

BIENNIAL STRATEGY REVIEW SYSTEM

Chesapeake Bay Program



Logic and Action Plan: Post- Quarterly Progress Meeting

Public Access Site Development Outcome – [2020-2021] 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 sites by 2025

Two-year Target: The Public Access Workgroup aims to add 20 new public access sites each year. By the end of 2021 this would bring the cumulative total of public access sites from 1333 to 1373.

Instructions: Before your quarterly progress meeting, provide the status of individual actions in the table below using this color key.						
Action has been completed or is moving forward as planned.						
Action has encountered minor obstacles.						
Action has not been taken or has encountered a serious barrier.						

Additional instructions for completing or updating your logic and action plan can be found on [ChesapeakeDecisions](#).

Factor	Current Efforts	Gap	Actions	Metrics	Expected Response and Application	Learn/Adapt
What is impacting our ability to achieve our outcome?	What current efforts are addressing this factor?	What further efforts or information are needed to fully address this factor?	What actions are essential (to help fill this gap) to achieve our outcome?	What will we measure or observe to determine progress in filling identified gap?	How and when do we expect these actions to address the identified gap? How might that affect our work going forward?	What did we learn from taking this action? How will this lesson impact our work?
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 planning, development, and maintenance.	Inadequate funding.	(2.1), (2.2)	Increases in governmental budgets that sustain or enhance access programs, increases in available grant funding.	Increase in appropriate funding levels.	The expected increase in Federal funding to the states may support public access site development. This is subject to how individual states decide to allocate and spend those funds.

Underutilization of 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 as resources allow. 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.	Limited staffing and resources.	(5.1)	Expanded opportunities on public lands reflected in our annual data call.	More access opportunities serving all of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed population.	Underutilization of public lands continues to be a factor influencing the rate of progress towards the public access outcome. Going forward the workgroup will continue to encourage managers of public lands that front streams and rivers to assess the lands' public access potential.
Permitting requirements	Discussion on mitigation permitting requirements for small access points.	Alternatives to reasonably addressing 106 issues.	(4.1)	Examples of projects that were able to move forward at reduced costs with an alternative process.	Less costly solutions to mitigation based on accepted criteria.	Workgroup members have provided technical assistance where possible related to site assessment, planning, design and permitting and will continue to do so.
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.	(3.1) , (3.2) , (8.1)	Continue annual counting of new access sites to determine if new access sites are being located in geographic areas with diverse populations. Continue annual counting of new access sites or enhanced existing sites that are ADA accessible. In addition, as information is available, look at programming that could enhance use of public access sites by diverse populations.	Availability of funding will drive when new sites are created or existing sites are enhanced. It also has a major impact on programming.	We learned that designing sites to be ADA accessible increases costs. More funding is needed to make public access sites available to those with disabilities. Efforts to enhance accessibility to diverse populations including those with disabilities will be an ongoing effort of the workgroup. The results of the public access research on benefits and barriers to public access in the watershed will include data on what prevents these populations from utilizing public access sites and will include recommendations on how to address them.

Local government capacity	Localities are attempting to leverage local funds, grants, and donations from private corporations to help with the development of new public access sites.	<p>Capacity and funds that enable state agency partners to hire staff to support site development and monitoring at the local level have been limited.</p> <p>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.</p>	(1.1) , (2.1) , (4.1)	Exceed the minimum goal of 20 new public access sites per year.	Exceed the annual target of 20 sites per year.	The workgroup learned that pairing public access site development with other initiatives (ex. stream restoration, park improvements, and land acquisition projects) can be effective. However, piecemeal approach is not necessarily a long-term solution. Instead, limited state agency funds for staffing, operational budgets, and local project assistance needs to be addressed. The Workgroup requested new funding strategies to include funding for maintenance, planning and development of new sites at its last Quarterly Progress Meeting. The request did not result in updated funding strategies.
Conflicts among users	Constructing public access sites that reduce conflict and have enough and appropriate infrastructure as well as adequate maintenance/ management.	Retrofitting the sites where conflict has been created.	(4.1)	Number of sites designed or retrofitted with appropriate infrastructure and management leading to a reduction of public complaints.	More satisfied public.	The increased usage of public access sites associated with the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated this issue. Funding to retrofit sites with appropriate infrastructure is still needed.
Climate Change	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 climate change including rising water levels into the design, development, and/or retrofitting of public access projects so that investment equates to reasonable life expectancy of	Need for more site-specific data on climate change impacts more easily and readily available.	(7.1)	Availability of needed data for sustainable site design and development.	More resilient public access sites. Projects will have longer life expectancy.	Workgroup members explained that the impacts of climate change already influence the design and placement of public access sites. In future, some funding may be required to retrofit old sites which will detract from the funding available to implement new sites.

	the project. Evaluating potential sites for vulnerability and sustainability. Striving to achieve “no net loss” of existing public access sites.					
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ACTIONS – 2021-2022					
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	2020-2021
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.					
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	Watershed	2020-2021

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	2020-2021
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Management Approach 3: 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.

3.1	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.	Watershed	2020-2021
3.2	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, Bay Program and EPA. Population centers throughout the watershed.	Watershed	2020-2021

Management Approach 4: Carry out and support more detailed assessments and project design for potential sites. 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.

4.1	Provide technical assistance related to 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 Working Group	Watershed	2020-2021
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Management Approach 5: 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.

5.1	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. 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	2020-2021
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Management Approach 6: 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.

6.1	Encourage incorporation of recommendations from state SCORPs into local and regional plans.	State agencies will continue to provide information and data to local and regional governments for use in their planning processes.	State agencies asresources and staffing allows.	Watershed	2020-2021
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Management Approach 7: 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.

7.1	Agencies working on public access take sustainability and resilience into consideration when planning and implementing new or improved public access projects and particularly as it relates to inland flooding, sea level rise, and other climate change issues. 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. Incorporate appropriate public access site development in conjunction with projects addressing climate change.	Federal and state agencies offer technical assistance as resources allow.	Watershed	2020-2021
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Management Approach 8: 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.

8.1	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.	All grant awarders wherever feasible should include accessibility.	Watershed	2020-2021
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Management Approach 9: 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.					
9.1	Enhance number of new stewards through engagement of all populations in the watershed.	Increase in the diversity and number of new public access site users through programs that engage both families and youth. This could include such activities 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	2020-2021
9.2	Identify stewards to manage sections of designated water trails, public access site, and other associated resources.	Increase the number of citizen stewards assisting in the monitoring and maintenance of the valuable natural resources of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed	Federal, state agencies and water trail management organizations.	Watershed	2020-2021
9.3	Collaborate as a workgroup to explore methods for tracking engagement at public access sites.	Potential tracking methods are identified and discussed.	Public Access Workgroup	Watershed	2020-2021