



Public Access Outcome

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Through the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, the Chesapeake Bay Program has committed to...



Goal: *Public Access*

Outcome:

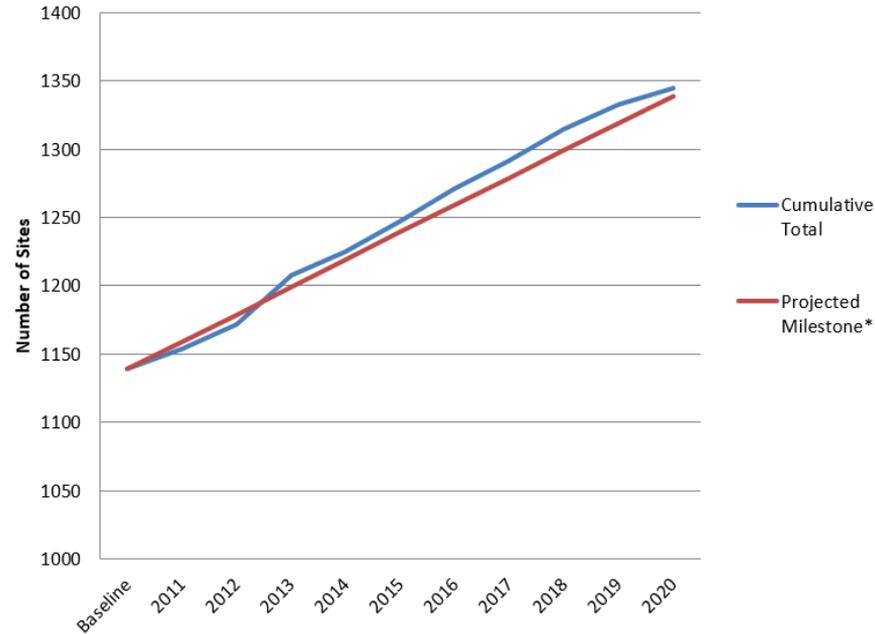
By 2025, add 300 new public access sites, with a strong emphasis on providing opportunities for boating, swimming and fishing, where feasible.

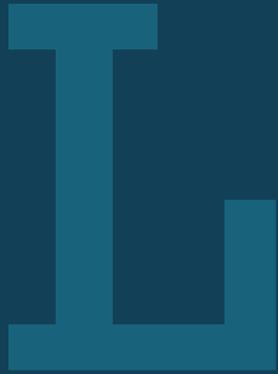
Photo courtesy of Mark Hohengasser, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation



What is our Expected and Actual Progress?

Existing Public Access Sites





Learn

What have we learned in the last two years?



Successes and Challenges

Successes

- Public access workgroup functions as a learning community
- GIT Funded project on the Benefits and Barriers to public access
- Pairing public access with other programs (ex. park improvements or stream restoration)
- Lowering match requirements for grants/ weighting scoring criteria to support traditionally underserved communities

Challenges

- Cost associated with maintenance impedes the implementation of new sites
- Workgroup members have limited influence on funding strategies



On the Horizon

Developments that have and will continue to impact our work:

- COVID-19 resulted in record usage
- Backlog of sites in need of renovation/ maintenance
- Capacity of partners to apply for public access grant funding
- Increased cost (ex. materials, ADA accessibility)
- Climate change

A large, stylized, blue letter 'A' is centered on a dark blue background. The letter has a thick, blocky font with a slight shadow effect. The background is divided into horizontal bands of color: a dark blue band at the top, a medium blue band in the middle, and a light green band at the bottom.

Adapt

How does all of this impact our work?



**Based on what we
learned, we plan to ...**

As a Workgroup we plan to...

- Continue convening the workgroup as a learning community
- Finish and distribute the results of the Benefits and Barriers to Public Access research project to jurisdictions and other CBP workgroups

In our individual jurisdictions...

- Continue collaboration with state agencies to address public access infrastructure
- Work may be influenced by how the Infrastructure Investments & Jobs Act is allocated by the Federal Government and States



Equitable and inclusive restoration ...

- Benefits and Barriers to Public Access Research
- Examples of work happening in each of the states:
 - PA SCORP includes a “Recreation for All” priority
 - PA DCNR mapped high need areas for water, trail, and park access
 - VA DCR updated grant criteria to benefit underserved communities
 - VA DWR hired George Braxton as Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer
 - DE DNREC lowered match requirements for Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Trails programs
 - MD DNR developed maps that identify areas that may have gaps in the availability of public water access.
 - MD DNR developed the Maryland Park Equity Tool



Help

*How can the Management Board
lead the Program to adapt?*



On the horizon...

- Results and recommendations from the Public Access Research - Benefits and Barriers Across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed expected in late 2022. May require additional assistance from the Management Board (to be determined).



Help Needed

Key takeaways expressed by Public Access Workgroup:

- Best practice: Encourage pairing public access site development with other projects taking place in your agencies (ex. stream restoration, park improvements, land acquisition).
- Continue public access site development work going on in your agency. Consider the use of infrastructure funding to accelerate our progress.
- Explore solutions for the ongoing issue of maintenance in your individual agency.



Discussion