

Summary of Public Feedback (Received So Far...)



Management Board

March 27, 2025

Opportunities for Public Feedback

- Since December, each Management Board meeting has devoted 30 minutes for receiving public feedback.
- These opportunities have been shared on Chesapeake Bay Program social media channels and in newsletters.
- Our partners have shared this opportunity to their networks and our Outreach Specialist has followed up with several organizations to remind them of this opportunity
- Written public feedback received at comments@chesapeakeby.net.
- All written feedback received is available at www.chesapeakebay.net/beyond2025

Summary of Asks

Expand and Strengthen Land Conservation Efforts

- Update and extend the Protected Lands Outcome beyond 2025 with new milestones for 2040 and 2050.
- Increase funding and policy support for conservation easements, public land acquisition and urban green space protection.
- Prioritize conservation in areas under development pressure, including tribal lands and urban spaces.



Summary of Asks

Recognize and Empower Indigenous Leadership in Bay Governance

- Formally include the Indigenous Conservation Council as a signatory to the revised Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.
- Establish and fund an Indigenous Guardianship Program to build tribal capacity for conservation.
- Create an Advisory Committee for Tribal Nations within the Chesapeake Bay Program

Increase Public Access to Natural Spaces

- Improve and expand public access to waterways and parks to foster environmental stewardship and economic benefits.
- Ensure underserved communities have equitable access to outdoor recreation and green spaces.

Summary of Asks

Enhance Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategies

- Update climate resilience goals to address extreme weather, flooding and drought.
- Implement large-scale wetland conservation and restoration projects to mitigate climate impacts.
- Ensure conservation policies prioritize climate adaptation and ecosystem connectivity.



Summary of Asks

Reform Pollution Control Strategies

- Shift focus from general conservation efforts to directly addressing major pollution sources like industrial agriculture.
- Improve stormwater and nutrient pollution controls to prevent further degradation of the Bay.
- Strengthen water quality monitoring and accountability measures.

Maintain and Expand Chesapeake Bay Ecosystem Restoration

- Continue large-scale oyster reef restoration beyond the 2025 goals.
- Protect and restore blue crab and forage fish habitats with better fisheries management.
- Improve wetland conservation policies to prevent further losses.

Summary of Asks

Strengthen Local and Regional Conservation Partnerships

- Provide more resources and funding to local governments for land conservation and water protection efforts.
- Support regional collaboration and standardized metrics to track conservation success.

Prioritize Environmental Education and Public Engagement

- Maintain funding for environmental literacy programs to ensure long-term community involvement in conservation.
- Integrate environmental education into school curricula with hands-on learning experiences.