



**DEVELOPMENT AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED
AGREEMENT**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
MARCH 20, 2025**

A person wearing a dark cap and blue gloves is holding a green crab. The crab is positioned in the center of the frame, with its claws raised. The word "AGENDA" is overlaid in white text on the crab's shell.

AGENDA

- History of Watershed Agreements.
- Overview of the 2014 Watershed Agreement.
- Governance Approach.
- Tracking and Communicating Progress.
- The Path Ahead.



The Chesapeake Bay Program has always been guided by comprehensive restoration agreements.

- 1983: Chesapeake Bay Program formed by the Chesapeake Bay Agreement.
- 1987 Chesapeake Bay Agreement
- Chesapeake 2000 Agreement
- 2000-2002 MOU with NY, WV, and DE
- 2009 Executive Order
- 2010 Chesapeake Bay TMDL
- 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement



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- Vision
- Principles
- 10 Goals
- 31 Outcomes

OUR VISION



Chesapeake Bay Program

Science. Restoration. Partnership.

An environmentally and economically sustainable Chesapeake Bay watershed with clean water, abundant life, conserved lands and access to the water, a vibrant cultural heritage, and a diversity of engaged citizens and stakeholders.

Our 10 Goals from the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement



1. Sustainable Fisheries



2. Vital Habitats



3. Water Quality



4. Toxic Contaminants



5. Healthy Watersheds



6. Stewardship



7. Land Conservation



8. Public Access



9. Environmental Literacy



10. Climate Resiliency

Sustainable Fisheries Goal



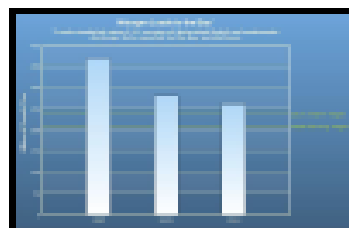
- *Blue Crab Abundance Outcome*
- *Blue Crab Management Outcome*
- *Oyster Outcome*
- *Forage Fish Outcome*
- *Fish Habitat Outcome*

Vital Habitats Goal



- *Wetlands Outcome*
 - *Black Duck*
- *Stream Health Outcome*
 - *Brook Trout*
- *Fish Passage Outcome*
- *SAV Outcome*
- *Forest Buffer Outcome*
- *Tree Canopy Outcome*

Water Quality Goal



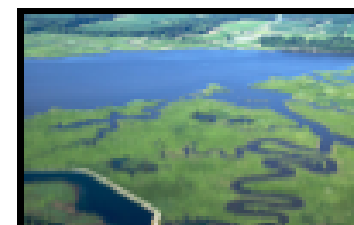
- *2017 Watershed Implementation Plans (WIP) Outcome*
- *2025 WIP Outcome*
- *Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring Outcome*

Toxic Contaminants Goal



- *Toxic Contaminants Research Outcome*
- *Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention Outcome*

Healthy Watersheds Goal



- *Healthy Waters Outcome*



Stewardship Goal



- *Citizen Stewardship Outcome*
- *Local Leadership Outcome*
- *Diversity Outcome*

Land Conserva- tion



- *Protected Lands Outcome*
- *Land Use Methods and Metrics Development Outcome*
- *Land Use Options Evaluation Outcome*

Public Access Goal



- *Public Access Site Development Outcome*

Environmental Literacy Goal



- *Student Outcome*
- *Sustainable Schools Outcome*
- *Environmental Literacy Planning Outcome*

Climate Resiliency Goal



- *Monitoring and Assessment Outcome*
- *Adaptation Outcome*



HOW DID PROTECTED LANDS END UP IN THE 2014 AGREEMENT?

- 2009-2010: State and federal agencies and NGO partners met in a series of collaborative sessions to develop recommendations to support progress in land conservation and public access.
- This led to the formation of the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership, who advocated for the inclusion of the Land Conservation Goal and Protected Lands Outcome in the 2014 *Watershed Agreement*.



LOCAL LEADERSHIP IN THE 2014 AGREEMENT

A workshop was held in 2014 with 60 local elected and appointed officials, senior government staff, experts in leadership training and other stakeholders.

The group shared descriptions of successful watershed protection and restoration efforts, identified gaps in information and resources, and recommended actions to increase the knowledge and capacity of local officials to help them manage natural resources more effectively.

The findings from this workshop led to the initial development of the Local Leadership Outcome.



GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK AND APPROACH



Governance and Management Framework for the Chesapeake Bay Program



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Consensus Continuum



HOW PARTNERS ARE WORKING

ALL goals, outcomes and strategies derived from the CBP Goal Teams – issue experts & stakeholders from across the jurisdictions / watershed.

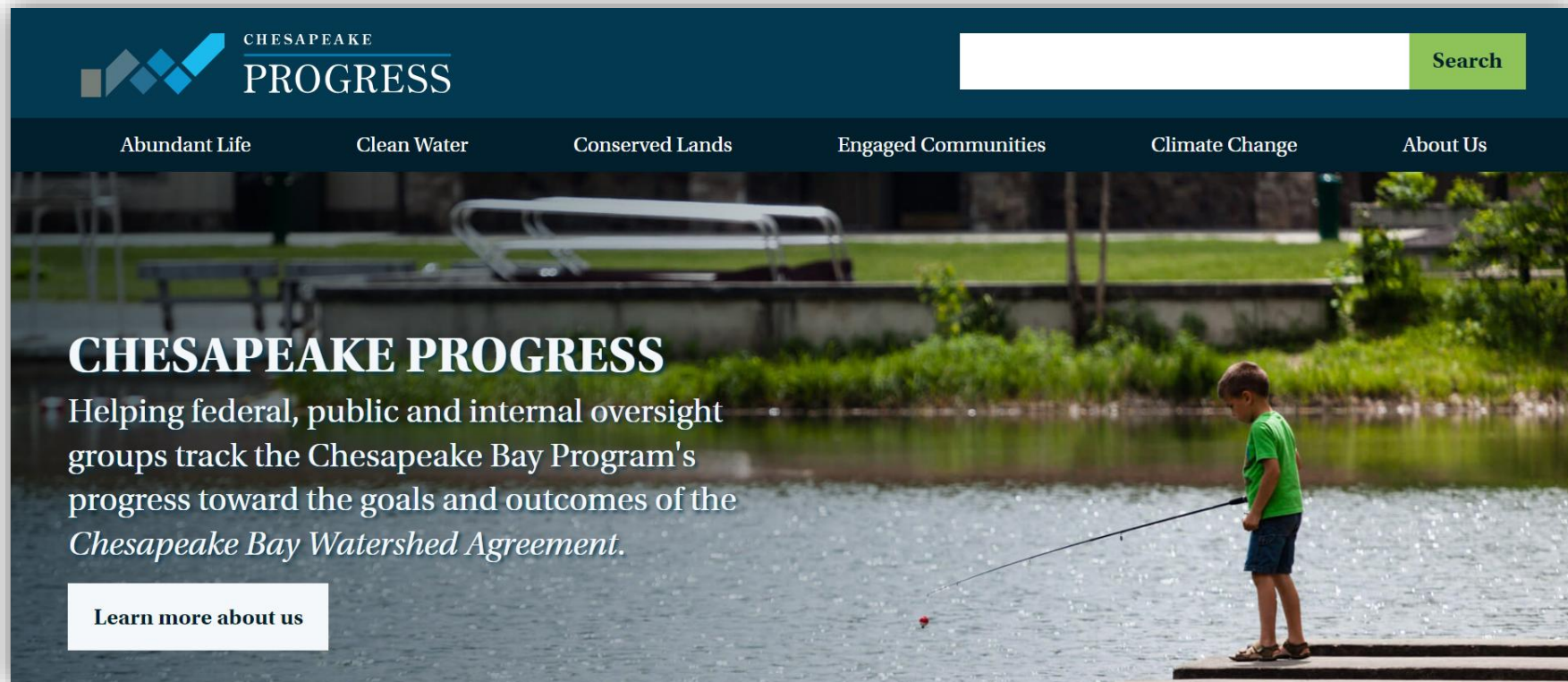


CBP's Executive Council (EC)
agreed to
Watershed Agreement
GOALS & initial OUTCOMES

CBP's Principals' Staff Committee (PSC)
tracks **OUTCOMES**,
ensuring they are measureable &
achievable; adapting as needed

CBP's Management Board (MB) to
manage and track the **STRATEGIES**,
adapting them as necessary over
time for success

THE POWER OF COMMUNICATION: PROGRESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY





SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

Blue Crab Abundance Outcome

 RECENT PROGRESS
DECREASE
Updated June 2024

 OUTLOOK
ON COURSE
Updated June 2024

Blue Crab Management Outcome

 RECENT PROGRESS
NO CHANGE
Updated August 2022

 OUTLOOK
COMPLETED
Updated August 2022

Fish Habitat Outcome

 RECENT PROGRESS
INCREASE
Updated April 2018

 OUTLOOK
ON COURSE
Updated November 2021

Forage Fish Outcome

 RECENT PROGRESS
INCREASE
Updated November 2021

 OUTLOOK
ON COURSE
Updated November 2021

Oysters Outcome

 RECENT PROGRESS
INCREASE
Updated May 2024

 OUTLOOK
ON COURSE
Updated May 2024



PUBLIC ACCESS

Public Access Site Development Outcome


 RECENT PROGRESS
INCREASE
Updated November 2024

 OUTLOOK
ON COURSE
Updated November 2024



ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY

Environmental Literacy Planning Outcome

 RECENT PROGRESS
INCREASE
Updated November 2023

 OUTLOOK
ON COURSE
Updated November 2023

Student Outcome

 RECENT PROGRESS
DECREASE
Updated October 2023

 OUTLOOK
OFF COURSE
Updated October 2023

Sustainable Schools Outcome

 RECENT PROGRESS
DECREASE
Updated June 2022

 OUTLOOK
ON COURSE
Updated June 2022



HEALTHY WATERSHEDS

Healthy Watersheds Outcome

 RECENT PROGRESS
NO CHANGE
Updated April 2018

 OUTLOOK
OFF COURSE
Updated June 2024



WATER QUALITY


2017 Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) Outcome

 RECENT PROGRESS
COMPLETED
Updated November 2021

 OUTLOOK
COMPLETED
Updated November 2021

2025 Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) Outcome

 RECENT PROGRESS
INCREASE
Updated April 2024

 OUTLOOK
OFF COURSE
Updated April 2024

Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring Outcome

 RECENT PROGRESS
INCREASE
Updated October 2024


 OUTLOOK
ON COURSE
Updated October 2024




STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship Outcome

 RECENT PROGRESS
NO CHANGE
Updated April 2018

 OUTLOOK
UNCERTAIN
Updated February 2022

Diversity Outcome

 RECENT PROGRESS
NO CHANGE
Updated January 2023

 OUTLOOK
OFF COURSE
Updated September 2023

Local Leadership Outcome

 RECENT PROGRESS
INCREASE
Updated October 2024

 OUTLOOK
ON COURSE
Updated October 2024

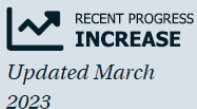


LAND CONSERVATION

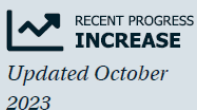
Land Use Methods and Metrics Development Outcome



Land Use Options Evaluation Outcome



Protected Lands Outcome



TOXIC CONTAMINANTS

Toxic Contaminants Research Outcome

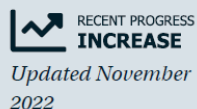


Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention Outcome

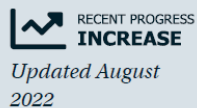


CLIMATE RESILIENCY

Climate Adaptation Outcome

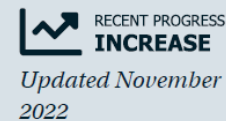


Climate Monitoring and Assessment Outcome

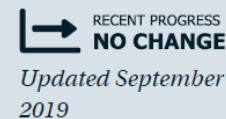


VITAL HABITATS

Black Duck Outcome



Brook Trout Outcome



Fish Passage Outcome



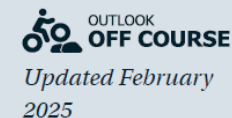
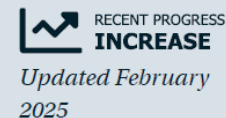
Forest Buffers Outcome



Stream Health Outcome



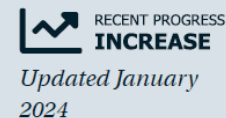
Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Outcome



Tree Canopy Outcome



Wetlands Outcome



Protected Lands

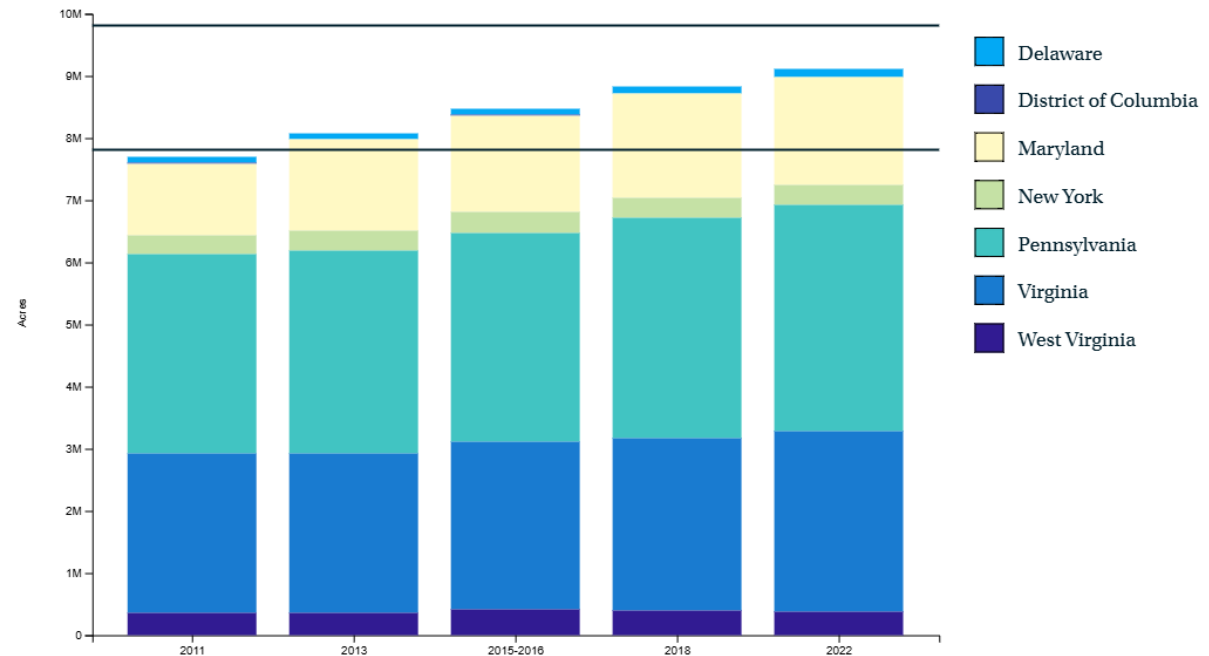
By 2025, protect an additional two million acres of lands throughout the watershed—currently identified as high-conservation priorities at the federal, state or local level—including 225,000 acres of wetlands and 695,000 acres of forest land of highest value for maintaining water quality.

Current Progress

According to data collected through early 2019, nearly 1.36 million acres of land in the Chesapeake Bay watershed have been permanently protected since 2010. This marks an achievement of 68% of the land conservation goal.

Protected Lands by Jurisdiction (2011-2022) 📊

[VIEW CHART](#) [VIEW TABLE](#)



Local Leadership

Continually increase the knowledge and capacity of local officials on issues related to water resources and in the implementation of economic and policy incentives that will support local conservation actions.

Current Progress

Workgroup efforts engaged more than 8,500 local officials over the last two years, through 38 training and education opportunities, including peer-to-peer learning exchanges, conference panels, roundtable discussions, newsletters, magazine articles and blogs.

Protect Local Waterways has seen over 3,500 unique visitors since its launch in 2023, with over 500 resource downloads.

Local Officials' Average Uncertainty by Time in Office

VIEW CHART VIEW TABLE

2024 2022

Time in Current Office	Average % Uncertainty
2 years or less	45.5
3-5 years	36.9
6-10 years	39.0
11 or more years	27.6

Local Officials' Average Uncertainty by Community Size

VIEW CHART VIEW TABLE

2024 2022

Community Size	Average % Uncertainty
9,999 residents or fewer	42.6
10,000 - 99,999 residents	34.8
100,000+ residents	31.1

A scenic view of a lake with a dock and boats, overlaid with a blue rectangle containing the text "THE PATH AHEAD". The background shows a calm lake with several wooden docks extending into the water. Various boats are moored at the docks, including a white boat with a yellow stripe, a blue boat, and a white boat with a white cover. In the distance, there are green hills and a small boat on the water. The sky is overcast. The foreground shows a close-up of a wooden post in the water with ripples around it.

THE PATH AHEAD



CHARTING A COURSE BEYOND 2025

RECOMMENDATION 1:
REVISIONS TO THE 2014
CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED
AGREEMENT WITH
MODIFICATIONS TO THE
EXISTING VISION, PRINCIPLES,
PREAMBLE, GOALS, AND
OUTCOMES

RECOMMENDATION 2: A
SIMPLIFIED AND STREAMLINED
STRUCTURE AND PROCESS FOR
THE PARTNERSHIP, INCLUDING
CHANGES TO THE GOVERNANCE
DOCUMENT AND PARTNERSHIP
PROCESSES (E.G., STRATEGY
REVIEW SYSTEM)

THANK YOU

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Accountability Branch*

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