



MARYLAND COASTAL BAYS PROGRAM

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July 1, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept the attached grant application (EPA-CEP-01, cfda 66.456) for the Maryland Coastal Bays Program to EPA National Estuary Program Federal grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mariah'.

Mariah Livernois, PhD
Program Coordinator
Maryland Coastal Bays Program
mlivernois@mdcoastalbays.org

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424		
* 1. Type of Submission: <input type="checkbox"/> Preapplication <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application <input type="checkbox"/> Changed/Corrected Application		
* 2. Type of Application: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Revision		
* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s): <input type="text"/> * Other (Specify): <input type="text"/>		
* 3. Date Received: 06/30/2026		
4. Applicant Identifier: Mariah Livernois		
5a. Federal Entity Identifier: EPA		5b. Federal Award Identifier: EPA-CEP-01
State Use Only:		
6. Date Received by State: 07/01/2026		7. State Application Identifier: Maryland
8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:		
* a. Legal Name: Maryland Coastal Bays Foundation Inc.		
* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN): 52-2123356		* c. UEI: FHM3BCUNBMK1
d. Address:		
* Street1: 8219 Stephen Decatur Highway		
Street2:		
* City: Berlin		
County/Parish:		
* State: MD: Maryland		
Province:		
* Country: USA: UNITED STATES		
* Zip / Postal Code: 21811-2662		
e. Organizational Unit:		
Department Name:		Division Name:
f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:		
Prefix: Dr.		* First Name: Mariah
Middle Name:		
* Last Name: Livernois		
Suffix:		
Title: Program Coordinator		
Organizational Affiliation: Maryland Coastal Bays Program		
* Telephone Number: 978-799-1851		Fax Number:
* Email: mlivernois@mdcoastalbays.org		

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:

M: Nonprofit with 501C3 IRS Status (Other than Institution of Higher Education)

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

* Other (specify):

* 10. Name of Federal Agency:

Environmental Protection Agency

11. Assistance Listing Number:

66.456

Assistance Listing Title:

National Estuary Program

* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:

EPA-CEP-01

* Title:

EPA Mandatory Grant Programs

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Areas affected.pdf

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:

To aid the Maryland Coastal Bays Foundation National Estuary Program to Carry Out the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan.

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments

Delete Attachments

View Attachments

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424**16. Congressional Districts Of:*** a. Applicant * b. Program/Project

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

[Add Attachment](#)[Delete Attachment](#)[View Attachment](#)**17. Proposed Project:*** a. Start Date: * b. End Date: **18. Estimated Funding (\$):**

* a. Federal	<input type="text" value="850,000.00"/>
* b. Applicant	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* c. State	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* d. Local	<input type="text" value="850,000.00"/>
* e. Other	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* f. Program Income	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* g. TOTAL	<input type="text" value="1,700,000.00"/>

*** 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**

- ☒ a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on .
- ☐ b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.
- ☐ c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

*** 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)**☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

[Add Attachment](#)[Delete Attachment](#)[View Attachment](#)

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001)**

☒ ** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix: * First Name:

Middle Name:

* Last Name:

Suffix:

* Title: * Telephone Number: Fax Number: * Email:

* Signature of Authorized Representative:

* Date Signed:



MARYLAND COASTAL BAYS NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

FY27 WORKPLAN

Project Period: 10/1/2026 – 9/30/2027

BUDGET:

Federal Funding Request: \$850,000.00

Non-Federal Match: \$850,000.00

Total for this Action: \$1,700,000

YEAR 28 CCMP IMPLEMENTATION

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MARYLAND COASTAL BAYS PROGRAM

NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

Period of Performance:

October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027

EPA Project Officer:

Hannah Sanders
U.S. EPA Region III
Office of State and Watershed Partnerships (3WD31)
1600 JFK Blvd
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Maryland Project Officer:

Mariah Livernois, Program Coordinator
Maryland Coastal Bays Program
8219 Stephen Decatur Highway
Berlin, MD 21811

I. Background Information

The National Estuary Program (NEP) is a place-based program funded through the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to protect and restore the water quality and ecological integrity of estuaries of national significance. The NEP is a non-regulatory program established by Congress and was authorized by section 320 of the Clean Water Act in 1987. Each NEP has a Management Conference (MC) that consists of diverse stakeholders and uses a collaborative, consensus-building approach to implement the NEP's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). Moreover, each MC ensures that the CCMP is uniquely tailored to the local environmental conditions and is based on input by local, city, state, federal, private, and non-profit stakeholders, thereby supporting local priorities.

MCBP has been successful in implementing the actions outlined in the CCMP. The cooperation and model process exemplified by the NEP's has been extremely successful in the Maryland Coastal Bays watershed. Since the NEP began, local and regional government agencies, businesses and the public have been engaged in and working towards the mission of the Coastal Bays Program. This could not be achieved without the funding, support, and assistance of the EPA, which allows for the implementation of the activities outlined in the CCMP. By providing funding for the local program, specific actions have been implemented, and scientific research, such as monitoring and data collection have been improved. MCBP prioritizes institutionalizing CCMP actions with our partners through ongoing education and outreach. This resulted in a reduction from the 23 Goals, 73 Challenges and 505 Actions of the 1999 CCMP to the 14 Goals, 34 Challenges, and 223 Actions of the 2015 CCMP. Moreover, the results of the 2020 CCMP Update/Assessment provide further evidence of

progress. More than 50% (114) of the 222 Actions had been completed or were achieving their main activities and operating on an ongoing basis. Only about 10% (21) of the 222 Actions were yet to be initiated, and only 5 Actions were removed due to their lack of current relevance, utility, or feasibility.

MCBP revised the CCMP in 2025 to represent the program's intended activities for the next ten-year period from 2025-2035. The revision was a collaborative process that included the MCBP Management Conference and the public. The CCMP document was approved by EPA on May 28, 2025, and approval by the full MCBP Policy Committee and EPA was accomplished in a signing ceremony on June 24, 2025. The revised CCMP currently has 4 Themes, 20 Goals, and 121 Actions. The Themes, derived from existing CCMP Plans, current and prospective MCBP and partner projects and activities, and EPA priorities include:

- Provide Healthy Waters
- Protect Fish, Wildlife and their Habitat
- Create Resilient Communities and Ecosystems
- Develop Public Engagement and Partnerships

II. General Information Reporting Requirements

a. FY27 Priority Goals

1. Provide Healthy Waters

- 1.1 Decrease nutrient and pollutant loading in the watershed
- 1.2 Protect and conserve groundwater
- 1.3 Develop and implement comprehensive watershed programs and strategies to achieve the TMDL standard

2. Protect Fish, Wildlife, and their Habitat

- 2.1 Update and implement a comprehensive Monitoring Plan and Habitat Protection/Restoration Strategy as separate components of the CCMP
- 2.2 Monitor and manage finfish, shellfish and other aquatic species
- 2.3 Monitor and manage aquatic and estuarine habitats
- 2.4 Monitor and manage plants and wildlife in the watershed
- 2.5 Monitor and manage terrestrial habitats

3. Create Resilient Communities and Ecosystems

- 3.1 Enhance resilience of Coastal Bays ecosystems to natural disasters, sea level rise, and other environmental stressors
- 3.2 Enhance resilience of community assets and infrastructure to natural disasters, sea level rise and other environmental stressors
- 3.3 Implement and periodically update the MCBP Adaptation Action Plan
- 3.4 Coordinate with partners to develop and implement a Maryland Coastal Bays Sediment Management Plan
- 3.5 Monitor and conduct research to assess conditions and identify trends and challenges to guide resilience policies, programs, and projects
- 3.6 Promote and facilitate conservation of land, natural resources, energy, and manufactured materials

4. Develop Public Engagement and Partnerships

- 4.1 Support the NEP program effort through the MCBP program administration and Management Conference
- 4.2 Promote environmental literacy for the public through education, outreach, communication, and engagement activities
- 4.3 Coordinate with MCBP partners to develop and deliver academic programming
- 4.4 Cultivate volunteer participation in all aspects of community science, education, and outreach activities
- 4.5 Develop and support partnerships that advance mutual interests and are aligned with CCMP goals
- 4.6 Conduct outreach efforts to policymakers to gain support and promote the Maryland Coastal Bays Program

b. Staff Responsibilities

MCBP Staff	Responsibilities
	Program Office Services
Eva DiDonato Executive Director	Program planning and administration, including the primary responsibilities of organizational management and implementing the CCMP through a close relationship with the Management Conference (including Board, IC, PC, CAC and partners). Executive Director supervises staff, plans and implements budgets, and carries out daily supervision of managing all operations of the organization.
Mariah Livernois, PhD Program Coordinator	Tracks and reports on all projects in the CCMP and leads development of annual workplans alongside staff and members of the IC and PC. Primary point of communication between MCBP and partners at federal, state, and local agencies. Works towards securing grant funding, as well as assisting with project implementation and management.
Rene Schoelkopf Finance and Operations Manager	Provides program office assistance with managing finances, administrative functions for employee support and maintaining all records, files, and payroll information for the program. Acts as the liaison for the transmittal of information to EPA for the ASAP transactions. Works with the contract accountant on program financial reporting to the Director and Board.
Grant and Contracts Manager (To be Hired)	Exact responsibilities to be determined. Proposed tasks include coordinating grant compliance documentation, supporting contract development and tracking, tracking expenditures and project budgets, coordinating reimbursements, supporting organizational procurement, and assisting with audit preparation and financial documentation.
	Education and Outreach Activities
Liz Wist Education Coordinator	Provides vision and leadership for MCBP education and public involvement initiatives. Responsible for the creation, research, development and evaluation of environmental education programs. Develop curriculum for outdoor and indoor education programs and professional development and training opportunities for teachers, environmental educators, and volunteers.
Ellen Turnbaugh Education Program Manager	Assists Education Coordinator with all program development and implementation activities. Primary focus is school programs, including an annual leadership retreat for high school students, MCBP's mini-grant program, and the OC Estuary Explorers summer camp, among various other education programs.
Andrea García Environmental Literacy Specialist	Supports the development and implementation of Maryland Environmental Literacy Standards in Worcester County Public

	Schools. Collaborates with educators on curriculum development, fosters community-school partnerships, and leads k-5 environmental-based after school programs.
	Development and Communication Activities
Sandi Smith Outreach and Marketing Coordinator	Lead staff member for development activities including fundraising events and community engagement. Coordinates programs with municipal and local organizations throughout the watershed. Provides leadership and experience to plan and execute fundraising and marketing efforts including annual fundraising events, cultivation of individual and corporate donors, major gifts campaigns, direct mail, annual fund campaigns, and online giving campaigns. Directs and responds to press inquiries regarding MCBP programs.
	Science and Restoration Program Activities
Carly Toulan Environmental Scientist	Manage and administer long-term programs including annual stream monitoring and volunteer water quality monitoring. Responsible for recruiting and organizing volunteers for community science projects. Manage laboratory contracts and water quality data. Supervising science interns, seasonal staff and Chesapeake Conservation Corps members. Assist with biological monitoring efforts and reports. Utilizes volunteers and other resources to accomplish CCMP activities.
Billy Weiland Environmental Scientist	Responsible for solicitation and organization of interns involved in various MCBP activities. Coordinate and assist the Science Director and Watershed Coordinator to conduct field work and monitoring of new and existing research and restoration projects. Assist in the preparation of scientific reports and documents. Maintain MCBP compliance with EPA quality management and grant requirements. Other program and project duties are frequently assigned.
Kim Apblanalp Coastal Bird Habitat Coordinator	Primary activities include conservation, habitat restoration (Including beneficial use of dredge material), stewardship, outreach and advocacy to benefit priority coastal birds and their habitats, with an emphasis on terns, skimmers, shorebirds and other beach-nesting birds. The Coordinator may also work with salt marsh birds, waterfowl and other coastal birds.
Jessica McIntosh Newport Bay Partnership Coordinator	Leads the Newport Bay Partnership, a five-year Whole Watershed Initiative aiming to provide clean water through science and community. The partnership includes Worcester County, Town of Berlin, Lower Shore Land Trust, Assateague Coastal Trust, and Maryland Coastal Bays Program.
Various Seasonal and Intern Positions	The Maryland Coastal Bays Program utilizes various seasonal and intern positions made available through a variety of means including direct hire with EPA funds, grants from entities such as Chesapeake Bay Trust and Community Foundation. These positions assist the program in meeting obligations in the work

	<p>plan that require fluctuating workload throughout the year. These activities include water quality sampling, biological monitoring activities, volunteer assistance and maintenance on properties that MCBP manages in the watershed.</p>
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MCBP Staff Duties Related to Budget for Workplan Projects

In certain cases, in the Budget section of the Workplan for each project, the MCBP staff budget expenses are described relating to specific duties carried out for the successful completion of that project. For many projects, MCBP staff duties encompass many general responsibilities related to project management. These include managing the budget, design and construction of projects, assisting with permits and permit compliance, monitoring, sampling, testing, data collection and other related field work. Reporting for timekeeping, required progress reports, and attending meetings with professional colleagues are also part of the activities that staff are engaged in for project management. MCBP uses a timekeeping process where all staff time is tied back to a workplan project. Those hours reflect the time spent and budget estimates for the project and are used in project planning when a project is ongoing for future Workplans.

Statement regarding “Ongoing Extreme Weather Event Risk(s) Considered”

As a program that has completed a Resilience Adaptation Plan, the MCBP has strongly considered weather related coastal resiliency in all aspects of the current CCMP (2025 – 2035) and during the preparation of the FY27 EPA Grant Workplan. The 2024 EPA Program Evaluation identified the need to increase Coastal Resiliency, and the FY27 Workplan identifies programs such as building innovative resiliency in community projects and policies and reaching a broader cross-section of the watershed community as important areas to concentrate resources. MCBP and partners have planned and designed eight resilience restoration projects. Three of these projects are complete (Assateague State Park Shoreline, Bainbridge Pond in Ocean Pines, and Selsey Road in West Ocean City), while five are in various stages of design, permitting, and construction (Reedy Island, Tizzard Island, Jenkins Point, Ocean City Northside Park, and Sinepuxent South Shoreline).

EPA has encouraged NEPs to continue developing resilient management plans to address impacts from ongoing extreme weather events, including flooding that may be related to sea level rise, while also increasing engagement and benefits to all communities. MCBP is committed to ensuring that this policy guidance is carried out in this FY27 Workplan, using the best science now and in the future to consider all of EPA’s areas of special interest in each project proposed in this Workplan.

c. FY27 Proposed Workplan Expenditures

1. FY27 NEP Budget Breakdown:

PERSONNEL	\$ 460,968
FRINGE	\$ 80,317
TRAVEL	\$ 16,000
EQUIPMENT	\$ 0
SUPPLIES	\$ 27,500
CONTRACTUAL	\$ 110,575
CONSTRUCTION	\$ 0
OTHER	\$ 46,560
INDIRECT	<u>\$ 108,080</u>
TOTALS	\$ 850,000

2. FY27 NEP Non-Federal Match

Town of Ocean City	\$425,000	In-Kind
Worcester County	\$425,000	In Kind

III. FY27 Workplan: Projects for 10/1/26 - 9/30/27

Section 1: Program Management

Project/activity Name	Advisory, Technical, and Public Meetings (new, ongoing)
CCMP Goal Area	<p>DPEP 1.5 Engage the partners and watershed community through regularly scheduled meetings of the Management Conference committees.</p> <p>DPEP 5.4 Participate in local and regional teams and networks to communicate and collaborate on conservation and restoration activities in the watershed.</p> <p>DPEP 5.8 Provide expertise and a voice for the watershed by participating on boards, advisory councils, planning committees and attending relevant meetings.</p> <p>DPEP 6.2 Identify resource management issues and engage elected and appointed officials as to the challenges, possible solutions, and funding needs.</p> <p>CRCE 5.2 Regularly assess research and monitoring needs and recommend priority assignments and schedule.</p>
Project/activity Objective(s)	Attend, participate in, and/or host a variety of advisory and technical meetings with watershed partners (including MCBP Implementation, Policy, Scientific and Technical Advisory, and Citizens Advisory Committee meetings), outside organizations, stakeholders, the public, and elected officials.
Project/activity Description	MCBP staff will participate in advisory and technical meetings that enhance the implementation of CCMP actions through knowledge transfer and collaboration. Meetings with the public and elected officials will aim to gather and share information related to local environmental, legislative and regulatory concerns and convey those messages to decision makers.
Partners and Their Role(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCBP staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Executive Director supervises all activities, organizes PC meetings, and participates in meetings when appropriate. ○ Program Coordinator organizes IC meetings and participates in meetings when appropriate. ○ Science team organizes STAC meetings and participates in meetings when appropriate. ○ Education Coordinator and Program Manager participate in meetings when appropriate. ○ Other staff participate in meetings when appropriate. • MCBF Board of Directors – provide guidance and direction to encourage successful implementation of the CCMP • Policy Committee (PC) – Provides policy direction, approves priorities for implementation, and approves CCMP changes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation Committee (IC) – Ensures CCMP and Policy Committee directives are being implemented effectively • Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) – Provides guidance and assistance with science-related activities • Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) – Ensures public involvement during CCMP implementation • Various local, state and federal agencies along with NGO's and science-based organizations – support knowledge transfer • Elected officials at the local and County level – decision makers 	
Outputs/Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PC meeting held annually • IC and STAC meetings held biannually • CAC meetings held periodically • Staff participate in at least 15 meetings • Information from meetings is shared with staff and partner organizations • Host public forums when applicable to specific CCMP actions and projects • Attend meetings of local elected officials and appointed bodies when relevant issues are to be discussed (e.g., watershed management, restoration activities, regulation changes) 	
Estimated Milestones/Timeline	<p>Meetings occur throughout the grant period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PC meeting – Summer 2027 • IC meetings – Fall 2026, Spring 2027 • STAC meetings – Fall 2026, Spring 2027 • CAC meetings – Timing TBD based on availability of members 	
Estimated Budget	<p>Personnel: \$15,000 for meeting coordination and attendance. Travel: \$1,000 for mileage to attend meetings not hosted at MCBP office.</p>	
Long-term Outcomes	<p>Transferring knowledge and sharing staff expertise with others at all professional levels of science, restoration, education and outreach to further the successful implementation of the CCMP. Improve public awareness and understanding of environmental challenges and solutions in the watershed.</p>	
QAPP Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Required* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A *QAPP Status:	
CWA core program(s) the project supports <i>These activities are required as part of the National Estuary program</i>	(1) establishing water quality standards	
	(2) identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them (total maximum daily loads)	✓
	(3) permitting discharges of pollutants from point sources (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit)	
	(4) addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution	✓

	(5) protecting wetlands	✓
	(6) protecting coastal waters through the National Estuary Program	✓
	(7) protecting Large Aquatic Ecosystems	✓

Project/activity Name	CCMP Management (ongoing)
CCMP Goal Area	<p>DPEP 1.1 Implement and periodically revise a Communication, Education, and Outreach Plan of the CCMP to ensure community involvement.</p> <p>DPEP 1.2 Implement and periodically revise a Finance Strategy that will establish long-term financial sustainability to implement the CCMP through diverse resources and partners.</p> <p>DPEP 1.3 Develop, implement, and periodically revise a Science and Research Plan to inform scientific decision making relating to the CCMP.</p> <p>DPEP 1.4 Develop workplans for approval and funding from EPA and other grantors to implement actions in the CCMP.</p> <p>CRCE 3.1 Ensure that the recommended adaptation actions within the Adaptation Action Plan (AAP) are considered each year for implementation in MCBP and partner work plans.</p> <p>PFWH 1.2 Ensure that the recommended components within the Monitoring Plan, and Habitat and Restoration Strategy are considered each year for implementation in the MCBP and other partner's annual work plans.</p>
Project/activity Objective(s)	<p>Provide leadership and coordination for implementing the CCMP to meet NEP requirements. Provide information for the annual work plan on CCMP projects led by MCBP. Update and revise CCMP as required. Develop and implement CCMP tracking and reporting system. Collect, compile, and submit GPRA leveraging and habitat project information via the NEPORT system, and scheduled progress reports. Implement adaptation action plan during workplan development and CCMP revisions. Develop supplemental plans as additions to the CCMP, including a Monitoring Plan, Finance Strategy, Habitat Protection/Restoration Strategy, and Communication/Outreach Strategy.</p>
Project/activity Description	<p>MCBPs CCMP includes 4 Themes, 21 Goals and 124 Actions. MCBP will work with partners to implement actions and track and report progress. Progress will also be tracked and reported via habitat and leveraging reports to the EPA, as well as in the annual work plan. Actions listed in the adaptation plan (completed 2024) will be integrated throughout the 2025-2035 CCMP period through annual workplans. The adaptation plan will be refined and updated as necessary. Supplemental plans will be developed during this fiscal year and submitted for review ahead of the 2028 deadline.</p>

Partners and Their Role(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCBP – lead for prioritizing and implementing CCMP actions, responsible for reporting to EPA • MCBP Committees (PC, IC, STAC, CAC) – assist in prioritizing CCMP actions, guide implementation • EPA – partner for CCMP actions, receive reporting, guidance and facilitation of exchange among NEPs • U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) – partner for CCMP actions • Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) – partner for CCMP actions • Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) – partner for CCMP actions • Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) – partner for CCMP actions • Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) – partner for CCMP actions • National Park Service (NPS) – partner for CCMP actions • Assateague Island National Seashore (ASIS) – partner for CCMP actions • Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – partner for CCMP actions • Town of Berlin – partner for CCMP actions • Town of Ocean City – partner for CCMP actions • Worcester County – partner for CCMP actions
Outputs/Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement systems for tracking and reporting on CCMP implementation progress, including on MCBP’s website • Monitoring and reporting on CCMP implementation at scheduled meetings of MCBF Board and Management Conference meetings • Collection of GPRA leveraging and habitat project information from partners and submission to EPA via the NEPORT system • Development of supplemental CCMP plans • Development and submission of annual work plan and semi-annual progress reports • Incorporate adaptation actions into annual workplans and project development
Estimated Milestones/Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tracking progress towards CCMP goals, both internally and through communication with partners and public – ongoing • Develop supplemental CCMP plans – ongoing (until 2028) • Develop and implement tracking and reporting system – Fall 2026 to spring 2027 • Submit FY28 base grant work plan – July 2027 • Submit six-month progress reports – December 2026, June 2027 • Request leveraging and habitat data (NEPORT) from partners – June 2027 • Submit leveraging and habitat data to NEPORT – September 2027
Estimated Budget	Personnel: \$20,000 for workplan development, progress reporting,

	NEPORT reporting, CCMP tracking, and supplemental CCMP plans.	
Long-term Outcomes	Effective implementation and monitoring of CCMP.	
QAPP Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Required* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A *QAPP Status:	
CWA core program(s) the project supports <i>These activities are required as part of the National Estuary program</i>	(1) establishing water quality standards	✓
	(2) identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them (total maximum daily loads)	✓
	(3) permitting discharges of pollutants from point sources (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit)	
	(4) addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution	✓
	(5) protecting wetlands	✓
	(6) protecting coastal waters through the National Estuary Program	✓
	(7) protecting Large Aquatic Ecosystems	✓

Project/activity Name	Environmental Seasonal Staff Program (ongoing)
CCMP Goal Area	DPEP 5.1 Provide scholarships, internships and other workforce development opportunities for high school and college students and graduates in the Coastal Bays watershed.
Project/activity Objective(s)	Provide temporary employment opportunities for young professionals, either currently enrolled or recently graduated from college, to develop skills in the fields of restoration, scientific monitoring, and environmental education. Apply to host a Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps (CCCC) program member.
Project/activity Description	<p>MCBP hires and trains temporary staff that work under MCBP staff supervision to assist in water quality monitoring, data entry, educational activities, summer boat tours and camps, restoration projects, and program outreach.</p> <p>The CCCC program provides service-learning opportunities and green job training for young adults through environmental and energy conservation projects, while enhancing capacity of MCBP staff to implement CCMP activities.</p>
Partners and Their Role(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCBP – Hires and trains seasonal staff • CCCC member(s) – Aid MCBP staff on projects and activities and implements capstone project • Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) – Funding and supplementary training to the CCCC member(s)

Outputs/Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruit and retain summer staff to support Science and Education teams. CCCC member(s) will be responsible for developing a work plan for science and/or education programs in coordination with MCBP staff. 	
Estimated Milestones/Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertise available intern position(s) – Winter/spring 2027 Interview candidates and hire 1-2 seasonal intern(s) for summer season – begin June 2027 Apply for CCCC Member – Spring 2027 If awarded, CCCC member begins one-year term – August 2027 CCCC member work plan developed by September 2027 	
Estimated Budget	Personnel: \$5,000 for training and supervision of seasonal staff Intern salary and fringe from FY25 (\$9,555 remaining) and FY26 (\$20,000) IJA; Funds for CCCC member(s) to be determined pending award, matching requirement, and member housing needs	
Long-term Outcomes	Enhanced staff capacity resource for program, young professionals with relevant job experience, life-long impact on stewardship values, accomplished capstone projects consistent with CCMP, and staff mentorship experience.	
QAPP Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Required* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A *QAPP Status:	
CWA core program(s) the project supports <i>These activities are required as part of the National Estuary program</i>	(1) establishing water quality standards	
	(2) identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them (total maximum daily loads)	
	(3) permitting discharges of pollutants from point sources (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit)	
	(4) addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution	
	(5) protecting wetlands	
	(6) protecting coastal waters through the National Estuary Program	✓

Project/activity Name	Professional Staff Development (ongoing)
CCMP Goal Area	DPEP 5.4 Participate in local and regional teams and networks to communicate and collaborate on conservation and restoration activities in the watershed. DPEP 5.5 Participate in and share information at conferences, meetings, workshops, and technology transfer opportunities to receive and provide professional development.
Project/activity Objective(s)	Develop and enhance knowledge and skills of MCBP staff to increase

	effectiveness and efficiency of professional responsibilities and thereby advance mission and goals of the organization.	
Project/activity Description	Promote and support staff participation in professional development opportunities through classes, workshops, conferences, etc.	
Partners and Their Role(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCBP – Identification, screening and support for staff participation in professional development opportunities • Partners and other service providers – Provide professional development opportunities 	
Outputs/Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff will participate in at least 30 total professional development/training opportunities 	
Estimated Milestones/Timeline	Staff participation in professional development opportunities – ongoing throughout grant period	
Estimated Budget	Personnel: \$12,000 to participate in professional development opportunities Travel: \$13,500: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Airfare: \$3,500 - Hotel: \$5,500 - Mileage: \$500 - Meals: \$2,000 - Other: \$2,000 	
Long-term Outcomes	Improved performance and knowledge of MCBP staff, and regional and national network/partnership building.	
QAPP Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Required* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A *QAPP Status:	
CWA core program(s) the project supports <i>These activities are required as part of the National Estuary program</i>	(1) establishing water quality standards	
	(2) identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them (total maximum daily loads)	
	(3) permitting discharges of pollutants from point sources (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit)	
	(4) addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution	
	(5) protecting wetlands	
	(6) protecting coastal waters through the National Estuary Program	✓
	(7) protecting Large Aquatic Ecosystems	✓

Project/activity Name	Program Planning, Administration, Coordination and support of the Management Conference and CCMP (ongoing)
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CCMP Goal Area	DPEP Goal 1 Support the NEP program effort through the MCBP program administration and Management Conference. DPEP 6.4 Develop, implement, and respond to opportunities to develop funding through public and private grants, to supplement core EPA funding in support of CCMP programs and activities.
Project/activity Objective(s)	Provide overall coordination and direction for the MCBP and CCMP activities through support of the Management Conference. Provide program funding through other sources including outside grants for CCMP projects to supplement EPA funding. Provide program administration support including information technology, human resources and employee benefits, and payroll.
Project/activity Description	The Program support of the Management Conference includes effective leadership and cooperation with the MCBF Board, staff and committees to ensure that the strategic priorities within the CCMP are accomplished. The focus in FY27 will be to further define the actions and roles of the Management Conference, Board, and Program staff that will accomplish the projects within the approved work plan for this fiscal year. When appropriate, staff will develop grant applications for programs and projects that directly relate to CCMP.
Partners and Their Role(s)	MCBP Management Conference (includes MCBF Board, Policy Committee (PC), Implementation Committee (IC), Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) and other watershed partners and stakeholders. Meetings are held with regularly scheduled intervals, and communication is shared among groups. Specific roles of program partners may be revised through Management Conference agreement and are generally accepted as directing the program to successful implementation of the CCMP.
Outputs/Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly Meetings of the MCBF Board • Regularly scheduled staff meetings with staff, ED and occasional MCBF Board • Effective management and implementation of the CCMP • Leadership and management of MCBP staff and operations • At least 5 grant applications submitted
Estimated Milestones/Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings of the MCBF Board – Quarterly through grant period • MCBP staff meetings – semi-monthly • NEP Meeting attendance - Twice per year as scheduled • Annual program audit – April 2027
Estimated Budget	Personnel: \$238,968 Fringe: \$80,317 Travel: \$500 (Mileage) Supplies: \$19,500 (General, Office, IT & Software, Fuel and Other) Contractual: \$68,300 (Accounting, IT, Copier Contract, Memberships, Other Contractual) Other: \$23,560 (Postage Delivery, Cleaning Services, Trash Disposal, Mowing and Grounds Maintenance, Copier Rental/Maintenance, Repair and Maintenance: Auto/Boat, Repair and Maintenance: Other)

	Indirect: \$108,080 FY26 EPA IJA funds: \$40,000 for capacity building (equipment and supplies), \$250,000 for personnel, \$20,000 for contractor assistance with programmatic efforts	
Long-term Outcomes	Development of management strategies for effective implementation of the CCMP. Refining the effectiveness of the organization by focusing on the strategic priorities in the CCMP and work plan.	
QAPP Status	Quality Management Plan completed and approved in 2023. QMP will be updated in 2026 to reflect changes in staffing.	
CWA core program(s) the project supports <i>These activities are required as part of the National Estuary program</i>	(1) establishing water quality standards	
	(2) identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them (total maximum daily loads)	
	(3) permitting discharges of pollutants from point sources (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit)	
	(4) addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution	
	(5) protecting wetlands	
	(6) protecting coastal waters through the National Estuary Program	✓
	(7) protecting Large Aquatic Ecosystems	

Section 2: Communication and Outreach

Project/activity Name	Coastal and Marine Debris Clean Ups (ongoing)
CCMP Goal Area	DPEP 2.6 Collaborate on education, outreach and engagement programs related to marine issues including responsible use by local stakeholders, marine debris, and trash free waters.
Project/activity Objective(s)	Increase awareness of pollution and trash issues and provide opportunities for public participation in clean-up efforts, including removal of trash, debris, and ghost crab pots.
Project/activity Description	MCBP staff organizes, promotes, and partners in coastal and marine debris clean-ups throughout the year. Staff coordinate with partners to recruit volunteers, provide marketing about events through social media and attend events to assist with daily activities surrounding Marine Debris Cleanup efforts. Events aim to emphasize marine debris awareness and

	collection, including the annual Marine Debris Plunder event, and recruit watermen for ghost pot retrieval.	
Partners and Their Role(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OC Green Team – Leader of community cleanups • Ocean City Surf Club – Lead for Adopt-a-Beach and Adopt-a-Street • Town of Ocean City – Coordinator of Dune Patrol • MCBP – Lead for Marine Debris Plunder event awareness and collection activities, recruiting watermen to retrieve ghost pots • Volunteers – Participate in clean-up activities • Worcester County Mandatory Drug Court – Community Service clean up opportunities 	
Outputs/Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OC Green Team complete 3 Community Clean Ups • Recruit and manage at least 100 volunteers for cleanup events, including annual Marine Debris Plunder • Collect at least 1,000 pounds of debris • Track and report debris collected • Collect at least 30 ghost crab pots 	
Estimated Milestones/Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule and manage collection events – Periodically during workplan term • Hold Marine Debris Plunder event – Fall 2027 • Track and report debris collected – Following events, as possible 	
Estimated Budget	Personnel: \$4,000 for coordination and participation in events	
Long-term Outcomes	Community stewardship and behavior change, less trash, and debris in the waters. Improved habitat and water quality.	
QAPP Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Required* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A *QAPP Status:	
CWA core program(s) the project supports <i>These activities are required as part of the National Estuary program</i>	(1) establishing water quality standards	
	(2) identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them (total maximum daily loads)	
	(3) permitting discharges of pollutants from point sources (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit)	
	(4) addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution	✓
	(5) protecting wetlands	
	(6) protecting coastal waters through the National Estuary Program	✓
	(7) protecting Large Aquatic Ecosystems	✓

Project/activity Name	Coastal Bays Report Card and State of the Bays Report (new, ongoing)
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CCMP Goal Area	<p>DPEP 2.3 Develop and translate findings into learning resources (e.g., Homeowner's Guide, Report Card) to promote research, restoration, and general watershed health including stormwater management.</p> <p>PFWH 2.5 Complete an annual survey of shellfish resources within Maryland's Coastal Bays and update the Coastal Bays Hard Clam and Blue Crab Fisheries Management Plan.</p> <p>PFWH 3.1 Continue research and support for management, protection and restoration of seagrass beds and exploration of various methods of monitoring.</p> <p>PFWH 3.4 Maintain and enhance bay water quality monitoring programs to assess nutrient loading, bacteria levels and living resource responses.</p> <p>PFWH 3.6 Monitor near shore plant and animal species and habitat.</p> <p>PFWH 3.10 Conduct monitoring and assessment to characterize the health of streams in the Coastal Bays Watershed.</p>
Project/activity Objective(s)	Communicate the eco-health index of the Coastal Bays in a visual report for watershed residents to understand and provide a learning resource of general watershed health of the Bays. The report card provides an annual snapshot of scientifically derived, defensible water quality conditions in a geographically detailed assessment of the health of the Coastal Bays ecosystem. The State of the Bays Report is developed and published every 5 years as a synthesis of the status and trends of key environmental features of the system and to highlight emerging issues.
Project/activity Description	Data collection and monitoring is compiled by several agencies, including Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR), University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES), and the National Park Service (NPS). The results are coordinated through STAC to produce one health index for the Coastal Bays on whole, and individual indices per bay, presented as report card scores. The State of the Bays report is developed collaboratively with members of partner organizations and the STAC.
Partners and Their Role(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCBP – lead, coordinate and fund project • UMCES – assistance with design, content, and publication • STAC – assistance with content • MD DNR – provide data • NPS – provide data
Outputs/Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An annual snapshot of scientifically derived, defensible water quality conditions in a geographically detailed assessment of the health of the Coastal Bays ecosystem (Report Card) • A synthesis of status and trends of the Coastal Bays system, emerging concerns, and actions for the next 5 years (State of the Bays) • Hard copy and digital Report Card and State of the Bays, including posted on MCBP website • Promote and hold annual Report Card release event • Publicize Report Card findings and State of the Bays report via

	newsletter and social media <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make print copies of both documents available at public events and the MCBP office 	
Estimated Milestones/Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025 Report Card release and publicity activities– fall/winter 2026 • SAV and clam surveys – fall 2026 • 2026 Report Card water quality monitoring – year-round • 2026 Report Card data processing – summer 2027 • 2026 Report Card publication layout and production – summer and fall 2027 • 2027 State of the Bays development in coordination with STAC – fall 2026 to summer 2027 • 2027 State of the Bays layout and production, release – fall/winter 2027 	
Estimated Budget	Personnel: \$7,000 for coordination and report development Other: Subaward to UMCES IAN for 2026 Report Card (\$14,000)	
Long-term Outcomes	Public education of the health and status of the Coastal Bays ecosystem, science integration and dissemination of local ecosystem health, raised awareness of estuary issues amongst local constituents, and sustained public support and changes in environmentally detrimental behavior.	
QAPP Status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Required* <input type="checkbox"/> N/A *QAPP Status: QAPP for report documents in development, to be completed in 2026	
CWA core program(s) the project supports <i>These activities are required as part of the National Estuary program</i>	(1) establishing water quality standards	✓
	(2) identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them (total maximum daily loads)	✓
	(3) permitting discharges of pollutants from point sources (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit)	
	(4) addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution	✓
	(5) protecting wetlands	✓
	(6) protecting coastal waters through the National Estuary Program	✓
	(7) protecting Large Aquatic Ecosystems	✓

Project/activity Name	Digital and Print Communication (ongoing)
CCMP Goal Area	DPEP 2.4 Provide information and promote events through digital communication including social media platforms, press releases, and newsletters.

Project/activity Objective(s)	Informing and engaging the public, with a concentration on facilitating implementation of the CCMP.	
Project/activity Description	MCBP employs a strategic combination of traditional print and digital media tools to reach a diverse audience to raise awareness on our organization, promote environmental literacy and catalyze behavior change within our community.	
Partners and Their Role(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCBP – Responsible for all communication for the program • EPA – Provides information to share with the public • Partner agencies – Provide content for communications 	
Outputs/Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft and distribute at least 10 press releases to local and regional media outlets • Draft and distribute monthly electronic newsletter via Mailchimp • Populate website with updated information, resources and calendar, including a separate calendar for volunteer opportunities. Maintain current number of users and page views • Generate at least 5 monthly Facebook and Instagram posts and maintain current number of accounts and likes • Maintain updates to community science reports, general information brochures, and the Coastal Bays classroom map 	
Estimated Milestones/Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press releases – ongoing, as determined by Program Management • Website maintenance and updates – ongoing • Electronic newsletter via Mailchimp – monthly • Social media posts – ongoing 	
Estimated Budget	Personnel: \$12,000 to create and manage content Contractual: \$5,500 for web support (\$1,500) and printing (\$4,000)	
Long-term Outcomes	Inform, educate and engage the local community about issues affecting the Coastal Bays, increase community involvement and participation in Coastal Bays related events, foster an appreciation for our natural resources, and inspire responsible environmental stewardship.	
QAPP Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Required* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A *QAPP Status:	
CWA core program(s) the project supports <i>These activities are required as part of the National Estuary program</i>	(1) establishing water quality standards	
	(2) identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them (total maximum daily loads)	
	(3) permitting discharges of pollutants from point sources (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit)	
	(4) addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution	
	(5) protecting wetlands	

	(6) protecting coastal waters through the National Estuary Program	✓
	(7) protecting Large Aquatic Ecosystems	✓

Project/activity Name	Outreach Events and Exhibits (ongoing)
CCMP Goal Area	DPEP 2.2 Deliver direct educational opportunities such as workshops, events, and programs to explore the watershed, increase knowledge, and cultivate a sense of place for individuals and community groups.
Project/activity Objective(s)	<p>MCBP coordinates and participates in numerous events directed toward educating and informing the public/local community about protecting and conserving Maryland's Coastal Bays watershed.</p> <p>Ocean Pines Bay Day: MCBP holds an annual outreach and education event focused on Ocean Pines and the Isle of Wight/St. Martin River watershed to educate and inform the local community about protecting and conserving Maryland's Coastal Bays.</p>
Project/activity Description	<p>MCBP and volunteers participate in events coordinated by MCBP or other partner organizations. Some of these events are strictly related to environmental or watershed health, while in other cases MCBP may have a booth at a local event that is not environmental in nature. This allows us to reach audiences that we may not otherwise meet to educate on Coastal Bays issues.</p> <p>Ocean Pines Bay Day: MCBP and Ocean Pines plan and execute an annual large outreach and education event in Ocean Pines with other environmental, conservation and education organizations.</p>
Partners and Their Role(s)	<p>General program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCBP – lead • CCMP Partners – Hosting and partnering on events • Volunteers – Assists with all events • Citizens Advisory Committee – Promote events <p>Ocean Pines Bay Day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCBP – lead • Ocean Pines Association, Environment Committee – assist with planning • Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Department – assist with planning and site management • Local, regional and state environmental, conservation and education organizations – participants/presenters • Local businesses – vendors • Volunteers – Assist with event
Outputs/Deliverables	General program:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold at least 10 MCBP-organized events • Reach at least 500 community members in MCBP-organized events • Participate in at least 10 events organized by other entities such as beach clean ups, nature festivals, speaker series <p>Ocean Pines Bay Day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit 20-30 environmental/education organizations participants • Attract 800-1,000 community visitors • Recruit 15-25 volunteers • Host the annual Bay Day Event 	
Estimated Milestones/Timeline	<p>General program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan, promote and implement MCBP-organized events – ongoing throughout grant period • Identify and participate in events organized by other entities - ongoing throughout grant period • Develop materials for events – leading up and tailored to specific events <p>Ocean Pines Bay Day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event Planning: December 2026 – May 2027 • Recruit Partners and/or sponsors: Ongoing • Recruit Volunteers: Winter-Spring 2027 • Invite educational vendors Winter-Spring 2027 • Promote event January-May 2027 • Hold event: May 2027 	
Estimated Budget	<p>Personnel: \$15,000 for project planning, coordination and event participation</p> <p>Supplies: \$2,000</p> <p>Contractual: \$275 (Event Fees and Sponsorships)</p> <p>Travel: \$1,000</p> <p>Other Bay Day event expenses funded by Ocean Pines Association</p>	
Long-term Outcomes	Engage, inform and educate the local community about issues affecting the Coastal Bays; increased community involvement and participation in Coastal Bays related events; foster an appreciation for our natural resources and inspire responsible environmental actions and stewardship; increases to participation in the Coastal Bays Citizens Advisory Committee by engaging the community.	
QAPP Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Required* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A *QAPP Status:	
CWA core program(s) the project supports <i>These activities are required as part of the National Estuary program</i>	(1) establishing water quality standards	
	(2) identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them (total maximum daily loads)	
	(3) permitting discharges of pollutants from point sources (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit)	

	(4) addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution	
	(5) protecting wetlands	
	(6) protecting coastal waters through the National Estuary Program	✓
	(7) protecting Large Aquatic Ecosystems	✓

Section 3: Science and Restoration

Project/activity Name	Coastal Shoreline Assessment, Restoration, and Monitoring Programs (new, ongoing)
CCMP Goal Area	<p>PFWH 1.2 Ensure that the recommended components within the Monitoring Plan, and Habitat and Restoration Strategy are considered each year for implementation in the MCBP and other partner's annual work plans.</p> <p>CRCE 1.1 Identify and prioritize ecosystem restoration opportunities in the watershed.</p> <p>CRCE 1.2 Restore marshes, shorelines, islands and upland ecosystems to natural conditions within the Coastal Bays watershed, including post restoration monitoring for adaptive management.</p>
Project/activity Objective(s)	Projects included in this program will identify and seek to protect and/or restore sensitive coastal shorelines in the watershed, which protect infrastructure and habitats.
Project/activity Description	<p>MCBP works with partners to identify sensitive coastal shoreline areas, assess and monitor the impact of environmental and human forces on their stability and sustainability, and target vulnerable areas for protection and restoration projects. Specific projects that will be active in FY27 include:</p> <p>Sinepuxent South Living Shoreline: This project will provide nature-based resiliency and enhanced shoreline, nearshore, and buffer habitat while protecting near-shore facilities and infrastructure of Assateague Island National Seashore (ASIS) and University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES), including the ASIS Visitors Center and the UMES Paul Sarbanes Coastal Ecology Center.</p> <p>Ocean City Northside Park Shoreline Restoration Construction: This project will provide a kayak, SUP, and canoe launch, and a water access point for dog owners at the shoreline near the pier at Northside</p>

	<p>Park. Design and construction documents have been prepared to stabilize the shoreline and provide sustainable public access to the Coastal Bays.</p> <p>Tizzard Island Resilience Through Restoration: This project will construct a shoreline and wetland restoration project from previously funded design and permitting phases to increase the resilience of a near-shore island in the Coastal Bays.</p> <p>Jenkins Point Resilience Through Restoration: This project aims to develop plans and permits for restoration of an eroding landmass adjacent to Ocean Pines in Isle of Wight Bay.</p>
Partners and Their Role(s)	<p>General program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCBP – Identification of sites, oversight of design/construction contractors and site monitoring • DNR – Funder, assist with site surveys and monitoring • Audubon-Mid Atlantic – Site surveys and habitat assessments • U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Funder, wildlife surveys, implementation partner • Other Conservation Partners – As needed <p>Sinepuxent South:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCBP – Project management and monitoring • DNR – Technical assistance and monitoring • National Park Service/ASIS – Property owner and monitoring • UMES – Adjacent facility operator • Underwood & Associates – Design contractor • Contractor TBD – Lead construction entity <p>OC Northside Park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town of Ocean City – Property owner, project manager, bidding and construction oversight, partial funder • MCBP – Project oversight and technical assistance, permitting assistance • Sustainable Science LLC – Design contractor • Marine contractor TBD when additional funding is secured <p>Tizzard Island:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCBP – Prepare construction documents, bid project, coordinate construction, inspect and monitor post construction • DNR – Partial funder • U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Partial funder • Sustainable Science LLC – Project consultant <p>Jenkins Point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCBP – Project manager, design assistance, community outreach • DNR – Funder • Underwood & Associates – Design contractor • Ocean Pines Association – Property owner, design co-funder • Osprey Point townhome community – Adjacent to project site

Outputs/Deliverables	<p>General program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification and prioritization of sensitive and vulnerable coastal shoreline areas in the watershed • Assessment of threats and possible protection/restoration strategies • Plan for strategies that address vulnerabilities • Design and implementation of cost-effective protection/restoration projects <p>Sinepuxent South:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive final permit approvals • Installation of nature-based living shoreline to protect landward infrastructure of ASIS and UMES • Post-construction monitoring of shoreline and habitat resilience <p>OC Northside Park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant application to be submitted by the Town of OC/MCBP • Receive permit approval • Project construction of stabilized shoreline • Improved public access and recreational benefits <p>Tizzard Island:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to permit agency comments for permit approval • Select construction contractor • Construction of shoreline-stabilizing structures, and post-construction monitoring <p>Jenkins Point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project design and construction plan set suitable for permitting • Permit approval
Estimated Milestones/Timeline	<p>General program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify priority coastal shoreline areas for protection/restoration – ongoing • Plan/design/implement other protection/restoration project(s) – ongoing, as projects identified and funding available <p>Sinepuxent South:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive final permit approvals – summer 2026 • Bid and select contractor – summer 2026 • Begin construction – fall 2026 • Complete construction – fall/winter 2026/27 • Post-construction monitoring and adaptive management – winter 2027 (continues 5 years after construction) <p>OC Northside Park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive permit approval – summer/fall 2026 • Town of OC/MCBP apply for supplemental funding – fall 2026 • Bid and select contractor – fall 2026 (pending funds) • Construction – Anticipated winter 2026/27 (pending funds) <p>Tizzard Island:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCBP pursue matching funds for construction – Spring 2026

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAV survey – Summer 2026 • Final permit approval (county level) – TBD • RFP for contractor bid distributed – TBD (pending permit approval) • Construction expected winter 2027/28 (pending permit approval) <p>Jenkins Point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with regulators on permit review – ongoing until Oct 2026 • Secure construction funding – TBD (pending permit approval) • Construction expected winter 2028/29 (pending permit approval) 	
Estimated Budget	<p>Personnel - \$10,000 for project coordination</p> <p>Sinepuxent South: Construction funds from FY22 IIJA and MD DNR</p> <p>OC Northside Park: \$150,000 from FY26 IIJA for construction, Critical Area FIL monies from TOC, targeting state grants for additional funding</p> <p>Tizzard Island: Design funds through DNR Resiliency Through Restoration program, construction funds through DNR and USFWS, targeting additional non-federal funds for construction</p> <p>Jenkins Point: Design funds through DNR Resiliency Through Restoration program</p>	
Long-term Outcomes	Preservation/enhancement of water quality, critical habitat and coastal resilience resources, and enhanced resiliency of infrastructure.	
QAPP Status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Required* <input type="checkbox"/> N/A *QAPP Status: Shoreline monitoring QAPP in development, to be completed in 2026.	
CWA core program(s) the project supports <i>These activities are required as part of the National Estuary program</i>	(1) establishing water quality standards	
	(2) identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them (total maximum daily loads)	✓
	(3) permitting discharges of pollutants from point sources (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit)	
	(4) addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution	
	(5) protecting wetlands	✓
	(6) protecting coastal waters through the National Estuary Program	✓
	(7) protecting Large Aquatic Ecosystems	✓

Project/Activity Name	Colonial Nesting Bird Monitoring and Habitat Restoration (new, ongoing)
CCMP Goal Area	PFWH 4.3 Monitor bird populations in the watershed to identify habitat and species enhancement needs and opportunities.

	<p>CRCE 1.1 Identify and prioritize ecosystem restoration opportunities in the watershed.</p> <p>CRCE 1.2 Restore marshes, shorelines, islands and upland ecosystems to natural conditions within the Coastal Bays watershed, including post restoration monitoring for adaptive management.</p> <p>CRCE 4.4 Implement the MCBP Sediment Management Plan to utilize sediment for restoration projects and habitat enhancement in the Coastal Bays.</p> <p>DPEP 4.2 Provide training for community scientists to monitor and survey natural resources, fish, and wildlife populations.</p>
Project/Activity Objective(s)	Monitor, manage and restore colonial nesting bird populations and habitats, including protection and restoration of historic and existing habitat, and imparting resilient features into existing habitat, including construction of natural and artificial nesting sites.
Project/Activity Description	<p>General program: MCBP volunteers and staff periodically assist DNR with colonial nesting bird counts. MCBP staff place signs on islands used for colonial nesting birds, notifying the public of restrictions from use during nesting season. Restore existing nesting sites and create new sites, including deployment of artificial floating nesting platforms. Specific projects for FY27:</p> <p>Tern Raft: Since 2021, the MCBP has deployed a floating nesting platform to provide breeding habitat for common terns. Since its inception, the platform has produced over 1,200 fledged common tern chicks. The platform is deployed, maintained, and monitored through collaboration among MCBP, DNR, Audubon Mid-Atlantic, and many community volunteers.</p> <p>Coastal Bays Island Restoration Design: This project will replicate the effort demonstrated on Reedy Island with designs for shell and sand placement, coir logs and habitat elements to elevate and stabilize other islands against further erosion and subsidence and also future rising tidal waters.</p>
Partners and Their Role(s)	<p>General program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCBP – Manage nesting habitat protection and enhancement activities and assist in Bird Counts • DNR – Manage Bird Counts and assist in managing nesting habitat protection and restoration activities • Audubon Mid-Atlantic – Public awareness and permitting assistance <p>Tern Raft:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCBP – Lead project coordinator and manager • MD DNR – Co-lead for project, funder • Audubon Mid-Atlantic – Project technical assistance • Community members – Volunteers and site placement <p>Island Restoration Design:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCBP – Project management and monitoring • Design Consultant – Prepare design, obtain permits for sediment analysis of borrow areas, develop plans and specifications for island restoration in consultation with DNR. Prepare bid documents • MD DNR – Technical assistance and possible survey
Outputs/Deliverables	<p>General program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodic census of birds in Coastal Bays in partnership with MD DNR • Protection/restoration of bird habitats • Increase in the number of colonial bird nesting sites and bird populations in the Coastal Bays. Target habitat restoration in future years is 3 acres Reedy Island, 8-10 acres OC Spoils, Mark 12, South Point Spoils <p>Tern Raft:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide breeding habitat for ~300 common terns annually • Successful annual fledge of common tern chicks • Continued collaboration with funder and community members <p>Island Restoration Design:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey and design of islands to be constructed with clam shell, coir logs and other materials, prioritized from MCBP project list • Future island habitat created for colonial nesting bird populations • Post-construction vegetative and physical monitoring to assess success of project design and construction
Estimated Milestones/Timeline	<p>General program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection, restoration, enhancement and creation of bird habitat -- ongoing • Place signs notifying public of restricted access on bird islands – April 2027 • Assist MD DNR with nesting bird surveys – May and June 2027 • Remove signs from islands – September 2027 <p>Tern Raft:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deploy nesting platform – April/May 2027 • Monitoring of nesting platform and bird banding – May – October 2027 • Removal of nesting platform – October/November 2027 <p>Island Restoration Design:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with MD DNR for technical assistance – Summer/fall 2026 • Determine priority list for design determined in conjunction with DNR – Summer/fall 2026 • Bid announcement for design – Winter 2026/27 • Award design contract and complete designs – Spring/summer 2027
Estimated Budget	Personnel: \$5,000 for program coordination and fieldwork assistance

	Tern Raft funds provided by Pittman-Robinson Act through USFWS appropriation to MD DNR Island Restoration Design: IJJA FY26 (\$45,000)	
Long-term Outcomes	Public awareness; more colonial nesting bird information for management decisions; increase colonial waterbird populations through habitat improvement and restoration.	
QAPP Status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Required* <input type="checkbox"/> N/A *QAPP Status: Tern raft funded by non-EPA grant, QAPP for Island Restoration Design to be developed pending project progress	
CWA core program(s) the project supports <i>These activities are required as part of the National Estuary program</i>	(1) establishing water quality standards	
	(2) identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them (total maximum daily loads)	
	(3) permitting discharges of pollutants from point sources (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit)	
	(4) addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution	
	(5) protecting wetlands	
	(6) protecting coastal waters through the National Estuary Program	✓
	(7) protecting Large Aquatic Ecosystems	✓

Project/activity Name	Community Science and Volunteer Programs (new, ongoing)
CCMP Goal Area	PFWH 2.8 MCBP will work with partners to continue the oyster gardening community science program. PFWH 2.4 Conduct diamondback terrapin and horseshoe crab spawning surveys and share data to partner management agencies and the public. DPEP 4.2 Provide training for community scientists to monitor and survey natural resources, fish, and wildlife populations.
Project/activity Objective(s)	Engage volunteers from the community in science activities, including restoration, monitoring, and research. Projects for FY27 include monitoring of diamondback terrapin and horseshoe crabs and oyster gardening.
Project/activity Description	Coastal Bays Oyster Gardening Program: MCBP coordinates with waterfront owners in a volunteer citizen science program to grow oysters in cages suspended from private piers. Juvenile oysters are then harvested and planted in appropriate conditions throughout the Coastal Bays to enhance habitat and water quality.

	<p>Diamondback Terrapin Monitoring and Protection: MCBP will enlist citizen scientist volunteers to compile and obtain information on terrapins in the Coastal Bays. Surveys in all five bays are conducted by volunteer crews in motorized boats or canoes, kayaks and SUPs, or by land. Water-based surveys are expected to resume in 2027 under new regional survey protocols developed by the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays.</p> <p>Volunteer Horseshoe Crab Monitoring Program: Monitoring by volunteers and MCBP staff occurs every May, June and July and has been a viable program since 2002. Results have been presented to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and are being used in fisheries management plans for horseshoe crab landings.</p>
Partners and Their Role(s)	<p>Coastal Bays Oyster Gardening Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCBP – Lead, distributes cages to homeowners, serves as local operators of the program, and handles local logistics • MD DNR – Owns the cages and leads the program throughout the rest of the state • UMCES Horn Point Lab – Supplier of oyster seed • Protectors of the St. Martin River – Provides additional cages and oyster seed for volunteers who are unable to join our program due to resource restrictions <p>Diamondback Terrapin Monitoring and Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCBP – Volunteer recruitment, training, data collection and entry • DE CIB – Lead for Mid-Atlantic group for development of new survey protocols • Volunteers – data collection and deployment of turtle nest protection cages • MD DNR – Program Assistance • Home Depot – Volunteer recruitment and provider of supplies for turtle nest protection <p>Volunteer Horseshoe Crab Monitoring Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCBP – Program co-leader and synthesizes and disseminates data • Volunteers – Monitor specific sites and remove stranded crabs every May, June, and July • MD DNR – program co-leader, provides boat access, data interpretation and dissemination
Outputs/Deliverables	<p>Coastal Bays Oyster Gardening Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train, engage and monitor at least 25 volunteer participants and 44 oyster cages • Plant collected oysters in appropriate sanctuary sites for habitat and water quality improvement • Provide newsletter and media releases about program <p>Diamondback Terrapin Monitoring and Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and adopt new survey protocols

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train at least 20 volunteers to conduct surveys • Implement survey and document data • Report data to DNR and STAC • Provide outreach and supplies to the community to protect nests Volunteer Horseshoe Crab Monitoring Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit and train at least 20 volunteers • Conduct surveys and stranded crab rescues • Produce survey report and submit to DNR 	
Estimated Milestones/Timeline	Coastal Bays Oyster Gardening Program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruiting and training volunteers – ongoing • Monitoring of oyster growth and stocking juvenile oysters in volunteer cages – fall 2026-27 • Placement of collected oysters in appropriate site(s) – winter 2027 Diamondback Terrapin Monitoring and Protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train at least 20 volunteers to conduct surveys – spring 2027 • Implement survey and document data – spring/summer 2027 • Report data to DNR and STAC – summer/fall 2027 • Recruit 20 volunteers to build 50 nest protection cages Volunteer Horseshoe Crab Monitoring Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit and train volunteers – April/May 2027 • Conduct surveys and stranded crab rescues – May-July 2027 • Input and analyze data – Fall/Winter 2027 • Produce and submit survey report – Winter/Spring 2028 	
Estimated Budget	Personnel: \$20,000 for volunteer coordination, fieldwork, data reporting Additional funds for supplies for oyster cages provided by MD DNR	
Long-term Outcomes	Engagement with community members to promote volunteerism and enhance stewardship of fisheries and wildlife in the Coastal Bays. Increase oyster populations, leading to improved water quality through filter-feeding. Determine distribution and population status of diamondback terrapins to allow for better protection and conservation. Estimate Atlantic horseshoe crab population status and size, assess response of populations to fishery regulations and conservation efforts, and determine viable population targets.	
QAPP Status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Required* <input type="checkbox"/> N/A *QAPP Status: Not required for Coastal Bays Oyster Gardening Program Terrapin Survey QAPP under development by Delaware Center for the Inland Bays Program. Horseshoe Crab Survey QAPP approved in 2023	
CWA core program(s) the project supports <i>These activities are required as part of the National Estuary program</i>	(1) establishing water quality standards	
	(2) identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them (total maximum daily loads)	
	(3) permitting discharges of pollutants from point sources (National Pollutant Discharge	

	Elimination System permit)	
	(4) addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution	
	(5) protecting wetlands	
	(6) protecting coastal waters through the National Estuary Program	✓
	(7) protecting Large Aquatic Ecosystems	✓

Project/activity Name	DNR Fisheries Data Collection Assistance (ongoing)	
CCMP Goal Area	PFWH 2.1 Work with partner agencies to manage and provide stock assessment data for recreationally and commercially important finfish and shellfish species to the targets and thresholds described in state and federal fisheries management plans.	
Project/activity Objective(s)	Assist DNR fisheries with trawl net and seine surveys in the Coastal Bays. Assist DNR shellfish division with hard clam and oyster surveys in and around the Coastal Bays.	
Project/activity Description	MCBP staff assists DNR with surveys as needed.	
Partners and Their Role(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNR – project lead • MCBP – project assistance 	
Outputs/Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education to staff members regarding Coastal Bays marine flora and fauna identification. • Assist DNR when volunteers or interns are not available. • Garner information about the Coastal Bays shellfish populations to inform Oyster Gardening Program research initiatives. 	
Estimated Milestones/Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff members are scheduled to assist in a trawl net or seining survey 1-3 times per year as time allows – as scheduled in coordination with DNR. • Environmental Scientist assists shellfish division with hard clam and oyster surveys - as scheduled in coordination with DNR. 	
Estimated Budget	Personnel: \$1,000 for MCBP staff assistance with DNR surveys Funds for annual clam survey from FY25/26 IJA grants	
Long-term Outcomes	MCBP staff gain expertise in fish, aquatic plant and macroalgae identification. The monitoring of fish and clams provides data for the Coastal Bays Report Card.	
QAPP Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Required* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A *QAPP Status: MD DNR is the lead for this project. MCBP provides minor assistance with survey. MD DNR has a state approved SOP for this activity.	
CWA core program(s) the project supports	(1) establishing water quality standards	

<i>These activities are required as part of the National Estuary program</i>	(2) identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them (total maximum daily loads)	
	(3) permitting discharges of pollutants from point sources (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit)	
	(4) addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution	
	(5) protecting wetlands	
	(6) protecting coastal waters through the National Estuary Program	✓
	(7) protecting Large Aquatic Ecosystems	✓

Project/Activity Name	Maintenance, Restoration, and Monitoring of Conservation Properties (new, ongoing)
CCMP Goal Area	DPEP 2.15 Enhance public awareness and information resources for public recreational facilities, and increase opportunities to access land and water based activities. DPEP 5.10 Collaborate with partners and stakeholders to develop plans, projects and maintenance guidelines that provide access and recreational opportunities on publicly owned lands.
Project/Activity Objective(s)	Maintain and enhance the restoration and conservation sites owned or managed by MCBP to ensure ecosystem health and provide access and educational programs to the public as appropriate.
Project/Activity Description	<p>MCBP owns or manages seven sites in the watershed where varying levels of restoration have been implemented to protect and enhance ecosystem health and to provide opportunities for public access (as appropriate) and for the delivery of educational programming. MCBP staff monitor these sites for various ecosystem health indicators, provide ongoing maintenance activities (e.g., invasives removal), often with the assistance of volunteers, and promote access, where appropriate, for passive recreation and the delivery of environmental education programming.</p> <p>These sites currently include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assateague State Park Living Shoreline 2. Bishopville Dam 3. Greys Creek Nature Park

	4. Ilia Fehrer Nature Preserve 5. Lizard Hill Wetland Restoration 6. Selsey Road Shoreline Restoration 7. Showell Property Sites may be added and removed as restoration activity continues in the watershed.	
Partners and Their Role(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCBP- Property owner and manager, coordinate and participates in activities on these sites ranging from coordination of volunteer activities to visual monitoring of sites for invasive plants and other improvements to maximize public access and best use. • Worcester County – Property owner • Town of Ocean City – Property owner • Lower Shore Land Trust – Easement Holder for Showell Property, conduct inspections 	
Outputs/Deliverables	Provide property management and enhancement activities including but not limited to afforestation, ecological restoration, removal of invasive species, and volunteer opportunities for education and volunteer property improvements to these lands managed by MCBP. Properties maintained/enhanced for ecosystem health, public access, and education. These properties are integrated into activities such as Discover Your Watershed and other community outreach activities.	
Estimated Milestones/Timeline	Property maintenance, enhancement, and education programming – Ongoing as needs and opportunities arise throughout grant period. Showell easement inspected annually.	
Estimated Budget	Personnel: \$5,000 for property maintenance and other activities FY26 EPA IIIA: \$20,000 for supplies (shared with other science and fieldwork needs)	
Long-term Outcomes	Protection of ecosystem health, provision of public access and educational programming in an outdoor classroom environment.	
QAPP Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Required* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A *QAPP Status:	
CWA core program(s) the project supports <i>These activities are required as part of the National Estuary program</i>	(1) establishing water quality standards	
	(2) identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them (total maximum daily loads)	✓
	(3) permitting discharges of pollutants from point sources (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit)	
	(4) addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution	✓

	(5) protecting wetlands	
	(6) protecting coastal waters through the National Estuary Program	✓
	(7) protecting Large Aquatic Ecosystems	✓

Project/activity Name	Non-tidal Wetland and Pond Restoration (new)
CCMP Goal Area	<p>PHW 1.3 Protect and increase wetlands and buffers in riparian zones and stream corridors.</p> <p>CRCE 1.2 Restore marshes, shorelines, islands, and upland ecosystems within the Coastal Bays watershed, including post restoration monitoring for adaptive management.</p> <p>DPEP 4.1 Provide volunteer opportunities to individuals and community service organizations via events, festivals, property management, and land stewardship.</p>
Project/activity Objective(s)	Restore nontidal wetland habitat with water quality treatment co-benefits on agricultural land. Restore pond shorelines to provide nature-based resiliency, nearshore and buffer habitat, and improve water quality.
Project/activity Description	<p>MCBP has been coordinating with communities and private landowners in the Coastal Bays watershed to restore non-tidal marsh habitat and freshwater pond shorelines. Specific projects that will be active in FY27 include:</p> <p>Church Branch Bunting Property Wetland Restoration: This project aims to replicate the effort completed on an adjacent property with FY22 and FY24 BIL funding to restore non-tidal wetlands on an agricultural property in the St. Martin River watershed, providing wildlife habitat and enhanced treatment of agricultural runoff. Project design has been completed.</p> <p>Ocean Pines South Gate Pond Restoration: MCBP will support Ocean Pines Association (OPA) in purchasing appropriate shoreline plantings (trees, shrubs and plants) to enhance the shoreline around the South Gate Pond to be planted by OPA employees and community volunteers.</p>
Partners and Their Role(s)	<p>Church Branch Wetlands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCBP – Project management and monitoring • Property Owner (Bunting) – Oversight • Sweet Bay Watershed Conservation – Project design • NRCS/Worcester Soil Conservation District – Technical assistance and monitoring • USDA – Possible cost-share funding

	OP South Gate Pond: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCBP – Project oversight, funding, and technical assistance • OPA – Project management, volunteer recruitment and coordination • Community volunteers – Planting 	
Outputs/Deliverables	Church Branch Wetlands: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine viability of project, including landowner consent for construction as designed and potential cost-sharing for implementation OP South Gate Pond: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review contractor designs and determine feasible approach 	
Estimated Milestones/Timeline	Church Branch Wetlands: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting(s) with landowner – summer/fall 2026 • Identify potential matching funds – fall/winter 2026/27 if landowner permission is received • Acquire relevant permits for construction – pending landowner permission and cost-sharing OP South Gate Pond: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings between OPA and MCBP – Spring 2026, ongoing • Determine strategy for restoration – by Fall 2027 • Implement restoration – Fall/Winter 2027 	
Estimated Budget	Personnel: \$2,500 for project coordination Church Branch Wetlands: FY25 EPA IJA Funding: \$50,000 (\$45,000 remaining) OP South Gate Pond: FY24 EPA IJA Funding: \$150,000 (\$112,975 remaining)	
Long-term Outcomes	Creation of non-tidal wetland habitat and enhanced water quality in the watershed. Stabilization of shoreline, establishment of near-shore habitat and enhancement of water quality.	
QAPP Status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Required* <input type="checkbox"/> N/A *QAPP Status: QAPP requirements to be determined based on FY27 progress	
CWA core program(s) the project supports <i>These activities are required as part of the National Estuary program</i>	(1) establishing water quality standards	
	(2) identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them (total maximum daily loads)	
	(3) permitting discharges of pollutants from point sources (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit)	
	(4) addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution	✓
	(5) protecting wetlands	✓

	(6) protecting coastal waters through the National Estuary Program	
	(7) protecting Large Aquatic Ecosystems	✓

Project/activity Name	Sediment Management and Use Programs (new, ongoing)
CCMP Goal Area	<p>CRCE 4.4 Implement the MCBP Sediment Management Plan to utilize sediment for restoration projects and habitat enhancement in the Coastal Bays.</p> <p>CRCE 4.5 Establish and maintain a Dredging Advisory Group (DAG) to coordinate and implement the Sediment Management Plan.</p> <p>CRCE 1.1 Identify and prioritize ecosystem restoration opportunities in the watershed.</p> <p>CRCE 1.2 Restore marshes, shorelines, islands and upland ecosystems to natural conditions within the Coastal Bays watershed, including post restoration monitoring for adaptive management.</p>
Project/activity Objective(s)	Develop strategies to align future supply of sand with demand for material for re-use in Coastal Bays restoration and conservation projects. Plan dredge material sediment survey(s) to determine characteristics and supply in selected areas of the Coastal Bays to assess opportunities for dredging for restoration projects.
Project/activity Description	<p>MCBP has been coordinating with partners in the Coastal Bays to assess dredge material and sand management for beneficial use and restoration. Specific projects that will be active in FY27 include:</p> <p>Cape Isle of Wight (IOW) Dredging/Wetlands Restoration: Restore tidal wetland habitat near MCBP-owned Selsey Rd property with beneficial use of dredge material.</p> <p>Dredge Material Sediment Survey: Continue discussions with partners regarding potential dredge material sediment survey(s) in the Coastal Bays. Identify priority sites for restoration, including islands for colonial nesting birds and/or tidal wetlands.</p> <p>Sediment Management Plan: Continue discussions with partners to encourage a practical, coordinated strategy through which the availability of appropriate quality dredge material can be better aligned with the need for such material in beneficial re-use projects. Meetings among partners have occurred, but no plan has been drafted to date.</p>
Partners and Their Role(s)	<p>Cape IOW Dredging:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCBP – Property owner and monitoring • Worcester County – Obtain additional funds as needed, manage the permitting and restoration implementation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cape IOW Community – Potential matching funds for dredging, provide access and neighborhood support for operations <p>Dredge Material Sediment Survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCBP – Coordinate and manage projects, identify priority sites • Survey contractor – TBD pending approval for sediment survey <p>Sediment Management Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCBP – Coordinate plan development and associated outputs • U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Permitting leader, logistical and technical guidance • MD DNR – Assist with plan and project development • Assateague Island National Seashore and State Park – Team member • Worcester County – Team member, assist with plan and project development • Town of Ocean City – Team member, participant in funding and dredging activities
Outputs/Deliverables	<p>Cape IOW Dredging:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine viability of matching funds • Obtain permits for dredging and restoration activities <p>Dredge Material Survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine priority locations for sediment surveys • Draft plan for survey locations and future restoration strategies <p>Sediment Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with team members and interested parties • Continued coordination among partners
Estimated Milestones/Timeline	<p>Cape IOW Dredging:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings with partners – summer/fall 2026 • Identify potential matching funds – fall/winter 2026/27 • Begin design and permit process – spring/summer 2027 <p>Dredge Material Survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings periodically with partners – ongoing • Draft preliminary plan for survey location(s) – winter/spring 2027 <p>Sediment Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings periodically – ongoing
Estimated Budget	<p>Personnel: \$5,000 for project coordination</p> <p>Cape IOW Dredging: \$50,000 in IIJA FY26</p> <p>Dredge Material Sediment Survey: \$50,000 in IIJA FY24 + 30,000 in IIJA FY25</p> <p>Sediment Strategy: \$20,000 in IIJA FY23 (\$10,000 remaining)</p>
Long-term Outcomes	<p>Increased opportunities for restoration activity to benefit communities and wildlife in the Coastal Bays. Data on sediment supply and condition to strengthen argument for authorization of dredging for restoration in Coastal Bays.</p>
QAPP Status	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Required* <input type="checkbox"/> N/A *QAPP Status: QAPP requirements to be determined based on FY27 progress</p>

CWA core program(s) the project supports <i>These activities are required as part of the National Estuary program</i>	(1) establishing water quality standards	
	(2) identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them (total maximum daily loads)	
	(3) permitting discharges of pollutants from point sources (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit)	
	(4) addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution	
	(5) protecting wetlands	✓
	(6) protecting coastal waters through the National Estuary Program	✓
	(7) protecting Large Aquatic Ecosystems	✓

Project/activity Name	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Monitoring (ongoing)
CCMP Goal Area	PFWH 3.1 Continue research and support for management, protection and restoration of seagrass beds and exploration of various methods of monitoring.
Project/activity Objective(s)	Provide both aerial and ground surveys of SAV throughout the watershed to document and characterize the presence or absence of SAV in each bay as a biological indicator of bay health.
Project/activity Description	Through a partnership with MCBP, VIMS and DNR aerial surveys are done annually to determine the presence of SAV. MCBP then provides additional field monitoring to verify the accuracy of the data. DNR maintains the database for this information. This information is used in the State of the Bays and the annual Coastal Bays Report Card.
Partners and Their Role(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNR – project lead, manage contract with VIMS, maintain, and analyze data • Virginia Institute of Marine Science – Aerial photography to estimate submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) coverage • MCBP – Monitor field locations to verify SAV aerial photography, review data, educate residents, businesses, and marina users to avoid SAV beds
Outputs/Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct annual SAV survey • Use data for 2026 Report Card assessment and incorporation into State of the Bays report (every 5 years)
Estimated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aerial survey – Spring or fall 2026

Milestones/Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data analysis – Winter 2027 	
Estimated Budget	Personnel: \$2,000 for project coordination and ground surveys Other: Subaward to MDNR for aerial SAV survey (\$9,000)	
Long-term Outcomes	Accurate data and measurement of changes in SAV cover. Public support and environmental policy changes to improve SAV coverage throughout the Bays.	
QAPP Status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Required* <input type="checkbox"/> N/A *QAPP Status: Data produced, entered, and managed by subawardee (MD DNR). QA procedures will be included in the Report Card and State of the Bays QAPP, to be completed in 2026.	
CWA core program(s) the project supports <i>These activities are required as part of the National Estuary program</i>	(1) establishing water quality standards	
	(2) identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them (total maximum daily loads)	✓
	(3) permitting discharges of pollutants from point sources (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit)	
	(4) addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution	✓
	(5) protecting wetlands	
	(6) protecting coastal waters through the National Estuary Program	✓
	(7) protecting Large Aquatic Ecosystems	✓

Project/activity Name	Watershed and Nutrient Reduction Planning (ongoing)
CCMP Goal Area	PHW 1.2 Promote meaningful interstate cooperation for nutrient reduction through watershed-based planning strategies. PHW 3.1 Develop and implement Non-Point Source Management (A-I) Plans for all sub-watersheds in the Maryland Coastal Bays including plans requiring interstate coordination.
Project/activity Objective(s)	Planning and assessment of watershed conditions and characteristics to develop watershed implementation plans that identify and prioritize opportunities for conservation and restoration projects to reduce nutrient and sediment loading and meet TMDL requirements.
Project/activity Description	Work with partners to develop watershed management plans (a-i plans) that identify nutrient reduction targets and general BMP opportunities to meet Coastal Bays TMDL requirements.
Partners and Their Role(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MCBP – Coordinating role for watershed management plan development

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worcester County – Working with MDE as the responsible entity for nutrient reduction to meet TMDLs • MDE – Assistance in data collection and management; Plan approval, Possible funding for contractor or direct assistance with plan preparation • EPA – Plan review and approval • Other CCMP partners – assistance in collecting watershed management plan data and identifying conservation/restoration site opportunities 	
Outputs/Deliverables	Strategic Plan for the development and delivery of watershed management plans with all partner contributions identified.	
Estimated Milestones/Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 3 meetings within the grant period to discuss progress and future efforts among partners – ongoing • Strategy for timeline, responsibilities and delivery of A-I Plans including a prioritized listing of watersheds for Plan development and who will be accomplishing which task – by end of grant period (Fall 2027) 	
Estimated Budget	Personnel: \$5,000 for project coordination	
Long-term Outcomes	Agency collaboration; identification of pollutant sources and proportion of contribution; prioritization of pollutant load abatement; fewer nutrient inputs; water quality standards support intended uses for the entire watershed.	
QAPP Status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Required* <input type="checkbox"/> N/A *QAPP Status: To be determined based on FY27 progress	
CWA core program(s) the project supports <i>These activities are required as part of the National Estuary program</i>	(1) establishing water quality standards	✓
	(2) identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them (total maximum daily loads)	✓
	(3) permitting discharges of pollutants from point sources (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit)	
	(4) addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution	✓
	(5) protecting wetlands	✓
	(6) protecting coastal waters through the National Estuary Program	✓
	(7) protecting Large Aquatic Ecosystems	✓

Project/activity Name	Water Quality Monitoring Programs (new, ongoing)
CCMP Goal Area	<p>PFWH 1.2 Ensure that the recommended components within the Monitoring Plan, and Habitat and Restoration Strategy are considered each year for implementation in the MCBP and other partner's annual work plans.</p> <p>PFWH 3.4 Maintain and enhance bay water quality monitoring programs to assess nutrient loading, bacteria levels and living resource responses.</p>
Project/activity Objective(s)	<p>Monitor estuarine and freshwater areas to supplement other state and federal water monitoring programs. Monitoring data is utilized to connect local land use to nutrient loading hotspots, with the intention of prioritizing best management practices to improve water quality. Projects for FY27 include volunteer and staff water quality monitoring, annual spring stream sampling, and phytoplankton sampling.</p>
Project/activity Description	<p>Volunteer and Staff Water Quality Monitoring: This program began in 1997 and includes 22 sites that are monitored monthly by staff and volunteers. MCBP staff monitors areas of special concern (restoration projects, citizen concerns, CCMP partner projects, stream sampling for nutrient loading estimates). The resulting data are used for public outreach and engagement and to supplement other studies and state/federal sampling programs. All data is submitted to the State for incorporation into the biannual Integrated Report of Surface Water Quality in compliance with the federal Clean Water Act (CWA).</p> <p>Annual Spring Stream Sampling: Sampling of 58 sites provides water quality data, including nitrogen, phosphorous, turbidity, and chlorophyll a, from non-tidal areas of the watershed that are incorporated into the benthic index of biotic integrity and used to determine the relative status of local conditions to for acceptable levels of nutrient loads. Local results are compared to EPA Rivers & Streams and USGS National Stream Background Conditions. This work supports EPA CWA core programs that focus on strengthening water quality standards and developing TMDLs.</p> <p>Phytoplankton Sampling (Harmful Algal Blooms): MCBP is a contributor to the NOAA Phytoplankton Monitoring Network, which tracks the presence of phytoplankton species of concern for harmful algal blooms nationwide. Water samples are collected at 2 sites biweekly, and MCBP scientists check for species presence. If any are identified, photos are shared with NOAA for internal QA and data entry.</p>
Partners and Their Role(s)	<p>All projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCBP – Data collection & analysis • Volunteers – Collect water samples • Horn Point Laboratory, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science – Conducts analyses of water samples for Chla and nutrients • Community volunteers and/or Chesapeake Conservation Corps volunteers, seasonal staff and interns are utilized for sampling

	when available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MDNR – Conduct analysis for annual report card summaries 	
Outputs/Deliverables	Volunteer and Staff Water Quality Monitoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 volunteers recruited/retained 65 volunteer hours logged 286 water samples collected from 22 sites Water quality data submitted to the State for integrated assessment Data analyzed for annual Report Card Annual Spring Stream Sampling: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring and collection of samples at 58 sites Water quality report Monitoring data incorporated into annual Report Card and next 5-year State of the Bays report Phytoplankton Sampling: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring at 2 sites biweekly, year-round Data shared with NOAA 	
Estimated Milestones/Timeline	Volunteer and Staff Water Quality Monitoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality monitoring and sample collection – Ongoing monitored monthly throughout grant period Data analyzed for annual Report Card – Spring/summer 2027 Water quality data submitted to the State - Ongoing Annual Spring Stream Sampling: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project planning to conduct stream monitoring – Winter 2026-27 FY27 spring stream monitoring – April 2027 Data input and analysis – Summer 2027 Phytoplankton Sampling: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring and data sharing to NOAA – biweekly, year-round 	
Estimated Budget	Personnel: \$20,000 Contractual: \$32,000 (Water Sample Analysis) Supplies: \$3,000 (Science Supplies) FY25 EPA IJA: \$7,500 for supplies (shared with other science and fieldwork needs) FY26 EPA IJA: \$20,000 for supplies (shared with other science and fieldwork needs)	
Long-term Outcomes	Data to support and prioritize stream restoration BMPs and other watershed projects. Engagement with community volunteers to promote stewardship of health coastal waters.	
QAPP Status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Required* <input type="checkbox"/> N/A *QAPP Status: Volunteer and Staff Water Quality Monitoring: QAPP approved, requires revision in 2026 Spring Stream Sampling: QAPP approved Phytoplankton Sampling: QAPP in drafting process	
CWA core program(s) the project supports	(1) establishing water quality standards	
	(2) identifying polluted waters and	✓

<i>These activities are required as part of the National Estuary program</i>	developing plans to restore them (total maximum daily loads)	
	(3) permitting discharges of pollutants from point sources (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit)	
	(4) addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution	✓
	(5) protecting wetlands	
	(6) protecting coastal waters through the National Estuary Program	✓
	(7) protecting Large Aquatic Ecosystems	

Section 4. Environmental Education

Project/activity Name	Environmental Education – Community Programs (ongoing)
CCMP Goal Area	DPEP Goal 2 Promote environmental literacy for the public through education, outreach, communication and engagement activities. DPEP 2.2 Deliver direct educational opportunities such as workshops, events, and programs to explore the watershed, increase knowledge, and cultivate a sense of place for individuals and community groups.
Project/activity Objective(s)	Increase Coastal Bays-focused environmental literacy, awareness and stewardship ethic of watershed residents and visitors.
Project/activity Description	<p>Develop and deliver Coastal Bays-focused environmental education and awareness programs and activities to watershed residents and visitors of all ages in a variety of community-based and outdoor settings. Program topics and locations vary.</p> <p>Discover Your Watershed (DYW): A volunteer series consisting of two-to-three-hour workdays that contain an educational aspect and a service aspect. The leads on the project will be an Environmental Scientist and the Education Coordinator. The series will be held on MCBP's managed restoration properties. A specific DYW program focused on monitoring herpetofauna (snakes, turtles, frogs, toads) at MCBP restoration sites is being planned. Depending on interest and availability, MCBP Environmental Scientists will lead this program in FY27.</p>
Partners and Their Role(s)	<p>MCBP – Develop, promote and deliver programs and activities</p> <p>Community sponsors – Provide program/activity venues, audiences</p>

	<p>and promotion, and in some cases funding.</p> <p>Some community partners include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worcester County Youth and Family Counselling Services • Ocean City Parks and Recreation • Ocean Pines Parks and Recreation • Sun Outdoors Ocean City campground • Frontier Town campground • Bay Hopper Boat Tours • Worcester County Libraries • Worcester County Animal Control • Assateague Island National Seashore • Assateague State Park
Outputs/Deliverables	<p>General program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 100 public community education programs ranging from volunteer service, workshops, summer camps, and lectures • Approximately 1000 participants involved • 6-10 Community partners • Evaluation of programs/activities developed and delivered (where possible) • Outreach materials that educate both residents and visitors about wildlife in our watershed. <p>DYW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold at least 4 events per year, recruiting at least 50 volunteers
Estimated Milestones/Timeline	<p>General program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and deliver programs and activities – ongoing after annual work plan is established. Weekly work plans are done and reviewed by Education Coordinator. • Review year over year programmatic benchmarks quarterly. • Gain feedback and conduct evaluations – ongoing • Develop an outreach project with partners to educate people about common wildlife encounters, wildlife rescue resources, and other information respecting wildlife in our watershed – ongoing <p>DYW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and hold events periodically during grant period
Estimated Budget	<p>Personnel: \$15,000</p> <p>Supplies: \$1,500</p> <p>Additional funding for supplies and contractual for all education programs through FY25 and FY26 EPA IJA funding.</p>
Long-term Outcomes	<p>General program: An environmentally literate local community on the issues affecting the Coastal Bays, increased community interest, involvement, and participation in Coastal Bays related education events, and long-term appreciation for our natural resources and inspire responsible environmental actions and stewardship.</p> <p>DYW: Involvement of volunteers in MCBP restoration properties and</p>

	watershed enhancement efforts on a long-term basis	
QAPP Status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Required* <input type="checkbox"/> N/A *QAPP Status: QAPP required for specific DYW program: Herpetofauna Sampling. QAPP drafted, to be reviewed by EPA in 2026.	
CWA core program(s) the project supports <i>These activities are required as part of the National Estuary program</i>	(1) establishing water quality standards	
	(2) identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them (total maximum daily loads)	
	(3) permitting discharges of pollutants from point sources (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit)	
	(4) addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution	
	(5) protecting wetlands	
	(6) protecting coastal waters through the National Estuary Program	✓
	(7) protecting Large Aquatic Ecosystems	✓

Project/activity Name	Environmental Education – Partnership Development (ongoing)
CCMP Goal Area	DPEP Goal 2 Promote environmental literacy for the public through education, outreach, communication and engagement activities.
Project/activity Objective(s)	Promote and support environmental education activities and opportunities regarding the conservation and health of the Coastal Bays not covered by other designated environmental education projects in the workplan.
Project/activity Description	<p>Environmental education activities not included in <i>Environmental Education – School Programs</i> and <i>Environmental Education – Community Programs</i>. Activities in this Project will generally be partnership opportunities for which MCBP is not the lead partner and do not involve the development and ongoing delivery of lesson plans.</p> <p>Some examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend gatherings of environmental educators in the region to discuss common challenges and partnership opportunities. • Facilitation of teacher workshops with partner organizations; Hosting other environmental organizations’ summer camps for the day at MCBP restoration sites. • Community science projects organized by partner organizations but run

	by MCBP. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of community activities with municipal entities (e.g. storm drain markers, educational signage). • Collaborate as board members for other non-profits with similar missions/goals. 	
Partners and Their Role(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCBP – Promotion, support and participation • Other Stakeholders (TBD on an activity-specific basis) 	
Outputs/Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued education of watershed and regional populations in a variety of environmental programs. 	
Estimated Milestones/Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodic involvement in education activities initiated by others - 3 opportunities per year. 	
Estimated Budget	Personnel: \$5,000 for education program support and coordination	
Long-term Outcomes	An environmentally literate local community on the issues affecting the Coastal Bays; increased community interest, involvement, and participation in Coastal Bays related education events; long-term appreciation for our natural resources and inspire responsible environmental actions and stewardship.	
QAPP Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Required* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A *QAPP Status:	
CWA core program(s) the project supports <i>These activities are required as part of the National Estuary program</i>	(1) establishing water quality standards	
	(2) identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them (total maximum daily loads)	
	(3) permitting discharges of pollutants from point sources (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit)	
	(4) addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution	
	(5) protecting wetlands	
	(6) protecting coastal waters through the National Estuary Program	✓
	(7) protecting Large Aquatic Ecosystems	✓

Project/activity Name	Environmental Education – School Programs (ongoing)
CCMP Goal Area	DPEP Goal 3 Coordinate with MCBP partners to develop and deliver academic programming. DPEP 2.10 Inform the public about farm conservation practices and support local farms, food and fiber. DPEP 3.1 Support the WC public and private schools and homeschool groups

	<p>with resources and curricula development for environmental literacy, and the facilitation of meaningful outdoor experiences for K-12 students.</p> <p>DPEP 5.1 Provide scholarships, internships and other workforce development opportunities for high school and college students and graduates in the Coastal Bays watershed.</p>
Project/activity Objective(s)	<p>General program: Increase Coastal Bays-focused environmental literacy and stewardship ethic of students and teachers in schools in the watershed.</p> <p>Specific ongoing programs:</p> <p>Living Local: Foster a greater appreciation of agriculture and its products through the exposure of local sustainable farming practices on local farms.</p> <p>Worcester Environmental Training, Leadership, and Stewardship (WETLANDS) Retreat: Provide students with hands-on, immersive educational experiences in environmental science, expose students to a variety of ecosystems within the Coastal Bays watershed, and explore environmental career opportunities.</p>
Project/activity Description	<p>General program: Develop and deliver Coastal Bays-focused lesson plans to K-12 and college students in schools (and home schoolers) in the watershed, including in-school, after-school and outdoor education activities.</p> <p>Living Local: The Living Local project provides agricultural environmental education through the development and implementation of an interdisciplinary learning module, student experiences, and community workshops that address environmental and human impacts affecting agriculture and the benefits best farm practices have on water resources of Maryland's Coastal Bays. Project activities will promote a culture of environmental stewardship and literacy through hands-on activities on local farms and schools in Worcester County, Maryland.</p> <p>Worcester Environmental Training, Leadership, and Stewardship (WETLANDS) Retreat: MCBP will partner with Worcester County Public Schools (WCPS) to host an expanded multi-day retreat for select high school students to learn about environmental science, the Coastal Bays watershed, and career opportunities in the environmental field.</p>
Partners and Their Role(s)	<p>General program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCBP – Develop and deliver programs and lessons • Public and private schools and home school groups – provide students and venues. Some partners include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Worcester County Public Schools ○ Buckingham Elementary School (Berlin) ○ Ocean City Elementary School ○ Berlin Intermediate School ○ Stephen Decatur High School (Berlin) ○ Snow Hill High School ○ Salisbury University ○ University of Maryland Eastern Shore

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pocomoke and Assateague State Parks <p>Living Local:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCBP – Lead of programs • Various local and state agriculture partners including UMES Extension, Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation, Worcester Soil Conservation District, Future Harvest, and Lower Shore Land Trust – Participation and planning of programs • Worcester County Public Schools – Education partner • Local small-scale farmers – Engagement <p>WETLANDS Retreat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCBP – Development and facilitation of all aspects of the retreat • Worcester County Public Schools – Coordination with schools, teachers, and families, selecting students • Pocomoke River State Park – Retreat location for Ranger and Park management tasks • Delmarva Discovery Museum – Retreat location for educators and heritage history • Maryland Conservation Corps – Partner group for green career development • Youth Environmental Action Summit – Youth environmental group with mentors for project sharing • Underwood and Associates – Partner group for green career development • OC Bay Hopper/OC Swim Call – Captained boat company for time on the water with retreat students • Assateague State Park – Partner group for green career development, location for retreat activities • Youth Environmental Action Summit – Half day summit for youth environmental program sharing
Outputs/Deliverables	<p>General Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 public, private, and homeschool partners • 50 lessons delivered annually • 1,000 students reached • Evaluation of lessons developed and delivered (where possible) • Evaluation of student learning experience (where possible) • Development of new Coastal Bays lessons • 200 service hours annually <p>Living Local:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One yearly professional development training for at least 5 formal and nonformal educators. *as needed from the Worcester County Public School system • Recruitment and retention of 5 farms and agricultural professionals for projects • One community workshop for targeted audiences in watershed per year • Educational materials such as an online learning module and lesson plans for educators and community members

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm field trips with elementary-aged students that reach at least 50. • Evaluations and surveys to measure knowledge acquired and impact on the watershed (as needed) • Presentations and reports on results from Living Local. • Support Gardens planted or other horticulture/agricultural action projects on school and center grounds to benefit the environment, as resources allow <p>WETLANDS Retreat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of multi-day immersive educational experience for at least 15 students 	
Estimated Milestones/Timeline	<p>General program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and deliver lessons and activities – ongoing • Gain feedback and conduct evaluations – ongoing <p>Living Local:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosting one education training (as needed from school system), one community workshop, and reaching at least 50 students annually <p>WETLANDS Retreat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop plan for retreat activities, partners, and sites – Fall/Winter 2026 • Meetings with WCPS on student recruitment – Fall/Winter 2026 • Recruit student participants – Winter/Spring 2027 • Hold meeting with student participants- Spring 2027 • Hold retreat – Spring 2027 	
Estimated Budget	<p>Personnel: \$25,000 for development and delivery of environmental education school programs.</p> <p>Supplies: \$1,500</p> <p>FY26 EPA IJA: \$12,000 for WETLANDS retreat (supplies, contractual, other), additional funds to support all education programs</p> <p>FY25 EPA IJA: \$5,525 remaining for WETLANDS retreat</p>	
Long-term Outcomes	<p>An environmentally literate local community on the issues affecting the Coastal Bays; increased community interest, involvement, and participation in Coastal Bays related education events; long-term appreciation for our natural resources and responsible environmental actions and stewardship; increased awareness of and investment in local agriculture and food systems; improved environmental conditions on school/center grounds and in communities due to an increase in conservation efforts and willingness of citizens to take action.</p>	
QAPP Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Required* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A *QAPP Status:	
CWA core program(s) the project supports <i>These activities are required as part of the National Estuary program</i>	(1) establishing water quality standards	
	(2) identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them (total maximum daily loads)	
	(3) permitting discharges of pollutants from point sources (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination	

	System permit)	
	(4) addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution	
	(5) protecting wetlands	
	(6) protecting coastal waters through the National Estuary Program	✓
	(7) protecting Large Aquatic Ecosystems	✓

Project/activity Name	Partnership with Maryland Association of Environmental & Outdoor Education (ongoing)
CCMP Goal Area	DPEP 3.4 Support the Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) and other specialized education organizations.
Project/activity Objective(s)	Support the initiatives of the state outdoor education organization, the Maryland Association of Environmental & Outdoor Education (MAEOE), including fostering sustainable stewardship, equipping educators with the tools and skills they need, and empowering our community to understand and promote the natural world. Participate and take leadership role in Maryland Association of Environmental & Outdoor Education (MAEOE) annual conference in the Town of Ocean City. Achieve Maryland Green Center Award Certification (every four years) to foster the development of environmental literacy for both students and teachers at Maryland public and private schools. Promote and support the application to the state-wide Green Schools program for local Worcester County public and private schools. Facilitate Lower Shore Environmental Literacy Workshops to local organizations, schools, and professionals.
Project/activity Description	The MAEOE represents over 800 Maryland educators dedicated to increasing environmental literacy, providing teacher professional development, and offering a professional network of environmental educators throughout the state. MAEOE is the largest state affiliate of the National Association of Environmental Education (NAAEE) and the largest statewide organization of environmental educators in the United States. The Maryland Green Center Award was designed as an extension of the Maryland Green Schools Award Program, developed by the MAEO. Green Centers achieve certification by meeting 13 specific criterion under the three main objects of “Supporting Area Schools, Modeling Best Management Practices, and Involving the Community in Organization Programs.” Education Coordinator sits as one of 17 people in the state on the MAEOE Advisory Committee who guides the organization and spearheads its committees. MCBP is the Lower Shore Weaver for the Maryland Environmental Literacy Advisory Network (MELAN) and is responsible for facilitating workshops, providing connections and opportunities for environmental literacy advancement in the state of

	Maryland.	
Partners and Their Role(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCBP: Participant and Lower Shore Weaver (collaborator) • MAEOE: conference host and Green School and Center certifying entity • MELAN (Maryland Environmental Literacy Advisory Network): provides guidance to MCBP as the Lower Shore Weaver as a state partner 	
Outputs/Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCBP will assist with planning the 2027 Conference and present at the conference • Education coordinator will participate in MAEOE Advisory Council meetings throughout the year. • MCBP supports local education center and schools on gaining their Green School certification and participates in the MAEOE Green Schools review process. 	
Estimated Milestones/Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual conference – February 2027 	
Estimated Budget	Personnel: \$2,500 for coordinating and facilitating the conference	
Long-term Outcomes	Environmental education professionals participate in networking and professional development; enabling them to better serve diverse audiences, increase environmental literacy, and help program participants make meaningful connections with nature.	
QAPP Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Required* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A *QAPP Status:	
CWA core program(s) the project supports <i>These activities are required as part of the National Estuary program</i>	(1) establishing water quality standards	
	(2) identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them (total maximum daily loads)	
	(3) permitting discharges of pollutants from point sources (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit)	
	(4) addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution	
	(5) protecting wetlands	✓
	(6) protecting coastal waters through the National Estuary Program	✓
	(7) protecting Large Aquatic Ecosystems	✓

Project/activity Name	Teacher Professional Development Workshops (ongoing)
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CCMP Goal Area	DPEP 3.3 Provide and facilitate professional development opportunities for both K-12 formal and informal educators with an emphasis on the Coastal Bays watershed.
Project/activity Objective(s)	Facilitate professional development opportunities for local teachers and pre-service learning teachers.
Project/activity Description	<p>Workshops focus on the physical properties of water, water chemistry, watersheds, ecology, and more. An interdisciplinary approach is employed, engaging teachers in a variety of subject areas. Teachers participate in hands-on activities designed to enhance student understanding of concepts such as Biodiversity, local conservation issues, watershed-wide restoration, and water quality.</p> <p>National curriculum programs including Project WET: Water Education for Teachers, Project WILD & Project WILD Aquatic, Flying WILD, Growing Up WILD and Project Learning Tree could be provided. The activities learned are incorporated into classrooms countywide to supplement the Maryland State Curriculum and provide all students with hands-on opportunities for learning.</p> <p>MCBP and Worcester County Public Schools have been working together for over 3 years on collaborative professional developments for both formal k-12 teachers and local informal education providers. Specific content and resources regarding Maryland's Coastal Bays are included in each training workshop.</p>
Partners and Their Role(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCBP- lead • Worcester County Public Schools- teacher support and curriculum alignment • MD Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR) -support
Outputs/Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-5 workshops per year • 50 teachers trained per year
Estimated Milestones/Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued training and certification for Education Coordinator – ongoing • Workshops planned with Worcester County Public Schools – ongoing • Hold educator workshops – Fall 2026/Spring-Summer 27
Estimated Budget	Personnel: \$5,000 for coordination and delivery of programs FY26 EPA IJA: \$10,000 support for supplies, contractual, other
Long-term Outcomes	<p>Highly-trained teachers who are knowledgeable in Maryland Coastal Bays-related issues; aware of complexities of environmental issues; more environmentally literate; comfortable teaching about natural resources and the environment; more at ease when taking students outside for field study; and able to identify action steps and behavior changes they can make for the benefit of the environment.</p> <p>Students who are more knowledgeable about Maryland Coastal Bays-</p>

	related issues; aware of complexities of environmental issues; more environmentally literate; better able to think critically and problem-solve; able to identify action steps and behavior changes they can make for the benefit of the environment; and who feel connected to nature.	
CWA core program(s) the project supports <i>These activities are required as part of the National Estuary program</i>	(1) establishing water quality standards	
	(2) identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them (total maximum daily loads)	
	(3) permitting discharges of pollutants from point sources (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit)	
	(4) addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution	
	(5) protecting wetlands	
	(6) protecting coastal waters through the National Estuary Program	✓
	(7) protecting Large Aquatic Ecosystems	

Section 5: Community & Partner Support

Project/activity Name	Marsh Restoration Design Grants (ongoing)
CCMP Goal Area	CRCE 1.2 Restore marshes, shorelines, islands and upland ecosystems to natural conditions within the Coastal Bays watershed, including post restoration monitoring for adaptive management.
Project/activity Objective(s)	Support the design of marsh restoration projects in the Coastal Bays.
Project/activity Description	This project will provide funding for MCBP staff support for the development of selected marsh restoration designs as a prelude to the submission of implementation funding applications. This will likely involve the commitment of matching funds to provide for full funding for marsh design projects. Two potential marsh restoration activities have been identified in the Coastal Bays, with two separate property owners. One potential location is near the Marsh Harbour community in Ocean City, and another is in the southern end of Isle of Wight Bay. Communication with these property owners is ongoing to determine potential activities in FY27 and beyond.

Partners and Their Role(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCBP – Project oversight • Marsh property owners – Project design, implementation, and possible funding or in-kind match • Watershed partners TBD – Possible co-funders • Restoration contractors TBD – Possible marsh restoration designers 	
Outputs/Deliverables	Marsh restoration permitted designs to enhance prospects for implementation funding.	
Estimated Milestones/Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess two marsh restoration designs – ongoing • Allocate restoration design funding – ongoing until funding for designs expended 	
Estimated Budget	Personnel: \$1,500 for meeting coordination and grant assistance FY24 IJA funds (contractual) for design assistance (\$50,000 initially; \$42,750 remaining)	
Long-term Outcomes	Increased resilience of marshes in the watershed.	
QAPP Status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Required* <input type="checkbox"/> N/A *QAPP Status: To be determined based on progress in FY27	
CWA core program(s) the project supports <i>These activities are required as part of the National Estuary program</i>	(1) establishing water quality standards	
	(2) identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them (total maximum daily loads)	✓
	(3) permitting discharges of pollutants from point sources (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit)	
	(4) addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution	✓
	(5) protecting wetlands	✓
	(6) protecting coastal waters through the National Estuary Program	✓
	(7) protecting Large Aquatic Ecosystems	✓

Project/activity Name	MCBP Mini-Grant and Research Grant Program (ongoing)
CCMP Goal Area	DPEP 5.7 Support agencies and organizations working toward mutual CCMP goals through financial partnerships including mini-grants, research grants, subawards and sponsoring memberships.

Project/activity Objective(s)	Utilizing existing policies and procedures for announcing and awarding grant funding opportunities, MCBP will formalize efforts to manage research and mini-grant programs.	
Project/activity Description	This project will provide MCBP staff support to offer Grants to partner organizations to fulfill the goals of the CCMP. Continue to offer 5-7 Mini-Grants of up to \$5,000 each to small organizations, schools and non-profits to fulfill the goals of the CCMP and develop partners within the watershed. Manage 1-3 Research Grants totaling \$25,000 in funding (FY26 IJA) to area organizations for projects responsive to watershed research needs.	
Partners and Their Role(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCBP – develop and implement program • MCBP STAC and volunteers - assist in selection of grant-funded projects 	
Outputs/Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administer and manage grants awarded in 2025 and 2026/2027 	
Estimated Milestones/Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue administration of grants awarded in 2025 – ongoing until grants close • Announce funding opportunities – fall 2027 • Award Research and Mini-Grant Funds – spring 2027 • Monitor the progress and completion of projects: Mini Grants 1 year, Research Grants 1-2 years 	
Estimated Budget	Personnel: \$2,500 for coordination and management of grants FY26 IJA: \$38,000 for grant awards	
Long-term Outcomes	Leveraging small to medium sized projects and programs that are consistent with the MCBP CCMP by other organizations. Generation of research findings responsive to MCBP research agenda.	
QAPP Status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Required* <input type="checkbox"/> N/A *QAPP Status: To be determined for research grants based on awardee projects	
CWA core program(s) the project supports <i>These activities are required as part of the National Estuary program</i>	(1) establishing water quality standards	
	(2) identifying polluted waters and developing plans to restore them (total maximum daily loads)	
	(3) permitting discharges of pollutants from point sources (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit)	
	(4) addressing diffuse, nonpoint sources of pollution	
	(5) protecting wetlands	
	(6) protecting coastal waters through the National	✓

	Estuary Program	
	(7) protecting Large Aquatic Ecosystems	

IV. Highlighted Program Accomplishments FY26

- 2026 marks the 30th anniversary celebration of the Maryland Coastal Bays Program! To celebrate this milestone, staff are working with a committee of volunteers to organize a Gala event taking place on September 17, 2026, along with several other programs and educational opportunities that highlight the Program. A 'birthday party' for the MCBP will be held on June 24th to commemorate the original signing date of the program at the same location it occurred in 1996 (Macky's in Ocean City). In addition to these events, staff are creating social media posts that highlight past achievements, projects, and key community members to reflect on the history of our organization.
- MCBP hired a staff member in fall 2025 to serve as the Newport Bay Partnership Coordinator to lead the planning and implementation of an array of restoration projects funded through the Maryland Whole Watershed Program. The partnership includes local governments (Worcester County and the Town of Berlin) and environmental groups (Lower Shore Land Trust and the Assateague Coastal Trust), among other partners. This program provides \$2 million annually for 5 years to the partnership to support efforts to improve water quality and habitat in Newport Bay, the subwatershed in the Coastal Bays that received the lowest Report Card score in 2024.
- MCBP hired a new Executive Director (Eva DiDonato) and Program Coordinator (Mariah Livernois) in early 2026 to support the mission of the program, guide strategic planning, and facilitate ongoing and new partnerships throughout the Coastal Bays watershed.
- In December 2025, MCBP released the 2024 Report Card at a signing event at Mickey Fins (Ocean City) with project partners. The highest grade ever reported in the history of this effort was achieved in Sinepuxent Bay this year (B+), highlighting improvements to water quality and coastal habitats.
- The official unveiling (October 2025) of the Coastal Bays Boardwalk Exhibit at the Ocean City Life-Saving Station marked the first ever public interpretive exhibit in Ocean City about the local Coastal Bays.
- Production of the 2025 Year in Review was designed in-house and sent to 500 households via mail and 5,000+ email addresses.
- The education team delivered 39 school programs, reaching 1,692 students spanning pre-k to college.
- Staff held the Annual Oyster Exchange event on October 3, 2025, where roughly 4,000 oysters were collected from volunteers.
- Facebook and Instagram follower counts were 517 and 677, respectively, with 153 posts that were viewed 658,000 times as of March 31, 2026.
- Staff and volunteers successfully continued the long-running water quality monitoring sampling at 20 sites throughout the watershed.
- MCBP continued work on four "Resilience Through Restoration" (MD DNR funded) projects including Reedy Island, Jenkins Point, Sinepuxent Shoreline and Tizzard Island. Substantial progress was made in

procuring permits for these projects throughout FY26, with goals set for implementation of multiple projects in FY27.

- MCBP has continued a partnership with the Assateague Island National Seashore (ASIS, NPS) to restore saltmarsh habitat in the park. Funding is provided by the National Park Service (Department of the Interior) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Planning for this restoration effort occurred during FY26, and implementation is on track to begin in fall 2026.
- Seven salt marsh restoration sites in the watershed are in various stages of design and implementation under the direction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with funding from MD DNR and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. One restoration project within Newport Bay is being funded through the Newport Bay Partnership, providing an opportunity for efficient, timely use of those funds for shared goals.
- The artificial bird nesting platform tailored to attract common terns and black skimmers has been built and was deployed in April 2026 for the 6th year. As of May 11, 2026 51 common tern nests were in place.
- Recruitment is ongoing for the annual horseshoe crab survey in the Coastal Bays, which will occur throughout the spring, summer, and early fall 2026. In March 2026, water temperature data loggers were installed at four locations (Oceanic Motel, 94th St. dead-end canal, Sunset Island community beach, and Assateague Living Shoreline). The temperature loggers will collect continuous water temperature readings every half hour from March – September 2026 to better understand spawning behavior. This data will be analyzed and incorporated into the annual 2026 report.
- The 9th annual Bay Day celebration in Ocean Pines is planned to occur May 17, 2026. The continued success of this event is due to strong local partnerships and MCBP staff organization and coordination.