



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Adapting to Changing Environmental Conditions Outcome

Office Hour
July 28, 2025

Draft Revised *Chesapeake Bay Watershed
Agreement*

Public Feedback OPEN July 1-Sept 1, 2025

- How to submit feedback on the revised draft Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement can be found at:

www.chesapeakebay.net/what/what-guides-us/planning-for-2025-and-beyond



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New Goal Structure

Simplified 4 Goal Framework



Regrouped & Revised Outcomes

Healthy Landscapes

- Healthy Forests and Trees*
- Protected Lands*
- Land Use Decision Support
- Adapting to Changing Environmental Conditions

Clean Water

- Reducing Excess Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Sediment**
- Toxic Contaminants Mitigation
- Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring

Thriving Habitat and Wildlife

- Blue Crab Sustainability
- Brook Trout*
- Fish Habitat**
- Fish Passage
- Oysters
- Stream Health
- Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)
- Wetlands**

Engaged Communities

- Local Leadership
- Public Access*
- School District Planning
- Stewardship
- Student Experiences
- Workforce

* Outcome target placeholders

** Plans to develop targets

Healthy Landscapes Goal

“Conserve, restore, and enhance landscapes of ecological, economic and cultural value to maintain water quality, provide habitat for wildlife and increase resilience.”



Protected
Lands

Protect valued areas: forests, wetlands, farmland, tribal lands, urban green space, and lands supporting healthy streams.




Land Use
Decision
Support

Inform land use planning decisions: produce and share data and case studies relevant to both local needs and the health of local waterways.



Healthy
Forests
and Trees

Restore and maintain forests and trees: in communities, riparian areas, and other areas.



Adapting to
Changing
Environmental
Conditions

Reduce future risks to people and habitats: from changes in temperature, precipitation, and land use.



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Revised Outcome

2014 *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*

Outcome Language

Scientific, Technical, Assessment,
and Reporting Team (STAR)



Climate Resiliency Workgroup



Adaptation Outcome

Continually pursue, design and construct restoration and protection projects to enhance resiliency of the Chesapeake Bay and aquatic ecosystems from the impacts of coastal erosion, coastal flooding, more intense and more frequent storms and sea level rise.

Updated Adaptation Outcome

Capacity-Building ○ Nature-Based Solutions ○ Tidal & Non-Tidal

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.



Updated Adaptation Outcome



Measurable Targets ○ Place-based ○ Value Added ○ Increased Engagement

- 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.
- 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.

Connections to Healthy Landscapes



Revised Goal Language: Conserve, restore and enhance landscapes of ecological, economic and cultural value to maintain water quality, provide habitat for wildlife and increase resilience.

Adaptation Portfolio

Community Resilience

Support partner projects that identify best practices for community engaged adaptation

**Economic &
Cultural Value**

Marsh Adaptation

Collaborative identification of marsh restoration and protection opportunities with changing sea level

**Water Quality, Habitat,
& Ecological Value**

Nature-Based Solutions (NBS)

Support research on NBS performance under changing conditions

Support proposal development for NBS projects

Resilience

Natural and Nature-Based Solutions/ Green Infrastructure

↑
MORE
PRECIPITATION

Changing Conditions

WARMING
TEMPERATURES

↑
RISING SEA
LEVELS

Landward Zone

Forest Buffers



No Till Farming/ Cover Crops



Stream Restoration/ Restore Flood Plain Connectivity



Bioretention Basin

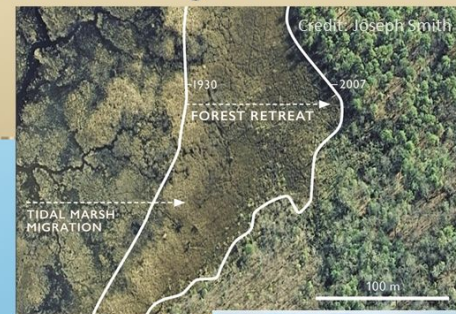


Transition Zone

Living Shoreline



Tidal Marsh Migration & Restoration



Waterward Zone

Oyster Reef Restoration



Island Ecosystem Restoration



Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Restoration



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QUESTIONS
