

Health and Restoration in New York

More than 6,000 square miles of New York sit within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and one of the state's major rivers—the Susquehanna—flows into the Chesapeake Bay. The following outcomes of the [Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement](#) were updated in 2023 and the Chesapeake Bay Program is pleased to present specific data for New York.

Forest Buffers

Outcome: Increase the capacity of [forest buffers](#) to provide water quality and habitat benefits throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Restore 900 miles of riparian forest buffers per year and conserve existing buffers until at least 70 percent of the watershed's riparian areas are forested.

Progress in New York New York planted 29.7 miles of forest buffers in 2021, 22.2 more miles than in 2020.

Tree Canopy

Outcome: Continually increase urban [tree canopy](#) capacity to provide air quality, water quality and habitat benefits throughout the watershed. Expand urban tree canopy by 2,400 acres by 2025.

Progress in New York: New York reported 40.2 acres of community tree plantings in 2021 and gained 78 acres of tree canopy between 2013/14 and 2017/18. [Click here](#) to see tree canopy gain/loss for individual New York counties.

2025 Watershed Implementation Plans

Outcome: By 2025, have all [practices and controls](#) in place to achieve applicable water quality (i.e., dissolved oxygen, water clarity/submerged aquatic vegetation and chlorophyll a) standards as articulated in the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load.

Progress in New York: New York has best management practices (BMPs) in place to achieve 60% of its pollutant reduction goal for nitrogen, 72% of its reduction goal for phosphorus and 22% of its reduction goal for sediment by 2025. BMPS put in place from 2021 to 2022 in New York are estimated to have increased the amount of nitrogen flowing into the Bay by 1.8% and phosphorus by 1.7%. The state decreased the amount of sediment by .1%. In 2022, New York released 12.8 million pounds of nitrogen, .5 million pounds of phosphorus and 662.9 million pounds of sediment into the Bay.

New York's Progress Towards Meeting its 2025 Targets

60%

Nitrogen

72%

Phosphorus

22%

Sediment

Land Use Methods and Metrics

Outcome: Continually improve our knowledge of [land conversion](#) and the associated impacts throughout the watershed.

Progress in New York: 95.3% of New York's land is covered by 5% or less impervious surfaces, 3.1% is covered by 5-10% impervious, 1.2% is covered by 10-25% impervious and .3% is covered by over 25%.

Protected Lands

Outcome: By 2025, [protect an additional two million acres of lands](#) throughout the watershed—currently identified as high-conservation priorities at the federal, state or local level—including 225,000 acres of wetlands and 695,000 acres of forestland of highest value for maintaining water quality.

Progress in New York: According to data collected through 2022, nearly 1.64 million acres of land in the Chesapeake Bay watershed have been permanently protected since 2010. Within the watershed, New York has about 331,824 acres of protected lands total as of 2022.

Public Access

Outcome: By 2025, add 300 new [public access](#) sites to the Chesapeake Bay watershed, with a strong emphasis on providing opportunities for boating, swimming and fishing, where feasible.

Progress in New York: Between 2011 and 2022, 284 boat ramps, fishing piers and other public access sites were opened on and around the Chesapeake Bay. New York has opened two of these sites.

Climate Monitoring and Assessment

Outcome: Continually [monitor and assess](#) the trends and likely impacts of changing climatic and sea level conditions on the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem, including the effectiveness of restoration and protection policies, programs and projects.

Progress in New York: For New York, when compared to a 100-year baseline (1901-2000), total annual precipitation increased all climate divisions (i.e., Central Lakes, Eastern Plateau, Mohawk Valley and Western Plateau) by 17.6%, 14.8%, 11.4% and 11.6%, respectively. When compared to the 100-year baseline (1901-2000), average air temperature also increased in the Western Plateau, Eastern Plateau, Mohawk Valley and Central Lakes divisions by 1.4°F, 1.8°F, 1.5°F and 1.6°F per century, respectively.

Bay-Wide Outcomes

In addition to the above, the following outcomes were updated in 2023 and their Bay-wide data and information can be found on [ChesapeakeProgress.com](#):

- [Blue Crab Abundance](#)
- [Oysters](#)
- [Submerged Aquatic Vegetation](#)
- [Wetlands](#)
- [Stream Health](#)
- [Water Quality Standards and Attainment](#)
- [Local Leadership](#)
- [Diversity](#)