



2022 Webinar Series



Millions of Trees Coming to Maryland: Who, How, and the Expected Challenges

Wednesday, January 26th, 2022

Presented by

**Greg Burks, Chesapeake Bay Trust; Justin Bowers, Baltimore Tree Trust;
Joanna Ogburn, JBO Conservation & Envision The Choptank**

Thanks to our sponsors!



Urban Trees Grant Program

GREG BURKS | GBURKS@CBTRUST.ORG



The Chesapeake Bay Trust

About the Trust

To engage and empower diverse groups to take actions that enrich natural resources and local communities of the Chesapeake Bay region.



The Tree Solutions now Act of 2021

- ▶ As a climate mitigation goal, the state seeks to plant and maintain 5 million native trees by the end of calendar year 2031.
- ▶ State supported Implementation - Maryland Department of the Environment - Maryland Department of Natural Resources - Maryland Department of Agriculture.
- ▶ Tree plantings to be considered additional to those already projected as part of the 2030 GGRA Plan.

The Role of the Trust

Urban Trees Grant Program

- ▶ The Tree Solutions now Act of 2021 bill establishes an Urban Trees Program administered by CBT.
- ▶ The purpose of the program is to plant **native tree species** in underserved areas by making grants to qualified organizations for tree-planting projects in those areas beginning in fiscal 2023 – fiscal year 2031.
- ▶ Awarded funds may be used for supplies, site preparation, personnel costs, and other expenses and materials related to planning, implementing, and maintaining tree-planting projects in underserved areas (as per statute).
- ▶ Key Components: Eligible Project Property Types - Planning and Outreach – Implementation – Maintenance.
- ▶ Funding Availability: The amount of funding available for this program will be determined by the State of Maryland's Fiscal Year 2023 budgeting process.



Defining Urban in Section 8-1911 of the Natural Resources Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland as:

Areas with low median household income levels, high unemployment, housing projects or any neighborhoods that were historically red-lined.

[CBF Map](#)

Why This Matters

- ▶ Trees belong in all communities, but particularly urban communities as they provide significant benefits to health, climate, the economy, and the environment.



A person wearing a light-colored shirt and pink rubber boots is watering a small green plant in a garden. The person is holding a red watering can and spraying water onto the plant. The background shows other plants and a wooden fence, all in a slightly blurred and dimly lit setting.

Community Engagement & Capacity Building



For more information about the **Urban Trees Grant Program** contact:

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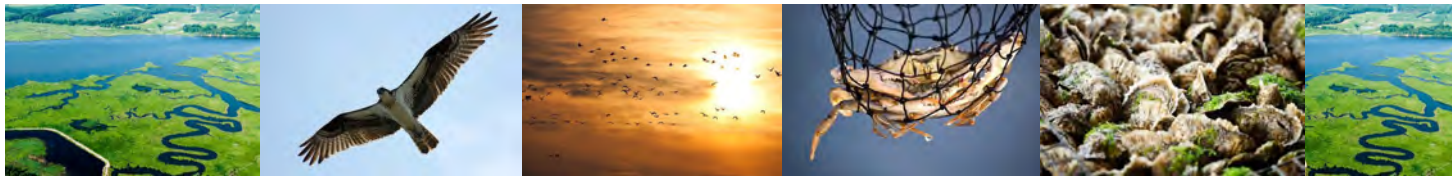
Or visit: <https://cbtrust.org/grants/urban-trees/>



ENVISION THE CHOPTANK

What is Envision the Choptank?

- ❖ A collaborative partnership
- ❖ A network of individuals and organizations
- ❖ Initiated in 2015 to achieve common goals
- ❖ Kickstarted by NOAA



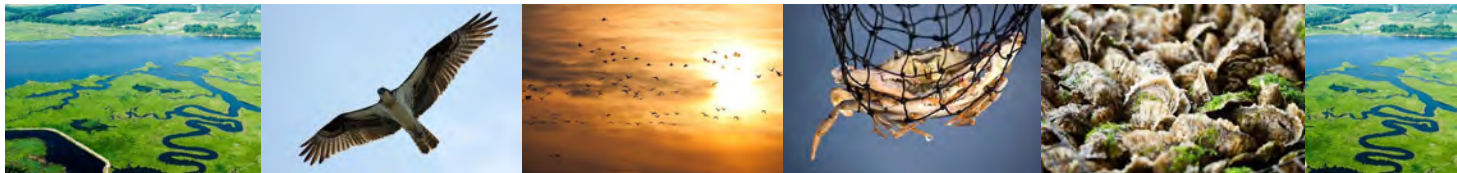
Envision Steering Committee

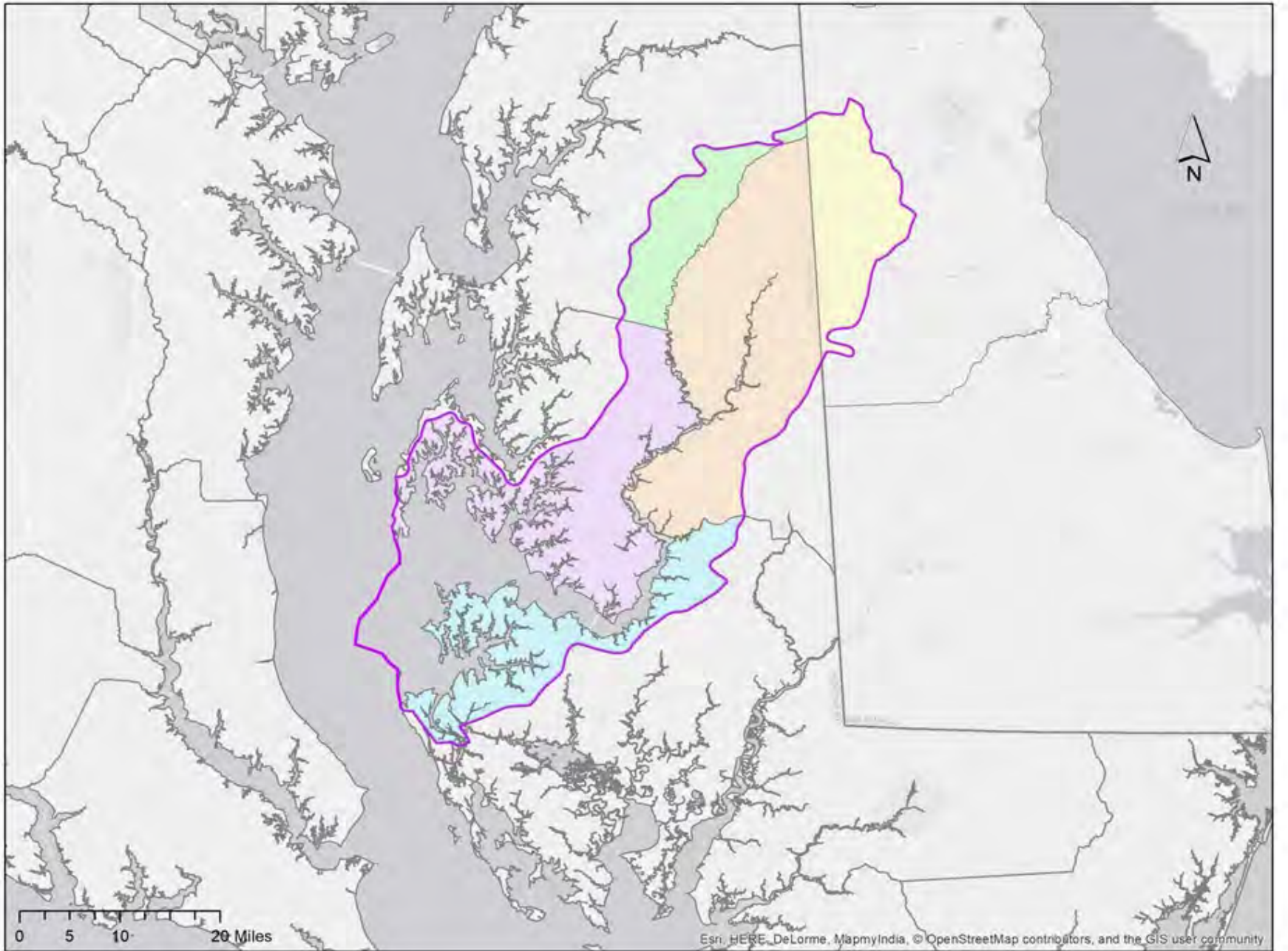
- **Chesapeake Bay Foundation**
- County Planning and Zoning
- DE Dept of Natural Resources & Environmental Control
- **Eastern Shore Land Conservancy**
- **MD Dept. of Natural Resources**
- MD Dept. of the Environment
- Mt. Pleasant Heritage Preservation Inc.
- **NOAA**
- **Oyster Recovery Partnership**
- **Pickering Creek Audubon Center**
- **ShoreRivers**
- Soil Conservation District
- **The Nature Conservancy**
- **University of MD Agriculture Extension**
- **University of Maryland Sea Grant Extension**



Mission

Provide swimmable, fishable waters and enhance the health and productivity of native oysters in a way that best meets the needs of surrounding communities







0 5 10 20 Miles


Esri, HERE, DeLorme, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community

Engaging Stakeholders

- Interviews
 - ❖ 64 practitioners
- Phone Survey
 - ❖ 730 residents
- Focus Groups
 - ❖ various community sectors

Envision the Choptank  V6 (3/24/17)
Assessing Marylander's Attitudes at  Page 1
N=800 Choptank Watershed Residents, March 2017

Introduction and Screening

May I please speak with... *(age/generation for sample balancing)* ...who is at home right now? This is _____ with  of Annapolis. You have been selected at random to participate in an important survey about issues affecting the quality of life in Delmarva.

S1. Before we begin, I need to know if I have reached you on a cell phone. *(If yes):* Are you in a place where you can talk safely without endangering yourself or others?

1 No, not on cell *(Continue.)*
2 Yes, cell and can talk safely *(Continue.)*
3 Yes, cell but cannot talk safely *(Seek callback time and telephone number.)*
9 Refused to say/Not sure *(Thank and terminate.)*

(If necessary):
S2. Can I confirm that you are over the age of 18?

1 Yes
2 No/Refused to say *(Seek an adult household member.)*

(All):
S3. So that I am sure we have a balanced sample, what is your five-digit zip code at home?
(Record zip for sample balancing.)

(If second homeowner):
S4. Can I confirm that you own property in *(geography)*? *(If yes):* The questions on this survey will relate to that community, not the area surrounding your primary residence.

1 Yes *(Continue.)*
2 No *(Thank and terminate.)*
9 Not sure/Refused to say *(Thank and terminate.)*

Priorities and Aspirations

1. Think for a moment about the issues that are most important to you in your daily life.

A. What is the most prominent issue or challenge you face?
B. And what is the second most prominent?

(Do not read):
98 Mentions something *(Record verbatim.)*
99 Nothing comes to mind/Not sure/Refused to say

(Questions 2 & 3 parallel to Cambridge survey):
2. In a few words or a sentence, what do you like about *(living/owning property)* here?

(Do not read):
98 Mentions something *(Record verbatim.)*
99 Nothing comes to mind/Not sure/Refused to say

Common Agenda

- 3-Year Plan (2019-2022)
- 4 Goal Areas
 - ❖ Conserve Natural Resources
 - ❖ Restore Habitat and Clean Water
 - ❖ Engage Communities
 - ❖ Strengthen and Expand the Partnership
- 6 Objectives, 15 strategies



Ag BMPs
Breaking
Barriers



Coming Soon
Advancing
Large-Scale
Restoration

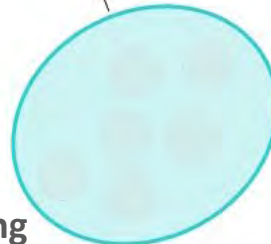


Steering Committee

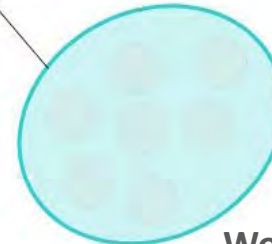


**Working
Groups**

Engaging
Disenfranchised
Communities



Working with
Local Governments



Tree Planting Programs

Residential Lands – Pilot Project

- Tested Methods to ↗ Implementation

Model Used

- Dedicated Landowner Assistance Coordinator
- Residential BMP Fund

Tree Planting Programs

Agricultural Lands – BMP Program

- Developed Using Feedback from Stakeholder Engagement Process & Advisory Group

Model Used

- Dedicated Landowner Assistance Coordinator
- Flexible, Tailored Incentive Programs
- Prioritization Tools

Tree Planting Programs

Public Lands – Local Governments

- Workgroup identified top priority to advance implementation

Model Used

- Technical Assistance Circuit Rider
 - To assess potential projects, develop & manage grant proposals, identify collaborative opportunities

Lessons Learned

- Address Gaps in Capacity
- For Outreach
 - Tie into existing landowner networks
 - Partner with trusted actors
- Build-in Extra Planting Season
- Define Your Boundaries, but be Flexible
- Order Trees in Advance



Lessons Learned – Public Land

- Understand Jurisdiction's Capacity for Maintenance

Alternatives

- Volunteer Programs (e.g. ShoreRivers Tree Stewards, WSAs)
- Hire Out for Maintenance

- Involve Public Works Staff in Planning

- For Street Trees

- Understand costs of adjusting or repairing sidewalk
- Purchase 10-12 foot trees of appropriate species

- Resource: MD DNR Gift of Trees program

- Offers free trees to local governments, public land plantings



Contact Information:

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NFWF



Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund



Thank You to our Funders



Planting the Future

BALTIMORE TREE TRUST'S MODEL OF
LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL
STEWARDSHIP AND INCLUSIVE
GROWTH

FOREVER MARYLAND | JANUARY 2022

For Baltimore. ⚡

Established in 2008, the Baltimore Tree Trust is building a local workforce to protect Baltimore's urban forest and plant a greener, healthier city for all of our neighbors.

⚡ By Baltimore.



Our Programs



Trees for Public Health

HIGH IMPACT NEIGHBORHOOD-SCALE PROJECTS



Neighborhood Foresters Initiative

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



Forests for the Future

LARGE PROPERTY AFFORESTATION / REFORESTATION



Corporate Greening Day

GROUP VOLUNTEER EVENTS



Additional Services

FCA MITIGATION CONSULTING / PLANTING

CONCRETE REMOVAL

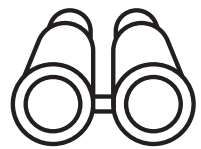
STUMP GRINDING

MAINTENANCE + WATERING



Our Process

Think city-wide. **Act hyper-local.**



Identification

Use the City's **Tree Planting Prioritization Map** or neighborhood /CDC solicitations. Match to grants or other funding sources.



Site Assessment

Collaborate with local partners to determine project scope and verify feasibility. **Cast a wide net** and anticipate drop-off.



Outreach + Engagement

Show up early. Show up often. **And listen.** Attend meetings. Share social media content. Knock on doors. Host volunteer events.



Implementation

Engage with sub-contractors as needed. Schedule crew(s) to "move in" until the project is 100% done to satisfaction. **Inventory all plantings.**

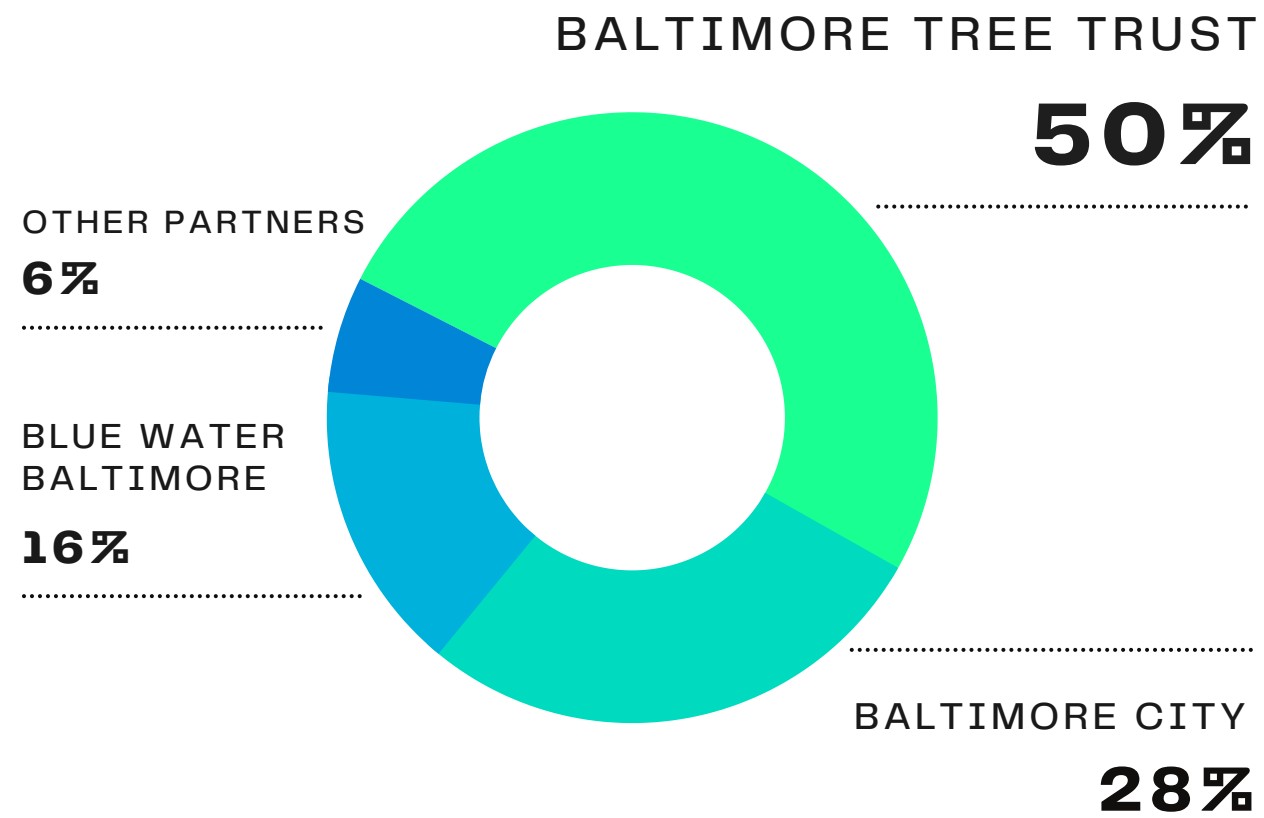


Monitoring + Maintenance

All of our trees have a **2-year warranty.** Return to repair / remove stakes, prune, add mulch, and water. Report any concerns.

By the Numbers

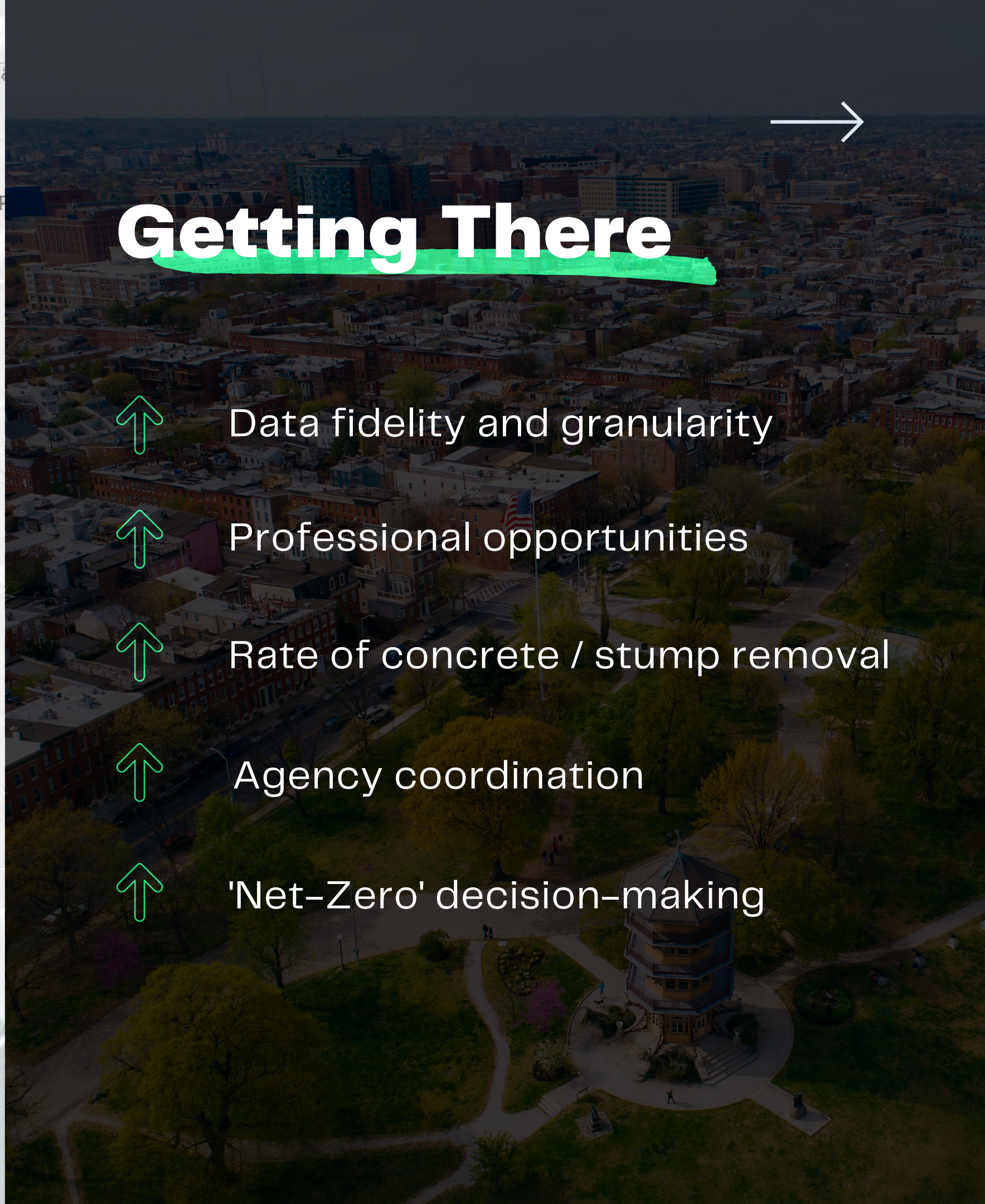
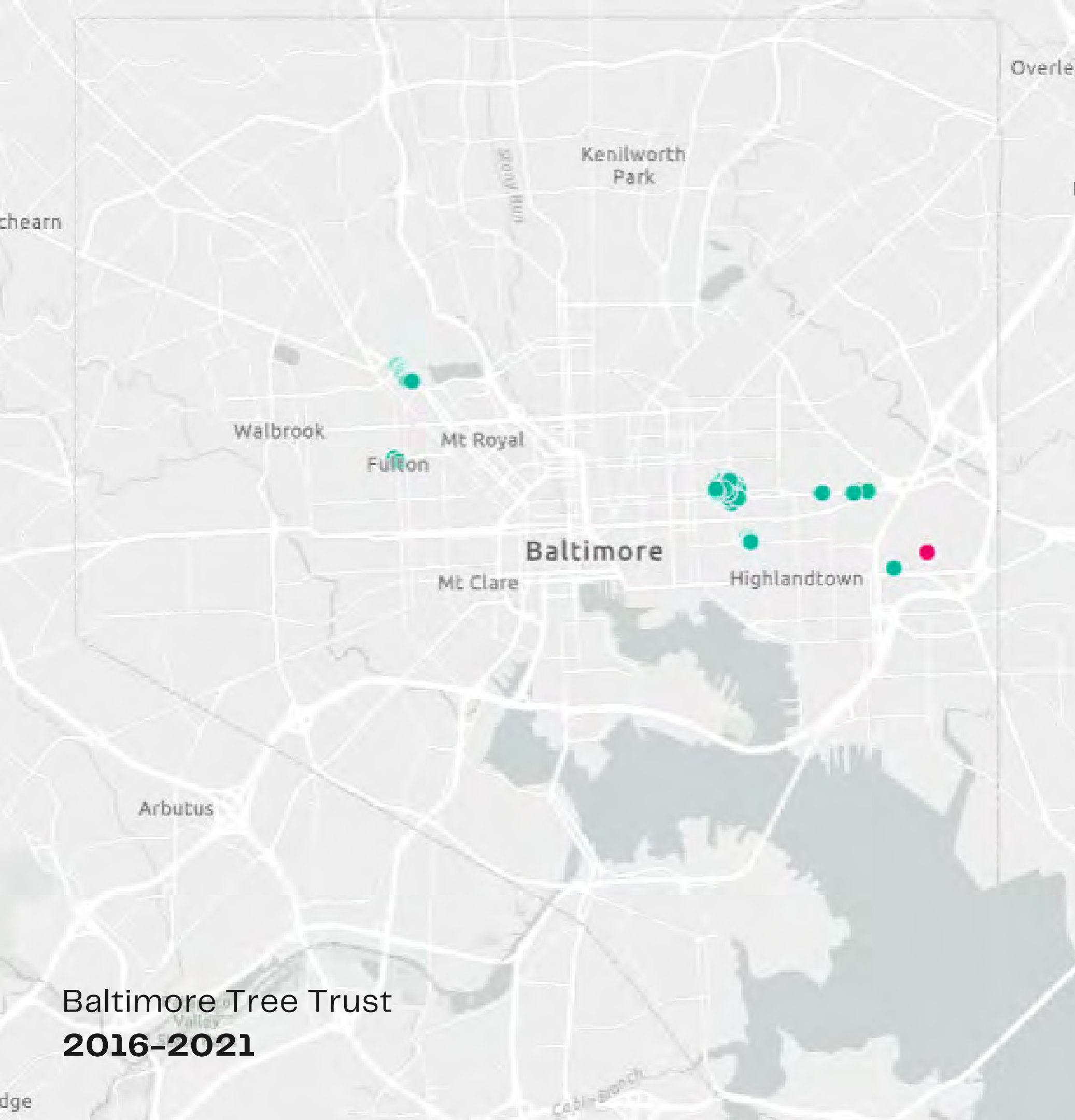
Street Trees planted under **TreeBaltimore** partnership, 2019-present



BALTIMORE TREE TRUST | JANUARY 2022

TREES PLANTED, BY YEAR BALTIMORE TREE TRUST





Getting There



Data fidelity and granularity



Professional opportunities



Rate of concrete / stump removal



Agency coordination



'Net-Zero' decision-making

Baltimore Tree Trust
2016-2021




We'd love to work with you to grow Baltimore's urban forest!



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