

Public Access Logic Table and Work Plan

Primary Users: Goal Implementation Teams, Workgroups, and Management Board | **Secondary Audience:** Interested Internal or External Parties

Primary Purpose: To assist partners in thinking through the relationships between their actions and specific factors, existing programs and gaps (either new or identified in their Management Strategies) and to help workgroups and Goal Implementation Teams prepare to present significant findings related to these actions and/or factors, existing programs and gaps to the Management Board. | **Secondary Purpose:** To enable those who are not familiar with a workgroup to understand and trace the logic driving its actions.

Reminder: As you complete the table below, keep in mind that removing actions, adapting actions, or adding new actions may require you to adjust the high-level Management Approaches outlined in your Management Strategy (to ensure these approaches continue to represent the collection of actions below them).

Long-term Target: 300 sites by 2025

Two-year Target: 95 sites by 2017

Factor	Current Efforts	Gap	Actions (critical in bold)	Metrics	Expected Response and Application	Learn/Adapt
<i>What is impacting our ability to achieve our outcome?</i>	<i>What current efforts are addressing this factor?</i>	<i>What further efforts or information are needed to fully address this factor?</i>	<i>What actions are essential to achieve our outcome?</i>	<i>Optional: Do we have a measure of progress? How do we know if we have achieved the intended result?</i>	<i>Optional: What effects do we expect to see as a result of this action, when, and what is the anticipated application of these changes?</i>	<i>Optional: What did we learn from taking this action? How will this lesson impact our work?</i>
Public sector funding	Both requesting adequate support funding through the state agencies budgeting processes and targeting available grant funds, when appropriate, to support public access.		(2.1) , (2.2)	Increases in governmental budgets that sustain or enhance access programs, increases in available grant funding.		
Land use and ownership		Liability and safety issues are often major concerns with private and corporate riparian land owners when it comes to considering making portions of their property available for public access. Good successful examples and education are needed to address these concerns.	12.1			

Factor	Current Efforts	Gap	Actions (critical in bold)	Metrics	Expected Response and Application	Learn/Adapt
Public Lands	As a part of ongoing planning and update cycles, agency partners are evaluating the potential of additional public access opportunities under our control. When site master plans or resource management plans are updated, the potential for additional public access are evaluated and included in the new plans as appropriate.	Ongoing planning is contingent upon scheduled review cycles as well as staff limitations and funding.	11.1			
Permitting requirements		Paddle-craft are generally not registered or licensed in many jurisdictions as are power craft and thus do not contribute to the funding for public access. It is the fees generated by taxes and license requirements on power craft that often fund the access facilities	5.1			
Enhance accessibility to diverse populations and meet the needs of those with disabilities	Identifying new access sites to meet the needs of a diverse population. Increasing connectedness of existing access sites, making them more accessible to urban populations.	Development and urbanization of waterfronts, higher land values, economic and social influences, population density, transportation systems, concentrated water pollution and different levels of commitment to public access all combine to present substantially different circumstances and call for unique strategies.	(4.1) , (4.2) , (4.3) , (16.1)			

Factor	Current Efforts	Gap	Actions (critical in bold)	Metrics	Expected Response and Application	Learn/Adapt
Local government capacity	Localities have leveraged local funds, grants, and donations from private corporations to help with the development of new public access sites. These efforts have produced results—the average number of new sites brought on line in the past three years has slightly exceeded the minimum of 20 sites per year needed to reach the 300 site goal.	Capacity and funds that enable state agency partners to hire staff to support site development and monitoring at the local level have been limited. State agency partners have reported that their staffing, operational budgets, and state funds for local project assistance have seen significant reductions thereby, reducing their ability to support these activities.	(1.1) , (1.2) , (2.1) (2.1) , (5.1) , (6.1)			
Conflicts among users	Recognize and work towards meeting the need for access facilities, parking and support amenities at suitable locations	Conflicts can take many forms. They may develop when a site is designated or perceived to be designated for one use but is used in other ways. For example, anglers' use of a boat launch pier or parking area may be in conflict with those trying to launch or retrieve boats. Conflicts also arise among users based on who is perceived to have paid for the access site.	(5.1) , (6.1)			

Factor	Current Efforts	Gap	Actions (critical in bold)	Metrics	Expected Response and Application	Learn/Adapt
Railroads		There is a need to reduce liability and hence we should consider an increase in safety guidelines around such areas.	Management Approach 10			
Climate Change	<p>Considering actions that can address this real and growing concern: Identifying and assessing existing public access sites that are at highest risk for negative impacts related to climate change and rising sea levels. Employing and encouraging use of sustainable strategies that can help compensate or reduce the impact of rising water levels into the design, development, and/or retrofitting of public access projects so that investment equates to reasonable life expectancy of the project. Evaluating potential sites for vulnerability and sustainability. Striving to achieve “no net loss” of existing public access sites.</p>	<p>Climate change and sea level rise are growing concerns globally and in the watershed in particular. The transition zone between water and land is where public water access sites are located and it is also where the first impacts of sea level rise will become evident. While most marine or water related facilities are designed to be able to survive the frequent storm events and to a degree hurricanes, less emphasis is given to designs which address sea level change which many perceive as being “down the road.”</p>	15.1			

WORK PLAN ACTIONS

Action	Description	Performance Target(s)	Responsible Party (or Parties) & Geographic Location	Expected Timeline
Management Approach 1: Track progress towards the 300 new sites goal: At the end of each calendar year partners will compile a list of all new public access sites opened in their jurisdiction during the year. These sites will be tallied and tracked by NPS and counted towards the 300 new sites by 2025 goal.				
1.1	Report on new public access sites opened each year.	New public access sites opened in watershed with target of 20 per year.	All state and federal partners in Public Access Work Group. Watershed	2018-2019
1.2	Identify any new potential public access sites each year that would fill in system gaps and contribute towards goal.		All state and federal partners in Public Access Work Group. Watershed	2018-2019
Management Approach 2: Make funding for public access a priority: Sustain funding for development of new public access sites and maintenance of existing sites, including maintenance dredging of small channels. Relevant state and federal funding or matching grant programs should consider targeting or giving bonus points for projects that include new public access sites. For example, the National Park Service Chesapeake Office will continue to prioritize funding for public water access site development through its financial assistance awards as funding allows.				
2.1	Develop new public access sites by targeting financial assistance programs as appropriate.	Evidence of grant/financial award programs with application criteria supporting public access development.	State and federal partners who administer appropriate financial assistance awards programs (This list includes VA DCR, VA DGIF, PA DCNR, MD DNR, NPS, USFWS, WV DNR, NY DEC, DE DPR and DC DOE	2018-2019

			Watershed	
2.2	Provide agency budgets that support public access development and maintenance.	Provision of budgets that support public access development and maintenance.	State and federal partners who manage public access programs. Watershed	2018-2019
2.3	Maintain and upgrade public access sites on DoD installations.	Maintain public access sites on DoD installations where site security allows.	DoD installations DoD Installations where appropriate	2018-2019
Management Approach 3: Establish a process that ensures public access is considered in the planning of all appropriate transportation projects: Many road projects across or adjacent to streams or rivers could provide public access opportunities. Where they do not yet exist, state's recreation and resources agencies and its department of transportation (DOT) should consider establishing an MOU or other appropriate agreements.				
3.1	Use established processes, in partnership with state DOTs, to create or enhance public access opportunities in conjunction with certain transportation projects that cross or are adjacent to waterways.	Opportunities explored to create or enhance public access sites in conjunction with transportation projects that cross or are adjacent to waterways.	Federal, State and local agencies involved in transportation and public access planning projects. Watershed	2018-2019
Management Approach 4: Enhance Public Access for a Diverse Population: As the population of the watershed grows, it becomes increasingly diverse. This diversity is evident in the increasing variety of ethnic, cultural, and language backgrounds of the people. The ways that the public in general use and access water resources is growing and changing as well. Increasing opportunities for public access exposes people to resources and places that can inspire a sense of environmental awareness and build support for Chesapeake Bay conservation and stewardship. Methods for enhancing access for a diverse population include: looking at the location and kinds of access that exist, identifying gaps in service to underserved communities, and determining what is needed to enhance access opportunities. To be successful the Bay Program partners need to honor the culture, history and social concerns of local populations and communities and include them in the decision-making processes. Additional steps may include creating and/or increasing information, signage, online resources and programs that target underserved populations. Signage, whenever possible, should use universal symbols and reflect the languages of diverse user groups.				
4.1	Improve access to water based resources and associated green space, with specific emphasis on currently underserved neighborhoods and communities.	Increased connectedness where feasible to existing or new public access sites to make them more accessible to urban populations.	Each state and jurisdiction in the watershed as staff and funding allows. Urban areas throughout the watershed.	2018-2019

4.2	Continue to enhance the Environmental Justice Screen mapping tool.	This visual evaluation tool can help to potentially show correlation of access to areas of potential need related to diverse communities.	This project would be accomplished through a cooperative effort involving NPS Chesapeake, Bay Program and EPA. Population centers throughout the watershed.	2018-2019
4.3	Utilize proximity analysis and other analytic tools to determine approximate distances between population and public access sites. This is helpful in identifying areas where there may be a gap in service.	Establish public access sites that are within reasonable/desired travel times for all populations.	Maryland utilizes proximity analysis for certain planning activities and will share this practice with other states/jurisdictions. Potential for application in all major populated areas of the watershed as appropriate.	2018-2019
Management Approach 5: Carry out and support more detailed assessments and project design for potential sites: Most of the over 400 potential new public access sites identified in the plan require more detailed assessments and construction designs prior to implementation. Pre-planning and design of public access sites is a key step in their future development. This is an area in which funding is needed. Agencies at all levels should provide, within resource capabilities, technical assistance and funding for site analysis and design.				
5.1	Provide technical assistance related to site assessment, pre-planning, project design, and compliance/permitting to local access site development partners. (REMOVE)	Within resource limitations, federal and state staff provide assistance to local partners when opportunities are identified.	All state and federal partners that are involved with the Public Access Working Group Watershed	2018-2019
Management Approach 6: Fill strategic gaps in access along water trails: NPS will work with partners to identify, prioritize and develop sites that fill public access gaps along the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail, Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail and other state or locally recognized/designated water trails throughout the watershed. This will also include consider as appropriate, efforts to find and develop sites to support boat-in primitive camping along the trails.				
6.1	Develop new public access sites that fill gaps along recognized trails by targeting financial assistance programs as appropriate.	Evidence of grant/financial award programs with application criteria supporting public access development projects that fill gaps along recognized trails. Support for boat-in primitive camping along the trails is encouraged as appropriate.	State and federal partners who administer appropriate financial assistance awards programs (This list includes VA DCR, VA DGIF, PA DCNR, PFBC, MD DNR, NPS, USFWS, WV DNR, NY DEC, DE DPR and DC DOE)	2018-2019

			Watershed	
6.2	Develop new public access sites that fill gaps along designated water trails. Projects that support boat-in primitive camping along the trails are encouraged as appropriate. Target Youth Conservation Corps to implement smaller projects as appropriate.	Evidence of appropriately directed YCC projects, within the overall program scope of work, that support public access development projects that fill gaps as well as those that support boat-in primitive camping along the trails. Public access site development objectives are incorporated into CAJO Segment Implementation Plans as these plans are developed to assist in strategic public access development in development of the trails.	State partners who administer appropriate Youth Conservation Corps programs. Watershed NPS – Chesapeake Watershed	2018-2019
Management Approach 7: Further examine urban public access issues and needs: Recognizing the complex factors associated with expanding access in urban communities, governments at the local, state and federal levels should support and pursue studies assessing specific urban access issues and needs.				
7.1	Continue to enhance the Environmental Justice Screen mapping tool.	This visual evaluation tool can help to potentially show correlation of access to areas of potential need related to diverse communities and urban areas.	This project would be accomplished through a cooperative effort involving NPS Chesapeake, Bay Program and EPA. Urban population centers throughout the watershed.	2018-2019
Management Approach 8: Public access managers and advocates should work with private sector funders where possible to develop access sites. Many companies and foundations often have objectives that can be advanced through partnerships to develop public access sites and facilities.				
8.1	Identify and work with, as staff and resources allow, any potential funders in the private or corporate sector that could contribute to the development of public access sites.	Projects that have the potential to be funded through private or corporate sources.	All partners who develop public access sites at federal, state, or local level. Watershed	2018-2019
Management Approach 9: Engage in hydropower relicensing processes to expand public access: Relicensing of existing hydropower projects provides significant opportunities for expanding access to the water. Local, state and federal agencies should participate in re-licensing processes to make the case for specific public access projects as a part of new license agreements.				
9.1	State agency partners will be involved in any major hydro project relicensing when they occur in their state. Specific actions can be identified in future plans as appropriate.	Hydro relicensing projects that enhance public access opportunities.	State agencies involved in project review and public access planning/development.	2018-2019

				Watershed
Management Approach 10: Explore options for resolving railroad crossing liability: Railroads along rivers—and associated liability concerns over track crossings—limit water access. Some states have indemnified railroads from liability at-grade crossings for public access purposes, but it is suggested that federal action to limit liability may be needed to address the railroad companies' concerns.				
Management Approach 11: Explore potential for additional access on public lands: Management objectives and practices on public lands may not account for recent changes in access needs and opportunities. As circumstances permit, managers of public lands fronting streams and rivers should re-evaluate these lands' public access potential. This can occur through regular master planning processes or as ad hoc assessments. When new opportunities are identified they should be included in the properties' master plan and scheduled for development as soon as resources allow.				
11.1	As a part of ongoing planning and update cycles, agency partners will evaluate the potential of additional public access opportunities on lands under their control. When master plans or resource management plans are updated, the potential for increased public access will be evaluated and included in the new plans as appropriate. Planning is contingent on scheduled review cycles as well as on staff availability, resources, and funding.	Incorporation of new public access sites in any new, revised or updated master plan as appropriate. State and federal agencies should take local recommendations into account in their SCORP. Is this right?	All federal, state, and local land managers with suitable properties in the watershed. Watershed	2018-2019
Management Approach 12: Managing land control for water access using various instruments: Gaining control of water access sites can be accomplished using several "land or site acquisition" techniques or instruments. Land control can be achieved through fee simple acquisition of the land, recreational easements, leases and cooperative agreements. Even when sites are purchased in fee simple caution must be exercised to be sure the property does not contain restrictions that could make it difficult to achieve its intended use. Easements, leases and agreements should clearly state the uses that will be allowed and provided for on the property. In addition, they must clearly state the terms of use.				
12.1	Assist, as staff and resources allow, localities and NGO's in using appropriate land use controls when acquiring public access sites.	Land that is permanently protected for public access and allows for any appropriate public use.	Federal and state agencies involved in public access development as staff and resources allow. Watershed	2018-2019
Management Approach 13: Prevent loss of access on public rights-of-way: Over the course of many decades roads leading to the water's edge for uses such as steamboat docks, ferry's or for other reasons have been abandoned as a part of the road system when newer facilitates/infrastructure was developed. Many of these rights-of-way over time have been taken over by neighboring property owners or simply abandoned. It is important that each jurisdiction maintain control of such roads and rights-of-way since they can provide public access. Where clear legal grounds exist, those that may have been lost to other uses should be reclaimed.				

13.1	Review any road or public rights-of-way abandonment plans to assure that those with public water access opportunity are not lost.	Any abandoned road or other public rights-of-way that are protected for public access.	All state and local agencies that are involved in review process. Watershed	2018-2019
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Management Approach 14: Incorporate identified proposed public access sites and actions in key plans: Elements of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access Plan, including potential new public access sites and key actions, should be incorporated as appropriate into major state and local outdoor recreation and open space planning documents, such as Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORPs) and local land use plans. Local units of government are encouraged to incorporate potential new public access sites and policies in local comprehensive and capital improvement plans.

14.1	Encourage incorporation of recommendations from state SCORPs into local and regional plans. (Remove action). These plans should be consulted for new public access sites that should be implemented. Sites that are identified as suitable.	Virginia is meeting with their PDC's on the Virginia Outdoors Plan and encouraging the incorporation of recommendations into local and regional plans. Take out VA recommendation, States and federal agencies should encourage recommendations into local and regional plans as resources allow.	VA and other states as resources and staffing allows. Watershed	2018-2019
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Management Approach 15: Climate Change: As we move toward achieving the Chesapeake Bay Public Access goal, we must identify how planning and implementation can be adapted to address climate change and sea level rise projections.

15.1	Agencies working on public access in VA and MD take sustainability and resilience into consideration when planning and implementing new or improved public access projects and particularly as it relates to sea level rise. They are also providing technical assistance to localities and NGO's as resources allow.	Incorporation of sustainable practices and resiliency when designing or implementing new or enhanced access sites.	Virginia PDC's are currently coordinating with localities to address sea level rise in coastal VA. VA and MD state agencies offer technical assistance as resources allow. Tidal/coastal areas in VA and MD	2018-2019
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Management Approach 16: Fully address accessibility at public access sites: Public access sites are subject to federal and state standards and guidelines for ensuring access by a population with diverse physical capabilities. Yet it is not always clear how some of these guidelines may apply, particularly to boating access sites. NPS should work with its partners to clarify approaches to addressing accessibility needs.

16.1	Establish as a condition of financial assistance awards, the development of new public access sites in compliance with accessibility standards and guidelines to ensure access by a population with diverse physical capabilities.	Evidence of grant/financial award programs with requirement of compliance with accessibility standards and guidelines to ensure access by a population with diverse physical capabilities.	NPS- Chesapeake and financial assistance recipient(s). Watershed	2018-2019
Management Approach 17: Build opportunities for citizen stewardship- - It is important that new citizen stewards who care about the Bay watershed be cultivated through engagement at access sites and appropriate programing. Many public access sites are remote from regular maintenance staffs. Communities, user organizations, water trail managers and others should work to develop volunteer citizen stewardship programs to care for and maintain specific access sites.				
17.1	Enhance number of new stewards through engagement of the diverse populations in the watershed.	Increase in the diversity and number of new public access site users through such programs as kids in kayaks, canoe mobile, and the YCC. Also, through use of better multilingual signage that meets needs of a diverse user population near a site.	Federal, state and local agencies as appropriate and as resources allow. Watershed, primarily urban areas	2018-2019
17.2	Identify stewards to manage sections of designated water trails.	Increase the number of citizen stewards assisting in the monitoring and maintenance of water trails	Endless Mountain Heritage Area, water trail manager for the North Branch Susquehanna River Trail is developing a volunteer stewardship program for the water trail. North Branch, Susquehanna River	2018-2019
17.3	Continue partnership with NPCA to bring Canoe mobile to the lower Susquehanna River.	Increase the number of school districts participating in the Canoe mobile program.	NPCA, Susquehanna Heritage, NPS Chesapeake have invited 2 school districts' 5th graders to participate in the Canoe mobile program. Lower Susquehanna River	2018-2019