



## PUBLIC ACCESS OUTCOME

### STEWARDSHIP GIT/ PUBLIC ACCESS WORKGROUP

#### CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED AGREEMENT OUTCOME LANGUAGE

##### PROPOSED DRAFT OUTCOME LANGUAGE:

By 2040, enhance new and existing public access sites to the Bay and its tributaries through a combination of actions aimed at improving recreational opportunities and accessibility while addressing barriers to access by increasing the number, quality, and geographic distribution of sites.

##### EXISTING 2014 OUTCOME LANGUAGE:

By 2025, add 300 new public access sites, with a strong emphasis on providing opportunities for boating, swimming and fishing, where feasible.

PROPOSED TARGET (SMART, Directional, etc.). (Suggested time horizon of 2040 for achievement of draft output.)	New Target / Update of Existing Target	Date estimate for target being developed
<b>New Access Sites:</b> By 2040, add 100 new public access sites with a strong emphasis on providing opportunities for recreation where feasible.	Update of Existing	N/A
<b>Improving ADA/ABA Accessibility:</b> By 2040, improve 3% of existing public access sites by adding ADA/ABA accessible features where feasible to meet the needs of the communities.	New Target	N/A
<b>Improving Existing Site Grounds and Structures:</b> By 2040 improve 100 existing public access sites by adding or improving the grounds or structures - including signage, parking, seating, and public facilities.	New Target	N/A
<b>Addition of Recreation Types:</b> By 2040, increase the number of active and passive recreation types offered at existing public access sites - including but not limited to kayaking, boating, piers, courts, trails, designated wildlife viewing, seating and picnic amenities.	New Target	N/A
<b>Expanding Access to Community Lands:</b> By 2040, increase access to ____ % of community lands identified in the Protected Lands data set. An initial baseline study is to be conducted by 2025-2026 to determine appropriate numeric targets for this metric.	New Target	May 2026-2027

\*Detailed activities will be included in an updated work plan

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### **Rationale and context for proposed draft outcome language:**

Based on feedback from state representatives within the Public Access Workgroup and stakeholders in the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership, we have decided to expand the outcome language to include specific targets for access and recreation. These targets will include identifying new sites, improving accessibility, enhancing existing sites, promoting various types of recreation, and expanding access to community lands. Since the workgroup has primarily focused on water-based public access sites, the expansion of access to community lands will require an initial baseline study. This study should incorporate data on protected lands to identify the current acreage available in community settings. Additionally, it should establish terminology and criteria for access to community lands and green spaces, ensuring that state representatives and workgroup members feel comfortable tracking and reporting on this target in the future.