

**Bay Barometer**  
**Health and Restoration in the**  
**Chesapeake Bay Watershed (2017 - 18)**



- 
- **What is it?**

## What is it?



- Chesapeake Bay Program partners
- Resource managers
- Interested public

# What is it?

**CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM 2016-2017**  
**BAY BAROMETER**  
HEALTH & RESTORATION IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED

The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in the United States. Its watershed spans parts of Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. It is home to countless plants, animals, habitats and people.

**HOW'S THE BAY DOING?**

**CRITTERS ARE THRIVING.**

- 455 MILLION**  
BLUE CRABS LIVED HERE IN 2017
- 722 ACRES**  
OF OYSTER REEFS HAVE BEEN RESTORED  
IN MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA RIVERS
- 2,000 BREEDING PAIRS**  
OF BALD EAGLES NESTED HERE IN 2016
- 97,433 ACRES**  
OF UNDERWATER GRASSES GREW HERE IN 2016

**POLLUTION IS STILL A PROBLEM.**

- 18.1 MILLION**  
PEOPLE LIVE HERE, AND MORE PEOPLE  
CREATE MORE POLLUTION
- 60 PERCENT**  
OF THE BAY DOES NOT MEET OUR  
STANDARDS FOR CLEAN WATER
- 80 PERCENT**  
OF THE BAY IS CONTAMINATED BY TOXICS

**YOU CAN HELP THE CHESAPEAKE BAY**

Our everyday actions have a big impact on the environment around us. By making simple changes in the way you use water and energy and pick up after yourself, you can help protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay.

- PICK UP TRASH**  
PLASTIC BAGS, BEVERAGE BOTTLES AND OTHER LITTER  
ADD TOXICS TO THE WATER AND MAKE ANIMALS SICK
- CONSERVE WATER**  
TAKE SHORTER SHOWERS AND TURN OFF THE WATER  
WHILE YOU BRUSH YOUR TEETH
- SCOOP THAT POOP**  
PET WASTE CARRIES BACTERIA, VIRUSES AND PARASITES  
THAT MAKE PEOPLE AND ANIMALS SICK. PICK UP AFTER  
YOUR PET TO KEEP PET WASTE OUT OF RIVERS AND STREAMS
- PLANT A TREE**  
TREES PROTECT CLEAN AIR AND WATER  
AND PROVIDE HABITAT TO WILDLIFE
- MULCH YOUR LEAVES**  
BAD, MULCH OR COMPOST FALLEN LEAVES,  
WHICH CAN ENRICH THE SOIL IN YOUR GARDEN
- KEEP PIPES CLEAR**  
AVOID POURING COOKING OIL OR KITCHEN GREASE DOWN THE DRAIN  
TO MAKE SURE WASTEWATER CAN EXIT YOUR HOME'S PLUMBING

LEARN HOW YOU CAN HELP!  
VISIT [WWW.CHEESAPEAKEBAY.NET/ACTION](http://WWW.CHEESAPEAKEBAY.NET/ACTION)

 Chesapeake Bay Program  
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

- Students
- Teachers

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- **What's new in 2018?**



**Climate  
Adaptation**

**Climate  
Monitoring and  
Assessment**

**What does this year's**

- **Barometer say?**

## Improving Outcomes Abundant Life



### Oysters

Eight tributaries are in varying levels of oyster restoration, and two are considered complete. Two others have been preliminarily chosen.



### Fish Passage

124 percent of our goal to open an additional 1,000 stream miles for fish passage.



### Underwater Grasses

104,843 acres of underwater grasses were observed in the Bay in 2017.



# Improving Outcomes

## Clean Water



### Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring

Over 42 percent of the Bay and its tidal tributaries are estimated to meet water quality standards.



### 2017 and 2025 Watershed Implementation Plans

Practices are in place to achieve 40 percent of nitrogen reductions, 87 percent of phosphorus reductions and 67 percent of sediment reductions.

## Improving Outcomes Protected Lands



### Protected Lands

Over 1.3 million acres of land is protected throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed, marking a 68 percent achievement of the outcome goal.

## Improving Outcomes Engaged Communities



### Public Access

153 new public access sites are now open throughout the watershed, marking a 51 percent achievement of the outcome goal.



### Diversity

The Chesapeake Bay Program increased its diversity target in 2018; there is now a 20 percent achievement of the partnership's target to increase the percentage of people of color in its leadership to 15 percent by 2025.

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## What needs improvement?



### Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention

Eighty-four percent of the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries were partially or fully impaired by toxic contaminants in 2016.



### Forest Buffers

In 2017, about 56 miles of forest buffers were planted. This marks a six percent achievement of our annual target.

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- **Public Release Plan**

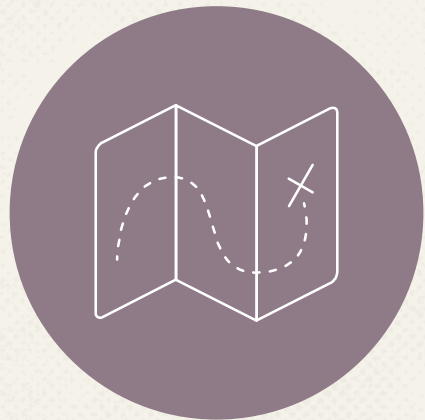
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## Public Release Plan

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- Media advisory and release: January 8, 2018
- Blog post and social media
- State-specific fact sheets
- Printed copies mailed or otherwise distributed to:
  - Management Board
  - GIT and Advisory Committee Chairs
  - Coordinators and Staffers
  - Communications Workgroup
  - Education Workgroup
  - Sustainable Schools

**Where are we in the  
• process?**



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- **Review**

*Subject matter experts*

*Management Board*

*Communications Workgroup*



THANKS!

*Any questions?*

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