



CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM AND WATER RESOURCES UPDATES September 2023

Chesapeake Bay Program

What's Next for the Chesapeake Bay?

The Bay Journal

As the Chesapeake Bay Program turns forty this year, Partners discuss the future as a changing world and new science challenge old assumptions.

Protect Local Waterways

Chesapeake Bay Program

The Bay Program has a new website dedicated to the *Local Government Guide to the Chesapeake Bay*, developed in consult with the Local Leadership Work Group and LGAC. *Protect Local Waterways* has factsheets, presentations, and case studies on issues that matter to local governments such as *Capitalizing on the Benefits of Trees*, *Stormwater Resilience*, *Building the Workforce*, *Keys to Community Buy-in for the Environment* and *Understanding and Supporting Your Agricultural Allies*. Modules on these topics and more are on www.protectlocalwaterways.org/. A train the trainer webinar focused on tailoring and promoting these educational modules will be held October 11, 12:00-2:00. Register [here](#).

Bay Sees Second-Smallest Dead Zone on Record for June

Chesapeake Bay Magazine

A little over a month ago, Bay scientists made an [especially encouraging prediction](#): that the mass of oxygen-starved water known as the “dead zone” that develops each summer could be the smallest on record, giving the Bay’s vulnerable ecosystem a potential shot in the arm.

Three Chesapeake Getaways Sites That Capture the Magic of the Region

Chesapeake Bay Program

For 25 years, the National Park Service’s (NPS) [Chesapeake Gateways](#) has connected people to natural and cultural experiences within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, which spans 64,000 square miles! Since 2000, nearly 170 natural, cultural, historical, and recreational sites, trails, museums, parks, refuges, and interpretive and orientation facilities have joined Chesapeake Gateways. These places serve as entry points for experiencing the Chesapeake Bay watershed and celebrate the region’s diversity.

Federal Funding Boost Will Help Farmers Protect Water Quality in the Chesapeake Bay Region

The Bay Journal

Joe Glick knew he had a problem. Cows produced manure on his farm in Lancaster County, PA, but there was no secure place to hold it, which became evident with each downpour.

Water Quality, Wastewater and Stormwater

Anacostia River Splash Swim Event is September 23

The DCist

People will be able to legally swim in the Anacostia River for the first time in decades on September 23. The [free swim event](#) was supposed to take place on July 8 at Kingman Island, but was rescheduled after heavy rains and sewer construction work caused overflows of untreated sewage into the river.

[Rolling on the River at The Wharf](#)

September 24th 2-3 pm

Celebrate World Rivers Day and Theatre Week with the [Theatre Washington](#) and [Potomac River Partners](#) at Rolling on the River, a free hour-long outdoor concert on the Transit Pier Floating Stage at The Wharf. Celebrate life on the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers with your favorite local musical artists, "river music" and storytelling. All are welcome. Seating is on a first come, first served basis.

[8th Annual Festival del Rio Anacostia](#)

Saturday, September 30th 10am – 4pm.

Bladensburg Waterfront Park 4601 Annapolis Rd, Bladensburg, MD

Bring your family to celebrate the outdoors and the Anacostia River. Enjoy hands-on activities, crafts, entertainment, delicious food, free boat rides, fishing demos, live animals, and free giveaways. Learn about the Chesapeake Bay and drinking water health.

[College Park Storm Drain Murals Share Important Message](#)

NBC4

Storm drain murals remind residents of the wildlife of the Bay and that water down the storm drain goes into local waterways.

[COG's CEC Annual Survey Explores Residents' Opinions on Water and Wastewater](#)

Residents in metropolitan Washington trust their water utilities as sources for important water-related information, according to the newly released Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' (COG) 2023 Community Engagement Campaign (CEC) Drinking Water and Wastewater Survey.

[DC Water Releases New Lead Map, Part of 2023 Lead-Free DC Plan](#)

Water Finance & Management

This summer, DC Water released its [2023 Lead-Free DC \(LFDC\) Plan](#), detailing the necessary actions required from DC Water, customers in the District of Columbia, and other key partners to accelerate lead line replacement efforts. Lead-Free DC launched in 2019 with the goal of removing all lead service lines in the District by 2030.

[EPA Announces \\$50 Million in Grants for Stormwater, SEWER Needs](#)

Water Finance & Management

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently announced the availability of nearly \$50 million in regular funding through the Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grant program to help communities address stormwater and sewer infrastructure needs.

[Shining 'daylight' on the Chesapeake Bay's buried streams](#)

The Bay Journal

Across the Chesapeake Bay watershed, untold miles of headwater streams have disappeared from sight. In most cases, developers and urban planners in the 1800s and the first half of the 1900s forced their flows underground. Where lands were once laced with marsh-fringed waterways, they now conceal an underground network of pipes.

[Chesapeake Experts Focus on Solar Power's Stormwater Footprint](#)

The Bay Journal

Rain dripping off solar panels can produce a unique type of runoff — one the scientific community is playing catch-up to quantify as the solar industry rapidly expands its footprint in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Drinking Water, Water Supply and Drought

Drought

Officials eye Potomac water levels for drought preparations

Washington Post

D.C. Preparing to Draw on Backup Reservoirs as Drought Continues

DCist

ICPRB Initiates Drought Operations

The Potomac River flow is dropping and with little rain in the forecast, the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) is ramping up Drought Operations.

COG's Water Supply and Drought Report for September

As part of the Metropolitan Washington Water Supply and Drought Awareness Response Plan, COG issues monthly drought reports from May- October. Precipitation, groundwater, and streamflow levels are reviewed as well as recent forecasts for the region.

ICPRB's Water Supply Outlook for September

August's average Potomac Basin precipitation was 0.8 inches below normal as of the 29th, with a long-term (12-month) cumulative deficit of about 7.1 inches (11 to 25 percent below normal).

PFAS

EPA: PFAS Drinking Water Crisis Worse Than Previously Reported

EWG

Today the Environmental Protection Agency [revealed](#) that 26 million people in hundreds of communities have the toxic “**forever chemicals**” known as PFAS in their drinking water.

Drinking Water of Millions of Americans Contaminated With 'Forever Chemicals'

The Guardian

Drinking water consumed by millions of Americans from hundreds of communities spread across the United States is contaminated with dangerous levels of toxic chemicals, according to testing data released on Thursday by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

EPA Agrees to Settle Lawsuit by Testing Fish for PCBs in Two Maryland Rivers

The Bay Journal

Federal regulators have agreed to check fish in two Maryland rivers for toxic contaminants to settle a court case brought by an environmental group. Whether that will prompt any cleanup efforts remains to be seen.

Emmitsburg Halts Buying Water From St. Mary's Due to PFAS

Fredericksburg News-Post

The town of Emmitsburg has stopped buying water from Mount St. Mary's University, citing concerns over elevated levels of PFAS contamination in the university's water.

Plant-Based Straws Touted As Eco-Friendly May Contain Toxic 'Forever Chemicals'

The Hill

Scientists detected perfluorinated and polyfluorinated substances (PFAS) in the majority of straws they tested – with paper and bamboo-based straws ranking among the worst offenders, according to the study, published Thursday in [Food Additives and Contaminants](#).

EPA Enforcement Priorities Include New focus on Landfill Methane, PFAS

Waste Dive

The U.S. EPA's [National Enforcement and Compliance Initiatives](#) for the 2024-2027 period include multiple focus areas relevant to the waste industry. The updated initiatives are a part of a standard process to help the EPA and state environmental agencies prioritize enforcement efforts.

Climate and Energy

[DDOT Working on Plan to Close Part of Rhode Island Ave. in Response to Flash Flooding](#)

WTOP News

In order to help prevent devastating flooding in the area of Northeast D.C., the District Department of Transportation told WTOP that a plan is in the works that would initiate a road closure if powerful storms are coming to the area.

[The National Flood Insurance Program Got a Makeover Last Year. Here's How it Works](#)

Virginia Mercury

Virginians in flood-prone areas have more than just rising sea levels to worry about. They have rising flood insurance rates to worry about too.

[A view of the Chesapeake Bay's health from its headwaters](#)

Maryland Matters

As part of Maryland Matters' ongoing "Climate Calling" series, today we kick off a mini-series within the series, focusing on climate challenges and opportunities connected to the Chesapeake Bay.

Food, Forestry and Agriculture

[FCPS to Buy Local Produce for Cafeterias Using Grant Funds](#)

Frederick News Post

The district received a \$95,000 award from the Maryland State Department of Education through its Local Food for Schools program.

[To preserve the Chesapeake Bay, EPA and Hershey Co. commit \\$2 million for Pennsylvania dairy farmers](#)

Maryland Matters

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Hershey Co. on Tuesday pledged \$2 million to support Pennsylvania dairy farmers in adopting environmentally friendly practices, part of a larger conservation effort to protect the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

[Are We Trading Trees for Concrete?](#)

Chesapeake Bay Program

Over a decade ago, the Chesapeake Bay Program invested in the development of a cutting-edge technology that would produce [one-meter by one-meter resolution datasets](#) showing how the land throughout the watershed was being used. The first iteration of the high-resolution land use and land cover data showed what the Chesapeake Bay watershed looked like in 2013-2014. Four years later, an updated data set was produced, along with a new tool that analyzed the land use and land cover changes seen across the region since the first data set was released.

[How Extreme Weather is Affecting U.S. Small Farmers](#)

Time

Extreme weather patterns are posing difficulties across the agricultural community, but especially among small farmers, who have limited funds to deal with inconsistent weather that is affecting their cattle or crops.

[Tree Canopies Can Bring Relief to Baltimore Neighborhoods Heating Up with Climate Change](#)

Baltimore Sun

In some neighborhoods, midsummer is marked by delicate white flower petals floating in the wind,

drifting off tree branches, and falling in the cracks of the sidewalks. In other neighborhoods, which is a rarity.

[Local Trees Offer Potent Defense Against Invaders: Study](#)

The Hill

A new study has found that healthy ecosystems provide a powerful defense against invasive species — and the added disruption they bring.

[Green Roofs Serve Up Bug Buffett for Small-City Bats](#)

The Bay Journal

For the past two summers, a handful of college students scurried around the rooftops of landmark buildings in Lancaster, PA.

[Dynamic Food Pricing May Be a Solution to Climate Change, According to a Recent Study](#)

Salon

The practice encourages retailers to establish a system that determines when grocery stores should reduce the price of [perishables](#) depending on their inventory and expiration date. This allows grocers to change the price of food throughout the day — instead of maintaining a fixed, daily price — beginning from when foods arrive on the shelf until they expire.

[Study Spoiler: Cutting Food Waste Has Unintended Consequences](#)

Anthropocene Magazine

Reducing food waste is seen to be one of the truly tangible everyday steps we can all take to shrink our environmental footprints.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

FARM: October 13, December 8

WRTC: October 30

CBPC: November 17

COG Staff Contacts

Heidi Bonnaffon, hbonnaffon@mwkog.org

Caitlin Bolton: cbolton@mwkog.org

Katie Dyer: kdyer@mwkog.org

Christine Howard, cdhoward@mwkog.org

Lindsay Smith (Food and Agriculture), lsmith@mwkog.org