

# THE CHESAPEAKE BAY

## THE YEAR OF THE FOREST

GREEN BREAKFAST MAY 2007

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# Bay Health/Bay Restoration

- Bay Speak
- Two new reports separate health from restoration
- Where urban living fits into the picture
- Role of Forestry



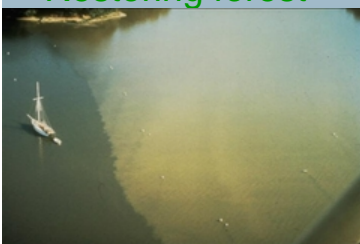
# BAY SPEAK

- KEYSTONE COMMITMENTS AND PILLARS
  - BEING MORE STRATEGIC IN PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION
  - TELL IT LIKE IT IS AND KEEP WORKING TOWARD GOALS
  - IS IT PASS OR FAIL?
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# Chesapeake 2000 KEYSTONE COMMITMENTS

## Restoring Healthy Waters

- By 2010, correct nutrient- and sediment-related problems -by-
- Managing pollutants:
- Agricultural BMPs
- Developed Land BMPs
- Wastewater Treatment
- Air Quality BMPs
- Restoring forest



## Restoring Healthy Habitats

- By 2010, achieve a net resource gain by restoring 25,000 acres of tidal and non-tidal



Accelerate protection and restoration of SAV



## Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management

- By 2007, revise and implement fisheries management plans using multi-species and ecosystem approaches

Priority plans:

- Oysters
- Striped Bass
- Blue Crabs
- *Alosa* species
- Atlantic Menhaden



- By 2010, achieve, at a minimum, a tenfold increase in native oysters in the Chesapeake Bay

## Bay Friendly Watershed Management

- By 2010, develop and implement locally supported watershed management plans



- Conserve existing forests along all streams and shorelines
- Preserve from development 20 percent of the land area in the watershed by 2010, targeting high value areas
- By 2012, reduce the rate of harmful sprawl development

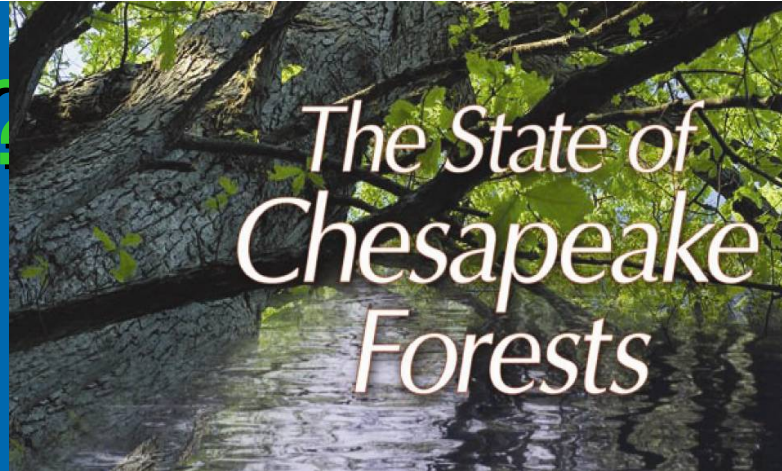
## Fostering Chesapeake Stewardship

- Education and Outreach are overarching priorities
- Beginning with the class of 2005, provide a meaningful Bay or stream outdoor experience for every school student in the watershed



- *Keystones are commitments that if accomplished will provide the greatest collateral benefit supporting the accomplishment of many associated commitments.*

# WHAT IS NEW?



## The State of Chesapeake Forests

- STATE OF THE CHESAPEAKE FOREST ( FALL 2006)
- FORESTRY FOR THE BAY
- EXECUTIVE COUNCIL COMMITMENT (SEPTEMBER 2006)
- HOW THE NEW FOREST CONSERVATION GOAL WILL LOOK TO THE PUBLIC?
- HOW WILL THE NEW GOAL SHAPE FUTURE ACTIONS?



Chesapeake Bay Program  
A Watershed Partnership

CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

DIRECTIVE NO. 06-1

### Protecting the Forests of the Chesapeake Watershed

Retaining and expanding forests in the Chesapeake Bay watershed is critical to our success in restoring the Chesapeake Bay. Forests are the most beneficial land use for protecting water quality, due to their ability to capture, filter and retain water, as well as absorb pollution from the air. In fact, our watershed forests are excellent assimilators of air pollution, retaining up to 85 percent of the nitrogen they receive from air emission sources such as motor vehicles and electric utilities. Conversely, a reduction in forest area leads to a disproportionate increase in nitrogen loads to our waterways. Forests are also essential to the provision of clean drinking water to over 10 million residents of the watershed and provide valuable ecological services and economic benefits including carbon sequestration, flood control, wildlife habitat, and forest products.

The Chesapeake Bay watershed is currently 58 percent forested and contains some of the most extensive hardwood forests in the world's temperate latitudes. But we are currently losing forest land at a rate of 100 acres per day and over 750,000 acres of forest have been converted to urban and suburban development since 1982. The State of Chesapeake Forests report estimates that of the region's private forests vulnerable to development 5.5 million acres are among the most

valuable for protecting water quality. Further, the report recognizes that more proactive stewardship of public and private forest lands is needed in order to sustain the many benefits they provide to the Bay watershed and its residents. We, the Chesapeake Executive Council, applaud the comprehensive work reflected in *The State of Chesapeake Forests* and consider its findings to be compelling.

In *Chesapeake 2000*, we committed to "Permanently preserve from development 20 percent of the land area in the watershed by 2010" and "Conserve existing forests along all streams and shorelines." Further, we committed to expand urban tree canopy and link forests with stormwater management. Our land conservation efforts to date, which have been extremely successful, have not significantly targeted forest lands. We have tools, such as the Resource Lands Assessment called for in *Chesapeake 2000*, that can identify priority forest lands with the greatest impact on watershed function and water quality. In recognition of the unique and irreplaceable functions of urban and rural forests to the health, well-being and livelihood of the citizens of the watershed, we must look beyond traditional programs and act now to accelerate the conservation and stewardship of our most valuable forests.

♦ ♦ ♦

HEREFORE, WE COMMIT to developing a collective goal to be adopted by the Executive Council in 2007 for conserving those forest lands in the Bay watershed where conservation to protect water quality is most needed. To achieve this commitment, we agree to:

- Use the best available tools, such as the Resource Lands Assessment, to identify areas where retention and expansion of forests is most needed to protect water quality in the Bay watershed. Priority areas include:
  - Stream, shoreline, and floodplain forests and forested wetlands;
  - Forests in headwaters and on steep slopes;
  - Forests protecting drinking water supplies;
  - Large contiguous blocks of forest; and
  - Sustainably managed working forests.

# Fairfax Has and Is Moving Forward

- Floodplain management 1959- 1993
- 1959: Restrictive floodplain ordinance enacted
- Applied to drainage areas >1 square mile
- 1977: Floodplain overlay district
- 1985: Zoning ordinance amended to distinguish
- Major floodplain >360 acres
- Minor floodplains > 70 acres
- 1973: Stream Valley Park Plan
- 1998: Greenways, including stream valleys park policy included
- 400 parks =23,677 acres of land
- 1993 Chesapeake Bay Agreement
- Currently Increases Stream Protection
- Working on LID which can lead to forest conservation.

# Tools to Consider

## Overlay zones

Large-lot zoning

Idea-- State and local governments could promote conservation development design, an approach to new development that conserves forested open space

Agricultural protection zones

Idea --Looking for Pilot Projects-sites/watersheds where infrastructure can be controlled and environmental outcomes monitored.

Transferable development rights

Targeted Infrastructure Investments

Urban growth boundaries

Idea-- Local governments could identify and adopt forest protection overlay zones and riparian corridor zones

# Forest cover can be a win/win investment

## WHAT'S IN IT FOR BAY COMMUNITIES?

### Development Comm.

- Density credits
- Lower erosion and sediment control costs.
- Stormwater management requirements decrease with forest conserved.
- Riparian forest buffers are BMPs in some jurisdictions.
- Reduced site clearing costs

### Citizens

- Reduced utility bills.
- Increased property values
- Reduced soil erosion and drainage problems.
- Reduced flood insurance costs
- Improved quality of life (shade, recreation, and aesthetics).

[www.chesapeakebay.net](http://www.chesapeakebay.net)





> A CLEANER CHESAPEAKE BAY IS  
THE DESTINATION.

> THE CHESAPEAKE BAY 2000  
AGREEMENT IS THE NAVIGATION  
CHART.

> THE STATE IMPLEMENTATION  
PLANS ARE THE WAY POINTS.

> THE JOURNEY IS CHALLENGING,  
BUT IT REALLY IS ALL ABOUT THE  
DESTINATION.