

Is there space to reforest in the City?

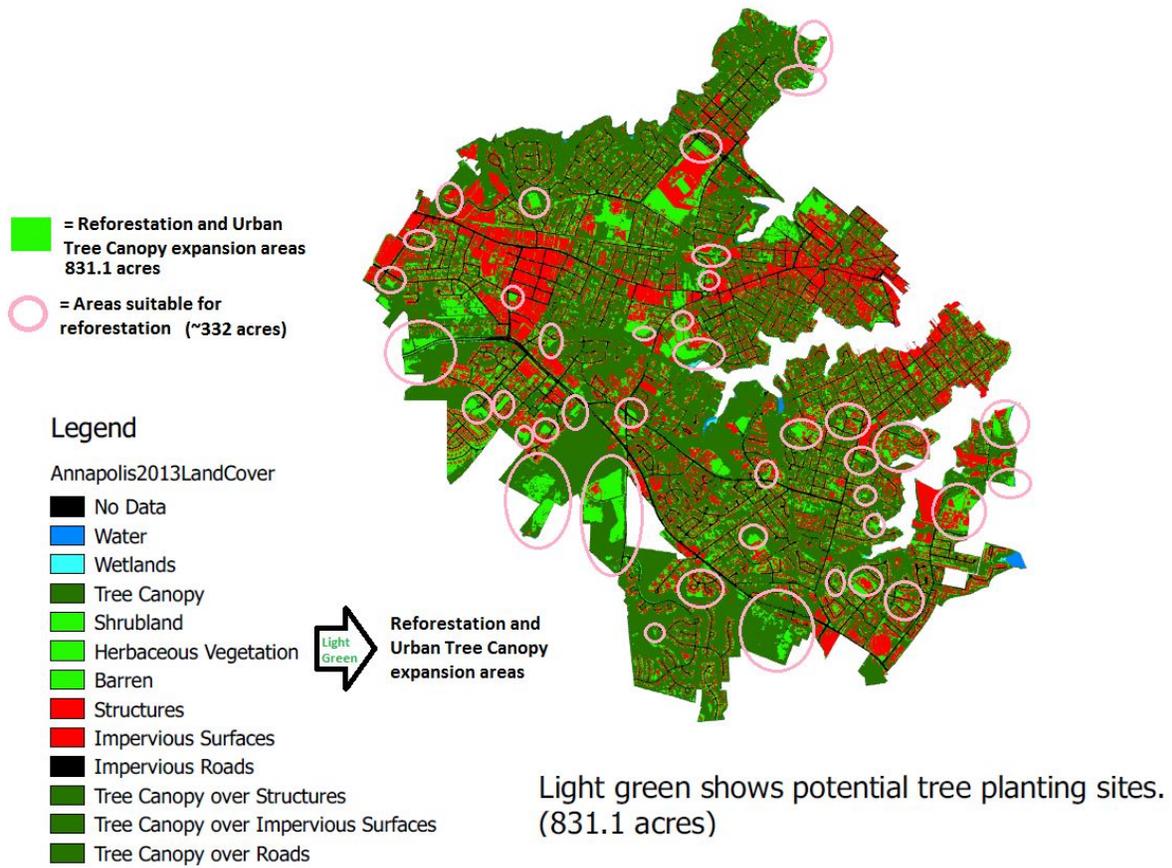
Yes. There are really two questions here: Is there space to reforest, and is there space to increase our Urban Tree Canopy (UTC)? The answer to both is “yes.”

When the City set its tree canopy goal at 50%, that was the lowest of the three scenarios looked at by DNR and the University of Vermont. In their study, they identified 1,581 acres of possible (but not necessarily realistic) reforestation. When the 50% goal was chosen, they assumed that only 25% of the “available” 1,581 acres was utilized for reforestation (395 acres) or UTC expansion. That means the 50% goal is a conservative and attainable target.

Furthermore, an analysis using 2013 satellite imagery from the Chesapeake Conservancy and Google Earth shows that there are ample areas within the City for not only expansion of our UTC (see light green areas), but also for reforestation (see pink circles). We have estimated there to be at least 332 acres (40% of available open space) available for reforestation, with more available for UTC expansion.

Category	Existing UTC		Possible UTC	
	Acres	% Total	Acres	% Total
	UTC	Land area	UTC	Land area
City	1,737	41%	1,581	37%
PROW	171	4%	0	0%
Parcel	1,566	37%	1,588	37%
Unknown	94	2%	110	3%
C	103	2%	305	7%
CC	3	0%	8	0%
CR	0	0%	0	0%
E	44	1%	26	1%
EC	209	5%	331	8%
I	2	0%	3	0%
M	96	2%	112	3%
R	974	23%	641	15%
RC	0	0%	0	0%
U	41	1%	51	1%

From Chesapeake Conservancy Land Cover Data Project



Will this be too much of a burden for developers?

We do not believe so. We have tried to show that the data indicates there is ample space to reforest and expand our tree canopy. In addition, the developer has two “outs” to ease any difficulty a “no net loss” policy may present:

1. They can reduce their reforestation requirement by requesting that the City allow them to replace Urban Tree Canopy, which can, to a limited degree, be used to replace the reforestation requirement.
2. They can pay into the “fee-in-lieu” to avoid any direct reforestation cost or effort, if approved by City staff.

Has the City’s FCA operated at a net loss?

Yes. City data submitted to DNR reveals that the City has lost at least 21.7 acres of forest since 2008, which proves that the FCA operates at a net loss of forest.

Annapolis FCA Reports 2008-2015								
FY	Existing Forest	Cleared Forest	Retained Forest	Planted Forest	Long Term Protection	Net Loss	% Cleared **	% Planted ***
2009	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.8	0.4	-0.4	80%	200%
2010	2.4	0.7	1.7	1.4	3.1	-0.7	29%	200%
2011	30.9	17.8	13.5	6	10.5	11.8	57%	34%
2012	0	0	0	0	0	0		
2013	0	0	0	0	0	0		
2014	Not Reported							
2015	Letter of no activity					0		
2016	26.4	12.7	13.7	1.7	15	11	48%	13%
Total	60.2	31.6	29	9.9	29	21.7	52%	31%

There has been a net loss of 21.7 acres of forest since 2009 in the City

** Ratio of acres cleared to total acres cleared and retained

*** Ratio of acres planted to acres cleared

