



DCNR's Stream ReLeaf Project:

Planting More Acres of Riparian Buffers Through Partnerships



Overview:

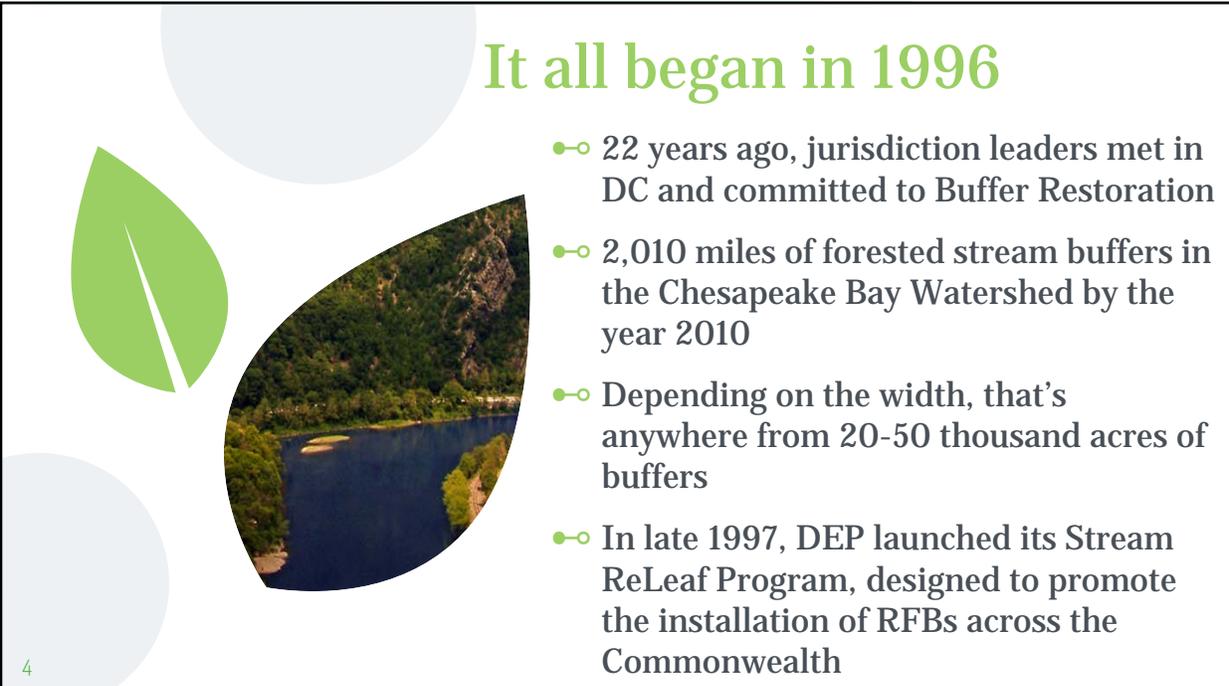
- Background
- RFBAC: Purpose and Progress
- Stream ReLeaf Project
- Partnership Opportunities Moving Forward

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1. Background

The how and why that led here



It all began in 1996

- 22 years ago, jurisdiction leaders met in DC and committed to Buffer Restoration
- 2,010 miles of forested stream buffers in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed by the year 2010
- Depending on the width, that's anywhere from 20-50 thousand acres of buffers
- In late 1997, DEP launched its Stream ReLeaf Program, designed to promote the installation of RFBs across the Commonwealth

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“ *In 2003, Bay Program partners set a goal to restore 900 miles of riparian forests in the watershed each year. This goal was renewed in the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.*

-Chesapeake Bay Program

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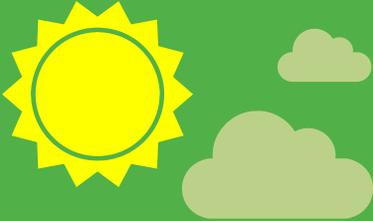


But it's more about PA!

- Riparian Forest Buffers are good *locally* for improving water quality in our own backyards.
- Buffers also improve wildlife habitat and property values.
- RFBs can help farmers meet their land stewardship goals.
- Very cost effective BMP
- Fairly “easy” to install (no engineering, building, concrete, etc.)
- Much, much more!

We know we're preaching to the choir...

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Since 2014, we've:

- Formed the Riparian Forest Buffer Advisory Committee.
- Provided a modest amount of additional funding through grants made possible by DCNR, NFWF, and PennVEST.
- Promoted the concept of multifunctional, income-producing buffers as way to provide incentives to landowners.
- Engaged our 3 cabinet secretaries (DCNR, DEP, PDA), the Governor's Policy Office, PA General Assembly members, and US Senator Casey's office on the importance of RFBs.
- Challenged service foresters in DCNR to engage in RFB work.
- Hired a buffer team made possible by USDA and NFWF.
- Held two Buffer Summits- internal in 2016, statewide and open to partners in 2018.



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2. RFBAC

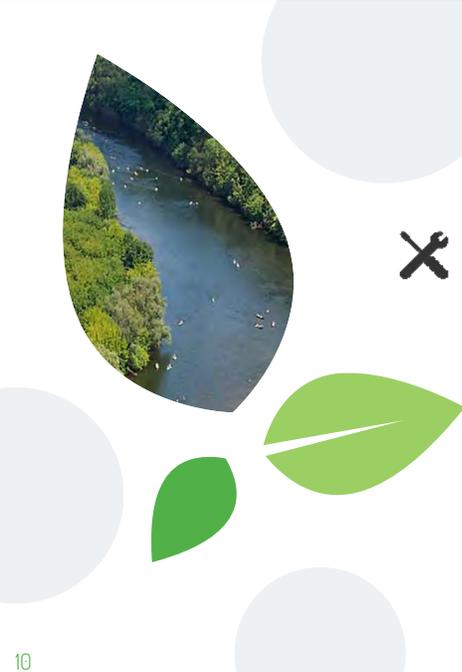
Purpose and Progress



Tapping decades of work and expertise

Government Agencies	NGO's and Universities	
DCNR	CBF	SRBC
DEP	PSU	TNC
PDA	Stroud	WPC
SCC	Farm Bureau	PFA
PENNVEST	Penn Ag	PALTA
Conservation Districts	Trout Unlimited	PLNA
USFS	American Rivers	PASA
CBC	Williams Forestry	PHS
EPA	Natural Lands Trust	USC
USDA NRCS & FSA	Alliance for the Bay	... more!
PCG	Lancaster Conservancy	
PAFBC	Chesapeake Conservancy	
	Brandywine Conservancy	
	Crow & Berry Land Mgmt	
	Foundation for PA Watersheds	

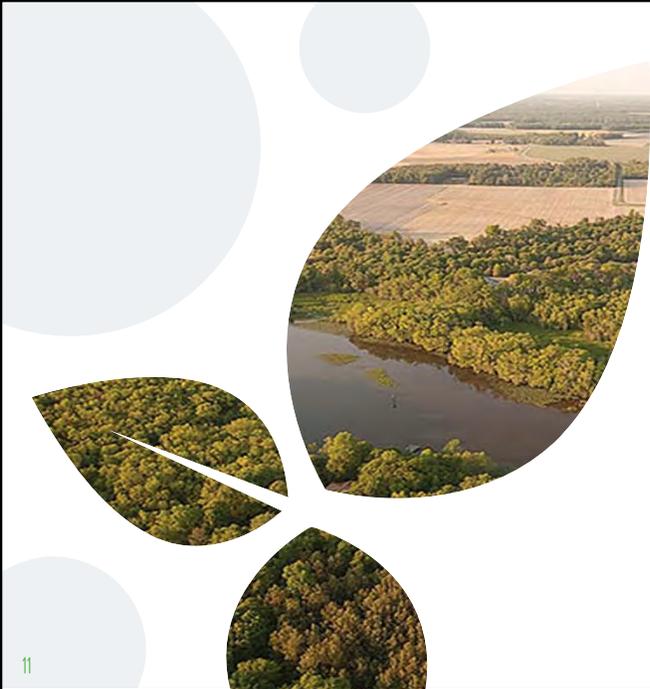
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Acquiring Guidance for State Buffer Funding

 <p>Essential Element: <i>Maintenance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate funding Flexibility Span several Years 	 <p>Essential Element: <i>Outreach and TA</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund outreach Fund coordination Fund Tech Assistance
 <p>Essential Element: <i>Flexibility</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broad Eligibility Variable Width Ownership Type Income Options 	

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Sharing Knowledge & Coordinating Efforts

Understanding who is working where, and how we can find the right fit buffer program, for the right landowner and their values, in the right location.

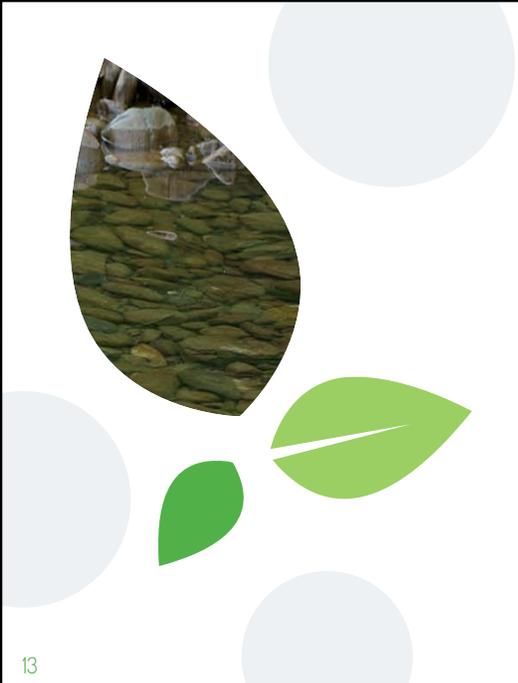
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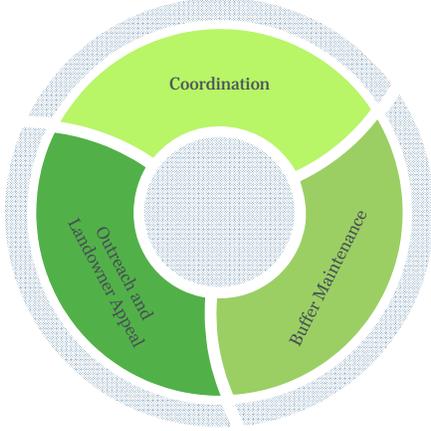
Working Together to Overcome Challenges...

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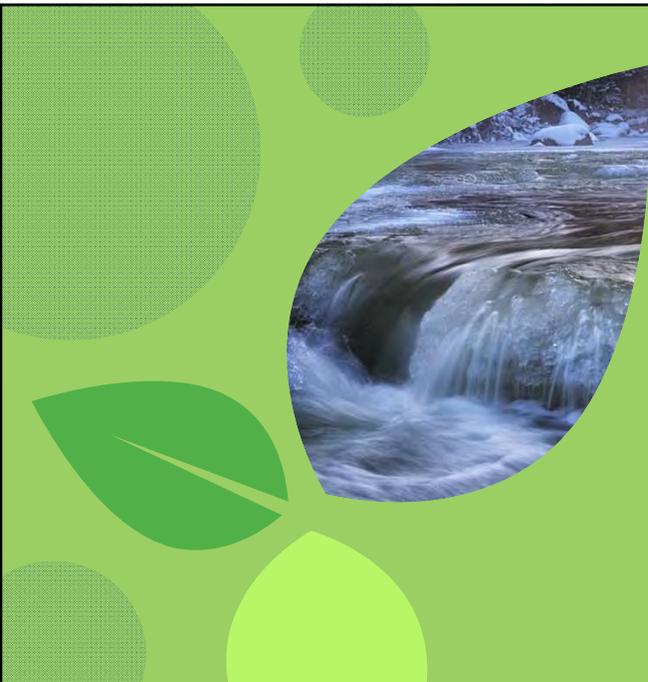
Photo: Chesapeake Bay Journal



Ongoing Challenges

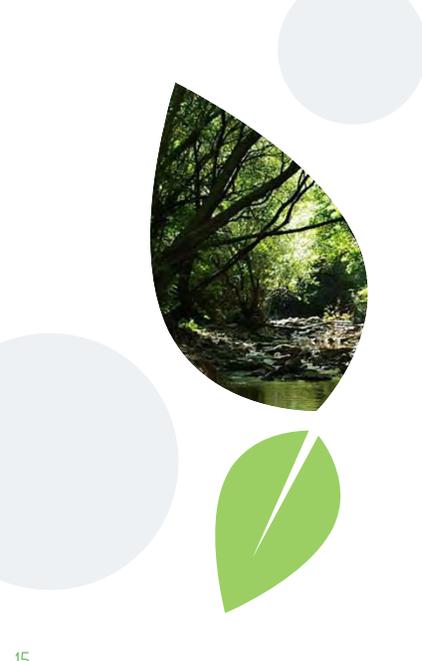


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3. Stream ReLeaf

NFWF funded project to help address some ongoing challenges



1. Formalize RFBAC
Institutionalize to ensure longevity

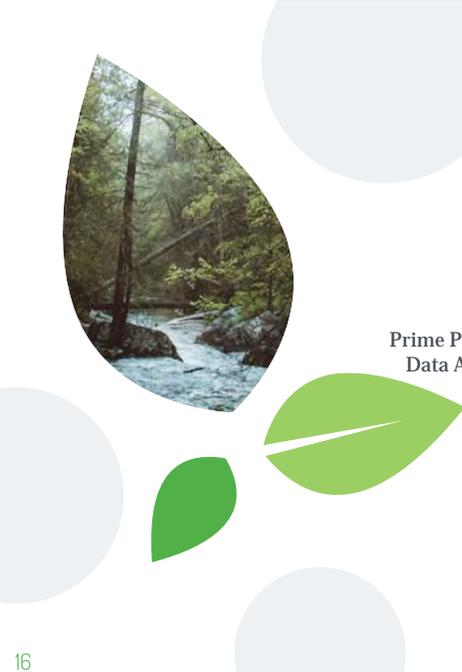
2. New Outreach
Driven by consumer data analysis & focus groups

3. Increase TA
Hire a new RFB technician, provide more trainings

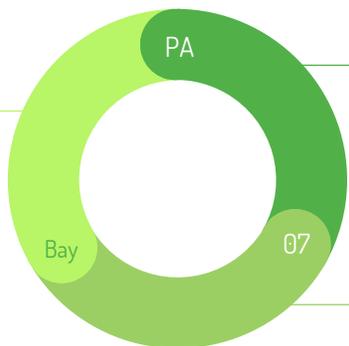
4. Fund New Buffers
95 acres CREP, 95 acres non-CREP

5. Simplify Tracking
Determine best method for tracking buffers statewide

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How we can work together



Prime Prospects Data Available

Stream ReLeaf Outreach Materials Available

Stream ReLeaf Funds Available

PA

Bay

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