

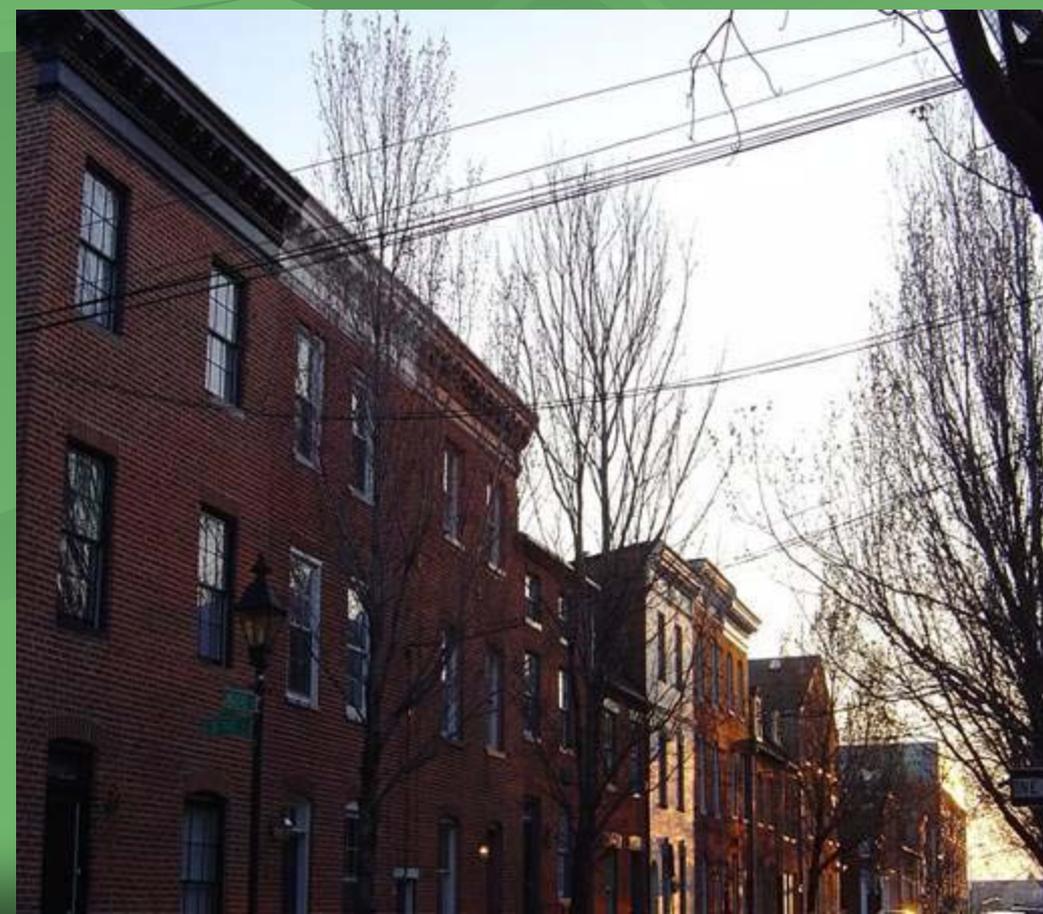
Change is coming



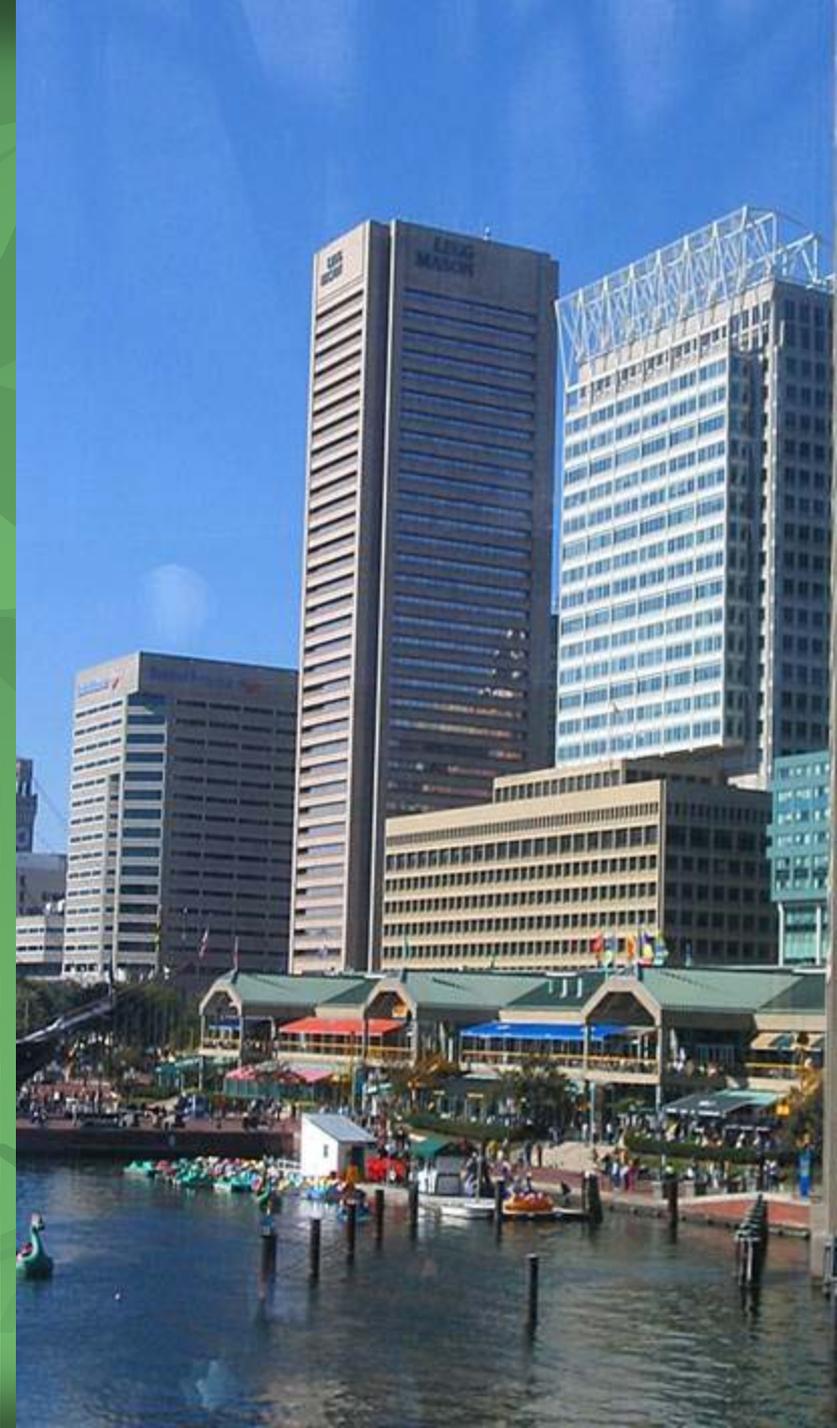
**THE FRONTIERS OF ECOLOGY are  
no longer found in our rural or  
wilderness areas...**



Contact with the natural world is important for our quality of life--our health



Ecological services and wildlife habitat provided by our natural areas has become a critical consideration in the design of our cities, neighborhoods and places of employment.



# "Trees are the answer"



- Planting a native tree is the easiest, cheapest and if modestly maintained the most broadly beneficial and lasting environmental legacy a citizen can make.
- This is the Bay's best BMP.

# Local Natural Resources Forest Preservation Act of 2013

An opportunity **not** a mandate

Montgomery County Forest  
Conservation Advisory Committee

Gary G Allen

July 21, 2015



Benefits  
of local  
leadership  
& Action

# NO Net Loss of Forests

- The legislation defines no net loss of forests as 40 percent of land in Maryland covered by tree canopy by 2020.
- amends Maryland's conservation policy by applying it to publically owned forest lands and creating new incentives for private forest land;
- adding dual sustainability certification of State forests as ways to encourage the retention and sustainable management of forest lands.
- authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to adopt regulations to implement the State's Reforestation Law in consultation with the Sustainable Forestry Council.

# Local government

## Current law prior to 2013

- There are numerous opportunities for local governments to better incorporate forest conservation into land use planning and decisions. State law currently requires local governments with planning and zoning authority to protect certain agricultural and forest lands, wetlands, steep slopes and other sensitive areas from development through the incorporation of a sensitive area element in their local comprehensive plan.

## FPC of 2013

- Local governments need updated technical assistance to adequately define and protect sensitive areas, including forestland. The legislation provides that local governments have the tools and technical assistance needed to adequately include forests within sensitive area elements of their comprehensive plans and that protection of forests and natural resources are considered on a **landscape level**.



**“A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds”**



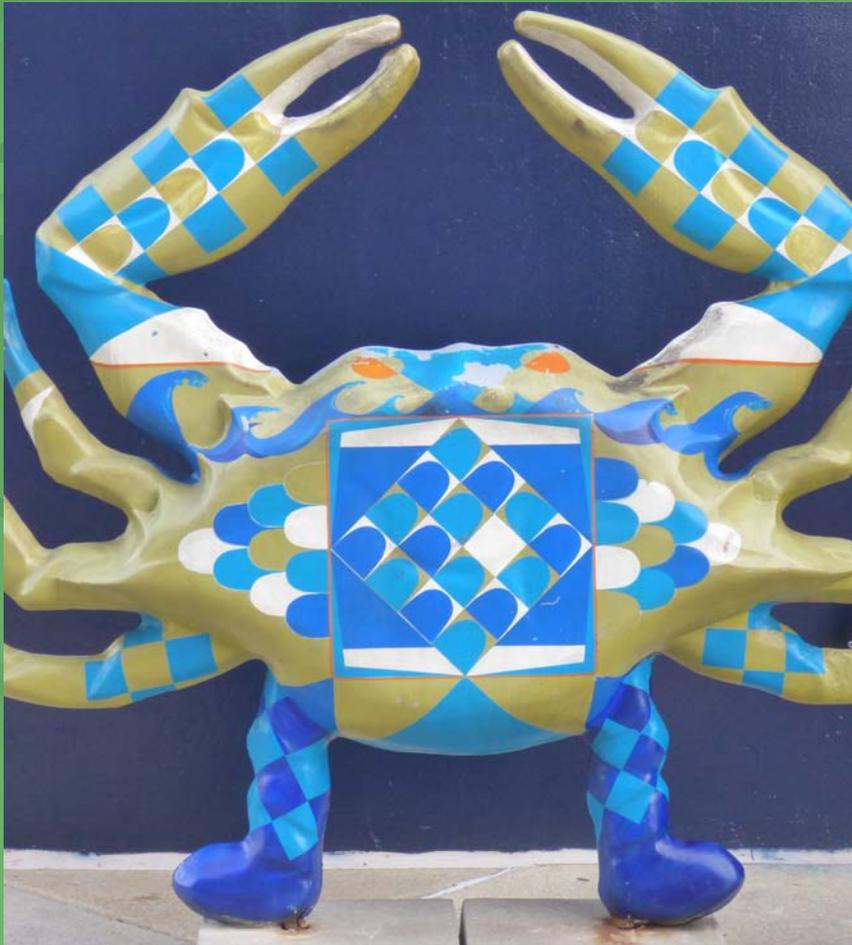
- Your continued visible, active and broadly engaging leadership is needed to
- Encourage, recognize and celebrate public and private forest stewardship.

## The foundation for success is -Citizen engagement - to



- Build an understanding of local environment values
- Emphasize the connection between people, their land and access to nature even in their backyards
- Achieve additional benefits like biodiversity and mowing reduction
- Retain, restore & expand urban Tree Canopies
- Be a good stewards of native species-to bring Nature Home

# Private land owner incentives



- The legislation expands the existing property tax credit to more property owners by changing the acreage limits from 10 to 500 acres to 3 to 1,000 acres. Broadening the range of eligible acres to include smaller parcels creates an incentive for private landowners to convert residential turf to trees as well as increase, retain, and manage forest cover on these properties.

# Other Current Legislative actions

- State work group to review the funding of State land preservation and easement Acquisition programs
- SFC work group to compliment this effort

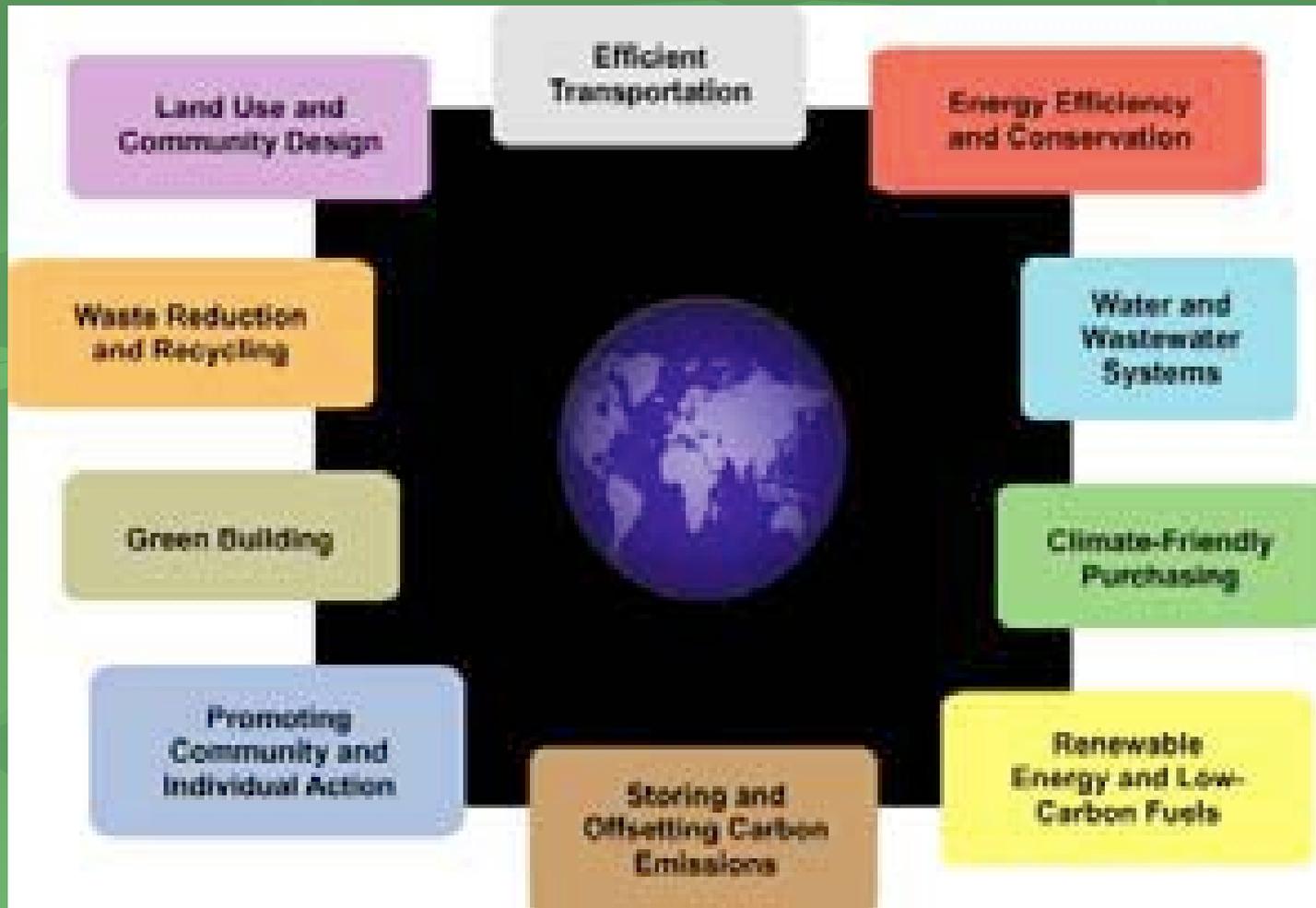
**“The tree which moves some to tears of joy is in the eyes of others only a green thing that stands in the way...But to the eyes of the man of imagination, nature is imagination itself.**



The state has more than fifty programs that encourage, support or require tree planting yet there is no consistent availability, maintenance, measurement, reporting, credit or even common standards. Significant large opportunity gaps exist to preserve, protect expand and support urban forest cover.

**So, what does it all mean?**



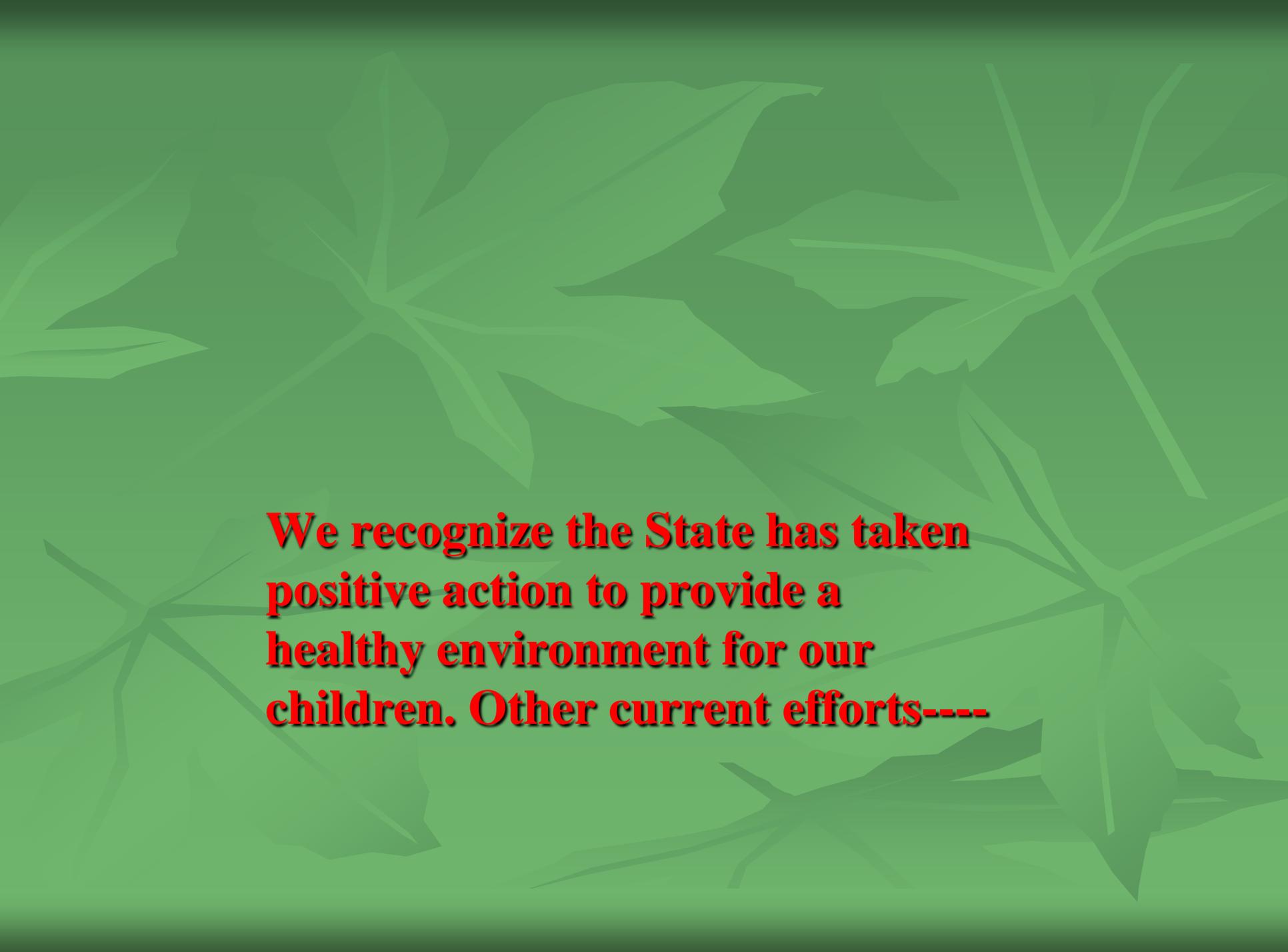


## Local Government leadership Areas



**These are the next steps in  
creating a greener Maryland**

**They will change  
the way we do business**



**We recognize the State has taken positive action to provide a healthy environment for our children. Other current efforts----**

# *Greater Baltimore Wilderness: Green Infrastructure for Regional Resilience and Equity*

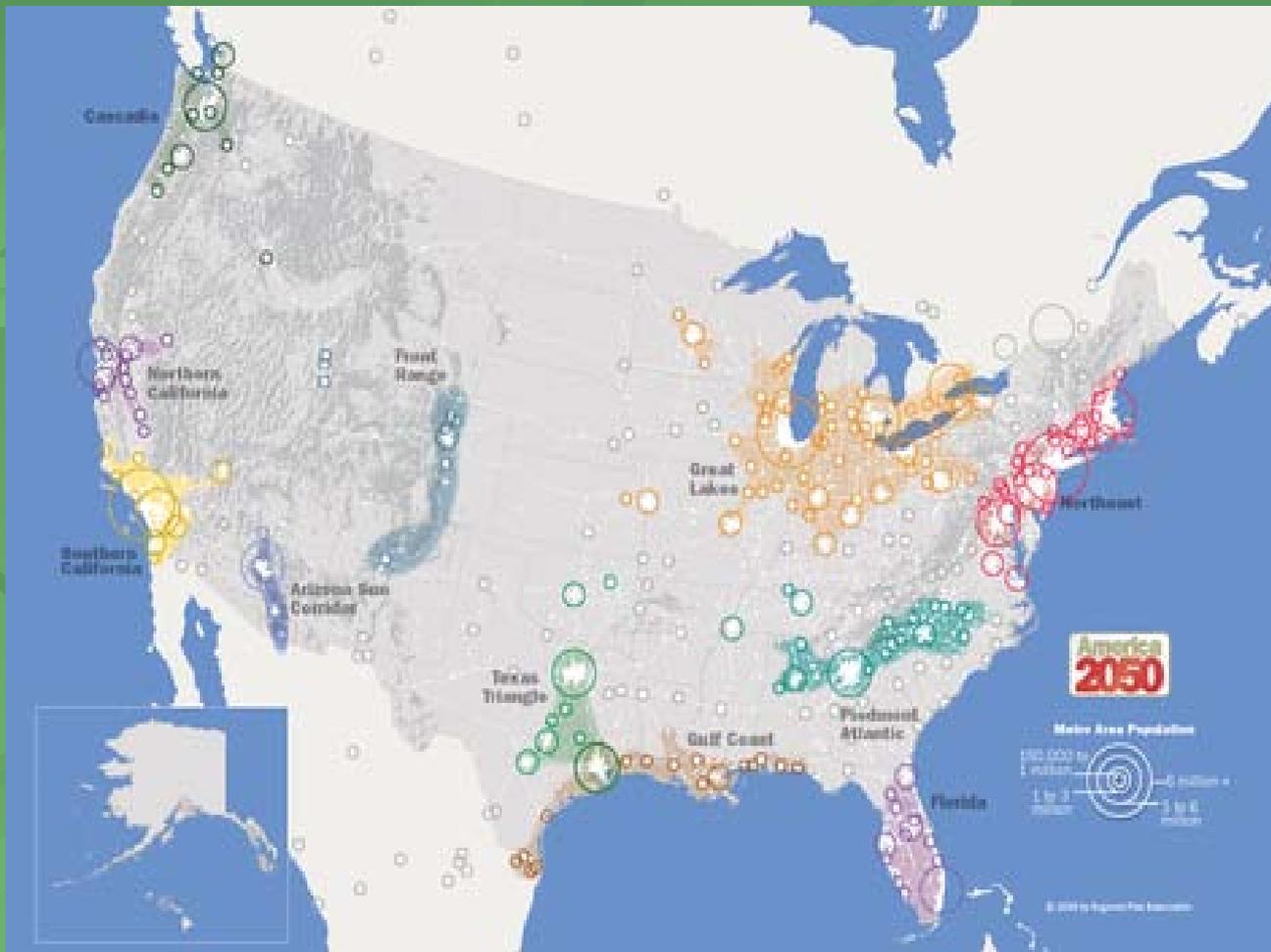
Greater **Baltimore**



**Wilderness**

Coalition

# *The Nature of Megaregions*



By 2050:

90% of Americans in coastal areas

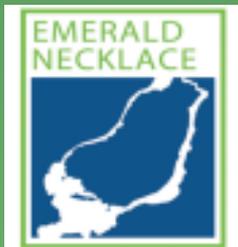
Concentrated in seven megaregions

# Chicago Wilderness

A regional alliance dedicated to  
protecting nature and enriching life



HOUSTON  
WILDERNESS  
*It's Our Nature*



Greater **Baltimore**



**Wilderness**

Coalition

# *Green Infrastructure—Natural Networks*



# *Green Infrastructure Solutions – “Nature-based”*

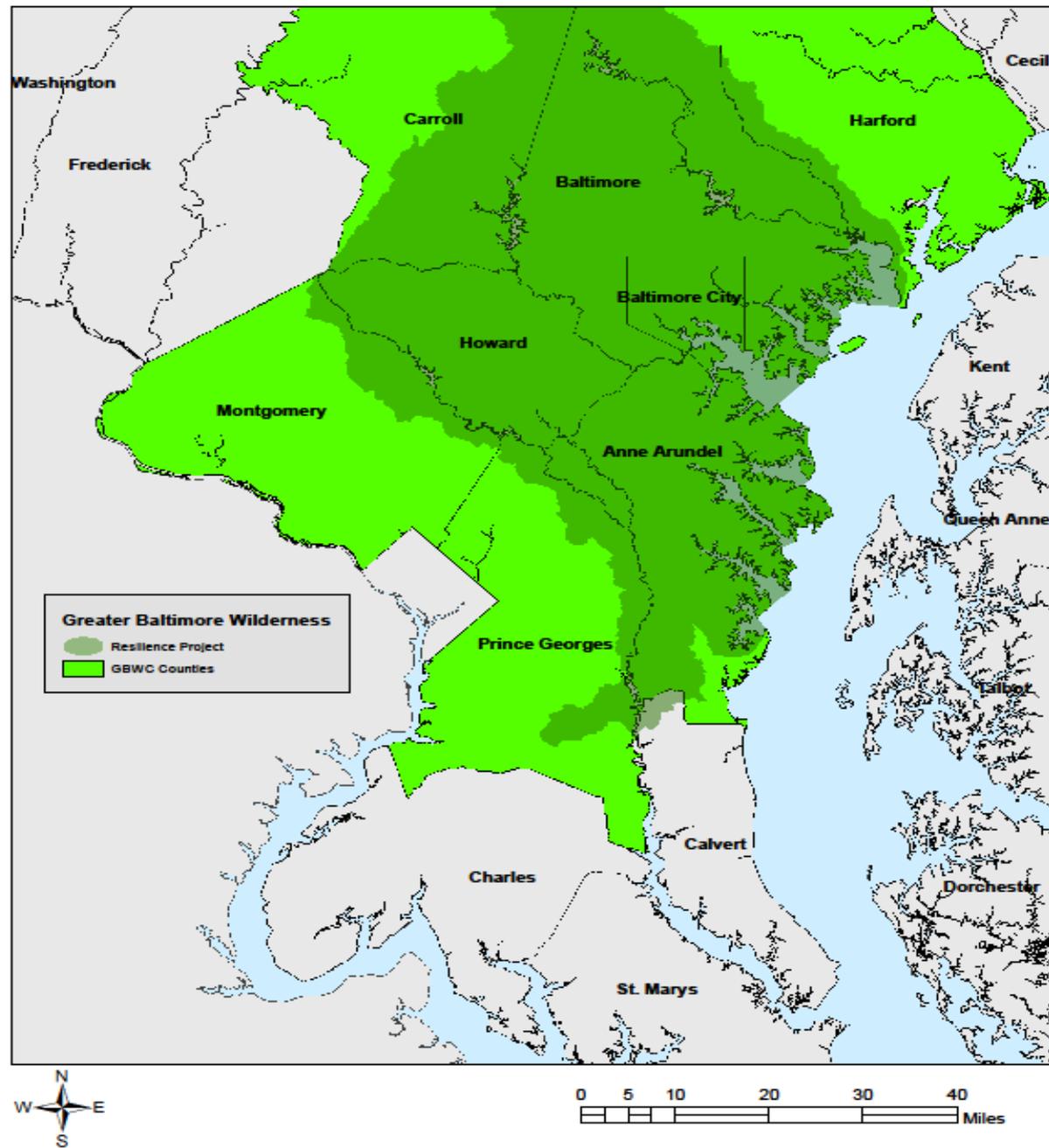


# Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition

*Envisioning the Growth of a Connected and Protected  
Green Infrastructure Network in the  
Heart of Maryland*

- **Resilience**
- *Biodiversity*
- **Equity**
- *Discovery*

# Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition & Coastal Resilience Project



# *Addressing the Impacts of MD Changing Climate*



# Enlisting green infrastructure for climate resiliency...

- Preparing for SLR
- Buffering against coastal storms
- Handling heavier downpours
- Storing and filtering stormwaters
- Preparing for droughts
- Turning down the heat
- Cleaning the air



# *Project's Principal Objectives*

- *Map existing green infrastructure* contributing to coastal storm resilience
- *Prioritize and map green infrastructure enhancement opportunities*
- *Evaluate best governance mechanisms* for managing and protecting green infrastructure
- *Build a better regional green infrastructure network*

# Project Management

**Coalition Steering  
Committee**



*Project Team*

**The Conservation Fund  
American Planning Association  
Center for Chesapeake Communities  
Chesapeake Conservancy  
US Geological Survey MD-DE-DC Water  
Science Center**

Greater **Baltimore**



**Wilderness**

Coalition



**Thank you for the opportunity  
to share our work with you this  
evening-**

**Sustainable Forestry Council**



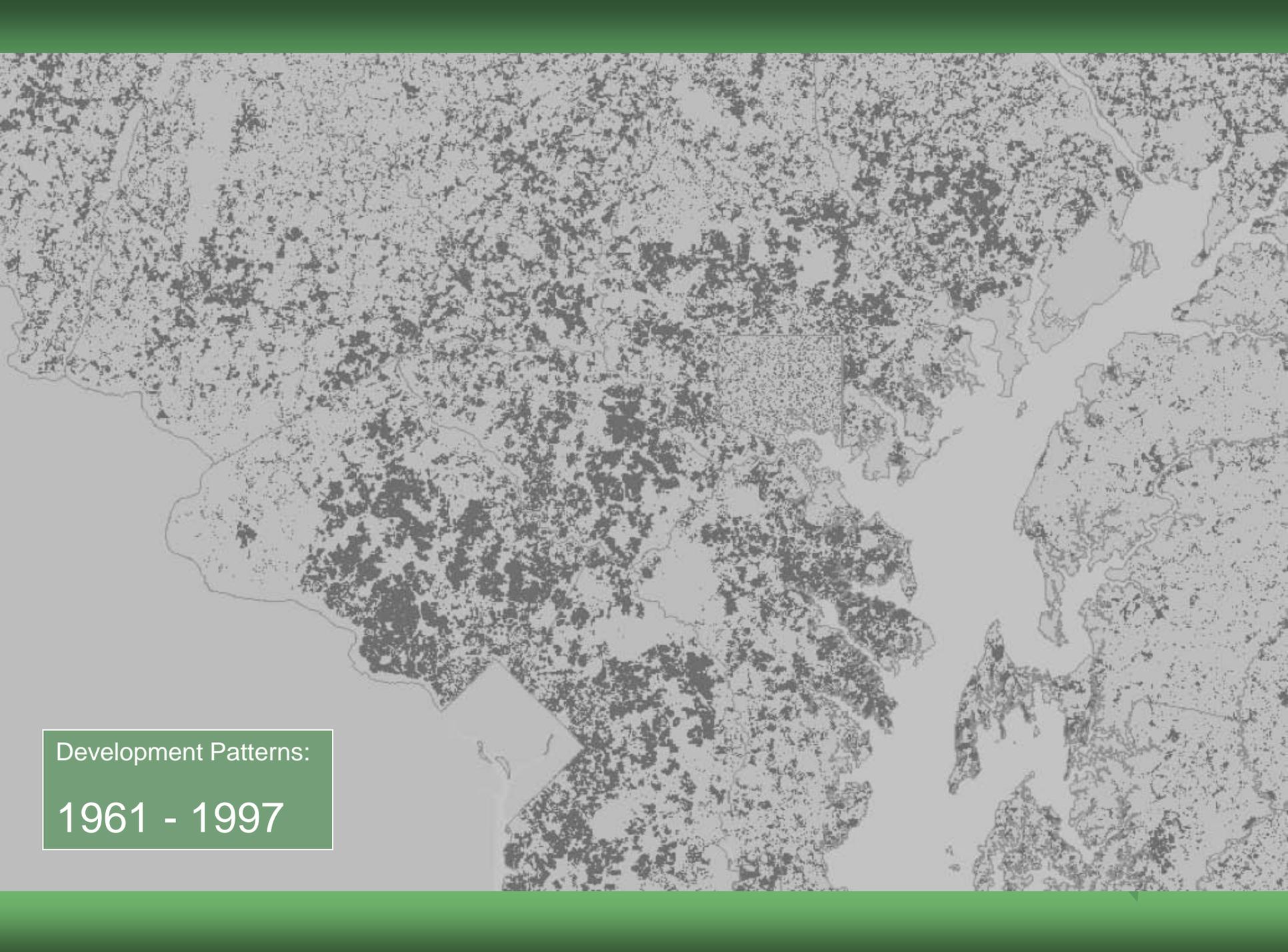


Questions?

**[gallenbay@aol.com](mailto:gallenbay@aol.com)**

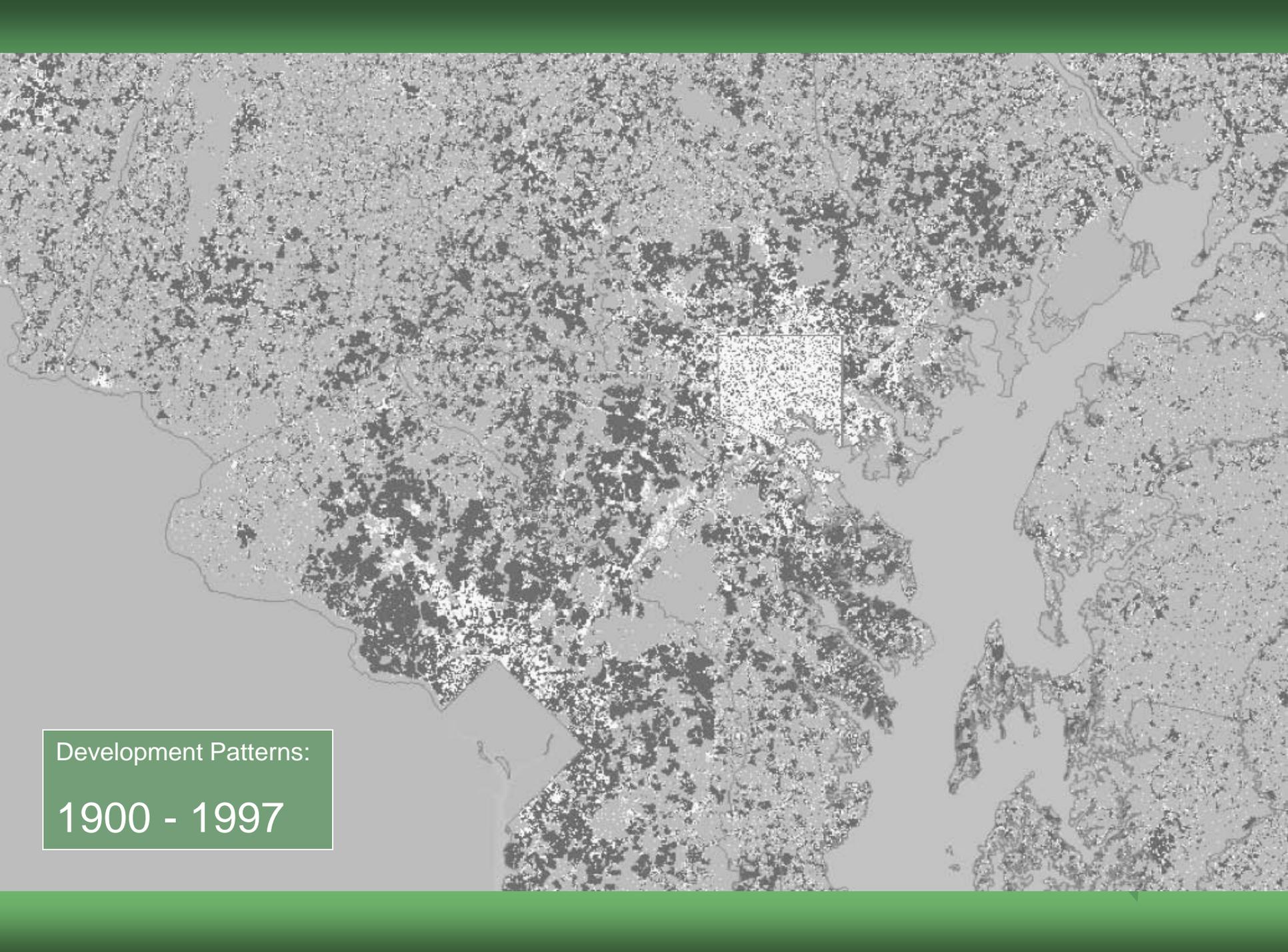


Development Patterns:  
1900 - 1960



Development Patterns:

1961 - 1997

An aerial photograph of a coastal region, likely the San Francisco Bay Area, showing urban development patterns. A white rectangular box highlights a specific area in the center, possibly the San Francisco Peninsula. The image shows a mix of urban areas, water bodies, and natural terrain.

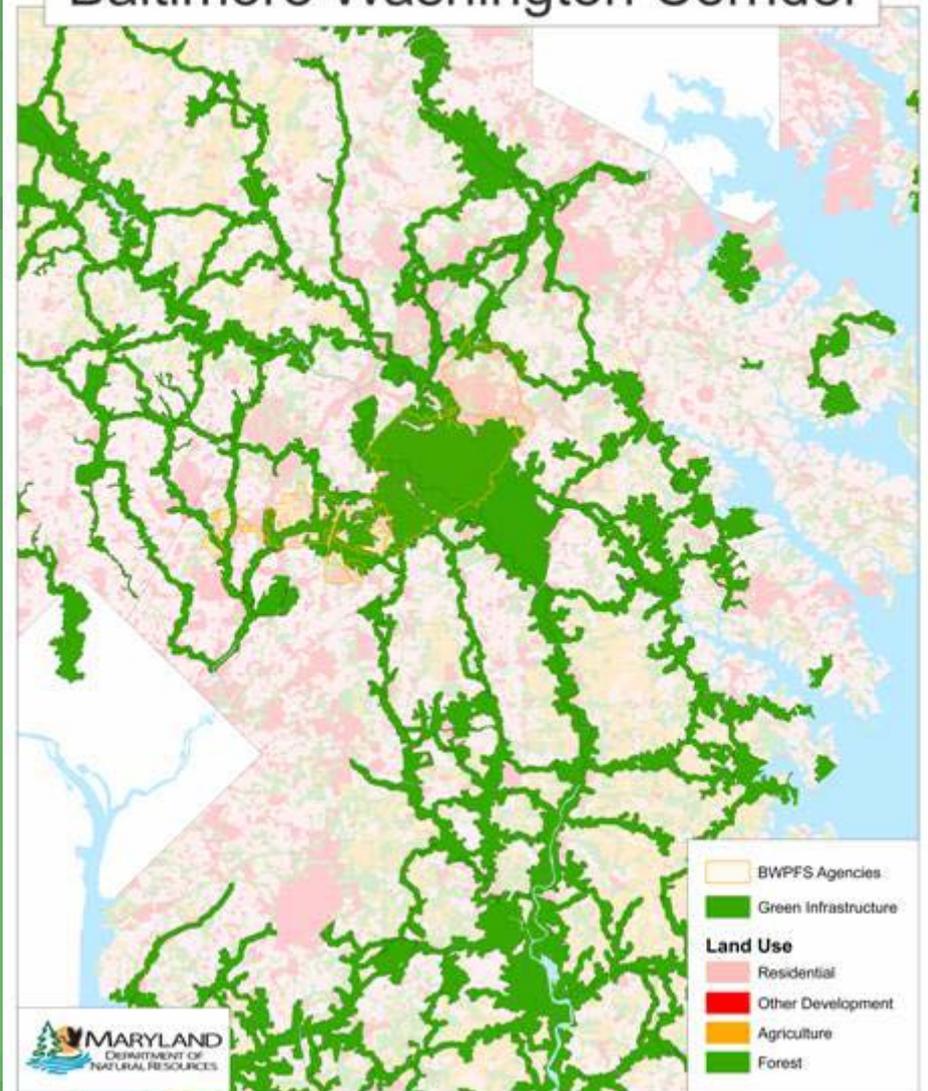
Development Patterns:

1900 - 1997

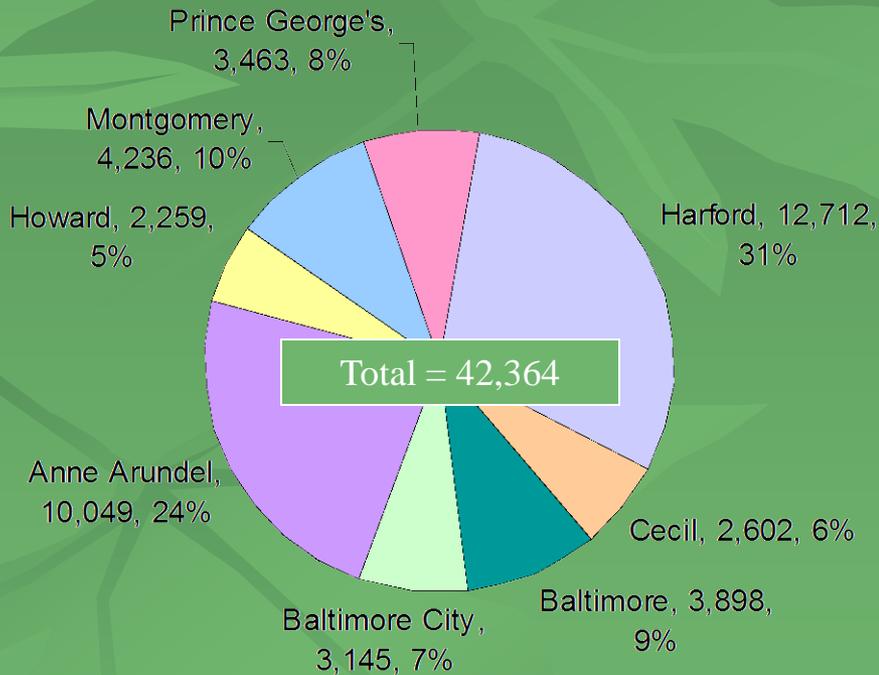
## Green Infrastructure in the Baltimore Washington Corridor

### These Lands....

- are among the last remaining large blocks of urban forest ecosystems,
- are critical hubs in the State's ecological network, and
- provide irreplaceable water quality, air quality and living resources support services
- to the Baltimore-Washington Metropolitan region



# More jobs, more people, more need for a healthy environment



New Federal Jobs



# Population Growth and Development: 1990 - 2000



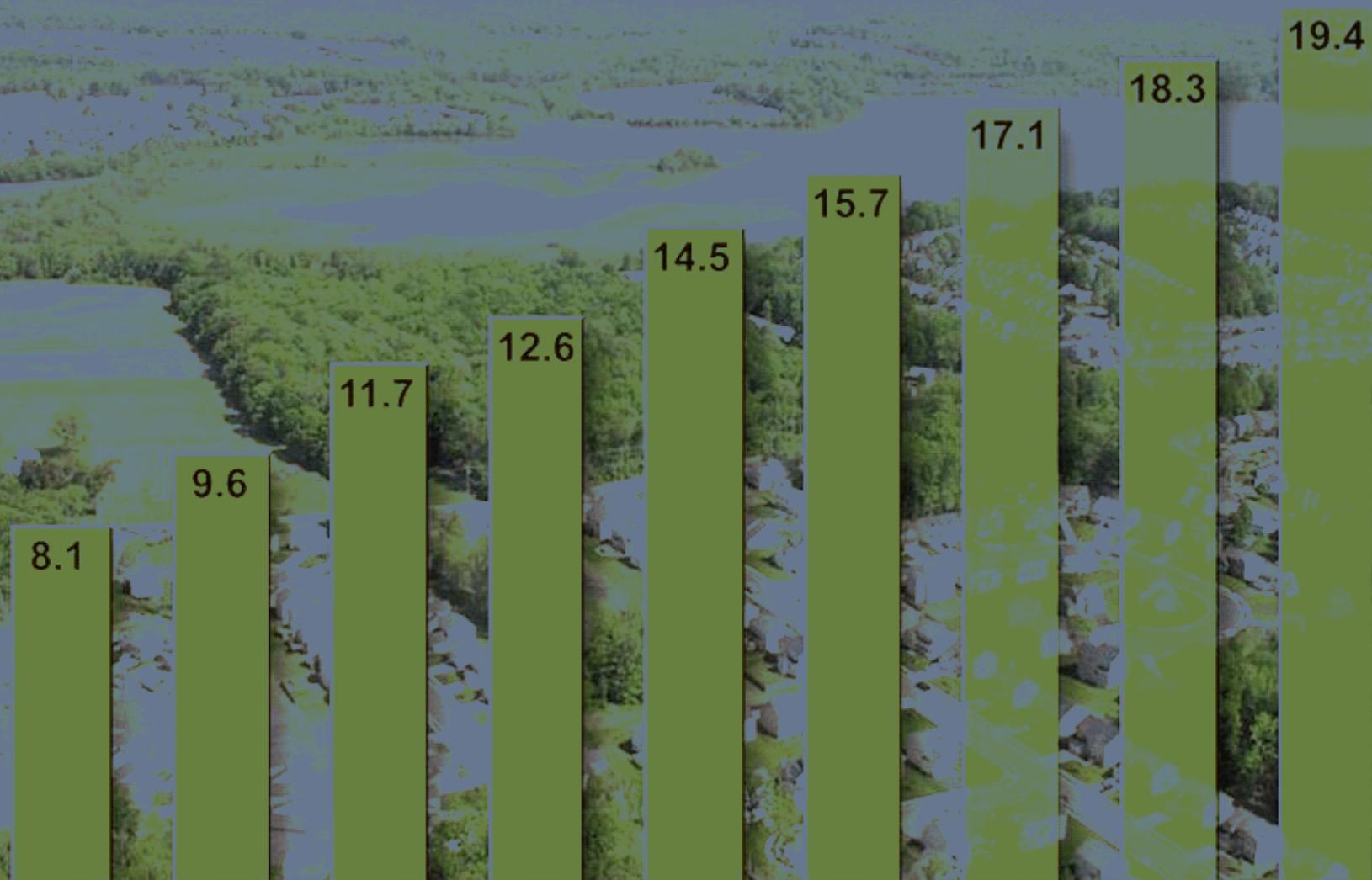
8.2%

25%

Population

Land  
Conversion

# Population Growth (1950 - 2030)



1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010 2020 2030

Projected



# Sustaining America's Urban Trees and Forests

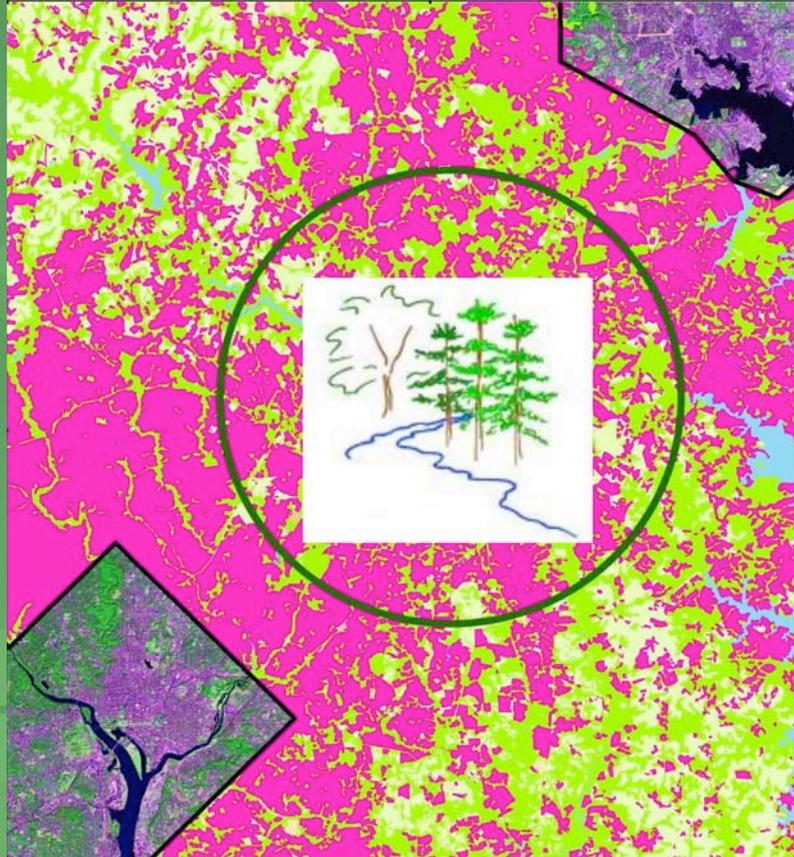
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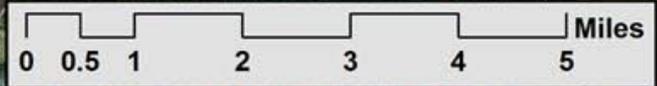
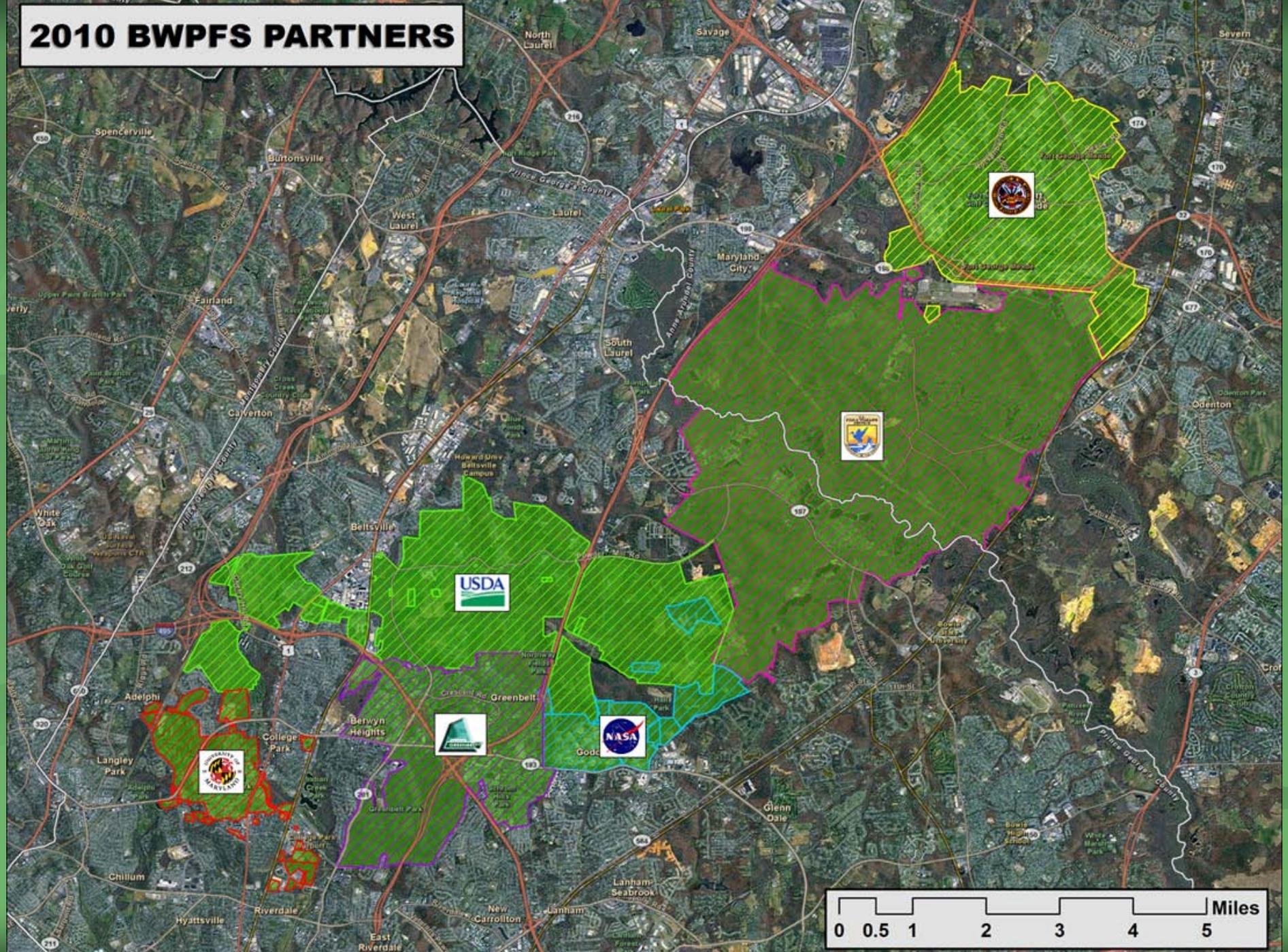
# Your Sponsors



## Baltimore Washington Partners for Forest Stewardship\*

The Baltimore Washington Partners for Forest Stewardship (BWPFSS) is a unique collaboration of federal land-owning agencies in the Baltimore-Washington region that owns and manages 40 contiguous square miles of land, of which 64% of the area is either forested (13,270 acres) or wetlands (3,230 acres).

# 2010 BWPFS PARTNERS



# Five Key tools

- **1. Forest Conservation Act** provides guidelines for the amount of forest land retained or planted after the completion of development projects.
- **2. Critical Areas Act** identified the "Critical Area" as all land within 1,000 feet of the Mean High Water Line of tidal waters or the landward edge of tidal wetlands and all waters of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

# Key tools

- **3. Comprehensive Plans Requirements define a Sensitive Areas**  
Objective: To protect and enhance a communities air and water quality, important habitats, and other natural features that contribute to a communities quality of life. The Comprehensive Plan designates land with any of the following features as “sensitive areas:” - Steep slopes (land having more than 15 percent grade within the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area or within 100 feet of streams; all other land having more than 20 percent grade). - Perennial streams and the riverfront, including banks and a 100 foot buffer. - Intermittent streams and their banks and a 50-foot buffer. - The Town’s wellfield and a 100 foot buffer around the well. - Areas within the 100 year floodplain extending beyond stream buffers. - Habitat of threatened and endangered species listed by the State’s Natural Heritage Program. - Non-tidal wetlands.
- Street trees and trees in public open spaces shall be retained. Landowners shall be encouraged to plant additional trees on their property.

# Key tools

- **4. Mitigation Requirements** Maryland Reforestation Law for highway construction using State funds that causes the cutting or clearing of forests lands requires that these trees be replaced.
- **5. Urban and Community Forestry Programs - focusing on public and private components of MARYLAND'S Green Infrastructure-Examples:**  
**Forest Stewardship Program**  
**Forest Legacy Program**