

**Public Access Workgroup**  
**Wednesday, May 28th, 2025**  
10:30 - 11:30 am



Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/gou-iosp-equ>

Or dial: (US) +1 810-510-0804 PIN: 488 492 707#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/gou-iosp-equ?pin=7813647897506>

*Public Access Outcome: By 2025, add 300 new public access sites, with a strong emphasis on providing opportunities for boating, swimming and fishing, where feasible.*

**10:30 AM Welcome/ Introductions**

- Name, organization, state signatory (confirm state and department)

Attendees:

Aurelia Gracia, NPS

Daniel Koval, CBP staffer

Jillian Seagraves, MDNR

Sandi Olek, MDNR

Kelly Rossiter, PA DCNR

Mark Hohengasser, NY State Parks

Kristal McKelvey, VA DCR

Drew Carter, WV DNR

Mike Krumrine, DE

Brent Peterson, DC DOEE

Adrienne Kotula, CBC

Andy Fitch, CBP

Ben Alexandro, CCP

Emily Heller, EPA/CBP

**10:45 AM Review of Public Access Outcome Language ([Click here](#))**

- Discuss target metrics and language (Public Feedback period starts in July)

*Enhance new and existing public access sites to the Bay and its tributaries through a combination of actions aimed at improving recreational opportunities and accessibility while addressing barriers to access by increasing the number, quality, and geographic distribution of sites.*

- *New Access Sites: By 2040, add 100 new public access sites with a strong emphasis on providing opportunities for recreation where feasible.*
- *Improving ADA/ABA Accessibility: By 2040, improve 3% of existing public water access sites by adding ADA/ABA accessible features where feasible to meet the needs of the communities.*
- *Access Upgrades, Maintenance and Expansion: By 2040, improve at least 100 existing public water access sites by upgrading or maintaining site grounds and structures—including signage, parking, seating, and public facilities—and expanding the*

*range of active and passive recreation opportunities, such as kayaking, boating, trails, courts, piers, wildlife viewing, and picnic areas.*

- *Expanding Access to Urban Lands: By 2040, expand access to \_XX\_% of urban lands and community green spaces identified in the Protected Lands data set. An initial baseline study is to be conducted by 2025-2026 to determine appropriate numeric targets for this metric.*

## **10:55 PM      Discussion / Questions**

Mark Hohengasser: Is there a definition of active and passive recreation? We struggle with this in our office and am curious if we have this defined.

Aurelia Gracia: I don't think so. This workgroup has tried to capture tangible and intangible parts of recreation. Some like birding/sitting at a bench is passive, and that language was an attempt to include those. Maybe that's something that this workgroup could work for to define what that means.

Sandi Olek: Maryland doesn't have a specific definition, but I can look into it. We always broke it out by technical vs. non-technical or needing equipment vs. not needing equipment.

Daniel Koval: These are good points to bring up, and the terminology used is something that we can flag as important to define as we move forward.

Ben Alexandro: For the urban areas piece: When defining that, is that the census and doing overlay? Is there clarity on what that would mean and working with the protected lands side of things with consistent definitions of what is measurable.

Aurelia Gracia: We've let the bay program know that there needs to be a baseline for this, and what specific data is going to be pulled. PLWG hasn't explored it yet, and this would be done in partnership with them.

Ben Alexandro: For CCP, the action team brought together wanted to see more urban focus in the work the partnership does. One thing they are interested in is a 10 minute walk analysis of who has access within 10 minutes walk to there from where they live. Is that something that could be included in this study to incorporate analysis of walkability?

Aurelia Gracia: It hasn't been explored in the past. The benefits and barriers research study looked at local communities and how they get to a public access site, though I'm not sure if that study dove into the 10 minute walk. When it comes time to do that assessment, I think we could use that data for exploring that, and it would be up to this workgroup to determine.

Kelly Rossiter: Not speaking for this workgroup, but we worked in PA with the Trust for Public Lands (TPL) for an analysis on a 10 minute walk to local parks and also a 10 minute drive to water access sites with the thought in mind that people take equipment for (kayaks, fishing,

etc.). If anybody is interested in doing it outside of this group, you can contact us to hook you up with TPL or you can talk with them directly. There is probably some base methodology that they used for our team, and I'm sure you could use that for other states and tweak where necessary. We have used it for grant applications and it has been helpful.

Mike Krumrine: We have done walkshed analysis (and bike and driveshed analyses) for similar things in parks/rec facilities in DE. We usually include that in our SCORP analysis every 5 years and you can reach out to us if it's something you decide to do.

Ben Alexandro: Thank you both, I think those could be great models to look at. Are there things we could do for other outcomes to sow some seeds for that to make it more explored into the future?

Kelly Rossiter: I think when we get to the point of getting to specific actions and addressing barriers, trying to make sure there is access close to folks and how they get there. This could link up with barriers assessment if this group dives into that a little deeper.

Ben Alexandro: Are there any pieces in the outcome language itself that could move that forward that folks would want to do?

Daniel Koval: I will note these topics as something to discuss further when we begin to update the work plan and management strategies for the workgroup.

Mark Hohengasser: I appreciate the ADA/ABA component. NY State Parks is going through an initiative to improve our facilities.

#### **11:10 AM      NPS Assessment on Community Lands - Aurelia**

Aurelia Gracia: For some background, Wendy O'Sullivan (NPS Chesapeake Gateways Office Superintendent) contracted with DOT's Volpe center, which does lots of community design and development. We let them know the interest in public access studies, so our office with the park service will be working with Volpe to conduct a baseline for urban lands. We will build a stakeholder group and a request will come to this workgroup for anyone who would want to serve on the group. We will assess land terminology (urban lands, greenspace, community lands, etc.) and definitions, and metrics on how we would attempt to record urban green spaces, what it means to be publicly accessible, and recreation types at those spaces. That whole assessment would explore this as a group with the stakeholders and we are trying to get representation from each jurisdiction across the watershed as well. Wendy has expressed it is a separate effort from the bay program, but it could be used to inform the process or help move the next steps. That is something that will happen soon in the future, and I will let Daniel know when we are recruiting for the stakeholder group to send to everyone in this workgroup.

#### **11:25 AM      Wrap Up and Next Steps**

Daniel Koval: I will send out a follow up email with minutes attached. I will also be scheduling the next few workgroup meetings to fall on a quarterly basis. If I hear any information about the next steps for the public comment period for Beyond 2025, I will let everyone know.