Natural infrastructure provides a variety of benefits for your community.

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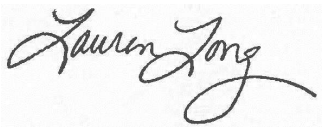
DIGITAL COAST CONNECTIONS

Dear Colleague,

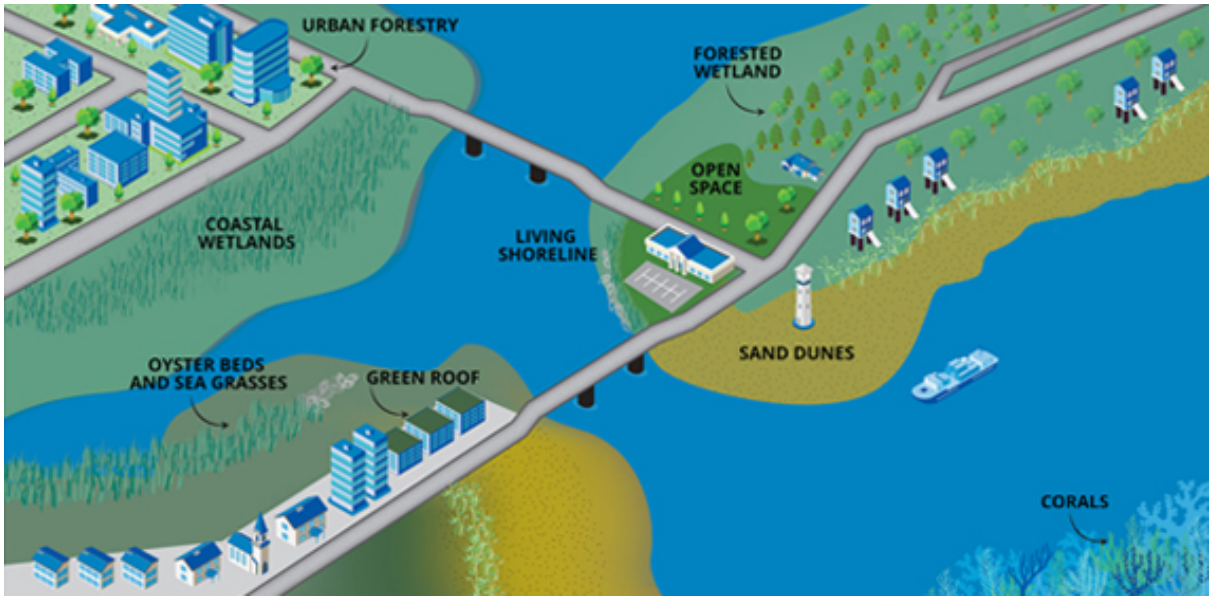
Natural and nature-based features such as wetlands, living shorelines, and rain gardens provide numerous benefits such as storing floodwaters, controlling erosion, and filtering runoff.

NOAA's Digital Coast provides tools to help communities see what areas are most vulnerable to coastal flood hazards, training for implementing natural and nature-based approaches to reduce impacts (also called green infrastructure), and information and lessons learned from other coastal communities. The new *Guide for Considering Climate Change in Coastal Conservation* provides steps for considering climate in existing or new planning efforts. Find it all here.

Sincerely,



Lauren Long
Coastal Conservation Specialist
NOAA Office for Coastal Management



Stories from the Field

Digital Coast Data and Tools in Action

Supporting Wind Energy Development

Before establishing areas for offshore wind farms, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management requests information and comments on potential conflicts or other uses within the proposed area. Text descriptions and static maps aren't successful at fully conveying the various conditions and resources surrounding the proposed area. By using an interactive map through MarineCadastre.gov, stakeholders are better able to understand potential impacts of offshore energy development and provide feedback. See how the bureau helped South Carolina use this tool.

Illustrating an Improved Community Streetscape

Flooding and stormwater runoff are common hazards plaguing many

Data Updates

New and Updated Data Sets

Demographic

- Critical Facilities

Economics

- Economics: National Ocean Watch for Self-Employed Workers
- Total Economy of Coastal Areas

Elevation

- 2013 Hawaii
- 2003 and 2005 North Carolina
- 2004 and 2010 California
- 2009 New Jersey
- 2013 Washington

Imagery

- Coastal Imagery Viewer

Ocean Data

- Critical Habitat Designations
- Ocean Uses and Planning Areas
- Coastal Energy Facilities
- Danger Zones and Restricted

communities. Green infrastructure, nature-based approaches for controlling excess water, can help mitigate these issues while adding natural beauty to common spaces. (Green infrastructure practices include rain gardens and green spaces.) During planning phases, engineers often use drawings that can be difficult to visualize and understand. By using NOAA Digital Coast's CanVis software, town planners feel fully informed on improvements and able to provide constructive feedback. Connecticut used CanVis to create before-and-after graphics of their downtown streetscape.

Additional Updates

Don't Let a Diverting Dolphin Stop Your Meeting
There's nothing worse than making progress in a meeting only to have it stopped short by a dominating personality or constant complainer. Learn how to deal with these disruptive behaviors with NOAA's Dealing with Disruptive Behaviors mobile tool. Get tips while planning to prepare for any type of situation.

Training Calendar See the trainings that are coming up on the trainings calendar.

Areas
- California Seafloor Mapping Index
- High Frequency Radar Locations
- Marine Hydrokinetic Projects

News from our Coastal Colleagues

Summit 2016 Call for Proposals: Our Coasts, Our Future, Our Choice
Join Restore America's Estuaries and The Coastal Society for Summit 2016: Our Coasts, Our Future, Our Choice. This biennial gathering brings together over 1,000 coastal restoration and management practitioners to discuss lessons learned, coastal issues, and paths forward for future resilience. The summit is December 10 to 15, 2016, in New Orleans, Louisiana. The call for proposals will close on May 2, 2016.

Facebook Twitter Website

Send your product, personnel, or event news to Caitlyn.McCrary@noaa.gov. We'll include it in *Digital Coast Connections*, space permitting. For answers to additional questions, contact coastal.info@noaa.gov.