

BIENNIAL STRATEGY REVIEW SYSTEM

Chesapeake Bay Program



Logic and Action Plan: Post-Quarterly Progress Meeting

Public Access Site Development– 2022 - 2023 By 2025, add 300 new public access sites, with a strong emphasis on providing opportunities for boating, swimming and fishing, where feasible (2010 baseline year).

Long-term Target: 300 new public access sites by 2025

Two-year Target: The Public Access Workgroup has set an internal target, called a milestone, of 20 new public access sites annually. This internal milestone is intended to establish a system for tracking progress relative to regular increments of the long-term outcome of 300 new sites and is not meant to be a target itself.

Factor	Current Efforts	Gap	Actions	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 help fill this gap) to achieve our outcome?</i>	<i>What will we measure or observe to determine progress in filling identified gap?</i>	<i>How and when do we expect these actions to address the identified gap? How might that affect our work going forward?</i>	<i>What did we learn from taking this action? How will this lesson impact our work?</i>
Public sector funding. Some public agencies have limited funding to maintain existing sites and are therefore hesitant to develop new sites. Implementation costs (materials, labor) have generally increased.	Public access managers work within the existing financial constraints and staffing to establish new public access sites.	Funders of public access sites should include maintenance as an allowable use.	2.1, 2.2	Observable progress in filling this gap would include increases in governmental budgets that sustain or enhance access programs. And an increase in grant funding available to support public access development and maintenance.	If this factor is addressed there would be an increase in appropriate funding levels. The rate of implementation of new public access sites would increase.	
Permitting requirements. New public access sites must be developed in a way that is sensitive to the environment.	Public access managers work to design and implement public access sites which meet permitting requirements including ADA standards.	Permitting authorities should consider expedited review procedures.	4.1	Observable progress in filling this gap would include expedited permitting review requirements.	If this factor is addressed there would be an increase in expedited permitting review requirements.	

<p>Universal accessibility. Access site managers need to comply with federal regulations around accessibility. Early planning is important to construct facilities, so they are accessible to persons with disabilities.</p>	<p>Public access managers work to design and implement public access sites which meet permitting requirements.</p>	<p>Continued early planning is required to construct facilities in a way that allow them to be accessible to persons with disabilities. Additional resources and staff could increase the capacity necessary to build new sites.</p>	<p>4.1</p>	<p>Observable progress toward filling this gap would include developing new public access sites that are universally accessible.</p>	<p>If this factor is addressed there would be more resources and staff available to ensure all public access sites are universally accessible.</p>	
<p>Local government capacity. Capacity to fund new sites, maintain existing sites is limited. Grant funds cannot be used for maintenance. There are concerns around liability that make local governments hesitant to implement new sites.</p>	<p>Public access managers work within the existing financial constraints and staffing to establish new public access sites.</p>	<p>Grant funds should include maintenance as an allowable use to provide local governments with the funds necessary to maintain existing sites.</p>	<p>2.1, 2.2</p>	<p>Observable progress toward filling this gap would include increases in governmental budgets that sustain or enhance access programs. And an increase in grant funding available to support public access site development and maintenance.</p>	<p>If this factor is addressed there would be an increase in appropriate funding levels. The rate of implementation of new public access sites would increase.</p>	
<p>Over usage. The surge in public access usage associated with the COVID-19 pandemic revealed that current levels of public access are insufficient. Conflicts among users can arise when a site is designated, or perceived to be designated, for one use but is used in other ways. As news of real or perceived conflicts spread, the development of access sites can become more difficult.</p>	<p>When possible, public access managers work to build more sites to spread out crowds and renovate sites that have been degraded from overuse.</p>	<p>Additional funding to make the implementation of more public access sites possible. Awareness campaigns, as appropriate, to address varying recreation uses.</p>	<p>3.1, 3.2</p>	<p>Observable progress toward this gap would include more public access sites to spread out users and offer choice for use.</p>	<p>If this factor is addressed there would be an increase in the number of public access sites and more manageable crowds at existing sites.</p>	
<p>Climate change. Public access managers are already adjusting planning and implementation to address the consequences of climate change. This will continue to influence the development of new public access sites.</p>	<p>Public access site managers are already changing the design and implementation of public access sites to address the consequences of climate change (ex. materials and placement).</p>	<p>Continuation of design and implementation that is sensitive to the realities of climate change.</p>	<p>4.4</p>	<p>Observable progress toward this gap would be an increased number of public access sites that are purposefully designed to be climate resilient.</p>	<p>Some consequences of climate change will be inevitable in the short term. The best we can address this factor is to use best practices when implementing new sites.</p>	

ACTIONS – 2022 - 2023

Action #	Description	Performance Target(s)	Responsible Party (or Parties)	Geographic Location	Expected Timeline
<p>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.</p>					
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 workgroup.	Watershed	Annually
<p>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 prioritizing projects that include new public access sites.</p>					
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, PA Fish and Boat Commission)	Watershed	2022 - 2023
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 and decision makers (i.e., legislators)	Watershed	2022 - 2023

ACTIONS – 2022 - 2023

Action #	Description	Performance Target(s)	Responsible Party (or Parties)	Geographic Location	Expected Timeline
Management Approach 3. Enhance public access for a diverse population: The ways that the public in general use and access water resources is growing and changing. Partners should research and implement recommendations to improve access for all communities.					
3.1	Improve access to water-based resources and associated green space, with specific emphasis on currently underserved neighborhoods and communities.	Increase 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.	Watershed	2022 - 2023
3.2	Expand opportunities for people to become more connected to the watershed through recreation as a first step toward developing an interest in stewardship.	Distribute the results of the Public Access Benefits and Barriers Research to practitioners who can use the information to improve strategies. The research aims, in part, to identify barriers that prevent traditionally underserved residents from using public access sites and to provide recommendations on how to best address those barriers.	Public Access Workgroup w/ CBP Communications Team	Watershed	2022 - 2023
		Convene as a workgroup to review the findings of the Benefits and Barriers Research Project and discuss how the findings might apply to each state. Special attention should be paid to the recommendations around how to address the barriers that prevent traditionally underserved residents from utilizing public access sites. Invite other agency staff as appropriate.	Public Access Workgroup members, w/ other appropriate agency staff, CBP Communications Team	Watershed	2022 - 2023
		Increase the diversity and number of new public access site users through programs that engage both families and youth. This could include such	Federal, state, and local agencies as	Watershed	2022 - 2023

ACTIONS – 2022 - 2023

Action #	Description	Performance Target(s)	Responsible Party (or Parties)	Geographic Location	Expected Timeline
		activities as kids in kayaks, canoe mobile, and the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC).	appropriate and as resources allow.		
		Increase 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	2022 - 2023
<p>Management Approach 4. Comprehensive Planning Approach for Public Access sites: Public access to waterways should continue to be an important component in recreation plans at all levels of government to achieve the Public Access goal. Support for planning and design through funding and technical assistance will be key to effective master planning of public access sites to address changing use patterns, federal and state standards and guidelines such as accessibility, and climate change.</p>					
4.1	Provide technical assistance and/or funding for site assessment, pre- planning, project design, and compliance/permitting to local access site development partners.	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 workgroup	Watershed	2022 - 2023
4.2	As a part of ongoing planning and update cycles, agency partners 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. This could be particularly beneficial on sites that already have infrastructure and in-place management that could incorporate new types of access.	All federal and state land managers with suitable properties in the watershed.	Watershed	2022 - 2023

ACTIONS – 2022 - 2023

Action #	Description	Performance Target(s)	Responsible Party (or Parties)	Geographic Location	Expected Timeline
4.3	Encourage incorporation of recommendations from State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORPs) into local and regional recreation plans.	State agencies will continue to provide information and data to local and regional governments for use in their planning processes.	Workgroup members in coordination with their respective state agencies.	Watershed	2022 - 2023
4.4	Federal and state government personnel with expertise in sustainable and resilient designs for public access sites should offer technical assistance to NGOs and local governments.	Incorporation of sustainable practices and climate resiliency when designing or implementing new or enhanced access sites. Incorporate appropriate public access site development in conjunction with projects addressing climate change.	Federal and state agencies offer technical assistance as resources allow.	Watershed	2022 - 2023