



Chesapeake Bay

THE CHESAPEAKE BAY restoration project builds on the 15 years of riparian tree planting success throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed in Pennsylvania. The 2015 program is a key part of the larger Pennsylvania Watershed Restoration Program and will engage landowners to implement critical forested buffers.

The newly planted streamside forests will filter and absorb pollution, stabilize stream banks, provide habitat and help regulate water temperatures. Forests once covered most of the land area within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, but changing land use and development in recent decades means there are fewer forested areas to filter pollutants and slow soil erosion. Where streamside forests still exist, our partners at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation will work with Arbor Day Foundation partners to protect them. The goals of this project are to improve the health of rivers, streams and the Bay by planting thousands of streamside forests through the engagement and education of volunteers.

The 2015 planting operation was completed throughout the months of April and May. The project supported the planting of 27 different species and a total of 13,360 trees to assist private landowners and restore forested riparian buffers on more than 550 acres of land in Pennsylvania. Through this partnership, more than 145 landowners in 15 counties were engaged in tree planting. This work is critical, as forested buffers have been identified as a priority goal – the state is calling for more than 170,000 acres of forested buffers by 2025. Thanks to Arbor Day Foundation partnerships, we were able to make this project a huge success again this year!

