



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

August 19, 2026

Public Access Workgroup

Quarterly Meeting

Announcements

Management Strategy Drafting:

- Continuing progress
- Rough Draft to be shared for workgroup feedback by end of the week (Friday, August 21st)
- Final Draft to be approved by the Workgroup by September 11th



Dutch Gap Conservation Area, Chesterfield County, VA
Photo Credit: Will Parson / Chesapeake Bay Program



1

Public Access Workgroup Introductions

Get To Know Your Workgroup Members!



Lorenzo Cinalli



Public Access Workgroup, Chair

District of Columbia Parks & Recreation – Community Planner

Areas of expertise/interest: Urban & community access to greenspaces, forests & tree canopy, partnership & coalition building, public policy

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity: Biking through public parks!

Daniel Koval



Environmental Management Staffer: Public Access, Protected Lands, and Workforce Workgroups

*Chesapeake Research Consortium,
Chesapeake Bay Program Office*

Areas of expertise/interest: public access, urban planning, outdoor recreation, land conservation, community stewardship, public health

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity: Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens

Brent Peterson



Public Access Workgroup, DC Voting Member

District of Columbia – Dept. of Energy & Environment

Office of District Waterways Management – Program Analyst

Areas of expertise/interest:

Urban / Waterfront Planning

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity:

Swimming in the Potomac River with my kids
(when water quality allows)

Lisa Wool



Public Access Workgroup, Delaware Voting Member

Nanticoke Watershed Alliance – Executive Director

Areas of expertise/interest:

Unique collaborations development, on-the-ground restoration and scientific translation

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity: Kayaking through the bald cypress in Trap Pond State Park, Delaware

Isabel Layton



Public Access Workgroup, Maryland Voting Member
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Areas of expertise/interest: Equitable access to greenspaces and bluespaces, partnership development, and public policy.

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity: Wading through the water at Morgan Run Natural Environmental Area with my dog.

Mark Hohengasser



Public Access Workgroup, New York Alternate Voting Member

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation - Park Planner

Areas of expertise/interest:

Planning and design of park facilities

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity: Kayaking in the upper Susquehanna River

Mark Morrison



Public Access Workgroup, Pennsylvania Voting Member
*Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission – Chief, Waterways
and Marina Management*

Areas of expertise/interest: Public access grant programs, PA Water Trails partnership, adopt-an-access, and navigational aids program.

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity: Fishing and boating on central Pennsylvania rivers

Mary Hundt



Public Access Workgroup, Pennsylvania Alternate Voting Member

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation - Rivers Program Specialist

Areas of expertise/interest: Recreation and conservation planning, waterway access project grant management

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity:

Kline's Run Disc Golf Course by the mighty Susquehanna

Maggie Woodward



Public Access Workgroup, CBC Alternate Voting Member
Maryland Director, Chesapeake Bay Commission

Areas of expertise/interest: law and policy, convenings, protected lands

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity: Gunpowder Falls State Park

Sophie Waterman



Public Access Workgroup, USGS Voting Member

U.S. Geological Survey/Chesapeake Bay Program-
Geographer/ Protected Lands Workgroup Coordinator

Areas of expertise/interest: Tracking protection and
access of lands in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

**Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor
activity:** Patapsco Valley State Park

Kevin R. Du Bois, PWS, PWD, SCMNRP



Public Access Workgroup, DoW Non-Voting Member

Department of War, Chesapeake Bay Program Coordinator

Areas of expertise/interest: Military installation contributions to Watershed Agreement goals, wetlands, water quality, natural resources, land conservation, partnership and leveraging assets

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity:

Fly fishing and backpacking

Cirse Gonzalez



Public Access Workgroup, CBNERR-VA At-Large Voting Member

Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Virginia (CBNERR-VA) – Training and Engagement Program Coordinator

Areas of expertise/interest: Transdisciplinary collaboration, social capital, cultural ecosystem services, access

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity: The York River – all things on and in!

Jared Abell



Public Access Workgroup, TPL Voting Member

Trust for Public Land – Land Protection Project Manager

Areas of expertise/interest: Land conservation & public access, conservation real estate, public-private partnerships, conservation funding, community-based conservation

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity: Hiking, mountain biking, and paddling in and around Pennsylvania's South Mountain landscape

Overview of the Chesapeake Bay Program

With connections to the Public Access Workgroup



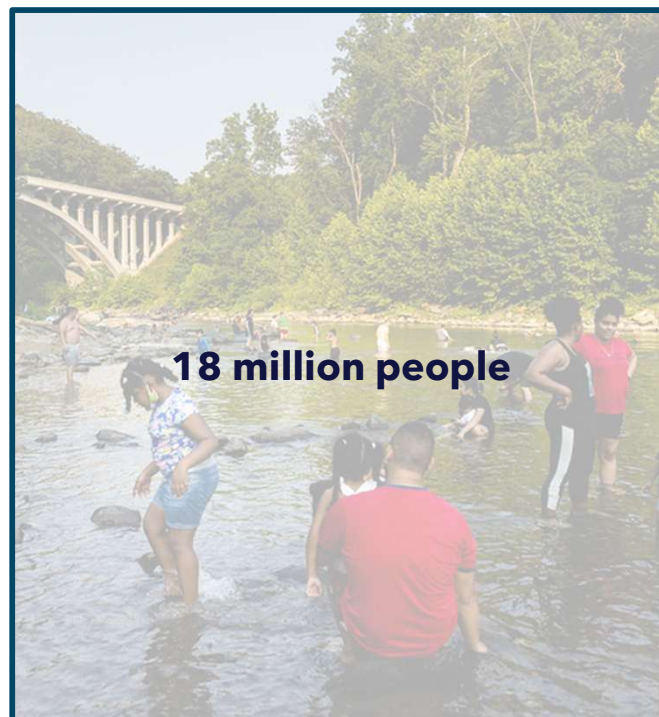
**1,451 public access site
to waterways**



Largest Estuary in U.S.



**42 million acres
58% forested**



18 million people



**3600 species of plants and
animals**

The Fabulous Chesapeake

The Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership



NY



DC



VA



MD



PA



DE



WV



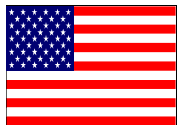
Bay Commission



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.



Federal
Partners



**A partnership of all the major players in the Chesapeake region,
working collaboratively on science, policy and restoration efforts.**



“

*We envision a Chesapeake Bay region where clean water flows, wildlife thrives and farms, forests and fisheries are healthy and productive. **It is a place where people from all walks of life feel connected to the land, to the Bay and local waterways, to their communities and to the rich cultural heritage that makes this watershed unique.** Together, we are building a future that is environmentally and economically sustainable, resilient and full of possibility—where everyone can enjoy and help conserve the natural beauty of the Bay, and the lands and waters that surround it, today and for generations to come.*



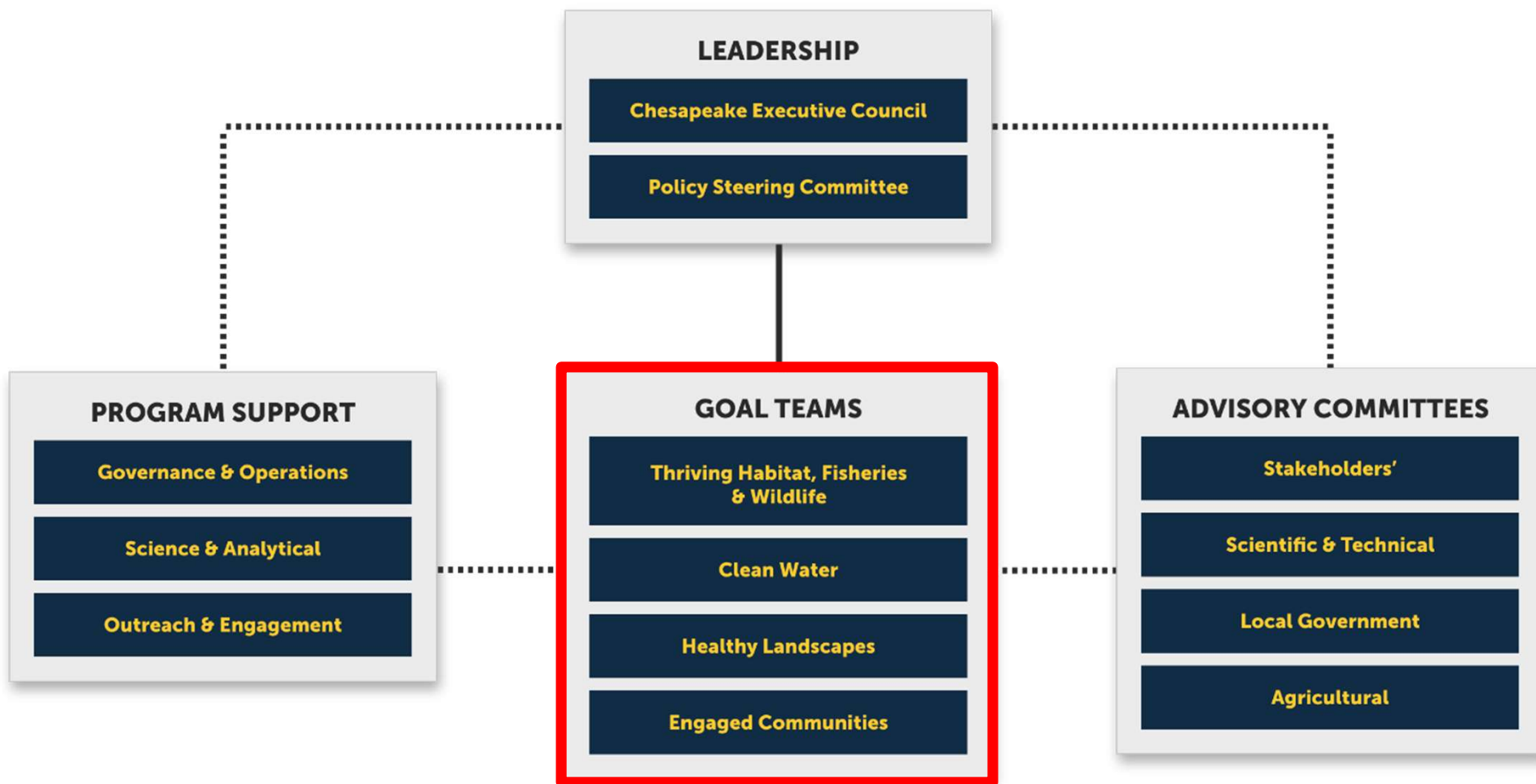


2.1

CBP Structure

Updated 2026

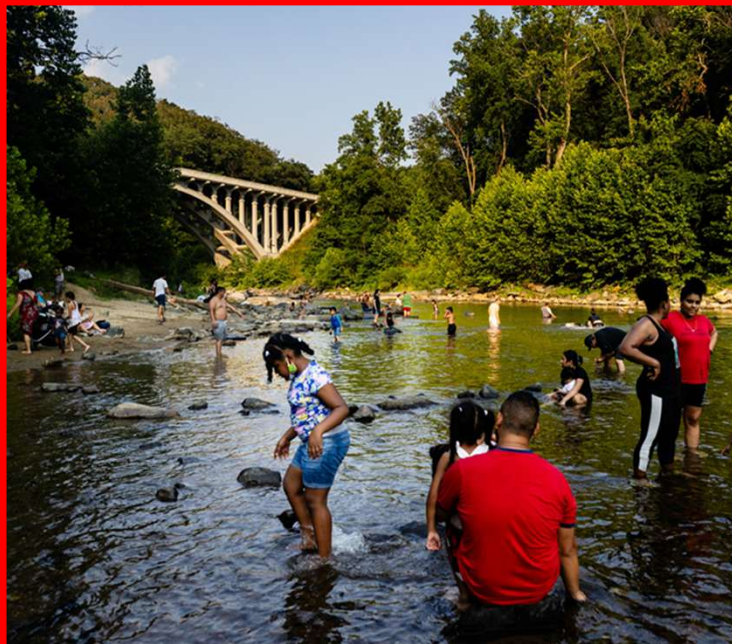




Four Goal Teams

The Four Interconnected Goals of Watershed Restoration





Visitors to Maryland's Patapsco Valley State Park enjoy the swimmable waters of the Patapsco River.

Engaged Communities

The long-term success of the Chesapeake Bay restoration and conservation effort depends on individuals and communities throughout the watershed understanding their connection to the local environment and making choices that support its health in the face of changing environmental conditions. Stewardship begins with facilitating meaningful engagement, increasing access to outdoor recreation, providing learning opportunities to students, adults and job seekers, and empowering local decision-makers to support conservation actions.

Goal

Engage and grow a community of local stewards and leaders through education, recreation and professional opportunities to ensure the long-term success of restoration and conservation efforts.

Outcomes

Local Government Leadership

Increase knowledge and support the capacity of local government leaders in decision-making, such as land-use planning, to implement local actions that advance the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*.

- Engage directly (e.g., roundtable discussions) with at least 400 local government leaders annually.
- Engage indirectly (e.g., newsletters) with at least 4,000 local government leaders annually.

Public Access

Create new and enhance existing public access sites in the Chesapeake Bay watershed 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.

- By 2040, add at least 100 new sites providing access to natural lands and waters with a strong emphasis on providing opportunities for recreation where feasible.
- By 2040, improve at least 100 of the 1,451 existing public water access sites by upgrading or maintaining site grounds and structures, and expanding the range of active and passive recreation opportunities such as paddling, boating, trails, courts, piers, wildlife viewing and picnic areas.
- By 2040, improve at least 40 of the existing public water access sites by adding Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) accessible features.
- Increase access to existing urban and community greenspaces identified in the [protected lands dataset](#).

School District Environmental Literacy Planning

Increase the number of school districts that have policies and practices in place that support environmental education and sustainable schools.

- By 2040, reach all jurisdictional targets for the number of public school districts that are well prepared to deliver a comprehensive and system-wide approach to environmental literacy.



2.2

Public Access Outcome



Previous Target Language

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

→ achieved in 2024 with a total of 312 new access sites! Complete data with 2025 sites is currently being compiled.

New Target Language: By 2040...

- **Add at least 100 new sites** providing access to natural lands and waters with a strong emphasis on providing opportunities for recreation where feasible.
- **Improve** at least 100 of the 1,451 existing public water access sites **by upgrading or maintaining site grounds and structures and expanding the range of active and passive recreation opportunities** such as paddling, boating, trails, courts, piers, wildlife viewing and picnic areas.
- **Improve** at least 40 of the existing public water access sites **by adding Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) accessible features.**
- Increase access to **existing urban and community greenspaces** identified in the protected lands dataset.



2.3

Public Access Data Collection

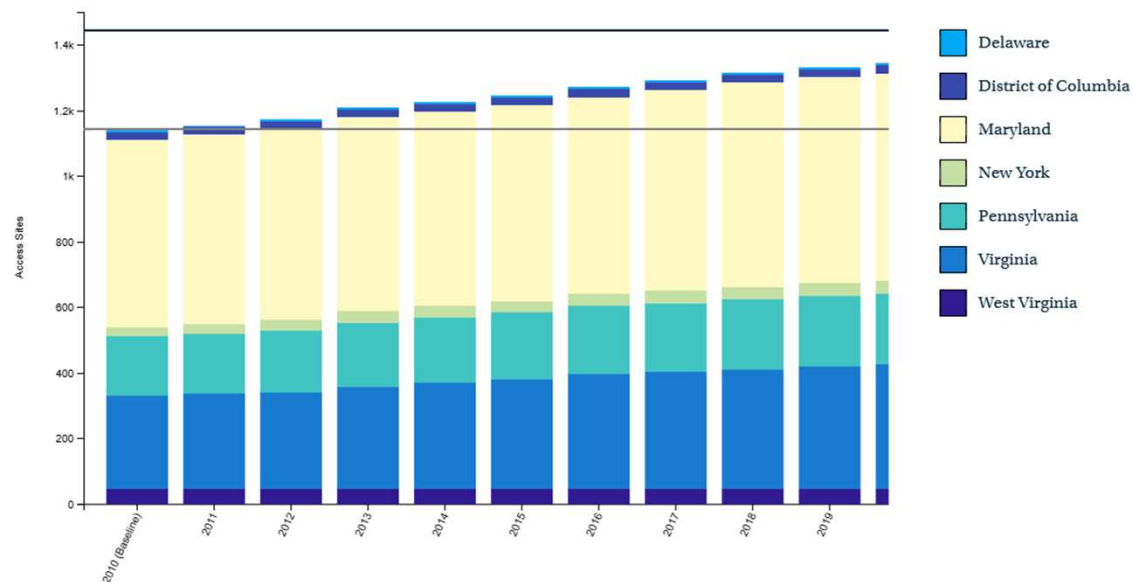




Public Access Sites in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (Cumulative) (2010-2024) 📊

See how these data are used in the [Public Access Site Development Outcome](#).

[VIEW CHART](#) [VIEW TABLE](#)



[About](#) [Content](#) [Legend](#)

Legend

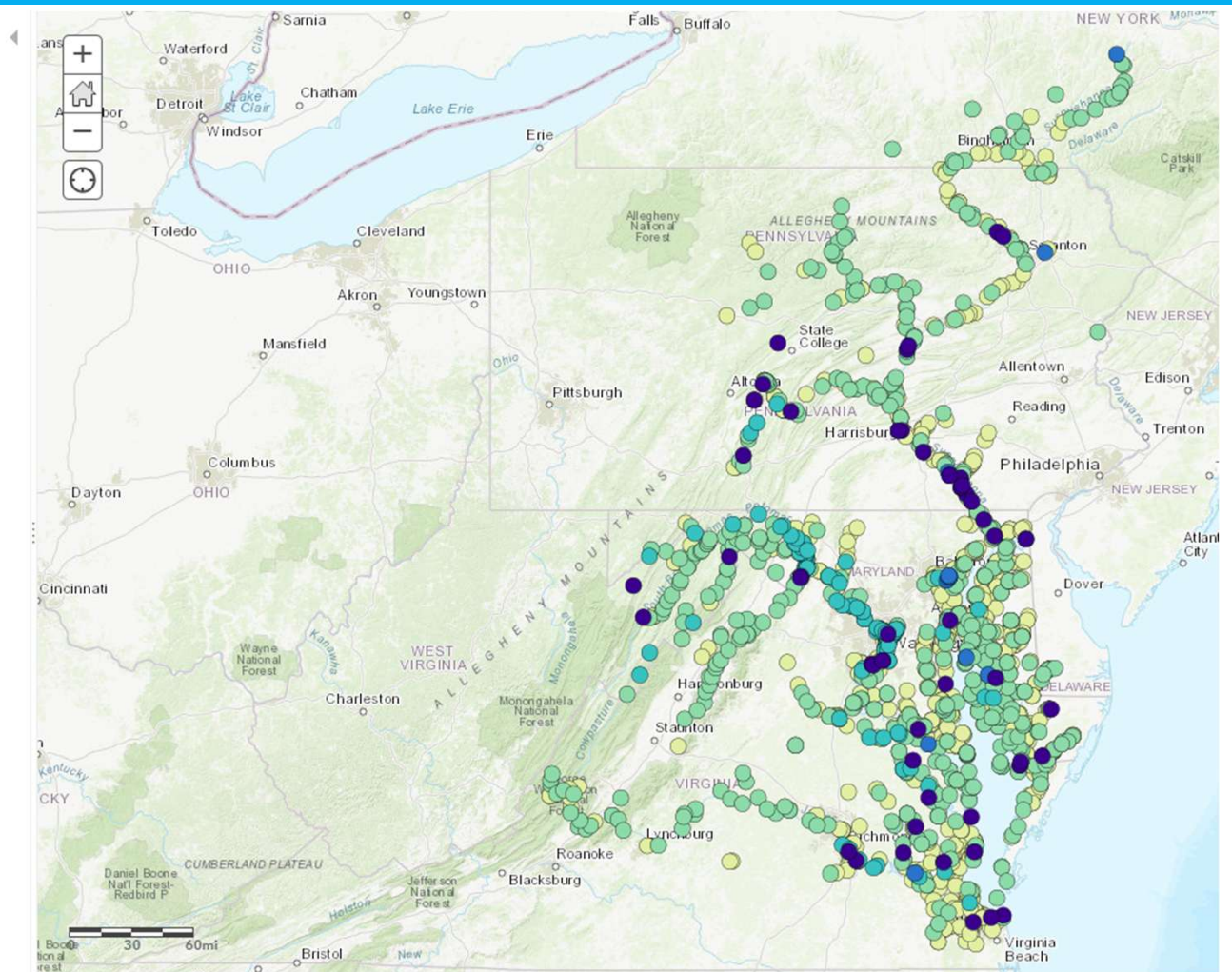
Public Access Sites in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Public Access Sites

Ownership Designation

- Local
- State
- Federal
- Non-governmental Organization
- Other

[Public Access Sites in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed CBP](#)





2.4

Membership and Decision-Making



Workgroup (WG) Membership

- **Leadership:** 1 or 2 Chairs, approved by Goal Teams (GT)
 - **Voting Members:** Up to 15
 - Up to 9 PSC signatory appointees
 - Remainder: At-Large members, approved by WG Chairs with GT Chairs
 - **Non-Voting Members:**
 - Number, source, and approval at discretion of WG and GT Chairs
-

Engaged Communities Goal Team Coordination Team

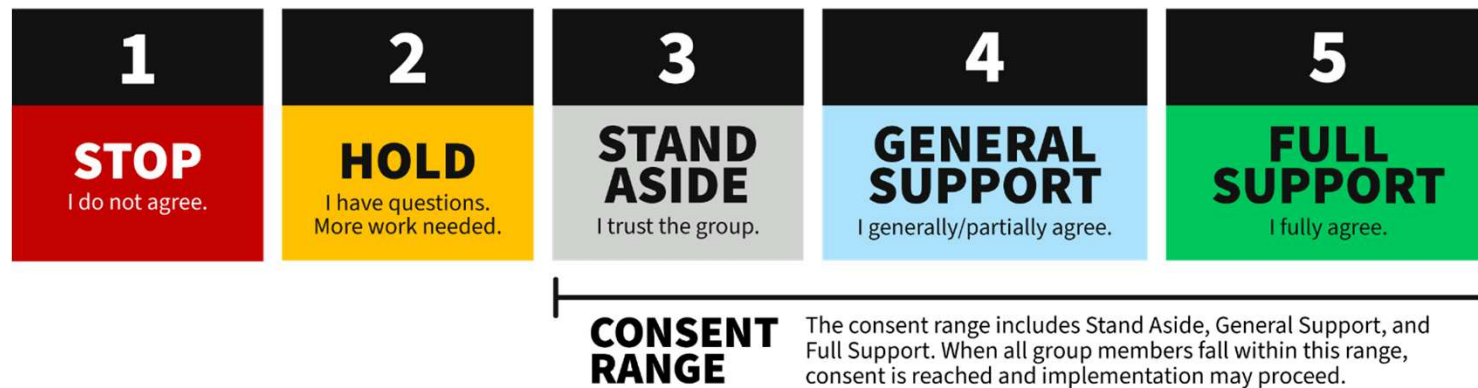
Co-Chair	DC DOEE (Julie Lawson)
Co-Chair	DC DOEE (Julia Wakeling)
Coordinator	EPA (Katie Ayers)
Staffer (3)	Chesapeake Research Consortium

Public Access Workgroup Coordination Team

Co-Chair	DC Parks and Rec (Lorenzo Cinalli)
Co-Chair	Vacant
Coordinator	Vacant (to be appointed by Chesapeake Bay Program)
Staffer	Chesapeake Research Consortium (Daniel Koval)

Workgroup Membership (August 2026)			
Membership Type	Jurisdiction/Organization	Member Employer	Member Name
Voting	Delaware	Nanticoke Watershed Alliance, DE DNREC	Lisa Wool, Jenna Talbot
Voting	District of Columbia	DC DOEE	Brent Peterson, Kara Pennino
Voting	Maryland	Maryland DNR	Isabel Layton, Sandi Olek, Jillian Seagraves
Voting	New York	NYS DEC, NYS OPRHP	Cassie Davis, Mark Hohengasser
Voting	Pennsylvania	PA FBC, PA DCNR	Mark Morrison, Mary Hundt
Voting	Virginia	TBD	TBD
Voting	West Virginia	N/A	N/A
Voting	Chesapeake Bay Commission (CBC)	CBC	Norah Carlos, Maggie Woodward
Voting	Federal	National Park Service	Aurelia Gracia
Voting	Federal	USGS	Sophie Waterman, John Wolf
Voting At-Large	Academic	CBNERR-VA	Cirse Gonzalez
Voting At-Large	Non-Profit	Baltimore Greenspace	Kindle Samuel
Voting At-Large	Non-Profit	Trust for Public Land	Jared Abell, Will Klein
Non-Voting	Federal	Department of War	Kevin DuBois, Angela Jones

Consensus-Based Decision Making



Chesapeake Bay Program's Decision-Making Continuum. Based on the University of Maryland's Center for Leadership and Organizational Change Consensus Continuum.

Note: Call for Consent is made for ALL members (not just Voting members). A vote will only follow among Voting members if consent cannot be reached.

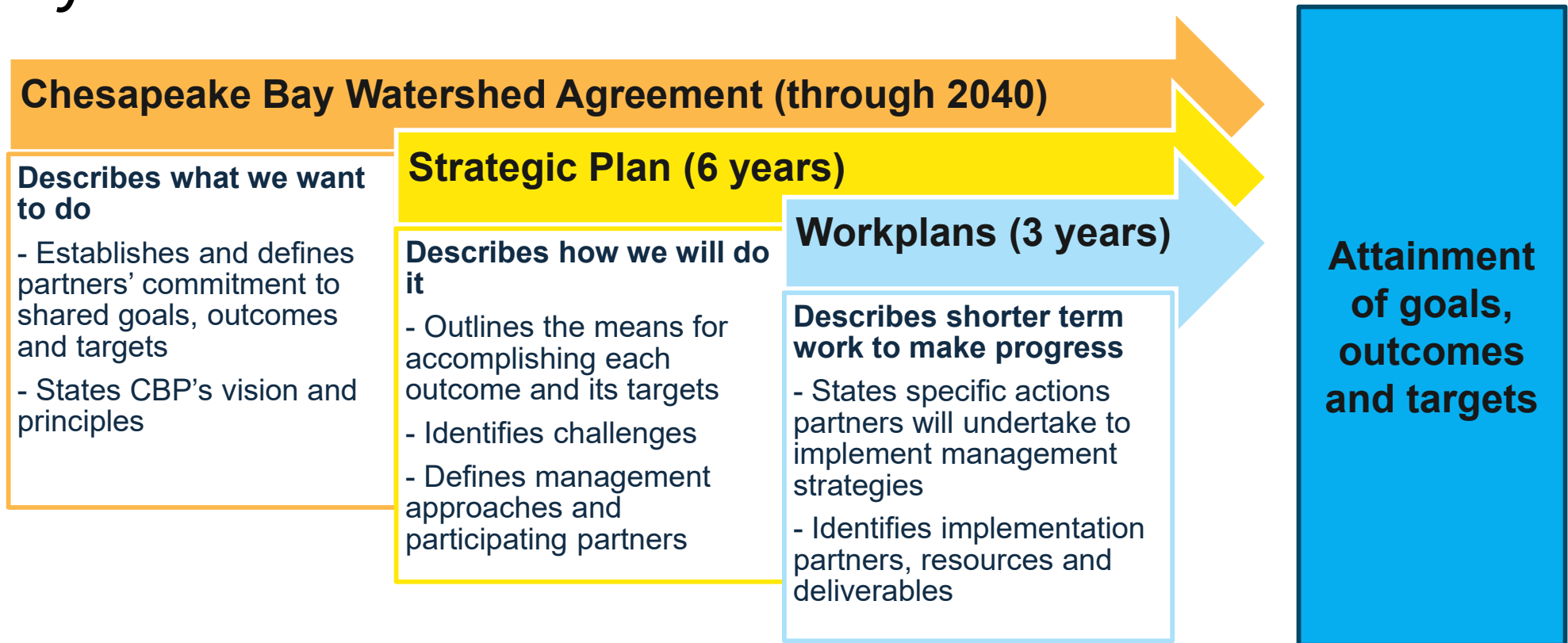
A quorum of two-thirds of voting members is required to begin a call for consent; if it leads to a vote, two-thirds of the voting members (not two-thirds of the quorum present) must be in support or stand aside to pass.



Management Strategy:



Key CBP Documents



Management strategies for each Goal chapter will be contained within a single Strategic Plan

Maintenance and Upgrades: Tracking Guidelines

Current Definition of “new sites”

- Development of a new public access facility on a site owned and operated by a governmental entity or non-governmental organization operating under an agreement with an entity of government
- Development of a new type of access at an existing site. Access types are defined as:
 - Boat-related access
 - Swimming access
 - Fishing access
 - Viewing access

(from [2013 Public Access Plan](#))

Current Definition of “new sites” cont...

- If an informal site becomes officially recognized and managed by a public agency, it would then be counted as a new public access site.
- Certain enhancements to existing public access are not counted as new access. For example, adding new parking, a restroom, picnic area, or other amenity to an existing site does not equate to a “new” site. To be counted as a new access site, a new type of access must be added to the existing site.

(from [2013 Public Access Plan](#))

3.1

Maintenance and Upgrades: Possible Metrics for each

Dollars Spent

Qualitative description of work done (either in addition to dollars spent, or as a stand alone metric)

Discussion: Defining Upgrades & Maintenance

“By 2040, improve at least 100 of the 1,451 existing public water access sites by upgrading or maintaining site grounds and structures and expanding the range of active and passive recreation opportunities, such as paddling, boating, trails, courts, piers, wildlife viewing, and picnic areas.”

- **What counts as an upgrade?**

- Developing a qualitative list of acceptable upgrades
- Defining upgrades as investing X dollars into a site

- **How is maintenance defined?**

- Dollars spent
- Qualitative lists

- **Should upgrades and maintenance share a metric, or have distinct ones?**

Guest Speaker:

Paul Bollinger

President and CEO of CRAB

(Chesapeake Region Accessible Boating)

Tracking ADA/ABA Accessibility

Discussion: ADA/ABA Improvement Tracking

“By 2040, improve at least 40 of the existing public water access sites by adding Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) accessible features.”

Proposal:

1. Developing a qualitative list of ADA/ABA improvements



Sleepy Hole Park in Suffolk, VA; Fishing pier and accessible kayak launch added in 2016.
Photo Credit: Will Parson / Chesapeake Bay Program

Tracking Access to Greenspace

PROTECTING MOST URBAN ACREAGE

- From 300,000 to 350,000 acres
- 500 X 100 acre preserved lands

- Inventory of urban/community greenspace
- **Sum acres**

PROTECTING NEAR MOST PEOPLE

- 2M people within walking distance
- 500 x 4,000 people

- Inventory of urban/community greenspace
- 10MW network analysis (e.g. ParkServe)
- **Sum people**

PROTECTING IN PARK ACCESS GAPS

- Increase 10MW from 60% to 68% (1M more people)
- 200 x 4,000 people

- Inventory of urban/community greenspace
- 10MW network analysis (e.g. ParkServe)
- Completed inventory of existing public space
- **Sum people**

Discussion: Greenspace Tracking

“Increase access to existing urban and community greenspaces identified in the protected lands dataset.”

Proposal:

1. **Greenspace Acreage:** Begin with tracking acres of urban and community greenspace within the Protected Lands Dataset
 2. **10 Minute-Walk Analysis:** Work on further developing public access attribution for sites to create a watershed-wide baseline of 10MW access to greenspaces.
-

Round Robin –
Share any Updates, Good News,
Interesting Articles, Upcoming
Events, etc!



Eastern Chipmunk in Wyoming County, PA
Photo Credit: Will Parson / Chesapeake Bay Program

Thank you!

Any questions?

Lorenzo Cinalli: lorenzo.cinalli@dc.gov

Daniel Koval: kovald@chesapeake.org



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