



LIVING WITH WATER: WETLANDS FOR A RESILIENT HAMPTON ROADS

CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION

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Benjamin McFarlane

Chief Resilience Officer

Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

Virginia's Coastal Zone

MANAGING TIDAL WETLANDS IN VIRGINIA

Virginia's wetlands management program is a robust cooperative state -local system established under Virginia Code Section 28.2 -1300 and is overseen by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission.

Counties, cities, and towns with tidal wetlands have the option to adopt local ordinances and appoint local wetlands boards to implement the laws and regulations of the Commonwealth.

Over 70% of coastal local governments have chosen to establish a local program instead of relying on VMRC, including 13 out of 14 in Hampton Roads.



Image Credit: Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program

MULTIPLE BENEFITS



Water Quality

Wetlands improve water local surface water quality by helping to slow runoff, allowing for infiltration and removal of sediments and nutrients.



Habitat

Wetlands provide critical habitat for many different species of plants and animals.



Recreation

Wetlands provide communities with natural spaces to enjoy and improve opportunities for fishing, birding, and other activities.



Resilience

Wetlands help protect shorelines from erosion caused by tides and storm surges.

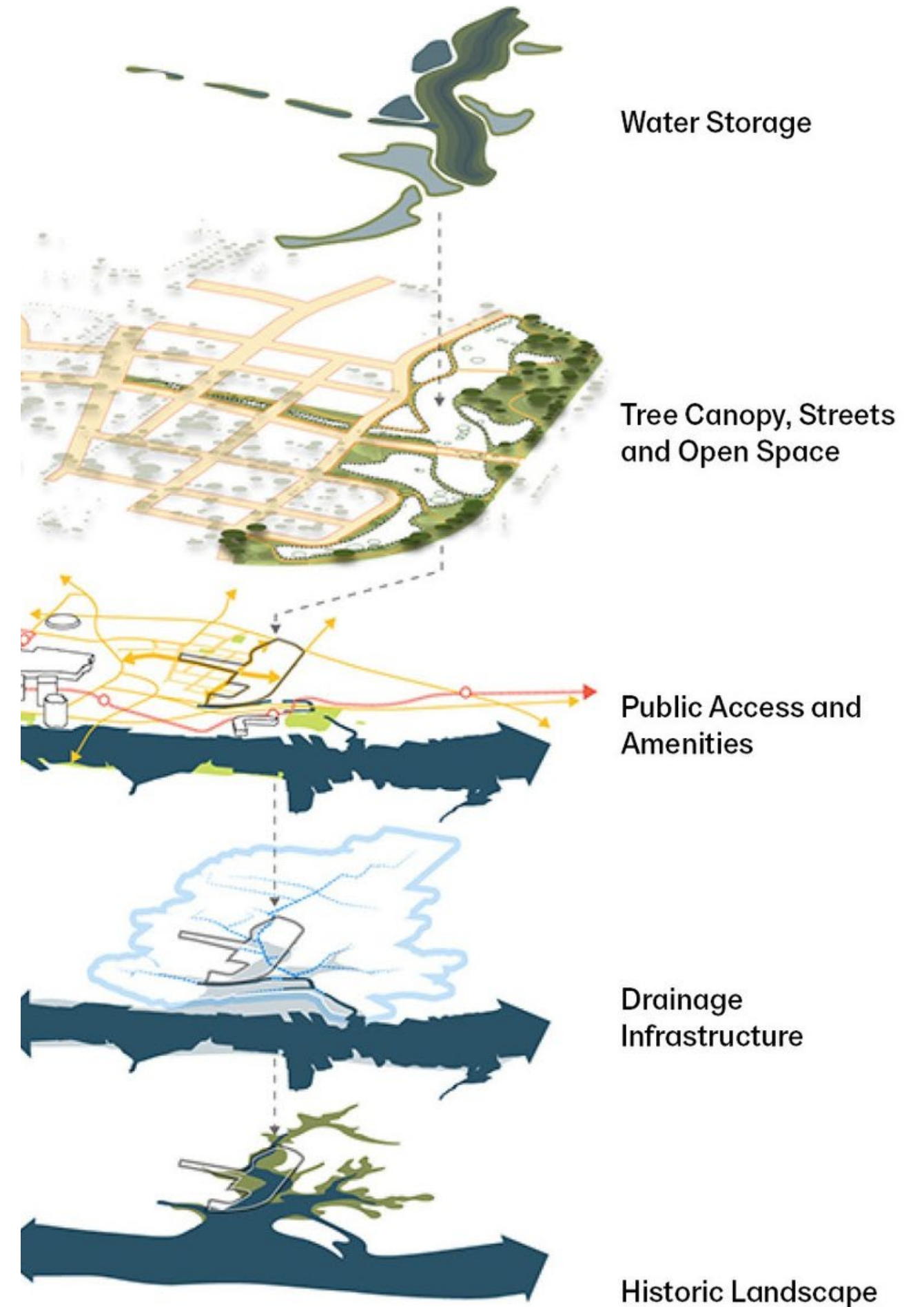


Image Credit: Waggoner and Ball Architects

WETLANDS FOR RESILIENCE & WATER QUALITY

Local governments in Hampton Roads have incorporated wetlands enhancement, protection, and restoration into resilience projects to improve residents' quality of life, enhance water quality, and protect from flooding.

The St. Paul's Blue/Greenway Project in Norfolk is part of a \$1B redevelopment of a public housing project using nature based strategies to create a mixed -income, resilient community.

ST. PAUL'S BLUE/GREENWAY
NORFOLK



WETLANDS FOR RESILIENCE & WATER QUALITY

Funding opportunities for multiple benefits projects include the National Coastal Resilience Fund, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund, and the Community Flood Preparedness Fund.

The Lake Hampton retrofit is a \$4M retrofit project that uses wetlands and other nature -based strategies to increase water storage capacity and improve water quality.

LAKE HAMPTON
HAMPTON

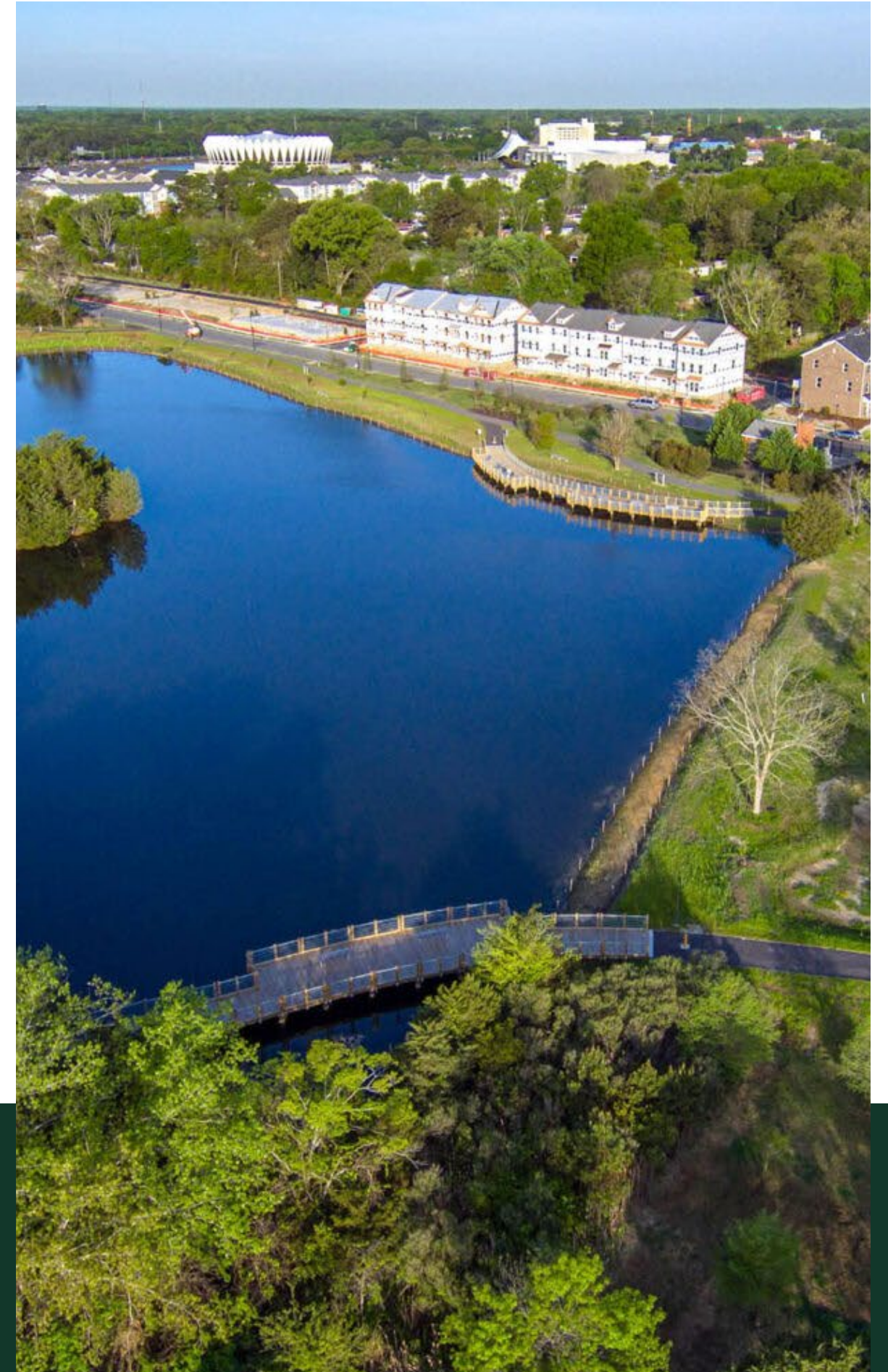


Image Credit: Waggoner and Ball Architects

OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT



Image Credit: City of Virginia Beach

01

GREATER INTEGRATION
BETWEEN WETLANDS,
CHESAPEAKE BAY, AND
STORMWATER PROGRAMS

02

CREATION OF A NEW
CATEGORY UNDER THE
WETLANDS GUIDELINES
FOR ENHANCEMENT OR
RESILIENCE PROJECTS

03

INCENTIVES FOR
EXPANDING LARGE - SCALE
WETLANDS

OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

04

DEVELOPING GUIDANCE
AND IMPLEMENTING THIN
LAYER PLACEMENT AND
BENEFICIAL USE OF
DREDGE MATERIAL

05

ALIGNMENT OF STATE
FUNDING PROGRAMS TO
INCENTIVIZE WETLANDS
CREATION FOR RESILIENCE
- DIVERTING AND STORING
WATER

06

ADJUSTING MITIGATION
POLICY TO ALLOW “LIKE
FOR LIKE” COMPENSATION
OF IMPACTS TO
VEGETATED AND NON -
VEGETATED WETLANDS



Image Credit: USACE



BENJAMIN MCFARLANE
CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER
HAMPTON ROADS
PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
BMCFARLANE@HRPDCVA.GOV

