

Health and Restoration in New York

More than 6,000 square miles of New York sit within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and one of the state's major rivers—the Susquehanna—flows into the Chesapeake Bay. New York has committed to achieving 14 outcomes in the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*. Its progress toward five of these outcomes is below.

Forest Buffers

Outcome: Increase the capacity of forest buffers to provide water quality and habitat benefits throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Restore 900 miles of riparian forest buffers per year and conserve existing buffers until at least 70 percent of the watershed's riparian areas are forested.

Progress in New York: Between 2012 and 2019, 182 miles of forest buffers were planted along rivers and streams in New York: during 2010 and 2019 a total of 9,190 miles of forest buffers were planted across all watershed jurisdictions.

2025 Watershed Implementation Plans

Outcome: By 2025, have all practices and controls in place to achieve applicable water quality (i.e., dissolved oxygen, water clarity/submerged aquatic vegetation and chlorophyll a) standards as articulated in the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load.

Progress in New York: According to the Chesapeake Bay Program's Watershed Model, pollution controls put into place across the Chesapeake Bay watershed between 2009 and 2019 have lowered nitrogen loads 11%, phosphorus loads 10% and sediment loads 4%. In New York, pollution controls have lowered nitrogen loads 6%, phosphorus loads 15% and sediment loads 7%.

Protected Lands

Outcome: 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 forestland of highest value for maintaining water quality.

Progress in New York: According to data collected from 2011—2018, almost 1.4 million acres of land in the Chesapeake Bay watershed have been permanently protected from development. This brings the total amount of protected land in the watershed portion of New York to 327,281 acres, 8% of New York Land in the watershed.

New York's Progress Towards Achieving its 2025 Targets

6%

Nitrogen

15%

Phosphorus

7%

Sediment

Public Access

Outcome: By 2025, add 300 new public access sites to the Chesapeake Bay watershed, with a strong emphasis on providing opportunities for boating, swimming and fishing, where feasible.

Progress in New York: Between 2010 and 2019, 194 boat ramps, fishing piers and other public access sites were opened on and around the Chesapeake Bay. The state of New York is home to 39 public access sites in all.

Diversity

Outcome: Identify stakeholder groups not currently represented in the leadership, decision-making or implementation of current conservation and restoration activities and create meaningful opportunities and programs to recruit and engage these groups in the partnership's efforts.

Progress in New York: In 2019, the Chesapeake Bay Program's diversity survey indicated a slight increase in the number of respondents that self-identified as people of color from 13.7% in 2016 to 14.6% in 2019. New York remained the same with 10% of respondents who self-identified as being a person of color.

