



DCNR Updates

Conservation District and PA Agency Ag Meeting

February 23, 2023

Outline

DCNR Refresher

Community Conservation
Partnership (C2P2) Grants

Watershed Forestry & TreeVitalize

New Funding Mechanism
Forthcoming

DCNR Mission

to conserve and sustain Pennsylvania's natural resources for present and future generations' use and enjoyment.

- State Parks
- Bureau of Forestry
- Geologic Survey
- Recreation and Conservation Grants
- Technical Assistance and Outreach





Service Foresters

- Technical and funding assistance
- Woodlands and private forests
- Community trees
- Education assistance such as Envirothon
- Connections to natural resource professionals

Managing Your Woods x Forest Landowner Assistance x +

maps.dcnr.pa.gov/landownerassist/

Apps Gmail YouTube Maps ESS

Reading list

DCNR **pennsylvania** DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES **Forest Landowner Assistance** [about](#)

Esri, HERE, Garmin, NGA, USGS, NPS

Service Foresters County Extension NRCS Consulting Foresters [Print](#) Click a county to filter tables.

COUNTY	SERVICE FORESTER	DISTRICT	PHONE	EMAIL	TYPE
Adams	Matthew Kern	Michaux	(717) 637-1770	mkern@pa.gov	Rural
Allegheny	Michael Doucette	Forbes	(724) 238-1200	midoucette@pa.gov	Rural
Allegheny	Celine Colbert	Forbes	(724) 238-1200	cecolbert@pa.gov	Urban
Armstrong	Holly May	Clear Creek	(814) 226-1901	homay@pa.gov	Rural
Beaver	Jessica Pierce	Clear Creek	(724) 865-2131 ex119	jespierce@pa.gov	Rural
Bedford	Dave Scamardella	Buchanan	(717) 485-3148	dscamardel@pa.gov	Rural
Berks	John Nissen	William Penn	(610) 582-9660	jnissen@pa.gov	Rural

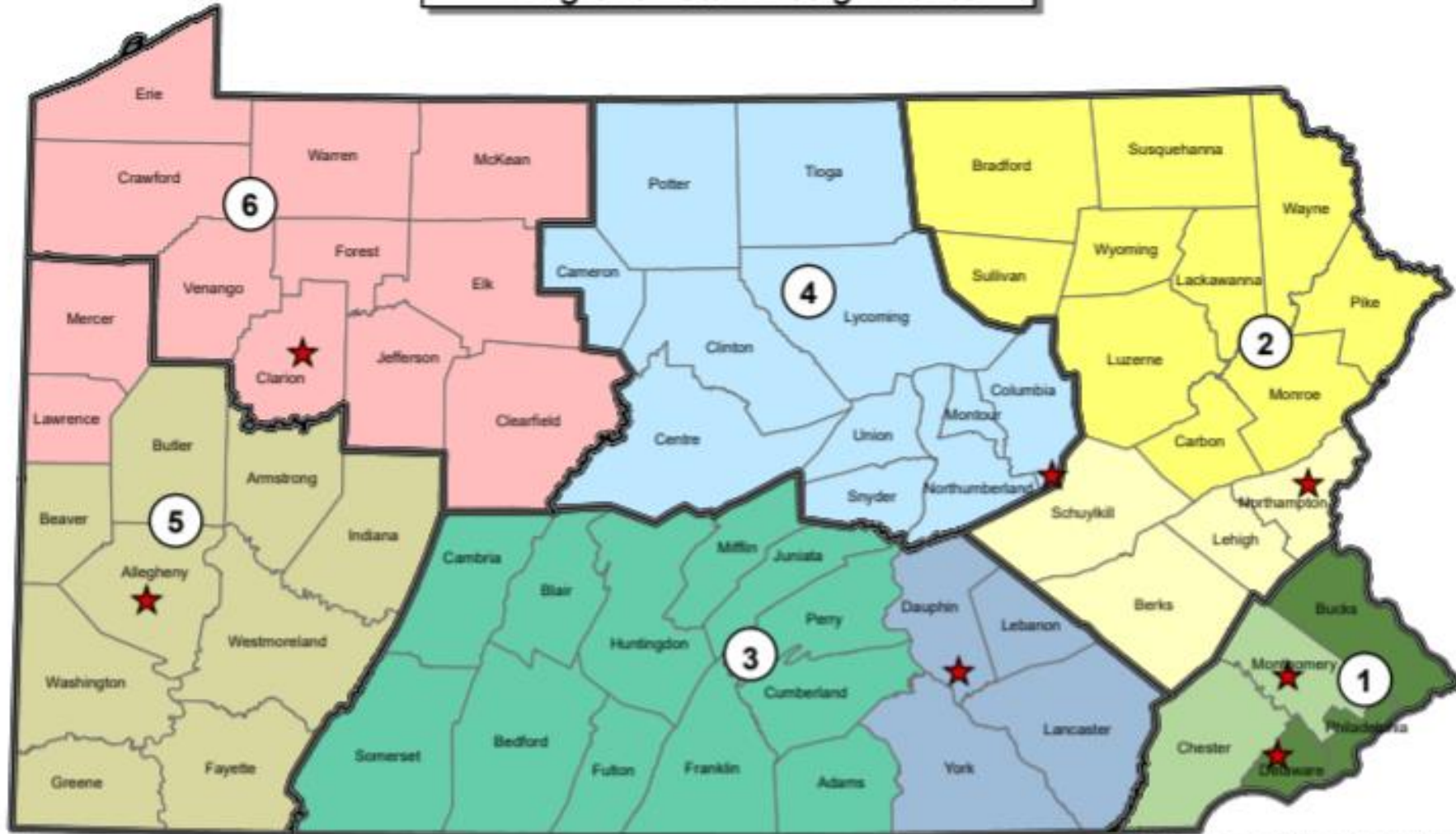
Search

38°F

<https://maps.dcnr.pa.gov/landownerassist/>

BUREAU OF RECREATION AND CONSERVATION

Regional Staff Assignments



★ Regional Office Locations

<https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/about/Pages/Recreation-and-Conservation.aspx>



Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2) Grants

Types of Projects Funded Include:

- Riparian forest buffers, TreeVitalize, and Lawn Conversion.
- Land acquisition.
- Planning studies.
- Development/construction.
- Motorized and non-motorized trails.
- River conservation and access.
- Regional and statewide partnerships that build capacity to better develop and manage environmental resources.



Community & Watershed Forestry

DCNR Grant Support



Kelly Rossiter krossiter@pa.gov / 717-772-3319

Grant Program



Vallie Edenbo vedenbo@pa.gov / 717-783-4736

Grant Program



Teddi Stark c-tstark@pa.gov / 717-787-0656

Riparian Forest Buffers



Kelsey Mummert c-kmummert@pa.gov / 717-346-0079

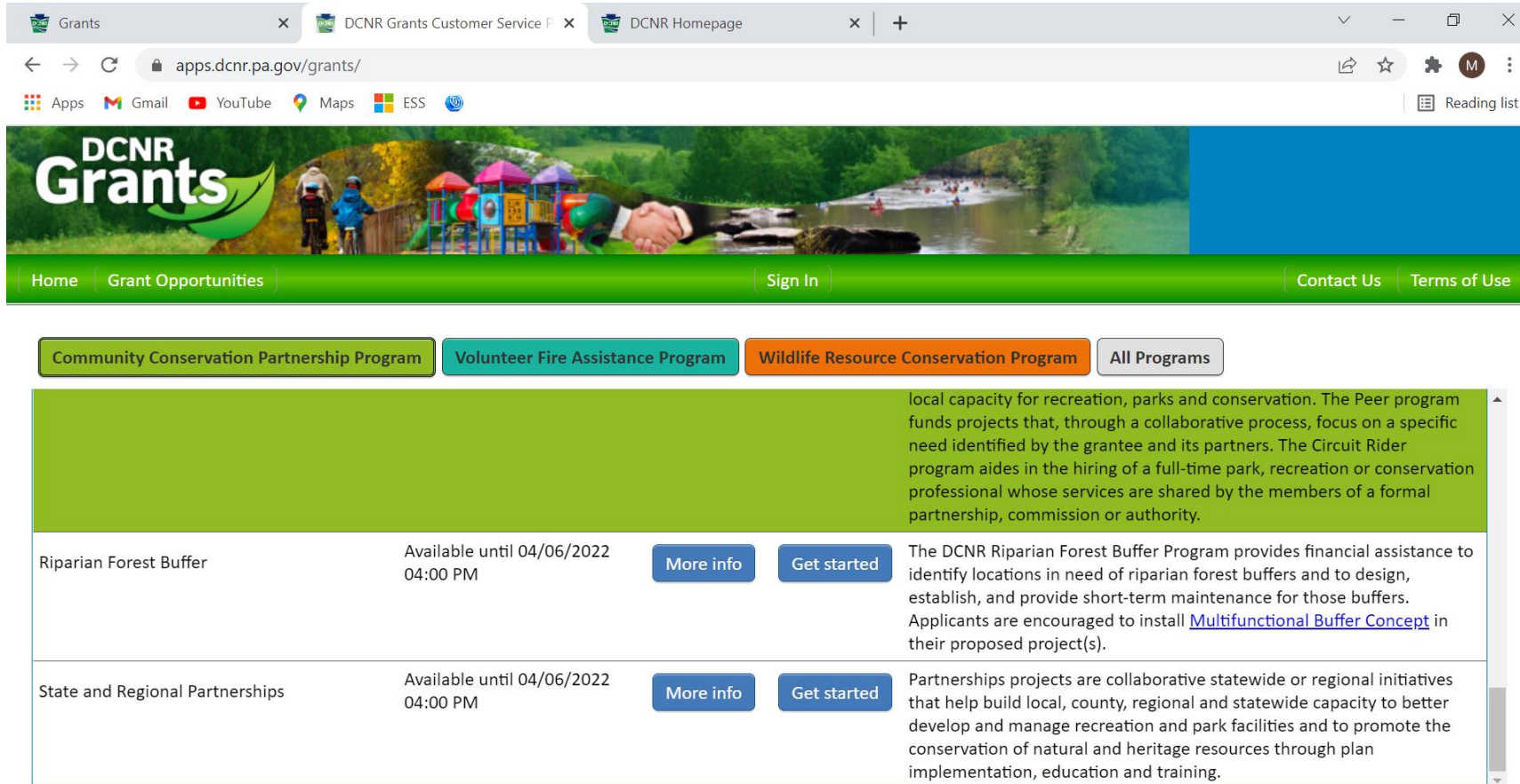
Lawn Conversion



Ned Brockmeyer c-jobrockm@pa.gov / 717-772-8298

TreeVitalize

2023 Applications Close April 5, 4:00 PM



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL apps.dcnr.pa.gov/grants/. The page features a green header with the DCNR Grants logo and navigation links: Home, Grant Opportunities, Sign In, Contact Us, and Terms of Use. Below the header are three filter buttons: Community Conservation Partnership Program (green), Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (teal), and Wildlife Resource Conservation Program (orange), along with an All Programs button (grey). The main content area displays a table of grant opportunities:

Program Name	Availability	More info	Get started	Description
Riparian Forest Buffer	Available until 04/06/2022 04:00 PM	More info	Get started	The DCNR Riparian Forest Buffer Program provides financial assistance to identify locations in need of riparian forest buffers and to design, establish, and provide short-term maintenance for those buffers. Applicants are encouraged to install Multifunctional Buffer Concept in their proposed project(s).
State and Regional Partnerships	Available until 04/06/2022 04:00 PM	More info	Get started	Partnerships projects are collaborative statewide or regional initiatives that help build local, county, regional and statewide capacity to better develop and manage recreation and park facilities and to promote the conservation of natural and heritage resources through plan implementation, education and training.

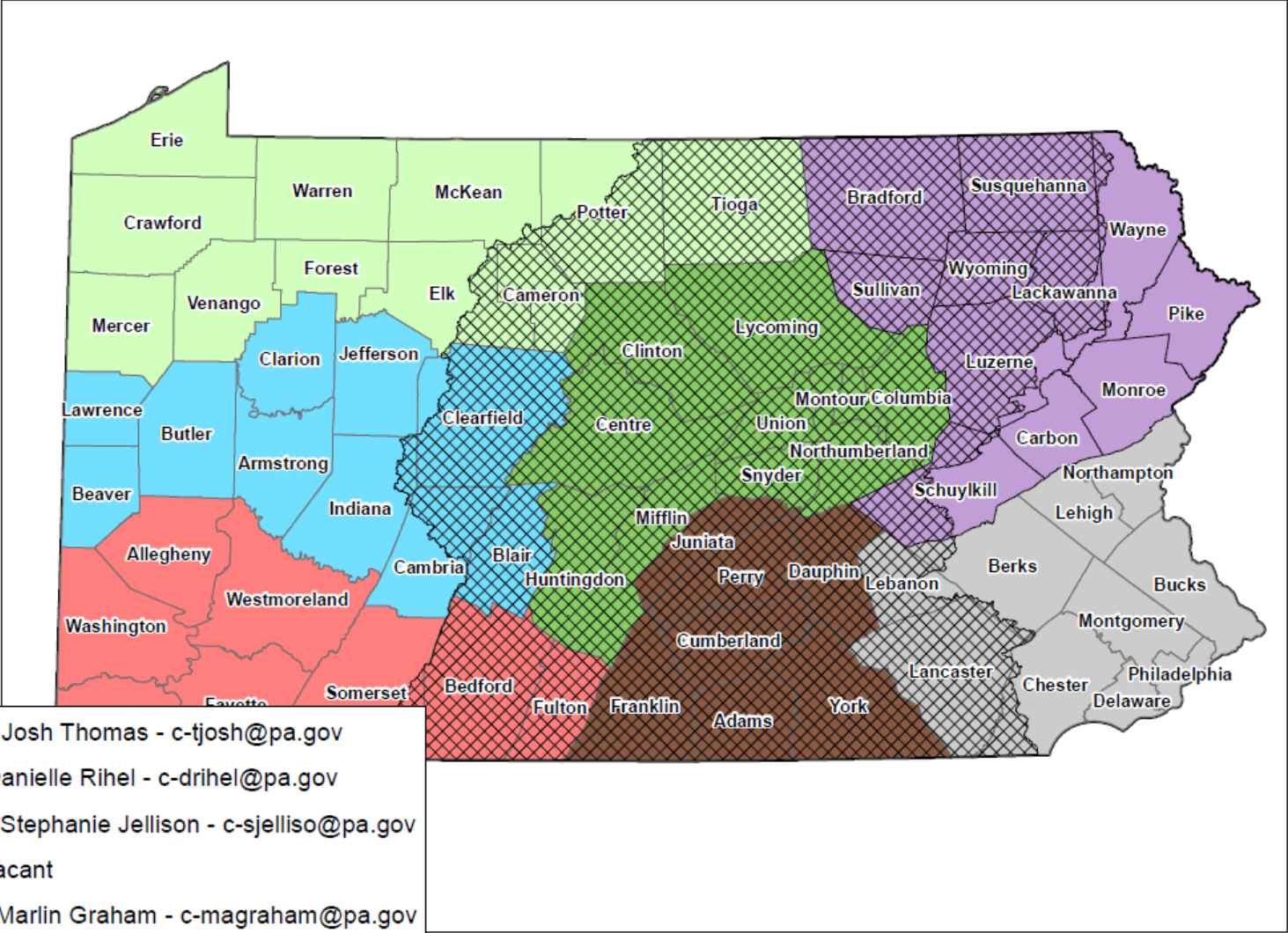
<https://apps.dcnr.pa.gov/grants/>

TreeVitalize and Watershed Forestry

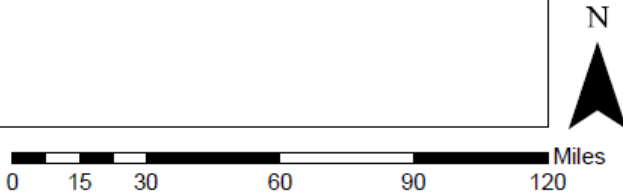
- Riparian Forest Buffers
- Lawn Conversion to Meadows and Forest
- Tree Canopy
- Regional Watershed Specialists
- Grants
- ITQ Direct Funding



DCNR Watershed Specialists Map



- NW - Josh Thomas - c-tjosh@pa.gov
- W - Danielle Rihel - c-drihel@pa.gov
- SW - Stephanie Jellison - c-sjelliso@pa.gov
- C - Vacant
- SC - Marlin Graham - c-magraham@pa.gov
- NE - Nikki Lee - c-nicollee@pa.gov
- SE - Alyssa Swartz - c-alswartz@pa.gov
- PA Chesapeake Bay Watershed



Lawn Conversion

- WIP goals: 5,000 acres of native meadow and 5,000 acres of forest
- \$1 Million NFWF Grant Awarded in 2021
 - Seeking sites in the Tier I and II WIP counties to implement Learning Labs to support training scholarships, outreach, and implementation
- DCNR awarded PACD a \$100,000 C2P2 grant to deliver a statewide lawn conversion mini-grant program and host two lawn conversion trainings.



TreeVitalize

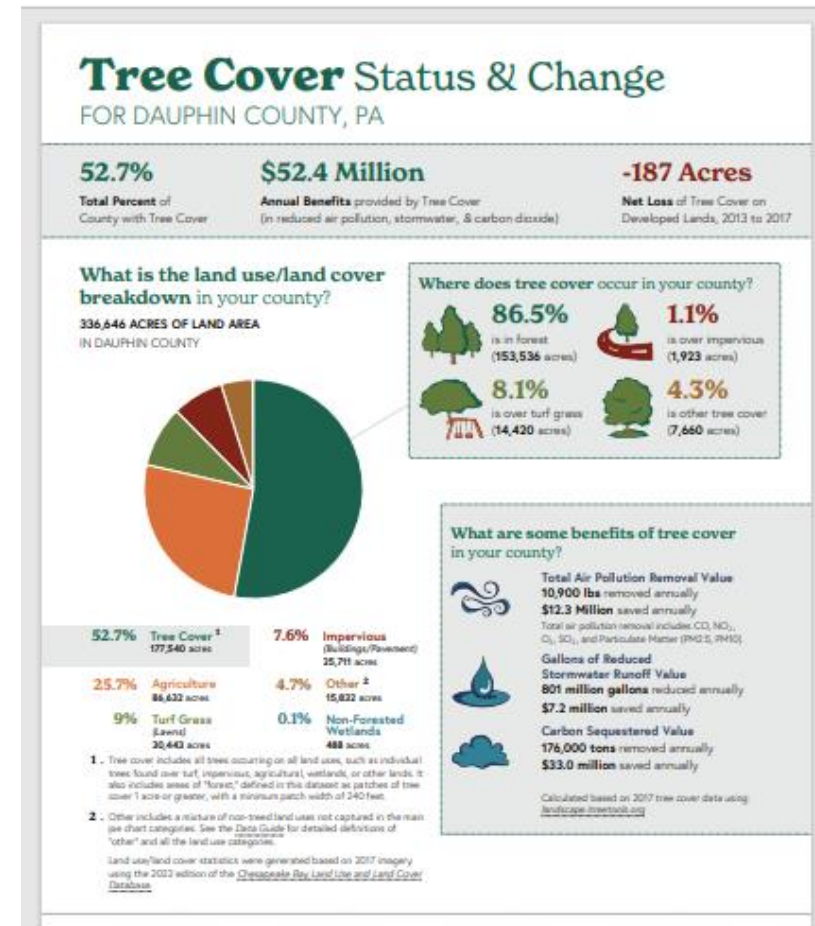
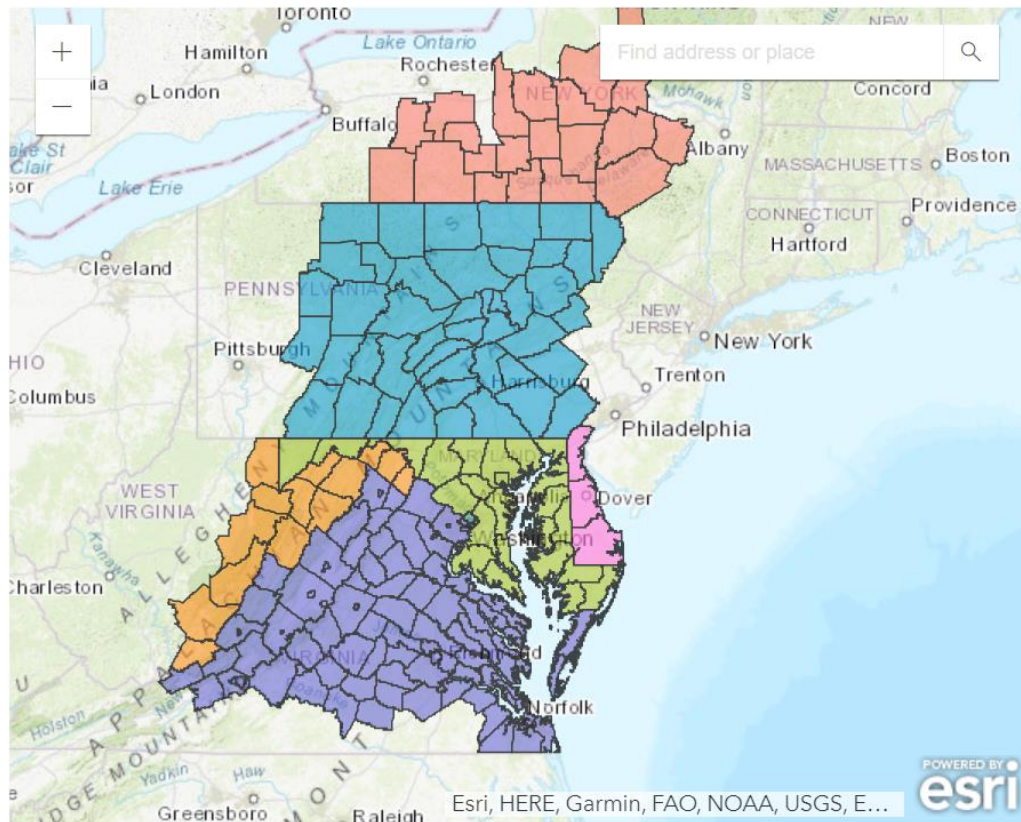
- Partnership including DCNR, PHS, WPC, TreePittsburgh, TreePennsylvania, PSU Extension, and many others
- Enhance and maintain tree canopy
- Community planning and outreach
- Equity and Environmental Justice
- Funding through C2P2 **Partnerships** mechanism
- Team:
 - Manager: Ned Brockmeyer: c-jobrockm@pa.gov
 - Tree Canopy Coordinator: Celine Colbert: c-cecolber@pa.gov
 - Chesapeake Bay Tree Canopy Coordinator: Orsi Lazar Lazar c-olazar@pa.gov
 - Tree Equity Specialist: Kalaia Tripeaux Tripeaux, Kalaia c-ktripeau@pa.gov



Chesapeake Tree Canopy Network

[Understand your Canopy - Chesapeake Tree Canopy Network \(chesapeaketrees.net\)](http://chesapeaketrees.net)

Find your County Tree Cover Fact Sheet



Keystone Tree Fund

- Enacted by legislature in 2019
- Enables:
 - \$3 donations on vehicle registration renewals
 - Checks received from donors
 - Appropriations of the legislature (\$8.8 in FY 22)
- Funds:
 - 60% Riparian Buffer grants
 - 40% TreeVitalize program
- Generating ~\$20k per month
- Allocated through C2P2





DCNR Watershed Forestry Direct Contracting

via the

Natural Resource Inventory and Ecological Restoration Services
Invitation of Qualify (ITQ) Contract

What is Direct Contracting?

- A gap-filler option for riparian forest buffer and lawn conversion project implementation.
- A way for Regional Watershed Forestry Specialists to implement projects with landowners who contact our team for technical assistance.
- A way you can help landowners get practices installed on their properties if you don't have another grant, program, or source for project implementation at your disposal.



When should I work with DCNR to utilize Direct Contracting?

- When you have a landowner who would like a buffer or lawn conversion project, but do not have another way to work with them to get that buffer implemented.
 - Sources to consider first are:
 - DCNR C2P2 Grant
 - NFWF Central Apps Grant
 - PACD Buffer or Lawn Conversion Mini-Grant
 - ACAP
 - Foundation for PA Watersheds?
 - CREP, other FSA/NRCS programs
 - DEP Grants
 - Trout Unlimited
 - Other local watershed group programs and options for funding and implementation



I have a potential project but no other good way to get it done- now what?

- Contact your Regional Watershed Forestry Specialist (RWFS)
- Work with your RWFS and the landowner to develop and planting plan
- Make sure the landowner will be comfortable signing a landowner agreement with the selected contractor for the credit duration of the BMP
 - (15 years for buffers/forest plantings, 5 years for meadow plantings)



Who can prequalify to be a Watershed Forestry Contractor?

- Landscape businesses
- Any business who is interested in implementing projects
- Non-profits who also do this kind of work
- The pre-qualification process will require typical business documents, and proof of experience implementing these types of projects.
- Pre-qualified contractors can sub-contract up to 49% of the work without a waiver, and more if a waiver is acquired for the Department of General Services.





Is this process already working for DCNR?

- We're beginning to test it out now!
- No projects have yet been implemented with these funds.
- We hope to have success stories by the end of 2023!
- We've implemented plenty of projects successfully, just not via this exact mechanism yet. It's new!



2023 WATERSHED FORESTRY SUMMIT

- June 14-15
- [2023 Watershed Forestry Summit Tickets, Wed, Jun 14, 2023 at 9:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Riparian Forest Buffer Advisory Committee Partners

