

Urban and stewardship programs available to landowners and local governments

Local Government and Homeowner Assistance programs:

The MD Forest Service has numerous programs to assist towns and citizens with the costs associated with tree plantings. Below is a brief description of each program. More information can be found on the TreeMendous Maryland webpage: <https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/treemendous/default.aspx>

- **Tree Mendous Maryland order form:** The Tree-Mendous order form is an agreement between a wholesale nursery and our program to provide quality native trees to be planted on *public land*. The hope is to assist local governments and community groups plant trees at a reduced cost to benefit every Marylander. Tree-Mendous provides free delivery to three locations across the state each Spring and Fall, in order to reduce planting cost further. Groups can also pay for delivery directly to their site for an additional fee.

- **GRANTS:** <https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/programs/urban/mcfc.aspx>

Due dates for both grants: July 15 and Feb 15.

- **MUCFC Grants** - This grant helps community groups fund tree planting and education projects statewide to enhance Maryland's urban forest and the projects must be located on *public lands* in parks, metropolitan areas, cities or towns. Maximum grant awarded is \$1,000. *public lands*
- **NEW MDOT Grants** - Eligible projects are those that had trees removed as part of construction of a transportation facility project and are affected by heat island or by environmental justice issues. Those areas affected by the Purple Line construction are also eligible. Trees can be replanted on *public or private lands*. Maximum grant awarded is \$5,000. *public or private land*

- **Marylanders Plant Trees coupon program:** homeowners, from townhouse to large lot subdivisions, can use the coupon to receive \$25 off the purchase of a \$50 native tree(s) or greater in price at participating nurseries across the State. *private or public land*

- **Backyard Buffer program:** assists homeowners who have a stream or other waterway on or adjacent to their property to create a streamside buffer of native trees and shrubs by providing a bag of seedlings to be planted by the homeowner. Backyard Buffer packet reservations are typically taken during the month of March, with bags available for pickup at a designated local site in time for the spring planting season. A limited number of bags are available each year on a first-come first-served basis. *private land*

Landowner Assistance programs

To help landowners care for their land, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service offers a variety of programs to offer technical and financial assistance. These programs cover establishment, protection, planning and management of forests. A brochure is available that outlines the services provided and any associated fees. <https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/programapps/faland.aspx>

Below is a brief description of some of the programs:

- **Woodland Incentive Program:** Private, non-industrial woodland owners who manage their forest land may apply for financial assistance through the Maryland Forest Service's [Woodland Incentive Program](#). Landowners who own 5 to 1,000 acres of woodland and agree to maintain the forestry practice for 15 years are eligible to apply. Some eligible cost-share practices include preparation of stewardship plans and reforestation of open land.

- **Forest Conservation Management Program:** Under Maryland Forest Service's [Forest Conservation Management Program](#), any resident who owns over 5 contiguous forested acres can get a forest management plan drawn up by a forester while getting a break on property taxes for at least 15 years. House sites, crop land and other non-forest open spaces are not eligible. Open land that was recently planted with tree seedlings can be included in the program after one growing season.

- **Environmental Quality Incentive Program:** Pairing with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, Maryland Forest Service staff act as technical service providers in helping implement the [Environmental Quality Incentive Program](#). Farm and forestry producers are guided in how best to improve their agricultural and woodland practices while restoring their landscape and gaining environmental benefits like improved wildlife habitat. There are up to 200 conservation practices included in the program depending on location.

If you have questions about landowner programs, here is the Maryland Forest Service contact list of county field offices: <https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/contacts.aspx>