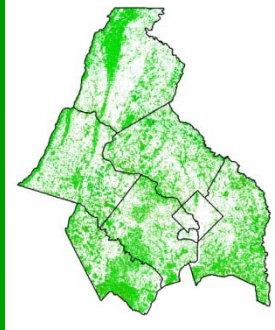


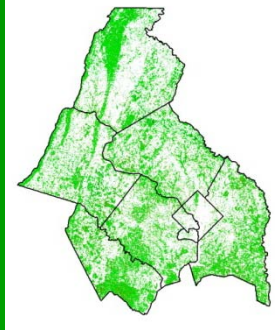
# The Challenge



*In what ways can the region accommodate growth while maintaining and enhancing forests and tree canopy and other green infrastructure?*

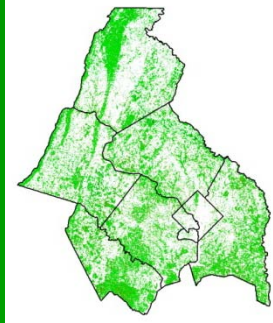
- Preserving forest cover, parkland and open space can help to meet needs for water quality, air quality, recreation and wildlife habitat in the coming years.
- Elevate the value of forests / forest cover in local and regional planning.

# The Strategy



- Land Use Planning and Regulation (including dedicated forested lands or districts)
- Landowner Education
- Maintaining Forest Health
- Funded Annual Reforestation Programs (Tracking, database management, etc.)
- Management of Exotic and Invasive Plants
- Management of Nuisance Wildlife Species (Deer, Voles, Beaver)

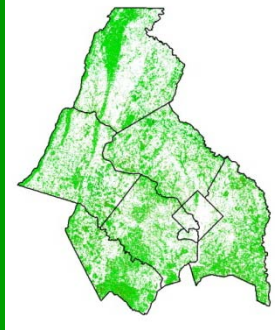
# The Trend



- Population growth in the COG region projected to grow 24% from 4.5 to 5.6 million by 2030.
- Conservatively the region is losing at least 28 acres per day (16 mi<sup>2</sup>/yr) of open space.\* (*Losing the equivalent land cover area of DC every four years*)
- Nearly half of development prior to 1986 has occurred in the period between 1986 and 2000.
- Funding for major park acquisition programs is expensive (at current urban land values) and generally not growing .

\* Source: Margaret Maizel One Image, LLC– Green More or Less (Washington Post).

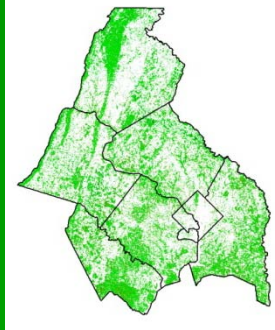
# Stormwater Regulations



- UTC benefits depend on location, soil infiltration rates, and ability to treat runoff from impervious areas.
- Credits are being developed for tree planting / reforestation efforts by MDE under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.
- Chesapeake Stormwater Network is tasked with developing guidelines for tree planting credits under the Chesapeake Bay TMDL in concert with the Forestry Work Group (due in 2013).
- Quantifying, Tracking and Reporting are the challenges for receiving stormwater credits in urban plantings and retrofit projects.

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# Quantifying Regional Forest Cover COG Efforts



- Regional Green Infrastructure Demonstration Project.
- Developed Landsat Map of 3000 square mile metropolitan region.
- Provided recommendations for forest cover enhancement.
- 2011 Sub-regional tree canopy analysis grant (Lidar-Based) with the District's Urban Forestry Administration & USFS.
- Analysis scheduled for completion in late 2012.

