

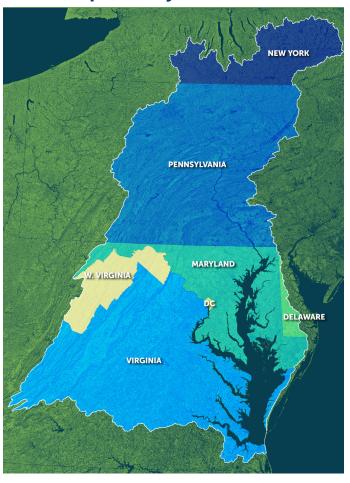
## **BAY BAROMETER**



# Health and Restoration in Washington, D.C. (2017-2018)

All of Washington, D.C., sits within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, which means all the District's rivers—including the Anacostia and the Potomac--flow into the Bay. The District has committed to achieving 22 of the outcomes in the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*. Its progress toward seven of these outcomes is highlighted here.

#### The Chesapeake Bay Watershed



#### **Underwater Grasses**

According to preliminary data from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, an estimated 104,843 acres of underwater grasses were observed in the Chesapeake Bay in 2017: 14,843 acres greater than the Chesapeake Bay Program's 2017 restoration target and 57 percent of the partnership's 185,000-acre goal. Just over 1,000 acres of underwater grasses were observed in D.C.'s tidal waters, and both the Anacostia and Upper Potomac rivers surpassed their restoration goals.

### Estimated Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Sediment Pollution Reduced

The Chesapeake Bay Program uses its Watershed Model to estimate reductions in nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment pollution that is flowing into the Bay. By the end of 2017, the District had achieved 100 percent of its 2025 target for nitrogen and sediment and 4 percent for its phosphorus target. Collectively, Bay Program partners have achieved 36 percent of their nitrogen target, 87 percent of their phosphorus target and 67 percent of their sediment target.

Washington, D.C.'s progress toward achieving its 2025 targets

100% 4% 100%

nitrogen phosphorus

sediment



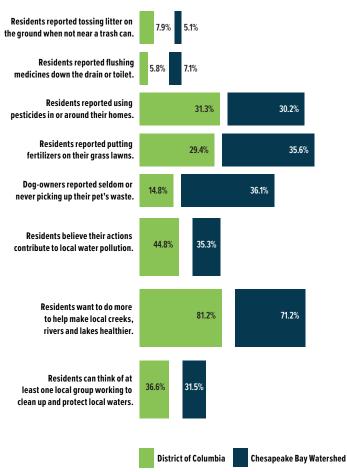
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#### **Citizen Stewardship Outcome**

In 2017, residents of the Chesapeake Bay region scored a 24 out of 100 on the Citizen Stewardship Index: the first comprehensive survey of stewardship actions and attitudes in the watershed. D.C. residents scored a 28. To score a 100 on the Citizen Stewardship Index, everyone in the region would need to do everything they could in their daily lives to improve water quality and environmental health.

### D.C.'s Stewardship Compared to the Watershed



#### **Protected Lands**

According to preliminary data collected in 2018, more than 1.3 million acres of land in the Chesapeake Bay watershed have been permanently protected from development since 2010. Of this total, 127 acres are D.C. This brings the total amount of protected land in the District to 10,699 acres.

#### **Public Access**

Between 2010 and 2017, 153 boat ramps, fishing piers and other public access sites were opened on and around the Chesapeake Bay. D.C. is home to two of these recently opened sites, and 24 public access sites in all.

#### **Environmental Literacy Planning**

In 2017, the Chesapeake Bay Program issued its second survey to measure environmental literacy preparedness in public schools. Of the 132 responding school districts, 29 identified as well-prepared and 76 identified as somewhat prepared to deliver high-quality environmental literacy programming to their students. The public school district in D.C. identified as somewhat prepared to put environmental literacy programs in place.

### Student Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs)

In 2017, the Chesapeake Bay Program issued its second survey to measure the extent of MWEEs in public schools. Of the school districts that responded to this survey, 39 percent reported providing system-wide MWEEs to their elementary school students, 43 percent reported providing system-wide MWEEs to their middle school students and 31 percent reported providing system-wide MWEEs to their high school students. The public school district in D.C. reported providing system-wide MWEEs to its elementary school students and some MWEEs to its middle and high school students.