

No Net Loss Tree Conservation Regulation and Policy to Maintain and Expand Street Tree Canopy and Forest as a Land Cover.

Facilitators:

Stephanie P. Dalke, Environmental Finance Center
Dawn Hawkins-Nixon, Prince George's County





Snapshot of Efforts in the County

- County Programs that incentivize residents and businesses to keep existing trees and plant new ones
 - Tree ReLEAF Grant Program
 - Arbor Day Every Day Program
 - Tree Planting Demonstrations
 - Right Tree Right Place
- Forest Conservation Act
 - Slows the rate of forest loss through
 - Retention
 - Afforestation/ reforestation
 - Off-site planting
 - Mitigation banking
 - Credits
 - New Planting in banks
 - Fee-in-lieu
 - Better recognition of the value of trees for slowing water down and providing shade



To maintain its 52% tree cover through 2030 and increase tree cover to 55% by 2050, the county should establish No Net Loss regulations for tree preservation, replacement, and mitigation.

1

Establish a County No Net Tree Loss policy

- Expand coverage to 55% by 2050
- Enforce via permitting requirements and strengthen code to require more on-site tree preservation

2

Revise County Code to Reduce Allowable Exemptions and Variances Granted

- Require a minimum of one-to-one acre tree cover replacement based on the total site area disturbed regardless of Zone.
- Reassess fee-in-Lieu rates

3

Revise the Prince George's County (M-NCPPC) Environmental Technical Manual

- address climate change impacts
- increase required natural buffers

4

Increase Violation and Penalty Fees

- Require the use of fee-in-lieu funds for replacement tree loss, maintenance, and equity considerations within the same sub-watershed as violation

5

Create a Publicly Accessible Annual Report

- track data on tree canopy cover, associated ecosystem values, factors contributing to canopy loss, all exceptions, exemptions, variations and zoning amendments issued
- collaborate on tracking metrics and mapping practices with M-NCPPC and DoE

6

Identify and prioritize areas that need tree canopy and natural resource area expansion

- Use results of thermal mapping and Tree Shade Study to identify vulnerable/priority areas

7

Expand Existing Incentives for Residents and Local Businesses to add Additional New Trees

- Create a Prince George's County Climate Resiliency Land Conservation Trust

What hurdles would need to be cleared to achieve success for this blueprint?

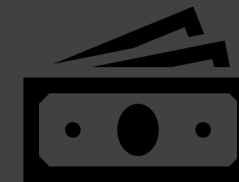
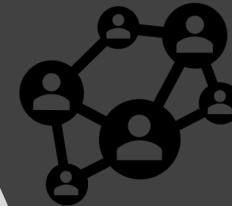


- Beware--the focus on trees omits other important kinds of open space as well as agricultural lands; need to think about preserving open space broadly, as well as future local farming capacity (especially considering the likelihood of continued drought in the West where a lot of the U.S.'s food is grown).
- What does Net Loss really mean? This does not adequately account for the loss of mature trees and their ecosystem services -- they are replaced by younger trees that do not provide the same level of functioning for years or decades. Seedlings are not equivalent to a mature forest. How will we account for growth.
- Developers can still get "credit"--even though they are destroying trees.
- Transportation projects --MAGLEv, for example, cause damage and tree loss. Sending out letters to warn residents of loss of natural resources.
- Programs aimed at tree canopy but nothing for private property owners? How access incentives for trees, rain barrels, etc.? CBT tree planting. *Important aspect of tree planting.*
- What happened to smart growth-Bureau of Engraving project-Council in favor of development of BARC. Why is the MagLev getting credit on private property.
- Definition of unused land--natural areas should not be defined as unused.
- What are the incentives for planting trees, water conservation. Need better communication from County.
- Tree care, impacts of trees on private property



What tools, resources, technical assistance and incentives do you and your neighbors need to get involved?

- Example - Family Tree Adoption Program (CBT \$) shows that people of color and immigrant communities DO want trees; however, information and resources are not reaching all of the interested communities. To increase tree canopy, work with voices of the community (the people/organizations that work with these communities). Use credible organization to implement. Many people believe the County can not provide tree planting resources.
- County is not maintaining existing forests or removing invasive species in tree canopy; invasives are negatively impacting the health of standing trees. Senior citizens can not afford tree experts and the care/maintenance of larger trees. Desire but no financial means -- need grants/subsidies.
- Swann Creek–East Swann Creek forest is being destroyed right now by a K-8 school project supported by the CEX. Should we ask for a pause on this project; area is prone to flooding. Proposed development is out of scale to community. Community wants to know next steps. Dissatisfied with CEX response to community regarding this and other projects.
- How do we improve communication-especially between Council, CEX, and agencies. Guilford Woods is going to be removed by UMD through deal with land developer. Concern that Council does not represent her constituents but supports the developer. Issues are being ignored. How do we get everyone to talk to each other (the various relevant parties within the County need to consult with each other on these projects that impact tree canopy/open space loss).
- Swann Creek–watching deer and wildlife losing forest. Out there picketing to stop the project. Does the CAC have power to stop the destruction of this forest? School could be built at another site that is not forested. Can the CAC do something when the bulldozers will be there tomorrow morning, or for any other projects in future that counteract the County's climate plan.



What needs to happen in the next 3-5 years to show progress on this blueprint?

- Policy and practice not joined. County building in floodplain in Hyattsville and ignoring our own laws. *We have to sue the County / Would the plan enable people to sue the County, if the County does not implement and comply with the plan?*
- There will be a 30 day comment period-November.
- First do no harm and halt deforestation. Focus beyond trees and also preserve existing trees-Green Infrastructure via Plan 2035.
- Measure tree canopy coverage
 - Can we measure how much tree cover can we plant over the next 1-5 years.
- Connect outreach to what people can relate to (e.g. heat waves/heat island effects, public health).
- Focus on ecosystem services of trees



Apply to be a County Climate Action Resident Expert

- <https://forms.gle/z92cx7LLrYTmNLN17>

Visit the DMV Climate Partners Website

- <https://climatepartners.org>

Learn More About Upcoming Meetings

- mypgc.us/climateactionplan

Explore the County CAP Virtual House

- <https://bit.ly/2S7PgEQ>

Provide Comments and Feedback

- <https://bit.ly/3vBKqNJ>

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