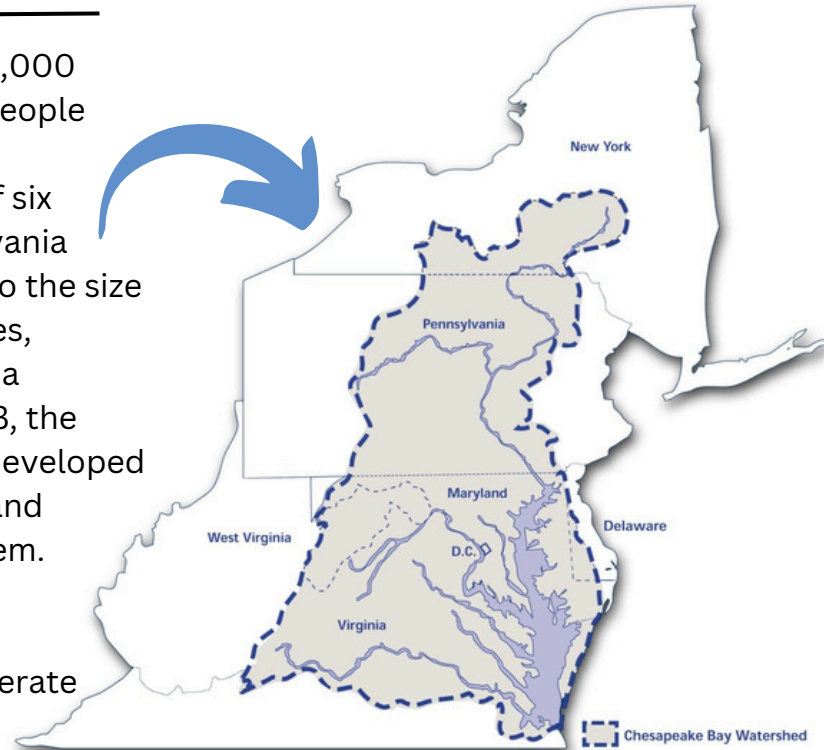


# WATER FACTS

## September 2024 - The Bay Beyond 2025

### You are Here

The Chesapeake Bay watershed encompasses 64,000 square miles, accommodating over 18.5 million people and 3,600 plant and animal species (What is a Watershed?, n.d.). The watershed is comprised of six states (plus D.C.) with a large portion of Pennsylvania falling within its bounds, including Carlisle! Due to the size of the watershed, and its over 100,000 tributaries, pollution has been a significant concern (What is a Watershed?, n.d.). Since its establishment in 1983, the Chesapeake Bay Program and its partners have developed visions, goals, and outcomes aimed at restoring and preserving the future health of this vital ecosystem. But despite the subsequent creation of the Chesapeake Watershed Agreement, as well as Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) to accelerate improvements, by 2022 it was announced that the 2025 WIPs were charting off-course, highlighting the need for future planning beyond 2025 (2025 Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs), n.d.).



Source: Virginia Department of Forestry

### Looking Beyond 2025

To get back on track, the Chesapeake Bay Program formed a Beyond 2025 Steering Committee whose purpose is to “recommend a path forward that prioritizes and outlines steps for meeting goals and outcomes of an agreement beyond 2025” (Chesapeake Bay Program, 2024a). Convening to draft a preliminary report, released on July 1st, the Steering Committee outlined a critical pathway and recommendations for the Chesapeake Bay watershed's future. Specifically, the committee recommends: 1) adherence to the 2014 Chesapeake Watershed Agreement, 2) foster partnerships to ensure commitment fulfillment, and 3) advancing scientific research, restoration efforts, and partnerships (Chesapeake Bay Program, 2024b).

### What Can you Do?

ALLARM and our volunteers monitor waterways throughout the state, helping address local concerns and identify areas with high pollutant loads - but there are ways for you to help the Bay without hopping into a stream. Scan this QR code to find out how!



#### References:

- 2025 Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs). Chesapeake Progress. (n.d.). <https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/clean-water/watershed-implementation-plans>
- Chesapeake Bay Program. (2024a). *The Bay Beyond 2025: Looking to the future of Chesapeake Restoration*. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w3KYWzELG20>
- Chesapeake Bay Program. (2024b). A Critical Path Forward for the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership Beyond 2025. <https://d18lev1ok5leia.cloudfront.net/chesapeakebay/documents/Beyond-2025-Draft-Steering-Committee-Report.pdf>
- What is a watershed? Chesapeake Bay Program. (n.d.). <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/discover/watershed>

