

REGIONAL TREE CANOPY SUBCOMMITTEE

Steve Walz
Director, Department of Environmental Programs

Planning Directors Advisory Committee
April 9, 2019

Item 2

Tree Canopy Management Strategy

2011: Ad-hoc committee formed to implement strategies of the *Urban Heat Island Mitigation/Tree Planting/Canopy Conservation and Management* measure included in 2007 8-Hour Ozone SIP

2013: The Regional Tree Canopy Workgroup presents an Workgroup recommendations to CEEPC and CBPC

- Recommendation #1: Utilize the full potential of urban forests to mitigate climate change and to address regulatory concerns

2018: Tree Canopy Management Strategy released

- <https://www.mwcog.org/documents/tree-canopy-management-strategy/>

2019: CEEPC forms Tree Canopy Management Subcommittee
CBPC supports work for water quality

- 2-year charter

Tree Canopy Management Strategy

Purpose

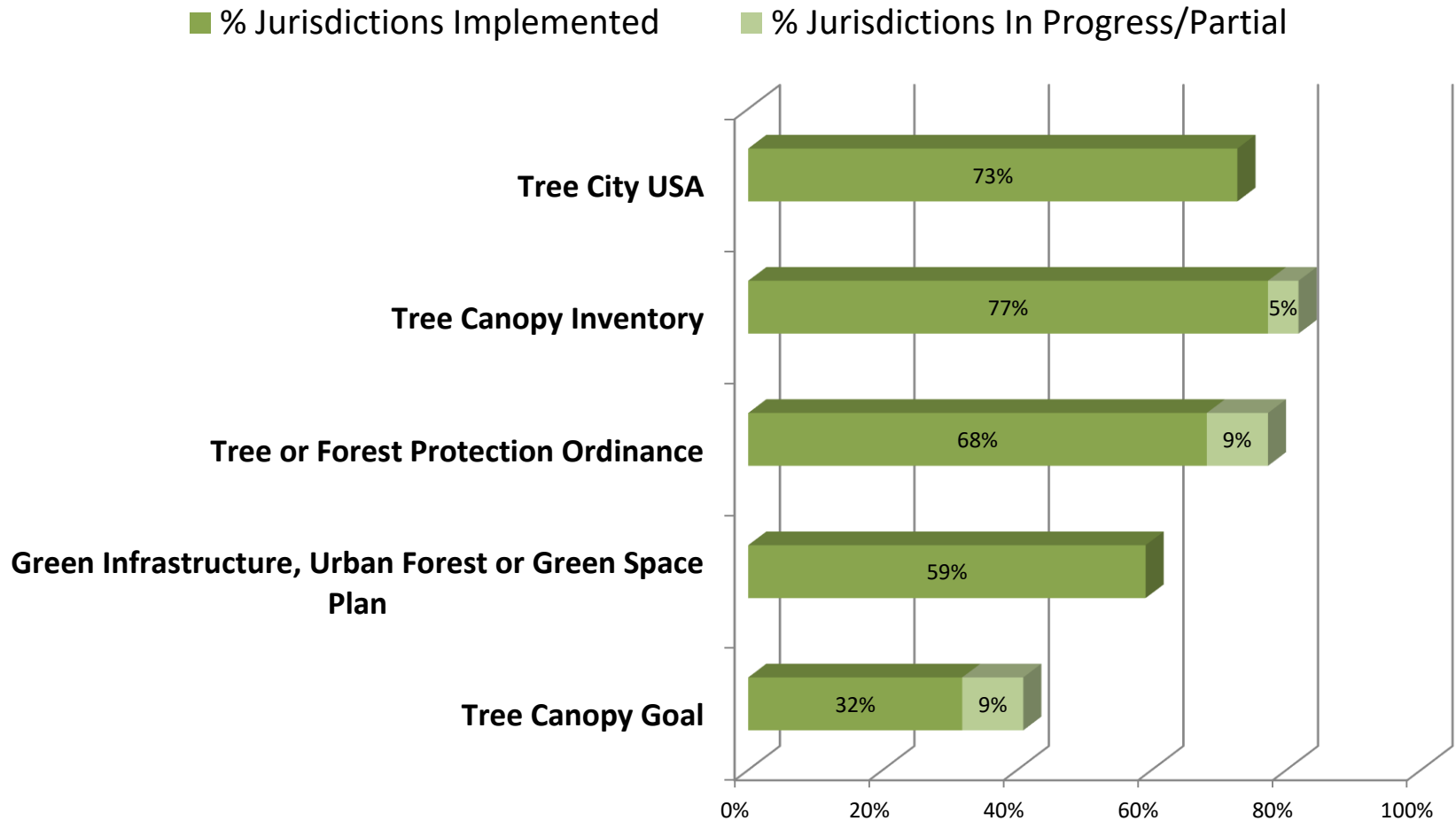
- Communicates goals and recommendations that local governments can use to conserve, manage and expand their tree canopy to help maximize the environmental health and quality of life
- Through collaborative stewardship, build commitment to develop and implement a regional Tree Canopy Management Plan

Key Recommendations

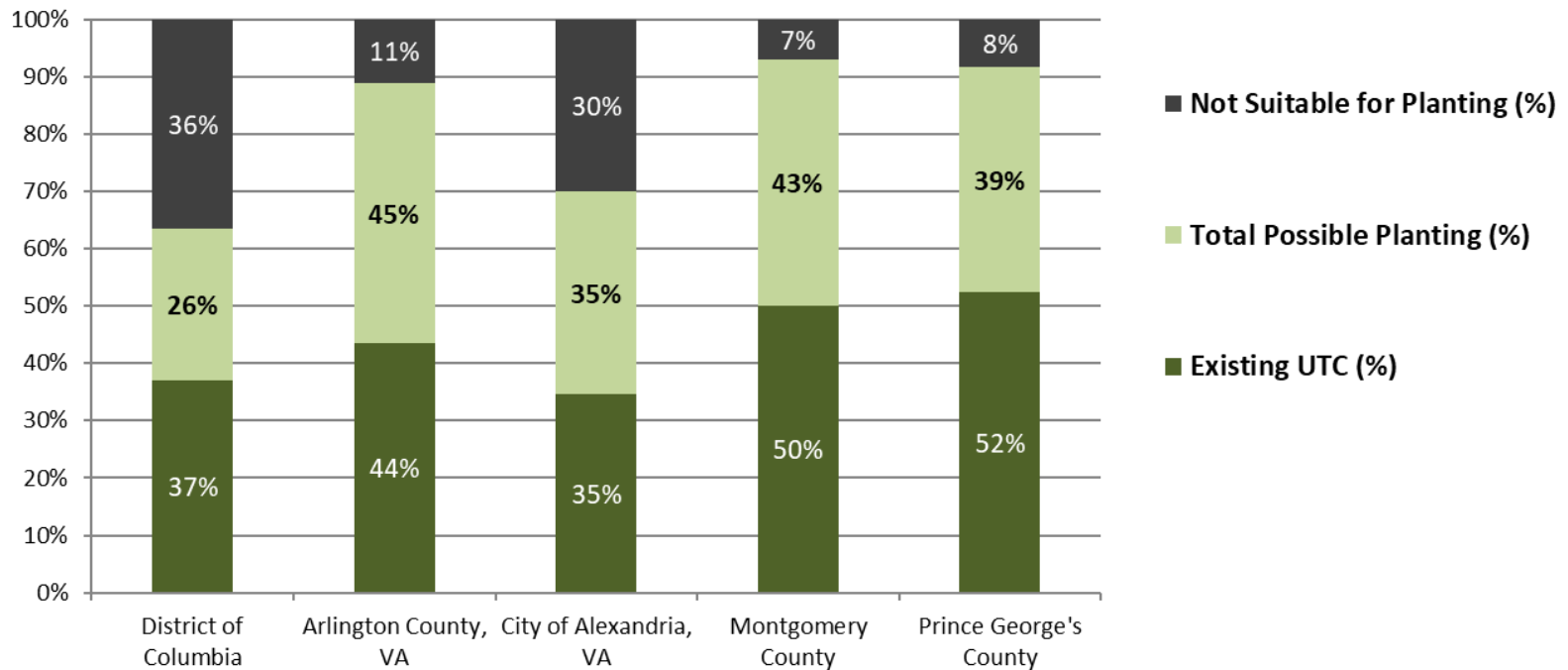
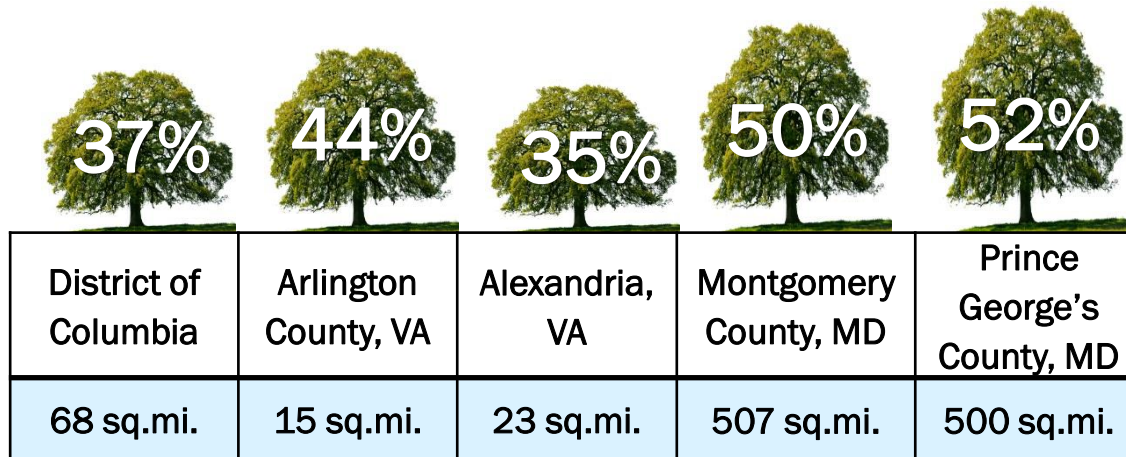
- Encourage COG member jurisdictions to conserve and expand urban forests
- Establish an on-going forest policy committee
- Align regional urban forestry initiatives and metrics with the Region Forward Vision



COG Member Policy/Programs, 2018



Local Canopy Coverage & Planting Potential



Subcommittee Goals

- Protect, manage, and expand urban forest assets for health and quality of life
- Optimize urban forest programs
- Develop a regional Urban Forest Action Plan and canopy goals
- Inspire the community to take ownership of efforts to protect and expand urban forests
- Integrate urban forestry with Region Forward

Proposed Subcommittee Membership

- District of Columbia
 - District Department of Transportation, Urban Forestry Division
 - District Department of Energy and Environment
 - District Office of Planning
- Maryland
 - Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services
 - Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection
 - Frederick County Sustainability and Environmental Resources
 - M-NCPPC, Prince George's County
 - City of Bowie City Forester
- Virginia
 - Fairfax County Public Works and Environmental Services, Urban Forest Management
 - Fairfax County Environmental & Energy Coordinator
 - Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation, Urban Forestry
 - Loudoun County Soil and Water Conservation District
 - City of Falls Church Urban Forestry
- State
 - Maryland Department of Natural Resources
 - Virginia Department of Forestry
- NGO
 - Center for Chesapeake Communities
 - Casey Trees



Subcommittee Work Plan

- Strengthen local tree-related policies and ordinances
 - Gather local ordinance examples
 - Draft model ordinances
 - Urban tree canopy; Non-fragmented forests
 - Guidance how practices can be embedded in land use policy and land development review processes
- Establish regional and local tree canopy goals
- Identify tree planting programs
- Develop a Regional Urban Forest Action Plan

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