Chesapeake Bay Watershed Data Dashboard

A Tool for Restoration Planning

What is the dashboard?

The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Data Dashboard (https://gis.chesapeakebay.net/wip/dashboard) is an online tool that provides accessible and understandable data and scientific information to help guide water quality and watershed restoration planning efforts. It is meant to assist those who plan restoration projects at the regional or local level by providing a holistic view of the watershed in a visually appealing, easily understandable manner.

Why was the dashboard developed?

Chesapeake Bay Program partners requested a way to access technical information to use in the development and implementation of Watershed Implementation Plans. They wanted a single location in which to access data and information, as planners must currently pull datasets from multiple sources.

How was the dashboard developed?

Staff at the Chesapeake Bay Program Office carried out user research and workshops with partners at federal, state and local levels to understand:

- What sort of information partners found to be important during their planning efforts.
- What information the scientific community deemed essential to consider during the planning process.
- The order in which planners looked for certain types of information during their process.
- The way in which planners organized information during their process.

What does the dashboard do?

The dashboard provides consolidated visual data to help users:

- Understand local water quality and the conditions of living resources—plants, animals, habitats and ecosystems—and how they've changed over time.
- Understand sources of pollution and drivers of local water quality.
- Identify effective and affordable management practices.
- Identify opportunities for implementing management practices on the landscape.
- Plan for future change, such as urban growth and climate change.

How can this information be used?

- Targeting restoration efforts by location, sector or practice.
- Developing scenarios to run on the Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool (CAST).
- Developing outreach materials and communicating watershed information.
- Building local stories to engage with stakeholders.

You can find the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Data Dashboard at:

https://gis.chesapeakebay.net/wip/dashboard/