



**Chesapeake Bay Program**  
*Science. Restoration. Partnership.*

August 19, 2026

# Chesapeake Bay Program

## Overview

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# Announcements

- Management Strategy Drafting:
  - Continuing progress
  - Rough Draft to be shared for workgroup feedback by end of the week (Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup>)
  - Final Draft to be approved by the Workgroup by September 11<sup>th</sup>

## Slide 2

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- LC1** I think I want to discuss this at the November meeting instead  
Cinalli, Lorenzo (DPR), 2026-08-04T16:52:17.925
- LC1 0** This being the revised meeting schedule, which I've deleted  
Cinalli, Lorenzo (DPR), 2026-08-04T17:36:57.450



1

# Public Access Workgroup Introductions

*Get To Know Your Workgroup Members!*



# Overview of the Chesapeake Bay Program

With connections to the Public Access Workgroup



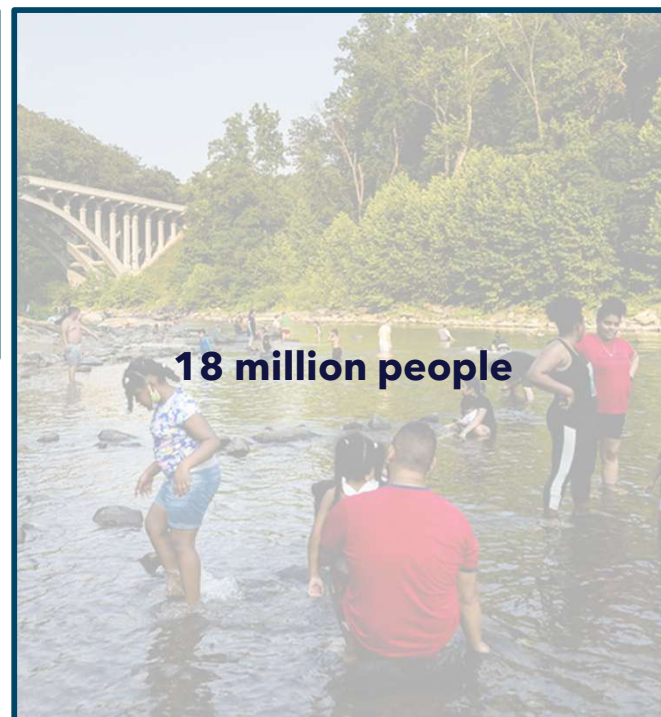
**1,451 public access site  
to waterways**



**Largest Estuary in U.S.**



**42 million acres  
58% forested**



**18 million people**



**3600 species of plants and  
animals**

# **The Fabulous Chesapeake**

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# The Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership



NY



DC



VA



MD



PA



DE



WV



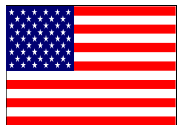
Bay Commission



**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.*



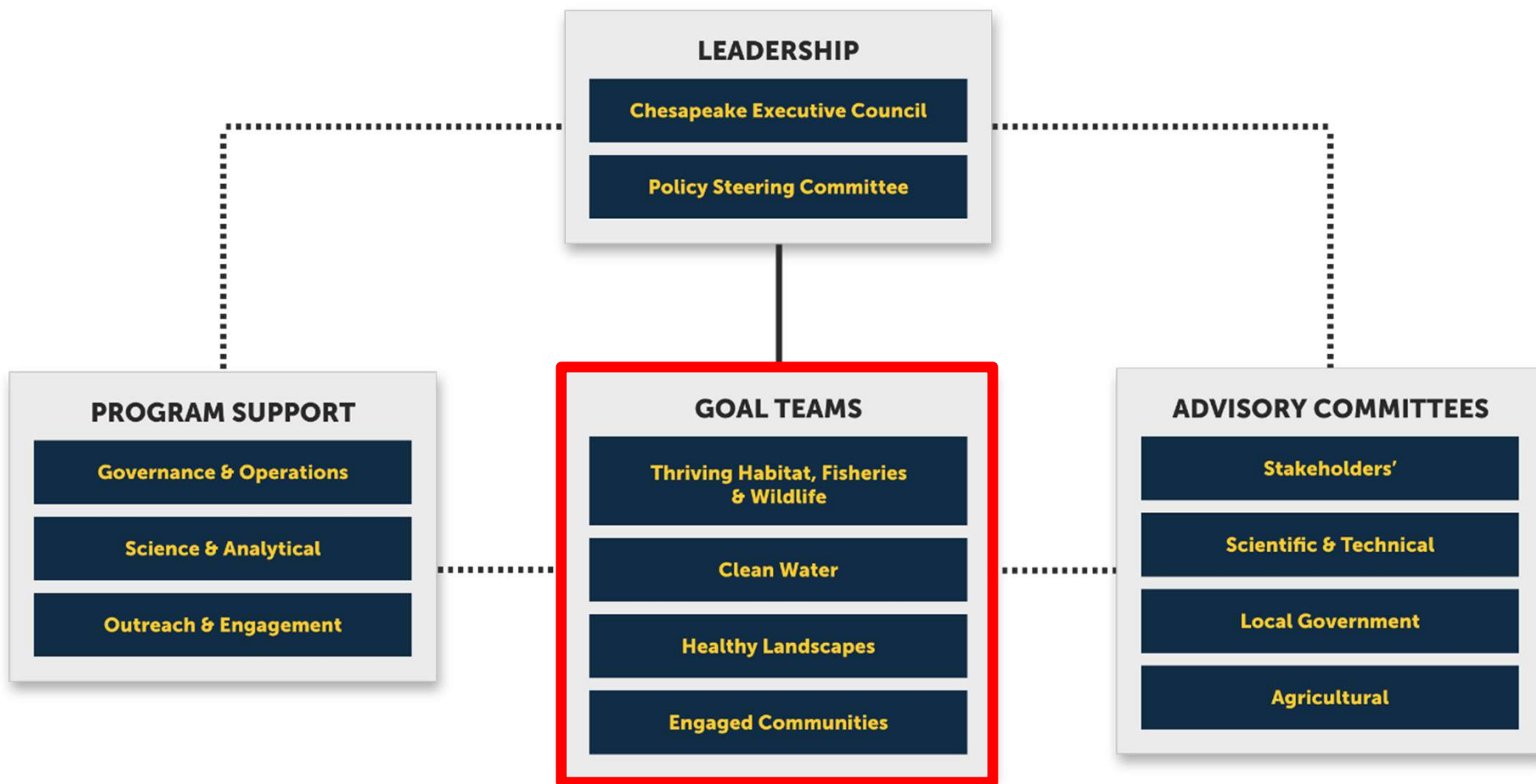


2.1

# CBP Structure

Updated 2026

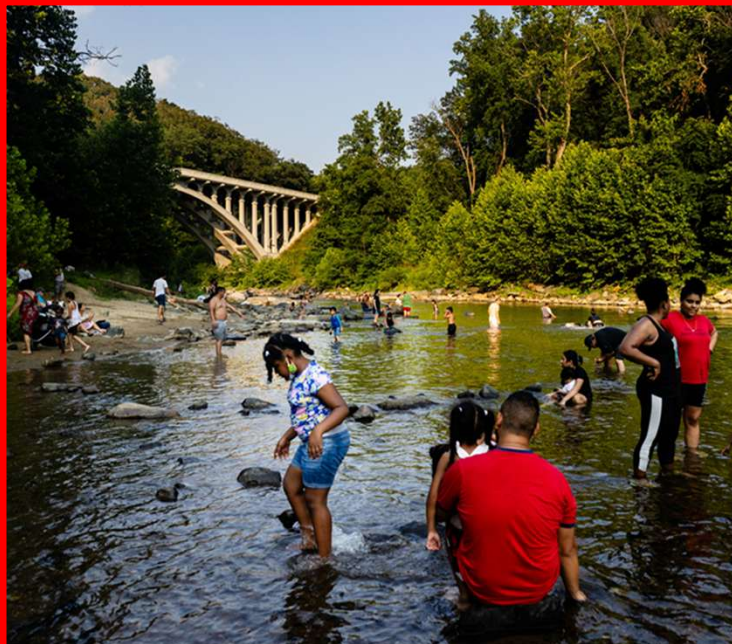




# Four Goal Teams

## 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



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## 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.

This was 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

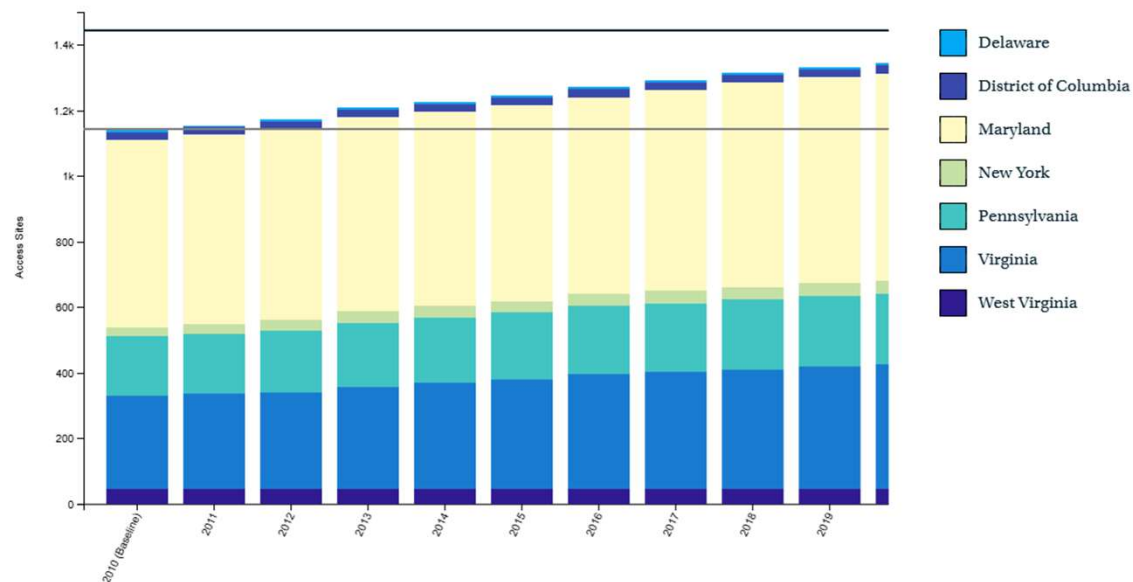




## Public Access Sites in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (Cumulative) (2010-2024) 📊

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

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



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

## Legend

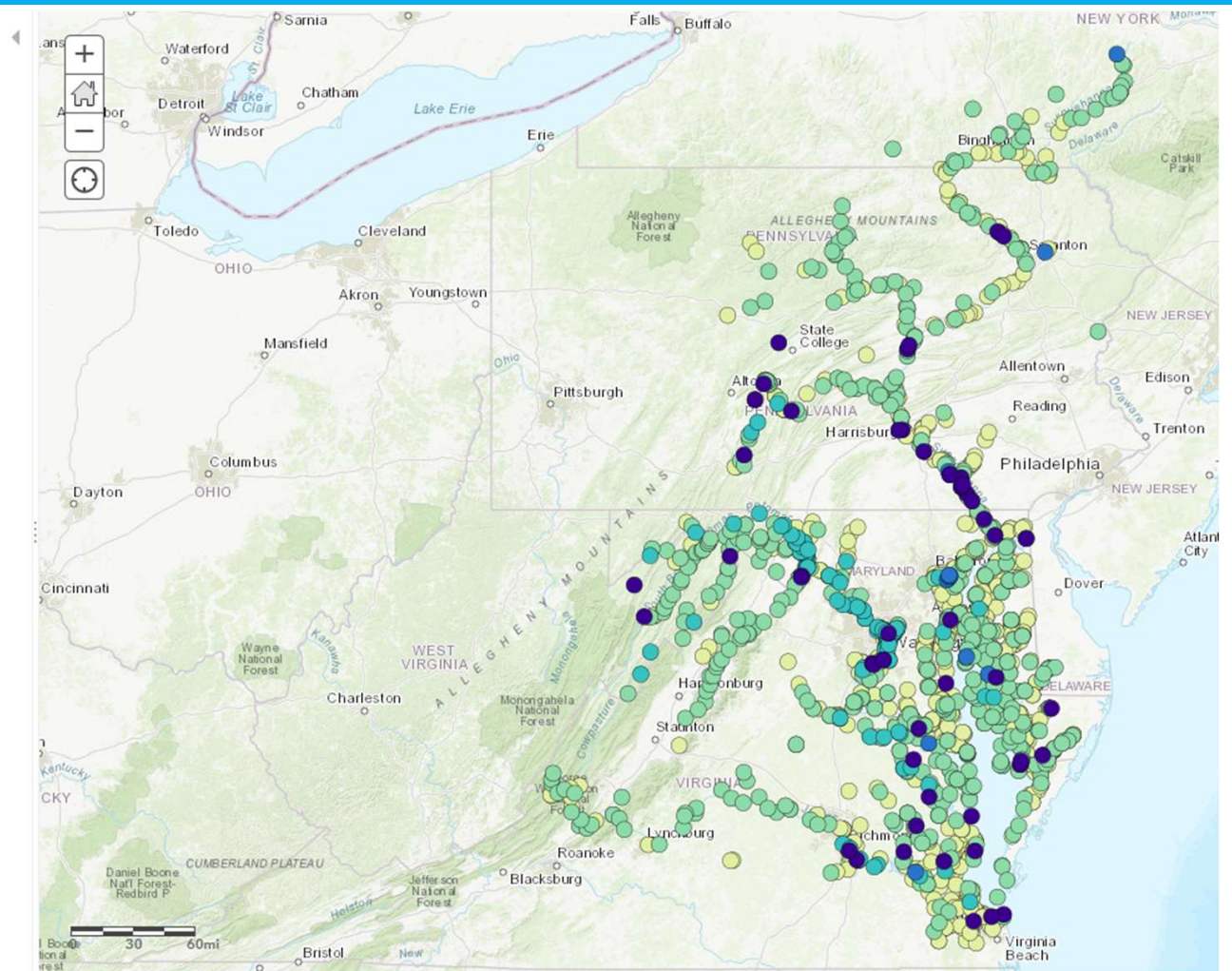
### Public Access Sites in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

#### Public Access Sites

##### Ownership Designation

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

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



# Membership and Decision-Making

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# 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
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## **Engaged Communities Goal Team Coordination Team**

|                    |                                     |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Co-Chair</b>    | <b>DC DOEE<br/>(Julie Lawson)</b>   |
| <b>Co-Chair</b>    | <b>DC DOEE<br/>(Julia Wakeling)</b> |
| <b>Coordinator</b> | <b>EPA<br/>(Katie Ayers)</b>        |
| <b>Staffer (3)</b> | <b>CRC (nonprofit)</b>              |

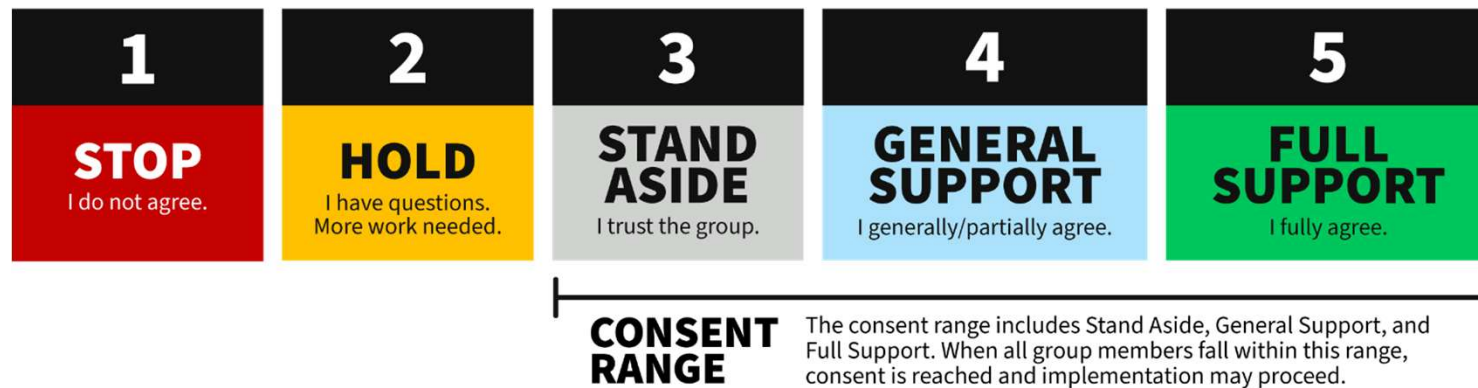
## **Public Access Workgroup Coordination Team**

|                    |                                                                   |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Co-Chair</b>    | <b>DC Parks and Rec<br/>(Lorenzo Cinalli)</b>                     |
| <b>Co-Chair</b>    | <b>Vacant</b>                                                     |
| <b>Coordinator</b> | <b>Vacant<br/>(to be appointed by Chesapeake Bay<br/>Program)</b> |
| <b>Staffer</b>     | <b>CRC (nonprofit)<br/>(Daniel Koval)</b>                         |

**Workgroup Membership (TBD)**

[illegible]

# 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.

# Maintenance and Upgrades: Tracking Guidelines

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## Previous 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, such as a fishing pier added to a site that currently has a boat ramp

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

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## Previous 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.

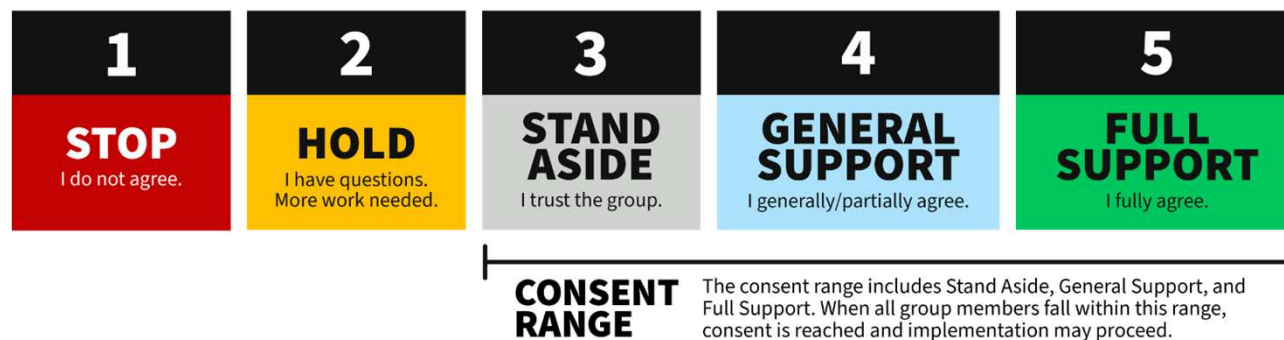
(from [2013 Public Access Plan](#))

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## Discussion and Decision

### How should new access types to an existing site be counted?

- Continue to count this as a new site
- Change how it is counted to be considered an improvement, rather than a new site (to be counted towards the Maintenance/Upgrades target instead)



## 3.1

# Maintenance and Upgrades: Possible Metrics

Dollars Spent

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

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## Defining “Upgrade” and ‘Maintenance’

- **What counts as an upgrade?**

DK1

- Should a list of approved upgrades be created?
- Should it be a case-by-case basis?

- **How is maintenance defined?**

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## Slide 27

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**DK1**

Not sure what kind of discussion to have here

Daniel Koval, 2026-08-04T16:14:39.892

# Guest Speaker:

Paul Bollinger

President and CEO of CRAB

(Chesapeake Region Accessible Boating)

# Tracking ADA/ABA Accessibility

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# Discussion: Tracking Method Proposal

- Create a list of acceptable ADA/ABA improvements to guide what is counted
  - List to be managed and updated as needed
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# Tracking Access to Greenspace

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# Tracking Proposal

- Begin with tracking acres of urban and community greenspace within the Protected Lands Dataset
  - Work on further developing public access attribution for sites to create a watershed-wide baseline of greenspace access sites, Leading to a new metric:
    - tracking where access gaps exist through 10 Minute Walk analyses
-

# DATA REQUIREMENTS

## 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**

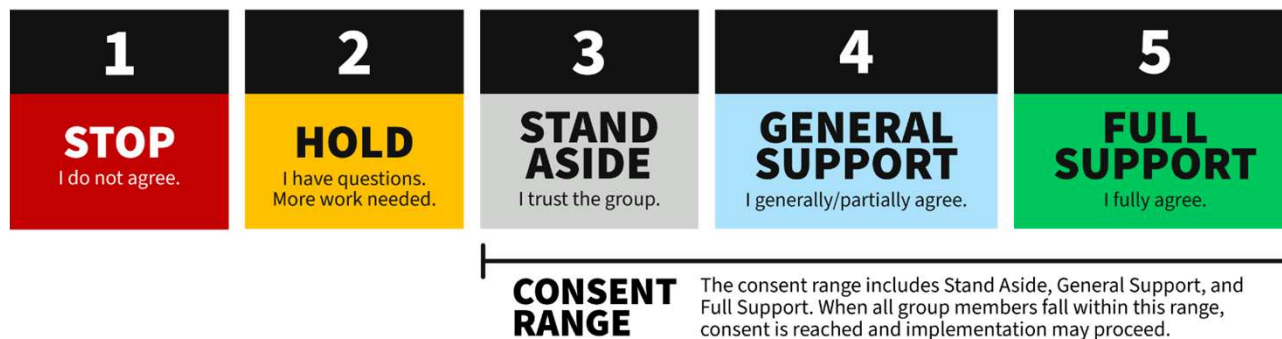
## PROTECTING IN PARK ACCESS GAPS

- 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 and Decision

- Is there consensus on beginning with tracking acres of urban and community greenspace, while working on developing a watershed-wide baseline of sites to determine where access gaps exist?



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

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# Thank you!

**Any questions?**

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Daniel Koval: [kovald@chesapeake.org](mailto:kovald@chesapeake.org)

