



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Public Access

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Public Access Workgroup Chair*

Through the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, the Chesapeake Bay Program has committed to...



Goal: Expand public access to the Bay and its tributaries through existing and new local, state and federal parks, refuges, reserves, trails and partner sites.

Outcome: By 2025, add 300 new public access sites, with a strong emphasis on providing opportunities for boating, swimming and fishing, where feasible. (2010 baseline year)



What We Want



To have the Management Board support our efforts in:

- Funding for planning, development, and maintenance
- Increasing not just the number but also the quality of new public access sites
- Considering an additional outcome to address enhancing the diversity and number of new users

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Setting the Stage:

What are our assumptions?

Background



Increased public access to the Bay and its tributaries increases public health and quality of life, therefore inspiring people to care for:

- Critical landscapes
- Heritage and culture
- Recreation
- Local economies
- Long-term conservation



Logic Behind Our Outcome

Following the Decision Framework:

**Factors
Influencing
Success**

**Current
Efforts
and Gaps**

**Management
Approaches**

Factors Influencing Public Access

- High quality, sustainable sites
- Addressing Sea Level Rise and Climate Change Issues
- Funding for development, operation, and maintenance

Factors Influencing Public Access

- Inadequate access on existing public lands
- Accessibility for a diverse watershed community, including those with disabilities
- User conflicts

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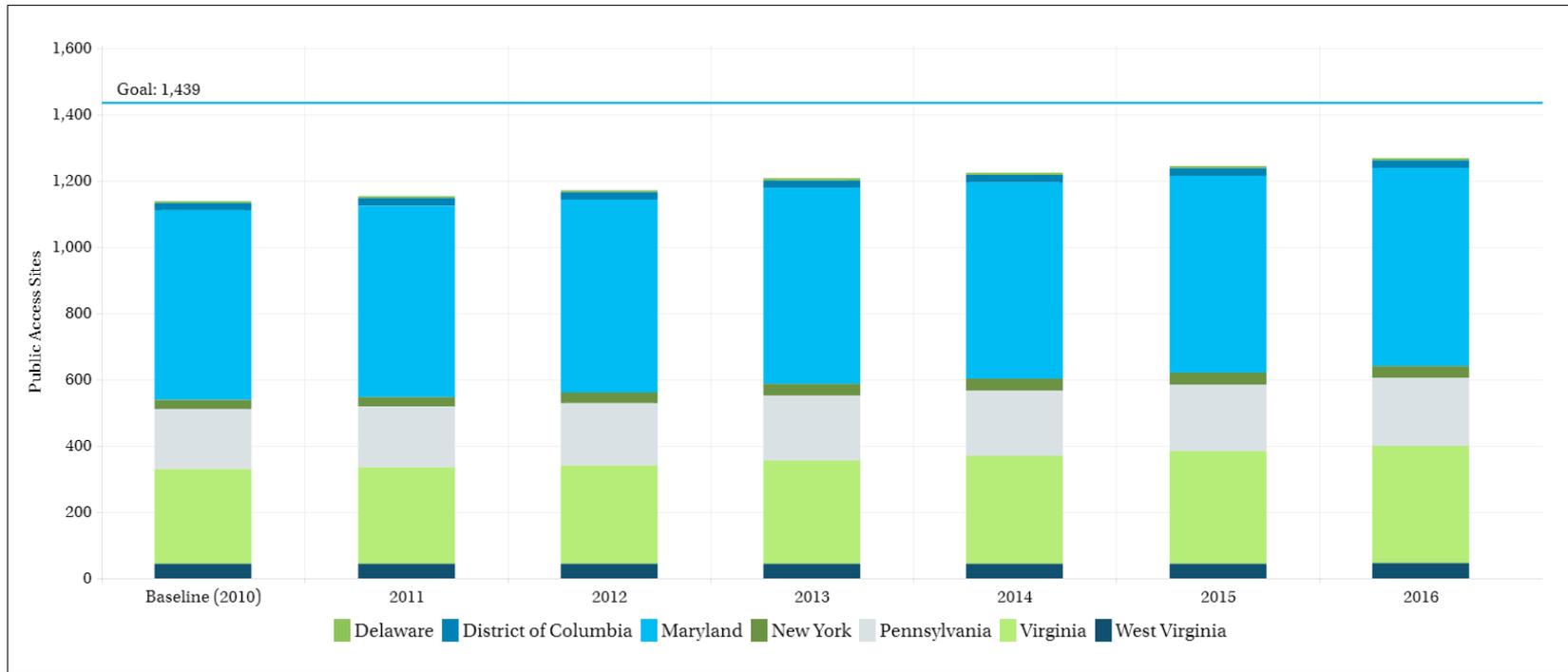
Progress:

Are we doing what we said we would do?



What is our progress and are we on track?

Public Access on [Chesapeake Progress](#)





Analysis

Which actions were most critical for progress thus far? Why?

- Developing partnerships
- Developing quality access sites on existing, publicly owned lands

Analysis

Which management actions will be the most critical to your progress in the future? Why?

- Development of high quality sites and appropriate management and maintenance of all sites so there is no net loss.
- Funding for staff to provide technical assistance, planning, development, and management of sites
- Increasing number and diversity of new users

Analysis

Based on this analysis, what management approaches will be carried forward?

- Continue to look at enhanced access on existing sites
- Continue to leverage financial assistance programs
- Continue to request and support funding for agency staff
- Continue to build partnerships for development of quality access sites

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Challenges:

Are our actions having the expected effect?



Challenges

Did any factor, gap, or management approach present a challenge?

- Pre-planning to ensure projects could be built as envisioned once funded.

Did an unforeseen factor influence your ability to move forward with an approach?

- Drops in agency funding at all government levels to support access programs.

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Adaptations:

How should we adapt?



**Based on what we've
learned, we plan to...**

- Address quality over quantity in development of new public access opportunities. Doing so could increase:
 - Citizen Stewardship Action
 - Diversity
 - Environmental Literacy
- Increase diversity and number of users through programming with partners.
 - E.g. [Kids in Kayaks](#), [Canoe Mobile](#), Youth Conservation Corps
 - Enhance opportunities for environmental education

**Based on what we've
learned, we plan to...**

- Enhance public awareness of access opportunities through resources such as:
 - [Paddle the Potomac](#)
 - [Find Your Chesapeake](#)
 - [Water Trail Networks](#)

Agreement Goals and Outcomes



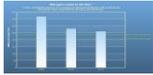
Sustainable Fisheries

- Blue Crab Abundance
- Blue Crab Management
- Oyster
- Forage Fish
- Fish Habitat



Vital Habitats Goal

- Wetlands
- Black Duck
- Stream Health
- Brook Trout
- Fish Passage
- Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)
- Forest Buffer
- Tree Canopy



Water Quality Goal

- 2017 Watershed Implementation Plans (WIP)
- 2025 WIP
- Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring



Toxic Contaminants Goal

- Toxic Contaminants Research
- Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention



Healthy Watersheds Goal

- Healthy Waters



Stewardship Goal

- Citizen Stewardship
- Local Leadership
- Diversity



Land Conservation Goal

- Protected Lands
- Land Use Methods and Metrics Development
- Land Use Options Evaluation



Public Access Goal

- Public Access Site Development



Environmental Literacy Goal

- Student
- Sustainable Schools
- Environmental Literacy Planning



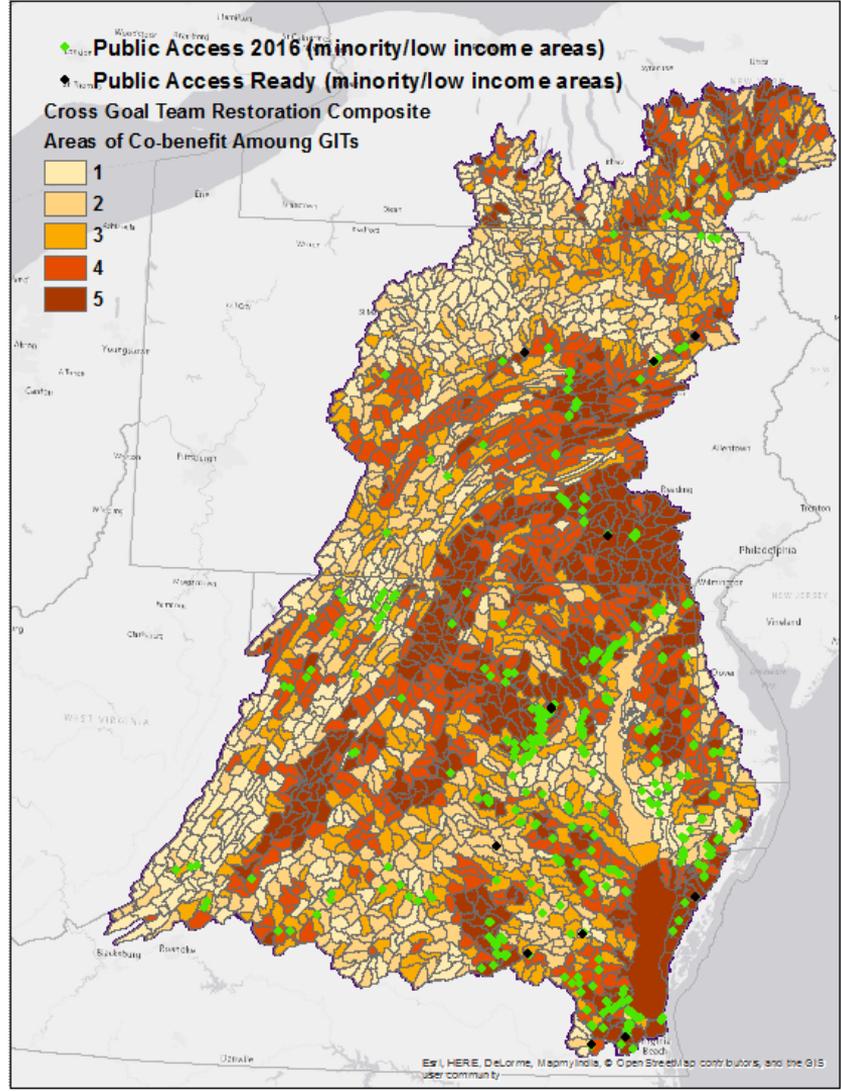
Climate Resiliency Goal

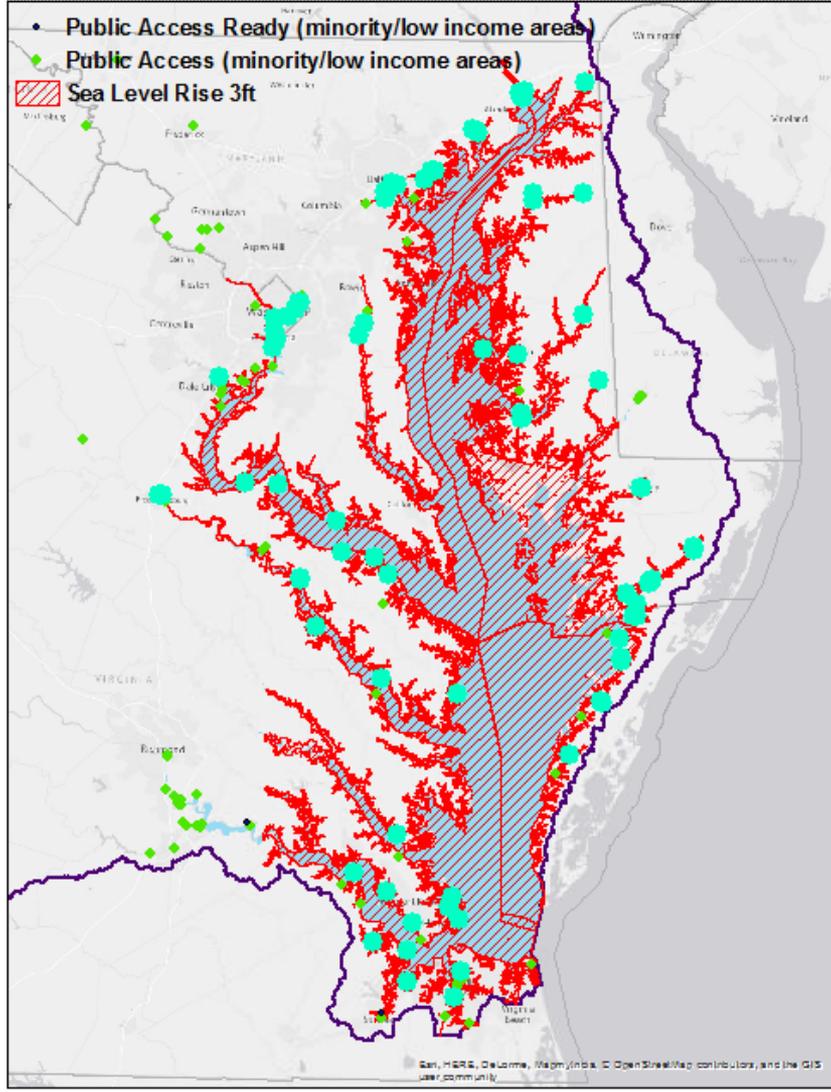
- Monitoring and Assessment
- Adaptation Outcome

◆ **Public Access 2016 (minority/low income areas)**

◆ **Public Access Ready (minority/low income areas)**

**Cross Goal Team Restoration Composite
Areas of Co-benefit Among GITs**







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Discussion