

“JURISDICTION” CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAMMATIC TWO-YEAR MILESTONES COMMITMENTS

JANUARY 1, 2026-DECEMBER 31, 2027

Narrative Summary: *Concise summary of overall objectives for a milestone period.*

The Delaware Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) serves as the State’s strategic roadmap for achieving its nutrient and sediment load reduction goals under the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). The WIP outlines the priority practices, policies, and programs needed to reduce pollution and improve water quality across Delaware’s portion of the watershed. To ensure steady progress, the State establishes two-year Milestone commitments that translate the long-term WIP strategies into actionable, near-term programmatic initiatives. These Milestones prioritize the implementation of key practices identified in the WIP, allowing agencies and partners to track progress, adaptively manage efforts, and remain on course toward meeting Delaware’s restoration and water quality targets.

SECTOR/CATEGORY/OBJECTIVE

Narrative Summary: *Concise summary of sector objectives for a milestone period.*

Delaware will prioritize through its core sector activities efforts that address Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are identified as priority BMPs in its Phase III - Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) and result in nutrient load reductions to assist in achieving the established goals. Additional focus will be given to initiatives that increase engagement and training within Delaware’s Chesapeake Bay Watershed through our Sector Initiatives, and gain meaningful knowledge of issues that impact important species and address public health concerns.

CORE SECTOR ACTIVITIES

Milestone Number	Lead Agency	Actions & Deliverables	Target Date	Outcomes (e.g., lbs of pollutants reduced, # of people engaged)	Funding Source
1	DNREC, Conservation Districts, Department of Agriculture (DDA)	Continue to increase and maintain the adoption of cover crop implementation in the Chesapeake Bay watershed through increase outreach efforts with DDA and the Conservation Districts. Prioritize early planting of cover crops that will increase nutrient load reductions annually.	December 2027	Meet and maintain the maximum number of cover crop acres available in Delaware’s Chesapeake Bay watershed. Increase incentives for early cover crop plantings of priority seed blends.	Federal grants, State funding
2	DNREC, Conservation Districts	Increase and prioritize the implementation of all wetland BMPs. To be achieved through cross-program/agency	December 2027	Increase or maintain through implementation or verification agricultural wetland restoration acres	Federal grants, State Funding

		collaboration to identify suitable wetland BMP locations in core nutrient load-reducing areas of the watershed. The partner collaboration will seek to find ways to pool local and federal funding sources and prioritize implementation.		of a minimum of 14,173 acres, agricultural wetland creation acres to a minimum of 1,125 acres, and agricultural wetland rehabilitation acres by 2,000 acres during the Milestones reporting period.	
3	DNREC, Conservation Districts	Increase the implementation of grass buffer acres throughout Delaware's Chesapeake Bay watershed by leveraging DNREC-managed incentive programs, strengthening partnerships with conservation districts, and coordinating with tax ditch organizations. With priority given to land adjacent to tax ditches.	December 2027	Increase grass buffer acres by 1,250 acres through implementation or verification during the Milestones reporting period.	Federal grants, State Funding
4	DNREC, DDA – Forest Service	Increase the number of tree plantings, afforestation, and forested buffer implementation while protecting existing forest canopy cover. This will be achieved through collaboration between state programs and local nonprofit partners. These efforts will identify priority planting locations, coordinate funding sources, provide outreach, and provide support for installation and long-term maintenance.	December 2027	Increase agricultural tree plantings by 50 acres, and urban tree plantings by 25 acres through implementation or verification during the Milestone reporting period.	Federal grants, State funding, non-profit funding
5	DNREC	Increase implementation of BMPs that fall under the Delaware Community Conservation Assistance Program (DeCAP) and specifically look to implement additional projects at a community level.	December 2027	Increase implementation level for BMPs that fall under the DeCAP, including but not limited to conservation landscaping plantings, runoff reduction performance practices, and stormwater treatment practices. Implement at least 2 community-level projects through this program.	Federal grants, State funding
6	DNREC	Prioritize Stream Restoration projects in the watershed. Specifically, the removal of legacy sediments, floodplain reconnections, and in-stream enhancements.	December 2027	Increase non-urban stream restoration by 2,000 feet, and urban stream restoration by 900 feet through implementation or verification during the Milestone reporting period.	Federal grants, State funding
7	DNREC, DDA	Increase the number of reported urban nutrient management plans in the watershed by aligning with updated state	December 2027	Increase the number to 2,000 acres enrolled in urban nutrient management plans through implementation or	State funding, Federal grants

		fertilizer regulations. The revised rules will increase the number of acres that will fall under nutrient application restrictions. Delaware will coordinate with state agencies and initiatives such as Liveable Lawns to boost participation.		verification during the Milestones period.	
8	DNREC	The Sediment and Stormwater Program (SSP) has contracted a third-party consultant to conduct BMP maintenance verification at state and federal facilities across Delaware. The consultant was tasked with geolocating and reviewing all BMPs at state facilities, providing a full report on the status and functionality of each system, and updating operations and maintenance plans.	June 2026	The consultant is expected to complete the review in early 2026 with an anticipated final count of 1,086 BMPs. Final reports will be compiled and sent to facility owners with suggested maintenance actions. The SSP will meet with facility owners to go over these reports and identify maintenance schedules.	State funding

SECTOR INITIATIVES (I.E., INNOVATIVE ACTIONS)

Milestone Number	Lead Agency	Actions & Deliverables	Target Date	Outcomes (e.g., lbs of pollutants reduced, # of people engaged)	Funding Source
1	DNREC	Migrate the Certified Construction Reviewer (CCR) Recertification Course to an online format. The course is currently offered annually as two half-day virtual sessions via Microsoft Teams. Staff provides live presentations that highlight the key takeaways of the full CCR Course. Participants will be provided with course materials and, after completing the virtual sessions.	December 2027	Fully transition the CCR training into an online, on-demand format. Making it more accessible for participants who need to complete this training, and increasing participation of necessary Sediment and Stormwater training.	State funding
2	DNREC	Gain a better understanding of historic and existing freshwater mussel and/or submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) populations throughout Delaware's Chesapeake Bay Watershed. This will be accomplished using different techniques, including, but not limited to, physical surveys, benthic habitat suitability modeling, eDNA, etc.	December 2027	Gain baseline knowledge of freshwater mussel and/or SAV populations in Delaware's Chesapeake Bay Watershed. This information will help identify locations to target implementation practices to support these populations and improve water quality.	State funding, Federal grants

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Date

3	DNREC	Compile existing PFAS fish tissue data from Chesapeake Bay drainages for sharing with the public. DNREC is currently evaluating its methods to incorporate certain PFAS compounds into cumulative human health risk assessments, including fish consumption advisories.	December 2027	Generate a report with the findings from the PFAS fish tissue data that can be shared with the public and incorporate into Delaware's human health risk assessments.	State funding, Federal grants
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