

LAND CONSERVATION GOAL

Public Access Site Development Outcome



2025 PROGRESS
ON COURSE

OUTCOME: By 2025, add 300 new public access sites, with a strong emphasis on providing opportunities for boating, swimming and fishing, where feasible.

PROGRESS AS OF 2021: The [Public Access Outcome](#) is on course to meet its target. A total of 206 public access sites have opened in the Chesapeake Bay watershed between 2010 and 2020, marking a 69% achievement of the partnership's goal to add 300 new access sites to the watershed by 2025. Progress is measured annually via a survey of the Bay states of actual sites opened in the calendar year.

BACKGROUND: Between 2009–2010, state, federal and nongovernmental partners working on land conservation and public access, met at a series of collaborative sessions to advance progress throughout the watershed in these areas. These sessions, along with an analysis of past trends, helped inform a new goal statement and outcomes for land conservation and public access in the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*. At this time, 125 planned and potential public access sites already documented for near term development were identified, indicating that a target of 300 new sites by 2025 was feasible. Four types of public access sites are tracked: Boat-related, swimming, fishing and access at the water's edge for viewing water, wildlife and shoreline areas. To count as a new site, one of the following parameters must be met—development of a new public access facility on a new site, or development of a new type of access at an existing site.

BASELINE: The baseline was established in 2011 with 1,139 sites. The first year of the annual data call was in 2013 and it was reported that from 2011 to 2013, 69 new public access sites that provided additional opportunities for people to enjoy the water resources of the watershed were opened. This equates to approximately 23% of the goal to add 300 new public access sites by 2025. Overall, this brought the number of public access sites throughout the watershed to 1,208.

DATA SOURCE: Each watershed jurisdiction self-reports the number of public access sites opened each year.