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https://gis.chesapeakebay.net/healthywatersheds/assessment/

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Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment

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Layer List

Layers

Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment

Chesapeake Bay Shoreline

State and County Borders

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Boundary

Catchment Boundaries

The Chesapeake Bay Program, through its Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team (HWGIT), has established a goal of maintaining the long-term health of waters and watersheds identified as "healthy" by its partner jurisdictions.

The Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) recognizes the importance of conserving healthy watersheds within the Chesapeake Bay region as part of the overall Bay restoration effort. In addition to clean water and high-quality habitat for aquatic species, healthy watersheds also provide social and economic benefits such as clean drinking water, wildlife habitat, flood protection, and recreation. The vision of the HWGIT is to sustain existing healthy waters and watersheds where they are high, exceptional and/or outstanding. As a result, the Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment (CHWA) was created.

Building upon the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Preliminary Healthy Watershed Assessment (PHWA) framework, a set of candidate metrics characterizing multiple aspects of landscape condition, hydrology, geomorphology, habitat, biological condition, and water quality were assembled and evaluated for integration into an overall watershed health index, customized for the Chesapeake region. The complementary vulnerability metrics incorporates a limited number of potential stressors representing four categories: land use change, water use, climate and wildfire risk. The assessment will support the Chesapeake Bay Program and its jurisdiction partners in detecting signals of change in the state-identified healthy watersheds, providing information useful to support strategies to protect and maintain watershed health. The CHWA compiled metrics characterize multiple aspects of watershed health to help partners identify *signals of change* in healthy waters and watersheds that may be vulnerable or resilient. The *Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment* narrative report can provide a complement to this tool. Additionally, the CHWA GIS dataset can be downloaded by visiting the *Chesapeake Bay Open Data Portal*.

Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment geographic units consist of catchments from the National Hydrography Dataset Plus Version 2 (NHDPlus) geospatial dataset developed by EPA and USGS. NHDPlus catchments associated with each of the state-identified healthy watersheds (as defined by jurisdictional Chesapeake Bay Program partners) were delineated so that catchment-specific data can be examined for these watersheds of interest, either individually or as a group. However, metrics were computed for all catchments across the entire Bay watershed, not only for those within healthy watersheds. The data shown in this map defaults to the State-Identified Healthy Watershed view. To view all catchments within the entire Chesapeake Bay watershed, click on the "All Catchments" button in the top right corner.

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Boundary Dataset (WBD) was provided by the USDA-NRCS. USGS and EPA along with other federal, state and local agencies.

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