NOAA’s National Coastal Zone Management Program

Our coastal communities are home to over 126 million people, support 56.8 million jobs, and contribute $8.6 trillion to the U.S. economy, accounting for 46 percent of the nation’s economic output. Recognizing the importance of our coasts, in 1972, Congress created the National Coastal Zone Management Program, a voluntary partnership between NOAA and coastal states and territories designed to enhance and protect coastal resources and communities.

In fiscal year 2018, NOAA invested nearly $75 million, allocated through the Coastal Zone Management Act, to implement coastal management programs in the 34 participating states and territories. Federal funding was matched by over $61 million from state and local governments and other partners. These funds are being used to improve public access, enhance hazard resilience, and fuel the nation’s vibrant coastal economy. Over 20 percent ($15 million) of the funding is passed on to local governments, universities, and nongovernmental organizations to carry out projects that benefit coastal communities.

FUNDING SUMMARY 2018

Office for Coastal Management
coat.noaa.gov/czm

Protecting and Restoring Coastal Habitat
($19.2 million federal; $17.3 million matching)
Coastal habitats buffer communities from storms and are needed to support fisheries, robust recreation and tourism industries, and thriving wildlife populations.

Mitigating Coastal Hazards
($15.0 million federal; $8.8 million matching)
Minimizing risks from coastal hazards such as storms, flooding, erosion, and sea-level rise makes communities more resilient.

Implementing State Program Management
($4.2 million federal; $2.4 million matching)
State coastal management programs serve as the “boots on the ground” for addressing coastal management issues.

Protecting Coastal Water Quality
($6.9 million federal; $7.1 million matching)
Preventing and reducing polluted runoff and marine debris results in coastal waters that are safe and healthy for drinking, swimming, and fishing.

Planning for Our Ocean and Coastal Waters
($3.0 million federal; $2.4 million matching)
Comprehensive planning supports jobs, reduces user conflicts, and sustains natural resources.

Enhancing Public Access
($5.0 million federal; $5.1 million matching)
Providing public access allows all Americans to enjoy the coast and delivers substantial economic benefits to coastal communities.

Expanding Public Engagement
($10.1 million federal; $7.4 million matching)
Strong coordination and communication among agencies and the public results in better decision-making for America’s coastlines.

Promoting Coastal Community Development
($11.4 million federal; $11.1 million matching)
Wise development protects coastal community character and health and promotes appropriate coastal-dependent uses and industries.
Small Investments in Flood Planning Have Big Payoffs

Major storms in 2012 and 2018 left Two Harbors, Minnesota, mostly unscathed. Nearby towns, however, faced a bill of over $100 million for washed-out roads and bridges, uprooted trees, and massive runoff. What saved Two Harbors? Smart stormwater planning gets a lot of the credit.

A $22,000 grant from the Minnesota Coastal Management Program helped fund the initial stormwater management plan. Over the next nine years, the coastal management program provided technical assistance and an additional $200,000 in implementation grants. Projects included constructing three large stormwater ponds, a streambank stabilization project, and a rain garden, as well as planting new trees to slow erosion across the landscape.

Seed Grants for Public Access Spark Multi-Million Dollar Urban Revitalization

Since 2006, the Pennsylvania Coastal Management Program has contributed more than $870,000, through 20 small seed grants, for building a multi-use trail along the Schuylkill River in downtown Philadelphia. The trail provides important recreational space and waterfront access in the center of the city and, when complete, will extend 130 miles to connect communities throughout southeastern Pennsylvania.

These trails represent an economic and quality of life gain for the region. One example: a recent coastal grant helped plan a half-mile trail extension to connect a diverse, lower-income neighborhood to the waterfront and the rest of the city. With this project, an additional $36 million was also leveraged to implement the design and complete other neighborhood revitalization projects.

See more stories at coast.noaa.gov/states/stories/index.