

Planting of the Millionth Tree through CREP in Frederick County

Many people converged upon the Carl Miller Farm in Frederick County to celebrate the planting of the millionth tree in Frederick County through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Approximately 8 million trees have been planted in the state of Maryland since CREP began in 1997. The millionth tree in Frederick County represents the planting of over 2,000 acres of streamside buffers and forests on steep erosive land. Through these efforts we have been able to adequately buffer 140 miles of streams, rivers, and wetlands with trees that will remove nutrients, pollutants, and soil before it can degrade water quality in our streams and the Chesapeake Bay. These trees will also create habitat for wildlife, cool the water, and provide the detrital “fuel” which is vitally important to the fish and other plants and animals that inhabit our waterways. These trees will be monuments to our concern for our environment, now, and many years into the future.

In Maryland, CREP offers additional incentives to encourage landowners to implement practices that will help reduce sediment and nutrients in the Chesapeake Bay and will improve wildlife habitat. CREP provides technical assistance and financial assistance on practices that enroll highly erodible cropland into grass, shrubs, and/or tree plantings, establish riparian buffer habitat, provide water and wetland habitat, and restore habitat for declining species. CREP is administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and cooperating agencies are providing technical assistance to help landowners plan and implement CREP practices.

For additional information about CREP in Frederick County, please contact the Frederick Soil Conservation District:

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