The Comprehensive Water Quality and Climate Resiliency Portfolio (CWQCRP)

Adaptation and Resiliency Working Group
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Harnessing the Benefits of Nature

The Comprehensive Water Quality and Climate Resiliency Portfolio

A suite of restoration and conservation projects that…

• **Works together** synergistically and avoids one-off projects
• **Optimizes** resiliency benefits and leverages important habitat, water quality and GHG mitigation gains.
• Allows longer budgeting timeframes, beyond a one-year cycle, providing **fiscal certainty**
• Generates **new funding and financing opportunities** with other partners (MDOT, MDE, MEMA, DHCD, Army Corps, USFWS, NOAA, Private Sector. etc)
• Provides opportunity to better **integrate green and grey infrastructure** approaches.

Poised to take advantage of new federal funding initiatives!
“Having a pipeline of identified projects better prepares Maryland and its communities to build climate resilience by taking advantage of existing and emerging funding opportunities that promote the use of natural infrastructure”

- Maryland’s Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan

WIP: Maryland’s Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan
GGRA: 2030 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act Plan
ARWG: MCCC Adaptation and Resiliency Working Group 2021 Work Plan
Building the Portfolio

• Pathway 1: Shovel Ready Project List
  – Ongoing updates of proposed projects that still require funding via Grants Gateways

• Pathway 2: Targeted Resiliency Areas
  – Focus areas for action based on a landscape-scale, science-based targeted framework
  – Produces nature-based project portfolios that deliver multiple environmental, economic and societal benefits
  – Connects federal, state and local efforts to harness nature for risk reduction
  – Makes the best use of public investments
Phase I: Identify and Select Two (2) TRAs

Phase II: Create the Portfolio

Phase III: Develop long term implementation and financing strategies, including Grants Gateway solicitations

Refresh and Repeat...working with the next round of candidates
The Science: Three Assessment Pillars

DNR Priority Assets
Important ecosystems, resource-based economies, state lands

Climate Change Impact Areas
Exposure to Inland and Coastal flood and sea level rise

Opportunities for Natural and Nature Based Feature Projects
Conservation and Restoration Suitability

Candidate Targeted Resiliency Areas

= 12-digit watershed
Pillar: DNR Priority Assets

Datasets:
- Important ecosystems
- Habitats important for community resiliency
- DNR Public lands
- Boating dependent economies
- Working Natural Resource Lands
- Important Fisheries
Datasets:
~2050 SLR/storm surge inundation (CRAB)
Future SLR impact areas (Wetland Adaptation Areas)
Floodplains (1%/0.2%/Active River Area)
Additional Floodable Areas (Hydrologically Connected Zone)
Impervious cover
Datasets:
- Forest Restoration
- Wetland Restoration
- Buffer Restoration
- Dam Hazard/Fish passage restoration
- Shoreline/Marsh Restoration
- Oyster restoration
- Stormwater
- Unprotected resource land
Candidate Targeted Resiliency Areas
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Use Additional Selection Criteria
(Input from ARWG survey)

Socially Vulnerable Communities
Water Quality Restoration Priorities (WIP)
Tree Planting Priorities (WIP, GGRA)

Prioritized Targeted Resiliency Areas

Objective, Science-Driven, Transparent
Next Steps

- Identify Priority Targeted Resiliency Areas by mid-Fall
- Procure Technical Services (2 year contract)
  - Reach out to local governments and community groups within priority TRAs to gauge interest
    - Identify/Coordinate with potential interested partners (State/Federal agencies, Non-profits, etc)
    - Collect sources of local data and existing plans
  - Identify potential projects for portfolio
    - Cost/Co-benefits assessment and implementation sequencing
    - Long-term financing and implementation strategies
Resiliency through Restoration Practices

Coastal
a. Marsh/dune restoration
b. Oyster and reef restoration
c. Beneficial use of dredge material
d. Navigable channel maintenance
e. Living shoreline management

Inland
a. Wetland restoration
b. Upland forest restoration
c. Floodplain restoration
d. Stream restoration
e. Dam removal
f. Stormwater management
Conservation Opportunities for Coastal Resiliency - Site 2

Approximately 190 acres: In a Rural Legacy Area, In a TEA, On Ag Land

Targeted Ecological Areas (TFAs)
New Wetland Areas (2100)
Protected Lands
County Boundaries
Parcel Boundaries
Stream / River

09/23/2019
Strategic Frameworks
Attract Investment

GreenPrint Targeted Ecological Areas
• Conservation Focus

Targeted Resiliency Areas
• Resiliency and Restoration Focus

Federal Funding and Partnership Attractor: Good Investments in Good Planning!