



CHESAPEAKE BAY STEWARDSHIP FUND 2023 SMALL WATERSHED / CHESAPEAKE WILD GRANTS METRICS GUIDANCE



Photo Credit: Will Parson,
Chesapeake Bay Program

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INTRODUCTION TO NFWF'S CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAMS

CHESAPEAKE BAY STEWARDSHIP FUND

The Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund is dedicated to protecting and restoring the bay by helping local communities clean up and restore their polluted rivers and streams. The Fund also advances cost-effective and creative solutions with financial and technical assistance to local communities, farmers and private landowners.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) manages the Stewardship Fund in partnership with government agencies and private corporations and in close coordination with the federal-state [Chesapeake Bay Program](#) partnership. Major funding is provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through the Chesapeake Bay Program Office, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Additional funding is provided by Altria Group, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U.S. Forest Service.

Since 1999, the Stewardship Fund has worked with the public and private sectors to deliver on-the-ground conservation successes benefiting the communities, farms, habitats and wildlife of the Chesapeake Bay region. NFWF administers the fund's four competitive grant programs, the Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grant Program, the Small Watershed Grants Program, the Chesapeake WILD Grant Program, and Pennsylvania's Most Effective Basins Grants. NFWF also makes targeted investments that support networking and information-sharing among restoration partners on emerging technologies, successful restoration approaches, and new partnership opportunities.

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GENERAL METRICS INFORMATION

METRICS OVERVIEW

To assess project progress and ensure greater consistency of data provided by multiple grants, the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund provides a list of metrics in Easygrants. In addition to metrics in Easygrants, grantees can gather more detailed site and practice-level data via FieldDoc.org (see Review Resources for additional details), as applicable.

The metrics section of the Full Proposal allows you to select the activity and outcome metrics you will use to measure your project's progress and success. Follow the directions provided in Easygrants to complete this section. A couple of general pointers:

- Hover your mouse cursor over the “?” next to a metric to read its description and specific guidance.
- Please “Add” and complete at least one metric relevant to reporting your project's progress.
- For each metric you will need to provide values for “Starting Value” and “Target Value.” **In most cases the starting value will be zero (0).** *The only instance when the starting value will not be zero is when you are applying for a second or third phase of a project previously funded by NFWF.*
- In your project narrative, you will have the opportunity to describe additional activities and outcomes associated with your project.
- Please only select metrics associated with the project elements for which you are requesting funding in this grant.
- Click the small notepad icon to the right of a selected metric to add notes. Adding notes to metrics assists reviewers in understanding how values were determined, and in some cases, notes are required.

To increase consistency in the usage and calculations of metrics, the NFWF Chesapeake team has created this “2023 Metrics Guidance” document to provide additional details and instructions about each metric. Please ensure that, upon choosing a metric to include in your proposal, the calculation of the target value accounts for the details listed for the metric in this guide.

COMMON MISTAKES

1. **Double Counting.** One practice/implementation technique should not be counted under two different metrics (with the same measurement, eg. acres). For example, if implementing a wetland restoration and selecting “Wetland restoration - Acres restored,” do not also select “BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Acres with BMPs” for the same spatial area. Complementary metrics (with different measurements, eg. acres and stormwater reduction) can be selected for one practices/implementation technique.
2. **Not Including Metric Notes.** Metrics notes are an opportunity to expand on and explain calculations, practice details, and target values. If notes are necessary to understanding a practice, the instructions will specify what should be included, at a minimum, in the notes. Notes are required for some metrics. Insufficient metric notes will be sent back for revisions.
3. **Counting Planning as Implementation.** If the project includes planning, research, engineering/design, or technical assistance, the *future* implementation resulting from that work should not be counted under any habitat management or habitat restoration metrics. Please use the “Management or Governance Planning” metrics.
4. **Not Accounting for COVID-19 Restrictions/Limitations.** Use the NOTES section to indicate how the target value has been adapted to account for COVID-19 limitations. This is particularly relevant for outreach metrics such as # volunteers participating or for any metrics impacted by materials or labor shortages or supply chain challenges.
5. **Target Value Lower Than Starting Value.** If the starting value is not zero, the target value should be the value to be achieved by the NFWF project within the period of performance *plus* the starting value. The only instance when the starting value will not be zero is when you are applying for a second or third phase of a project previously funded by NFWF.
6. **Using “People with Changed Behavior” Instead of “People Reached” Metric.** Changed behavior must be a MEASURABLE behavior with a baseline value upon which grant outcomes can be compared. Social media campaigns, signage, volunteer planting, etc. (passive engagement) should not be counted under behavior change.

LIST OF AVAILABLE METRICS – CHESAPEAKE BAY STEWARDSHIP FUND

Metrics available to pick in Easygrants. Additional details and instructions for each metric are included in the next section.

WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

- CBSF - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Lbs N avoided (annually)
- CBSF - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Lbs P avoided (annually)
- CBSF - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Lbs sediment avoided (annually)
- CBSF - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Acres with BMPs
- CBSF - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Acres with conservation tillage
- CBSF - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Acres with cover crops
- CBSF - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Acres with enhanced nutrient mgt
- CBSF - BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction - Acres with managed grazing
- CBSF - BMP implementation for stormwater runoff - Acres with BMPs
- CBSF - BMP implementation for stormwater runoff - Volume stormwater prevented
- CBSF - Green Infrastructure - Number of trees planted

STREAM AND RIPARIAN RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION

- CBSF - Riparian restoration - Miles restored
- CBSF - BMP implementation for livestock fencing - Miles of fencing installed
- CBSF - Stream Restoration - Miles restored
- CBSF - Floodplain restoration - Acres restored
- CBSF - Wetland restoration - Acres restored
- CBSF - Tidal marsh restoration - Acres restored

AQUATIC HABITAT CONNECTIVITY AND RESTORATION

- CBSF - Fish passage improvements - Miles of stream opened
- CBSF - Instream habitat restoration - Miles restored

TERRESTRIAL HABITAT CONNECTIVITY, CONSERVATION, AND RESTORATION

- CBSF - Conservation easements - Acres protected under easement
- CBSF - Land, wetland restoration - Number of trees planted

TIDAL AND ESTUARINE HABITAT CONNECTIVITY, CONSERVATION, AND RESTORATION

- CBSF - American oyster - Marine habitat restoration - Acres restored
- CBSF - Erosion control - Acres restored

PUBLIC ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS

- CBSF - Public Access - # acres with public access
- CBSF Public Access - #miles with public access

CAPACITY BUILDING AND PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- CBSF - Outreach/ Education/ Technical Assistance - # people reached
- CBSF - Outreach/ Education/ Technical Assistance - # people with changed behavior
- CBSF - Volunteer participation - # volunteers participating
- CBSF - Management or Governance Planning - # plans developed

METRICS DESCRIPTION AND TIPS

WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT				
PRACTICE	METRIC	INSTRUCTIONS	IMPLEMENTATION EXAMPLES	ADDITIONAL TIPS
BMP implementation for nutrient or sediment reduction	Lbs Nitrogen avoided (annually)	Enter FieldDoc-generated pollutant load reduction totals in this field then upload your FieldDoc Project Summary in the "Uploads" section.	N, P and S reduced by implementation of BMPs (agriculture or stormwater)	Values can be calculated using the FieldDoc.org platform
	Lbs Phosphorus avoided (annually)			
	Lbs Sediment avoided (annually)			
	Acres with BMPs	Enter the total number of acres under agricultural or non-urban BMPs to reduce nutrient or sediment loading. Do not double-count individual acres which have multiple BMPs.	Barnyard runoff controls, roof runoff management, manure storage	If you're implementing load reduction practices on urban lands, report associated outcomes instead under the "CBSF - BMP implementation for stormwater runoff - Acres with BMPs" metric. Do not include cover crops, conservation tillage, enhanced cropland nutrient management, or managed grazing.
	Acres with conservation tillage	Enter the number of cropland acres with conservation tillage practices. Please describe conservation tillage practices in the NOTES section.	No-till	
	Acres with cover crops	Enter the number of cropland acres with cover crop practices. Describe the cover crop practices in the NOTES section.	Cover Crops	
	Acres with enhanced nutrient mgt	Enter the number of cropland acres with enhanced nutrient management practices other than or in addition to conservation tillage or cover crops. Describe the nutrient management practices in the NOTES section.	Nutrient management	

	Acres with managed grazing	Enter the number of acres with managed grazing (i.e., promoting plant growth above and below ground, improving wildlife habitat, and maximizing soil carbon through a variety of grazing approaches). Describe the grazing practices in the NOTES section.	Prescribed grazing	
BMP implementation for stormwater runoff	Acres with BMP's	Enter total drainage area treated by stormwater BMPs.	Bioretention, green roofs, permeable pavement, bioswales, rain gardens, etc.	If you wish to also provide the extent of specific BMPs themselves (i.e. square feet of bioretention), do so in the "Notes" section. Make sure that the acreage is the total TREATED acres (the practice drainage area), not just the practice footprint.
	Volume stormwater prevented	Enter the number of gallons of stormwater runoff treated through stormwater BMPs (e.g. runoff treatment volume).	Bioretention, green roofs, permeable pavement, bioswales, rain gardens, etc.	Value is annual, value can be calculated using the FieldDoc.org platform
Green Infrastructure	Number of trees planted	Enter the number of trees planted for urban stormwater reduction. In the NOTES section, specify the specify the landcover type prior to planting (barren, cropland, grassland, shrubland), # of acres, and average # of trees per acre.		

STREAM AND RIPARIAN RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION

PRACTICE	METRIC	INSTRUCTIONS	IMPLEMENTATION EXAMPLES	ADDITIONAL TIPS
Riparian Restoration	Miles Restored	Enter the number of miles of riparian habitat restored through the implementation of forest or grass buffers that are at least 35 feet wide. If you're implementing livestock exclusion, report associated outcomes instead under the "CBSF - BMP implementation for livestock exclusion -- miles of fencing installed" metric. In the NOTES section, specify the landcover type prior to planting (barren, cropland, grassland, shrubland), the % of vegetation on the pre-project site (0-20%, 21-40%, 41-60%, 61-80%, 81-100%), the dominant vegetation being planted (Broadleaf, Conifer, Shrub, Grass, Marsh, Swamp), the buffer width, and the acres.	Forested buffers, vegetated buffers, grass buffers	Buffers are typically 35-100ft in width, please note the average width
BMP implementation for livestock fencing	Miles of fencing installed	Enter the number of miles of livestock exclusion installed. Assume activities include exclusion fencing and a 35-foot forest or grass buffer, unless otherwise noted.	Improving existing fence AND/OR construction of new fence to keep livestock out of stream	Can be counted with miles of riparian restoration for streamside forest buffer with exclusion fencing
Stream Restoration	Miles restored	Enter the number of miles of stream restored for nutrient and sediment load reduction, consistent with		

		qualifying conditions and restoration protocols established by the CBP.		
Floodplain Restoration	Acres restored	Enter the number of acres of floodplain restored for nutrient and sediment load reduction, consistent with qualifying conditions and restoration protocols established by the CBP. In the NOTES, indicate the % of vegetation on the pre-project site (0-20%, 21-40%, 41-60%, 61-80%, 81-100%) and the dominant vegetation being restored (Broadleaf, Conifer, Shrub, Grass, Marsh, Swamp).	Re-establishment of function of floodplains natural conditions (leveling degraded streambanks, planting native species)	Must be active restoration/reconnection (not just land taken out of production); note if restoration enhances stream resilience. Also report any associated linear stream restoration outcomes through the "CBSF - Stream restoration - Miles restored" metric.
Wetland restoration	Acres restored	Enter # acres of WETLAND (not riparian or instream) habitat restored. In the NOTES, specify landcover prior to restoration (Marsh, Tidal marsh, Wet meadow, Swamp) and indicate % of vegetation on pre-project site (0-20%, 21-40%, 41-60%, 61-80%, 81-100%).	Re-establishment (rebuilding former wetland) or rehabilitation (repairing degraded wetland)	Wetland restoration
Tidal marsh restoration	Acres restored	Enter # acres of salt marsh habitat restored. Do not double count with acres of wetland restored.	Elevation enhancements through thin layer deposition, ditch remediation, runneling	

AQUATIC HABITAT CONNECTIVITY AND RESTORATION				
PRACTICE	METRIC	INSTRUCTIONS	IMPLEMENTATION EXAMPLES	ADDITIONAL TIPS
Fish passage improvements	Miles of stream opened	Enter the number of miles of stream habitat opened to fish populations through dam removals, culvert replacement, or other fish passage improvements. A mile opened is defined as number of new miles that restoration makes accessible for aquatic species. Only include the miles of main stem & smaller tributaries connected until the next barrier upstream (or headwaters), but NOT lakes, ponds, or distance downstream from the barrier removed.	Dam removal, culvert replacement, fish passage enhancements	Consider utilizing the CBP's Fish Passage Prioritization Tool to assess potential outcomes. Only include grant funded implementation. Do not include results of future removals or replacements due to grant-funded design or planning activities
Instream habitat restoration	Miles restored	Enter the number of miles of instream habitat restoration activities not otherwise creditable for nutrient and sediment load reduction.	Channel modification, bank stabilization, bed stabilizations, stream diversions, habitat enhancements like woody debris and other hydrological improvements	Projects implementing qualifying stream restoration practices for TMDL crediting should instead report those outcomes instead through the "CBSF - Stream restoration - Miles restored" metric.

TERRESTRIAL HABITAT CONNECTIVITY, CONSERVATION, AND RESTORATION

PRACTICE	METRIC	INSTRUCTIONS	IMPLEMENTATION EXAMPLES	ADDITIONAL TIPS
Conservation easements	Acres protected under easement	Enter the number of acres protected under long-term easement (permanent or >30-yr). Assuming the specific parcel(s) has been identified, in the NOTES indicate what % of natural land cover would have been cleared in the absence of the easement(s).		
Land, wetland restoration	Number of trees planted	Enter the number of trees planted for all non-urban projects/practices. In the NOTES, specify landcover type prior to planting (barren, cropland, grass, shrub), # of acres, forest type planted (broadleaf, conifer, redwood, swamp--either broadleaf or conifer, shrub), density per acre, and mortality rate.	Urban forestry, buffer plantings, habitat restoration	

TIDAL AND ESTUARINE HABITAT CONNECTIVITY, CONSERVATION, AND RESTORATION

PRACTICE	METRIC	INSTRUCTIONS	IMPLEMENTATION EXAMPLES	ADDITIONAL TIPS
American oyster - Marine habitat restoration	Acres restored	Enter the number of acres of native oyster reef restored.		
Erosion Control	Acres restored	Enter the number of miles of tidal shoreline stabilized or restored through erosion control, including living shoreline restoration.	Living shoreline, natural revetments/breakwater systems	Projects implementing qualifying stream restoration practices for TMDL crediting should instead report those outcomes instead through the "CBSF - Stream restoration - Miles restored" metric.

PUBLIC ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS

PRACTICE	METRIC	INSTRUCTIONS	IMPLEMENTATION EXAMPLES	ADDITIONAL TIPS
Public Access	# acres with public access	Enter the number of acres now open to public access as a result of the acquisition/easement.	Increased access to protected lands with public benefits, development of a new trail	Should be <i>new</i> public access, not just projects on land that is accessible to the public. Use NOTES section to indicate what kind of access: general public use, trails, etc.
	# miles with public access	Enter the number of miles of stream or river opened to public access as a result of the acquisition/easement.	Rehabilitation or construction of boat access facilities	Should be <i>new</i> public access, not just projects on

				land that is accessible to the public. Use NOTES section to indicate what kind of access: general public use, trails, etc.
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CAPACITY, OUTREACH, INCENTIVES

PRACTICE	METRIC	INSTRUCTIONS	IMPLEMENTATION EXAMPLES	ADDITIONAL TIPS
Outreach/ Education/ Technical Assistance	# people reached	Enter the number of people who responded to an offer and inquiry delivered by outreach, training, or technical assistance activities; specify the percentage of individuals reached; indicate type of audience (farmers, community members, municipalities) and how individuals are reached in the NOTES section.	People attending workshops/speaker series, people attending nature walks, people present at site visits	Who is being reached? How are they being reached?
	# people with changed behavior	Enter the number of individuals demonstrating a minimum level of behavior change; briefly describe methods of measurement and tracking in NOTES section. Characterize the audience (farmers, community members, municipalities) in the NOTES section.	Measured community-based social marketing campaign, landowner training that results in documented implementation	Do not double count with volunteers or people reached. Changed behavior must be a MEASURABLE behavior with a baseline value upon which grant outcomes can be compared. What is the behavior being changed? How is it measured?
Volunteer participation	# volunteers participating	Enter the number of volunteers participating in project implementation, outreach, and education activities.	Volunteer tree planting, volunteers monitoring beaches for recreational disturbance	Unpaid volunteer time can be used as in-kind match. Use the NOTES section to describe: Who are the volunteers? What are they doing?
Management or Governance Planning	# plans developed	Enter the number of conservation, watershed, and/or habitat management plans developed or improved. In the "Notes" section, provide specific information on the aggregate areal extent of associated plans (e.g. acres, square miles), and the number and areal extent of contributing planning activities.		

METRICS RESOURCES

To assist applicants in generating credible metric estimates, NFWF has partnered with [The Commons](#) to develop FieldDoc, a user-friendly tool that allows consistent planning, tracking, and reporting of water quality improvement activities and modeling of associated nutrient and sediment load reductions from proposed grant projects.

NFWF requires all projects proposing to implement on-the-ground water quality improvements to utilize FieldDoc to calculate estimated load reductions included in their application. When setting up proposed projects in FieldDoc, please be sure to list your application's 5-digit Easygrants number in the FieldDoc project title.

For technical support on FieldDoc utilization during the proposal development process, contact support@FieldDoc.org. Additional guidance is available at help.fielddoc.org.

NFWF Website Resources

[Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund](#)
[Applicant Information](#)



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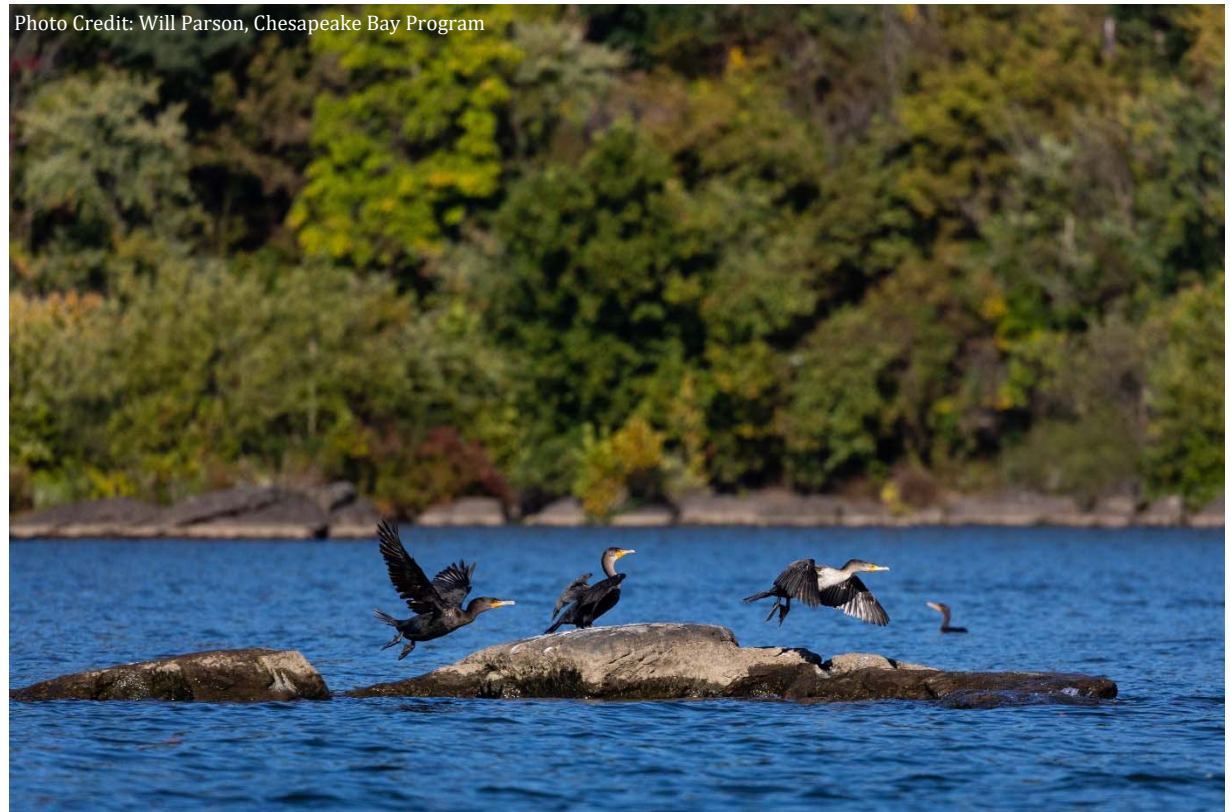


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