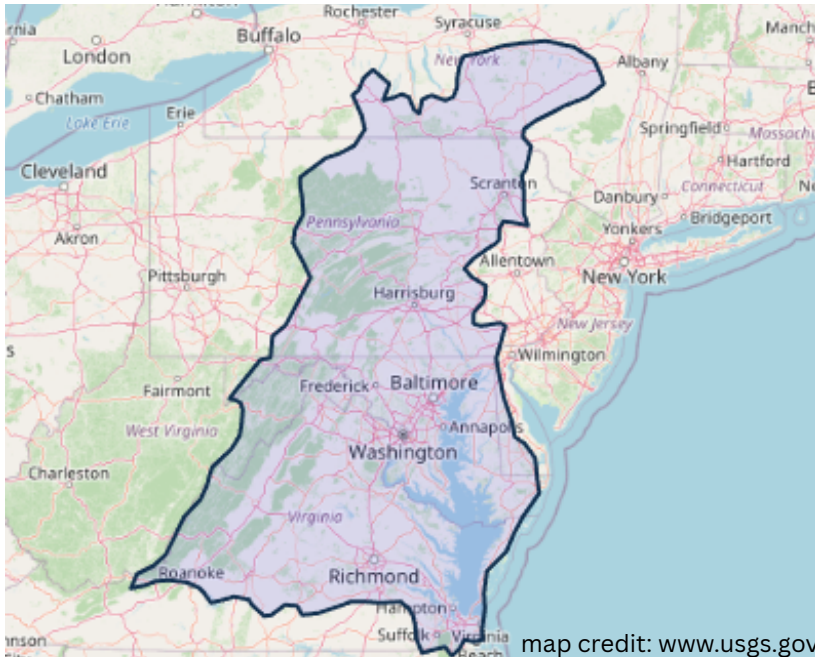


Guide to MS4

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

March 2026 Edition



Chesapeake Bay Watershed UPDATE:

Seven jurisdictions in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed contribute to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. Those jurisdictions include Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. One aspect of the agreement is to protect lands from development within the watershed. The data collected in 2024 shows that 9.2 million acres of land will be permanently protected from development. Pennsylvania leads the jurisdictions with the largest number of protected lands in the watershed with 3.7 million acres.

Agreement

In December 2025 the Chesapeake Executive Council met to discuss the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. The Agreement, established in 1983, outlines restoration for the largest estuary (Chesapeake Bay) in the nation along with the watershed that it encompasses it. Through advancement in science and conservation, the Council works to restore the Bay.



Goals

The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement contains four goals that also encompasses 21 outcomes. Those four goals are: Thriving Habitats, Fisheries and Wildlife; Clean Water; Healthy Landscapes; and Engaged Communities. The Council is now tasked with outlining steps to achieve the goals.