Helping Nature Help Us: Co-Benefits of Environmental Solutions

Lora Eddy is a coastal geologist working for The Nature Conservancy in North Carolina as their Coastal Engagement Coordinator. She has spent her career working with coastal communities in Florida, Oregon, and Washington on environmental permitting, regulation, planning, and stormwater topics. Since joining the Conservancy in 2016, she has brought this knowledge and experience to the Conservancy’s Coastal Resilience project to help communities examine nature’s role in reducing coastal hazards. She is working with several communities in eastern North Carolina to design decision support tools that enable communities to evaluate the role that coastal habitats play in risk reduction and adaptation. She holds a bachelor’s degree in geology from Old Dominion University.
‘In areas where marshes were intact there is significant reduction in damages.’

Wetland Benefits
$625 million in damages prevented.

Coastal Wetlands 22% less damages

Information provided by The Nature Conservancy
The Tool(BOX)

maps.coastalresilience.org/northcarolina/
Coastal Flood & Sea Level Rise

Map showing coastal resilience in North Carolina with options to select a county, hazard, sea level rise, and flood extent. A chart displays acres at risk under various flood events and sea level rise scenarios.
Living Shorelines Restoration Explorer Community Rating System
Detected Flooding
(Hurricane Matthew 2016, Hurricane Florence 2018)

The Nature Conservancy, manuscript in preparation

Mapped Flood Hazard
NCDEMS

- Floodway
- 1% annual chance
- 0.2% annual chance

Legend:
- Blue: Flooded 2x
- Light Blue: Flooded 1x
- Black: Permanent water

Distance Scale: 0 10 20 Km