

<http://cast.chesapeakebay.net/Documentation>

Land Policy BMPs

There are multiple Land Policy BMPs available. These BMPs change the acres of land use to meet certain planning goals.

Forest Conservation: Organizations and governments proactively pursuing a variety of actions to conserve forests and wetlands which provide the greatest benefits to wildlife, human safety, and water quality. Example priority areas include riparian zones, shorelines, large contiguous forest tracts, and other high-priority forest conservation areas.

- Conserve riparian zones (default width = 30m)
- Conserve wetlands (NWI, State Designated Wetlands, and Potential Conservable Wetlands (PA only))
- Conserve all lands subject to inundation due to sea level rise (default = 1m rise by the year 2100)
- Conserve all lands surrounding National Wildlife Refuges (default = 1 mile buffer)
- Conserve all large forest tracts (default \geq 250 acres)
- Conserve Bay shorelines (default = 305m buffer (~1000-ft) of the tidal Bay and Atlantic shorelines)
- Conserve all high-value forest and forested wetlands identified by the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership

Growth Management: Organizations and governments proactively pursuing a variety of actions to encourage growth in areas with supporting infrastructure. Example priority areas include undeveloped or under-developed areas with adequate existing roads, wastewater, and water supply infrastructure.

- Increase proportion of growth occurring as infill/redevelopment (default = 10% per decade)
- Increase urban densities (default = 10% per decade)
- Increase proportion of urban vs rural growth (default = 10% per decade)
- Expand sewer service areas (default = ~1 mile)
- Avoid growth on all soils unsuitable for septic systems (based on depth to bedrock, drainage class, saturated hydraulic conductivity, and flood frequency)

Agriculture and Soil Conservation: Organizations and governments proactively pursuing a variety of actions to conserve farmland and productive soils. Example priority areas include agricultural districts, prime farmland, farmland of state importance, floodplains, and other high-priority farmland conservation areas.

- Conserve all farmland within designated Agricultural Districts
- Conserve all lands within the floodplain (default = 100-year recurrence interval)
- Conserve all lands with flooded soils (default = frequently flooded)
- Conserve all prime farmlands and farmland of state importance
- Conserve potential restorable wetlands (applies only to PA farmland)
- Conserve all high-value farmland identified by the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership

Land Policy BMP FAQs

Why are the land policy BMPs not showing up as an option?

Land Policy BMPs are available only when BMP type is "planning" and Base Year is "2025". Land Policy BMPs are eligible for either historic trends or current zoning.

What is the anticipated effect of each of the land policy BMPs by state and county?

This [spreadsheet](#) shows a comparison of absolute load and percent difference in load for nitrogen and phosphorus by state and county.