

Habitat GIT Fall 2021



Wetlands

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Wetland Fact Sheets



Supporting Wetlands in the Virginia Commonwealth



There are over a thousand miles of wetlands in Virginia, impacting everything from wildlife and recreation to climate resilience and tourism. Wetlands come in various forms and are found on government land, residential property, farms and other areas along the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. **The following programs and initiatives all benefit from wetland protection, restoration and enhancement in Virginia.**



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Wetlands protect and enhance outdoor recreation venues and agricultural properties while spurring green jobs.

Virginia Outdoors Plan 2018: Outdoor recreationists spend more than \$8 billion within the state annually, and most of the popular forms of outdoor recreation are dependent on the health, vitality and productivity of resource lands and waters, including wetlands.

Virginia Scenic River Program: The goal of VA's scenic river system is to preserve and protect its natural beauty and to assure its use and enjoyment for its scenic, recreational, geological, fish, wildlife, historic, cultural or other asset.

Fisheries Management: Wetlands help VMBC



PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Wetlands play a critical role in reducing the impact of extreme weather such as coastal storms and flooding.

Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program: Wetlands reduce the impacts of coastal storms and flooding on natural and built infrastructure. The Virginia CZM Program supports the use of natural and nature-based features (e.g., wetlands) through a range of initiatives, including promoting the use of living shorelines, protecting beaches and dunes, and using dredged material as a resource for building coastal resilience.

Safety and Floodplains: Floodplains and other wetlands have a proven capacity for reducing the impacts of coastal storms and flood-

- Collaboration with Comms Team
- Provides info on wetlands co-benefits
- First one for Virginia

WWG GIT Funded Project



- 2020 GIT Funded Project
- Marsh Migration
- Contractor VIMS
- Collaboration with CRWG, Fish
- Literature review of models complete

Wetlands Goal Attainment Workshops

- Wetlands Goal considered very off track
- Proposed workshops to address goal attainment
- One workshop of tidal and one for Non-tidal
- WWG is collaborating with the HGIT and the OAT team

STAC Wetlands BMP Crediting: Systems Approach



- STAC Wetlands Workshop
- Systems Approach to crediting and accounting
- Propose protocol for systems crediting
- March 22-23, 2022

Current Efforts

- Collaborating with CRWG on December meeting focused on tidal marsh resilience
- Completed recommendation of wetlands BMP lifecycle for Ad Hoc BMP Verification Team
- Developed Table 1 to assess extent and impacts of tidal wetland mowing. Focus on marketing to minimize impacts as a wetland enhancement action