Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Connecticut Department of
ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

Exploring Climate Solutions Webinar Series

"No Net Loss of Forest" Policy – Advice from Maryland and New Jersey

December 17, 2020, Noon to 1PM

Gary G. Allen, President of the Maryland Forestry Foundation
Carrie Sargeant, Urban & Community Forestry Coordinator for the New Jersey Forest Service
Eric Sprague, Vice President for Forest Restoration at American Forests in Washington, DC
Eric Hammerling, Executive Director, Connecticut Forest & Park Association
Christopher Martin, Connecticut State Forester, DEEP Staff assistance to GC3 Forests Subgroup.

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Forests Sub-Group Members

- **Tim Abbott**, Housatonic Valley Association
- **Mark Ashton**, Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies
- **Patrick Comins**, Connecticut Audubon Society
- **Thomas Easley**, Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies
- **Robert Fahey**, UConn, Natural Resources and the Environment
- **Edward Faison**, Highstead
- **David Gumbart**, The Nature Conservancy – CT Chapter
- **Eric Hammerling**, Connecticut Forest & Park Association, Chair
- **Lisa Hayden**, New England Forestry Foundation
- **Charles Leigus**, Supreme Forest Products, Inc.
- **Amy Paterson**, Connecticut Land Conservation Council
- **Herb Virgo**, Keney Park Sustainability Project

With outstanding (!) support from **Rick Jacobson, Cary Lynch, Chris Martin, and Jaimeson Sinclair at DEEP.

2020

Forests Sub-Group Final Report

Resilient Forests provide many benefits

Improve air quality

Reduce heat stress/shade

Climate adaptation & mitigation

Lower cooling & heating bills

Mental & physical health

Reduce stormwater/flooding

More livable communities

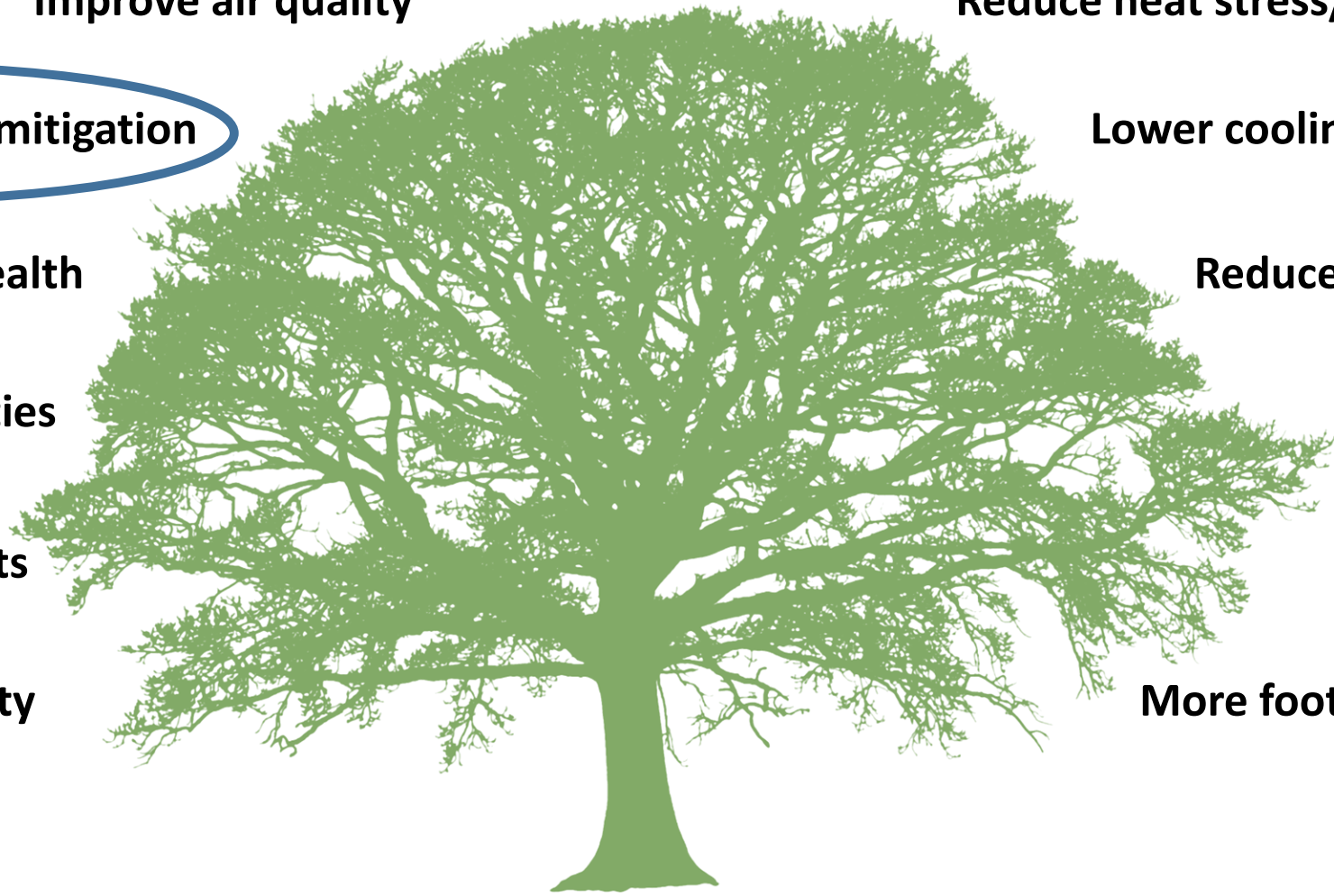
Wood products

Jobs/economic benefits

Wildlife habitat

Aesthetic beauty

More foot traffic for businesses

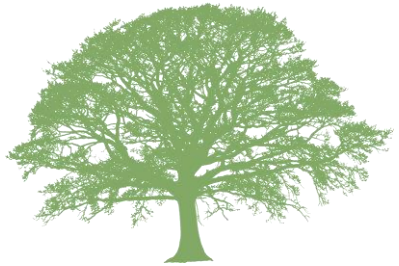


Overarching Recommendation:

Establish a “No Net Loss of Forest (NNLF) Policy” for Connecticut

“No Net Loss of Forest” Policy

1. **Increase forest cover/tree canopy where needed**
2. **Avoid losses/conversion of forest**
3. **Protect and Steward resilient forests**
4. **Mitigate “permitted” losses of forest/trees**
5. **Monitor for forest/tree resiliency and carbon**



No – Net Loss Policy Maryland

GARY G ALLEN

MARYLAND FORESTRY FOUNDATION

Historical policy context

60’s to 90s Widely acknowledged concern

Forest loss over 1000 acres a month

Legislative actions taken

By three different governors

- 1992- Forest Conservation Act to REQUIRE forest mitigation of loss in All development (state work included)
- 2008 Sustainable Forestry Act - Policy -forests are preferred strategy to reduce pollution for the Chesapeake Bay (create SFC for ongoing input to Governor)
- 2013 No Net Loss policy goal adopted - state at estimated 40% forest cover

Our process on No Net Loss

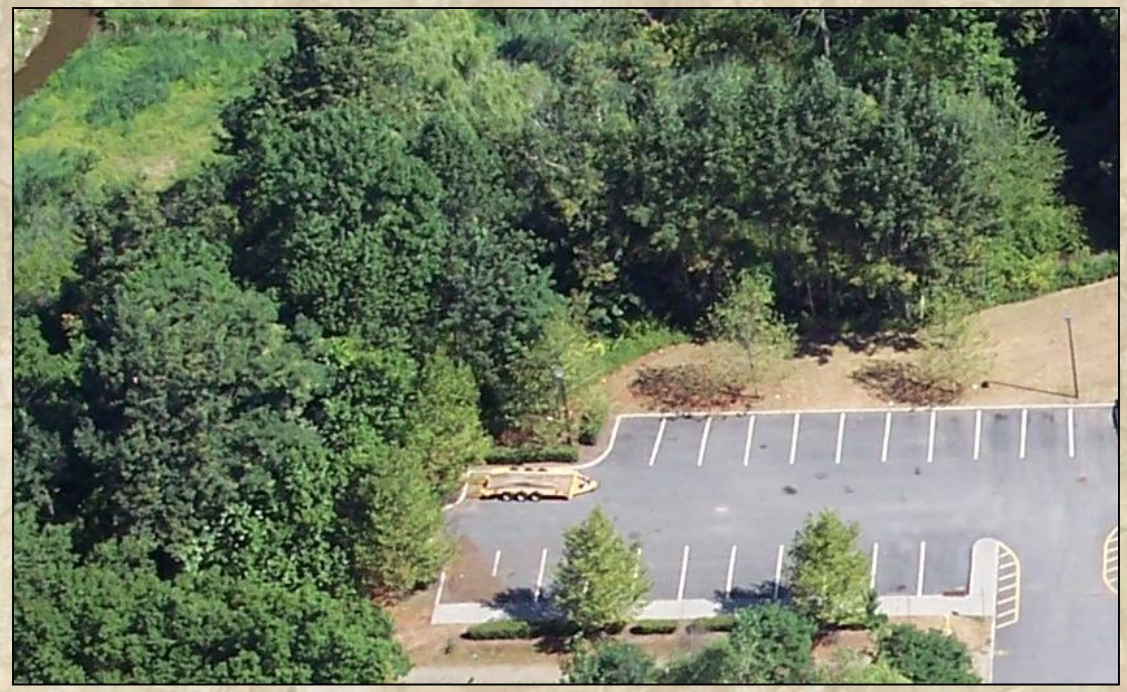
- Build on history - SFC
- Focus on continuing problem
- development new problem statement
- “white paper”
- Secure agency support and then Broad stakeholder consensus
- Agency bill in legislature leadership support for passage

Policy elements and outcomes

- Clear statement BUT
- Not a mandate
- Baseline consensus
- Touchstone for future action
- Monitor and Report
- Local implementation

Thank you for the opportunity
to share our work in Maryland
Stay safe !

NJ No Net Loss Reforestation Act



DEEP GC3 Climate Solutions Webinar - “No Net Loss of Forest” Policy Advice from Maryland and New Jersey

Carrie Sargeant
Regional Forester
Urban and Community Forestry
NJ Forest Service
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NJ URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY

Legal Framework

New Jersey No Net Loss (NNL) Compensatory Reforestation Act N.J.S.A. 13:1L-14.1 et. seq.

- Requires state entity submission of compensatory reforestation plans to New Jersey Forest Service (NJFS)
- Deforestation of one-half acre (0.5 ac/21,780 square feet) or more
- Land owned or maintained by the state entity

Intent

- No net loss of “existing forested area”

Compensation

- On-site planting
- Alternate site planting
  - Within affected municipality on state, municipal, or county lands
  - Within 5 miles on state/county/municipal lands
  - Within state on state lands
- Monetary compensation in-lieu of reforestation

Public Forum

NJ URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY

Relevance

NJ State Forest Action Plan

- "All-Trees" Mission
- Carbon Strategy

Local Governments

- Home-rule
- Local NNL Ordinances

Carbon 80 x 50 Strategy

NJ URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY

Benefits of NNL of Forest Policies

Eric Sprague

American Forests
Maryland Forestry Foundation

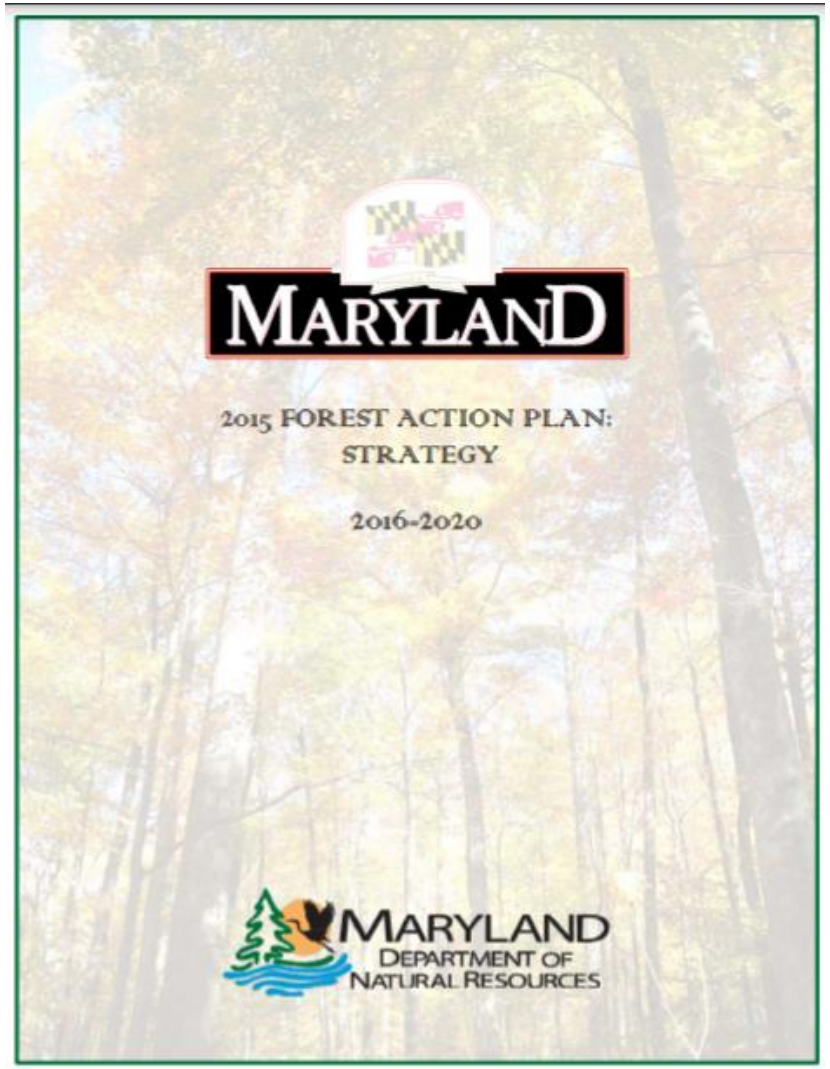
AMERICAN FORESTS
- SINCE 1875 -

Inspires action

- City of Annapolis, Frederick County
- Statewide Forest Conservation Advocacy

Informs State Planning

- State Forest and Wildlife Action Plans



Guides Future Actions and Planning

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Private landowner incentives

- Tax incentives, cost-share, mitigation banking, etc.

Forest products industry policies and incentives

Supports Forest Conservation Goals

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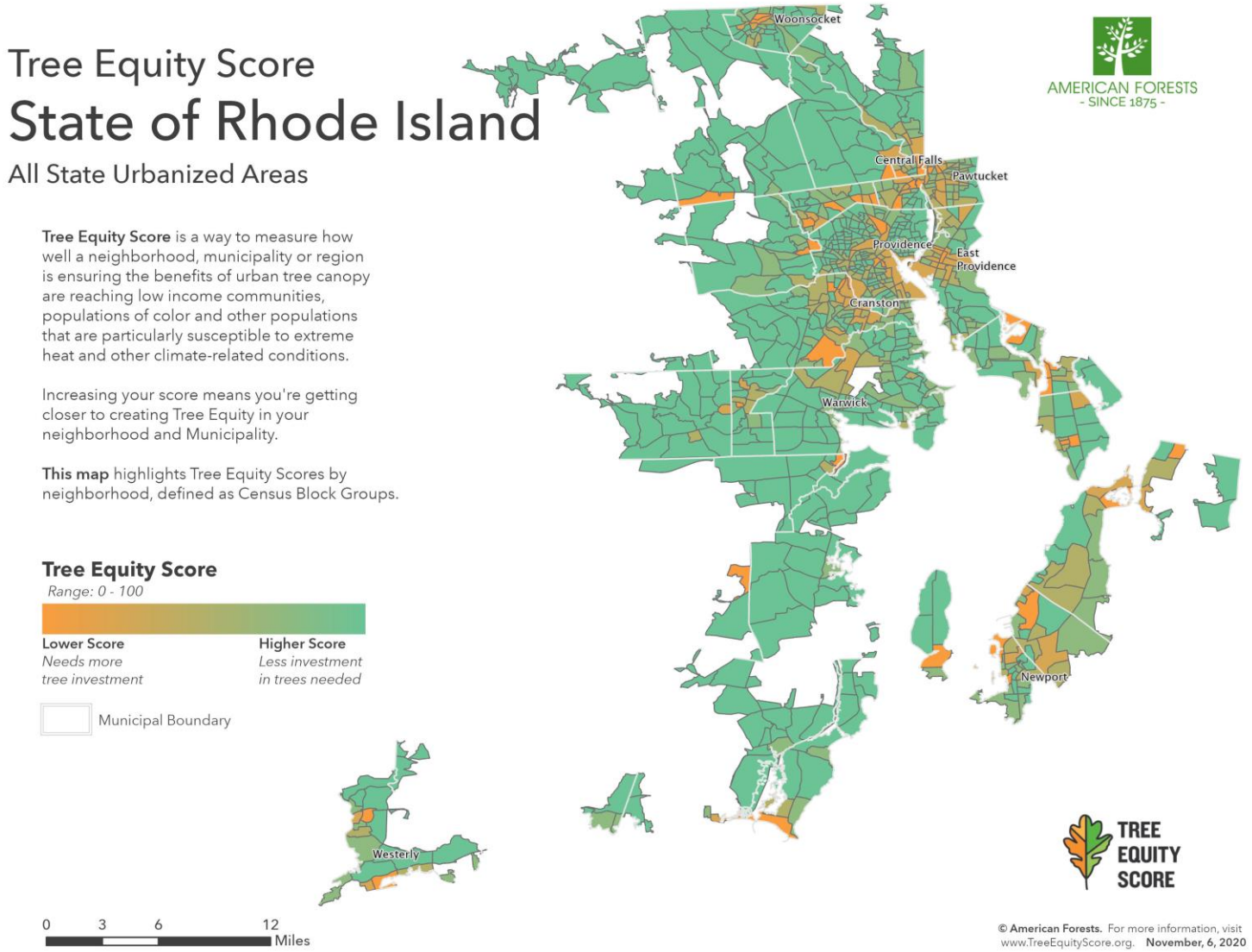

Design to Support Tree Equity

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- Water quality/quantity
- Protecting and Enhancing the Carbon Sink

Other Environmental Goals

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Additional Resources

Maryland: Forest Preservation Act:
http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2013RS/bills/hb/hb0706T.pdf
https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Documents/nonetlossfinalreport.pdf

New Jersey: NNLF Program Guidelines
https://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/forest/community/pdf_files/NNL_Program_Guidelines.pdf

Questions?

"No Net Loss of Forest" **Policy – Advice from Maryland and New Jersey** Enter Follow-up:

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