



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

August 2025

Public Access Workgroup Meeting

New Bay Program Meeting Security

- All attendees will join meetings with mic and camera disabled
- To speak, use the 'Raise Hand' feature and you will be individually given the ability to mute/unmute and turn your camera on/off

Agenda

1 Leadership Updates

2 Call for Chair

3 Press Release

**4 Management Board
Requests**

**5 Public Feedback
Review**

**6 (If time) Access to
Greenspace Metrics**

Leadership Updates

New Stewardship GIT Coordinator:

- Emily Heller, EPA / CBP

New Stewardship GIT Co-Chairs:

- Julia Wakeling, DC DOEE
- Julie Lawson, DC DOEE

Stewardship Goal
Implementation Team
(GIT 5)

Education
Workgroup

Stewardship
Workgroup

Public Access
Workgroup

Protected Lands
Workgroup

Workforce
Action Team

Public Access Workgroup Leadership

- Awaiting Bay Program placement of a workgroup Coordinator
- Open Chair Position!



Bay Program Press Release

Chesapeake Bay Program exceeds goal to open new sites for the public to access the water

Since 2010, 312 new public access sites have been added across the watershed

JULY 30, 2025



Visitors use boardwalks at Huntley Meadows Park in Alexandria, Va., on May 17, 2024. At a little more than 1,500 acres, the park conserves forest, meadow and vast wetlands in the largest park operated by the Fairfax County Park Authority. (Photo by Will Parson/Chesapeake Bay Program)

Media Contact

If you have any questions, need additional information or would like to arrange an interview, please contact:

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Director of Communications
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- The 2025 target of 300 access sites has been met!
- In total, the workgroup added 312 sites across the watershed 🎉🎉

Management Board (MB) Requests

Timeline

Task	Actions	Anticipated Completion Date
Conduct a Baseline Study using Protected Lands 2024 Data set	Protected Lands Workgroup (PLWG) data will be reviewed by Geospatial Science and Applications Team (GSAT) and the PLWG, and shared with the Public Access Workgroup (PAWG) to begin looking at current accessibility trends on greenspace in the watershed.	September 2025 - March 2026
Expand workgroup jurisdictional representation as needed	PAWG members will share their own capacity and provide recommendations on who in their jurisdiction / department could be added for tracking greenspace access sites in addition to water access sites, if necessary.	September 2025
Define parameters for community green space	PAWG members will discuss definitions and tracking methods.	March 2026
Define percentage metric	PAWG members will discuss metrics for greenspace access sites.	March 2026
Complete target language.	PAWG Leadership Team will seek support from workgroup members on the final target language.	March 2026

September:

- Expand membership if a jurisdiction rep mostly works in water access and does not track land sites
- Once those jurisdictions are identified, we can send a request to the MB



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Questions?





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Review of Public Feedback





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Discussion on Access to Greenspace Metrics



Guiding Questions

- What kinds of parameters could be set or what kinds of greenspace the workgroup tracks?
 - Presence of recreation amenities
 - Acreage
 - Type of ownership
- How should access be defined?
 - Walkability
 - Transportation access
 - Proximity
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