



Protected Lands Targets

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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:** By 2040, permanently protect an additional 1.5-2 million acres of land throughout the watershed at the federal, state or local level.
- **Forests:** By 2040, permanently protect a total of _XX_ acres of forest, of which XX% are in riparian areas.
- **Wetlands:** By 2040, permanently protect a total of _XX_ acres of wetlands, focusing on the protection of buffer zones.
- **Watershed Health:** By 2040, protect a total of _XX_ acres of natural lands in watersheds that support good stream health.
- **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.
- **Agricultural Lands:** By 2040, permanently protect a total of _XX_ acres of agricultural lands within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
- **Community Greenspace:** By 2040, permanently protect a total of _XX_ acres of community greenspace.

Important Note

- We are **not requiring additional reporting** for the sub targets.
- We will be tracking these sub targets over space and time.
 - Utilizing spatial overlays
 - Using 1M Land Use/ Land Cover to track
- Targets need to be clearly defined and trackable

Framing Targets

- Must emphasize that conservation efforts are cumulative; protecting one area can enhance the ecological value of another.
 - Example: protecting forested riparian buffers is also beneficial to watershed health.
- The targets within the protected lands outcome should be viewed as layers of a lasagna and not as pieces of a pie.
- We need to view targets as overlapping and synergistic rather than isolated goals.



Protected lands

Target: By 2040, permanently protect and additional 1.5M-2M acres of lands throughout the watershed at the federal, state or local level.

What needs to be done to complete target language:

- Decide if the total target acreage should be 1.5 million or 2 million acres.
 - We have heard from most jurisdictions, and the majority have chosen 1.5 million.

Forests

Target: By 2040, permanently protect a total of _XX_ acres of forests and *forested wetlands*, _XX_ % of which are in riparian areas.

What needs to be done to complete target language:

- Consult with Forestry Workgroup.
- Baseline study to understand:
 - Total acres of forest in the watershed
 - Acres of forest currently protected
 - Acres of forest in riparian areas within the watershed
- Once the PLWG has the current acreage numbers, a discussion on acreage goals for the target can take place in August 2025.
- Add forested wetlands to the language?
 - Compliments the wetlands target

Wetlands

Target: By 2040, permanently protect a total of _XX_ acres of *tidal* wetlands focusing on the protection of buffer zones.

What needs to be done to complete target language:

- Add “tidal” to the language?
- Consult with Peter Claggett and the Wetlands Workgroup to define buffer zones.
 - Determine the extent to which buffer zones are currently protected.
- Once the PLWG has the current acreage numbers, a discussion on acreage goals for the target can take place in August 2025.

Watershed Health

Target: By 2040, protect a total of _XX_ acres of natural lands in watersheds supporting good stream health.

What needs to be done to complete target language:

- PLWG is awaiting input from the Healthy Watersheds GIT regarding the definition of “good stream health.”
- After “good stream health” is defined, the PLWG will conduct a study to compare the number of acres of natural lands currently protected versus those not protected.
- Once the PLWG has the current acreage numbers, a discussion on acreage goals for the target can take place in August 2025.

Tribal Lands

Target: 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.

What needs to be done to complete target language:

- Work with the Indigenous Conservation Council (ICC) to establish tracking methods for the protection status and co-management agreements of tribal homelands.
- With ICC guidance, determine the total acres of tribal homelands to be protected.
- Does this even need a acreage goal?

Agricultural Lands

Target: By 2040, permanently protect a total of _XX_ acres of agricultural lands within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

What needs to be done to complete target language:

- Baseline study to understand:
 - Total acres of agricultural land in the watershed
 - Acres of agricultural land currently protected
- Once the PLWG has the current acreage numbers, a discussion on acreage goals for the target can take place in August 2025.

Community Greenspace

Target: By 2040, permanently protect a total of _XX_ acres of community greenspace.

What needs to be done to complete target language:

- Define “greenspace” and “community” and establish tracking methods:
 - Establish clear parameters for what constitutes greenspace.
 - Establish clear parameters for what we mean by “community”.
 - Explore how different jurisdictions define greenspace to ensure consistency and applicability across the watershed.
- Once definitions are established, perform a study to determine the current acreage of greenspace within the watershed.
- Once the PLWG has the current acreage numbers, a discussion on acreage goals for the target can take place in August 2025.

Public Access X Community Greenspace

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.

- Change Community Greenspace Target to better incorporate expanding access needs?
 - By 2040, permanently protect a total of _XX_ acres of **publicly accessible urban** and community greenspace.

Decisions Needed from PLWG in July

- Determine total target acreage for Protected Lands:
 - Decide whether the target should be 1.5 million or 2 million acres.
- Reconsider the need for acreage targets for all but the forest target-Peter Claggett
- Support to incorporate “forested wetlands” into the Forest target “tidal” into the Wetlands target.
 - By 2040, permanently protect a total of _XX_ acres of forests and **forested wetlands**, _XX_ % of which are in riparian areas.
 - *By 2040, permanently protect a total of _XX_ acres of **tidal** wetlands focusing on the protection of buffer zones.*
- Define “permanently protect”:
 - Establish whether this definition will be consistently applied across all targets under the Protected Lands Outcome.
- Define “greenspace”:
 - Develop clear and consistent definition of greenspace to guide target setting and measurement.

Timeline for the Targets

July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish scientifically defensible definitions.<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Definitions within targets will be finalized by July 31, 2025.• Conduct a baseline study.<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Using the 2024 Protected Lands data and the 2021/2022 Land Use Land Cover data.◦ GSAT will provide baseline numbers, from which specific target numbers will be considered.
Aug	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acreage Number Goals Conversation<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ To Acreage or not Acreage?
Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete target language.<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Seek support from PLWG on the final target language.