



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

May 15, 2025

Local Leadership Workgroup

Quarterly Meeting

Les Knapp, Chair | Maura Christian, Vice Chair

We'll begin at 10:00 am

Meeting Goals

- How can strengthening coastal and shoreline resilience better prepare communities to address changing environmental conditions and support local economies and ecosystems?
- Identify educational resources, technical assistance and funding to support local governments
- Networking with colleagues from around the watershed

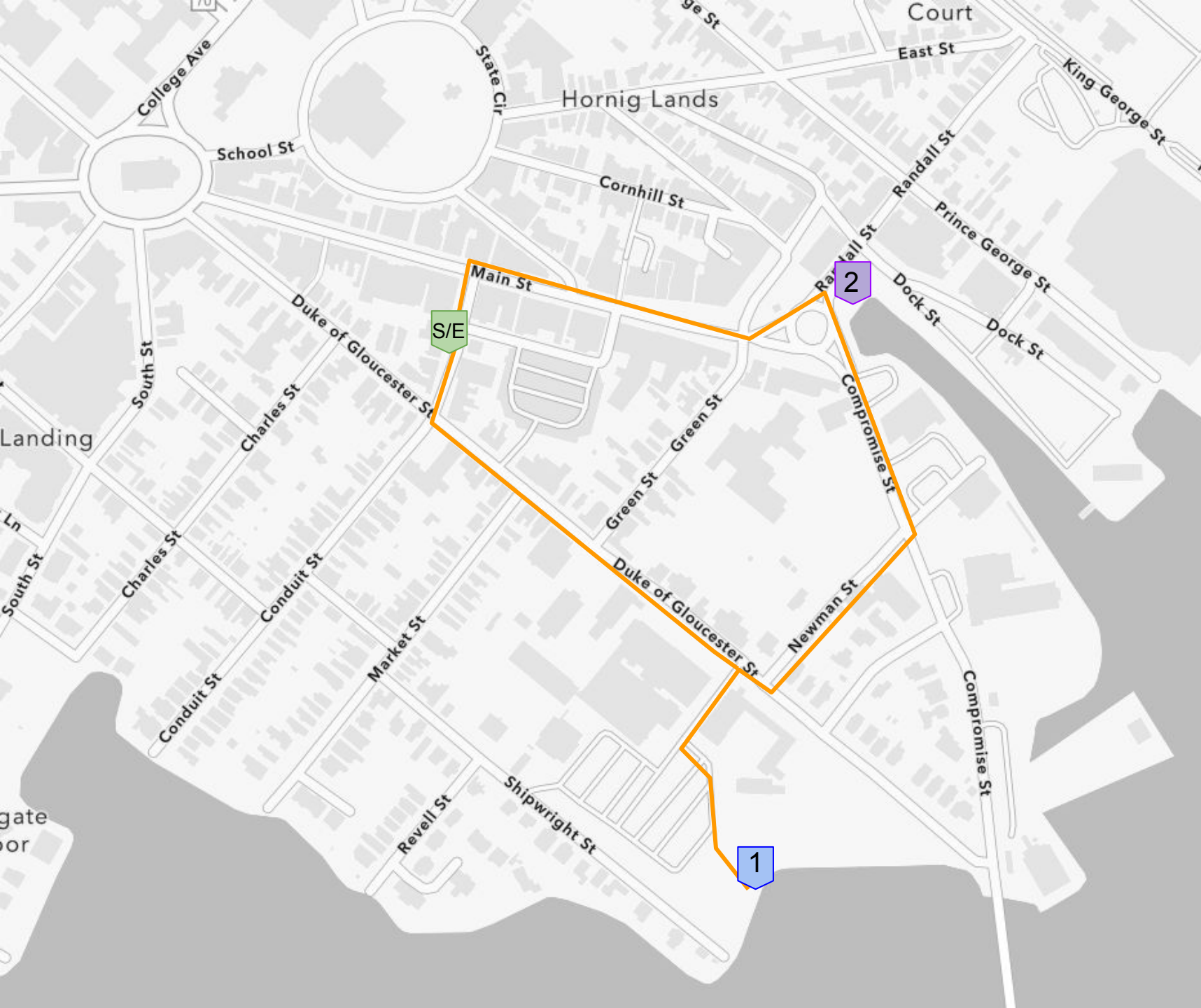
Agenda

- 1 Coastal Resilience in Annapolis
- 2 Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week
- 3 Local Government Strategies for Flood Mitigation and Shoreline Resiliency

4 Lunch

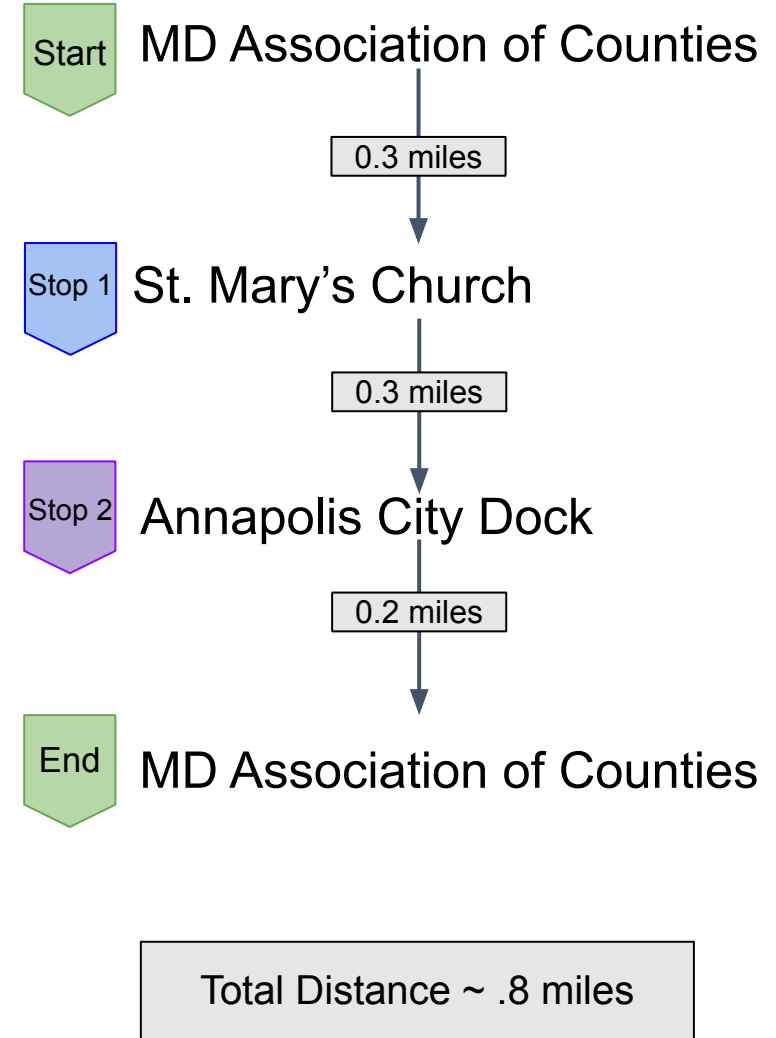
5 Geospatial Decision Support Tools Study

6 How-To: Water Quality Status and Trends Resources



Annapolis Resilience Projects Walking Tour

May 13, 2025





RESILIENCE
AUTHORITY
Annapolis and Anne Arundel County

Coastal Resilience in Annapolis

*Multi-jurisdictional resiliency planning and
collaboration*

Gabe Cohee, Director of Programs, Resilience Authority of
Annapolis and Anne Arundel County



Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week

How can local governments use Chesapeake Bay Awareness week to highlight past, current, and future work they are doing to protect local lands and waterways?



Michael Augustin, Chesapeake Conservancy



Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week

**Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week is a time to
celebrate the cultures, history and natural beauty of
the nation's largest estuary**

History

- In 2016, the Chesapeake Bay Commission designated nine days each June as Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week.
 - In the past, the nine days started with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Clean the Bay Day and ended with Bernie Fowler's Wade-In.
 - This year, the event dates will shift as the wade-in occurs after CBF's Clean the Bay Day
- Promote the event through social media and in-person events
 - Serves the dual purpose of showcasing the amazing success stories, achievements and resources of the Bay while also encouraging people to get outside and get involved.

2025: The Bay In Your Backyard

- June 7 - June 15, 2025
- Theme: The Bay In Your Backyard
 - Each day, we'll be highlighting our local waterways while celebrating the natural, cultural and historical aspects that make them unique.
- Primary Subthemes: Wonders of the Bay, Protectors of the Bay
- Daily subthemes!
 - Native species, invasive species, recreation, community figures, history, etc.
 - Emphasis on
 - Broad appeal to many audiences
 - Benefits of conservation & restoration
- Graphics and maps!

Past Themes

- **2024: Unsung Heroes**
 - Primary subthemes: Habitat Heroes, Tide Turners
 - Daily themes: Kicking off Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week, Highlighting science, data and reports, Ecosystem Benefits, Regions/Individual Watersheds, Ecosystem Engineers, Land Conservation, Tree Canopy Cover, Indigenous Stewards, Highlighting Individuals/Wrap-Up
- **2023: Chesapeake Journeys**
- **2022: Restoration Brings Results**
- **2021: Recreation**
- **2020: Tributaries**

Events



Post your event on the Chesapeake Bay Program calendar

The types of events we post include:

- Volunteer events (cleanups, invasive species removals, plantings, etc.)
- Tree or plant giveaways
- Nature walks, hikes, geocaching
- Boat, canoeing and kayaking trips
- Environmental workshops (composting, gardening, native plants, rain barrels, etc.)
- Environmental art events

We reserve the right to not post events that don't fit these categories.

Submit your event by filling out the information below.

Email *

Valid email

This form is collecting emails. [Change settings](#)

Event name

Short answer text

Time of event *

Time



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Search

Discover the Chesapeake

Learn the Issues

State of the Chesapeake

Take Action

In the News

Who We Are

What We Do

TAKE ACTION > ATTEND AN EVENT

Attend an Event

Explore your connection to the Bay at an event near you. Events range from nature workshops and hikes for children and families to restoration activities like trash clean-ups and invasive plant removals. If you would like to see your organization's event on the calendar, fill out this form.



Upcoming Events

Grid View

List View

WEDNESDAY

MARCH 16, 2022

Help Green Richmond Libraries

Volunteer to assist with tree, shrub and perennial installation!

[View Event Details >>](#)

RICHMOND, VA

WEDNESDAY

MARCH 16, 2022

Bringing the Bay Home: The Role of Photography and Writing in the Restoration Effort

Learn how photographs and writing engage the public in the challenges faced by the Bay.

[View Event Details >>](#)

VIRTUAL

WEDNESDAY

MARCH 16, 2022

Crab Industry Catalysts: Coulbourne and Jewett Seafood Packing Company

This year's webinar series features the enterprising businesspeople that have found opportunity and inspiration on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay.

[View Event Details >>](#)

ST. MICHAEL, MD

WEDNESDAY

MARCH 16, 2022

Women Leaders in Climate Action

Join a conversation with women leaders in the environmental space to understand climate change's impacts on women and children.

[View Event Details >>](#)

VIRTUAL

WEDNESDAY

MARCH 16, 2022

History of Spiritualism in Baltimore

WEDNESDAY

MARCH 16, 2022

Women's History Month, A Culinary Journey:

March 2022

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

<< Previous Month | Next Month >>



Chesapeake Bay
Awareness Week
June 4-12, 2022

The Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure, and plays a role in the lives of the 18 million people who call its watershed home. [Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week](#) is a time to celebrate the cultures, history and natural beauty of the nation's largest estuary. Discover your connection to the Bay by attending one of the events on our calendar.


Social media toolkit

 June 1-4: Promotion

 June 5: On the water

 June 6: Parks and trails

 June 7: In your neighborhood

 June 8: In your home

 June 9: Connecting with food

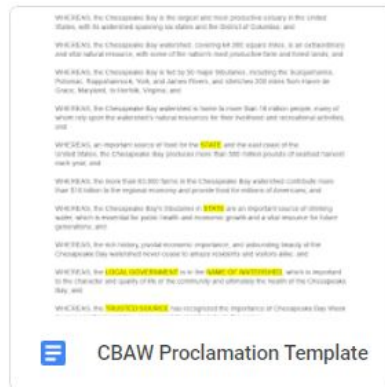
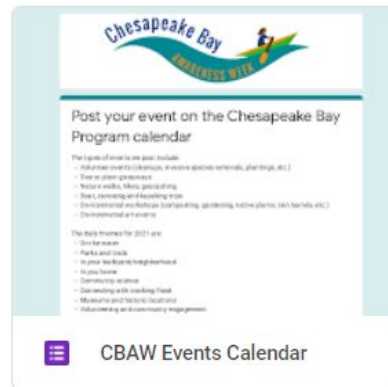
 June 10: Community science

 June 11: Museums and histo...

 June 12: Volunteering and c...

 June 13: Environmental stew...

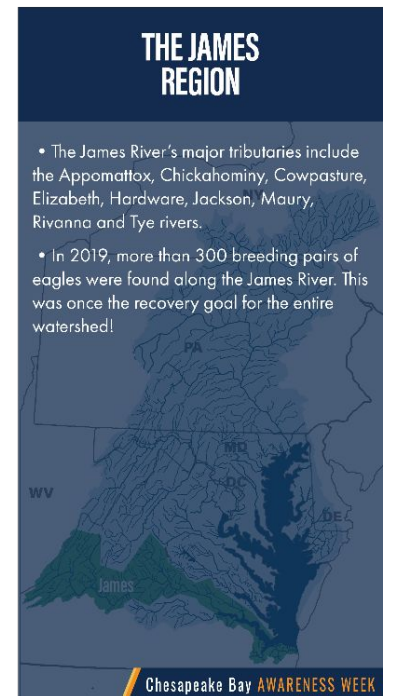
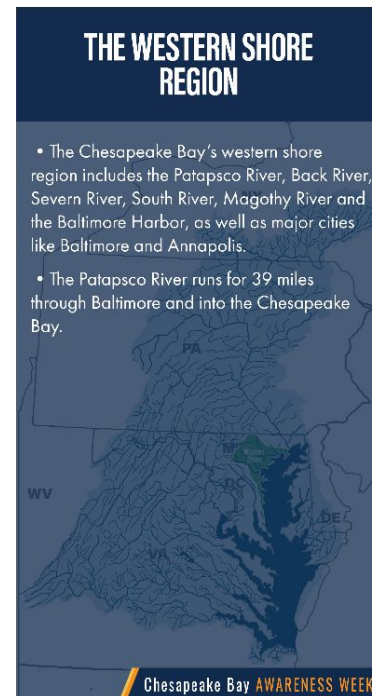
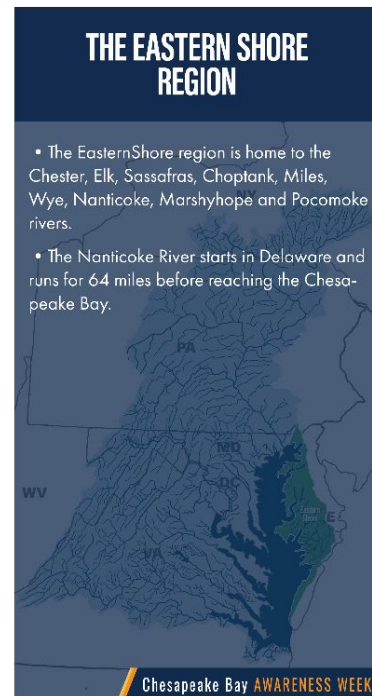
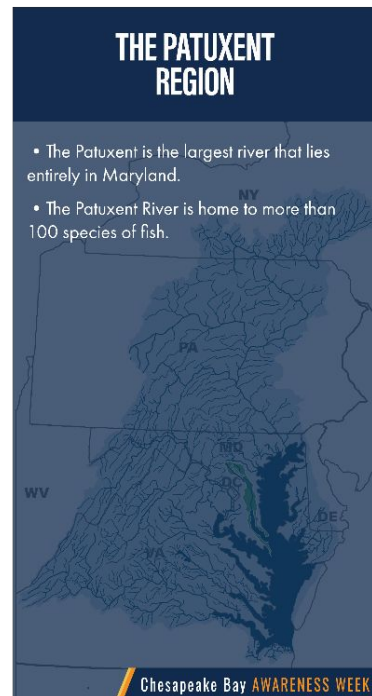
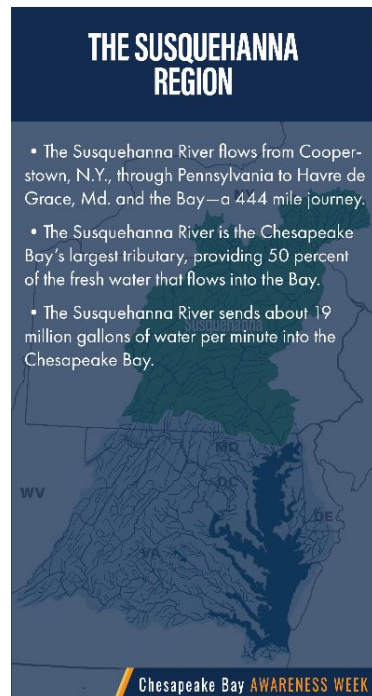
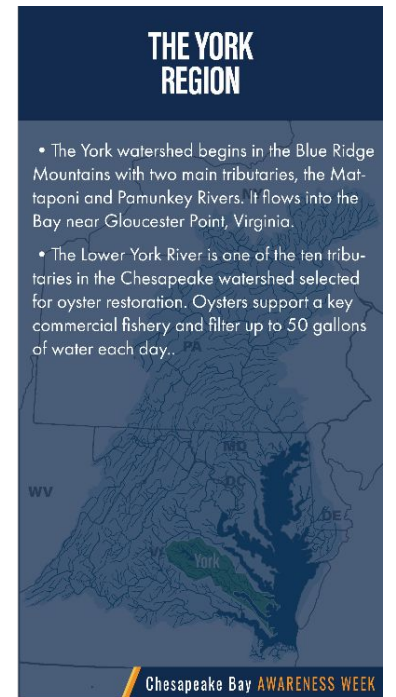
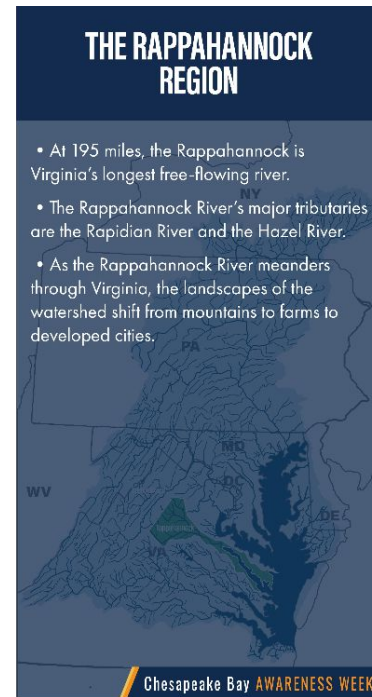
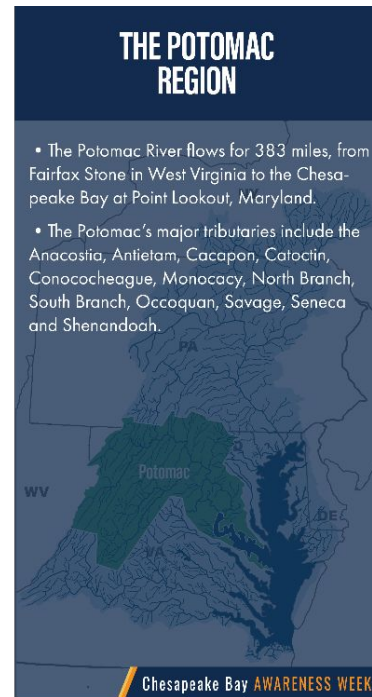
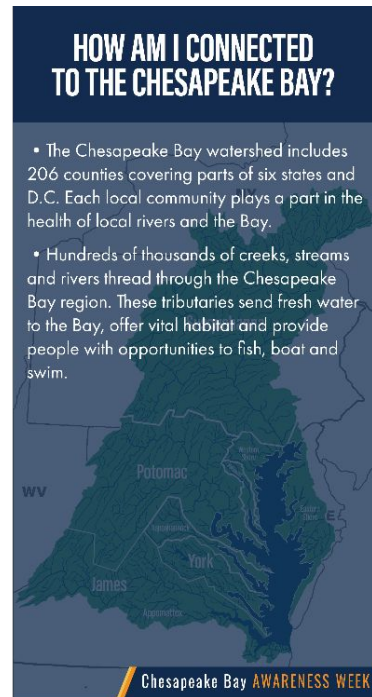
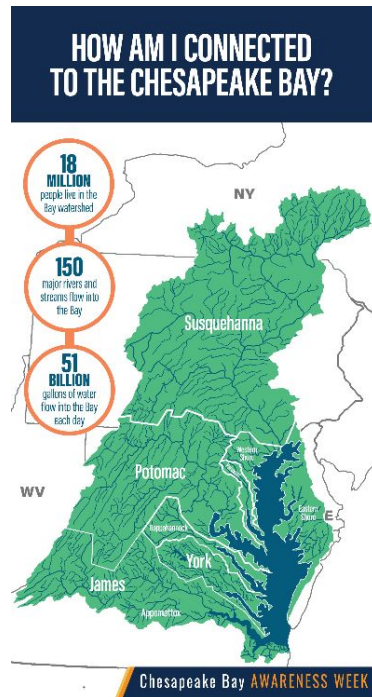
Files



Social media holidays

- National Trails Day: June 7th
- World Oceans Day: June 8th
- Global Wind Day: June 15th

Maps



What do we provide?

- The Chesapeake Bay Program will publish a press release and blog post
- Sample proclamation templates
- Social media toolkit
- Flickr gallery for relevant images
- Events calendar
- Support!
 - Let us know if you have questions

Local Government Strategies for Flood Mitigation and Shoreline Resiliency

Technical Assistance panel to discuss Innovative infrastructure, creative funding, community engagement, and strategies to overcome challenges to flood mitigation and shoreline resilience.



Susan Bates

The Nature Conservancy



Tom Leigh

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay



Jim George, PhD

MD Dept of Environment

Local Leadership Workgroup Quarterly Meeting

Lunch time!
We'll be back at 1:00 pm



Geospatial Decision Support Tools Study

*Aligning the tools of the USGS and CBP with the needs
of local governments.*



Alex Gunnerson and Sophie Waterman, USGS




How-To: Water Quality Status and Trends Resources

How-to Guide of the Tributary Summaries Reports and Story Maps created by the Integrated Trends Analysis Team (ITAT) of the Bay Program. These products provide both high-level information and an interactive web-platform on the long- and short-term trends of the different tributaries in the Chesapeake Bay.

Kaylyn Gootman, Integrated Analysis Coordinator, EPA
Gabriel Duran, STAR Staffer, CRC

Chesapeake Bay Program
PLANNING FOR 2025 AND BEYOND: Outcome Language Revision



LOCAL LEADERSHIP
LOCAL LEADERSHIP WORKGROUP | ENHANCE PARTNERING, LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT GOAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM (GIT 6)

CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED AGREEMENT OUTCOME LANGUAGE

PROPOSED DRAFT OUTCOME LANGUAGE: Continually increase the knowledge and capacity of local government leaders to empower them to make decisions and implement local actions that support the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.

EXISTING 2014 OUTCOME LANGUAGE: 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.

PROPOSED TARGET	New Target / Update of Existing Target	Date estimate for target being developed
Increase the percentage of local government leaders reporting water resource management actions biennially.	Update of Existing Target	2025

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Rationale and context for proposed draft outcome language:

- Recognizes the critical role local governments play in the success of the Watershed Agreement and respects local decision making.
- Positions the LLWG to support the Partnership in effectively engaging and educating local governments.

Topics/challenges for Management Board guidance (Optional):

- Key [factors that impact progress](#) at the local government level impede efforts to include a specific percentage increase. These factors include:
 - Local officials face a wide array of important and urgent issues that are constantly vying for their attention and local government resources. As a result, they must continuously prioritize among competing demands, often making difficult trade-offs to address immediate community needs versus planning for long-term resilience. This constant balancing act can strain limited budgets, staff capacity, and the ability to respond to emerging environmental challenges.
 - Many local officials do not have scientific or technical training or access to a knowledgeable person with technical capacity. This lack of expertise can make it challenging to interpret complex data and assess risks. Without a clear understanding of the underlying science, they may inadvertently overlook critical vulnerabilities or miss opportunities to apply data-driven solutions.
 - There is a constant stream of newly elected and appointed officials. This continual turnover can disrupt institutional knowledge and slow the momentum of ongoing projects or policy initiatives. It also creates a recurring need for orientation and capacity-building to ensure new leaders are equipped to make informed decisions from the start.
 - The complexity of the watershed and variety of jurisdictions create distinct regional needs. This complexity means that a one-size-fits-all approach is often ineffective, as each area may face unique environmental, social, and economic challenges.

Local Leadership Outcome Language & Bay Agreement Revisions

Update on the process, plan, and next steps

Rick Mittler, LLWG Coordinator

[Link to Two-Pager](#)

Local Leadership Outcome Revisions

- New Language:

Continually increase the knowledge and capacity of local government leaders to empower them to make decisions and implement local actions that support the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.

Local Leadership Outcome Revisions

- New Target:

Increase the percentage of local government leaders reporting water resource management actions biennially.

Chesapeake Bay Agreement Revisions

- Process:
 - MB is working to finalize language by May 15
 - May 16 EPA send out
 - May 19 Comments from the Jurisdictions
 - PSC meets May 23 (non-decisional)
 - PSC to meet in June to make decision and send out for public comment.

Chesapeake Bay Agreement Revisions

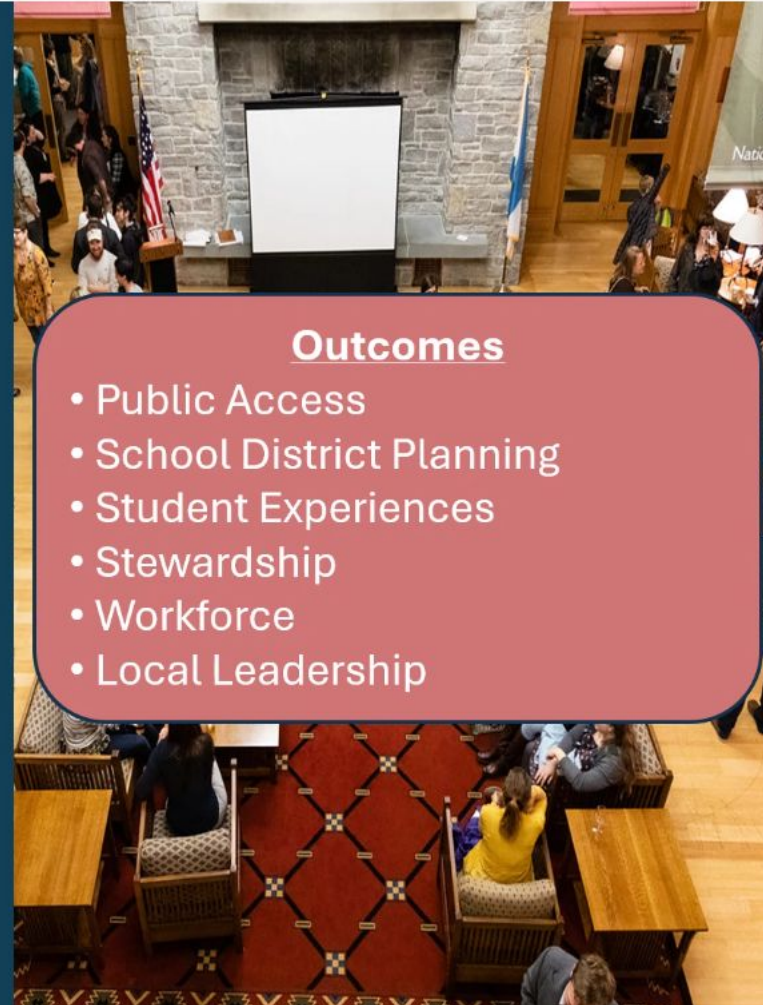
Engaged Communities

Introduction:

The long-term success of the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort depends on individuals and communities throughout the watershed understanding their connection to the local environment and making choices that support its health. Developing these stewards starts with increasing access to outdoor recreation; learning opportunities that inspire and educate students, adults and conservation professionals; and empowering local decision-makers to make a difference in their community.

Goal Statement:

Engage and grow a community of local stewards and leaders through education, recreation and professional opportunities.



Outcomes

- Public Access
- School District Planning
- Student Experiences
- Stewardship
- Workforce
- Local Leadership

Chesapeake Bay Agreement Revisions

Conserved Lands, Forests and Watersheds

Conserve, restore and enhance landscapes of ecological, economic and cultural value to maintain water quality, provide habitat for living resources and increase resilience to changing environmental conditions.

Clean Water

Reduce pollutants and toxic contaminants entering the Bay and its rivers to achieve the water quality necessary to support our aquatic living resources and protect human health.

Sustained Habitat, Wildlife and Fisheries

Protect, restore and sustain fisheries and wildlife, as well as the network of land and water habitats they depend on, to promote a balanced and resilient ecosystem, support local economies and advance recreational opportunities.

Engaged Communities

Engage and grow a community of local stewards and leaders through education, recreation and professional opportunities.

Local Leadership Outcome Revisions

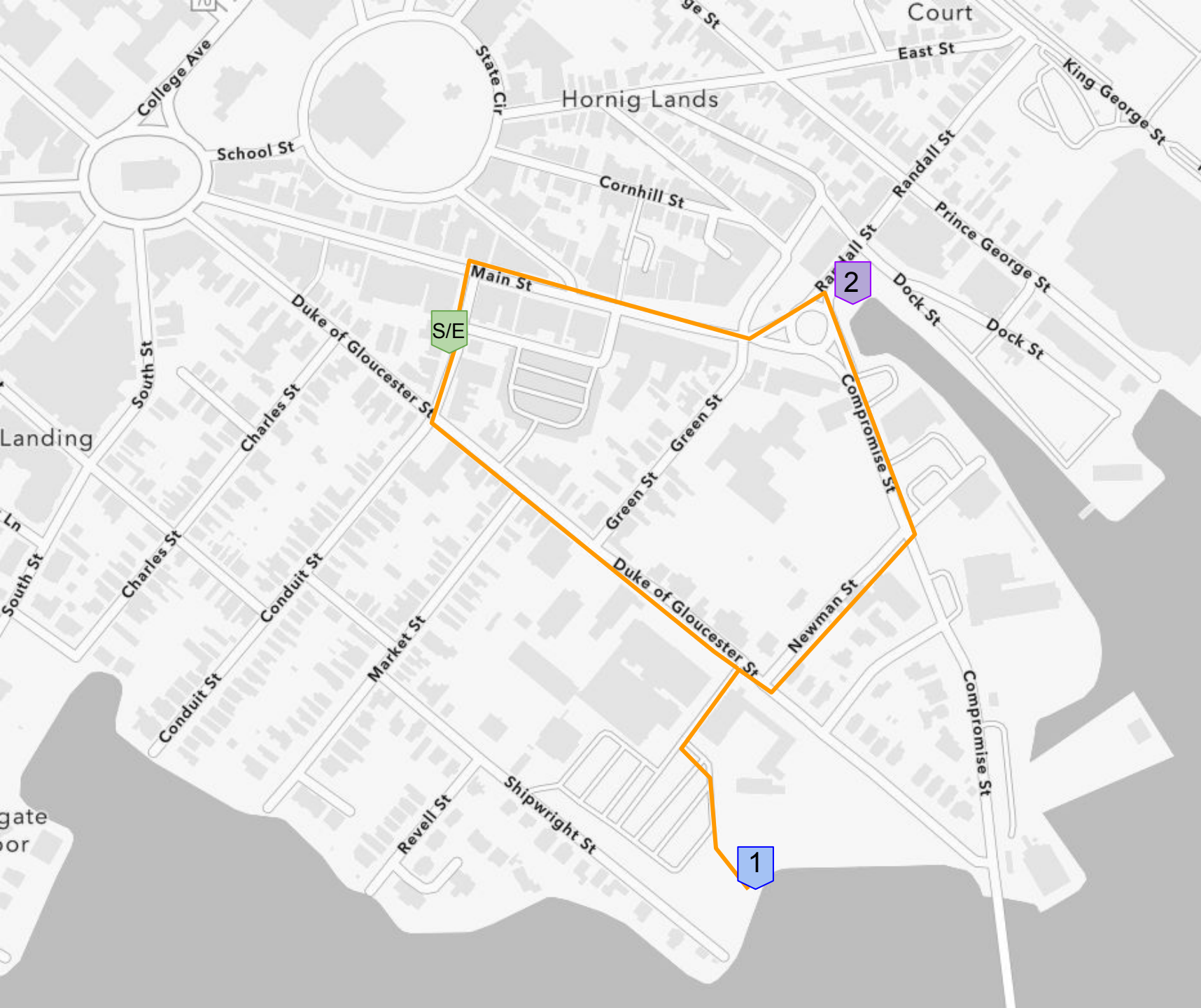
Thank you
Les!

Local Leadership Outcome Language & Bay Agreement Revisions

If you want to have a one-on-one discussion, please let Rick know!

Wrap-up & Next Steps

- Action items (if necessary)
- Key Takeaways
- Next Steps
- Next Meeting:
 - August 19, 2025 - Virtual
 - Topic: Land use and Development



Annapolis Resilience Projects Walking Tour

May 13, 2025

