



**Maryland**  
Department of  
the Environment

# **Commission for the Innovation and Advancement of Carbon Markets and Sustainable Tree Plantings**

**September 30, 2022**  
Regular Meeting



# Meeting Agenda

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- **2:00-2:10pm** - Welcome and updates
- **2:10-2:50pm** - Panel on Long-Term Maintenance
- **2:50-3:10pm** - Facilitated Q&A with Panel
- **3:10-3:20pm** - Review of Commission Feedback on Draft
- **3:20-3:30pm** - Public comment



# Celebration of Progress

- Friday, Oct 21 (on-site, 2-3:30pm)
- Planting with Baltimore Tree Trust
- Sandown-Winchester, Fulton Ave, West Baltimore
- Parking onsite, more instructions to come





# Panel on Long-Term Maintenance



**GABRIELA  
AMAYA-WILLIAMS**  
Neighborhood Forestry Manager



**CRAIG HIGHFIELD**  
Forests Program Director

Andrew Schichtel, Chief Operating Officer





# Proposed Plan Review Process

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- **Fri, Sept 9** - Facilitated discussion on key recommendations
- **Fri, Sept 23** - Written comments/completed survey due
- **Fri, Sept 30** - Panel and discussion on long-term maintenance
- **October** - Agencies will finalize plan based on Commission feedback and send through administrative review
- **By Oct 30** - MDE will publish and distribute plan
  - Governor and General Assembly
  - Full Commission



# Feedback Summary and Response

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- Strong support for current recommendations
- Comments focused on improving clarity, topical connections
- All individual Commissioner comments documented
- Follow-up and edits assigned within interagency team
- May pursue follow-up conversations





# Draft Recommendation

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**Optimizing State Property:** The Maryland General Assembly should expand the scope of site review criteria for state-owned real property within the State Clearinghouse for Intergovernmental Assistance to aid in the identification of properties with tree planting potential, including for state agency use under the Forest Conservation Act.



**Adding** to the plan:

- Clarification on who holds FCA easements & maintains plantings



# Draft Recommendation



**Supporting Long-term Management:** In line with the Maryland Forestry Economic Adjustment Strategy, the Maryland Department of Commerce should build a targeted incentive package to attract and grow forest product industries, like structural wood for construction and innovative use of fiber in manufacturing, that support sustainable forest management, and utilize forest products in a way that maximizes long-term carbon sequestration.

**Adding** to the plan:

- More specific examples of incentives that go beyond traditional forestry
- More discussion about how this will improve maintenance





# Draft Recommendation

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**Counting More Trees:** The Maryland General Assembly should allow non-native, **non-invasive** fruit and nut trees in Maryland to count towards the 5 million trees goal to support food security, agriculture, and biodiversity while continuing to advance carbon sequestration

**Adding** to the plan:

- More framing about first priority/focus on natives
- Commitment to maintenance in agricultural contexts
- More discussion about how this exception will increase plantings





# Draft Recommendation

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**Engaging the Carbon Market:** Led by MDE, Maryland state agencies should establish a common quantification, verification, and registration system for carbon credits/outcomes, clarify carbon ownership of state-funded projects, and detail conditions for state procurement of carbon outcomes.



**Adding** to the plan:

- Emphasis on the need for clarity on role of state as a buyer, seller, transaction mediator of carbon credits



# Additional Feedback Themes

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- More context on invasive pests (beyond plants)
- Inclusion of fruit-bearing shrubs in planting design
- Plantable areas currently dominated by invasives
- Clarification on which MDOT plantings “count”
- Emphasizing role of MDE Tracking Tool / Website in landowner outreach and marketing, funding access
- Incentivizing wider range of ecosystem services



# Next Steps for this Commission

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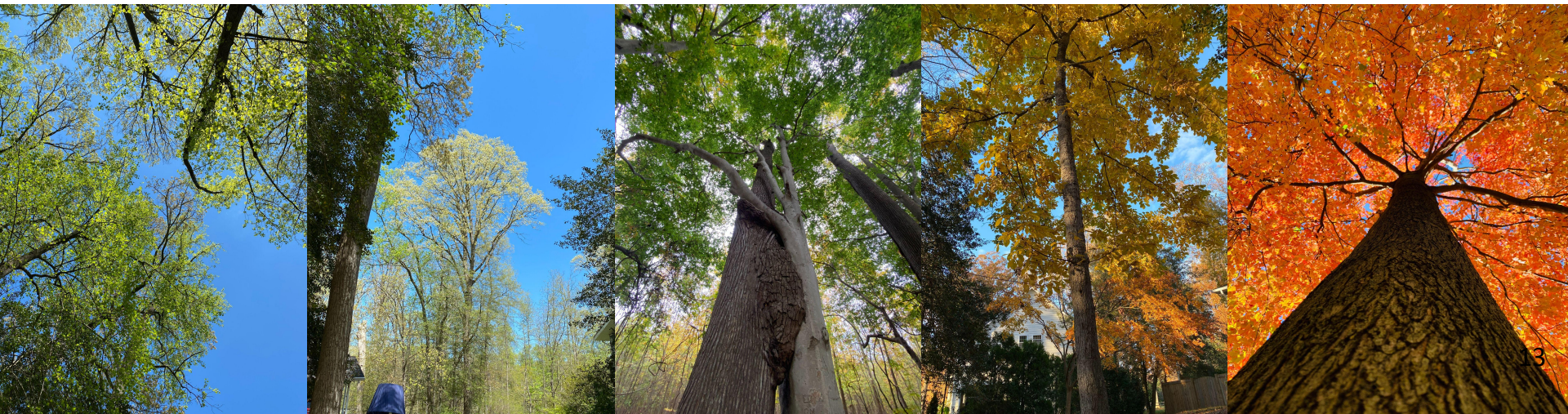
- Commission sunsets end of FY23 (June 2023)
- Break during legislative session
- Meet in April/May to evaluate direction of reccs and review tracking tool, website, planting outcomes
- As appropriate, integrate actions into work plans of:
  - Green and Blue Infrastructure Policy Advisory Commission
  - Maryland Climate Change Commission



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# Questions and Discussion

Commission Members and Implementation Leads





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# Public Comment Period

Please add name and affiliation in the chat box and we will take comments in the order received.



# Staff Contact

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Maryland Department of the Environment

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