

# Potomac Basin Comprehensive Water Resources Plan

## Year One through Four Implementation Progress

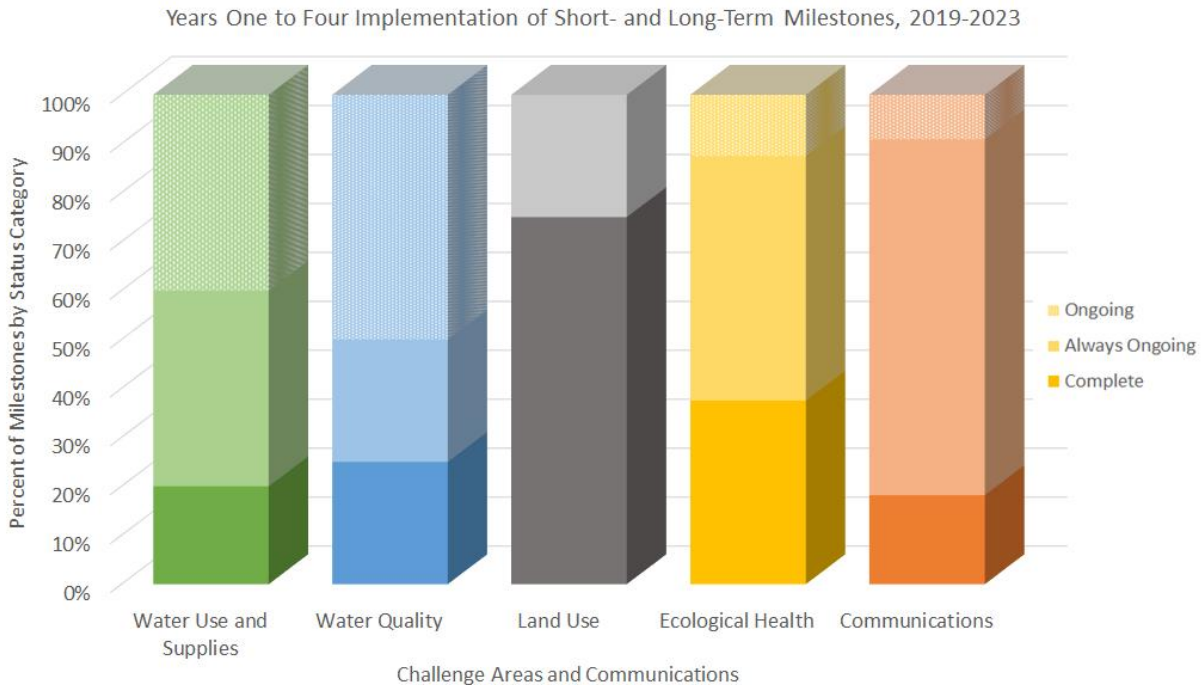
The first four years of implementation of the [Potomac Basin Comprehensive Water Resources Plan](#) resulted in the successful completion of approximately thirty-four percent of the planning milestones, continuation of another forty-six percent of the milestones whose implementation is perpetually ongoing, and continuing efforts to address the remaining twenty percent of the planning milestones. This document lists some of the highlights from the past year, provides a general overview of the plan's implementation status (Figure 1), describes select ongoing activities, and gives a more detailed picture of implementation status by individual milestone (Figure 2).



## Year Four Highlights

- ✓ A [One Basin, One Future Collection](#) of comprehensive plan products was designed and made available online. The interface includes new interactive mapping products of ICPRB's 2018 impervious cover study and ICPRB's 2020 land prioritization tool among other products.
- ✓ A spreadsheet inventory and an associated [pamphlet](#) were developed on Potomac basin entities with a role in sustainable water resources management. This effort addresses part of the plan's overarching recommendation described in [Section 3.2.1.A](#).
- ✓ ICPRB continued a webinar series for information sharing between land use decision-makers in the basin. Events were held on January 21 and May 20, 2022. Recordings are available on [ICPRB's Comprehensive Plan YouTube page](#).
- ✓ ICPRB performed a survey and [report](#) on Tropical Storm Ida's impact on a toxic algal bloom in the Shenandoah River in September 2021.
- ✓ ICPRB staff prepared a [report](#), [supplemental materials](#), and a [video](#) on Potomac River Water Quality at Great Falls: 1940-2019.
- ✓ "Baseline" data with which to measure change in stream macroinvertebrate health in the Chesapeake watershed, including the Potomac were added to the [online Chesapeake Bay Program database](#), including metadata and R-scripts.
- ✓ ICPRB's [Aquatic Life webpages](#) were updated and expanded to promote communication, engagement, and information sharing.
- ✓ ICPRB signed on to the 2022 Interstate Council on Water Policy [Senate](#) and [House](#) streamgauge letters.
- ✓ ICPRB conducted the Potomac River Environmental Flows Workshop on May 5 and 17, 2022, and will complete a summary report by the end of September, 2022.

Figure 1. Year one through four implementation progress for short- and long-term milestones, 2019-2023. This figure does not illustrate percent complete by funding or staff time, only by the number of milestones in each status category. Challenge areas are distinguished by color. Status is designated using three shades of that color. The figure legend was developed using Ecological Health as an example. The colors used in Figure 1 correspond to those used in Figure 2. While communications is not a challenge area, per se, it is a key component of implementation and is included here for reference.



### Select Ongoing Activities

- The Potomac Data Inventory and Mapping Exploration (DIME) initiative is being implemented as a “back-end” and a “front-end”. The “back-end” is a technical, internally facing product for organizing and accessing data and information. The “front-end” includes resources for disseminating finished information, as in the [One Basin, One Future Collection](#).
- Efforts are underway to quantify state reported, basin-wide water uses, demands, and consumptive demands. This effort will complement the completed unreported water uses project to provide a comprehensive look at water uses in the basin.
- The biannual land use webinar series will continue to promote information sharing amongst land use decision-makers in the basin.
- Building on discussions at the 2020 Virtual Event Series, staff are compiling and describing environmental metrics to use in 2023 to evaluate the environmental impact of the plan’s implementation.
- A supplemental effort is underway to respond to recommendations and identified data gaps from the [Planning Assistance to States Jennings Randolph Lake Scoping Study Phase II Report](#) and the ICPRB technical report on the [Influence of Jennings Randolph Lake and Dam Operations on River Flow and Water Quality in the North Branch Potomac River](#).
- ICPRB continues to meet with state and local stakeholders, identify and fill in data needs, and conduct river user outreach in the North Branch Potomac River region to optimize the multiple uses of the watershed.

- ICPRB convened the Potomac River Low Flow Allocation Agreement Work Group with a kickoff meeting on March 25, 2022, and work is ongoing to achieve consensus on updates to the original 1978 regional water supply agreement.
- Work is ongoing on acquiring supplemental storage for the Washington, DC, metropolitan area regional water supply system, with two notable successes in 2022: ICPRB's 7001 proposal was incorporated into the USACE's 2022 Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development, and due to the efforts of Congresswomen Norton, the House version of the 2022 Water Resources and Development Act includes a request for a feasibility study on a secondary water source for the region.
- ICPRB staff are meeting regularly with staff from the USACE's Baltimore District Office on potential changes to Jennings Randolph Reservoir operations, which was identified as an alternative which could improve the reliability of the Washington, DC, metropolitan area water supply system. The benefits of raising the minimum flow at Luke, Maryland, during drought has been modeled and is now under discussion.
- Updates to improve the contents and usability of the [Potomac Water Quality Data Inventory](#) are underway.
- Focused communications activities included press releases, frequent social media posts, and targeted presentations.

Figure 2. Implementation status by milestone and challenge area. Detailed descriptions of each milestone can be found in the comprehensive plan for each challenge area. While communications is not a challenge area, per se, it is a key component of implementation and is included here for reference. Colors used in this figure correspond to colors used in Figure 1. The darker the shade, the closer a milestone is to being complete.

