Staff Presenting

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

Work with our designated partners (MDA, MDE and CBT) to plant and grow 5 Million Trees.

Work with other organizations including local governments, non-profit organizations and other entities to provide guidance, technical assistance, trees, and other assistance for tree planting and maintenance activities to achieve goal of 5 million trees.

Enhance and expand existing Forestry planting and maintenance programs and develop new programs.
DNR’s Role in Maryland’s 5 Million Trees Effort

- Technical assistance
- Expand tree seedling
- Increase capacity
- New planting programs
- Maintenance
- New partners and markets
- Coordination
Technical Assistance through 13 New Positions

- One Assistant Nursery Manager
  - Seedlings and seed collection
- 12 Tree Planting Specialists
  - Placed statewide, serve both urban and rural areas
  - Job duties:
    - Outreach and planning
    - Planting and maintenance
  - Anticipated start date July 1, 2022
- Seeking a diversity of talent
  - Reflecting the geographic and demographic composition of the state
Increase Capacity of Existing Programs

- Marylanders Plant Trees
- Tree-Mendous
- Gift of Trees
- Maryland Urban and Community Forestry Committee Grant Programs
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
- Healthy Forest, Healthy Waters
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
Getting to 5 Million Trees

- Increase output of existing programs
- Develop new tree planting programs
- Enhance collaboration with other organizations
- Build upon success
Challenges and Opportunities

- Landowner Interest - Greatest limiting factor
  - 5MT funds have 15 year agreement and constraints
  - Not intended for harvest
  - Need to develop and foster long-term relationships to plant, grow, maintain trees

- Maintenance challenges with shifting ecology: weather, invasive species, weed competition, deer browse, more
  - Strategies Under Development
    - Expand volunteer opportunities
    - New Maryland Tree Stewards Program
    - Coordinate with conservation partners
    - Exploring opportunities for regional contract tree care crews after turnkey contracted maintenance ends

- Partner opportunities for outreach
Opportunities and Challenges

- Ramp-up time needed to increase tree supply and trained contractors
  - Increases in smaller tree stock available sooner
- Building a solid foundation through staff training and community connections
  - Training and mentoring program under development
- Potential Partner and Funding Opportunities
  - Will seek funding options and pursue as they are identified
Partnerships to Leverage Efforts and Funds

AND MORE!
Coordinated Map Development for Urban Underserved Definition and Equity Data

- Supports CBT and other grant applicants
  - Map of underserved areas
- Data layers sourced from DHCD
- Reviewed by MDP
- Separately displays income, unemployment, mapped housing projects, and mapped redlined areas
Partner Coordination

- Coordinate tracking with MDE
  - Update DNR’s tracking mechanisms
- MDA Ag Land Planting
  - Incentive Coordination
  - Tree Planting Opportunity
    - Analysis excludes prime ag soils
  - CREP and other farm areas outside of cropped acres
Thank you!