

# The Goals, Objectives and Products of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control's Wetland Monitoring and Assessment Program

## Program Goals

The goal of DNREC's Wetland Monitoring and Assessment Program (WMAP) is to assess the condition, or health, of wetlands and the functions and [ecosystem benefits](#) that wetlands provide. This information is used to inform the citizens of Delaware and to improve existing [education](#), [restoration](#), [protection](#), and land use planning efforts. The [Delaware Wetland Monitoring Strategy](#) will guide future efforts of the WMAP in the areas of protocol development, wetland monitoring and assessment activities, research, and application of information.

We work closely with other states through the Environmental Protection Agency's [Mid-Atlantic Wetlands Program](#) to establish and conduct research methods and share information.

## Objectives

- Develop scientifically valid wetland assessment methods.
- Assess the current condition of wetlands by watershed and identify major stressors that are impacting wetlands.
- Perform research to improve our understanding of wetland functions, the impact of stressors, and the ecosystem services provided by wetlands to humans and the environment.
- Evaluate the performance of wetland restoration and other compensatory wetland mitigation in replacing wetland acreage and function.
- Educate other state agencies, conservation partners, and the general public to improve efforts to protect and restore wetlands.
- Integrate monitoring and assessment data into watershed restoration plans and other conservation strategies.
- Meet requirements of the Clean Water Act.

## Productivity

- Development of Delaware's nationally-recognized Monitoring and Assessment Protocols
- Developed [Delaware Wetland Monitoring Strategy](#)
- Developed a collaborative [Wetland Conservation Strategy for Delaware](#)
- Completed non-tidal wetland condition reports for the [Nanticoke](#), [Inland Bays](#), [Murderkill](#), [St. Jones](#), and [Broadkill](#) watersheds
- Completed tidal wetland condition reports for the [Inland Bays](#), [Murderkill](#), [St. Jones](#), and [Broadkill](#) watersheds
- Collaborative development of a [Restoration Plan for the Nanticoke Watershed](#)

