



## *What is a Maryland PLANT Community? How can my community become one?*

**People Loving And Nurturing Trees!** The Maryland Urban and Community Forest Committee of the Maryland Forestry Boards and the Department of Natural Resources officially recognize towns and cities, schools, and neighborhood associations across Maryland that are actively involved in community tree planting and care. Any community, large or small, incorporated or unincorporated, may apply for certification as a Maryland **PLANT** Community. Trees provide valued services to our daily lives including reducing the urban heat island effect, improving air and water quality, saving energy, enhancing property values, providing wildlife habitat, and providing aesthetic benefits.

Please read the program criteria on the following pages. Choose an award level - **Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Green** - which you feel is appropriate for your community's level of involvement. Awards are based on the accomplishments completed by the applicant during the award year. Please submit necessary documentation to assist in evaluating your submission. Send the completed application and documentation to:

**Lindsay Major**  
Maryland DNR Forest Service  
580 Taylor Avenue E-1  
Annapolis MD 21401  
410-260-8510  
[Lmajor@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:Lmajor@dnr.state.md.us)

**Deadline for submitting your application is December 15th**

You will be notified by March about the status of your Maryland **PLANT** Community Award recognition, and Awards will be distributed in April.

If you have any questions regarding **PLANT** participation or submission of your application, please Lindsay Major (410) 260-8510, [Lmajor@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:Lmajor@dnr.state.md.us) .

**Visit the website -**  
<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/programs/plantinfo.html>

## AWARD CATEGORIES

**BRONZE AWARD:** for single project activities or “one time events” vs. ongoing program activity. Some examples of qualifying BRONZE Award level activities may include:

- Arbor Day or Earth Day event;
- tree planting event, such as a memorial, ceremonial, or street tree planting;
- information/education event, such as a tree care training event; a newspaper, newsletter or television piece, etc.;
- demonstration project, such as a planting used to improve and manage drainage and water quality; a beautification project, or habitat creation project, or;
- maintenance event for a single tree or trees, such as a champion, historic or memorial tree.

**Suggested documentation:** Copy of event program, newspaper or newsletter article, photographs, or similar material.

**SILVER AWARD:** for formative programs. These communities have decided to begin an ongoing Community Forestry Program and are in the preliminary stages. Some examples of qualifying SILVER Award level activities include:

- tree inventory, where basic data collection has occurred;
- natural resources inventory, where basic data collection has occurred;
- forming a Tree Board, Beautification or Greening Committee,
- documented discussions or networking with community leaders about beginning an ongoing program or;
- completing a Natural Habitat Restoration project for a **Green School Award**.

**Suggested documentation:** Copy of inventory, minutes of tree board or other meetings, list of board/committee members, or similar material.

**Note:** *If you are a Maryland Green School, please attach a copy of your Green School application along with your PLANT application and check the SILVER level. Write “Green School” beside the box.*

**GOLD AWARD:** for developmental programs. These communities are pursuing activities in addition to those in the previous two phases in order to improve the overall health of their trees and forests. Some examples of qualifying GOLD Award level activities include:

- tree-related ordinances, regulation, or public policy that affect the urban and community forest;
- a tree inventory or natural resources inventory in detail, where the data is analyzed and used to recommend future actions related to items such as: tree planting, maintenance, removal; pest management; etc., or;
- a management plan or similar document written to lay out future actions regarding the urban forest, based on the analysis made from the inventory.
- funding sources

**Suggested documentation:** Copy of ordinance, inventory, management plan, policy, or regulations, funding sources, etc.

**GREEN AWARD:** for sustained programs. These are organized, fully functional programs which are funded and have full-time equivalent technical assistance. They have continuity, planning, support and a budget. Some examples of qualifying GREEN Award level activities may include:

- activity levels that qualify for GOLD level, plus:
- sufficient project-dedicated technical assistance, whether in-house, contract, volunteer, or other, in the form of an arborist, horticulturist, forester, or other professional, and;
- funding, whether through donations, in-kind services, taxes or grants.
- recognition as a Tree City USA

*Suggested documentation:* GOLD documentation, plus position and budget information.

*Note: If you are a Tree City USA, please fill out this page, check “Green” level, and write Tree City USA beside it.*

### **Instructions for submitting your PLANT application**

◆ **New PLANT Community Application:** Please submit appropriate documentation with your application.

◆ **Continuing PLANT Community Application:** Please attach a brief description (no more than one page) describing the recent accomplishments of your ongoing program.

**You may fill in the application online. Print then sign the application and mail it together with your attached information.**





***APPLICATION***

**Name:**

**Date:**

**Title:**

**Phone # (s):**

**Community Name:**

**County:**

School    HOA    Park    Town/City Gov't.    Other Gov't. Facility    Other

**Address: (Street, City, State, Zip):**

**Email address:**

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**What Award Category are you requesting?**

**Bronze**

**Silver**

**Gold**

**Green**

**Currently a PLANT Community**

**New PLANT Application**

**Please include supporting documentation if New PLANT Application, or a brief description (no more than one page) describing the recent accomplishments of your Ongoing program.**

*Official Use Only*

*Date Received*



**The Maryland Urban and Community Forest Committee of the Maryland Association of Forest Conservancy District Boards, MUCFC**, is a group of concerned citizens, professionals and government officials united to protect and enhance Maryland's forest ecosystems. The **MUCFC** co-sponsors the annual **Community Forestry Workshop** in the City of Westminster.

In cooperation with the Maryland DNR Forest Service, the **MUCFC** promotes Maryland's **PLANT Community Awards** program statewide to officially recognize communities for their efforts in planting and maintaining trees for the benefit of their community and its surrounding environment.

Grants are available through the MUCFC to support schools, homeowner's associations, parks, and other local communities with their public land planting projects.

For more information visit the **MUCFC** website  
[www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/programs/urban/mcfc.html](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/programs/urban/mcfc.html)

Maryland Association of Forest Conservancy District Boards  
Maryland Urban and Community Forest Committee - MUCFC

James Bardsley, Chairman  
Wayne P. Lucas, Urban Committee Chairman  
Heather Montgomery/Lindsay Major, PLANT Chairmen  
Wanda MacLaughlan, Grants Chairman

State of Maryland  
Department of Natural Resources  
Forest Service  
Tawes State Office Building E-1  
Annapolis MD 21401  
410-260-8510  
1-877-260-8DNR x8510 (toll free in Maryland)  
410-260-8595 fax

[www.dnr.state.md.us/forests](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests)  
Martin O'Malley, Governor  
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor  
John R. Griffin, Secretary  
Steven W. Koehn, State Forester

*The facilities and services of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources are available to all without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin or physical or mental disability.*

*This document is available in alternative format upon request from a qualified individual with a disability.*

