



## **WESTERN MARYLAND REFORESTATION PROGRAM**

### **NATIVE TREE PLANTING PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The Western Maryland Resource Conservation & Development Council (WMRC&D) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that helps people protect and develop the economic, natural, and social resources in Western Maryland with the goal of improving the region's economy, environment, and quality of life.

WMRC&D and the State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service partner to offer a free native tree planting program. This program is funded through Maryland's Chesapeake and Coastal Bays Grants Gateway, with the goal of improving the health of our local watersheds. These efforts support the statewide 5 Million Trees Initiative.

*Note: Project funding is NOT guaranteed. Your Maryland Forest Service contact will keep you informed of updates throughout the application process.*

#### **Eligibility Requirements:**

- The property must be in a Western Maryland County. This includes Garrett, Allegany, Washington, and Frederick counties.
- The property must not be encumbered by any restrictive easements.
- The proposed planting area must be at least one acre total in size.
- The planting must not be required or legally mandated.
- The planting must follow a planting plan that is developed by the Maryland Forest Service, in consultation with the landowner.

#### **Program Summary:**

- This program can support both reforestation and afforestation projects.
- This program can be utilized on both public and private land.
- Participation in this program is voluntary and does not come with any restrictive easements.
- This program is free to the recipient.
- This program can include the costs of site preparation including mowing, selective herbicide application, and forestry mulching.
- 3 years of limited contractor-provided maintenance is included.
- Recipients are expected to keep and maintain the young forest on their property for at least 15 years.

**What to Expect:**

- Recipients will receive a planting plan document, species specification sheet, and a map to review.
- Recipients must agree to project terms and provide a signed landowner agreement.
- After returning the landowner agreement, eligible recipients will be lined up for a spring tree planting within 2-3 years.

**How to Enroll:**

Contact Josh Smith, Executive Director of WMRC&D to learn more at [jsmith@wmrcd.org](mailto:jsmith@wmrcd.org)

Or, contact your local Maryland Forest Service Tree Planting Specialist to schedule an appointment to meet at the planting site and discuss next steps.

- Garrett & Allegany Counties:
  - Katherine Phillips; Tree Planting Specialist, Maryland Forest Service
    - Email: [katherine.phillips@maryland.gov](mailto:katherine.phillips@maryland.gov)
    - Work Phone: 301-777-2137
- Washington & Frederick Counties:
  - Anna Twigg; Tree Planting Specialist, Maryland Forest Service
    - Email: [anna.twigg@maryland.gov](mailto:anna.twigg@maryland.gov)
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