

CHRISTINA LYERLY
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

PROFILE

I have served as the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Section Head in the Water and Science Administration of the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) since 2023. In this role, I have supported the Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan (CWIP) collaboration to achieve the needed reductions in nutrient and sediment loads resulting from Conowingo Dam infill. The partnerships between Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the many organizations that have provided support has been invaluable to advancing the CWIP goals. My experience with the CWIP team, Maryland's Conowingo Reservoir Modeling Study, and the Pay for Success Program has been foundational to my commitment to this work. I appreciate the Conowingo WIP Steering Committee's consideration of my nomination for co-chair.

In my current position, I also engage in statewide planning to achieve water quality goals, manage annual best management practice progress reporting for nutrient and sediment reductions, oversee Maryland's water quality trading program, and support the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) Partnership. I have been Maryland's primary representative at the CBP Watershed Technical Workgroup since June 2024 and was Maryland's voting member on the Urban Stormwater Workgroup from 2019 to 2024.

For nine years prior to this role, I was a Natural Resources Planner in the Stormwater, Dam Safety, and Flood Management Program at MDE. During that time, I administered Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permits and provided oversight of local stormwater management programs and the delegation of erosion and sediment control inspection and enforcement authority. Additional experience includes research and written communications at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science and administrative support at the Annie E. Casey Foundation. I earned a Master of Public Policy and a Master of Science in Sustainable Development and Conservation Biology from the University of Maryland, College Park, and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Mary Washington. I recently completed the Maryland Certified Public Managers Program with the University of Baltimore.

CHRISTINA LYERLY

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SUMMARY

Public sector manager with 25 years of diverse experience in state government, academic institutions, philanthropy, and administrative support. Currently serves as the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Section Head at Maryland Department of the Environment, dedicated to protecting and restoring Maryland's natural resources. Experience managing complex, technical projects that have statewide impacts, while navigating multiple stakeholders and interests. Consistent success building relationships, practicing diplomacy under pressure, and delivering excellent work products and outcomes for a variety of constituencies. Communicate technical content effectively with proven professional writing skills.

EDUCATION

Maryland Public Manager Certification University of Baltimore, Schaefer Center for Public Policy	Baltimore, MD July 2025
Master of Science, Sustainable Development and Conservation Biology University of Maryland, College of Computer, Mathematical and Natural Sciences	College Park, MD May 2012
Master of Public Policy, Specialization: Environmental Policy University of Maryland, School of Public Policy	College Park, MD May 2012
Bachelor of Science, Psychology University of Mary Washington	Fredericksburg, VA May 1999

EXPERIENCE

Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), Watershed Protection, Restoration, and Planning Program <i>Section Head, Chesapeake Bay Restoration</i>	Baltimore, MD Aug 2023–Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Serve on the Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan collaborative multi-state team, dedicated to advancing progress toward addressing excess nutrient and sediment loads resulting from sediment infill behind the Conowingo Dam• Oversee Maryland's annual Chesapeake Bay best management practice progress reporting, used by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to assess progress toward meeting bay watershed-wide total maximum daily loads of nutrients and sediment• Administer Maryland's Water Quality Trading Program, a public market for nutrient and sediment credits intended to accelerate water quality improvements and restoration cost-efficiently• Participate in the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership in various capacities, including voting membership on the Watershed Technical Workgroup and formerly the Urban Stormwater Workgroup• Manage MDE's Chesapeake Bay Regulatory and Accountability Program grant, a multi-year, multi-million dollar federal grant to aid Maryland in meeting its nutrient and sediment reduction targets• Collaborate with other Maryland state agencies, federal agencies, and the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership to help develop state-wide strategies for reaching restoration goals• Supervise a team, ensuring time and workflow results in meeting the goals and priorities of the section, providing guidance, assigning and reviewing work, and fostering a collaborative and respectful work environment	

Maryland Department of the Environment, Sediment and Stormwater Program **Baltimore, MD**
Review Division Mar 2014–Aug 2023

Natural Resources Planner (II 2014–2016, III 2016–2019, IV 2019–2023)

- Served as project manager of Maryland’s [Accounting for Stormwater Wasteload Allocations and Impervious Acres Treated](#) for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permittees, which required assigning tasks, setting priorities, and reviewing work products
- Administered MS4 permits by evaluating annual reports, geodatabases, and restoration implementation; authoring reviews and permits; providing technical assistance; and conducting field inspections
- Conducted field inspections and desktop reviews of local jurisdictions to determine compliance with state stormwater and erosion and sediment control regulations
- Assisted in the project management of the Advancing Stormwater Resiliency in Maryland ([A-StoRM](#)) initiative, which entailed working with senior management on setting agendas, developing priorities, and assigning tasks
- Utilized project management skills to formalize requirements related to the use of flocculants for erosion and sediment control by coordinating expertise and tasks among multiple agency programs

MD Master Naturalist Program, Maryland Department of Natural Resources **State-wide**
Volunteer Feb 2016–present

- Participated in 56 hours of training and committed to at least 40 hours of volunteer service per year; organizations include Blue Water Baltimore, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Trout Unlimited, Gunpowder Valley Conservancy, Patuxent Heritage Greenway, and the Natural History Society of Maryland

University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science **Annapolis, MD**
Science Communication Assistant, Integration and Application Network Feb 2013–Mar 2014

- Served as primary author of the technical document, “[New Insights: Science-based evidence of water quality improvements, challenges, and opportunities in the Chesapeake](#)”, for natural resources planners to use in Chesapeake Bay watershed restoration activities
- Utilized project management skills to collaborate with federal and state agencies and educational institutions to advance the “New Insights” technical document from a conceptual outline to a completed report culminating in a press release at the Chesapeake Bay Program
- Presented research findings to convey to state agencies and local programs the need for water quality monitoring data for more effective planning of natural resources restoration through adaptive management
- Assisted in the coordination of the Maryland and Delaware Climate Change Education, Assessment and Research program (MADE CLEAR) Climate Science Academy for teacher professional development, and authored content for the redesigned MADE CLEAR website

The Campaign for Grade Level Reading **Baltimore, MD**
Consultant Jun 2012–Dec 2013

- Compiled data on elementary school student achievement in 30 communities nationwide to visually depict school success to the Annie E. Casey Foundation Board of Trustees
- Built an app for iPhones, iPads, and Androids that included all outreach materials used in the Campaign’s Community Networks Conference—a national convening of 550 education leaders

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World Resources Institute

Water Quality Intern

Washington, DC

Jun 2011–Jan 2012

- Researched existing greenhouse gas market-based credit verification, certification, and registration processes for the development of a Chesapeake Bay watershed interstate nutrient trading platform
- Expanded the online [interactive map](#) of polluted marine ecosystems by authoring syntheses of peer-reviewed literature on international bodies of water suffering from eutrophication and hypoxia
- Facilitated meetings for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Conservation Innovation Grant partners—including the EPA and state agencies—to develop a Chesapeake Bay watershed interstate nutrient trading platform

University of Maryland, College Park

Graduate Assistant, College of Agriculture & Natural Resources and the Division of Research

College Park, MD

Aug 2009–May 2012

- Partnered with the USDA to develop the curriculum of a college-level class in the University of Maryland's Young Scholars Program
- Planned four college commencement ceremonies, consisting of up to 1,200 graduates and guests
- Advised undergraduate students, including formal evaluation of their academic records to determine if they had fulfilled all university and degree requirements necessary for graduation

The Annie E. Casey Foundation

Assistant to the Senior Vice President (SVP)

Baltimore, MD

Sep 2004–Aug 2009

- Utilized project management skills to coordinate speakers and arrange accommodations, finances, outreach materials, and onsite logistics for meetings and conferences ranging from small groups to 2,000 attendees
- Acted as the SVP's liaison to the Finance and Grants Management Departments and all external stakeholders
- Prepared the SVP for speaking engagements by gathering all relevant information about the audience and topic

SELECT PRESENTATIONS

- **Maryland's Water Quality Trading Program:** Association of Clean Water Administrators Watersheds Committee (2025)
- **Advancing Stormwater Resiliency in Maryland:** Three Project Kickoff and Engagement Regional Meetings (2022)
- **MS4 Training:** Accounting for Wasteload Allocations and Impervious Acres Treated (2020)
- **Stormwater Training Program – Fundamentals of Success: Past, Present, Future:** Under Development: The New Construction General Permit (2019)
- **International Erosion Control Association Conference:** The Use of Flocculants in Maryland and Compliance Challenges (2019)
- **EPA/State NPDES Regional Forum:** Greening Maryland's Infrastructure (2016)
- **National Summit on Coastal and Estuarine Restoration:** Adaptive Management, Innovation, and Monitoring Insights for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (2014)
- **State Water Quality Advisory Committee:** New Insights: Science-based evidence of water quality improvements, challenges, and opportunities in the Chesapeake (2014)
- **Coastal & Estuarine Research Federation Conference:** Lessons from Chesapeake Bay Restoration Efforts (2013)
- **Jamaica Institute of Environmental Professionals Conference:** Socio-Economic Valuation of Font Hill (2011)