



Chesapeake Forest Fund

Free Tree Planting and Care Available



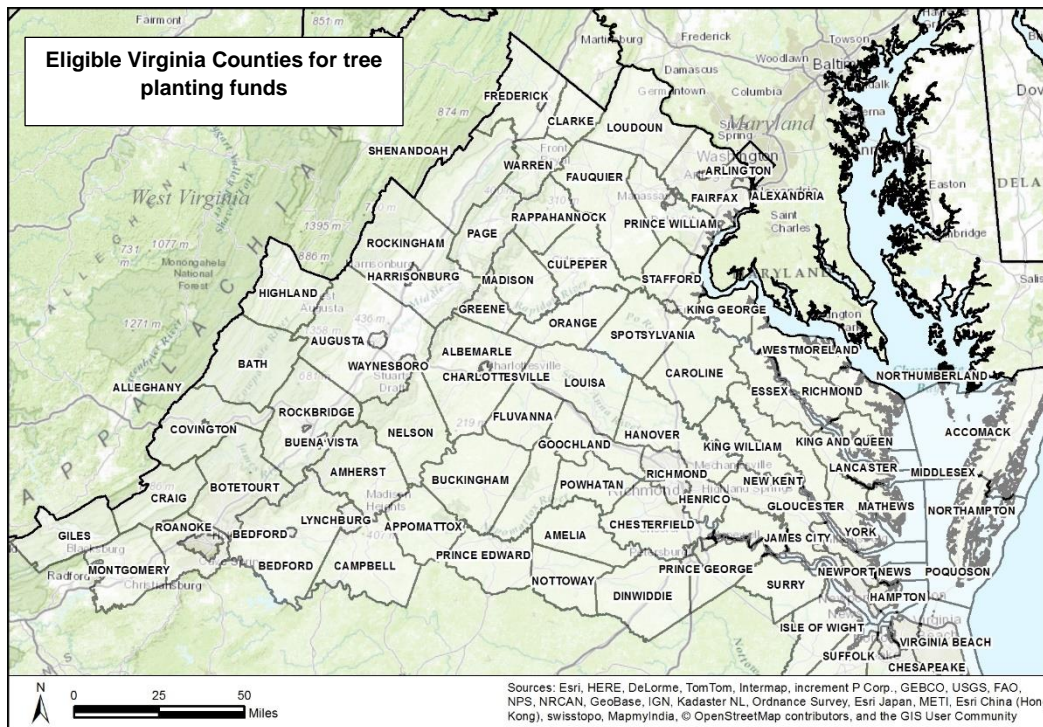
Tree planting provides important conservation benefits, such as creating new wildlife habitat and improving air and water quality.

Assistance

The Chesapeake Forest Fund is offering hassle-free funds for interested Virginia landowners to help achieve their conservation goals. The Chesapeake Forest Fund will pay-in-full and manage the planting and maintenance of native trees on your property. The on-the-ground effort will be led by the Forests for the Bay and the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOP). There are no additional costs to landowners.

Eligibility

All Virginia landowners in Chesapeake counties (see counties below) are eligible for funds and assistance. The planting area must be a minimum of 1 acre. Preference will be given to landowners with a conservation easement or who are interested in long-term protection of their new woodlands. In addition, priority will be given to proposed areas with the greatest conservation potential, such as areas adjacent to pre-existing forests or in proximity to streams. However, we emphasize all interested landowner are welcomed to apply.



For more information, please contact:

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Specifications

Landowners may seek tree planting and care services for either fall 2014 or spring 2015. Due to limited funds, priority will be given to landowners interested in fall planting over spring. The Chesapeake Forest Fund will enter into a minimum 15 year agreement with landowners, during which the Chesapeake Forest Fund will pay for and manage the site preparation, tree planting, tree planting materials, and up to the first five years of tree maintenance. Forests for the Bay will work with VDOF to identify the best combination of native tree species for your property. Maintenance may include, but is not limited to, spot spraying, invasive species control, and mowing.

Expectations for landowners

- No harvesting of reforested trees may occur during the 15 year agreement period.
- Proposed areas must have been without trees for the past ten years (e.g., abandoned pasture fields, lawns greater than 1 acres, etc.).
- No broadcast fertilization of reforested trees during the 15 year agreement period.

Benefits for landowners

Beyond the immediate and long-term value of tree planting for increasing wildlife habitat, improving air and water quality, and reducing greenhouse gases, there are additional direct benefits to landowners:

- Trees are the property of the landowner and will grow in size and value over time.
- Forests for the Bay will offer landowners a free service to determine what other funding opportunities are available for your property to help you reach your conservation goals.
- Additional incentives may be available for agreements greater than 15 years.