



10,000 Trees Project

A Collaboration between Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, and Congregations Across Maryland

Generally How the Project Will Work

- IPC and Alliance have teamed up to encourage the planting of 10,000 trees on congregational grounds, and provide education/spiritual information for the congregation to put their hands-on work into perspective.
- IPC is handling the education/spirituality workshops and Alliance is handling all things related to tree-planting. These two organizations will work closely together to ensure that communication goes smoothly and that congregations are an equal partner in the process. Congregations will likely communicate with both groups, but know that we're talking to each other on our end, too.
- The congregations will recruit volunteers from their congregation for the project. IPC/Alliance can also support this by broadcasting your event throughout our networks if your congregation would like more volunteers from outside your community.
- The congregations and IPC/Alliance will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding that will define each partner's commitments, and will provide guidance regarding maintenance of the trees for two years after planting. Alliance will also prepare a schematic of the planting plan that's agreed to by the congregation. MOUs and planting plans will be issued after the planting date has been scheduled.
- There is no cost to the congregations, except for the cost of watering the trees.
- ***We are looking for a few congregations who can begin plantings this fall.***
- Most of the plantings will take place in spring and fall 2014. Plantings will not take place in the summer. All plantings need to be completed by December 2014.
- Education/Spiritual formation will begin in winter 2014. The workshops do not necessarily need to be coordinated around the time of the plantings.
- Congregations will generally be able to request the dates for the plantings and workshops.

What's Provided to the Congregations?

- Support: IPC/Alliance will walk with you every step of the way and have hired dedicated staff to handle communications with participating congregations. This means we're available by email and phone and will respond quickly to your questions. We understand the complexities of decision-making at faith institutions and we are grateful for your participation, so we're here to help!
- Planting Plans: Alliance has had discussions with all congregations and has collected some measurements in order to finalize the planting plans. ***If you don't think your congregation has been contacted about this, please let us know.*** The Alliance will be contacting the congregations directly to finalize these planting plans after the planting day has been scheduled. A schematic will then be provided to the congregation along with the Memorandum of Understanding. In general, the goal of the project is to establish canopy trees so that in years to come they provide shade, water filtration, and reduce lawn maintenance responsibilities. The goal is not to provide landscaping trees.

- Educational/Spiritual Workshop: Congregations will be provided one 2-hour workshop that will discuss the technical aspects of how trees benefit the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and how this work relates directly to our values as people of faith. Alliance and IPC will deliver that workshop together so that congregations only need to attend one event. The session will be scheduled for your congregation only (you won't be sharing the session with another community), so you can pick the day/time as long as it works for our schedules, too. We recognize that this workshop will need to take place in the evening or on the weekend.
- Planting Day: The planting day will be scheduled according to what works best for your community; however, it will be hard to achieve the "perfect" schedule for all 30 congregations, so some flexibility will be needed. Planting days will take place on the weekends. Congregations will be provided trees, loaned tools, and a crew leader.
- Maintenance: Congregations will be trained on the proper way to plant and maintain the trees.

What Congregations are Committing To

- Congregations will provide one point of contact that IPC/Alliance will communicate with throughout the project.
- Congregations will provide volunteers for planting days and will coordinate these volunteers internally (IPC/Alliance will work with the point person to ensure smooth volunteer coordination once the workshop and planting dates have been set).
- Congregations will provide maintenance of the trees which will consist of two years of watering, mowing, re-mulching (if needed) and replacing trees that die. The Alliance/IPC will be available for consultation as needed.
- Congregations will assemble congregants for the educational/spiritual workshop.

The Next Steps

- ASAP - We are looking for 2-3 congregations who will be ready to plant this fall. ***Please contact us ASAP if you're able to mobilize this fall.*** Workshops for these congregations will not be delivered until a later date.
- October 1, 2013 - Congregations should email their preferred planting time frame by October 1st. Fall and spring are both ideal times. Spring allows for coupling this work with Earth Day and is generally an easier time to get volunteers organized. Fall allows for a little more time in recruiting volunteers.
- November 1, 2013 – IPC will contact all congregations by this date to discuss the workshop
- December 15, 2013 – The dates for planting days and workshop dates for each congregation will be determined.
- January 15, 2014 - All MOUs, including planting plans, will be issued to all participating congregations.
- June 1, 2014 - At least one-third of the congregations will have received their workshops and completed their planting days.
- December 1, 2014 - All remaining congregations will have received their workshops and completed their planting days.