



Viewshed Protection and Impact Analyses

Mapping the visible landscape to understand the impacts of and guide strategic development that maintains the beauty of special vistas

The Chesapeake Conservancy is conducting extensive visibility analyses to support strategic conservation and restoration efforts in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. These studies provide a visual representation of which areas of land are seen from a particular location. This information is helpful when deciding how to preserve and enhance visible landscapes that are an essential element to many hiking and water trails, scenic roadways, and historic vistas.

Our work is being applied in the real world, most notably in association with George Washington's historic estate, Mount Vernon. The Conservancy has developed a web application (shown on right) to visualize how potential development would affect the estate's viewshed. The tool accepts a user-defined height and polygon of a proposed development, displaying if, and by how much, it would be visible from Mount Vernon and which trees would block the development from view if it was not visible.

