

Getting Started

Planning for the Future of Your Watershed

Understanding the link between watershed management planning and other planning efforts



Chesapeake Bay Program
A Watershed Partnership

Watershed management planning is a process!

Watershed management planning is a method for maintaining, protecting and restoring the natural resources within a watershed while also enhancing the quality of life in our communities. It provides a means to support environmental protection, quality of life issues and economic development using the watershed as the planning framework. Watershed management planning is a process for all the citizens and stakeholder groups in your community to join together in creating a vision for your watershed's future.

Watershed management planning establishes partnerships between local and state governments, community organizations and any other groups with the common goal of protecting your watershed. Additionally, watershed management planning is a holistic approach to implementing many existing programs. Coordinating community efforts to create a watershed-focused plan can help you more efficiently reach your goals.

You may be closer than you think!

Has your community watershed group or local government:

- Gathered information on the current conditions and trends affecting issues within the community, including streams, forests, farms, historic or cultural areas, population, economic issues, etc.?
- Coordinated with other interested stakeholders or local and regional government officials and representatives on environmental, natural resource or water quality and supply issues?
- Formulated a vision or goals for improving and managing the resources that are important to the group or community?
- Identified policies, strategies and action steps for implementing and meeting these goals?
- Incorporated water quality, vital habitat protection or restoration goals into your city or county comprehensive plan?
- Planned or completed any restoration projects?
- Worked or considered working on a watershed scale?

If you can answer yes to any or all of these questions, **CONGRATULATIONS!**

You are already on the road to watershed management planning!

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■ Watershed management planning in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

If your group is interested in initiating or expanding community and natural resource planning or protection activities, there are many resources available to help you. The states of Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia and the District of Columbia have developed guides and toolkits to promote local watershed management planning. Contact your local or state government to find out about the many technical, financial, and management resources offered through state watershed programs. Coordinating and partnering with state and local governments will allow you to take advantage of the invaluable assistance they can provide.

■ Contact Your Jurisdiction!

District of Columbia

Department of Health
Nonpoint Source Management Branch
Watershed Protection Division
www.dchealth.dc.gov/about/index_environmental.shtm
(202) 535-2240

Maryland

Department of Natural Resources
www.dnr.state.md.us
(410) 260-8717

Pennsylvania

Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Watershed Management
www.dep.state.pa.us
(717) 787-5267

Virginia

Department of Conservation and Recreation
www.dcr.state.va.us
(804) 371-7486



For additional information about watersheds and watershed management, please visit:
www.chesapeakebay.net/watershedplanning.htm

