

# COG'S TREE CANOPY SUBCOMMITTEE WORK PLAN

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CHESAPEAKE BAY AND WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE AND CLIMATE,  
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE JOINT MEETING

Brian LeCouteur – COG Regional Forester

Michael Knapp – Montgomery County DPS - Urban Forester

July 26, 2019



# Regional Tree Canopy Workgroup Background

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- 2007 NAAQS 8-hour Ozone State Implementation Plan recommended an ad-hoc committee to address *Urban Heat Island Mitigation/Tree Planting/Canopy Conservation and Management*
- The Regional Tree Canopy Workgroup recommended to CEEPC and CBPC - *Utilize the full potential of urban forests to mitigate climate change and to address regulatory concerns*
- Ongoing local actions for tree/forest protection, tree canopy assessments, local tree canopy goals & plans
- May 2018, ***Regional Tree Canopy Management Strategy*** released
- February 2019, CEEPC endorses formation of **Regional Tree Canopy Subcommittee**



# Tree Canopy Management Strategy

## Purpose

*Communicate goals and recommendations that local governments can use to conserve, manage, and expand their tree canopy and maximize the environmental health and quality of life in metropolitan Washington*

*Through collaborative stewardship, build commitment to develop and implement a regional tree canopy management plan. May 2018*

## Key Recommendations

- *Encourage COG member jurisdictions to conserve and expand urban forests*
- ***Establish a forest policy committee***
- *Align regional urban forestry initiatives and metrics with the Region Forward vision*



# CEEPC Subcommittee Goals

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- Protect, Manage, and Expand Urban Forestry Assets for Health and Quality of Life
- Optimize Urban Forest Programs
- Develop a Regional Urban Forest Action Plan
- Inspire the Community to Take Ownership of Efforts to Protect and Expand Urban Forests
- Integrate Urban Forestry Goals with Region Forward



# Regional UTC Subcommittee Members

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- Arlington County
- Casey Trees
- Center for Chesapeake Communities
- City of Falls Church
- City of Bowie
- District of Columbia DDOT
- District of Columbia DDOE & Office of Planning
- Fairfax County
- Frederick County
- Loudoun County
- Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources – Forest Service
- Montgomery County
- M-NCPPC - Prince George's County
- Virginia Department of Forestry



# Subcommittee Work Plan

Strategy & Urban Forestry Plan (UFP) Element	Strategy	Related Urban Forest Action Plan Element	Deliverable (As related to Strategy Column)	Delivery Date
<b>Strategy 2.2</b>  (Strategies listed in order of proposed delivery date)	Examine local tree-related policies and ordinances for opportunities to enhance and strengthen tree preservation and maintenance policies.	UFP 11: Encourage local governments to evaluate the current capacity, scope and effectiveness of their public tree care and forest conservation programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report identifying key features, practices and outcomes of successful urban tree and forest conservation ordinances</li> <li>Guidance on how tree conservation measures can be embedded in local land use policies and land development review processes</li> <li>Examples of successful state laws and local ordinances and land use policies</li> </ul>	Draft Guidance Document:  October 2019  Final: December 2019
<b>Strategy 3.3</b>	Establish attainable canopy goals at regional and local scales using existing goals and efforts as examples.	UFP 1: Recommend a regional tree canopy goal and canopy levels for major categories of land use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Status of tree canopy</li> <li>Suggested tree canopy goals for major land use categories</li> <li>Metrics</li> </ul>	March 2020
<b>Strategy 1.3</b>	Plant trees to expand the regional tree canopy to <b>(a)</b> absorb and sequester carbon; <b>(b)</b> reduce use of fossil fuels to cool and heat buildings; <b>(c)</b> lower ambient air temperatures during summer months; <b>(d)</b> absorb and slow stormwater runoff; public health; and <b>(e)</b> remove pollutants from air and rainwater.	UFP 1 (Support of Regional Tree Canopy Goal).  UFP 3 (Describe opportunities).  UFP 7 (Describe strategies to mitigate impacts of land use change).	Identification of strategic tree planting programs to address Strategy elements <b>a. through e.</b> and associated benefits as listed in the Strategy Column.	July 2020
Strategy & Urban Forestry Plan Element	Strategy	Related Urban Forest Action Plan Element	Deliverable (As related to Strategy Column)	Delivery Date
<b>Strategy 3.1</b>	Develop a Regional Urban Forest Action Plan that helps guide and integrate local forest management plans and initiatives.	UFP 3: Describe opportunities, threats and challenges likely to be encountered.  UFP 9: Describe practices to mitigate tree-related costs and risks such as tree risk and storm impact assessments and street tree life cycle planning.	UFP 3 - Report describing opportunities, threats and challenges and strategies/tactics needed to address these initiatives.  UFP 9 - Report Identifying practices localities can use to mitigate potential impacts of major storm events on urban trees.	December 2020

Derived from the  
**REGIONAL TREE CANOPY  
MANAGEMENT STRATEGY  
KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**



# Strategy 2.2

<p>Strategy 2.2</p> <p>(Strategies listed in order of proposed delivery date)</p>	<p>Examine local tree-related policies and ordinances for opportunities to enhance and strengthen tree preservation and maintenance policies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report identifying key features, practices and outcomes of successful urban tree and forest conservation ordinances</li> <li>• Guidance on how tree conservation measures can be embedded in local land use policies and land development review processes</li> <li>• Examples of successful state laws and local ordinances and land use policies</li> </ul>	<p>Deliverable: Draft Guidance Document: October 2019</p> <p>Final: December 2019</p>
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- Examine the underlying foundational metrics that will provide a methodology for developing a goal
- Provide a solid foundation to help local governments develop and **sustain forest cover** in their communities through examination ordinance components
- Planting trees is good. Protecting trees is better
- Ensure proper funding for planting programs as well as political will to sustain both tree preservation and planting

# Strategy 3.3

Strategy 3.3	Establish attainable canopy goals at regional and local scales using existing goals and efforts as examples.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Status of tree canopy</li><li>• Suggested tree canopy goals for major land use categories</li><li>• Metrics</li></ul>	Deliverable: March 2020
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- Status of tree canopy using best available land cover data. Currently Chesapeake Bay Program mapping project using high-resolution imagery
- Metrics include tree canopy and forest extent, tree canopy over impervious surface, tree canopy over turfgrass
- Baseline 2013/14 (being updated for 2017/18 & again in 2021/22)
- Common methodology measuring change over time
- Examine tree canopy goals for major land use categories



# Strategy 1.3

Strategy 1.3	Plant trees to expand the regional tree canopy to (a) absorb and sequester carbon; (b) reduce use of fossil fuels to cool and heat buildings; (c) lower ambient air temperatures during summer months; (d) absorb and slow stormwater runoff; public health; and (e) remove pollutants from air and rainwater.	Identification of strategic tree planting programs to address Strategy elements a. through e. and associated benefits as listed in the Strategy Column.	Deliverable: July 2020
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- Riparian restoration, energy conservation, carbon sequestration, microclimate air quality benefits (shading moderates ground-level ozone formation), stormwater BMP's, etc.
- Existing tree planting programs are easy ways to engage the public on tree benefits

# Strategy 3.1

Strategy 3.1	Develop a Regional Urban Forest Action Plan that helps guide and integrate local forest management plans and initiatives.	Report describing opportunities, threats and challenges and strategies/tactics needed to address these initiatives.  Report Identifying practices localities can use to mitigate potential impacts of major storm events on urban trees.	Deliverable:  December 2020
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- Mitigate potential impacts of major storm events on urban trees
- **Examples:** Right Tree, Right Place
- Pruning programs for trees in power line Rights-of-Way
- Knowing when not to plant is just as important as planting

# Questions / Comments

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# Committee Contacts

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