



“Wildlife” and “habitat” are words commonly used to describe two components of an ecosystem. An ecosystem, from the Greek oikos meaning house, is a distinct community of plants and animals that share the same physical environment and are bound together by food webs and other mutual relationships. Important aquatic (water) ecosystems in the Potomac River basin are wetlands, lakes, seasonal pools, wadeable streams, rivers, and the tidally influenced estuary.

### [General information](#)

[Restoration and Protection Projects](#) help Potomac River aquatic ecosystems and their associated land resources. ICPRB participates in several of these projects.

- American shad restoration
- Cash Valley Run fish passage enhancement
- Watershed-wise gardens
- Rain bear rain barrels
- Trash free by 2013
- Riparian buffers

[Data Collection and Management](#) , and the assurance of high quality data, are key aspects of several ICPRB efforts.

- Biological stream monitoring
- American shad monitoring
- List of Potomac freshwater fish
- Coliscan monitoring
- Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) data management

[Assessments](#) of the data are as important as collecting them. The ICPRB is analyzing the river basin's monitoring data sets for multiple purposes.

- Ecosystem indicators
- Non-tidal wadeable streams and rivers
- Tidal open waters
- Basin-wide assessments

ICPRB is working with researchers and resource managers to establish a [Potomac Integrative Analysis Online Collection](#) of contributed data analysis products, including

- issue ("white") papers
- project reports
- theses and dissertations
- results summaries
- slide presentations
- unpublished manuscripts

which contain valuable insights and information but are often difficult find or access. The Online Collection also has links to published papers. The ICPRB welcomes contributions.