mendous Maryland
  - Gift of Tree Program
  - Marylanders Plant Trees Coupon (2009 – present)
  - Lawn to Woodland program (2014 – 2016)
  - **Urban Forestry grant program (Spring 2018 pilot)**

Needed to create 2 new planting assistance programs

1) MD Office of Planning, over 1 million of acres of mowed turf in Maryland.

2) Reach non-traditional cooperators (<10 ac of land)

... the urban and suburban lot owner ...

(the owners of the turf)

**Smaller lot size = smaller plantable space**

1<sup>st</sup> program

## Marylanders Plant Trees

targets the landowner wanting  
to plant a tree

- reaches the townhouse owner –

FY09-FY17: 44,104 coupons reimbursed  
to approximately 85 nurseries



2<sup>nd</sup> program

# Lawn to Woodland

targets landowners  
with 1 – 4 acres of  
plantable space

- No cost to landowner

**The Next Steps . . .**

What do you need to do to begin turning your lawn into a woodland? It's simple.

Go to [arborday.org/lawntowoodland](http://arborday.org/lawntowoodland)  
or [www.dnr.maryland.gov/forests/](http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/forests/) or call 888-448-7337

Provide your contact information and a forester from the Maryland Forest Service will contact you to discuss in more detail a tree planting project on your land.

**The Maryland Forest Service will:**

- ✓ Work with you to locate specific planting areas.
- ✓ Help you decide which trees and shrubs to plant.
- ✓ Assemble planting specifications and coordinate with contractors to perform a successful planting.
- ✓ Pay the contractor.
- ✓ Monitor plantings to determine survival rate.
- ✓ Work with the contractor to replant where necessary.

*Trees for your land . . . at no cost to you.*

The following native trees and shrubs are best suited to meet the objectives of this program. Selection will depend on your preference and specific site conditions such as soil type, topography and existing trees. More than one species will likely be used in your future woodland to provide biodiversity.

Northern Red Oak	Chestnut Oak	White Oak	Black Oak	Pinus strobus
Redbud	Common Ninesbark	Hazelnut	Redbud	

Seedlings will be produced locally by Ayrton Tree Nursery.  
<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/turkeyjacksrecreatory.html>

MARTIN O'MALLEY  
 Governor

JOSEPH P. GILL  
 Secretary

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## Lawn to Woodland

You qualify for **FREE TREES!**  
*Details inside.*

An Innovative Program for Maryland Landowners

**H**ealthy forests improve air and water quality, moderate climate, enhance Maryland's natural spaces, increase property values and provide us with recreational spaces. Through the Lawn to Woodland stewardship program, we can provide citizens like you with tools to plant, protect and maintain healthy tree canopy and help create a smarter, greener, more sustainable Maryland for generations to come.

**Planting trees on unused lawn is a natural way to keep our surface and ground water pure, scrub pollutants from the air, host woodland birds, and create a forest heritage for the future.**

*How you can benefit from converting acres of lawn to trees:*

- ✓ Reduce the time you spend mowing.
- ✓ Create your own woodland for future use and enjoyment by the entire family.
- ✓ Enhance habitat to watch a greater variety of wildlife.
- ✓ Save money.
- ✓ Create sound and visual buffers.
- ✓ Make windbreaks and snow fences from well-placed trees.
- ✓ Reduce stormwater runoff that erodes fields and roads.
- ✓ Increase the value of your property.
- ✓ Contribute to cleaner air and water.

*It is absolutely free!*

- ✓ Free trees – you help select the species
- ✓ Free planting
- ✓ Free re-planting of any planted trees that don't survive
- ✓ Free consulting to get your woodland off to a healthy start

**Day of Service Tree Planting at Patapsco State Park**

- 2014 Lawn to Woodland (partnered with ADF)  
(planting plan, planting, pre-selected species, one  
post-mowing --- paid for by MD Forest Service)  
ADF mailed 1,000 flyers; 10% response.
  - Planted 14.3 acres on 12 sites
  - Seedling order 7,600 seedlings plus shelters
  - Equipment – 2 tractors for mowing
  - contract plus above = \$949.79 per acre



## Lawn to Woodland (per year/ total)

2015	2016	2014	Total
100 ac	60 ac	14.3 ac	174.3 ac
84 sites	55 sites	12 sites	151 sites
41,200 seedlings	18,729 seedlings	7,600 seedlings	67,529 seedlings
\$2,732.24 /ac	\$2,418.46/ac	\$949.75/ac	

Seedling species: Black oak, Chestnut oak, Northern red oak, White oak, Common ninebark, American hazelnut, Common persimmon, and Eastern redbud

Tubes and mats used; not each seedling

## Results

- Marylanders Plant Trees
  - FY09 thru FY17, 44,104 coupons reimbursed
- Lawn to Woodland
  - 174 ac; 151 lots; 67,529 seedlings
  - Survivability 85-90% at one year; each planting

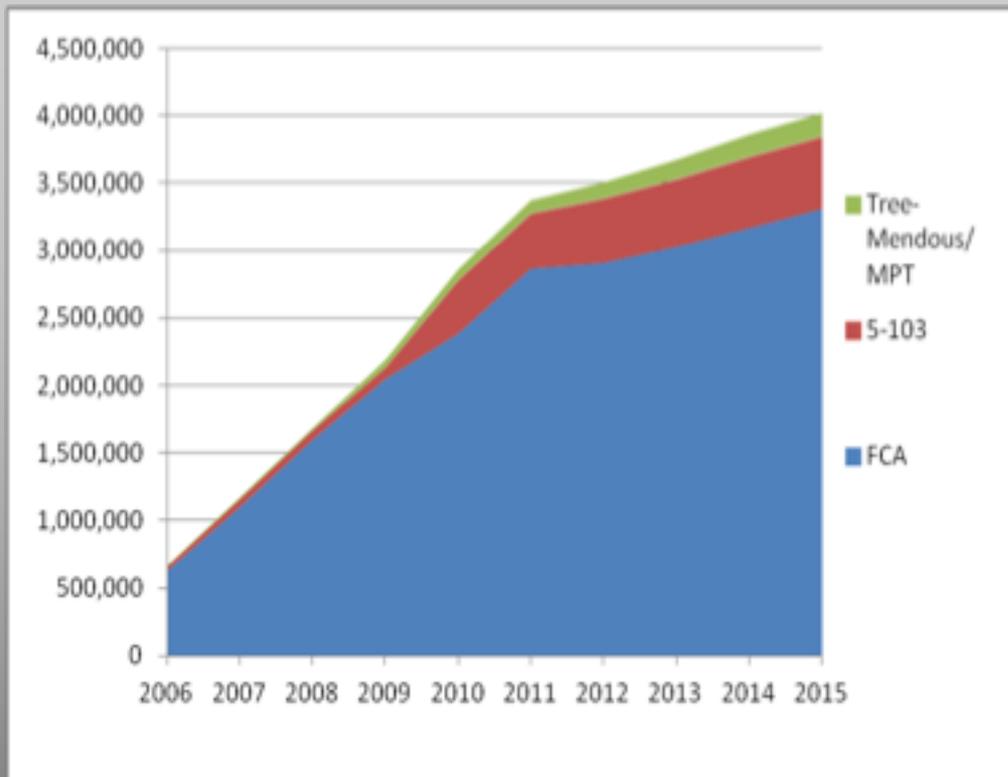
## Lessons learned thru Lawn to Woodland:

- State contracts : commodities vs labor contracts
- Continued funding sources
- Landowners: lot size, dog fences
- Tree tube complaints

## GGRA database (tracking trees)

Year	FCA	5-103	Tree-Mendous/MPT	Totals
2006	623,700	33,750	8,178	665,628
2007	473,400	27,000	6,057	506,457
2008	499,500	9,900	2,160	511,560
2009	450,900	13,950	39,020	503,870
2010	337,950	308,250	23,000	669,200
2011	481,050	15,750	17,200	514,000
2012	42,300	68,850	21,700	132,850
2013	119,250	23,850	23,800	166,900
2014	140,580	24,615	21,500	186,695
2015	142,875	6,251	8,435	157,561
<b>2016</b>	<b>341,640</b>	<b>2,705</b>	<b>8,798</b>	<b>353,143</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3,653,145</b>	<b>534,871</b>	<b>179,848</b>	<b>4,367,864 (# of trees)</b>

Cumulative Number of Trees Planted



**Increasing Urban Trees to Capture Carbon**

## 2013 Forest Preservation Act:

- DNR provide a statewide forest resource inventory to local governments every 5 years
- *“..a policy of the State to encourage the retention and sustainable management of forest lands by (1) achieving no net loss of forest lands;...”*
  - No net loss of forest defined as: 40% of all land in Maryland is covered by tree canopy.
- Ensure dual certification of state’s forest
- Revised Reforestation Law, Woodland Incentive Program, Forest Conservation Act, and Fire Hazards (Wildfire)
- Does not incentivize the conversion of prime ag land

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**USFS Forest Action Plan**



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