



# Environment

## THE CHESAPEAKE: ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION EFFORTS

### Environmental Challenges

It's no secret that the Chesapeake Bay is in trouble. The health of the nation's largest estuary, the Chesapeake Bay, faces many obstacles and challenges. Climate change, sea level rise, pollution, development, agricultural and storm water runoff, environmental justice issues and the demands of an increasing population have stressed the Chesapeake Bay and the people and animals who make their homes in its watershed.

According to the Chesapeake Bay Program, the Chesapeake Bay's land-to-water ratio is 14:1: the largest of any coastal water body in the world. This is why our actions on land have such a big impact on the Bay's health.

### A 40+ Year Effort

The movement to restore the Chesapeake Bay is more than 40 years old. Over the decades, there have been several pacts signed by elected officials to pledge to work together to restore the health of the Bay that set milestones and targets.

The most recent one was signed in 2014. The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, signed by leaders of all six Bay states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Chesapeake Bay Commission, laid out 10 broad goals and 31 outcomes, many to be achieved by 2025 or even earlier.

With less than four years left to go, The Chesapeake Bay Journal recently reported, "few of the targets set in 2014 have been reached."

### CNRA Would Bring International Spotlight & Resources

If passed by Congress, the proposed Chesapeake National Recreation Area (CNRA) would showcase new and existing parks and public lands along the Chesapeake Bay through the resources of the National Park Service (NPS). NPS status and expertise would help improve the visitor experience, improve public access to the Bay, protect the natural environment and tell an interesting story about our region.

For 40 years, partners have been working tirelessly to address pollution challenges that harm the waters and wildlife of the Bay. However, the monumental effort to restore the Bay, which involves government at all levels, universities, nonprofits, advocacy groups, and everyday people, is a feat in its own right. The story of the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort is one that must be widely shared to educate the public and to inspire the next generation of conservation stewards who will restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay.



# Environment



**Land-to-water**  
ratio is **14:1**

**Restoration** movement  
40+ years old

## The 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement

**10** broad goals

**31** outcomes

Many by **2025** or *even earlier.*

