



LESSONS LEARNED FROM MITIGATION, FEE-IN-LIEU FUND, AND RESTORATION PROJECTS



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CRITICAL AREA LOCAL PLANNER TRAINING
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Chesapeake Bay Trust

award maker, barrier buster, capacity builder, and more!



The **MISSION** of the Chesapeake Bay Trust is to promote public awareness and public participation in the protection and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers and streams.

Our **GOAL** is to increase stewardship through grant programs, special initiatives, and partnerships that support environmental education, demonstration-based restoration, and community engagement activities.

More online at <https://cbtrust.org/>



Where the Money Comes From:

Maryland's Treasure the Chesapeake license plate



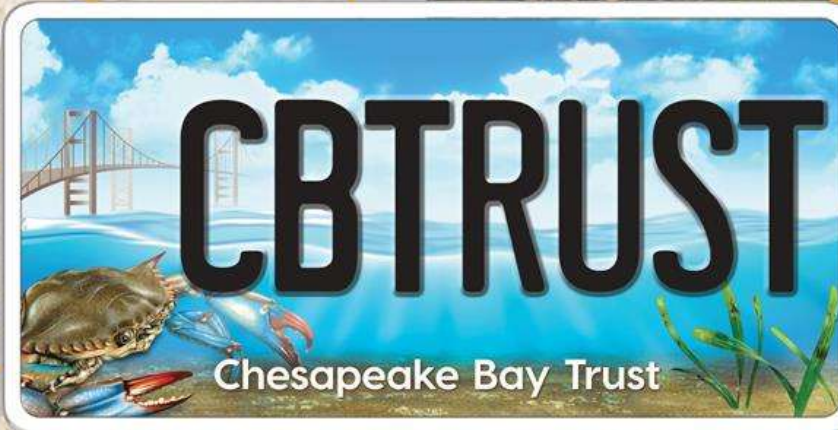
Federal, state and corporate partnerships



Individual and private donations



Chesapeake Bay Fund Tax Check-off



Where the Money Goes:



Education

Ensuring that students are environmentally literate through K-12 curriculum development, field experiences, and green school development.

Restoration

Advancing the science and implementation of restoration best management practices that reduce pollution and improve habitat.

Community Outreach

Engaging citizens and communities to improve the health of local waterways through community clean-ups, tree plantings, and other stewardship practices and projects.



Fee-in-Lieu Grant Programs - to support trees, wetlands, and habitat enhancement

- The Trust Manages three Fee-in-Lieu Grant Programs:
 - MDE Non-Tidal Wetlands
 - Anne Arundel County Forestry
 - Charles County Forestry
- We match funding needs with quality sites for restoration
- Outreach to non-profits, local businesses, and citizens brings in more stakeholders and broadens the sites available for restoration
- Funds can be spent with positive outcomes
- Bottom line is more trees are planted, more wetlands are created, and habitat is enhanced in the state of Maryland

Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Nontidal Wetlands (NTW) Grant Program

- **Partnership:** CBT and Maryland Department of the Environment
- **Funding Level:** About \$500,000 per project (but up to \$900,000).
- **Goals of Program:**
 - Maintain no net loss of nontidal wetland acreage and functions in Maryland
 - Implement cost-effective nontidal wetland projects using funds generated from development projects that contribute to nontidal wetland loss.
 - Preserve resulting wetland projects with a permanent easement.
- **Other notes:**
 - Funding for project design, permitting, construction, and monitoring (2 years)
 - Funding for landowner easement payments, land protection agency stewardship fees, and other necessary costs as needed per project.
 - Project size and landowner easement payment rates vary based on location
 - Project types include nontidal wetland restoration, creation, enhancement, preservation, or combination.
 - Applicants can either apply for grant or contract funds under this program depending on applicant organizational status (Nonprofit vs. For Profit) and/or capacity (landowner can apply but may not have capacity to carry out project so the Trust manages the project)

Anne Arundel Forestry and Forested Land Protection Grant Program

- **Partnership:** CBT and Anne Arundel County
- **Funding Level:** Projects range from \$9,000- \$500,000
- **Goals of Program:**
 - cost-effective reforestation and greening projects and increase the number of acres of tree canopy and protected forest in the County
 - reforestation/ afforestation
 - forested land protection
- **Other notes:**
 - Funding available for project planting, supplies, educational signage, maintenance (2 years), as well as landowner easement payments, land protection agency stewardship fees, and other necessary costs as needed per project.
 - Project size and landowner easement payment rates vary based on location
 - **~\$3.1 million** awarded in **5 years** to **22 projects**
 - Results to date include **99 new acres of forest** with **27,000 new trees** planted, as well as **427 acres of high-quality forest protected** through permanent conservation easement.

Charles County Forestry Grant Program



- **Partnership:** CBT and Charles County
- **Funding Level:** up to \$20,000
- **Goals of Program:**
 - cost-effective reforestation and greening projects and increase the number of acres of protected forested land in the County
 - reforestation/ afforestation
- **Other notes:**
 - funding available for project planting, supplies, educational signage, maintenance (1 year)
 - projects should be on a scale of 0.5 acres or more
 - project size vary with location

Flexibility of a Fee-in-Lieu Grant Program – *to gain intentional, cost-effective projects!*

- Can focus on projects in specified Counties or watersheds
- Can specify project types, based upon your needs and importance values:
 - wetland restoration (most important) vs preservation (least important)
 - nontidal wetland creation vs. enhancement
 - reforestation/afforestation
 - forested land and wetland protection
- Proposed projects can be required to adhere to “Performance Standards and Monitoring”
 - i.e., MDE and CBT conduct site visits together and work as a team to fund the most competitive projects
- Can specify a minimal size to get most cost-effective projects:
 - 10 acres for wetlands
 - 0.5 acres for reforestation/afforestation
- Can specify protection mechanisms to gain more long-term preservation:
 - Wetland projects are preferred on land that is not already protected.
 - Forestry projects preferred on land that is already protected.
- Permanent protection can be required but can take on different forms:
 - declaration of restricted covenants
 - permanent conservation easement

*Your RFP can request all aspects of the above and use scoring criteria to maximize project success!

Why Create a Fee-in-Lieu Grant Program?

- ❑ Project transparency for the public
- ❑ Record keeping for all projects; the Trust collects numerous metrics which can be tailored for all awards and exported for easy reporting
- ❑ Neutral and fair process to fund and manage projects
- ❑ Can request detailed program guidelines to get larger, and meaningful projects instead of numerous, small, isolated projects with less ecological benefit/uplift
- ❑ You get willing/knowledgeable grantees to implement high quality projects (vs. developers)
- ❑ Projects are overseen by experienced Trust Restoration staff
- ❑ Can compare submitted projects for cost-effectiveness
- ❑ Can incorporate resiliency into program
- ❑ Can be intentional to obtain ***best ecological bang for buck!***

Lessons Learned and Future Improvements



- ❑ Long-term protection vs. permanent protection
- ❑ Personnel Hours/Time built in for project implementation
- ❑ Each “contract/award” needs to be tailored to the project
- ❑ Monitoring can be covered for up to two years but may be required by agencies beyond CBT’s award period.
- ❑ Maintenance needs to be covered by an identified entity beyond the award period.
- ❑ Easements – who will hold the easement? (Conservation Easement between the Landowner and a non-profit? Does it need to be fully executed and recorded with the County?)
- ❑ Is an Access Easement also needed to secure all entities’ right to access property?
- ❑ Purchase Agreement with Landowner? What if land is sold?

Reminders



- ❑ There is a REAL cost to finding mitigation
- ❑ There is a cost to implementing the project
- ❑ There is a cost of maintaining the site
- ❑ There is a cost to monitor the site
- ❑ Someone will bear these costs (developer through fee-in-lieu, county through staff time, and/or the Trust staff/grantees through a grant program);
- ❑ These are costs that are often forgotten, but without these dollars the work cannot be completed.
- ❑ There's also the cost of protection - who is your long-term steward?

Thank You!



Chesapeake Bay Trust is helping meet the Bay's restoration goals through awards that fund citizen engagement and restoration efforts

Visit cbtrust.org for more information.

We look forward to learning together at this training session

