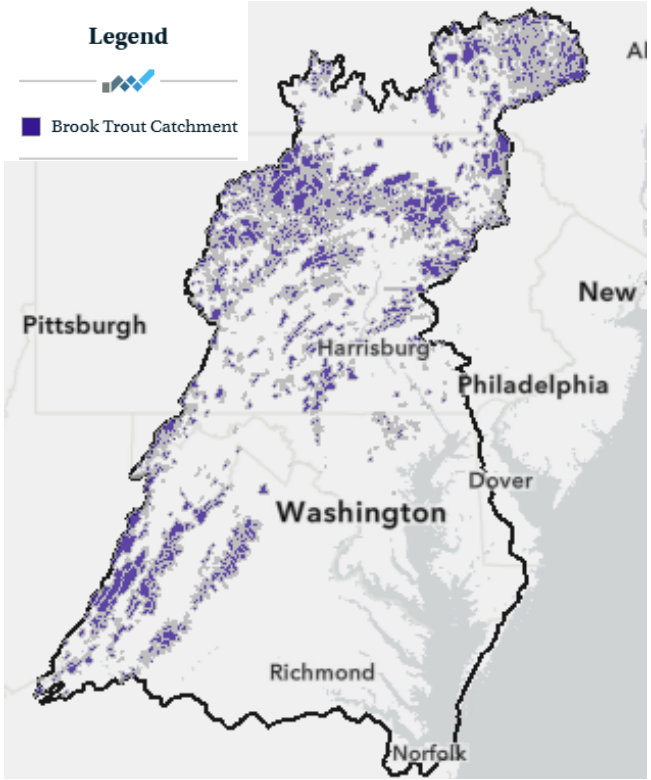
Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

May 21, 2025

Habitat Tracker Update

Brook Trout Workgroup

Brook Trout Catchments in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (2015)



Tracking Progress Toward Brook Trout Outcome

Goal: Restore and sustain naturally reproducing brook trout populations in headwater streams, with a target of an **8% increase in occupied habitat by 2025.**

- **Update:** No progress toward the Brook Trout outcome have been reported since 2015 when there was a special project to collect project data and identify priority locations
- **2019 Logic & Action Plan:** Established a streamlined reporting process for Chesapeake Bay Program partners to track restoration efforts and habitat improvements

Map Source: Chesapeake Progress – Brook Trout Catchments (2015)

Purpose of the Habitat Tracker

- **Support Functional Assessment**
  Collect data to evaluate the functional benefit of wetlands and habitat conditions for indicator species across the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
- **Track Progress on Restoration Goals**
  Develop a tracking tool to monitor progress toward the **2014 Chesapeake Bay Agreement's Vital Habitats Goal**, specifically for the **Wetland**, **Black Duck**, and **Brook Trout Outcomes**.
- **Project Scope**
  Includes projects affecting **habitat for indicator species**
- **Data Sources**
  Information is gathered through direct collaboration with:
  - Ducks Unlimited
  - The Nature Conservancy
  - Trout Unlimited
  - Chesapeake Bay Watershed jurisdictions
  - Federal Partners

GOALS	OUTCOMES
Sustainable Fisheries Goal	Blue Crab Abundance Outcome
	Blue Crab Management Outcome
	Oyster Outcome
	Forage Fish Outcome
	Fish Habitat Outcome
Vital Habitats Goal	Wetlands Outcome
	Black Duck
	Stream Health Outcome
	Brook Trout
	Fish Passage Outcome
	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Outcome
	Forest Buffer Outcome
	Tree Canopy Outcome
Water Quality Goal	2017 Watershed Implementation Plans (WIP) Outcome
	2025 WIP Outcome
	Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring Outcome
Toxic Contaminants Goal	Toxic Contaminants Research Outcome
	Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention Outcome
Healthy Watersheds Goal	Healthy Watersheds Outcome
Stewardship Goal	Citizen Stewardship Outcome
	Local Leadership Outcome
	Diversity Outcome
Land Conservation Goal	Protected Lands Outcome
	Land Use Methods and Metrics Development Outcome
	Land Use Options Evaluation Outcome
Public Access Goal	Public Access Site Development Outcome
Environmental Literacy Goal	Student Outcome
	Sustainable Schools Outcome
	Environmental Literacy Planning Outcome
Climate Resiliency Goal	Monitoring and Assessment Outcome
	Adaptation Outcome

Habitat Tracker

A data management system designed to **collect**, **organize**, **and track data** related to the habitat goals and outcomes in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

- Supports progress tracking for the **Wetland**, **Black Duck**, and **Brook Trout Outcomes**
- Aggregates data to visualize and communicate progress toward **Vital Habitats Goals**

Welcome

The Habitat Outcome and Attainment Tracking System is a means of collecting and managing the habitat improvement projects implemented in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. A central repository of data from multiple agencies and partners allows a streamlined approach to generate reports needed for ecosystem services tracking and assessments. The Tracking System also facilitates evaluating project implementation goals for trend and targeting analyses.

This Excel spreadsheet contains a template for reporting and tracking habitat projects. The template helps data submitters in the identification and regular reporting of projects that are expected to impact wetlands and black ducks. Reported projects are used to assess progress towards meeting the goals and outcomes established in the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Agreement.

Download the Upload Template

Please contact Helen Golimowski at helen@devereuxconsulting.com for assistance.

Looking for SAV reports? Click here.

Additional Resources

The USGS, in partnership with the William Penn Foundation and the Smithsonian Institute, quantified the capacity of floodplains surrounding wadable non-tidal streams and small rivers in the Chesapeake Bay and Delaware River watersheds to retain sediment (and associated nutrients) and flood waters and estimated the monetary value of those two services. Results from this study indicate that floodplains provide substantial benefits by trapping sediments and nutrients, with a net annual benefit of at least 100 million USD in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The data and publications are available on the USGS website. The Floodplain Ecosystem Service Mapper displays floodplain extent, stream channel metrics, and field site data.

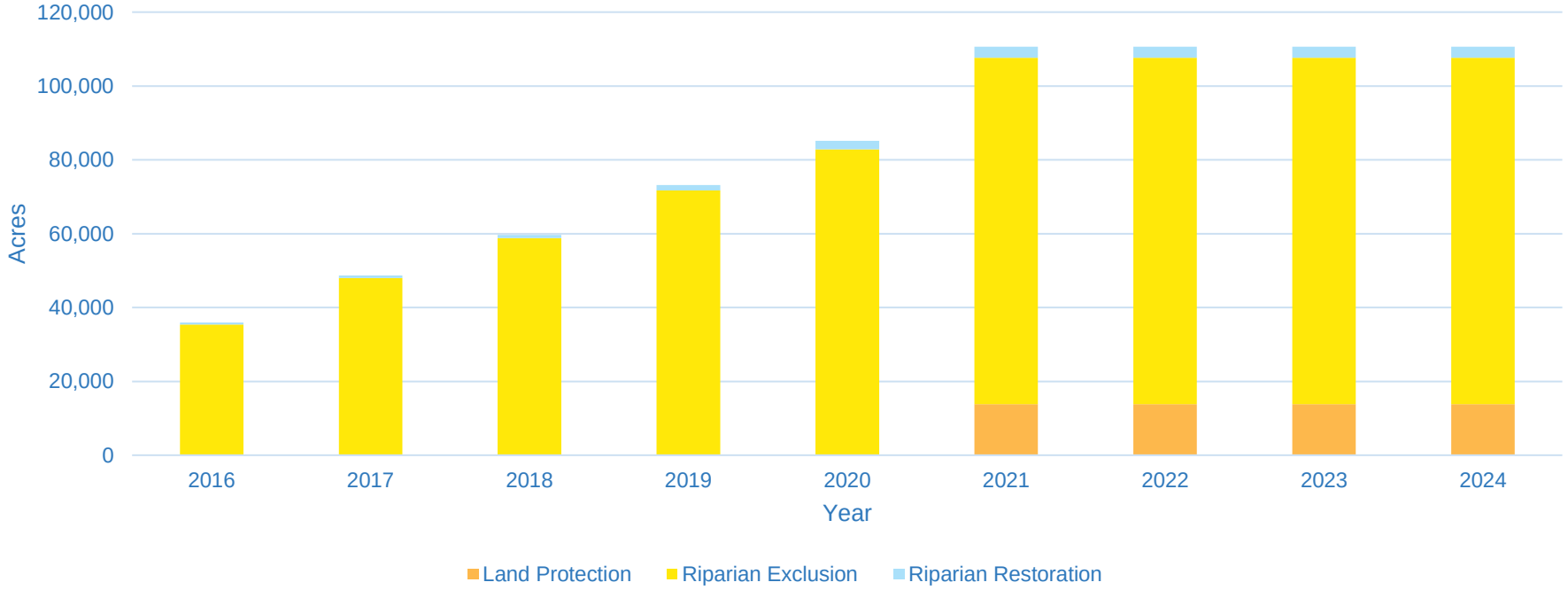
The SHORE-BET: Marsh Restoration Community Benefit Calculator calculates the economic value of select key coastal community benefits to be gained by using living shoreline techniques that restore marshes. This tool helps to account for these ecosystem services so that coastal communities can be better informed when making decisions impacting their environment, economy, and overall quality of life."

BMP Summary Report

Geography	Year Installed	BMP Type	Land Use	Amount	Unit	Recent Inspection Year	NEIEN Credit Duration	Expiration Year	Number Of Projects
PA	2007	Not Specified		.000			10	2017	1
PA	2015	Instream Habitat		.000	feet		10	2025	1
PA	2016	Instream Habitat		13855.000	feet		10	2026	9
PA	2016	Livestock Exclusion Fencing Not		.000			10	2026	2
PA	2016	Not Specified		.000			10	2026	17
PA	2016	Riparian Restoration		6.700	acres		10	2026	3
PA	2016	Upstream Miles Opened		10.170	miles		10	2026	2
VA	2016	Instream Habitat		450.000	feet		10	2026	1
VA	2016	Livestock Exclusion Fencing Present		.000			10	2026	21
VA	2016	Not Specified		.000			10	2026	14
VA	2016	Riparian Exclusion		14826.418	acres		10	2026	294
VA	2016	Riparian Restoration		282.160	acres		10	2026	40
MD	2017	Livestock Exclusion Fencing Present		.000			10	2027	1
MD	2017	Not Specified		.000			10	2027	4
MD	2017	Upstream Miles Opened		2.000	miles		10	2027	2
PA	2017	Instream Habitat		19756.730	feet		10	2027	18
PA	2017	Livestock Exclusion Fencing Not		.000			10	2027	5
PA	2017	Livestock Exclusion Fencing Present		.000			10	2027	3
PA	2017	Not Specified		.000			10	2027	14
PA	2017	Riparian Restoration		23.650	acres		10	2027	7
PA	2017	Upstream Miles Opened		21.800	miles		10	2027	2
VA	2017	Livestock Exclusion Fencing Present		.000			10	2027	40
VA	2017	Not Specified		.000			10	2027	8
VA	2017	Riparian Exclusion		20598.050	acres		10	2027	356
VA	2017	Riparian Restoration		240.790	acres		10	2027	43
VA	2017	Upstream Miles Opened		11.000	miles		10	2027	4
WV	2017	Not Specified		.000			10	2027	1
MD	2018	Not Specified		.000			10	2028	2
NY	2018	Upstream Miles Opened		4.600	miles		10	2028	5
PA	2018	Dirt and Gravel Road Improvement		919.000	feet		10	2028	26
PA	2018	Instream Habitat		9290.830	feet		10	2028	12
PA	2018	Livestock Exclusion Fencing Not		.000			10	2028	1
PA	2018	Not Specified		.000			10	2028	21
PA	2018	Riparian Restoration		14.640	acres		10	2028	8
PA	2018	Upstream Miles Opened		39.700	miles		10	2028	48

- Summarizes **projects with a positive impact on Brook Trout Habitat**
- Reports include:
  - **Activity type and amount**
  - **Project location**
- Projects are summarized by:
  - **Total amount**
  - **Number of projects**
  - **Year**
  - **Geography**
- Data from the **TU/EBTJV GIT-funded report**

Progress of Brook Trout Project Implementation by Type (Cumulative by Year)



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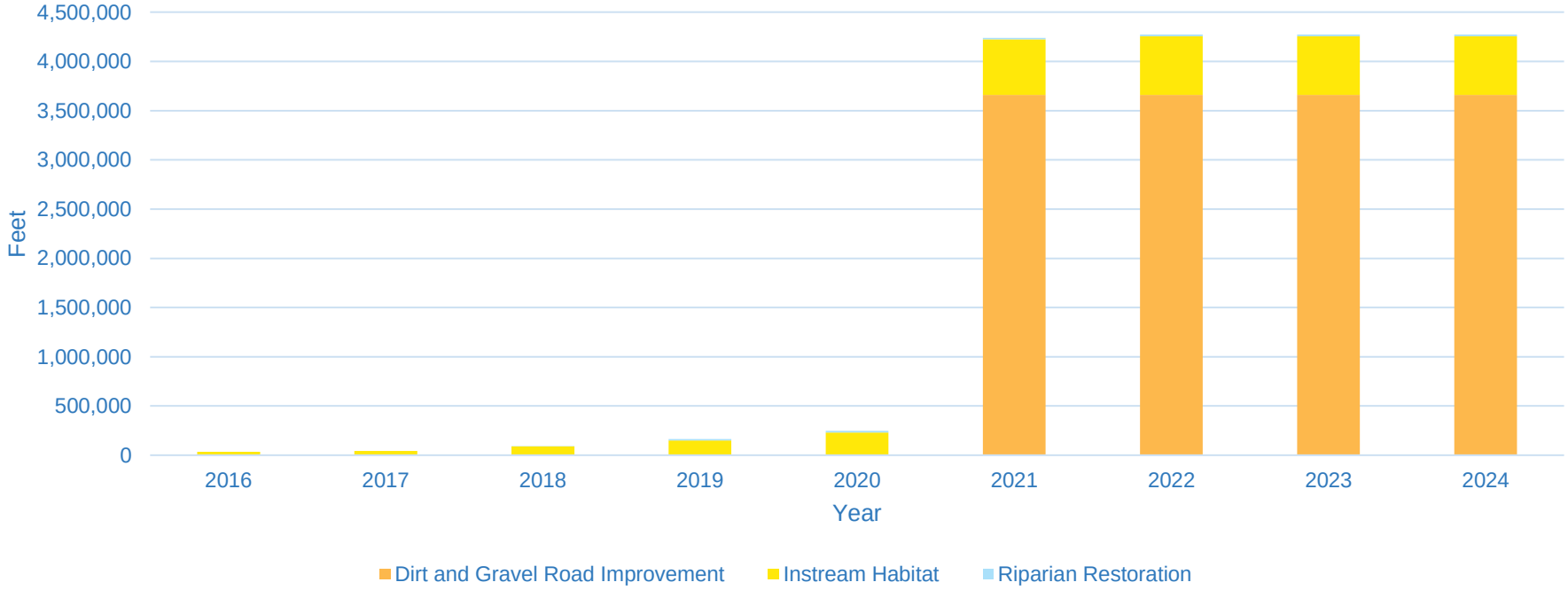
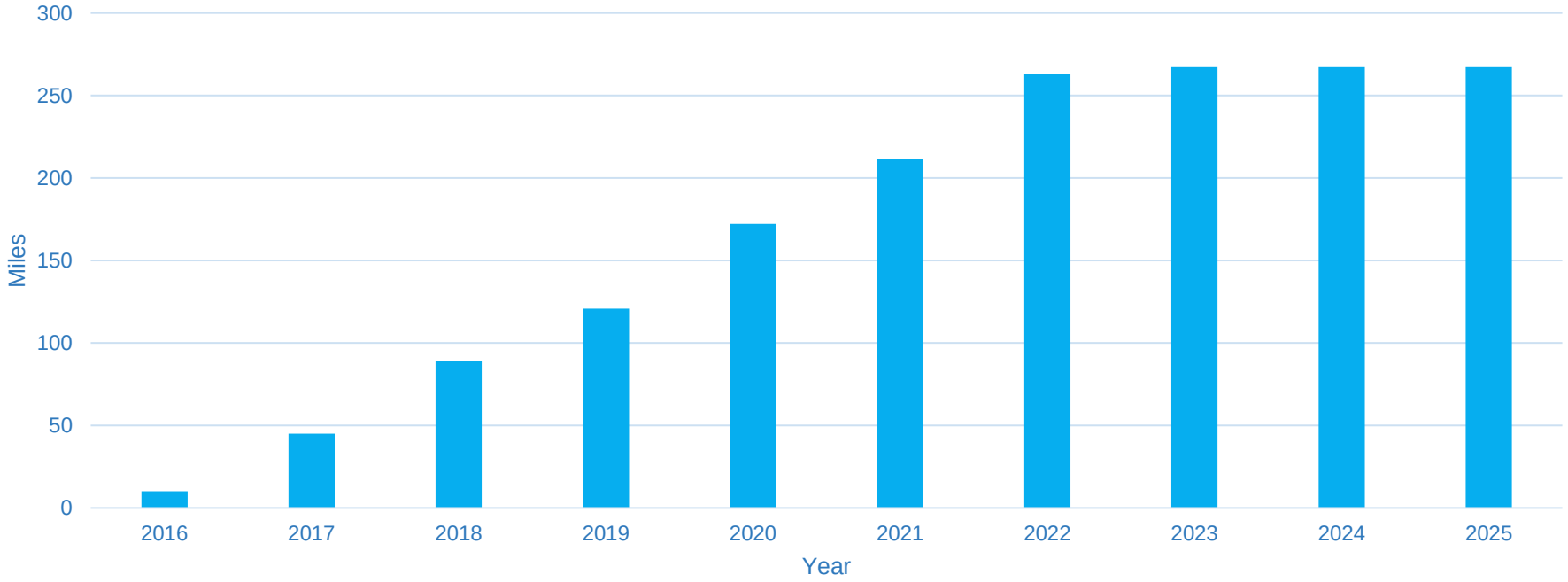


Cumulative Upstream Miles Opened Over Time



Conclusions

- **Habitat Tracker** supports evaluation of progress toward the **Vital Habitats Goals and Outcomes** in the Watershed Agreement
- Ongoing **tracking and analysis** can help demonstrate the impact and **incentivize habitat preservation and restoration**
- **Sustained outreach and effort** are essential to collect meaningful data
- Collected data will inform future updates to **Chesapeake Progress**