



Landscape Conservation in the Chesapeake Watershed

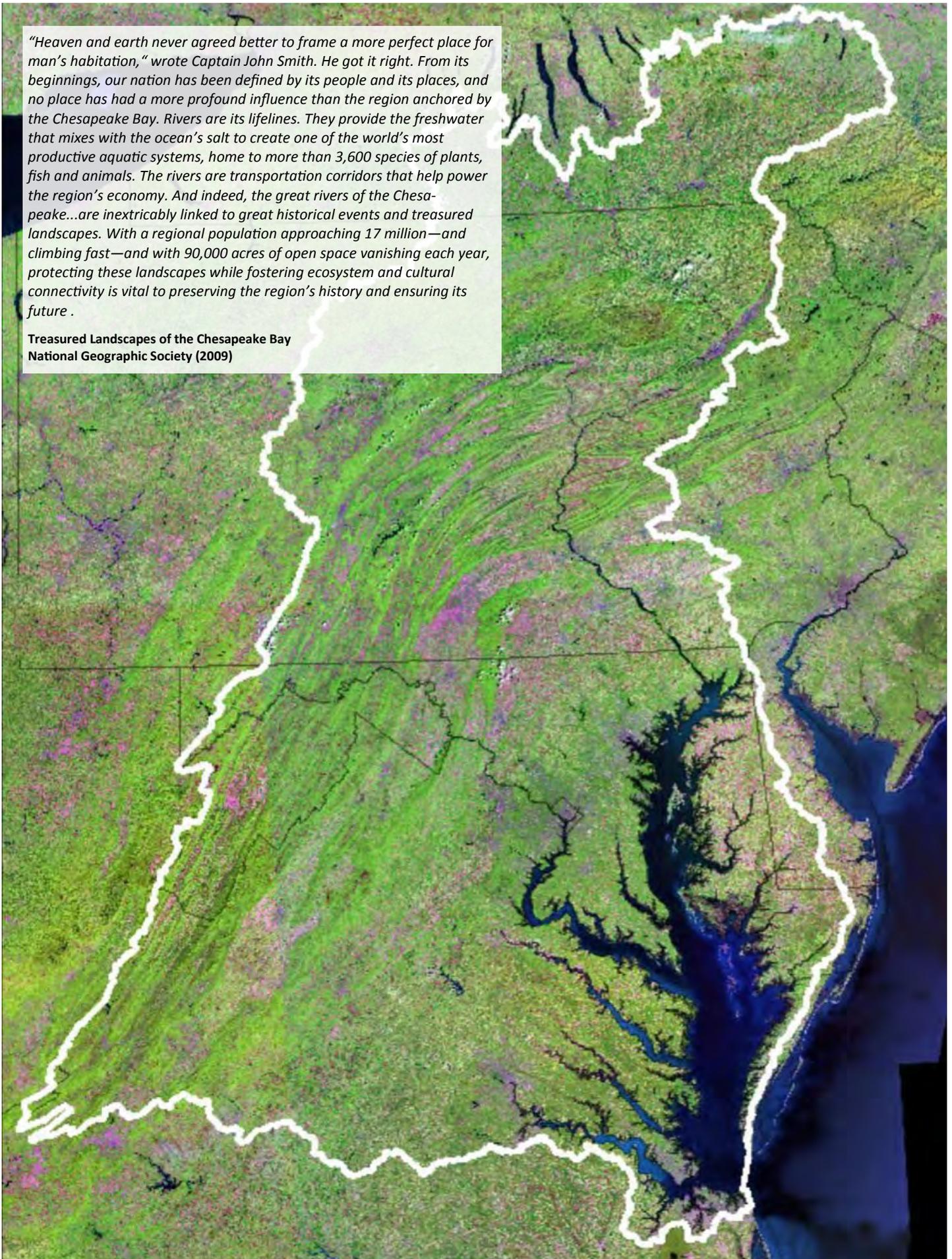
Building the Foundation for Success

A Report Summarizing the
Large Landscape Conservation Workshop
August 16-17, 2012

National Conservation Training Center
Shepherdstown, West Virginia

“Heaven and earth never agreed better to frame a more perfect place for man’s habitation,” wrote Captain John Smith. He got it right. From its beginnings, our nation has been defined by its people and its places, and no place has had a more profound influence than the region anchored by the Chesapeake Bay. Rivers are its lifelines. They provide the freshwater that mixes with the ocean’s salt to create one of the world’s most productive aquatic systems, home to more than 3,600 species of plants, fish and animals. The rivers are transportation corridors that help power the region’s economy. And indeed, the great rivers of the Chesapeake...are inextricably linked to great historical events and treasured landscapes. With a regional population approaching 17 million—and climbing fast—and with 90,000 acres of open space vanishing each year, protecting these landscapes while fostering ecosystem and cultural connectivity is vital to preserving the region’s history and ensuring its future .

**Treasured Landscapes of the Chesapeake Bay
National Geographic Society (2009)**





Hikers at Old Rag in Shenandoah National Park.

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Lands of the Chesapeake Watershed

“Few words in the lexicon of American geography paint as many pictures as ‘Chesapeake.’ Grand Canyon, Big Sur and Everglades all evoke certain images, but in general they are limited to their spectacular beauty. The pictures painted by Chesapeake include not just images of the Bay’s many waters, but of the great expanse of surrounding lands and the rich tapestry of history, traditions and cultures contained therein.”

Conserving Chesapeake Landscapes—Protecting Our Investments, Securing Future Progress. Chesapeake Bay Commission and Chesapeake Conservancy. December 2010.

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Introduction

The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Large Landscape Conservation Workshop convened at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia on August 16-17, 2012. Colleagues representing over 30 organizations and agencies shared rapid, six-minute presentations highlighting on-going collaborative efforts, discussed the characteristics of large landscape conservation, explored how to focus on particular landscapes, and identified principles and some immediate actions the group and individual organizations can advance to foster collaboration. This report summarizes the discussions.

This was not the first time many of these partners assembled to deliberate together. In 2009, at the Annapolis Maritime Museum, a one-day workshop of partners produced a series of specific recommendations for furthering land conservation and public access in the watershed. A year later, conservation partners gathered at North Point State Park near Baltimore to begin work on carrying out specific actions stemming from the 2009 gathering. In between, and since then, various action teams and partnerships have met regularly to advance a range of collaborative efforts.

This workshop continued the process of focusing and advancing large landscape conservation efforts in the Chesapeake watershed in a strategic and collaborative way. Specifically, the partners' objectives were to:

- * Discuss current developments in tools, strategies, and achievements in land conservation;
- * Reflect on the value of collaboration to achieve mutual conservation goals as resources and funding become more limited;
- * Consider current high-level focus areas (large geographies) for conservation in the Chesapeake watershed;

- * Develop the basis for a rationale for large landscape conservation associated with those focus areas;
- * Identify next steps for further development of a large landscape conservation initiative in the Chesapeake.

Aside from 15 very fast-paced case study presentations, the workshop was dedicated to working conversations among the group, facilitated by Bill Potapchuk, President of the Community Building Institute, based in Arlington, Virginia. The session was sponsored by the National Park Service and the Chesapeake Conservancy and designed in collaboration with a planning team of several partners.

This report begins with some brief historical context on large landscape conservation in the region. It then outlines the six principle themes of discussion around which participants based many of their thoughts. Several next steps are outlined, as well. Interspersed throughout are various thoughts offered by a number of attendees. Finally, the appendices include summaries of each of the 15 case studies, the workshop agenda, and a list of participants.

This document attempts to capture the essence of the participants' thinking and conclusions, holding true to the consensus views of the group. That said, it is difficult for any written document to capture the spirit of an in-person gathering. And, by all accounts, this session had a spirit to it – one embracing collaboration, recognizing shared interests, and valuing the opportunity to share expertise and strategize among colleagues. There was clearly broad support among participants for landscape scale perspectives. It was apparent to all that collaboration on a landscape scale provides new opportunities to realize goals that individual organizations would have more difficulty achieving on their own.



Historic, National, and Regional Perspectives: *Context for Landscape Conservation in the Chesapeake Region*

Landscape scale conservation in the United States dates to the 19th century, spawned in many cases by growing concerns about a developing nation losing some of its great scenic and natural treasures – and the values found in those wild lands. John Muir’s efforts to protect Yosemite Valley, the creation of Yellowstone National Park, and the establishment of the Adirondack Forest Preserve, and, soon after, the Adirondack Park, each stem from this movement.

But the 19th century also gave birth to appreciating cultural and historical values in the landscape. In 1832, the artist George Catlin wrote of concern over westward development destroying American Indian culture, calling for “some great protecting policy of government ... in a magnificent park ... a nation’s park, containing man and beast, in all the wild and freshness of their nature’s beauty!”¹ The historic preservation movement is traced to 1860 with the founding of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association to protect George Washington’s home, an effort that expanded over time to address the landscape visible from the site.

The role of landscape conservation in providing opportunities for people to be outdoors, to enjoy nature and to appreciate history comes from these same efforts. When Congress established Yellowstone it was “as a public park or pleasuring-ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people.”²

From the 19th century, through the expansion of national parks, forests and refuges in the early 20th century, to the environmental movement of the 1960s and 1970s and the protection of wilderness, to the growth of heritage areas in the last several decades, landscape conservation has continued to evolve carrying these trends forward. It has also been influenced by ever increasing understanding of ecological values and their relation to our use of the land. Today’s use of geographic information systems for planning landscape conservation is traceable in part to Ian McHarg’s advocacy of planning and designing with nature in mind during the 1970s.

As the concept of large landscape conservation has evolved there is now widespread recognition of the multiplicity of environmental, cultural, economic and other values landscapes hold. Landscape stakeholders represent a much greater diversity of interests, underpinned by the realization that landscapes connect people and communities.

Today, a growing number of landscape scale initiatives can be found throughout the United States, such as the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem Initiative, covering 16,000 square miles in Montana and Alberta Province. The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy characterizes large landscape initiatives as encompassing three key aspects. They are: (1) multi-jurisdictional, with the issues being addressed cutting across political and jurisdictional boundaries; (2) multi-purpose, addressing a mix of related issues, including but not limited to environment, economy, and community; and (3) multi-stakeholder, including public, private, and nongovernmental actors.³



“SAGAMORE”
ALFRED G. VANDERBILT’S ADIRONDACK CAMP

The origins of landscape conservation can be traced to the 19th century. Efforts to protect Mount Vernon in 1860 (top), establish Yellowstone National Park in 1872 (middle), and create the Adirondack Park in 1892 (bottom) recognized the connection between people and landscape and influenced conservation for decades to come.

The Chesapeake region, encompassing the Bay, its rivers, and their watersheds, has its own long-standing history of innovation and commitment towards conserving landscapes that contribute to environmental health, economic well-being and the quality of life for millions of people. Some of this history flows with broader trends in conservation occurring nationally. For example, concern about the massive deforestation of eastern forests in the late 19th century precipitated the forestry movement in the early 20th century. This led to the establishment of extensive national forests in many eastern states, among them the Chesapeake watershed states of Virginia, West Virginia and Pennsylvania. Similarly, in the late 20th century, the growth of local and regional land trusts in the Chesapeake watershed mirrors explosive growth of land trusts nationwide.

In some cases, particular nationally significant resources within the Chesapeake watershed have rallied citizens and conservationists to organize for protection, such as Mount Vernon in the 1860s. In the 1950s and 1960s, Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas was a vocal advocate for establishing what would become the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park – a significant landscape conservation corridor along the Potomac River. Decades later, dedicated citizens successfully advocated for designation of Fort Monroe National Monument, a much smaller, but significant, historical landscape of Chesapeake Bay beachfront. Both of these landscapes are rich in natural, historic, and cultural resources, as well as tourism potential, and these multiple values allow citizens, organizations, and agencies to unite in an effort to conserve them.

At the same time, the Chesapeake region has been an innovation hotspot for landscape conservation initiatives that have served as national examples and spawned adoption across broader regions. Much of this leadership has occurred at the state level, with vastly successful land protection programs in Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia. Pennsylvania also established one of the first state heritage programs and Maryland followed suit. A case can be made that the intensive development of heritage areas in Pennsylvania in the late 1980s and 1990s fueled the rapid growth of heritage areas nationwide. Maryland’s “Greenprint” approach to targeting important ecological landscapes and Virginia’s natural landscape assessments are additional examples of cutting-edge large landscape prioritization efforts initiated by the States.

Concurrent with the growth and evolution of landscape conservation in the region has been the three decade effort to address water pollution led by the Environmental Protection Agency and the States through the Chesapeake Bay Program. In this context, most attention has been placed on practices to reduce nutrient and sediment flows to the Bay. But, in 2000, the program formally recognized the importance of land protection to water quality – setting a goal of protecting 20% of the watershed by 2010. That goal was reached, with an average of 125,000 acres being protected each year between 2000 and 2009, mostly through state and local land protection programs and non-profit land trusts. By 2010, approximately 7.8 million acres in the watershed were permanently protected.

In 2009, President Obama signed Executive Order 13508 declaring the Chesapeake Bay “a national treasure” and recognizing the nationally significant assets of the watershed in the form of “public lands,

Heard at the Workshop ...

John Maounis

The Chesapeake watershed has long been a center for conservation innovation. State heritage areas in Pennsylvania and Maryland, Pennsylvania’s Conservation Landscape Initiative, Maryland Greenprint and Agprint, the Virginia Conservation Lands Needs Assessment, the work of Journey through Hallowed Ground and Piedmont Environmental Council, National Trails—starting with the granddaddy of them all the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and Appalachian Trail Conservancy— the Captain John Smith Trail, Potomac Heritage Trail, and the Star-Spangled Banner Trail, the goal that Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania set and met to conserve 20% of their lands ... the list goes on and on. Let’s agree that the Chesapeake watershed has a history of success in conserving land and large landscapes.

Joel Dunn

Our friends at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy have defined large landscapes to be:

- * *Expansive in scale—involving perhaps hundreds of thousands to millions of acres*
- * *Extensive in scope—multijurisdictional and requiring sustained cooperation across many organizations and sectors*
- * *Enabling the achievement of measurable conservation outcomes—for example, X acres of habitat restored or protected; Y number of public access areas created, 30 miles or less from Z% of the watershed’s population*
- * *Enduring—they last for decades or even centuries.*

The challenge becomes identifying landscapes that exemplify a basket full of benefits which are important to the local and regional community and go well beyond individual parcels.

Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, an avid conservationist, conducted his first through hike of the 184 mile Chesapeake & Ohio Canal in 1954. The hike garnered national attention. In 1971 Congress created the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park.



facilities, military installations, parks, forests, wildlife refuges, monuments, and museums.” The order called for a strategy for protecting and restoring the Chesapeake, including advancing land conservation and public access. Non-governmental, local, state and federal partners engaged in landscape conservation have convened multiple times since 2009 to collaborate on recommending policy options, carrying out specific actions, and sharing expertise.

Landscape conservation efforts in the watershed might best be summed up by these characteristics: leadership at the state level in implementing innovative approaches to land conservation and landscape recognition; attention to addressing the multiple values of the watershed’s natural, cultural, historical, economic and recreational wealth; willingness and commitment to collaborate across jurisdictions – both within specific landscapes and throughout the watershed as a whole; and dedicated citizens, landowners and stakeholders who continue to push for – and carry out – conservation. A set of selected milestones in Chesapeake landscape conservation (next page) illustrate these trends.

¹Mackintosh, B. 1999. *The National Park Service: A Brief History*.

www.cr.nps.gov/history/hisnps/NPShistory/npshisto.htm

²*Ibid.*

³McKinney, M., L. Scarlett, and D. Kemmis. 2010. *Large Landscape Conservation: A Strategic Framework for Policy and Action*. Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Cambridge, MA.

John Maounis

Coming out of our meeting three years ago we agreed that “together we will collaborate to conserve landscapes treasured by citizens to maintain water quality and habitat; sustain working forests, farms and maritime communities; and conserve lands of cultural, indigenous and community value. We will also work together to expand public access to the Bay and its tributaries through existing and new local, state and federal parks, refuges, reserves, trails and partner sites.”



Hiking at Catoctin Mountain Park, MD.

Some of the Chesapeake Region's Conservation Milestones . . .

- * 1860—Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, the first national preservation organization, acquires George Washington's home.
- * 1900-1930—The forest conservation movement takes hold in Chesapeake states in response to massive deforestation in the 19th century. By 1930, National Forests are established in Virginia, West Virginia and Pennsylvania. Today, the US Forest Service protects over 1.4 million acres in the watershed. Pennsylvania conservationists have also created large state forests, now totaling over 1.8 million acres in the watershed.
- * 1960s—Attention on the Potomac River and its landscape heightens. The Potomac Planning Task Force releases *The Potomac: A Report on its Imperiled Future and a Guide for its Orderly Development*. The US Department of the Interior issues *The Nation's River*, by an interdepartmental task force. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas champions the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal.
- * 1966—The Virginia General Assembly establishes the Virginia Outdoors Foundation to promote preservation of open space. Today, VOF protects more than 600,000 acres through conservation easements, many facilitated by the state's ground breaking Land Preservation Tax Credit Program established in 2000.
- * 1967—The Maryland General Assembly establishes the Maryland Environmental Trust, which now protects more than 125,000 acres on over 1,000 properties.
- * 1968—The Appalachian National Scenic Trail is designated. Running through five Chesapeake watershed states, the trail is one of the nation's largest landscape conservation corridors.
- * 1969—The Maryland General Assembly creates Program Open Space, a dedicated funding source for land conservation. POS has protected over 350,000 acres.
- * 1971—Congress establishes the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park along the Potomac River, bringing protection to this 185 mile landscape corridor.
- * 1983—The Chesapeake Bay Program is established as a regional partnership for coordinating Chesapeake Bay restoration and protection. Bay Program partners include federal and state agencies, local governments, non-profit organizations and academic institutions.
- * 1988—The Pennsylvania General Assembly establishes the Farmland Preservation Program, enabling the state and counties to purchase easements protecting farms. Today, these easements protect over 450,000 acres on more than 4,100 farms.
- * 1989 and 1996—Pennsylvania and Maryland, respectively, establish state heritage area programs to designate distinctive large landscapes and support collaborative planning, heritage tourism and conservation.
- * 1990—The Eastern Shore Land Conservancy is founded in response to concern the Eastern Shore's wildlife habitat and farmland is being consumed by development. Today, ESLC protects over 52,000 acres. While larger than many, ESLC is just one of scores of land trusts conserving land in the Bay watershed.
- * 1996—The US Fish & Wildlife Service establishes the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge, representing a broader landscape conservation focus for the agency.
- * 1996 and 2008—Congress establishes the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Heritage Area (1996) and the 3.4 million acre Journey Though Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area and Scenic Byway (2008), both entirely within the Chesapeake watershed.
- * 1998—Congress authorizes the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network, which results in a partnership network of over 170 designated sites and thousands of miles of designated water trails.
- * 2000—Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and the District of Columbia, participants in the Chesapeake Bay Program, agree to permanently protect 20 percent of their jurisdictions in the watershed by 2010. The goal is achieved by the end of the decade.
- * 2002—The Department of Defense begins implementing the Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI) to conserve "buffer" lands around military bases, preserving almost 10,000 acres in collaboration with land trusts and state partners around Fort A.P. Hill along the Rappahannock River in Virginia, alone.
- * 2004—Pennsylvania creates its Conservation Landscapes Initiative, an integrated approach to management, conservation and development of seven important landscapes throughout the Commonwealth, including several in the watershed.
- * 2006 and 2011—Congress designates the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail (2006) and Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail (2011). They commemorate, interpret and seek to conserve landscapes associated with the Chesapeake of the early 17th and early 19th centuries.
- * 2009—President Obama issues Executive Order 13508 declaring the Chesapeake Bay a national treasure and calling for a strategy for protecting and restoring the Chesapeake. The resulting strategy (2010) articulates goals for protecting an additional two million acres and adding three hundred public access sites along the bay and rivers by 2025.
- * 2011—Historic Fort Monroe, sitting along two miles of Chesapeake Bay beach, is designated a national monument and added to the National Park System.

Main Ideas Emerging from the Workshop

An Overview

Stimulated by a set of case studies, participants spent much of the workshop exploring a series of questions, both in smaller groups and all together: “Where might we identify candidate focus areas (fairly large geographies, but subsets of the watershed) of concentrated, strategic landscape conservation in the watershed? What would be the hallmarks or principles found in innovative, strategic large landscape conservation efforts? What next steps can move our efforts forward and propel collaborative large landscape conservation in the region?”

The following several pages outline the main ideas that emerged in discussions among workshop participants, including:

- 1. Embracing iconic landscapes with multiple values:** Participants stressed that large landscape conservation in the region focuses on areas with multiple values (ecological, historical, cultural, recreational, aesthetic, water quality, etc.).
- 2. Developing focus and priorities:** Participants spoke of the need to align funding, programming, and resources, and to focus on areas where there is an opportunity to succeed in a reasonable time frame (e.g. 5 years).
- 3. Building and communicating common stories:** Participants felt strongly about the need to communicate common conservation stories more effectively – both among partners and with the public.
- 4. Sharing information and knowledge among partners:** Participants uniformly spoke of the value of gathering together at the session, communicating regularly and using key tools to facilitate collaboration.
- 5. Building diversity:** Participants spoke strongly of the need to broaden the group of people and entities engaged in large landscape conservation in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.
- 6. Supporting and using multiple funding sources:** Participants strongly noted the need to protect existing funding sources for land protection, attract a larger share of national large landscape conservation funding, and seek and develop new and innovative sources.



Embracing Iconic Landscapes with Multiple Values

Participants stressed that large landscape conservation in the region focuses on areas with multiple values – ecological, historical, cultural, recreational, aesthetic, water quality, and more. They also emphasized public access as a core focus – it’s how people begin to love the land.

In the Chesapeake watershed, conservation is not just about one thing - the landscapes are too layered for that. The region is ecologically complex, with corridors serving as vital migratory pathways and breeding areas for huge numbers of fish, crabs, and birds. The quality of streams, rivers and the bay are driven by uses on the land. Chesapeake lands and waters feed the region, through farms and fishing. Layer upon layer of treasured history lives in the landscape – American Indian communities, the nation’s founding, slavery and the escape from it, the Civil War, maritime traditions, and the list continues. People also use the landscape for all forms of recreation, and have done so for a century or more.

Large landscape conservation in the Chesapeake embraces these values; they are the most significant characteristics of the region. Attention to multiple values brings more people, more resources and more opportunities for collaboration to conservation. It enriches stories and creates the potential for ecotourism and heritage tourism in the same landscapes. And it brings richer results benefitting more of the public. Large landscape conservation efforts in the region typically see conservationists and tourism partners collaborating closely to achieve mutual goals.

Partners work to identify, understand, map and interpret the multiple values of a particular landscape. For example, as part of the South Mountain Conservation Landscape Initiative in Pennsylvania, the Adams County Conservancy has worked to identify a series of different landscape conservation priorities based on values associated with working lands, recreation, Civil War history and an ecological corridor.

Peggy O’Dell

Across this landscape, the mixture of ecological, historical, and cultural themes naturally varies. Some locations deserve conservation, or have already been protected, because one aspect is especially compelling. But many important landscapes have multiple benefits that reflect and strengthen each other. These special places enrich the Bay region on several fronts, with the power to transform localities into communities and citizens into stewards. The health of our communities—from both personal and civic perspectives—is fundamentally linked to a combined sense of place and the ecological health of the landscape.



The Chesapeake watershed contains a unique blend of historic, natural, recreational, and cultural values.

Developing Focus and Priorities

Participants spoke to the need to align funding, programming, and resources, and to focus efforts on areas where there is an opportunity to succeed in a reasonable time frame (e.g. 5 years). “Be bold but achievable,” participants said; “don’t color in everything on the map – if everything is priority, nothing is a priority.”

Everyone clearly recognized the entire Chesapeake watershed as the overall “large landscape,” but noted its size prevents a focus on all its area at once. The discussion recognized a series of still large landscapes within the watershed that are iconic in their own right and are the focus of active collaborative conservation efforts. This suggested focusing first on areas where there is already synergy among partners, capacity for active collaboration, and existing anchors of protected land from which to build.

For example, participants noted the alignment of multiple interests, resources and efforts along the Middle Potomac, where non-governmental organizations, state governments and several federal agencies are actively collaborating. The same is true along the Nanticoke, Rappahannock, James, Lower Susquehanna and Journey Through Hallowed Ground, to name a few.

These types of landscapes provide opportunities for making things happen in a “reasonable time frame,” while also giving tangible focus and clarity within the region. They can also provide case studies of how collaborative conservation works, an advantage for building synergy and capacity in additional landscapes. Participants also noted the utility of LandScope Chesapeake for identifying and clarifying the mutual interests in landscapes, and for facilitating collaboration and focus through shared information (see more on page 10). They viewed this as one means for using the best science – broadly defined to include natural and social sciences – for informing efforts to focus and be strategic.

Joe Maroon

Are we supposed to strategically identify our targets and then see who will work with us, or are we putting emphasis on partners who then find areas where they have common interests? We have to be careful that we don’t color in every area on map. We need to think strategically from a collective viewpoint. If we don’t want to leave anything out we won’t be strategic.

Joe McCauley

The key to success is working together to identify conservation targets, create a landscape design around those targets, and then implement strategies according to each partner’s mission and abilities. It is important that we use the best available science to drive our collective actions to achieve and monitor our success.

Chris Miller

Public polling shows us that most people experience parks and open space from their cars and that the travel experience to and from is as important as the destination. If we want to build public support for landscape level land conservation, we should recognize the importance of this type of priority. Polls show that conserving scenic views and vistas is highly valued by the public.



Sharing Information and Knowledge Among Partners

Participants uniformly spoke of the value of gathering together at the session, communicating regularly and using key tools to facilitate collaboration. There was an energy in the meeting room that was palpable – an appreciation of the opportunity to come together, discuss, learn from each other and explore ways to advance shared needs. People spoke of how open sharing of information supports collaboration, avoids surprises and helps keep everyone aware of priorities.

Participants asked specifically to meet again within six months. They were also interested in how information could be shared among the many partners in the interim. The National Park Service and Chesapeake Conservancy committed to convene another gathering in that time frame and to explore how to foster regular communication. People were also interested in the possibility of hosting sessions in particular landscapes, providing an opportunity to learn more about those conservation efforts.

Participants were also strongly enthusiastic about sharing information on conservation priorities through LandScope Chesapeake (www.landscape.org/chesapeake). This new tool, debuted at the meeting, presents a wide set of map layers and other editorial and multimedia content reflecting multiple conservation values at local, state, regional and federal levels (see page 17 for more). Participants spoke of advancing LandScope Chesapeake by all sharing data and recruiting additional partners. The LandScope Chesapeake partnership, led by NatureServe, committed to carrying out a series of meetings, webinars and demonstrations to work with participants toward this end.

Cindy Dunn

Our landscape conservation initiatives have provided a means for people to get together. Convening should not be underestimated. We need a community of practitioners.

Brenda Barrett

We need to aggregate the information coming together, plus we have new tools of LandScope, public access and other frameworks that will show the gaps.

Peggy O'Dell

An interesting dynamic is happening. The more that agencies are coming together, there is an improvement in common language. Even though we are seeing landscapes from our own lenses, we are beginning to see some agreement in the Chesapeake.



Building Diversity

Participants spoke strongly of the need to broaden the group of people, communities and organizations engaged in large landscape conservation in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Examples include faith communities, urban residents, underserved areas, American Indians, disabled citizens, Latinos, African Americans, sportsmen/women, veterans and landowners. Inclusiveness and a broadened constituency are essential to sustaining and growing long-term support for landscape conservation.

Participants noted the particular importance of landowners and local communities as collaborators, advocates and spokespeople for large landscape conservation efforts.

Participants also spoke of the need to be very conscious of addressing underserved areas and areas of high need and low engagement, especially the urban disenfranchised.

Ultimately, this recognizes a central tenet of conservation – people will protect what they love. Creating the most inclusive constituency for conservation creates the strongest basis for conservation results.

Deanna Beacham

Diversity has been a problem with all of the conservation meetings.

Bill Crouch

How do we enlarge our tent? How do we make people realize how important this is? We are the choir. How do we reach people to make them aware of how conservation can benefit them?

Rob Etgen

Our strategic plan envisions the Conservancy working with whole communities.

John Reynolds

We need diversity. The conservation world has left people out.

Cindy Dunn

The best way to be inclusive is to do something soon. To provide credibility.

Canoeing at Bladensburg Waterfront Park, MD.



Visitors along the Tidal Basin in Washington, DC.



Supporting and Using Multiple Funding Sources

In recent decades in the Chesapeake watershed, state and local conservation programs and non-governmental organizations have funded the lion's share of land protection. However, the "Great Recession" of 2007-2009 severely impacted state and local tax revenues and had a similar impact on land conservation funding.

Participants recognized this. As a result, they strongly noted the need to protect existing funding sources for land protection, attract a larger share of national large landscape conservation funding, and seek and develop new and innovative sources. Recent coalition efforts to protect funding programs in Maryland and Pennsylvania are examples. Efforts to attract large landscape conservation funding through the Land and Water Conservation Fund are another (see page 18).

There is also a need to think creatively and to expand partnerships to further land protection goals. One example, highlighted at the workshop, is the Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI) (see page 20) which protects lands around US Navy installations.

Finally, participants noted the need to break new ground. One oft-cited example is working to give value or credit for land conservation in the Chesapeake Bay watershed model that drives water quality protection efforts. But the topic of innovation requires additional exploration in future discussions.

John Reynolds

There is a tremendous array of under-tapped ability within this watershed. Is there a way to set up a leadership structure below the political level, to insure that interagency partnerships will continue into future administrations?

The Journey Through Hallowed Ground landscape.



Moving Forward

The National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown provides a setting imbued with the words and ethic of Aldo Leopold, Rachel Carson and other preeminent conservationists; participants in workshops here walk in woodlands along the Potomac River, a watercourse that has inspired its own set of renowned leaders.

When this setting is joined by the right participants and agenda the result can be an inspired thoughtfulness, a sharing of ideas, and a common dedication to carrying conservation forward. This was the case with the Chesapeake Large Landscape Workshop, which as one participant noted “is the most impressive gathering of conservationists from this region I’ve seen; these people have protected an enormous amount of land.” Attendees saw common interests, shared needs and reasons for moving forward. Many of these relate to building and strengthening the community of practice for large landscape conservationists in the Chesapeake region.

Participants viewed the following as important steps to advance over the coming year:

1. **Continue and deepen the conversation:** Specifically, the National Park Service and the Chesapeake Conservancy – at the request of participants – will reconvene another gathering to further the conversation in the first half of 2013. In addition, these organizations will facilitate a regular form of communication and information sharing among participants in the interim; a first step towards this is a monthly newsletter.
2. **Increase the diversity of participants:** A number of participants committed to reaching out to additional organizations to build the diversity represented in future gatherings and the community of practice.
3. **Learn from models of success:** Participants clearly wanted to learn from ongoing large landscape conservation efforts in the region. One proposal is to ensure the next gathering includes time to dive deeply into one or more such efforts, to see what is working, what might not be and why.
4. **Expand LandScope Chesapeake:** With the debut of LandScope Chesapeake at the workshop, participants spoke of a commitment to sharing their data. Throughout the coming months and beyond, the LandScope Chesapeake partnership, led by NatureServe, will carry out a series of demonstrations, webinars and meetings with states, federal agencies and nongovernmental organizations to make this happen.
5. **Model innovations:** With the long history of leadership and innovation in the region, there is ample opportunity for developing new tools to support and achieve collaborative conservation. Participants supported the offer by the NPS Deputy Director to assist partners in researching potential innovations through public private partnerships, financing, and technology. This could be accomplished in part through the NPS business plan program.

Destry Jarvis

The National Park Service and Appalachian Trail Conservancy are a great example of a federal agency’s partnership with a nonprofit partner who can do things for the agency that it couldn’t do for itself.

Joel Dunn

So large landscape conservation projects are different... and I would argue that we need to think differently to accomplish the tasks at hand. And that is at least partially why we are here today.

- * *We need to create some new tools to supplement the tried and true.*
- * *We need to find new ways to collaborate.*
- * *We need to find new resources and ways to stretch those we have.*
- * *We need to develop the focus and cooperation -- between private philanthropists, government, non-profit organizations, landowners, and communities -- to get the job done.*

David Johnson

I don’t want to leave here without an assignment. I am looking for discrete accountable steps that people can assume responsibility for and report back on, and then to set new goals.

It is evident that workshop participants want this group of large landscape conservation partners in the Chesapeake watershed to continue. The past three years have seen partners develop recommendations, work together to carry out priority actions and reconvene to explore next steps. Those steps listed above provide a near-term agenda. Reconvening in 2013 will provide an opportunity to build on that foundation. Certainly, the group's focus will evolve over time. But, common interests and needs lead all to appreciate that collaboration can provide avenues to fulfill those goals in ways that individual efforts might not.

Sunrise along the Potomac at Shepherdstown, WV.



Appendix A

Conservation Strands in the Bay Watershed

Lightning Presentations

A. Large Landscape Conservation Initiatives in the Chesapeake Watershed

- * LandScope Chesapeake—Lori Scott, NatureServe
- * Virginia Land Conservation Tracking System—Tom Smith, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
- * Rivers of the Chesapeake Collaborative Land & Water Conservation Fund Proposal — Jonathan Doherty, National Park Service
- * Pennsylvania Conservation Landscape Initiative—Cindy Adams Dunn, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- * Encroachment Prevention Partnership: Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative—Steve Foren (now Duboyce), Department of Defense, US Navy

B. Linking History and Cultural Identity with Landscape Conservation

- * Protecting the Harriet Tubman Landscape—Joanna Ogburn, Chesapeake Conservancy
- * Strategic Habitat Conservation Design and Community Engagement—Joe MCAuley, US Fish & Wildlife Service
- * Protecting Werowocomoco—Kathleen Kilpatrick, Virginia Department of Historic Resources
- * A Conservation Strategy for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail—Jonathan Doherty, National Park Service
- * Lower Susquehanna Landscape Conservation Initiative—Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

C. Linking Heritage Tourism, Recreation and Public Access to Landscape Conservation

- * Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area and Scenic Byway—Chris Miller, Piedmont Environmental Council
- * Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access Plan—John Davy, National Park Service
- * Linking Conservation and Public Access—Rob Etgen, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy
- * Conservation Along the Middle Potomac—Lisa Ward, Maryland Department of Natural Resources
- * Nanticoke River Water Trail—Elena Stewart, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

Canoeing along the Susquehanna.



Summary of Presentations

Project Name	Landscape	Goals	Category
LandScope Chesapeake	Entire region	Conservation priorities database	Regional Database
Virginia Land Conservation Tracking System	Statewide (but part of national database)	Database to support conservation programs	Regional Database
Rivers of the Chesapeake Collaborative Land & Water Conservation Fund Proposal	Entire region	LWCF funding of complementary conservation investments	Collaborative Planning and Investment
Pennsylvania Conservation Landscape Initiative	Defined areas in Pennsylvania	Coordinated conservation strategies	Place-Based Conservation Areawide
Encroachment Prevention Partnership: Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative	Lands adjacent to military installations in National Capitol Region	Protect bases from negative impacts by purchasing easements	Place-Based Conservation Site Scale
Protecting the Harriet Tubman Landscape	Defined area in Dorchester County , MD	Protect natural, historic, cultural and recreational values	Place-Based Conservation Areawide
Strategic Habitat Conservation Design and Community Engagement	Nanticoke/Pocomoke and James River Watersheds	Landscape design through community engagement	Place-Based Conservation Areawide
Protecting Werowocomoco	Archeological site	Protect site and its surroundings	Place-Based Conservation - Site Scale
A Conservation Strategy for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail	Captain John Smith Trail	Protect high potential routes and sites along the trail corridor	Place-Based Conservation Areawide
Lower Susquehanna Conservation Landscape Initiative	3,325 acre tract within a defined area I Pennsylvania	Protecting environmental and cultural resources improved river access, community enhancement	Place-Based Conservation Areawide
Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area and Scenic Byway	Scenic Byway in Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania	Public recognition and protection of the byway corridor and surrounding area	Place-Based Conservation Areawide
Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access Plan	Entire Region	Increase public access to Bay and tributaries by adding 300 new public access sites	Place-Based Conservation Site Scale
Linking Conservation and Public Access	Maryland Eastern Shore	Work with communities to promote land conservation and provide public access to open space	Place-Based Conservation Areawide
Conservation Along the Middle Potomac	Middle Potomac - Defined "Target Zones"	Protect approximately 8,150 acres of ecologically significant lands	Place-Based Conservation Areawide
Nanticoke River Water Trail	Nanticoke River	Land conservation, public access and enjoyment of the trail	Place-Based Conservation Areawide

LandScope Chesapeake

A Conservation Priority System for the Chesapeake Watershed

Lori Scott, Chief Information Officer
NatureServe

LandScope Chesapeake (www.landscape.org/chesapeake) is a publicly accessible mapping tool reflecting conservation priorities within the Chesapeake Bay watershed at the non-governmental, local, state, regional and federal level.

Developed through a formal collaboration among NatureServe, Chesapeake Bay watershed states, the National Park Service and U.S. Geological Survey, LandScope Chesapeake aims to help partners focus land conservation efforts and fulfill a need for a publicly accessible, watershed-wide land conservation priority system.

By engaging dozens of state agencies and non-governmental organizations from across the watershed, the partners are creating a shared system to accomplish mutual goals: fostering collaborative conservation, sharing different agency and organizations' conservation values, tracking progress toward the land protection goals, exploring recreation opportunities, analyzing regional issues, and sharing place-based stories and multimedia content.

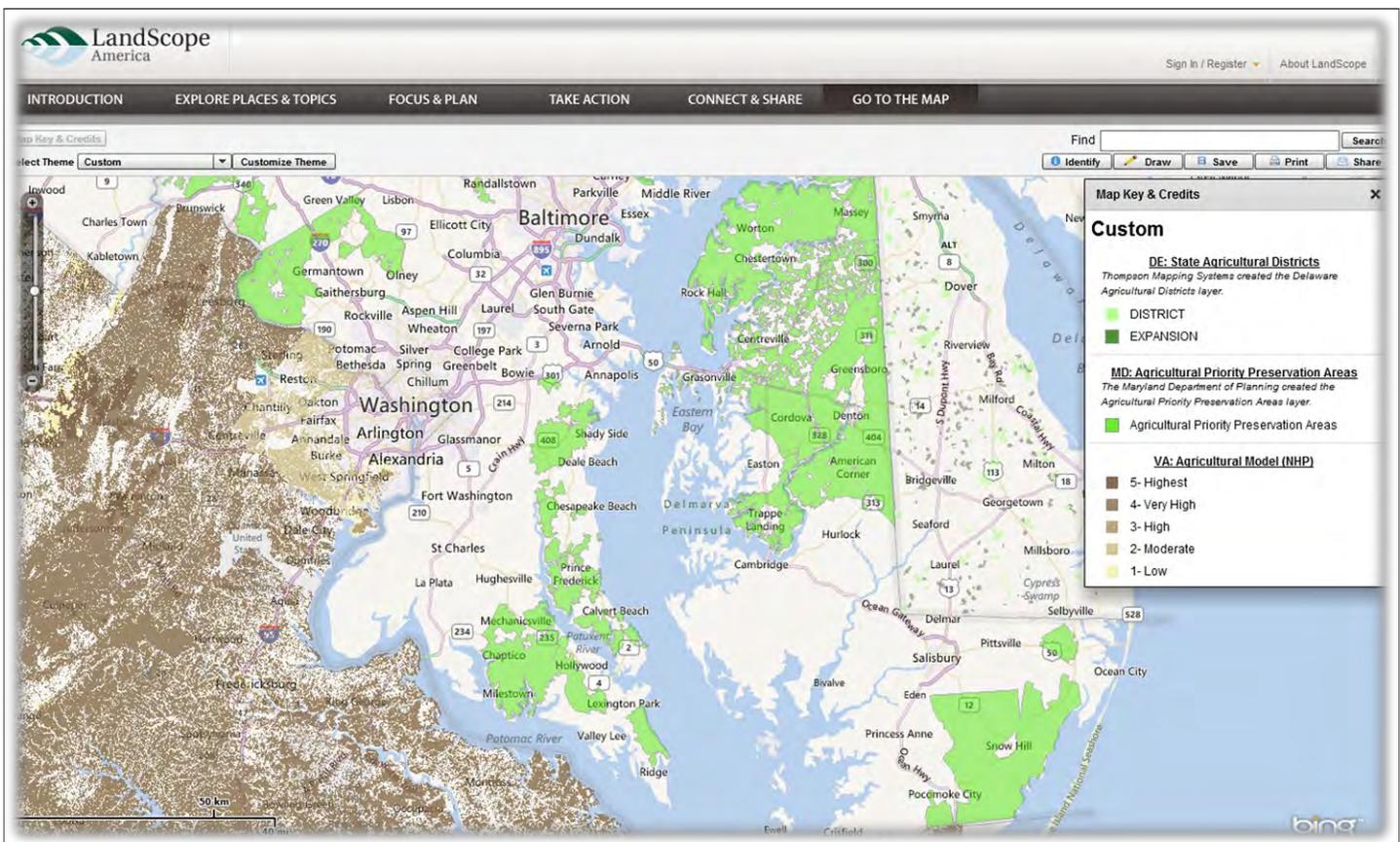
LandScope Chesapeake is live now, with dozens of layers of mapped information. But, partners are actively working to expand and add more and richer content.

"The map viewer at the heart of the project enables conservation practitioners and policy-makers from non-profits, land trusts, state and local agencies, and foundations to see quickly how and where different conservation values align and overlap, making it easier for them to prioritize places with the highest conservation value and direct resources to those places." (From LandScope Chesapeake press release)

LandScope map viewer themes include:

- Conservation priorities
- Protected areas
- Plants and animals
- Ecosystems
- Threats
- Energy
- Recreation

The view below depicts just one selection of many, in this case showing important agricultural lands including Maryland's agricultural priority preservation areas, Delaware's state agricultural districts and Virginia's agricultural model. Users can select among many different layers to customize their own maps.



Virginia Land Conservation Tracking System

Tom Smith, Natural Heritage Director
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

Like most Natural Heritage Programs, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Natural Heritage Program has tracked protected lands data since 1986. DCR became the official state repository for the state-wide Conservation Lands Database with the Chesapeake 2000 agreement. The database includes state, federal, private, and locally managed lands and conservation easements, reflecting the more than 3.7 million acres currently protected in Virginia.

The Conservation Lands Database has been used for over a decade in tracking progress toward several important land conservation goals, including the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement (protecting 20% of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed by 2010) and Governor McDonnell's efforts to each protect 400,000 acres over four years.

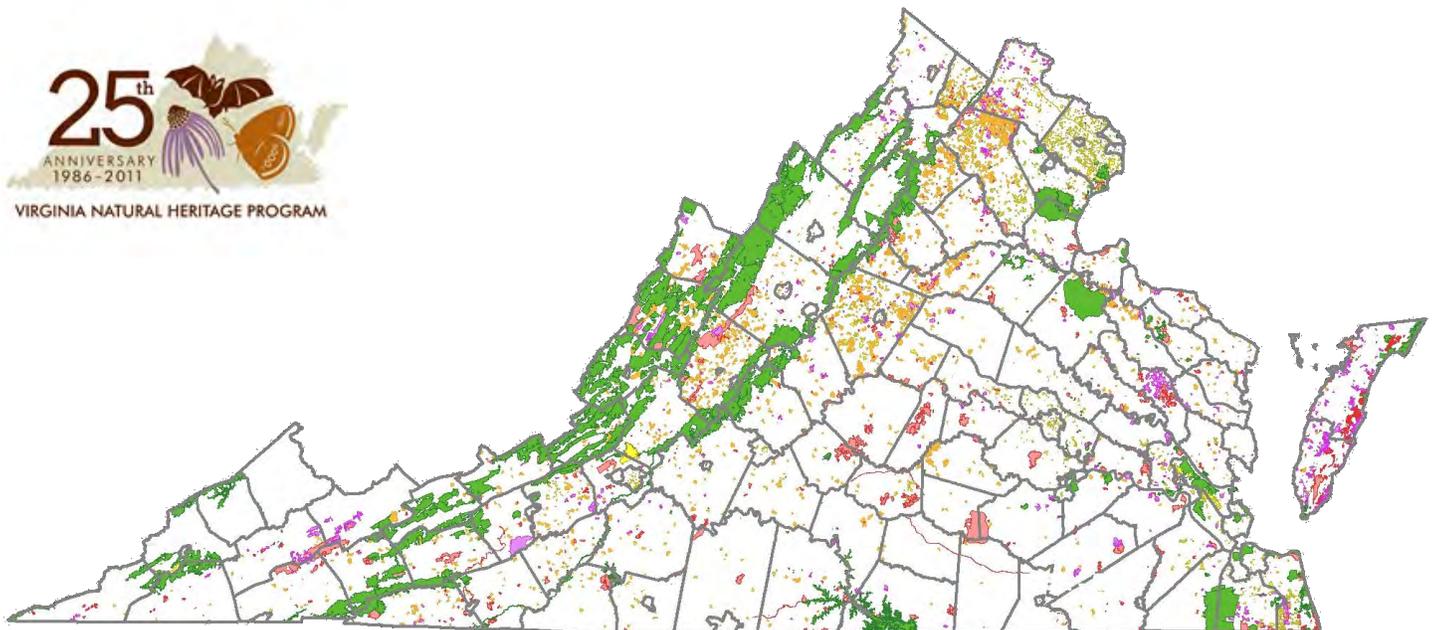
The database is rigorously maintained by DCR staff, making it a single, comprehensive and accurate state resource on protected lands. Specific protocols are in place for collecting data from the many public agencies and non-governmental organizations acquiring and holding permanently protected lands.

DCR is continually reviewing and updating the Conservation Lands Database. This data is available via the web and GIS layers can be downloaded. (For more, see: www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/clinfo.shtml)

Information available in the database includes:

- Land Unit Name
- Management Agency
- Owner
- Acreage Values
- Public Access
- Web Page Link
- Relative Boundary Accuracy
- Legal Protection Status
- Biological Management Intent

The map below illustrates Virginia's protected lands.



Rivers of the Chesapeake Collaborative Land & Water Conservation Fund Proposal

Jonathan Doherty, Assistant Superintendent, Chesapeake Bay Office
National Park Service

The Rivers of the Chesapeake Collaborative Proposal focuses on the great rivers of the Chesapeake Bay. Along four initial focus areas in the Potomac, Rappahannock, James and Nanticoke River watersheds are over 17,000 acres in conservation opportunities. A fifth future area on the Lower Susquehanna encompasses opportunities for significant additional conservation. These landscapes include nationally significant resources such as migratory bird habitat, spawning sites for economically important fish and shellfish, historic viewsheds, and American Indian sites, and would increase outdoor recreation opportunities for the public and help to protect water quality.

Partners—federal, state, and local governments, land trusts and private landowners—have already established a base of conservation commitments and investments in the initial focus areas, including: 6 national park units, 7 national wildlife refuges, 4 national trails, 2 BLM management areas, 10 state parks, 9 state wildlife management areas, many local parks and over 52,000 acres of non-governmental preserves and private lands under conservation easement. These investments, the significant resource values, and proximity to metropolitan areas holding over 11 million people all make these focus areas major opportunities for collaborative conservation.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provides funding for the federal government and for the states to support land conservation and outdoor recreation. Recently, the National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service began work towards targeting a portion of federal LWCF monies on collaborative community-based landscape conservation efforts that make the best use of science, partnerships and leveraging to deliver a high return on Federal investments in land acquisitions. A cornerstone of collaborative LWCF activity is to direct funding to those projects that exemplify alignment, coordination and complementary investments by federal and non-federal partners in a strategic, deliberate manner.

The President's Budget for fiscal year 2013 proposed funding two collaborative conservation projects; for fiscal year 2014 additional landscapes are being considered, including the Chesapeake watershed based on a proposal developed by the National Park Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management in partnership with the Chesapeake Conservancy, states and numerous other partners.

View along the Rappahannock River.



Pennsylvania Conservation Landscape Initiative

Cindy Adams Dunn, Deputy Secretary, Office of Conservation & Technical Services
 Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Throughout the commonwealth, large regions are working together to drive strategic investment and actions around sustainability, conservation, community revitalization, and recreational projects. Known as the *Conservation Landscape Initiative*, these collaborations are developing in landscapes where there are strong natural assets, local readiness and buy-in, and state-level investment support. Several state agencies, local governments, funders and non-profits have worked strategically and collaboratively on the ground for several years in seven CLIs to develop this value-driven, place-based approach. Parts or all of five CLIs are in the Bay watershed.

Ingredients making up a CLI include:

- * Large blocks of state parks and forests as a foundation
- * A sense of place and identity based on shared landscape
- * Readiness to collaborate
- * Civic engagement where people work towards common values
- * Strategic Investments of financial support and technical assistance

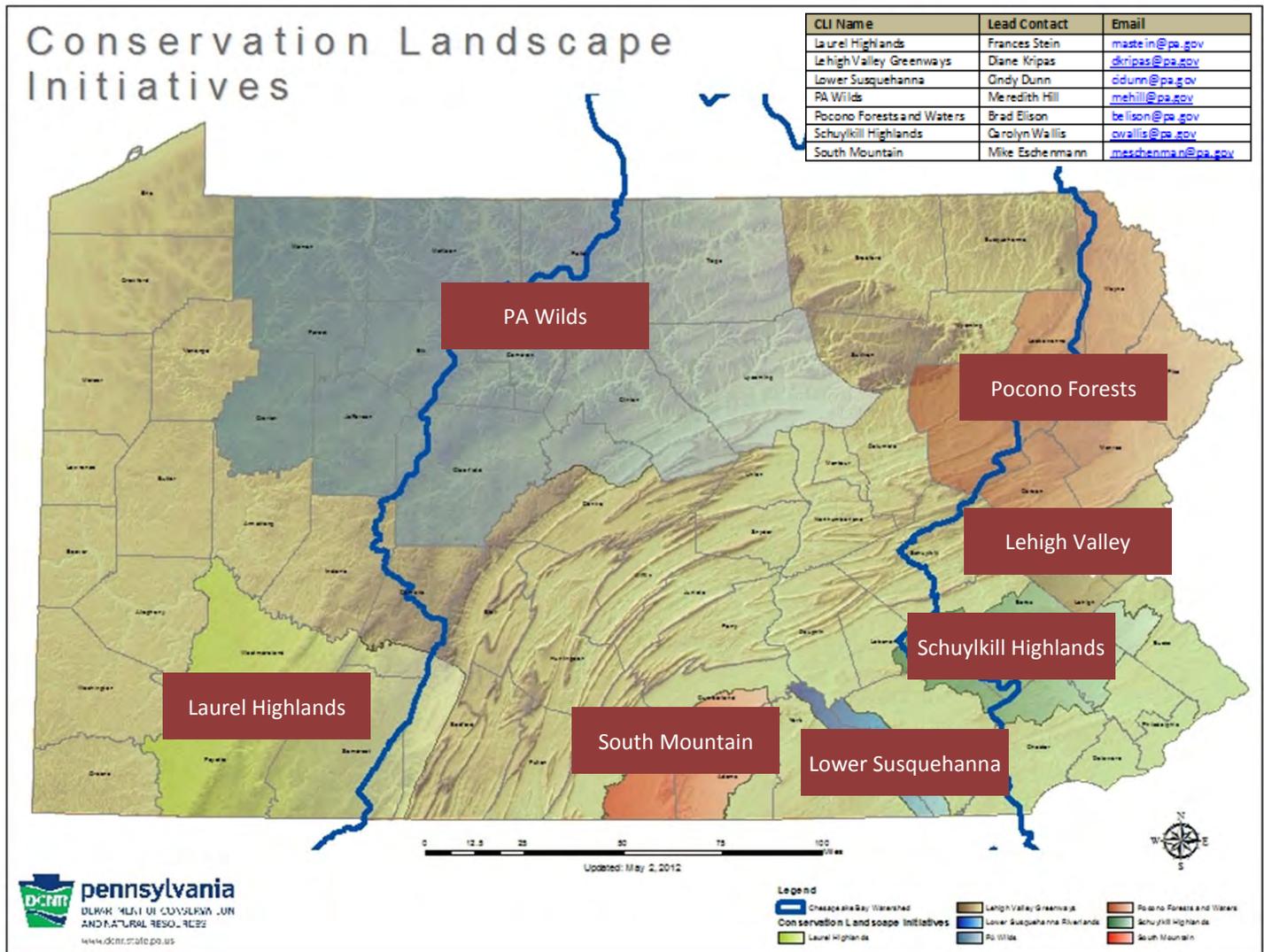
This collaborative approach is driven by the values of conservation, sustainability and community revitalization.

Founded on the regions' sense of place and resource values, the CLIs motivate citizens and elected officials to take on the challenge of effective land use planning, investment, civic engagement and revitalization.

CLI teams work on local priorities, such as:

- * Conserving land for parks, trails and critical habitat
- * Protecting watersheds and greenways
- * Creating walking and biking trails
- * Encouraging sustainable economic development

For more, see: www.dcnr.state.pa.us/cli



Encroachment Prevention Partnership: Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative

Steve Foren (now Duboyce), Regional CPLO, Naval District
Washington, Department of Defense, NDW REPI Program

The Department of Defense's Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI—see box to right) provides a unique opportunity for land conservation. There are numerous naval bases in the National Capitol Region, most not far from very populated areas. All DoD Services seek to protect bases from the adverse impacts of encroachment through conservation easements on privately owned parcels. REPI funds can be used for this purpose when: (1) a public agency or non-governmental organization can match REPI funds for the easement purchase; and (2) the parcel to be conserved is in the vicinity of, or ecologically related to, a military installation or airspace. The Navy has delineated priority areas for those installations threatened by encroachment issues.

The Navy has partners, listed below, and delineated areas, see map, to utilize REPI funds. Several such partnerships have been initiated in the watershed to protect land in Maryland and Virginia. Partners include Maryland DNR, The Conservation Fund, The Nature Conservancy, the Trust for Public Lands, Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries, VA Outdoor Foundation, and Northern Neck Land Conservancy. Up to \$3 million in REPI funds may be allotted to any one installation/training area annually. This funding stream and these partnerships will enable important land protection that aligns with multiple conservation values.

The REPI program “provides funding for the military to work with state and local governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and willing land owners to help prevent encroachment of missions on military installation.

The funding leverages public/private partnerships and additional financial commitments to promote innovative land conservation solutions that benefit both military readiness and the environment” (www.repi.mil/Documents/REPIProgramInformation.pdf).

The map below illustrates two of the US Navy’s areas for Encroachment Partnering and REPI spending tied to three naval installations. The blue polygon delineates the boundary in Maryland boundary and the red polygon delineates the boundary in Virginia.



Protecting the Harriet Tubman Landscape

Joanna Ogburn, Program Director
Chesapeake Conservancy

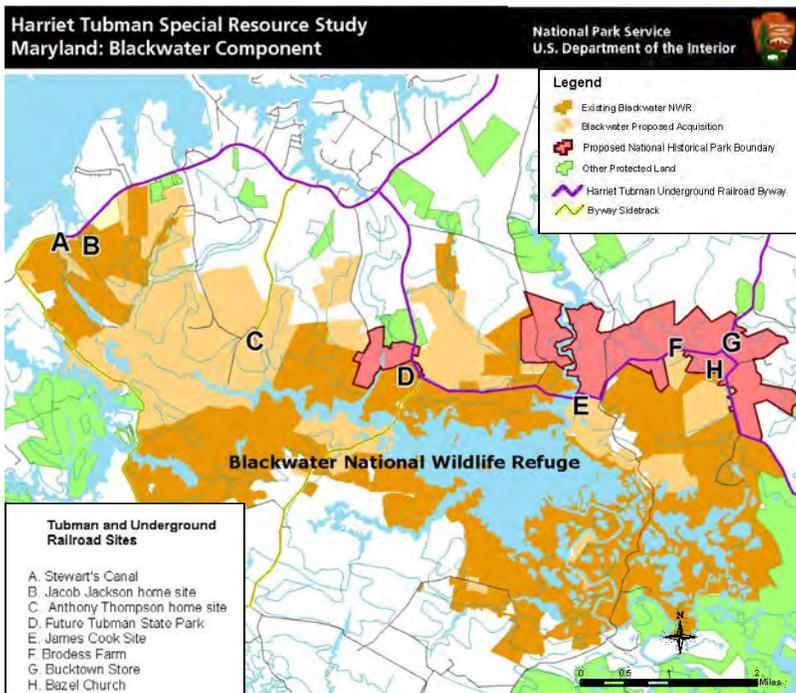
Harriet Tubman was born and raised in Dorchester County, Maryland. Adjacent to Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, this landscape retains the same land use patterns and characteristics of Tubman's time. These lands provide a window into the past and celebrate a major figure in the nation's history. The landscape holds deep natural, historic, cultural, and recreational values, making it a perfect example of multiple interests converging in one location.

To conserve, interpret and commemorate this landscape, partners have been working to establish the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park for several years. Legislation has been introduced in Congress. But in 2012, partners initiated efforts to pursue an interim strategy to protect sites within the Tubman historic areas; it is similar to the one successfully employed in designating Fort Monroe National Monument. A Harriet Tubman National Monument can be created by the President under the authority of the Antiquities Act.

Partner organizations and legislators, including Governor Martin O'Malley, U.S. Senators Ben Cardin and Barbara Mikulski, and Congressman Andy Harris, support a proposed national monument. It would complement Maryland's work to create a Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park. Together, they would create a place to explore Tubman's life, and conserve the landscape in southern Dorchester County where her story began.

A range of organizations are invested in conserving this landscape, including:

- * Maryland Department of Natural Resources
- * Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development
- * Dorchester County Tourism
- * Local Communities
- * Harriet Tubman Organization
- * US Fish and Wildlife Service
- * National Park Service
- * Chesapeake Conservancy
- * National Parks Conservation Association
- * The Conservation Fund



Strategic Habitat Conservation Design and Community Engagement

Joe McCauley, Northeast Region Division Chief, Realty,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is employing strategic habitat conservation design at various scales. This has resulted in two distinct projects, one at a regional scale and one at a watershed scale, using different techniques for conservation planning and community engagement.

To protect the natural and cultural resources of the Northeast, natural resource managers and partners have formed the North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC). The North Atlantic LCC “provides a partnership in which the private, state, tribal and federal conservation community works together to address increasing land use pressures and widespread resource threats and uncertainties amplified by a rapidly changing climate” (www.northatlanticlcc.org/about.html).

Partners are working to design sustainable landscapes through:

1. Assessing the current capability of habitats in ecoregions in the eastern United States to support sustainable wildlife populations
2. Predicting the impacts of landscape-level changes (e.g., from urban growth, succession, climate change and conservation programs) on the future capability of these habitats to support conservation targets using representative species
3. Targeting conservation programs to most effectively and efficiently achieve habitat objectives in state wildlife actions plans and conservation plans, and evaluate progress under those plans

One of these efforts focuses on the Nanticoke and Pocomoke watersheds on the Eastern Shore.

Envision the James

The *Envision the James* initiative, led by the Chesapeake Conservancy, the James River Association, National Geographic Maps, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, is at a watershed-scale, allowing for active community engagement. This initiative *seeks to achieve a shared vision and on-going commitments from communities and partners throughout the James River Basin to value, sustain, and enhance the region’s natural and cultural heritage, local economies, wildlife abundance, and outdoor recreation assets for present and future generations.*

The common vision will also identify and promote opportunities to enhance:

- * Heritage and river-based tourism
- * Recreational trails and river access
- * Conservation and restoration efforts
- * Wildlife habitat throughout the watershed

The image below illustrates the interactive website built for the *Envision the James* initiative. Users can explore the historical, recreational, and natural resources within the James River watershed and then participate in surveys to share their vision for the future of the watershed.

ENVISION THE James

ABOUT PARTNERS CONTACT

THE FOUNDING RIVER PLACES TO EXPLORE NATURE'S BOUNTY WATERSHED HEALTH YOUR VISION

JOIN the Community

Envision the James
LET'S ENVISION THE FUTURE OF THE JAMES RIVER WATERSHED

Envision the James is a collaborative initiative that invites communities and individuals to create a common vision for the James River to benefit present and future generations. The initiative engages communities through online maps and stories, and through workshops, polls and surveys to gather and share your ideas about the future of the James.

Explore the James River in the sections below.

Learn more about the Initiative [here](#)

Protecting Werowocomoco

Kathleen Kilpatrick, Director
Virginia Department of Historic Resources

From at least 1607 to 1609, Powhatan resided at Werowocomoco, located at Purtan Bay on the north side of the York River in Virginia. It was to this location that Indian communities throughout the region paid tribute to Powhatan and to which Captain John Smith was brought as a captive. Archaeological research has documented that the site was occupied for centuries before then.

The location of Werowocomoco was a mystery throughout the 20th century. Archaeological excavations beginning in 2003 have yielded an abundance of artifacts and postholes and features from American Indian inhabitation and documented the location as Werowocomoco. It is clearly one of the most significant sites in the Chesapeake region and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Privately owned, Werowocomoco is the focus of extensive collaboration between the landowners, Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR), archaeologists and Virginia Indians. DHR is negotiating a conservation easement to protect the core 60 acres of the site. Additionally, the National Park Service is providing assistance to DHR and the landowner to explore options for future management including expanding interpretation and public access at the site.



Powhatan at Werowocomoco based on John Smith's description, as shown in the 1630 Hondius-Blaeu Map of Virginia.



A Conservation Strategy for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail

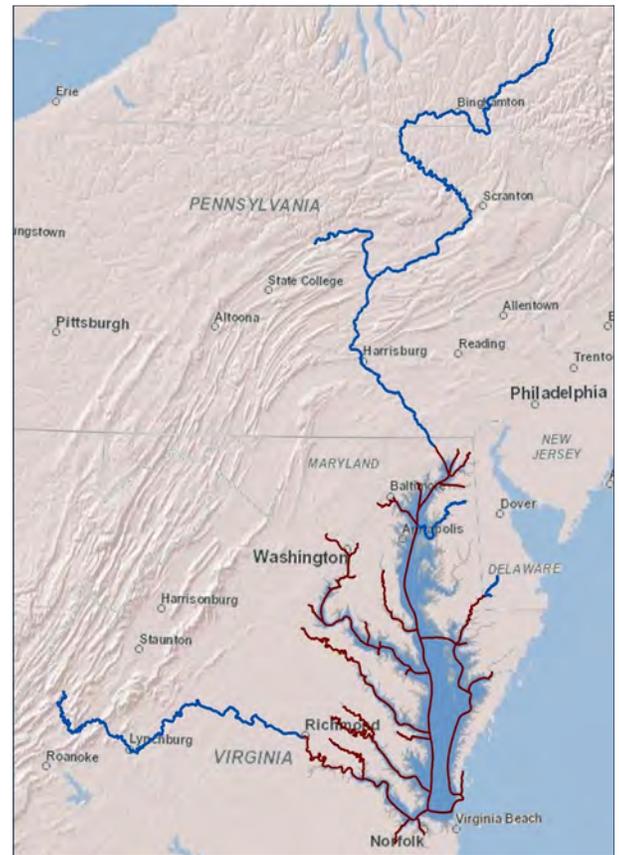
Jonathan Doherty, Assistant Superintendent, Chesapeake Bay Office
National Park Service

The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail commemorates the voyages of Captain Smith and his crew as they explored the Chesapeake Bay between 1607 and 1609. Central to the trail's purpose is the ability for visitors to travel on land and water enjoying recreational experiences at places reminiscent of the Bay in the 17th century. These "evocative landscapes" convey a sense of what Smith encountered, the resources American Indians relied upon and the character of a more pristine watershed.

The trail's *Conservation Strategy* sets out a long-term agenda for conserving lands important to the visitor experience. It:

- * Outlines a consistent approach for assessing trail resources in relation to defined priority conservation focus areas;
- * Encourages local, state, and federal partners to protect trail resources as a core part of land conservation efforts; and
- * Provides an approach and next steps for implementation through collaborative actions of among many partners.

Its focus is on conserving the places that enrich visitor experiences and recreation along the trail and that contribute synergy to the many programs working to improve quality of life along the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers. The full *Conservation Strategy*, developed by the National Park Service in collaboration with the Chesapeake Conservancy, will be available by January 2013.



Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail



Lower Susquehanna Landscape Conservation Initiative

John Norbeck, Former Director, PA State Parks
PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Located in Lancaster and York counties, the Lower Susquehanna conservation landscape strives to conserve and protect the greenway corridor of river lands along the Susquehanna River. This corridor of lands and water will be the foundation upon which to build economic development, community sustainability and conservation stewardship strategy for the two counties.

The Lower Susquehanna River landscape is rural and scenic. Much of the land along the river is owned by utility companies. Protecting the river means protecting these lands – approximately 13,000 acres including many islands in the river. The area known as the Conejohela Flats provides important feeding and resting areas for migratory birds and habitat for wildlife species including bald eagle, black tern, osprey, and many shorebirds. Land conservation also supports Chesapeake Bay restoration initiatives, as the Susquehanna contributes nearly half of the freshwater flow to the Chesapeake.

Conservation Landscape Initiative partners are working to:

- * improve public access to the river
- * preserve environmentally sensitive areas
- * preserve the forested river landscape
- * improve water quality
- * provide more land and water based recreational opportunities
- * revitalize the Rivertown communities of Marietta, Columbia and Wrightsville

Projects in Development

- * Lancaster County Northwest River Trail along the Susquehanna River
- * East Donegal Riverfront Park/North Wet River Trailhead Rehabilitation
- * Wrightsville Riverfront Park Master Site Plan
- * Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area enhancements
- * Public access improvements across Route 624 from the river to Kline's Run Park
- * Manor Township's five mile section of Low Grade Rail Trail
- * Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area/County of York—comprehensive planning, interpretation and enhancement of Susquehanna Heritage Park
- * Columbia –Wrightsville Bridge Lighting project

For more see:

www.dcnr.state.pa.us/cli/lowersusquehanna



Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area and Scenic Byway

Chris Miller, President,
Piedmont Environmental Council

The Journey Through Hallowed Ground (JTHG) National Heritage Area extends from Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, through Maryland and West Virginia, to Monticello in Virginia. The landscape is a glimpse into American history, teeming with battlefields, historic sites, towns, and natural beauty. It includes national parks, historic districts and a National Scenic Byway.

Tourists flock to the landscape to take advantage of the wide range of tourism opportunities, including the scenic vistas from parks and the byway. Many of these views are protected by over 400,000 acres of conservation easements on private land. Polling shows this type of land conservation is highly valued by the public as most people experience parks and open space from their cars; the travel experience to and from a location is as important as the destination itself. Building public support for landscape level land conservation requires recognizing the importance of this type of conservation priority.

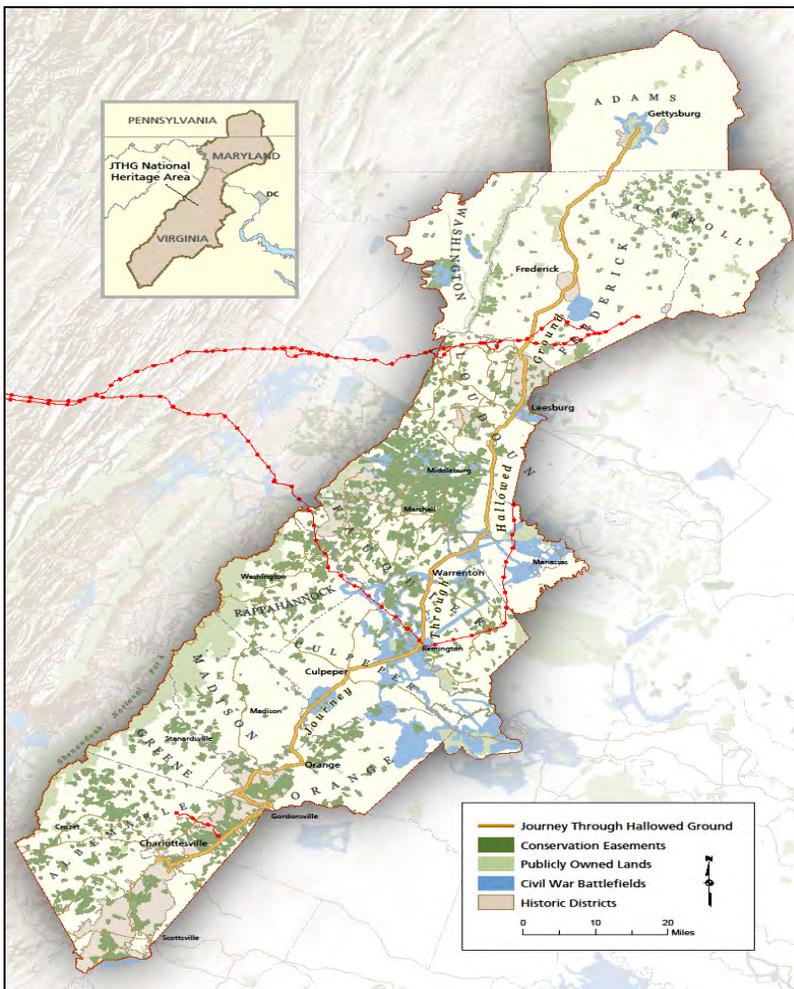
The non-profit JTHG Partnership works to raise awareness of landscape's many values, building support for long term conservation and comprehensive management by jurisdictions in the region. While much land was conserved before the formation of the JTHG Partners, the JTHG takes advantage of and enhances that conservation effort.

The mission of The Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership is to develop a cohesive vision for the conservation of this vibrant region.

The Partnership works toward this mission by:

- * Building a strong network of local, regional and national partners to develop a common vision for the region.
- * Developing an education outreach program.
- * Creating a heritage tourism program that will provide economic development opportunities in communities throughout the corridor.
- * Working in partnership with local, state and national leaders and residents to create and support a National Scenic Byway and a National Heritage Area.
- * Creating open cooperation with property owners, heritage sites, citizens, businesses, real estate leaders and public officials.
- * Promoting the creation and maintenance of transportation systems through the corridor.

(Abbreviated from www.hallowedground.org/About-Us/Mission-Statement)



Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access Plan

John Davy, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Chesapeake Bay Office,
National Park Service

While the Chesapeake watershed offers unparalleled outdoor experiences, physical access to the Bay and its tributaries is limited. Public places to launch boats, swim, fish or just stand by the water are miles apart, often many miles. Executive Order 13508 calls for an increase in public access to the Bay and its tributaries; partners set a goal of adding 300 new access sites by 2025.

To guide progress, the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access Plan* was produced by an action team composed of people involved in public access planning and implementation in each of the Chesapeake watershed states and the District of Columbia. The plan was developed with extensive public input, using workshops and an on-line mapping tool to identify existing and suggested public access sites. This is the first such effort to address the entire watershed.

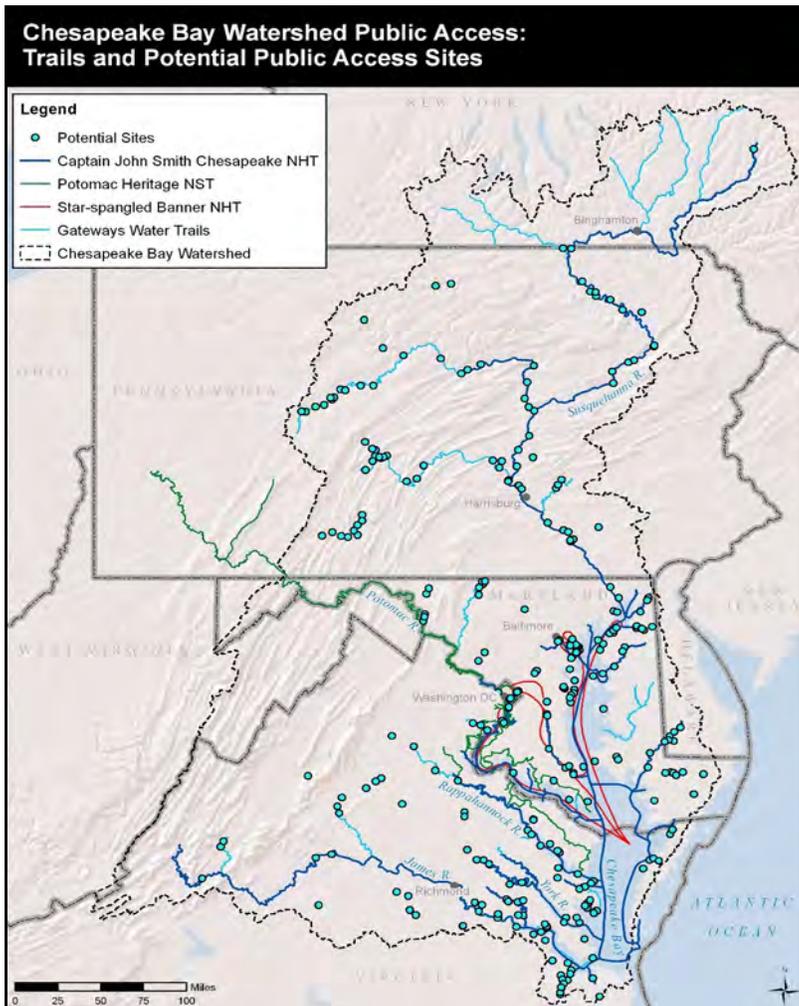
The plan presents a new inventory of existing public access sites and identifies 316 potential new sites. Over half the potential sites are on publicly-owned land. The plan also assesses the demand for public access, barriers to access, and gaps in the access system. It will be used to help direct federal, state, and local funding toward developing the identified potential sites.

Public access sites are defined in the plan as: *locations owned and managed by a public entity (or a nonprofit organization in an agreement with a public entity) for the purposes of providing:*

- * Boat-related access
- * Swimming access
- * Fishing access
- * Viewing access for water, wildlife, and shoreline areas

The inventory process revealed 1,144 existing sites, an average of 15 miles apart, with less than half providing boat access. Some gaps are much greater—sixty miles along one major river. Planning for new sites will consider filling strategic gaps along trails, increasing boat access, and including campsites and other facilities at some sites.

When land conservation is being considered along the Bay and its tributaries, appropriate public access should always be evaluated as part of the potential use mix.



Conservation Along The Middle Potomac

Lisa Ward, Land Acquisition & Planning Unit Director
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Within a very short drive of Washington DC is a vast block of largely undeveloped shoreline and forest containing valuable bird habitat, historic viewsheds, and many cultural resources. Encompassed by the great bend in the Potomac, this area of rural Charles County is often known as Douglas Point or the Nanjemoy Peninsula. It is adjacent to three national trails and includes a number of parks and wildlife management areas, but public access to the river shoreline is still quite limited.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources is collaborating with a range of partners—The Conservation Fund, The Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Accokeek Foundation, Charles County, and the US Navy REPI program—on land conservation along the Middle Potomac. This corridor is one of four focus areas included in the Rivers of the Chesapeake Collaborative (see page 18). Working with landowners to conserve specific properties will expand on a foundation of existing public lands to enhance public access and protect diverse ecological and historical resources—all in close proximity to a major metropolitan area.

Kayaking near the Mallow's Bay Ghost Fleet along the Potomac.

To date, MD DNR and other conservation partners have successfully created a series of protected areas by transferring lands from private to public ownership. They have been conserved for their natural, historical, and cultural resources and for recreation. These areas also serve as building blocks for future land preservation as DNR and partners continue working toward conserving over 8,000 acres along the Middle Potomac.

- * Piscataway Park
- * Chicamuxen Wildlife Management Area
- * Smallwood State Park
- * Nanjemoy Natural Resource Management Area
- * Riverside Wildlife Management Area

One key to successful land conservation is Maryland's Program Open Space, which provides a dedicated funding source for land protection. Statewide, Program Open Space funding has conserved over 350,000 acres since 1969.



Nanticoke River Water Trail

Elena Stewart, Land Preservation Specialist
Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control

The Nanticoke River is the largest Chesapeake Bay tributary on the lower Delmarva Peninsula, stretching 64 miles from southern Delaware to the Tangier Sound in Maryland. This watershed includes one third of all the tidal wetlands in Maryland, as well as the highest biological diversity on the Delmarva.

Navigable beyond Seaford, Delaware, the river has also played an important role in commerce and trade throughout its history, providing a critical water route for early Native American tribes, and later for European settlers.

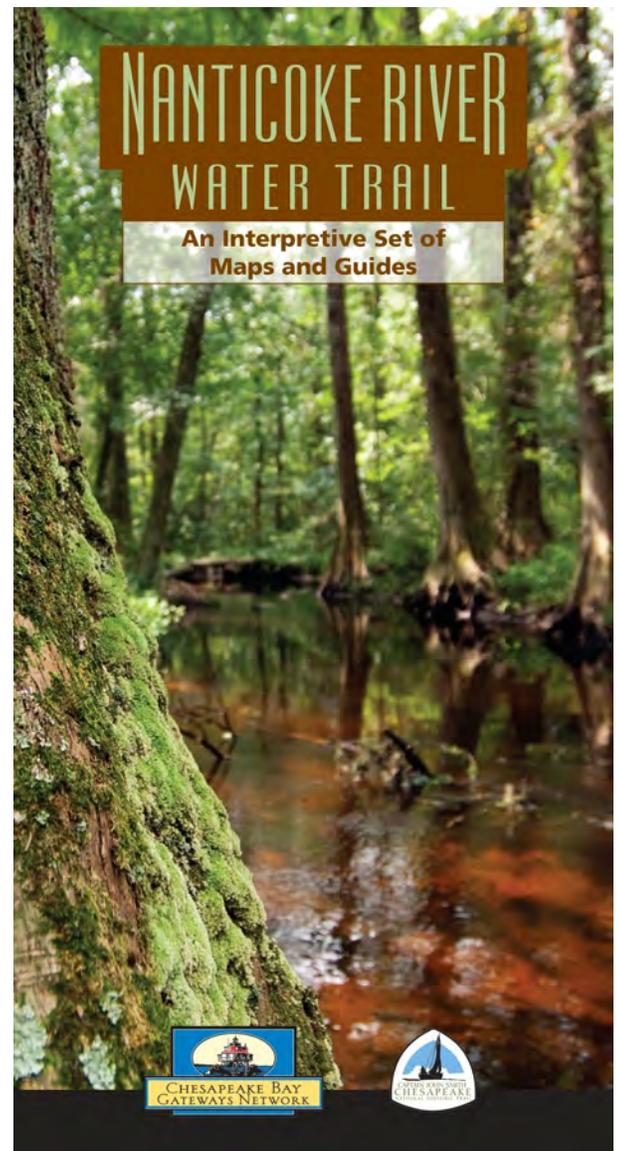
To connect people to the Nanticoke's rich natural and historic resources, the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) began developing the Nanticoke River Water Trail. The trail now extends along 26 miles from north of Seaford to the Delaware/Maryland state line. DNREC continues to enhance public access and educational opportunities along the Nanticoke while maintaining and restoring important natural and cultural resources within the context of the historic viewshed.

Partners in Maryland are working to extend the water trail from the state line to Vienna.

The Nanticoke River Water Trail map and guide includes a set of maps of trail segments and access points along with interpretive material regarding each segment's cultural, historical, and natural heritage.

DNREC is also actively working with partners to acquire additional strategic properties to increase public access and to preserve important historic features.

For more see:
www.paddlethenanticoke.com/index.html



Appendix B Workshop Participants and Agenda

Allenby, Jeffrey	Chesapeake Conservancy	Kramer, Jackie	Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission
Baird, Suzanne	US Fish & Wildlife Service	Larouche, Genevieve	US Fish & Wildlife Service
Barrett, Brenda	Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	Lee, Bob	Virginia Outdoors Foundation
Beacham, Deanna	American Indian Consultant	Lyon, John	Bureau of Land Management
Briggs, Don	National Park Service	Maounis, John	National Park Service
Brown, Warren	National Park Service Advisory Board	Maroon, Joe	Consultant, Chesapeake Conservancy
Brzezinski, Sarah	Chesapeake Research Consortium	McCauley, Joe	US Fish & Wildlife Service
Busby, Virginia	Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs	McCoy, Nona	Natural Resource Cons. Service, USDA
Buxton, Elizabeth	Maryland Environmental Trust	Miller, Chris	Piedmont Environmental Council
Case, Kevin	Land Trust Alliance	Myron, Emily	Chesapeake Conservancy
Claggett, Sally	US Forest Service	Nicholas, Sarah	Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Clarke, Michael	Consultant, Chesapeake Conservancy	Norbeck, John	Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Crouch, Bill	The Conservation Fund	O'Dell, Peggy	National Park Service
Davy, John	National Park Service	Ogburn, Joanna	Chesapeake Conservancy
Doherty, Jonathan	National Park Service	Phifer, Richard	Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
Dunn, Cindy	Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	Platts, Mark	Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area
Dunn, Joel	Chesapeake Conservancy	Potapchuk, Bill	Community Building Institute
Ford, Tom	Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	Reynolds, John	Advisory Council, John Smith NHT
Foren (now Duboyce), Steve	Department of Defense—Navy	Richardson, Sarah	Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Fritz, Mike	US Environmental Protection Agency	Scott, Lori	NatureServe
Handen, Amy	National Park Service	Smith, Tom	Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Harris, Denise	Journey Through Hallowed Ground	Steward, Elena	Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
Hastings, Wink	National Park Service	Stidham, Tammy	National Park Service
Hughes, Elizabeth	Maryland Historical Trust	Stierli, Edward	National Parks Conservation Assoc.
Imgrund, Lauren	Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	Vietzke, Gay	National Park Service
Jarvis, Destry	National Recreation & Park Assoc.	Ward, Lisa	Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Johnson, David	Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation	Wenzler, Mark	National Parks Conservation Association
Kilpatrick, Kathleen	Virginia Department of Historic Resources		

AGENDA

August 16

- 11:00 Welcome
- 11:15 Setting the Context
- 11:40 Building on Our Successful Collaborations
- 12:15 Lunch
- 1:30 Presentations and Discussion
- 3:30 Break
- 3:45 Understanding Our Assets
- 4:45 Reflections on the Day
- 5:00 Adjourn
- 6:00 Dinner
- 7:30 Post Dinner Conversations

August 17

- 8:30 Agenda Review
- 8:45 Where are the Focus Areas?
- 9:30 Propelling the Bay's Efforts Forward
- 10:00 Break
- 10:15 Action. Action. Action.
- 11:00 Developing Bay-Wide Support for Large Landscape Conservation
- 11:30 Next Steps and Closing Reflections
- 12:00 Adjourn



For more information:

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