



Statewide Coastal Resiliency Assessment

Maryland's Chesapeake & Coastal Service

Enhancing Community Resiliency with Natural Features

Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is invested in understanding Maryland's vulnerability to coastal hazards and acting to mitigate impacts to the State's people, natural resources, public lands, and investments. To better understand the resiliency benefits of existing natural infrastructure, DNR has partnered with The Nature Conservancy to conduct a Coastal Resiliency Assessment.

The Assessment will establish priorities for natural infrastructure solutions within tidal regions of the coastal zone. Priorities will be determined based on community vulnerability to coastal hazards such as sea level rise, flooding, and erosion. Natural features with wave attenuation, infiltration, sediment stabilization, and other risk reduction benefits will be ranked based on their ability to buffer coastal communities from the impacts of coastal hazards. This project will produce spatial data to help DNR and partners identify, plan for, and invest public funds in the most beneficial coastal resilience restoration and conservation projects.



Natural Infrastructure includes natural features such as tidal wetlands, marshes, forests, submerged aquatic vegetation, oyster reefs, beaches and dunes. These features provide a wide range of ecosystem benefits including habitat, clean water, and coastal storm risk reduction. Natural features also support commercial and recreational activities while enhancing coastal resiliency. (Diagram courtesy of IAN)

Assessment Goals

- Identify existing natural infrastructure with risk reduction value for vulnerable human communities and prioritize protection opportunities for these areas.
- Develop a Marsh Protection Index to identify key marsh areas that enhance community resiliency.
- Identify and prioritize restoration opportunities along shoreline segments near vulnerable human communities that lack robust natural infrastructure.

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Coastal Zone

Counties:

Anne Arundel

Baltimore

Calvert

Caroline

Charles

Cecil

Dorchester

Harford

Kent

Prince George's

Queen Anne's

Somerset

St. Mary's

Talbot

Wicomico

Worcester

and

Baltimore City

