

# Tributary Summary

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Joint Factors &  
ITAT Retreat  
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- 1) How tidal water quality has changed over time,
- 2) How and which factors may influence water quality change over time, and
- 3) connecting observed changes in aquatic conditions to its drivers.

Potomac Tributary Report:  
A summary of trends in tidal water quality and  
associated factors, 1985-2018.

December 18, 2020

Prepared for the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) Partnership by the CBP  
Integrated Trends Analysis Team (ITAT)

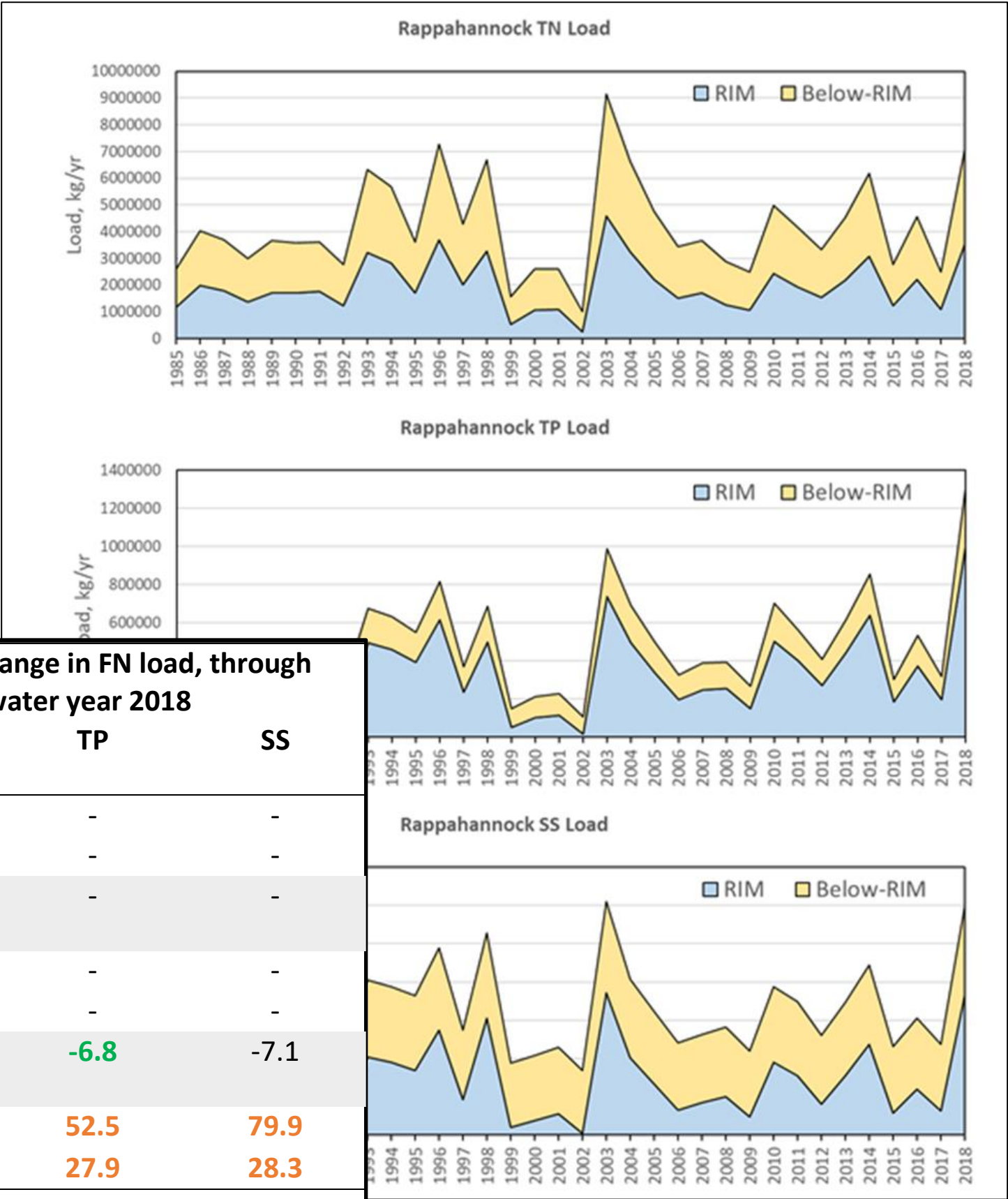
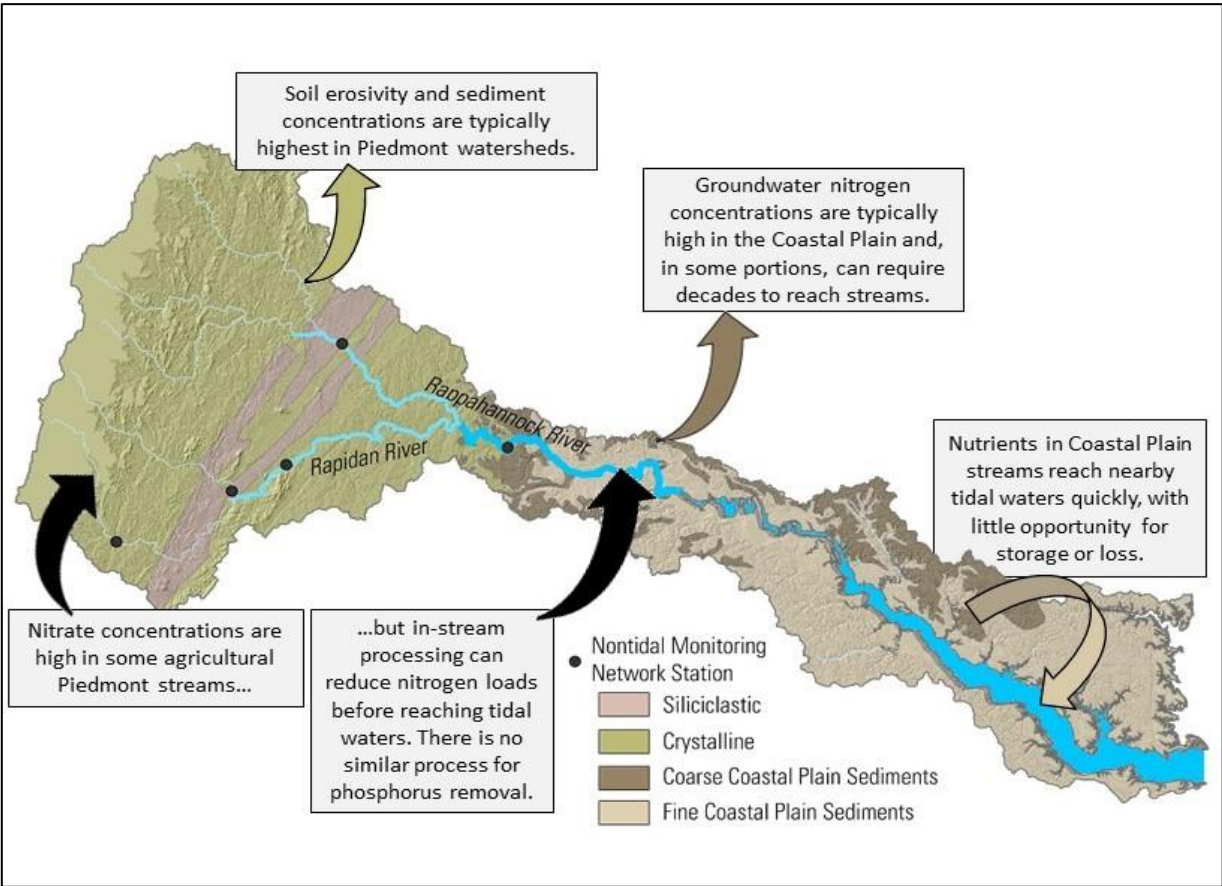


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# What are the Tributary Summaries?

A compilation of information by tributary or region on:

- Tidal water quality and trends,
- **Watershed characteristics and changes**



USGS Station Name	Trend start water year	Percent change in FN load, through water year 2018		
		TN	TP	SS
RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER AT REMINGTON, VA	1985	24.4	-	-
RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER AT REMINGTON, VA	2009	15.4	-	-
RAPIDAN RIVER NEAR RUCKERSVILLE, VA	2009	-5.1	-	-
SHENANDOAH RIVER NEAR LOCUST DALE, VA	1985	2.5	-	-
SHENANDOAH RIVER NEAR LOCUST DALE, VA	2009	3.5	-	-
SHENANDOAH RIVER NEAR CULPEPER, VA	2009	-8.9	-6.8	-7.1
01668000 RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER NEAR FREDERICKSBURG, VA	1985	-12.7	52.5	79.9
01668000 RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER NEAR FREDERICKSBURG, VA	2009	6.3	27.9	28.3



# What are the Tributary Summaries?

A compilation of information by tributary or region on:

- Tidal water quality and trends,
- Watershed characteristics and changes,
- **Landscape drivers.**

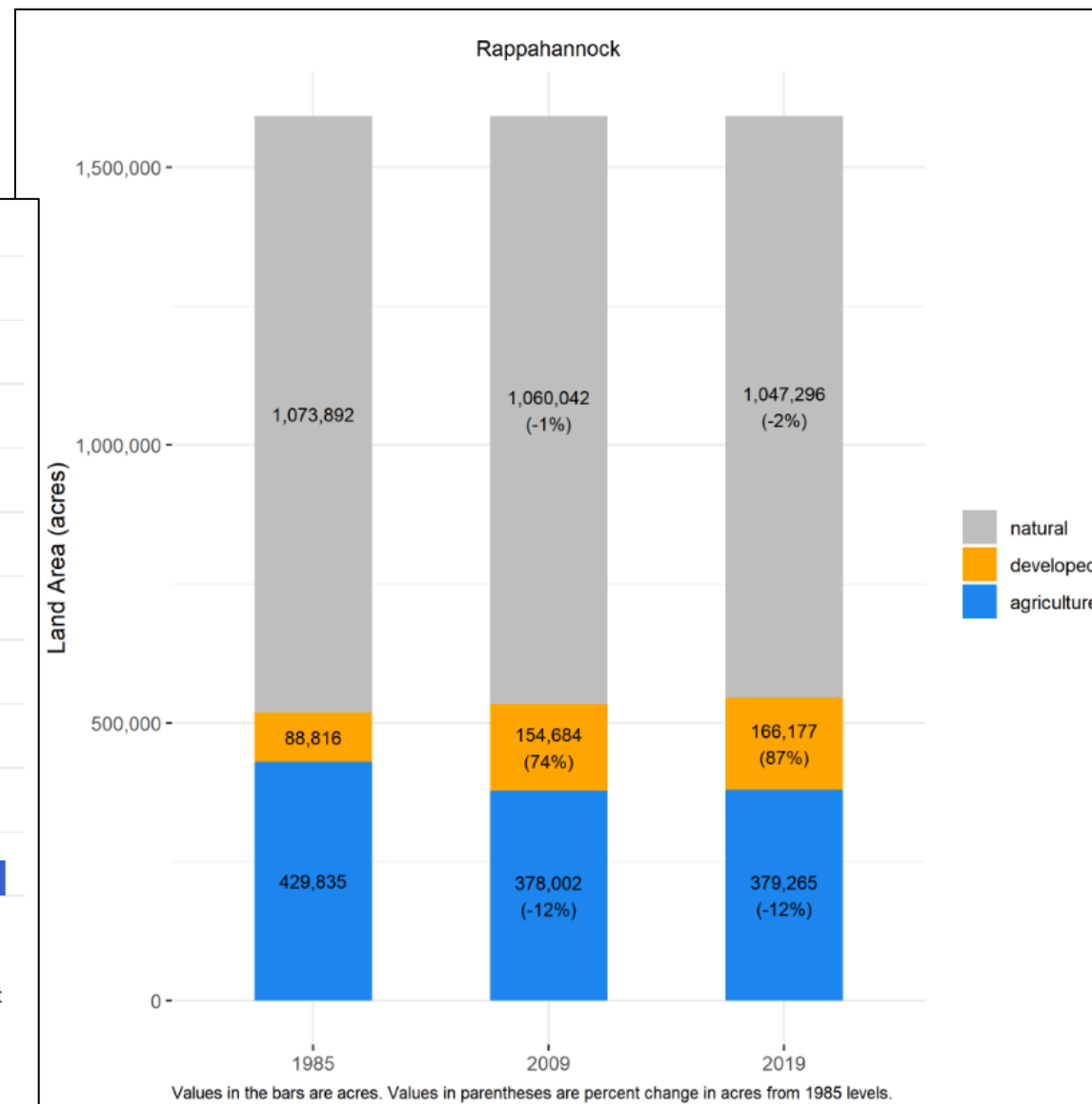
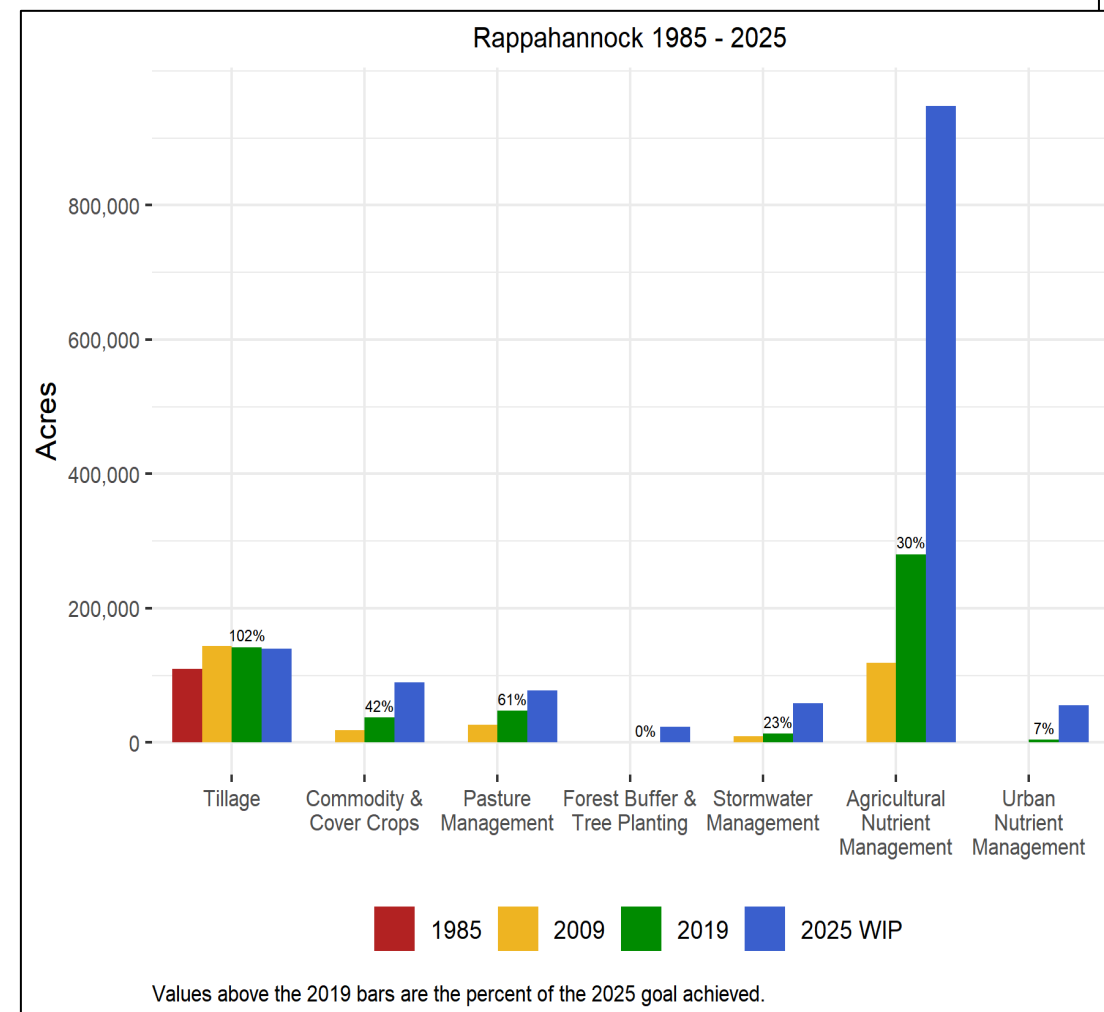
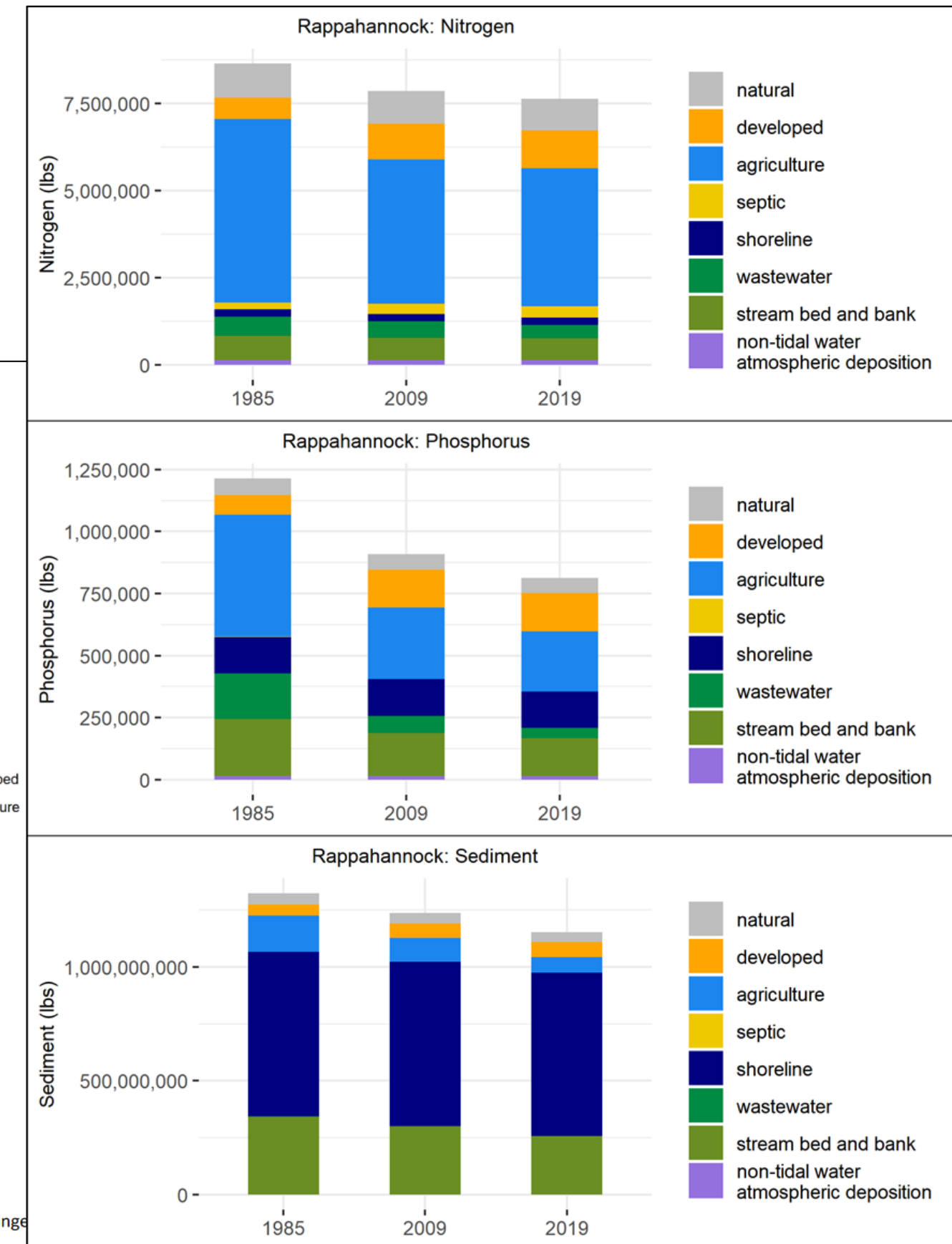


Figure 2. Distribution of land uses in the Rappahannock watershed. Percentages are the percent change from 1985 for each source sector.



# Who is the audience for the tributary summaries?

- Technical managers within jurisdiction agencies
  - Local watershed organizations
  - Federal, state, and academic researchers

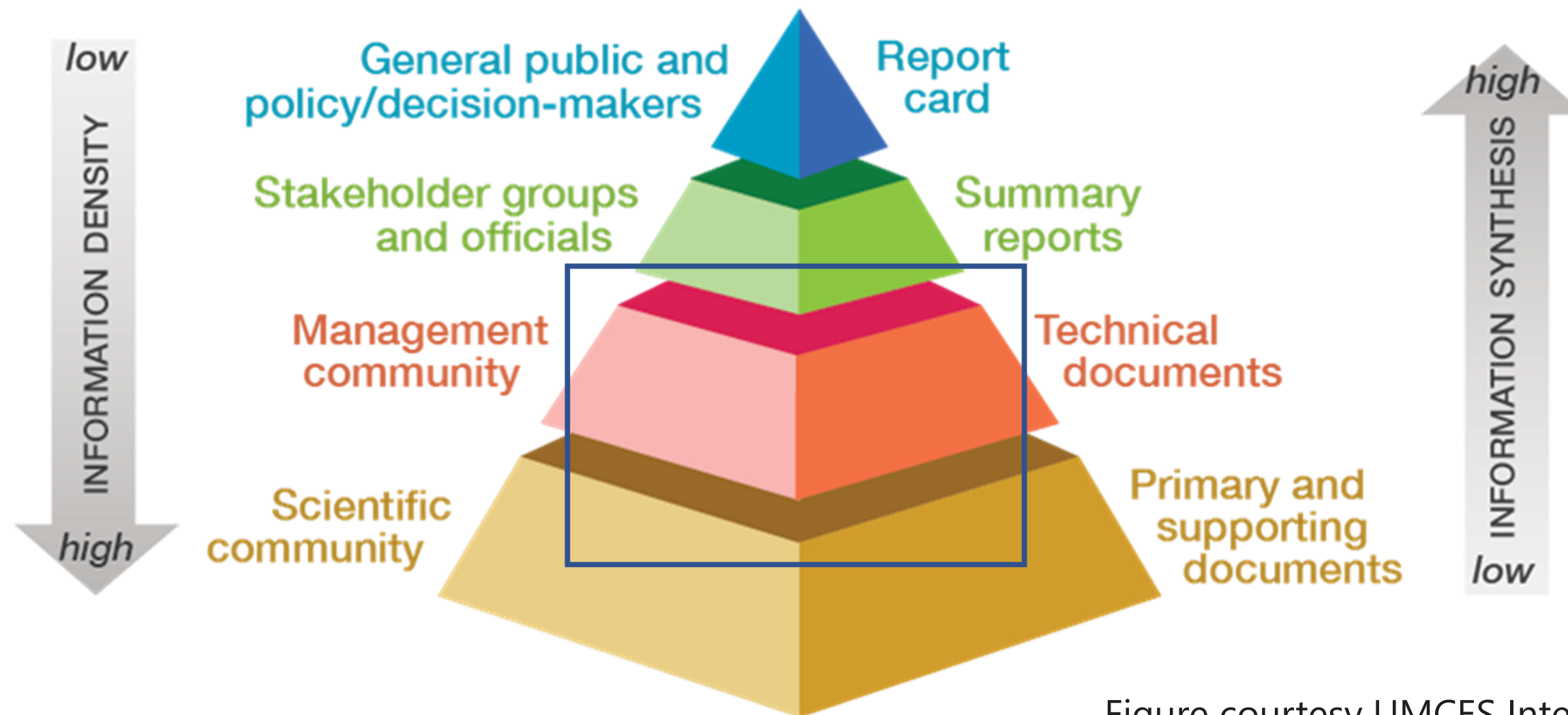
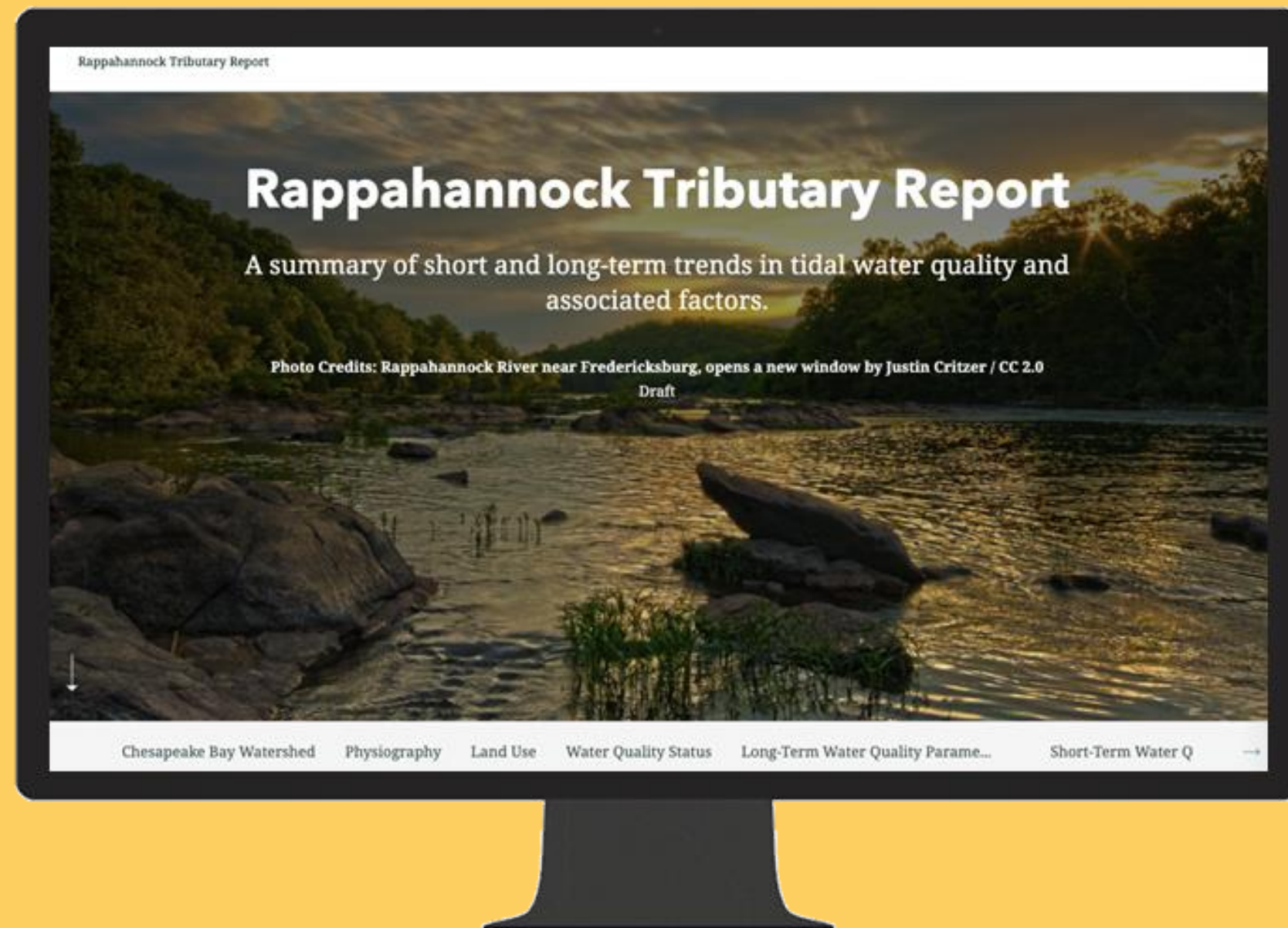


Figure courtesy UMCES Integration and Application Network, [ian.umces.edu](http://ian.umces.edu)



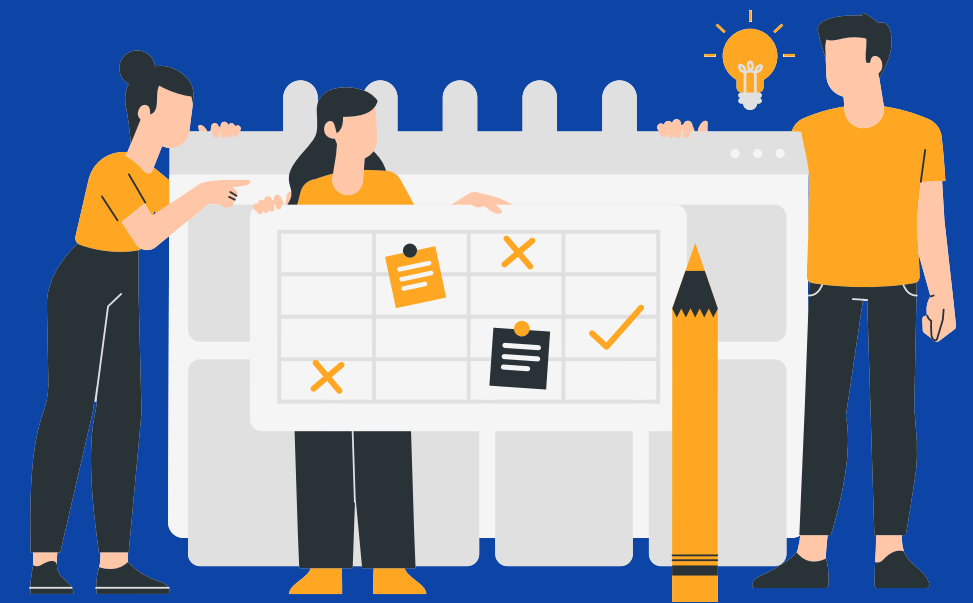
## Tributary Summary Storymap

C-StREAM Intern created a template StoryMap that can easily be replicated for the 12 tributaries as the reports are updated

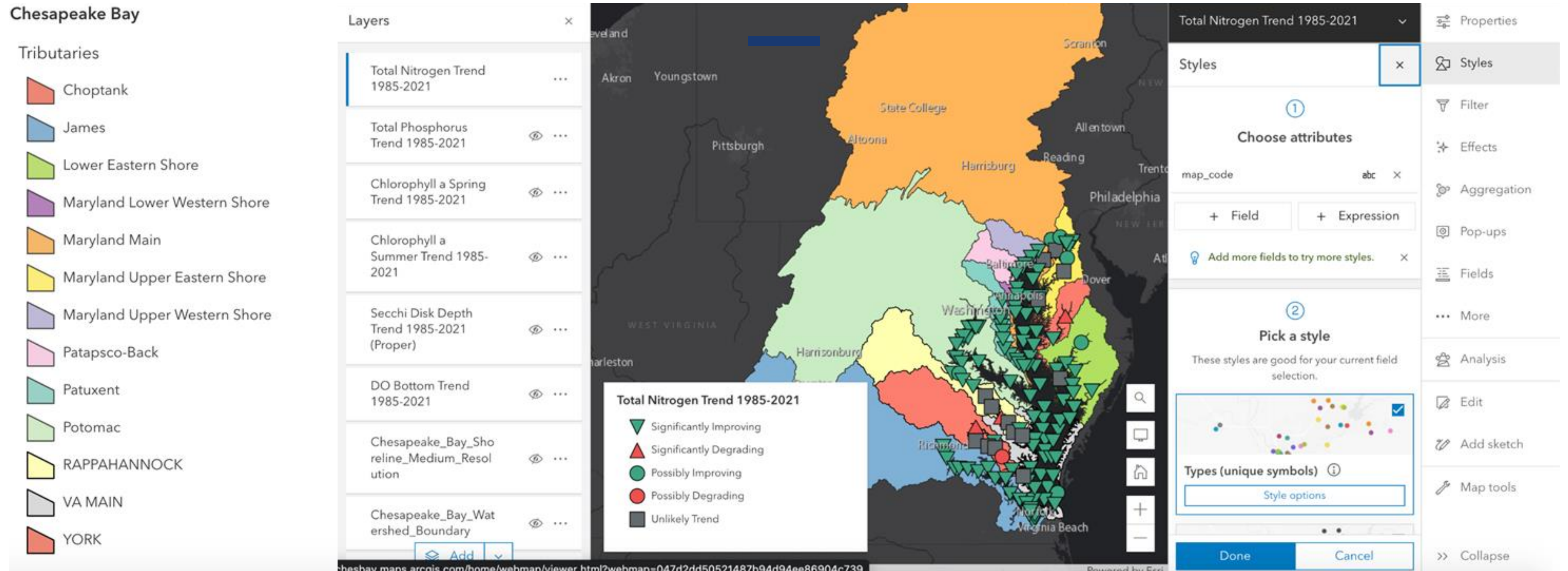




# DESIGN FOR DESIGN TOGETHER



# TEMPLATE TO CREATE DYNAMIC MAPS OF WATER QUALITY





## Total Nitrogen



Significantly Improved

= Decreasing Nitrogen Concentration  
Improving Water Quality



Significantly Degraded

= Increasing Nitrogen Concentration  
Degrading Water Quality

## Extreme Weather and Increased Precipitation

Extremes in rainfall - whether too much or too little - can have varying effects on the Bay ecosystem. During large rain events, increases in precipitation deliver more fresh water to the Bay and decreasing the Bay's salinity. Stormwater runoff delivers nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment into the Bay causing an increase in nutrient concentrations, which can feed algal blooms. During periods of rainfall or extended drought, the change in freshwater flows results in saltier water affecting habitats and aquatic species.



## For the Community

This section serves as a resource tab that includes links to work done and data collected by smaller organizations. It can offer the state of a tributary on a smaller scale and also makes it easier to update the story map. This puts into context other aspects that are impacting water quality trends that are not consistent across all the tributaries.

Friends of the Rappahannock is a non-profit, grassroots conservation organization that works to educate everyone about the Rappahannock River and advocate for policies that will protect and restore its health.

They educate on the safety of fish consumption, have programs on river stewardship, and host recreational, community-oriented, and educational events. Their vision includes a community where citizens partake in personal stewardship over river resources and local governments manage land use and runoff to protect and enhance riparian habitats, downstream waters, scenic viewsheds, and historical resources.

- **12 Storymaps**
- **Updated with  
Tributary  
Summaries**
- **Any groups we  
should share  
them with?**

