



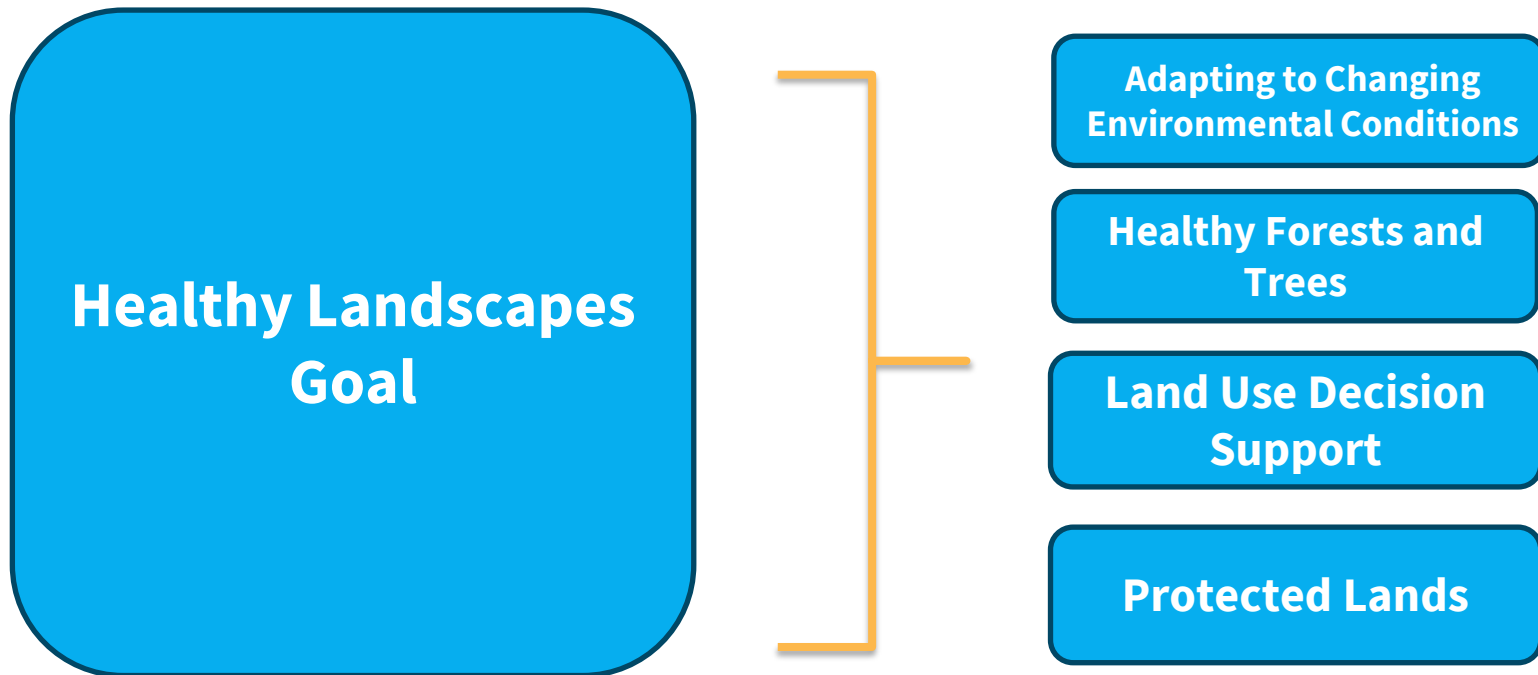
Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

September 30, 2025

Healthy Landscapes Goal, Outcomes and Targets

How Public Feedback Influenced Revisions

Healthy Landscapes Goal and Outcomes



Adapting to Changing Environmental Conditions Outcome Language (July 1, 2025)

Increase the capacity for pursuing nature-based solutions to improve planning and response to changing conditions while balancing long-term resiliency of watershed communities, economies and ecosystems.

Adapting to Changing Environmental Conditions

Outcome Language (September 23, 2025)

Increase the capacity for pursuing nature-based solutions to improve planning and response to changing conditions while balancing long-term resiliency of watershed communities, economies and ecosystems.

(No revisions recommended)

Adapting to Changing Environmental Conditions

Target Language (July 1, 2025)

By 2040, at least seven subwatershed areas have benefited from knowledge-sharing and technical assistance to identify adaptation options with nature-based solutions. These solutions include restoration and protection projects that will help address risks to people, infrastructure and habitats from changes in temperature, precipitation and landscapes.

Adapting to Changing Environmental Conditions

Target Language (September 23, 2025)

By 2035/40, at least seven sub-watershed areas have benefited from knowledge-sharing and technical assistance to identify adaptation options with nature-based solutions. These solutions include restoration and protection projects that will help address risks to people, infrastructure and habitats from changes in temperature, precipitation and landscapes.

Adapting to Changing Environmental Conditions

Target Language (July 1, 2025)

By 2040, workgroup activities will inform and lead to an increase in the implementation of adaptation strategies that integrate nature-based solutions in the above subwatershed areas.

Adapting to Changing Environmental Conditions

Target Language (September 23, 2025)

By 2035/40, workgroup activities will inform and lead to an increase in the implementation of the identified adaptation ~~options strategies~~ that integrate nature-based solutions in the above sub-watershed areas.

Unique Received Feedback

- Include effects of changing environmental conditions (e.g., flooding, sea level rise, drought).
 - No action taken.
- Broaden scope outside of nature-based solutions.
 - No action taken.
- Increase incorporation of changing environmental conditions resiliency throughout the revised Agreement.
 - Each of the four Goal language was updated.

Healthy Forests and Trees Outcome Language (July 1, 2025)

Conserve and restore forests and tree cover to maximize benefits for water quality, habitat and people throughout the watershed, with a particular focus on riparian areas and communities.

Healthy Forests and Trees Outcome Language (September 23, 2025)

Conserve, **manage** and restore forests and tree cover to maximize benefits for water quality, habitat and people throughout the watershed, with a particular focus on riparian areas and communities.

Healthy Forests and Trees Target Language (July 1, 2025)

Tree Canopy: Reduce the Loss of existing canopy, and plant and maintain 35,000 acres of community trees by 2035 to achieve a net gain in canopy over the long-term.

Healthy Forests and Trees Target Language (September 23, 2025)

~~Tree Canopy:~~ Conserve and rReduce the rate of loss of existing canopy, and plant and maintain 35,000 acres of ~~community~~ trees within communities by 2035 (45,000 acres by 2040) to achieve a net gain in canopy over the long-term.

Healthy Forests and Trees Target Language (July 1, 2025)

Forest Buffers: Reduce the loss of existing buffers, and plant and maintain 7,500 acres of forest buffers annually to achieve no less than 71% riparian forest cover by 2035 and 75% riparian forest cover over the long-term.

Healthy Forests and Trees Target Language (September 23, 2025)

Forest Buffers: Conserve and ~~r~~Reduce the loss of existing riparian forest buffers, and plant and maintain 7,500 acres of ~~forest~~ buffers annually to achieve no less than 71% riparian forest cover by 2035 (71.5% by 2040) and 75% riparian forest cover over the long-term.

Healthy Forests and Trees Target Language (July 1, 2025)

Forest Conservation: Reduce the loss of existing forests to development through planning and conservation, and plant and maintain XX acres of new forests by 2035 to achieve a net gain forests over the long-term.

Healthy Forests and Trees Target Language (September 23, 2025)

Forest Conservation: Achieve a net gain in forests over the long-term by ~~r~~Reducing the rate of loss of ~~existing~~ forest conversion to other land uses by 33%, permanently protecting a total of 8.6 million acres of forested land (nine million by 2040) ~~to development through planning and conservation~~, and planting and maintaining 155,000 ~~XX~~ acres of new forests by 2035 (202,000 acres by 2040) ~~to achieve a net gain forests over the long-term.~~

Unique Received Feedback

- Desire for more ambitious goals.
- Establish strategic priorities.
 - Recommend this is added to the Management Strategy.
- Highlight importance of forest health and management.
 - Language updated.

Land Use Decision Support Outcome Language (July 1, 2025)

Develop and disseminate relevant and actionable land use information to organizations and communities involved in local and regional land use planning on past, present and future conditions, and the potential environmental and socioeconomic consequences of changing conditions.

Land Use Decision Support Outcome Language (September 23, 2025)

Develop and disseminate relevant and actionable land use information to organizations and communities involved in local and regional land use planning. **This information will include** on past, present and future conditions, **as well as** ~~and~~ the potential environmental and socioeconomic consequences of changing conditions.

Land Use Decision Support Target Language (July 1, 2025)

Continually increase the number, variety and/or geographic scope of use cases (e.g., watershed protection, aquatic connectivity, stormwater, tree canopy, stream health or redevelopment) for landscape information.

Land Use Decision Support Target Language (September 23, 2025)

~~Continually~~ increase the number, variety and/or geographic scope of use cases (e.g., watershed protection, aquatic connectivity, stormwater, tree canopy ~~stream health~~ or redevelopment) ~~continually~~ to inform land use decisions and maintain the ecological integrity of watersheds supporting good stream health. ~~for landscape information~~

Land Use Decision Support Target Language (July 1, 2025)

Highlight two use cases annually to showcase best practices and share this information with local planning officials and partners through Story maps and/or other communications products.

Land Use Decision Support Target Language (September 23, 2025)

Highlight **at least** two **widely applicable land** use cases annually to showcase best practices and share this information with local **governments** ~~planning officials~~ and partners through Story maps and/or other communications products.

Land Use Decision Support Target Language (July 1, 2025)

Promote land use data and tool applications that maintain the ecological integrity of watersheds supporting good stream health and address the needs of local communities.

Land Use Decision Support Target Language (September 23, 2025)

~~Promote land use data and tool applications that
maintain the ecological integrity of watersheds
supporting good stream health and address the needs of
local communities.~~

Unique Received Feedback

- Desire for more than two use cases per year.
 - Language updated.
- Concern that third target was an activity.
 - Target removed.
- Highlight the critical role of local governments in the usage of application of the land use data.
 - Language updated.

Protected Lands Outcome Language (July 1, 2025)

Protect critical landscapes within the Chesapeake Bay watershed to protect water quality, enhance biodiversity, support sustainable livelihoods, ensure military readiness and national defense, and honor cultural heritage.

Protected Lands Outcome Language (September 23, 2025)

Protect critical landscapes within the Chesapeake Bay watershed **permanently** to protect water quality, enhance biodiversity, support sustainable livelihoods, **bolster local economies**, ensure military readiness and national defense, and honor cultural heritage.

Protected Lands Target Language (July 1, 2025)

Protected Lands: By 2040, permanently protect an additional 1.5-2 million acres of land throughout the watershed at the federal, state or local level.

Protected Lands Target Language (September 23, 2025)

~~Protected Lands:~~ By 2040, permanently protect **a total of 11.3** ~~an additional 1.5-2~~ million acres of land throughout the watershed, **building on a 2025 baseline of 9.3 million** acres already protected to work towards protecting at least 30% of all land in the watershed over the long-term (a total of 10.8 million acres by 2035). ~~at the federal, state or local level.~~

Protected Lands Target Language (July 1, 2025)

Forests: By 2040, permanently protect a total of XX acres of forest, of which XX% are in riparian areas.

Protected Lands Target Language (September 23, 2025)

~~Forests: By 2040, permanently protect a total of XX acres
of forest, of which XX% are in riparian areas.~~

Protected Lands Target Language (July 1, 2025)

Wetlands: By 2040, permanently protect a total of XX acres of wetlands, focusing on the protection of buffer zones.

Protected Lands Target Language (September 23, 2025)

~~Wetlands: By 2040, permanently protect a total of XX acres of wetlands, focusing on the protection of buffer zones.~~

Protected Lands Target Language (July 1, 2025)

Watershed Health: By 2040, protect a total of XX acres of natural lands in watersheds that support good health.

Protected Lands Target Language (September 23, 2025)

~~Watershed Health: By 2040, protect a total of XX acres of
natural lands in watersheds that support good health.~~

Protected Lands Target Language (July 1, 2025)

Tribal Lands: Support the sovereignty and duty of care of tribal nations and communities by securing protection status and/or co-management agreements for a total of XX acres of tribal homelands.

Protected Lands Target Language (September 23, 2025)

~~Tribal Lands: Support the sovereignty and duty of care of tribal nations and communities by securing protection status and/or co-management agreements for a total of XX acres of tribal homelands.~~

Protected Lands Target Language (July 1, 2025)

Agricultural Lands: By 2040, permanently protect a total of XX acres of agricultural lands within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Protected Lands Target Language (September 23, 2025)

~~Agricultural Lands: By 2040, permanently protect a total of
XX acres of agricultural lands within the Chesapeake Bay
watershed.~~

Protected Lands Target Language (July 1, 2025)

Community Greenspace: By 2040, permanently protect a total of XX acres of community greenspace.

Protected Lands Target Language (September 23, 2025)

~~Community Greenspace: By 2040, permanently protect a total of XX acres of community greenspace.~~

Protected Lands Target Language (September 23, 2025)

By 2027, develop numeric targets for the protection of riparian forests, wetlands (including migration corridors) and adjacent areas that facilitate future wetland expansion, natural areas supporting healthy streams, agricultural lands, tribal homelands, and urban and community greenspace.

Unique Received Feedback

- Desire for more ambitious goals.
- Request for clearer definitions.
 - Suggest adding to Management Strategy.
- Clarify relationship between wetlands and healthy forests and trees outcomes.
 - Language updated.

Cassie Davis
&
Healthy Landscape Review
Team
Meg Cole
Ken Hyer
Peter Tango

Thank you!

Any questions?

You can contact me at cassandra.davis@dec.ny.gov



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.