

Frederick City Watershed Crop-Tree Release

For the third year in a row, PWP partners Maryland DNR-Forest Service, Potomac Conservancy, and Americorps*NCCC collaborated to train nearly 20 Americorps*NCCC team members in chainsaw operation. As part of their training, the Americorps*NCCC team undertook what is known as a “crop tree release” in the Frederick City watershed, an important forested area that protects the city’s water supply at Fishing Creek Reservoir and other tributaries. Crop tree release helps to clear competing vegetation that is stifling the growth of the nut bearing trees in the Frederick City Watershed. This action also lessens insect and disease damage, decreases the risk of wildfire, and adds to the diversity and sustainability of the watershed forest.

The 10 acres of forest thinned by the Americorps*NCCC crew mostly originated following a salvage clear-cut of gypsy moth-killed timber conducted in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The primary species present in the stands are black gum, red maple, black birch, and sassafras, with other species scattered throughout. The City of Frederick is working with Maryland DNR- Forest Service, Maryland Department of Agriculture, and spray contractors to control the continued expansion of the gypsy moths that have proved so damaging the last two years.



Chuck Harris with Maryland DNR-Forest Service demonstrates proper chainsaw technique.



*An Americorps*NCCC team member works on thinning forest stands in the Frederick City watershed.*