






## Beyond 2025 Healthy Watersheds Recommendations

**Vanguard Approach: Implement a more holistic and people-centric approach to improving and maintaining watershed health and ecosystem services as a foundational goal of the partnership.**

Maintaining and improving watershed health and ecosystem services help local communities meet their needs for flood control, resilience to climate change, key habitats and local biodiversity, public recreation, open space conservation and conservation of working lands. Characterizing the health and services provided by local watersheds within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed along a spectrum of watershed health can help communities understand the value of their natural assets and lead to actions to maintain or improve local watershed and stream conditions. This approach attempts to marry feedback the Chesapeake Bay Program has received about the need for more local engagement to drive watershed actions while not losing the big picture of the entire watershed as we work toward a functioning ecosystem.

Key elements of this approach to watershed health include:

	<p><b>Data, Tools and Monitoring:</b> Using partnership-approved monitoring data, assessments, and tools, characterize and track watershed health at various scales to inform and increase implementation.</p>
	<p><b>Planning:</b> Support strategic green infrastructure planning for watershed health at multiple scales.</p>
	<p><b>Community Engagement:</b> Increase the reach and effectiveness of Local Community and Partner Engagement through capacity building.</p>
	<p><b>Watershed Actions:</b> Integrate land conservation and stewardship more explicitly into the goals of the Bay Program.</p>
	<p><b>Measuring Watershed Outcomes:</b> Shift to an outcomes-based approach to promote protecting, restoring, and maintaining watershed health.</p>

