



A study performed by the MD Department of Natural Resources and the USDA Forest Service measured Baltimore's existing tree canopy and found that it is currently 20%, and determined 50% as the possible tree canopy. Using this information, the City adopted a 40% goal in 30 years.

What is the Tree Canopy?

Imagine for a moment that you are a bird flying high above the trees, looking down on Baltimore City. The tree leaves and branches that cover the ground when viewed from above are the City's tree canopy. Twenty percent of Baltimore is currently covered by tree canopy.

The Tree Canopy Goal

With present practices, Baltimore is losing Tree Canopy. However, Baltimore City is committed to reversing this trend and increasing the tree canopy to 40%, or doubling it. Our success depends on the involvement of the entire civic community.

Why Increase the Tree Canopy?

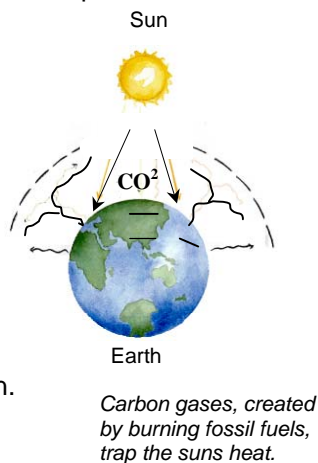
It's about the quality of life for the citizens of Baltimore! Our urban forest:

- Provides shade to mitigate temperatures
- Beautifies our community
- Cleans our air and water
- Provides wildlife habitat
- Increases our property values
- Makes Baltimore a better place to live

Carbon Sequestration

One of the most important functions of the urban forest is to remove carbon from the atmosphere that contributes to global warming and climate change.

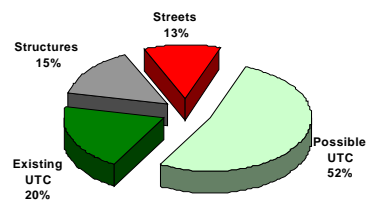
Trees store carbon in a process called carbon sequestration.



Why Now?

Nationwide, policy makers are increasingly recognizing the value of trees and solving some of our environmental problems.

In December 2003, the Chesapeake Executive Council signed a Riparian Forest Buffer Directive, which included setting an Urban Tree Canopy goal.



Baltimore City land cover analysis, MD Department of Natural Resources & US Forest Service

Join the Effort to Create a Greener Baltimore

Baltimore City's Recreation and Parks and Planning departments have written an urban forest management plan.

The plan identifies ways to:

- Preserve existing trees and forests
- Improve the tree-growing environment
- Develop a strategic planting strategy
- Select trees for diversity and suitability
- Increase space for tree planting opportunities
- Educate the public about the value of trees and tree care
- Build capacity--public and private

How Do I get Involved?

For questions or comments please contact: Myra Brosius, Project Coordinator, at (410) 396-6109 e-mail myra.brosius@baltimorecity.gov or Rebecca Feldberg, City Arborist, at (410) 396-6109 e-mail rebecca.feldberg@baltimorecity.gov.

To inquire about the Forestry Division's policies and procedures or to request a street tree, please call (410) 396-6109, or visit www.baltimorecity.gov/recnparks.

To participate in **Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks' Community Tree Stewardship Program**: please contact Hugo Lam, Office of Park Conservation and Community Outreach at (410) 396-0339 or e-mail Hugo.Lam@baltimorecity.gov.

For more information on **the Community Greening Stewardship Program, Parks and People Foundation**: please contact Jaleel Nash at (410) 448-5663, ext. 103 or e-mail info@parksandpeople.org.

