



*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)*

### Why is this outcome important?

The Chesapeake Bay region is rapidly urbanizing. More than eleven million people live in metropolitan areas close to the Bay, including diverse communities and people from many cultures. Fewer people are afforded the opportunity to interact daily with the waters, forests, and open lands of the region. Despite this trend—or perhaps because of it—residents increasingly seek opportunities to reconnect with the outdoors. Multiple studies and plans, including all Chesapeake Bay watershed state outdoor recreation plans, continue to document this high public demand for access to streams, rivers, and bays.

### Current Conditions:

- At the end of 2012, a cumulative total of 1,171 public access sites were identified as having been opened to the public.

### How was the outcome derived?

#### Who came up with it?

In 2009 and 2010, state, federal and non-governmental partners working on land conservation and public access met at a series of collaborative sessions to develop recommendations for supporting further progress in these areas. These sessions along with analysis of past trends provided the basis for actions included in the [Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed](#) (2010) and a new goal statement and outcomes for land conservation and public access. The public access goal and outcome have been used in subsequent collaborative working sessions and initiatives of state, federal and non-governmental land conservation and public access partners since that time.

### What was the basis or baseline?

125 both planned and potential sites already documented for near term development that were identified by the federal agencies, states and local partners. In total, these factors indicated that a 300 site target (an average of 20 sites per year) is a realistic, achievable goal that would significantly increase the number of public access sites over 15 years.

### For More:

<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/publicaccessrestoration.aspx?menuitem=16774>

<http://www.baygateways.net/PublicAccess/>

