

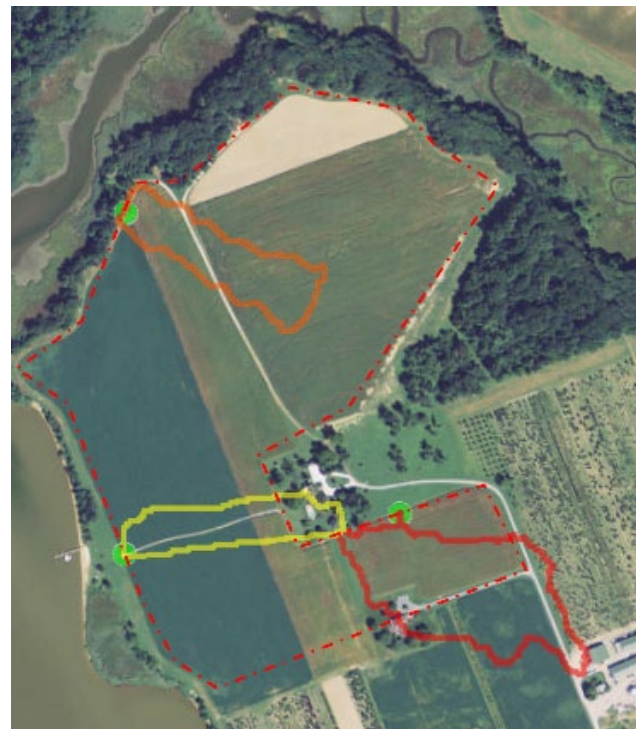


Analysis and Planning

Applying advanced spatial analysis techniques to prioritize agricultural and conservation best management practices that provide ecosystem services and have the greatest impact on a landscape

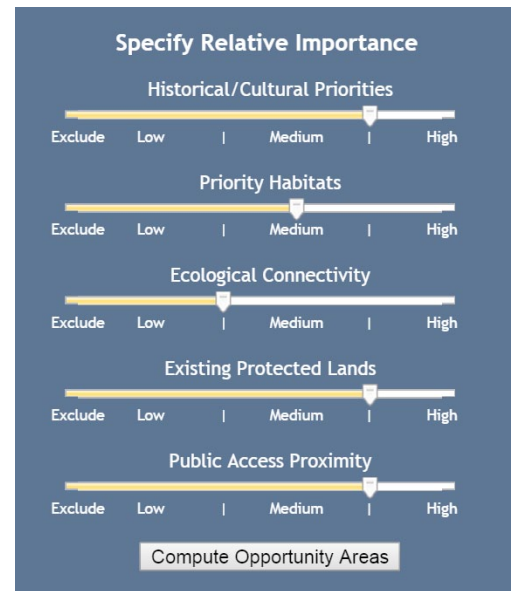
Chesapeake Conservancy leverages technology to reduce the cost and effort of implementing best management practices (BMPs) by helping conservation planners and property owners better understand their resources. The Conservancy has created user-friendly web applications that are suitable for GIS users and non-GIS users alike to access products and conduct spatial analyses.

The Conservation Innovation Center (CIC) works with organizations of all types and sizes, including land trusts, community watershed organizations, soil and water conservation districts, private environmental firms, and local, state, and federal agencies. No matter who we work with, we emphasize the importance of understanding each organization's unique challenges and designing customized solutions. We strive to help our partners integrate geospatial data and analyses into their work to effectively overcome these challenges. In addition to developing new products, we also conduct hands-on training, host workshops, and create customized user's guides.



Customize

The CIC has developed a suite of web applications that help organizations prioritize areas across a landscape that meet criteria of their choosing. A panel of “sliders” (shown right) allows users to specify their level of interest in five or more categories, such as historical and cultural resources, priority habitats, ecological connectivity, relationship to existing protected lands, and proximity to existing public access points. By running the tool several times with different parameters, users can quickly understand how the relative importance of regional priorities changes or stays the same based on their preferences.



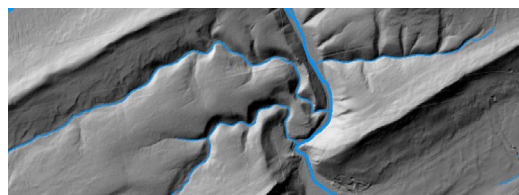
Prioritize

Soil and Water Conservation Districts have expressed the need for more advanced tools to prioritize their work and identify places where they can install best management practices (BMPs) to reduce soil loss and nutrient runoff. The Conservancy has worked closely with these groups to provide desktop and web-enabled tools for calculating

Riparian Buffer Gap Analysis - Identify and prioritize riparian buffer gaps for restoration based on drainage area size and land cover type

Flow Path Modeling - Calculate drainage basins and outlet points from a custom polygon (see front), and produce maps that depict concentrated surface flow at the parcel scale

York County Storm Water Consortium BMP Reporting Tool - Calculate and estimate land treated by and draining into a conservation and restoration BMP



Collaborate

These conservation prioritization tools are powerful for a number of reasons, but perhaps most notably, because they allow for individual or collective use to identify opportunities for resource sharing and cooperative action amongst partner organizations. This makes them ideal for stakeholder meetings or similar community-based conservation efforts that rely on finding common ground across multiple interests and perspectives.

