

Potomac Basin Comprehensive Water Resources Plan

Year One through Five Implementation Progress

This year (2023) represents the final year of the 5-year implementation cycle of the [Potomac Basin Comprehensive Water Resources Plan](#). These five years of implementation resulted in the successful completion of approximately forty-seven 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 seven percent of the planning milestones.



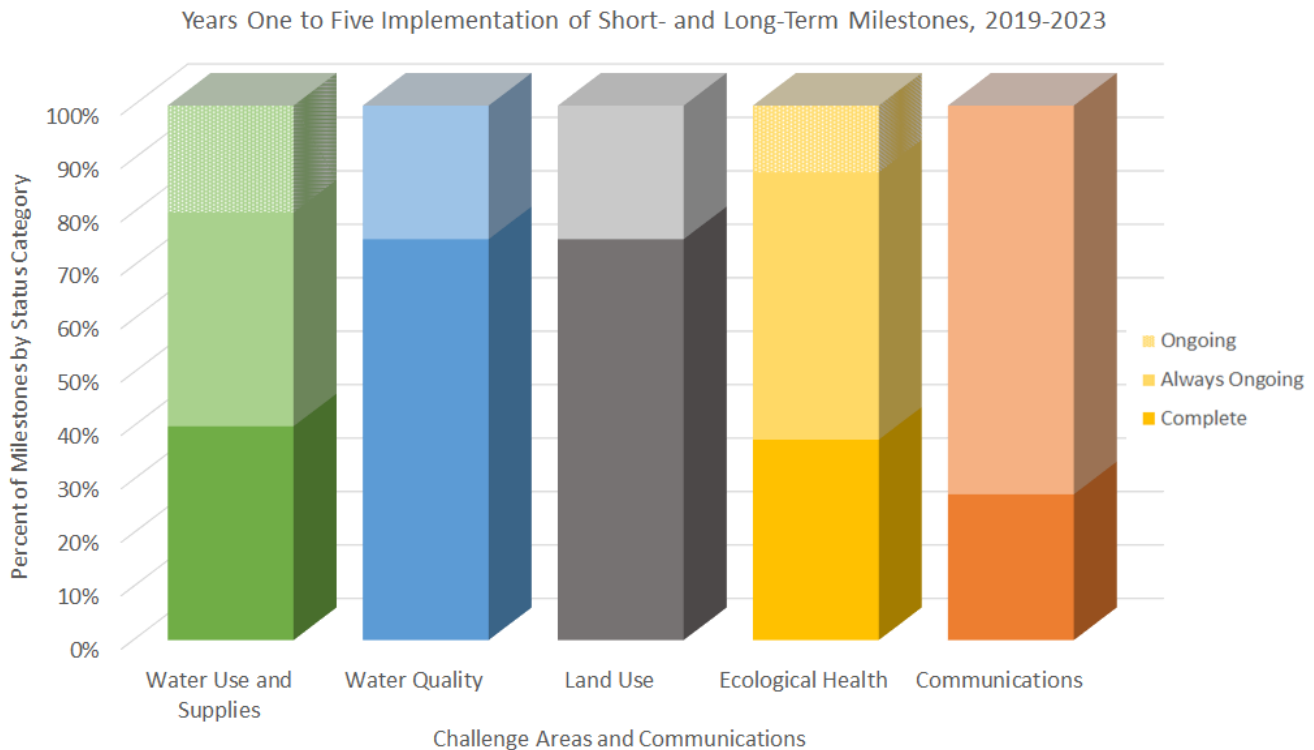
This document lists some of the highlights from the past year, provides a general overview of the plan's implementation status (Figure 1), describes select ongoing activities, and gives a more detailed picture of implementation status by individual milestone (Figure 2).

In addition to the year five highlights listed below, the [Potomac Basin Comprehensive Water Resources Plan Advisory Committee](#) was re-established in 2023 to evaluate implementation progress and define milestones and measures of success for the next 5-year planning cycle (2024-2028). Implementation of the new milestones is slated to begin in spring 2024.

Year Five Highlights

- ✓ A prototype [Tracking Environmental Progress Storymap](#) was designed and made available online. It will be finalized with input from the Advisory Committee.
- ✓ ICPRB hosted a virtual [2022 Potomac Conference](#) on the topic of PFAS on September 22, 2022.
- ✓ ICPRB continued a webinar series for information sharing between land use decision-makers in the basin. Events were held on February 3 and May 12, 2023 on the topics of combating climate change through sustainable development and innovations in sustainable agriculture. Recordings are available on [ICPRB's Comprehensive Plan YouTube page](#).
- ✓ ICPRB staff completed a report on [Stream Biological Health in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed](#).
- ✓ ICPRB staff submitted a manuscript for peer-reviewed publication on water use in the Potomac basin for the year 2017. The manuscript is currently under review.
- ✓ A presentation on ICPRB's water use analyses, including a 2017 snapshot of reported and unreported water uses and projected future water uses and consumptive uses in the Potomac basin was given at the [Universities Council on Water Resources' 2023 Annual Water Resources Conference](#).
- ✓ An [ICPRB presentation](#) was given at the [2022 National Water Use Workshop](#) on reported water uses in the Potomac basin and ICPRB's updated withdrawal and consumptive use database.
- ✓ ICPRB staff participated in the [2023 National Water Use Data Virtual Summit](#).
- ✓ ICPRB staff, in collaboration with the [Potomac River Basin Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership](#), produced a [web page and interactive map](#) on PFAS in the Potomac basin.
- ✓ ICPRB staff prepared a white paper titled "[Considerations for Monitoring Microplastics in the Non-Tidal Potomac River](#)".
- ✓ ICPRB staff prepared "[An Analysis of Pooled Monitoring Data in Maryland to Evaluate the Effects of Restoration on Stream Quality in Urbanized Watersheds](#)".
- ✓ The signatories to the [Potomac River Low Flow Allocation Agreement](#) completed their review of the agreement and consideration of changes to bring it up to date and are expected to present their final report and conclusions to the ICPRB in September 2023.
- ✓ ICPRB signed on to the 2022 Interstate Council on Water Policy [Senate](#) and [House](#) streamgauge letters.

Figure 1. Year one through five 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 [One Basin, One Future Collection](#) continues to be updated with products of comprehensive plan implementation.
- Planning is underway for a [2023 Potomac Conference](#) on the topic of climate change, scheduled for September 21, 2023 in Lorton, Virginia.
- ICPRB staff continued to provide methodology development, field response, and watershed planning for Harmful Algal Blooms in the Potomac basin.
- 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.
- Work is ongoing on acquiring supplemental storage for the Washington, DC, metropolitan area regional water supply system, with a recent notable success: authorization of a USACE feasibility study on a secondary regional water supply in the Water Resources Development Act of 2022, passed by Congress and signed by the President in December 2022.
- 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 (Alternative 8). ICPRB staff finalized a proposal to increase the minimum flow at Luke, Maryland, during drought, documenting benefits based on simulations with

PRRISM v3.11, and model verification and potential model updates based on recent changes to USACE reservoir release practices are now under discussion.

- Updates to improve the contents and usability of the [Potomac Water Quality Data Inventory](#) are continuing with assistance from ICPRB's 2023 intern cohort.
- Focused communications activities included 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.

