

# Liberty Reservoir Tornado Damage Restoration



# Overview


- What happened, where it happened, and when?
- Who is involved?
- Why is this work taking place?
- How is the work getting done?
- What to expect...
- Desired Results
- Stakeholder engagement

# Liberty Tornado Damage Event



- As confirmed by the National Weather Service (NWS), an EF-1 tornado caused significant damage at Liberty Reservoir on June 5th, 2024 (National Weather Service, 2024).
- The most extensive damage occurred along Little Morgan Run and in the woods off Pouder Road.

March 2025

Liberty Tornado Damage Site 

Little Morgan Run

Google Earth

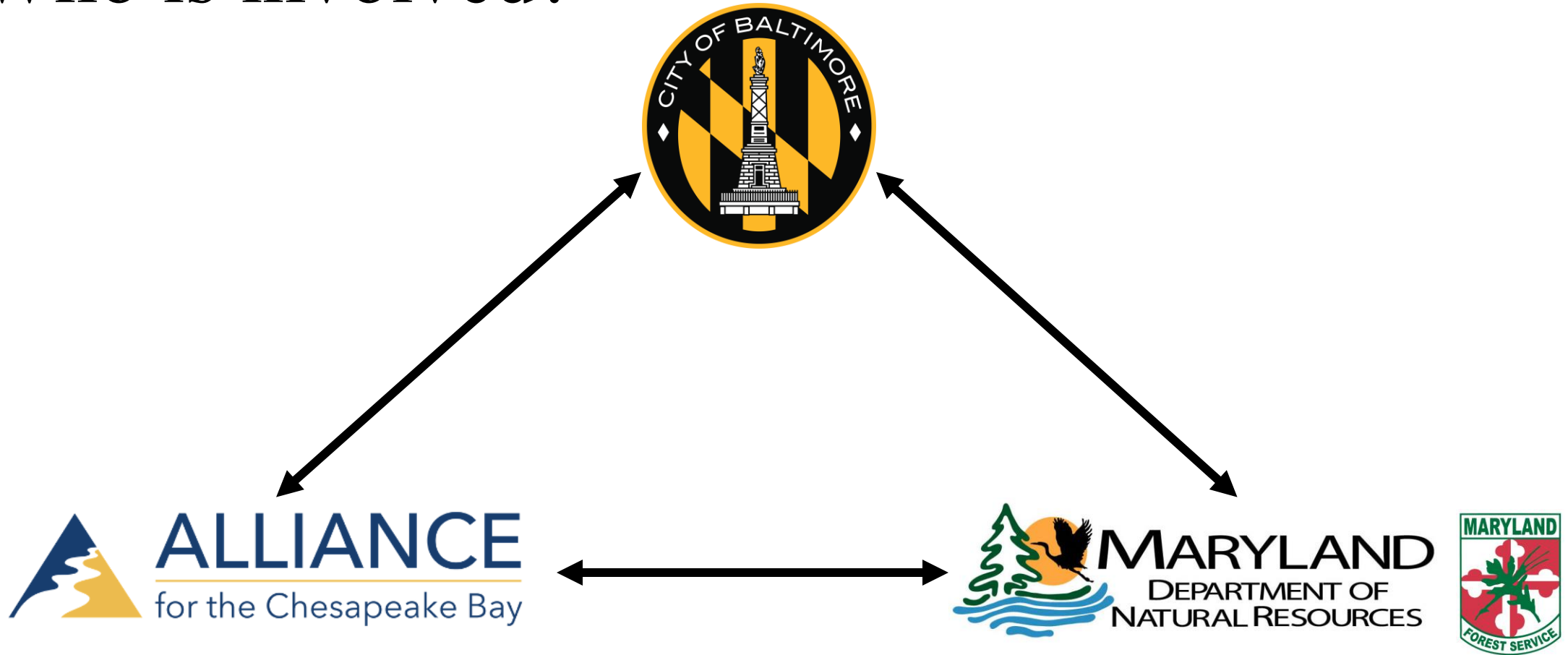
Image © 2025 Airbus



1000 ft



# Who is involved?



# Why is this work taking place?

- The City historically operated a sawmill at its Liberty location. Softwood plantings occurred throughout each of the City's reservoir forest buffers, but these unmanaged stands have reduced overall forest vigor and resilience.
- Restoring the region's native hardwood forests improves ecological services provided by these buffers including but not limited to native wildlife habitat and water quality.

# How is the work getting done?

- Thanks to the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, this project was awarded a grant through the **Healthy Forests Healthy Waters** initiative led by the State of Maryland.
- Maryland Forest Service (MFS) will oversee all forestry activities throughout the restoration effort.

# What to expect...

- Recreational prohibitions along woods roads throughout the area.
- Temporary noise pollution from removal efforts.
- Temporary impacts to visual aesthetics.
- Increased traffic along Pouder Road (e.g., tractor trailers).

# Desired Results

- A relatively unaffected five-acre oak mixed hardwood section of forest near Little Morgan Run will serve as the reference site for this effort.
- The final project result seeks to imitate the natural regeneration and forest dynamics of this native mixed hardwood reference.



# Stakeholder Engagement

- While most of the active restoration process will be handled by the MFS and its contractors, there may be future volunteer opportunities as the project progresses.
- For now, we ask that everyone shares only factual information regarding this reforestation effort and directs all questions toward City staff.

# Summary

- In cooperation with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and MFS, the City is excited to restore the tornado damaged area to a native oak mixed hardwood forest!
- Though these efforts will take time, imitating the natural regeneration and ecological dynamics of Maryland's hardwood forests will improve ecosystem services for decades to come.

# Contact Information

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