



# Protected Lands Outcome

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*Through the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, the Chesapeake Bay Program has committed to...*

## *Goal: Land Conservation*

*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 forest land of highest value for maintaining water quality.*



Patapsco Valley State Park (Photo by Will Parson/ Chesapeake Bay Program)



## What is our Expected and Actual Progress?

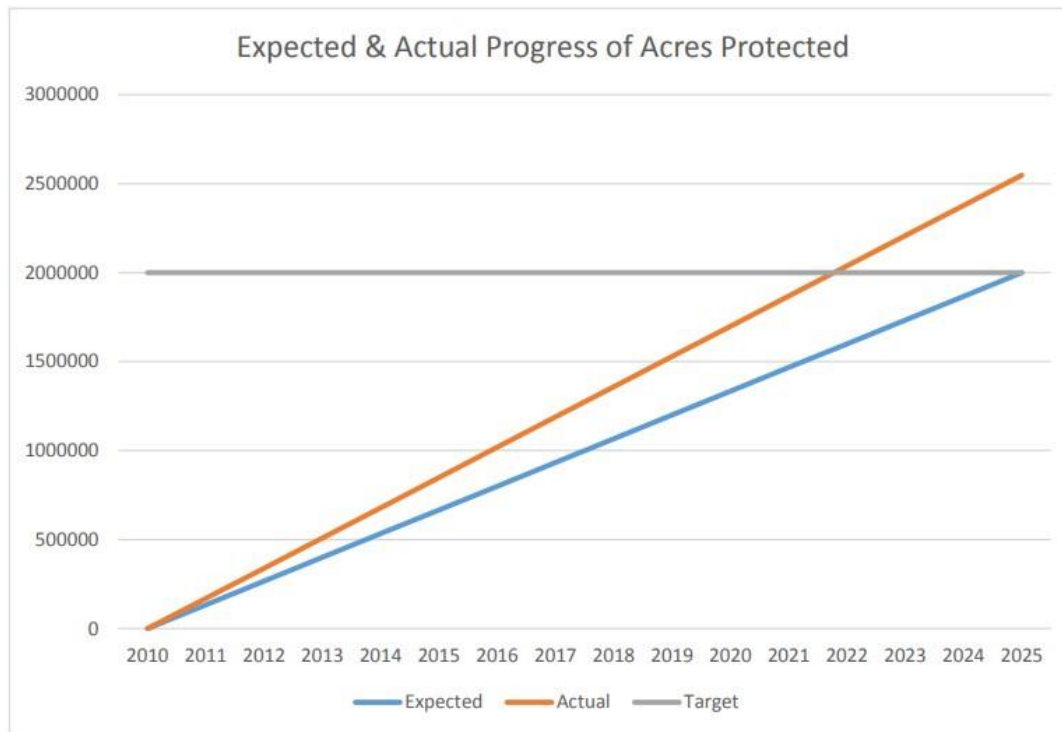
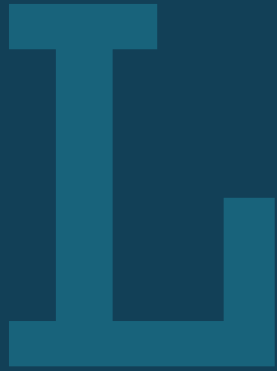


Table based on 2018 data, biennial update of the Protected Land Status for 2020 expected in Fall 2021

\* Actual progress is a projection based on a sustained linear growth of land conservation developed from previous years, and is subject to change depending on future updates of protected lands data.



# Learn

*What have we learned in the last two years?*



## Successes and Challenges

- Actions and goals should match staff availability and resources.
- Assigning a responsible party and securing funding are crucial for achieving performance targets.
- Urgent needs around the connection between public health and green space required adaptive management and the development of an *Action Plan Focusing on Public Health, Green Spaces and Equity*.
- COVID-19 demonstrated the increased demand for accessible open space for all residents.



## On the Horizon

- **Fiscal:** funding opportunities have increased.
- **Policy:** Emerging Opportunities --
  - New Federal administration's executive orders and policies that will support our work toward the Protected Lands outcome
  - Model legislative proposal in MD General Assembly could attract increased private capital investment
  - State Heirs Property mapping and legislation
  - Outreach to land trusts and local governments to promote use of conservation BMPs
  - Chesapeake WILD legislation - partnership and funding



## On the Horizon

- **Scientific:**

- Growing science confirmation of 30x30 and 50x50
- Public health research establishing benefits of spending time in outdoor green spaces



# Adapt

*How does all of this impact our work?*





## Based on what we learned, we plan to ...

- New work to achieve goal plus social/health benefits relates to:
  - Providing green spaces in under-resourced communities of color
  - Targeting resources to conserve the habitat of imperiled species, including under the Chesapeake WILD program
  - Providing more natural areas as part of achieving the CCP's 30x30 goal
- Focus on land conservation policies that address sea level rise / resiliency
- Prioritize public access, human health, and diversity goals that contribute to Bay restoration
- Align the CCP Public Health/Equity Action Plan with the L&A Plan



# Help

*How can the Management Board  
lead the Program to adapt?*



## How You Can Help



## Protected Lands Outcome

- Previous trends lead us to believe we will reach the outcome target by 2025. The biennial update of the Protected Lands status will provide data through 2020 to confirm.
- MB support needed to expand land conservation target in the next WA; facilitate the connection between health, equity and our CBP work; and connect land conservation with wetland and forest buffer efforts.



## Help Needed

- 30x30 target outcome
  - Consider adoption in next Watershed Agreement
  - Connect Land Protection workgroup members to jurisdictional representatives
- Assist with facilitating a focus on health and equity to help meet multiple Watershed Agreement outcomes
  - Encourage counterparts in conservation, public health and other agencies to prioritize investments in underserved communities
  - The Workgroup will identify additional items from the *CCP Action Plan Focusing on Public Health, Green Spaces and Equity* with which the MB can be most helpful.
- Engage land conservation efforts to aid wetland and forest buffer BMPs
  - MB allocate additional resources to implement wetland and riparian BMPs on lands already conserved or to be conserved



# Discussion