

Whole Watershed Program

Adaptation Workgroup Meeting
August 25, 2026

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Watershed and Climate Services



Whole Watershed Program

The Whole Watershed Act (SB 969 / HB 1165)

Passed April 2024

- To provide a collaborative, science-based approach to watershed restoration
- Five-year pilot program targeting five watersheds
- Partnership approach
- To accelerate restoration of the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Coastal Bays and their watersheds



The Whole Watershed Program - Goals

- Collaborative, science-based approach
- Shallow water habitat improvements
- Rapid improvement (de-listing)
- Cost-effective
- Measurable pollution reductions
- Supports local land use policies
- Local landowner interest
- Minimized loss of trees
- Reduce environmental disparities
- Foster innovation

*In direct response to the
Chesapeake Bay Program's
Comprehensive Evaluation of
System Response (CESR) Report*



*Photo Credit:
Maryland DNR Flickr*

Program Co-Benefits

- Wildlife habitat
- Buffers and wetlands
- Aquatic resources
- Carbon sequestration
- Climate change mitigation
- Local employment
- Public health
- Recreation / Public access



Photo Credit: Maryland DNR Flickr

Whole Watershed Program Funding Sources

- MD Department of Natural Resources:
 - Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund
 - Waterway Improvement Fund
- MD Department of the Environment:
 - Bay Restoration Fund
 - Clean Water Commerce Act
- MD Department of Agriculture
 - MD Agricultural Land Preservation
 - MD Agricultural Cost Share Program



** Agricultural funding is outside of the Whole Watershed Fund.
Project sponsors will apply through the existing programs.*

Whole Watershed Partnership

State Management
Team
(SMT)



Department of
Natural
Resources

Department of
Agriculture

Department of
Emergency
Management

Department of the
Environment

Critical Area
Commission

Department of
Planning

Project Sponsors:

Catoctin Land Trust

South Baltimore Gateway Partnership

Shore Rivers

MD Coastal Bays

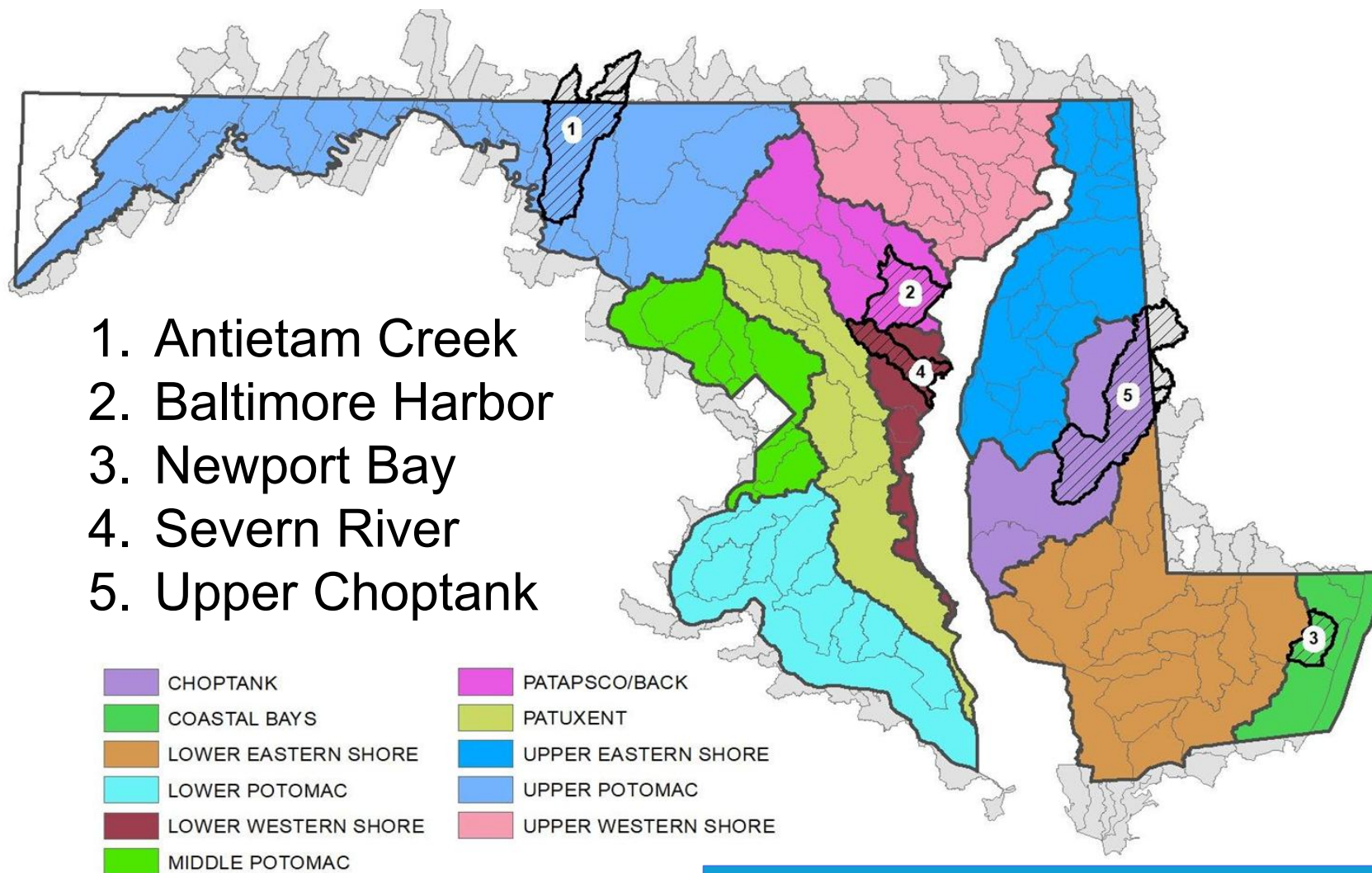
Resilience Authority of Annapolis & AACty

Local Partners

Community Members / Landowners

Whole Watershed Staff

Selected Watersheds



Selected in March 2025 from 9 applications

Selected Watersheds

Watershed	Project Sponsor	Sector	Overall Request
Antietam Creek	Catoctin Land Trust	Ag, EJ, PA	\$4M (18)
Baltimore Harbor	South Baltimore Gateway	Urban, EJ	\$56M (10)
Upper Choptank	Shore Rivers	Ag, EJ, DE	\$30M (30)
Newport Bay	MD Coastal Bays	Ag	\$17M (10)
Severn River	Resilience Authority	Suburban	\$48M (40)

- Urban, Suburban, Agricultural
- EJ = Environmental Justice communities
- Adjoining States: DE & PA

Over 100 projects
~ \$155M ~

Year 1 (July 2025 - June 2026) Projects

- Stormwater Wetlands
- Stream Restoration
- Dam Removal
- Community engagement
- Community Tree Planting
- Invasive Removal
- Fish Passage
- Oyster Reef creation
- Public access - Trails
- Agricultural practices
- Capacity / Coordination

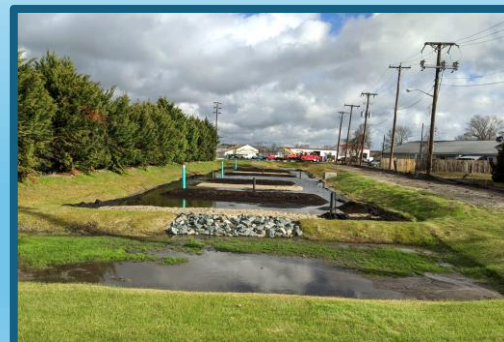


*Past Project
Examples:*

*Agricultural SW
Wetland
Shore Rivers*



*Oyster Reef
Restoration
Shore Rivers*



*Submerged
Wetland
Restoration
Coastal Bays*



Antietam Creek

Pennsylvania

Maryland

Washington County

Frederick County

Catoctin Land Trust



Projects

1. The Terrace at Northern Avenue
2. Beaver Creek Dam Removal
3. Jones Property Buffer Planting
4. Horst Property Buffer Planting
5. Crawford Property Buffer Planting
6. Volcjak Property Buffer Planting

Watershed-wide Projects

- Additional Buffers (35 AC)
- Community Tree Program
- Boat Put-In



Maryland

Whole Watershed Program



Baltimore
City

Baltimore Harbor

Baltimore
County

Projects

1. Medstar Hospital Tidal Wetland
2. Patapso Delta West Stormwater Wetland Design
3. Cherry Hill Equitable Waterfront Access ~ Design
4. Reel Rewards Invasive Fish Bounty Program
5. Westport Waterfront Park Tree Planting



Howard
County

Anne
Arundel
County

**South Baltimore
Gateway Partnership**

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles



Maryland

**Whole Watershed
Program**

Upper Choptank

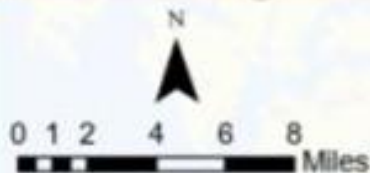
Projects

1. Poor House Run Stream Restoration
2. Camp Mardela Shoreline Restoration
3. Hannah Henry Way Stormwater Projects
4. Greensboro Pumping Station Floodplain Restoration

Watershed Wide

- Fish Passage
- Producer Led Agricultural Projects
- Envision the Choptank Watershed Coordination

ShoreRivers



Whole Watershed Program



Wicomico
County

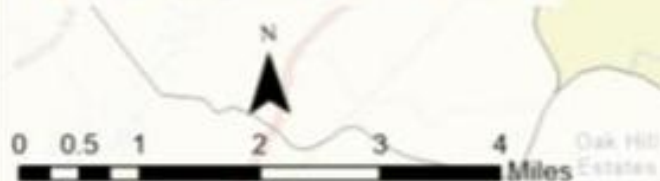
Maryland Coastal Bays Program

Projects

1. Berlin Stormwater Upgrades
2. Hudson Branch Stream Restoration
3. Horner Marsh Restoration
4. Bay Creek Marsh Restoration

Watershed-wide Projects

- Biological Monitoring
- Community Engagement



Newport Bay



Severn River

Anne Arundel County

The Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County

Projects

1. Key Point Giant Stormwater Management
2. Wardour Stormwater Management
3. Merryman Stream Restoration
4. Brewer Hill Cemetery Step Pool Conveyance
5. Rideout Creek Gully Prevention
6. Truxton Cove Submerged Wetland

Watershed-wide Projects

- Oyster reef construction
- Watershed Planning & Design



Whole Watershed Program