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
The Nature of Megaregions

By 2050:

90% of Americans in urban areas

Concentrated in eleven megaregions
Green Infrastructure– Natural Networks
Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition

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

• Resilience
• Biodiversity
• Equity
• Discovery
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
Thank you for the opportunity to share our work with you this evening-

Sustainable Forestry Council
Development Patterns:

1900 - 1960
Development Patterns:
1961 - 1997
Development Patterns:

1900 - 1997
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

Total = 42,364

- Prince George's: 3,483, 8%
- Montgomery: 4,236, 10%
- Howard: 2,259, 5%
- Anne Arundel: 10,049, 24%
- Baltimore City: 3,145, 7%
- Baltimore: 3,898, 9%
- Harford: 12,712, 31%
- Cecil: 2,602, 6%

New Federal Jobs

Maryland Department of Planning. May 2007
Sustaining America’s Urban Trees and Forests

David J. Nowak, Susan M. Stein, Paula B. Randler, Eric J. Greenfield, Sara J. Comas, Mary A. Carr, and Ralph J. Alig
The Baltimore Washington Partners for Forest Stewardship (BWPFS) 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).
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.
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 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