

Delaware Bayshore Initiative

Conservation and Restoration

1. *Land and Waterway Conservation*: Expand landscape-level conservation, farmland preservation, and habitat connectivity.
 - ✓ Key Questions: What are the specific conservation priorities? How do we best leverage Federal, State, and private resources?
2. *Ecological Restoration*: Enhance critical habitat and restore waterways to support native flora and fauna, including adopting green infrastructure techniques to reduce flooding, improve water quality, and adapt to climate impacts; nourishing beaches to maintain horseshoe crab spawning sites and critical bird habitat; and removing invasive species.
 - ✓ Key Question: What are specific priority restoration projects, including projects underway? What are all eligible sources of funding available?
3. *Resource Protection*: Coordinate enforcement of existing regulations that prohibit trespass, vandalism, poaching, and disturbance to wildlife and habitats.
 - ✓ Key Question: What are the specific enforcement priorities? How do we redeploy our assets to ensure sufficient coverage?

Recreation and Connectivity

1. *Connectivity with Local Communities and Waterways*: Focus strategic infrastructure investments to connect wildlife areas to urban centers by enhancing the Route 9 Coastal Heritage Scenic Byway, the Chesapeake/Delaware Canal Trail, local hiking trails, and navigable waterways (low-impact canoeing, kayaking, etc).
 - ✓ Key Question: What are the specific infrastructure and connectivity priorities? What are all eligible sources of funding available?
2. *Safe and Healthy Recreational Experiences*: Improve water quality to protect swimmers, seafood consumers, and other users and increase fish and shellfish populations to maximize enjoyment of outdoor recreational experiences.
 - ✓ Key Question: What are the specific priorities to improve water quality? What are all eligible sources of funding available?
3. *Access Enhancements*: Ensure safe, aesthetically pleasing, and more rewarding wildlife-viewing, photography, and other recreation opportunities in both urban and rural areas.
 - ✓ Key Question: What are specific priority areas requiring improved land and water access? What are all eligible sources of funding available?

Engagement and Marketing

1. *Visitor Engagement/No Child Left Inside*: Focus educational programming, interpretation, and recreational efforts on inspiring the next generation of environmental stewards. Utilize multimedia and technology to educate, inform and instill in visitors an appreciation for the value of wildlife and habitats at access points and viewing areas.
 - ✓ Key Question: What are specific interpretation and programmatic priorities? How do we best engage youth?
2. *Marketing*: Coordinate with local communities, tourism offices, local business, and residents to aggressively promote the area regionally, nationally and internationally.
 - ✓ Key Questions: What are the key marketing proof points? Who are the key partners?
3. *Volunteerism Promotion*: Engage local residents, community groups, service organizations, schools and business to instill a sense of ownership and stewardship.
 - ✓ Key Questions: What are specific responsibilities that could be fulfilled by volunteers? How do we develop a system of local volunteers that is sustainable?