MD Forest Service Programs & Resources

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

June 28, 2023

Preserving the Landscape, Restoring and Protecting the Forests

- Financial and Technical Resources
- Landowner Assistance
- Economic Impact

Assistance Programs

- Woodland Incentive Program
- Forest Stewardship Planning
- Forest Legacy
- Seed Collection

Five Million Trees

Established by HB 991, Tree Solutions Now Act, in 2021

5 Million Trees by 2031

- **Additional** to tree planting projected in 2019 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act Draft Plan (current programs)
- Native trees

- Funding started July 1, 2022, $15 million/year

5 MILLION TREES FOR MARYLAND

Rural: New Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program signing bonus, up to $1,000/acre for new riparian forest buffers

Urban: 10% to underserved areas

- Chesapeake Bay Trust new Urban Forestry Program ($10 million annually in grants)

10% to Underserved Urban Areas

500,000 trees to Underserved Areas

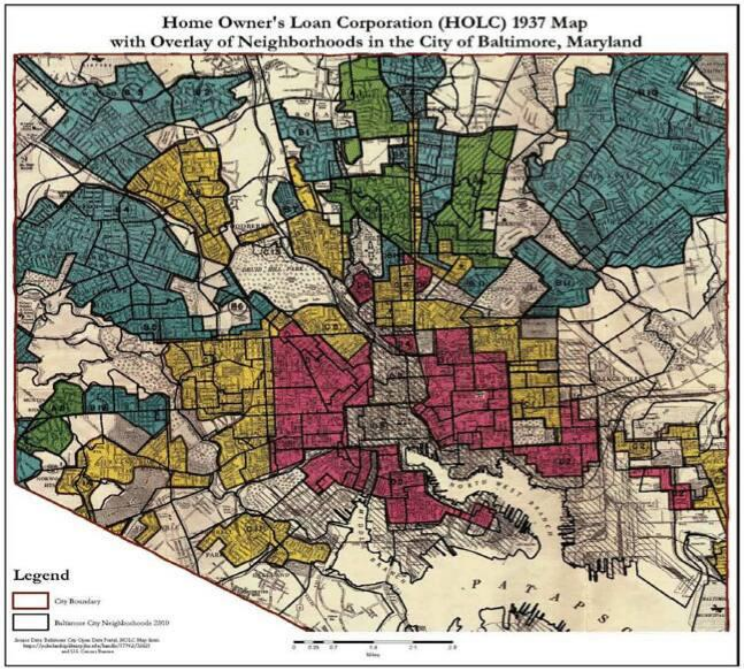
Census-designated Urban area

With other qualifying factor

- Historic Redlined Areas
- Above-average unemployment
- Median household income below 75% of State median income
- DHCD housing project

Prioritize local organizations for grant awards

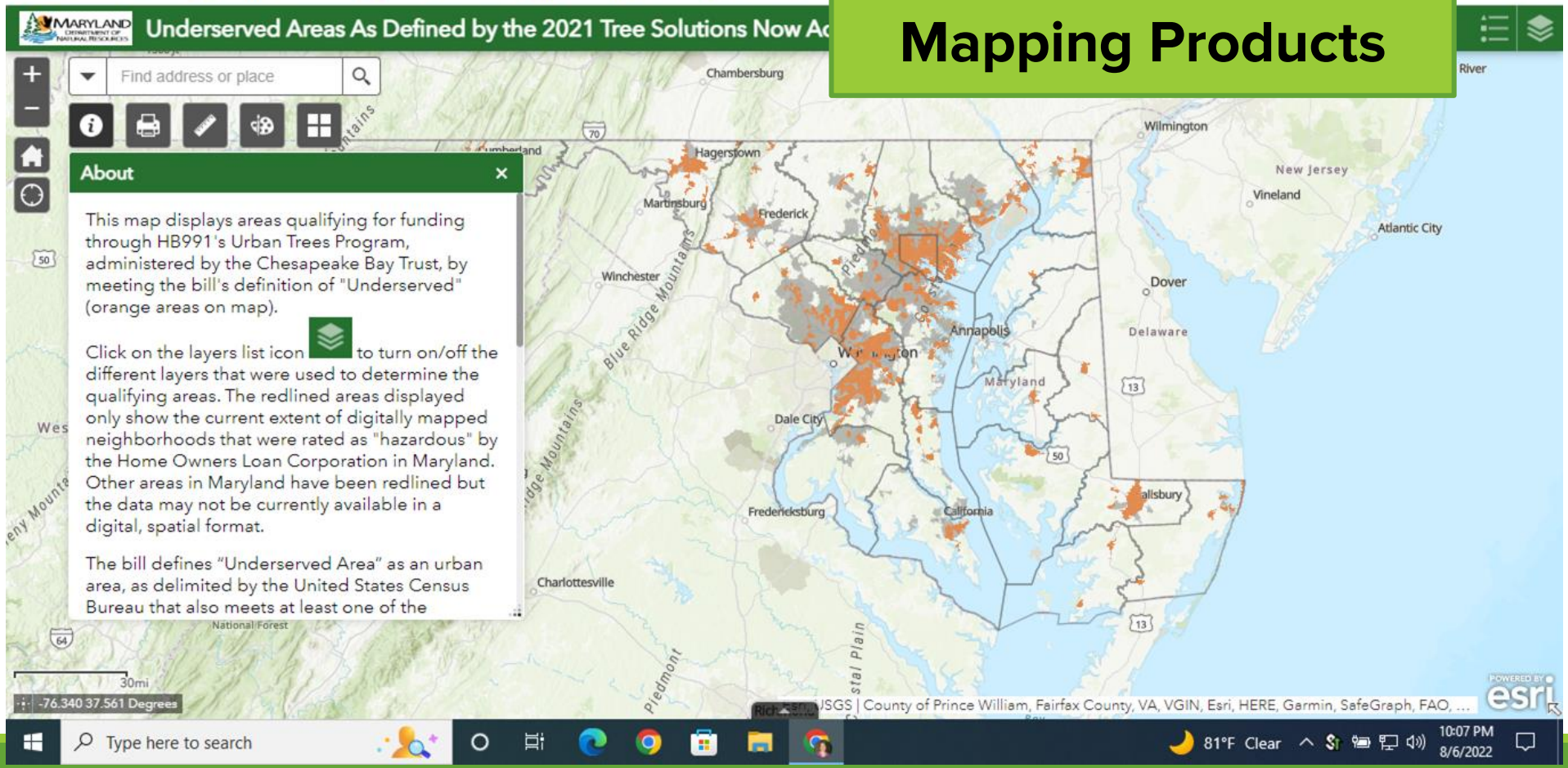
Engage local individuals, groups, or businesses to implement and maintain



Statewide Coordination

- **Maryland Department of the Environment**
  - 5 Million Trees Program Coordinator – tracking (with TMDL, GGRA)
  - Commission for the Innovation and Advancement of Carbon Markets and Sustainable Tree Plantings
- **Department of Natural Resources**
  - 13 Contractor Positions
  - Trust Fund support for tree planting
- **Chesapeake Bay Trust**
  - Urban Forestry Program
  - Grants for trees to Underserved Areas
- **Maryland Department of Agriculture**
  - CREP forest buffer signing bonuses

Mapping Products



Eligible Costs

- Site preparation
- Labor
- Planting materials
- Maintenance
- **Landowner incentives or signing bonuses**

DNR's Role in Maryland's 5 Million Trees Effort

- Provide **technical assistance** for growing 5 million trees
- Expand **tree seedling supply** at Ayton State Nursery
- **Increase capacity of existing** tree planting programs
- Create **new planting programs** that complement existing programs- gap fillers
- Build **community of care for growing trees** to maturity - maintenance
- **Leverage state investments** with new partners and markets to expand outreach and funding
- **Coordinate** with partners

Growing Maintenance Strategies

- Expanding **volunteer** opportunities
  - New Maryland Tree Stewards Program (w/ACB)
  - Riparian Rangers training held in MD (ACB)
  - College volunteer groups held spring & fall events
- **Contracting** Regional Tree Care Crews
  - Regionally contracted, seeking to attract investment in starting or expanding a tree business
  - Private land management capacity in invasive species control and tree care
- Link to workforce development and natural resource career pathways

Existing Planting Programs/Opportunities- Rural

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- ➢HB 991 adds $1,000 per acre bonus for new forest buffers

Healthy Forest, Healthy Waters

- ➢Partnership of Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Maryland Forestry Foundation, & MD Forest Service technical support
- ➢Chesapeake and Coastal Bays Trust Fund

Woodland Incentive Program (WIP)

- ➢Forest management cost-share program includes tree planting
- ➢Administered by Maryland Forest Service

Other federal programs

- ➢Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- ➢Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- ➢IRA Urban and Community Funding

Existing Planting Programs- Urban

Marylanders Plant Trees
- Coupon for $25 off a native tree

Tree-Mendous
- Low-cost containerized trees for public land

Gift of Trees
- Purchase a tree in honor of someone

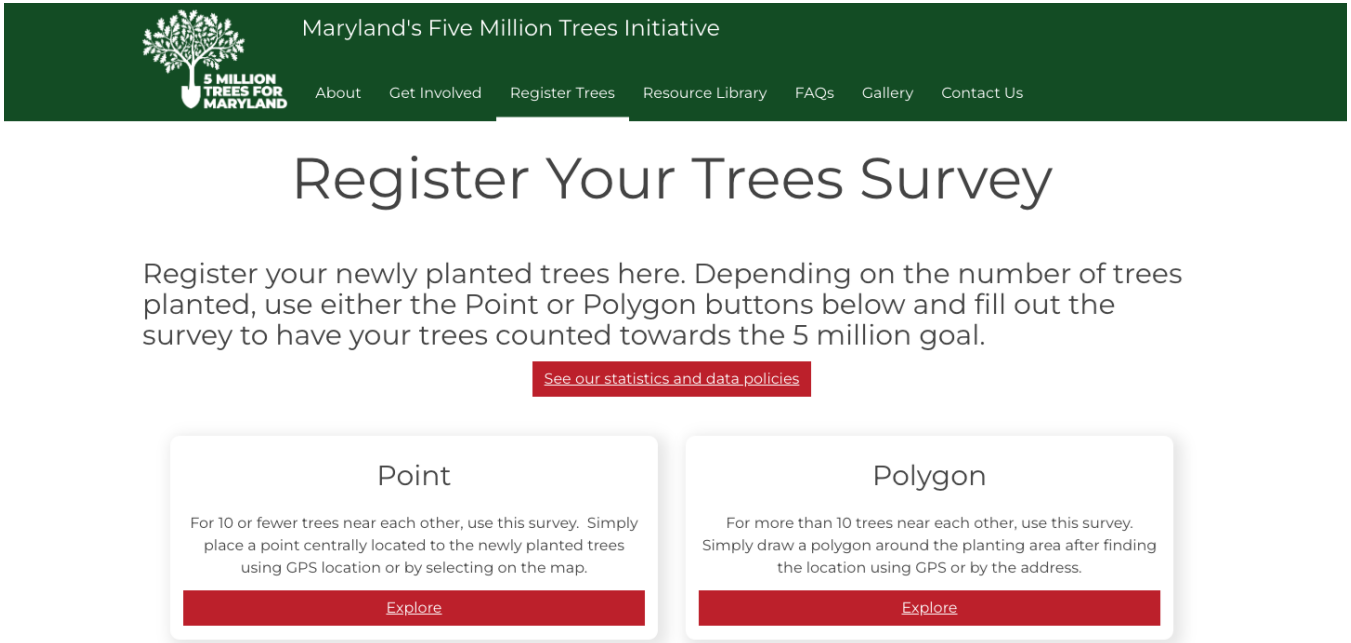
Lawn to Woodland
- Planting trees on private lawns
- Turnkey, with 2 years of care

Backyard Buffers
- ~25 free seedlings for private landowners

Maryland Urban and Community Forestry Committee Grant Programs

MET & 5MT - Partnership in Action

Tracking Tree Planting Projects Statewide



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Partnerships to Leverage Efforts and

AND MORE!

BALTIMORE
TREE TRUST

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FOREST SERVICE