



*Continually increase the capacity of wetlands to provide water quality and habitat benefits throughout the watershed. Create or re-establish 85,000 acres of tidal and non-tidal wetlands and enhance the function of an additional 150,000 acres of degraded wetlands by 2025. These activities may occur in any land use (including urban) but primarily occur in agricultural or natural landscapes.*

### Why is this outcome important?

Wetlands absorb nutrient and sediment pollution before it enters the Chesapeake Bay, acting as natural filters. They provide spawning habitat for commercially important fish species, rearing habitat for juvenile crabs and stopover habitat for birds migrating along the Atlantic Flyway. Wetlands also stabilize shorelines, control erosion and buffer inland and coastal properties from the costly damage associated with floods and storm surge. Lastly, marshland provide world-class hunting, kayaking and bird-watching opportunities, and as such are important to the regional economy.

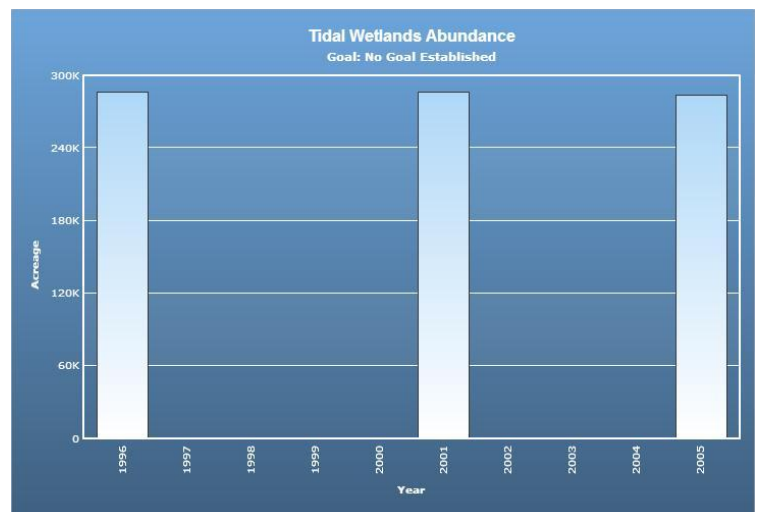
### Current Conditions:

An estimated 1 million acres of tidal and non-tidal wetlands are available in the watershed for restoration or enhancement.

### How was the outcome derived?

#### Who came up with it?

This outcome was derived with collaboration between federal, state and non-profit partners. It is based on an understanding that past and current performance would not be able to meet the wetland restoration targets outlined in state Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs). The option exists to revisit the outcome in 2017 as these WIPs are updated.



See how wetlands are doing at [chesapeakebay.net](http://chesapeakebay.net)

### What was the basis or baseline?

This outcome is linked to the targets of the [Phase II Watershed Implementation Plans](#) (WIPs). It may be necessary to revisit the acreage goal in 2017 during the development of Phase III WIPs. This outcome is also linked to the [National Wetlands Inventory](#) estimate that one million acres of tidal and non-tidal wetlands are available in the Bay watershed for restoration or enhancement.

### For More:

<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/issues/issue/wetlands>

[http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/fieldguide/categories/category/marshes\\_wetlands](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/S=0/fieldguide/categories/category/marshes_wetlands)

[http://www.chesapeakebay.net/indicators/indicator/restoring\\_wetlands](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/indicators/indicator/restoring_wetlands)

[http://www.chesapeakebay.net/indicators/indicator/tidal\\_wetlands\\_abundance](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/indicators/indicator/tidal_wetlands_abundance)