



Street Trees are STRESSED out

Did you know that growing next to a street or sidewalk can be stressful for a tree? Trees roots are squished and have to grow under the pavement. In the winter, street trees are “splashed” with salts from cars and trucks, so they must be able to tolerate high salt concentrations. Some of the oldest tree species can survive next to our roads: Ginkgos and Locust are among them.

Urban Forests

All trees and shrubs from the city to the suburban fringes are included in the urban ecosystem. This unique habitat includes not only trees and other plants, but animals, birds, gardens and man. Man is part of every ecosystem and his imprint is particularly harsh in urban and suburban communities. No ecosystem on this planet is isolated from man’s actions. In an ecosystem, there are many relationships among organisms. These organisms (which includes all flora and fauna) also interact with their environment. Ecosystems are complex communities.



Plant some trees; watch them GROW !!!!!

Planting trees along streams creates “buffer” areas that store flood waters. Stream buffers filter runoff and prevent erosion of stream banks. Countless species of insects and animals live in trees and depend on them for food



FORESTRY

- Forests are large areas of undisturbed woods, usually several hundred acres in size. They have 3 levels: herbaceous plants grow on the ground; small trees and bushes grow in the shady under-story; tall trees of many types form the canopy. The habitats change from the forest center to the edges (edge species vs interior dwelling animals.)
- The central forest provides a unique habitat for forest interior dwelling birds and other animals. To support these sensitive and sometimes endangered species, the forest must have a closed canopy. (When you look up you see trees and little sky) And, it is quiet.
- Deep forests support warblers, vireos, tanagers, woodpeckers and owls. These “song birds” add the music to the forests that cannot be heard in the cities or suburbs. Forest centers support shade tolerant species
- Since the Forest Conservation Act was passed in 1991, our total acreage in Maryland has decreased from 122,000 acres to 80,000 acres, plus 13,000 acres of newly planted trees.

Howard County Forest Conservancy District Board
P.O. Box 819
Clarksville, Md 21029
www.HowardForest.sailorsite.net



HOWARD COUNTY FOREST CONSERVANCY DISTRICT BOARD



LIRIODENDRON TULIPIFERA
TULIP POPLAR TREE

Champion Trees in Howard County



Champion Big Leaf Magnolia Tree

BIG LEAF MAGNOLIA	55 FT HIGH 53 FT WIDE 12.1 FT CIR 30 IN LEAVES	NATIONAL CHAMPION! THE LEAVES ARE ALMOST 2 FEET LONG!
AMERICAN HOLLY	56 FT HIGH 54 FT WIDE 10.6 FT CIR	AND YOU THOUGHT A HOLLY WAS A SMALL TREE?
AMERICAN LINDEN (BASSWOOD)	110 FT HIGH 67 FT WIDE 16.5 FT CIR	HEART SHAPED LEAVES
EUROPEAN CUTLEAF BEECH	57 FT HIGH 69 FT WIDE 13.1 FT CIR	LARGEST IN THE STATE
WITCH HAZEL	17 FT HIGH 18 FT WIDE 9 INCHES CIR	USUALLY A BUSH, MEDICINE IS MADE FROM THE BARK
TULIP POPLAR	117 FT TALL FT WIDE 21.3 FT CIR	HAS FLOWERS THAT LOOK LIKE TULIPS

How big is a Champion Tree?

WOODLANDS

What's the difference between walking through a BIG forest and walking through the woodlot in the suburbs or in a city park?

One difference is the NOISE. You will hear different birds singing in different forest types.

Another difference is LIGHT. There will be different amounts of light. A large forest is shadier; a woodland has more open spaces with light.

Small wooded areas contain "edge habitats," that support plants like poison ivy, ash trees, and multi-flora rose. Critters and plants that like full to partial sun, life in the field and don't mind the noise of people live here. Robins, gold finches, deer, squirrels, raccoons, chipmunks, blue jays, crows and red-winged black birds are common.

FRAGMENTATION is caused by breaks in the forest for power lines or roads or other development. Creatures who need the quiet of the deep forest will move out when the forest is broken up into smaller woodlands. Fragmentation disrupts the sensitive forest and forces change to its inhabitants. Will there be enough true forests for them?

35% of Howard County is forested. The dominant tree type is Oak/Hickory. Other familiar species are Maple, Box Elder, Ash and Sycamore.



Sycamore Tree (*Platanus occidentalis*)

Photo courtesy of
Straughan Environmental Services

HOWARD COUNTY FOREST CONSERVANCY DISTRICT BOARD

We, members of the Forest Conservancy Board, promote conservation of Maryland's forest resources and advocate sound forest management practices incorporating timber harvesting, replanting and preservation.



Our members are foresters, landscape architects, farmers, environmental specialists and forest fans. Each of the 24 forestry boards in Maryland works on regional and local issues with its respective government agencies, farmers and other land owners.

Arboretum Program

The Arboretum program adds tree tags, interpretive signs and other educational services to existing parks and cultivated gardens in the county. Interpretive signs have been added to Centennial Park, Jackson Pond, Lake Elkhorn, Wilde Lake and Elkridge Park.

Benefits of Trees and wooded areas

- ~ moderate harsh weather
- ~ provide shade
- ~ provide privacy
- ~ absorb heat while releasing water vapor
- ~ wind breaks and reduce wind chill
- ~ improve air quality (yes they absorb pollutants)
- ~ Trees soak up water after rain storms and slow down storm water
- ~ Tree roots hold soil in place, preventing erosion of stream banks

Tree leaves grow alternately on the branch or opposite. Have you noticed that dogwood, maple, and ash trees have opposite leaves?

FOREST HARVESTING

Those wooded areas that we all enjoy as we drive down the road are owned by someone. But **who?** Private landowners manage their woodlands for timber production. They "harvest" the trees for lumber, wood pulp, christmas trees or retail tree sales.

Trees are harvested when the diameter at breast height (DBH) reaches a practical size: this is at least 5 inches for pulp wood, 6 inches for pole-timber and 10- 20 inches for saw-timber. Trees that will be cut for lumber need to be at least 12 inches to make a board. It takes around 10 - 20 years to grow a Christmas tree. Both softwood trees and hardwood trees are used for lumber.

Forest Harvesting is **not** the same thing as clearing land for construction. Trees grown for harvesting are replaced according to a forest management plan. Today's forest harvesting involves "selective" tree cutting, This improves the health of a forest and provides steady income to the tree farmer. Every year approximately one million board feet are harvested in Howard County, Maryland.

Just what is a board foot?

"Board Feet" is a measurement of lumber volume. A board foot is equal to 144 cubic inches of wood.

Thickness x Width x Length = board feet

144

Tree Farms

There are over 30 tree farms in Howard County, and 250 in the State of Maryland. They sell Christmas trees and saplings

High School Students –

It's summer!!! Spend a week in the woods at Camp Hickory Environmental Education Center in Garrett County for *Forestry Conservation and Resources Week.* Each year two local students are sponsored by the Forestry Board. The "camp" will help you prepare for a career in forest management or environmental sciences.