

a matching basis, to a county or municipal corporation that implements an urban and community forestry program; requiring the Department to provide certain technical assistance; and generally relating to the establishment of an urban and community forestry program.

BY adding

Article - Natural Resources

Section 5-424 through 5-427, inclusive, to be under the new part "Part IV. Urban and Community Forestry"

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1983 Replacement Volume and 1983 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Natural Resources

PART IV. URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY

5-424.

"URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY" MEANS THE MANAGEMENT OF FORESTS AND TREES IN URBAN AND COMMUNITY AREAS TO IMPROVE THEIR HEALTH, VIGOR, AND COMPOSITION.

5-425.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT FORESTS AND TREES ARE AN IMPORTANT AND NECESSARY PART OF THE URBAN AND COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND THAT THE RETENTION, ENHANCEMENT, AND MANAGEMENT OF THESE FORESTS AND TREES BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CITIZENS OF THIS STATE.

5-426.

(A) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH AND ADMINISTER AN URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM TO PROVIDE STATE OR FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, ON A MATCHING BASIS, TO A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION THAT IMPLEMENTS A LOCAL URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM WITHIN ITS JURISDICTION.

(2) THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION SHALL MAY HIRE AN INDIVIDUAL TO DIRECT ITS PROGRAM WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE DEPARTMENT.

(B) THE DEPARTMENT'S URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO COUNTIES, MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS, AND INDIVIDUALS FOR THE RETENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF FORESTS AND TREES. THIS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MAY INCLUDE:

(1) STREET TREE INVENTORIES;