



ONANCOCK'S BAYSIDE COMMUNITY

Application for Funding – Community Flood Preparedness
Fund Round 4

APPLICATION TITLE

CID510298B.OnancockBaysideCommunity.CFPF

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Introduction

We seek state funding for the Stormwater Management and Ditch Maintenance Initiative in Onancock's Bayside community. Recurrent flooding poses a significant threat, amplified by aging infrastructure and dilapidated homes. Our initiative, essential both locally and regionally, aims to enhance stormwater drainage, reduce risks to public safety, and protect vulnerable groups. With a strategic alignment to successful projects, a clear cost estimate, and integration with key planning documents, our plan ensures resilience, safety, and sustainability for the Bayside community and the broader region. We urgently request state support to turn this plan into action.

Specific Problem

The Bayside community in Onancock faces a critical issue with recurrent flooding due to unmaintained ditches and stormwater management challenges. The specific problem is not merely the existence of flooding but the persistent threat it poses to the safety and well-being of the community.

Contributing Factors

Factors contributing to the identified problem include the historical significance of the community, with its diverse entities and landmarks, coupled with aging infrastructure, dilapidated homes, and failing septic systems. These elements exacerbate the vulnerability of the Bayside community to flooding events.

Local/Regional Need

The project is essential both locally and regionally due to the unique challenges faced by the Bayside community, including inadequate stormwater management infrastructure. Localized issues contribute to a broader regional concern, making it imperative to address the problem comprehensively for the well-being of residents and the sustainability of the region.

Risk Reduction for Public Safety

The Stormwater Management and Ditch Maintenance Initiative aim to decrease the risk to public safety by implementing strategic measures to enhance stormwater drainage. This includes the maintenance of ditches, improvements to existing stormwater systems, and the integration of resilient infrastructure to mitigate flooding risks during extreme weather events.

Conservation of Natural Resources

The project prioritizes the conservation of natural resources by implementing sustainable stormwater management practices. This involves designing systems that reduce runoff, protect water quality, and promote ecological balance, contributing to the long-term environmental health of the area.



Protected Entities

The primary beneficiaries of the project are the residents of the Bayside community, encompassing elderly individuals, veterans, and low to moderate-income families. By safeguarding homes, businesses, and essential community infrastructure, the project protects the livelihoods and well-being of these individuals.

Safety Threats/Environmental Concerns

Safety threats and environmental concerns related to flood risk include property damage, displacement of residents, disruption of essential services, and potential contamination of natural water sources. These risks are heightened by the historical significance of the community and the challenges presented by dilapidated infrastructure.

Targeted Groups

The project targets vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, veterans, and low to moderate-income families, who are directly impacted by flooding events. By addressing stormwater management and ditch maintenance, the initiative aims to provide equitable protection to these groups.

Funding Impact

If the project does not receive funding, the Bayside community remains at high risk of flooding, compromising public safety and exacerbating environmental degradation.

Alternatives Analysis

The chosen project aligns with successful stormwater management initiatives in other communities, such as Accomack County's Public Works drainage plan effort and Accomack County's Comp Plan for adoption and administration of the state's stormwater management reevaluation, which have demonstrated significant reductions in flood risks and enhanced community resilience. The proposed approach ensures both short-term and long-term protection by implementing immediate maintenance measures and incorporating sustainable stormwater management infrastructure. The expected duration of protection is estimated to be 30 years for a project which spans a period of 13 months, with an approximate cost of \$399,630. The success of similar initiatives underscores the viability and effectiveness of this approach in reducing flood risks and ensuring the safety and well-being of populations at risk.

Due to the critical nature of the hazards faced by the Onancock Bayside Community, and the lack of available local resources, we request the match requirement be waived.



Project Information

Population

The Bayside community comprises 150+ parcels, with 48 homes occupied (owner-occupied and renters, including 2 businesses), 37 abandoned/dilapidated homes, 7 vacant/unoccupied homes, 26 vacant cleared lots, and 28 wooded vacant lots. The approximately 100 citizens in the community mostly consist of single, high school graduate, employed/retired individuals, with a significant number having elderly or disabled family members.

The below table represents Onancock’s Demographic Information, as provided in the 2021 Eastern Shore Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP).

	2020	2014**	2013***	2010****	2000*****
Population	1,169	1,226	1,381	1,263	1,525
Median Age	57.3*	51.6	50.1	51.1	45.3
Disability	159*	101	73	NA	NA
Income					
Median Household Income	\$50,347*	\$39,927	\$40,313	\$41,372	\$28,214
Poverty Level	15.3%*	30.1%	25.6%	21.2%	NA
Language					
Only English	89.9%*	92.7%	94.7%	93.5%	94.0%
Other	10.1%*	7.3%	5.3%	6.5%	6.0%
Spanish	5.4%*	0.3%	0.9%	6.3%	4.1%
Ind-Euro	2.8%*	6.6%	4.2%	0.2%	0.8%
Asian	1.9%*	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Other	0.0%*	0.3%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%

Source: U.S. Census 2020, *ACS, 2014-2019, **Annual Estimates of the Residential Population, 2010-2014, ***ACS, 2009-2013, ****U.S. Census 2010, *****U.S. Census 2000

Figure 1 Onancock Demographic Information, Eastern Shore HMP (2021)

Historic Flooding Data & Future Projections

According to [FEMA Historical Flood Risk and Costs](#), Accomack County has experienced 35 flood events since 1996. According to data from 1996-2019, the average NFIP claims payment is \$19,000; throughout the years 2006-2019, the data reflects an average Individuals and Households Program (IHP) payment of \$3,900.



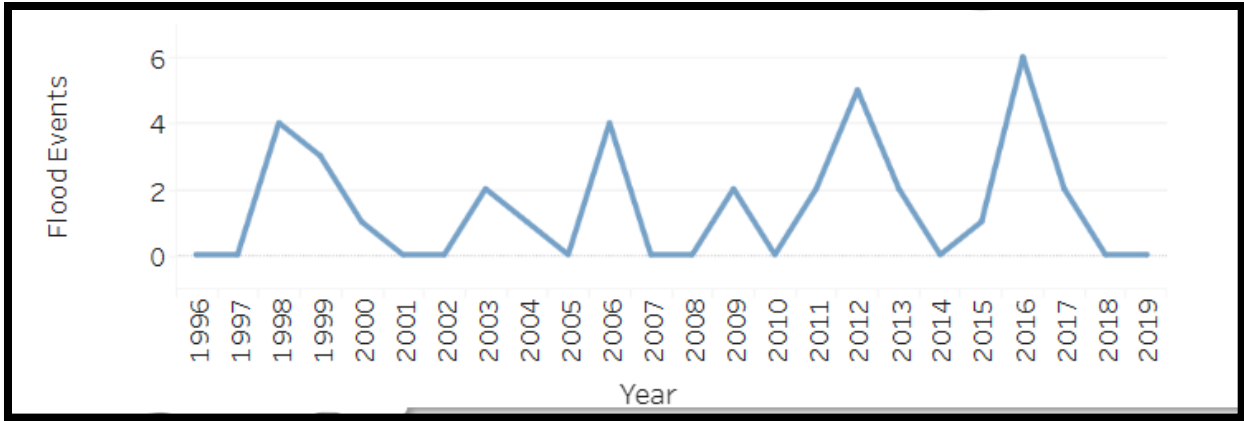


Figure 2 Flood Events by Year for Accomack County (NOAA's Storm Events Database)

According to the Virginia Coastal Resilience Web Explorer, the below map depicts projects for 2040, zoomed into the Town of Onancock and Onancock's Bayside Community.

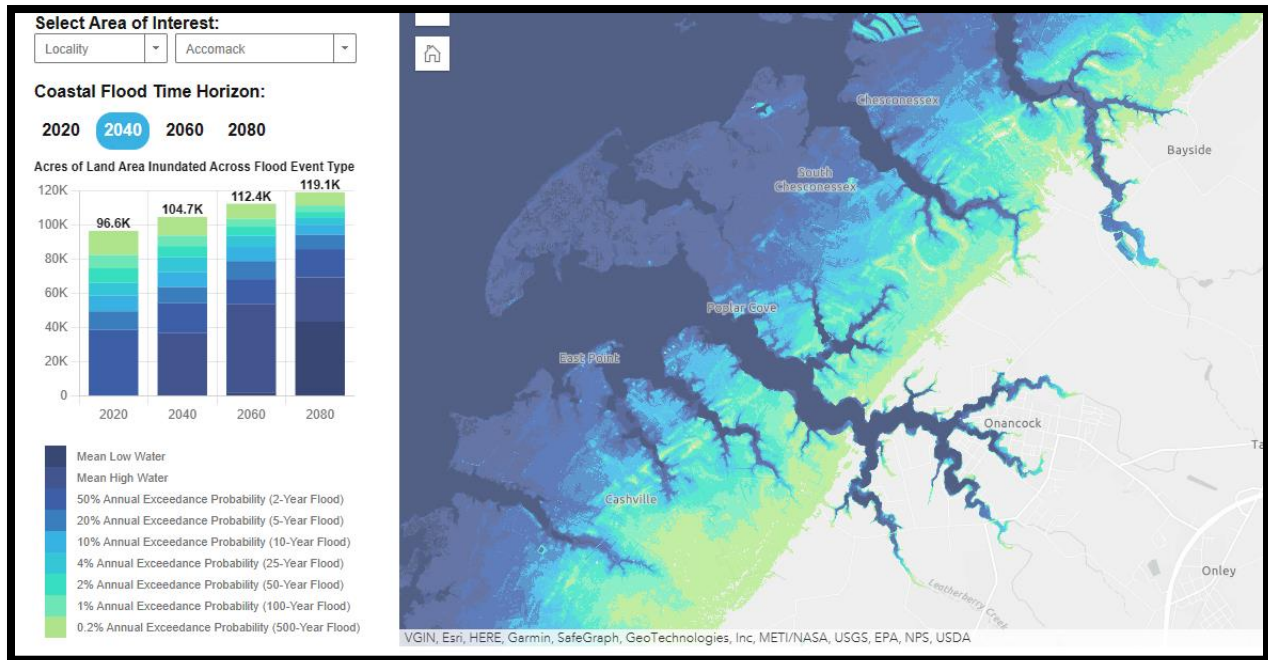


Figure 3 Virginia Coastal Resilience Web Explorer - 2040 Projection

According to the Virginia Coastal Resilience Web Explorer, the below map depicts projects for 2060, zoomed into the Town of Onancock and Onancock's Bayside Community.



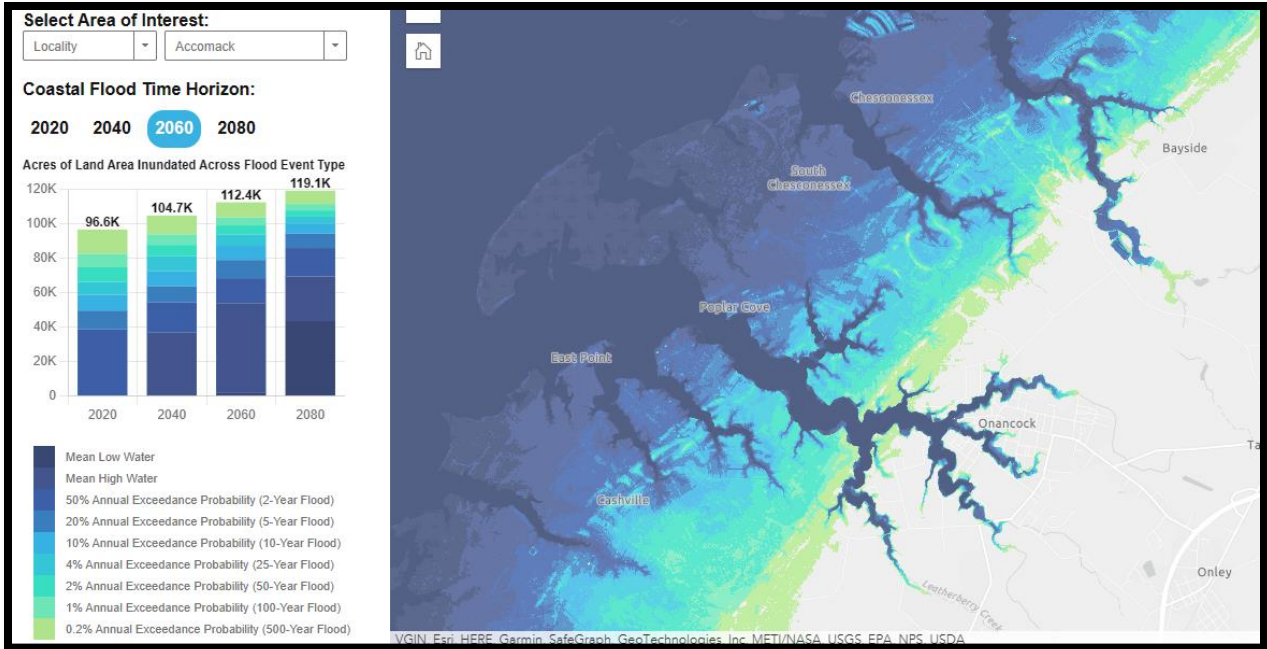


Figure 4 Virginia Coastal Resilience Web Explorer - 2060 Projection

According to the Virginia Coastal Resilience Web Explorer, the below map depicts projects for 2080, zoomed into the Town of Onancock and Onancock’s Bayside Community.

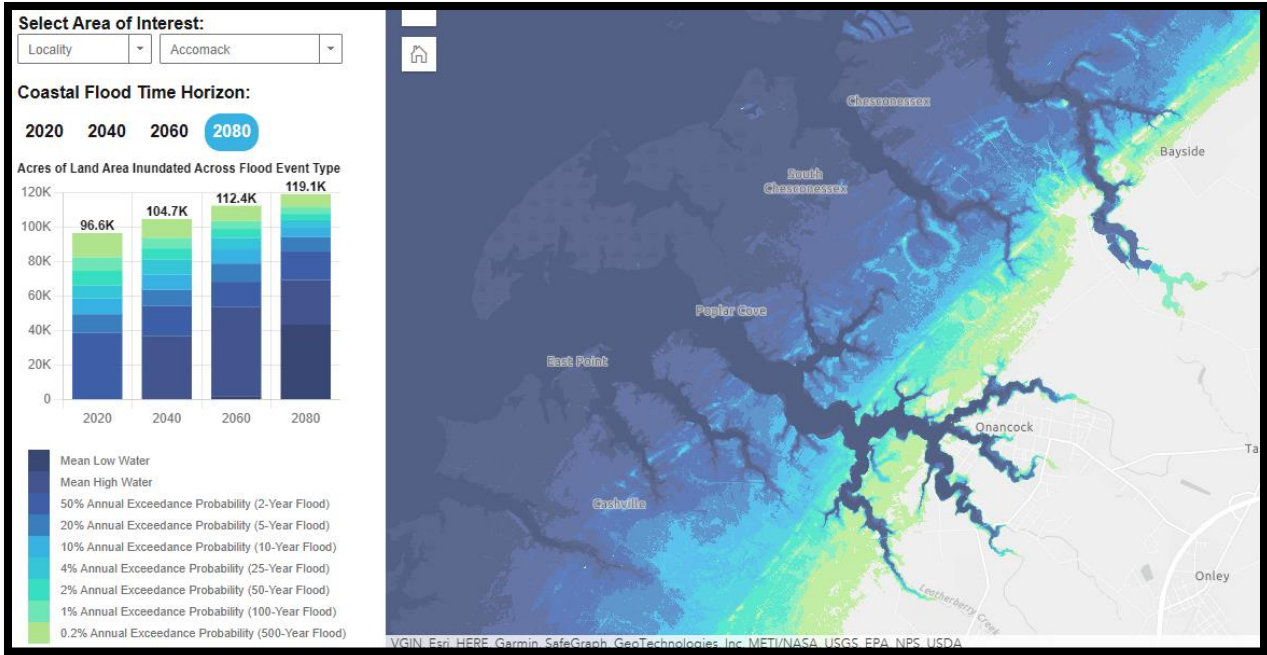


Figure 5 Virginia Coastal Resilience Web Explorer - 2080 Projection



No Adverse Impact

The Bayside community plan aligns with Accomack County Comp Plan as well as with the county's Public Works drainage plan. It also support VDOT's strategy to minimize flood vulnerabilities to prevent flooding.

The Ability of Local Government to Provide a Share

The local government is limited in its ability to provide assistance, by way of implementation or funding due to many of the culverts and ditches falling on private property. Without intervention, the community's resilience will continue to erode, hindering long-term prosperity and growth.

The Administration of Local Floodplain Management Regulations

[Code of the Town of Onancock, Virginia](#)

Repetitive Loss and/or Repetitive Loss Properties

The local floodplain administrator or emergency administrator has not provided a list of repetitive loss/severe repetitive loss structures. However, all structures in the community are subjected to flooding. This community consists of 150+ parcels with 48 homes occupied to include 2 businesses. Flooding in the community poses a major devastation to the residents. Additionally, flooding presents a health and safety hazard since all but two homeowners have conventional septic systems and private wells.

Need for Assistance

The project addresses the critical issue of recurrent flooding in Onancock's Bayside community, exacerbated by unmaintained ditches and inadequate stormwater management. The persistent threat to public safety and the well-being of residents stems from a combination of factors, including historical significance, aging infrastructure, dilapidated homes, and failing septic systems. The Stormwater Management and Ditch Maintenance Initiative aim to mitigate these challenges by implementing strategic measures to enhance stormwater drainage, reduce risks to public safety, and protect vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, veterans, and low to moderate-income families. The project's comprehensive approach, addressing both local and regional concerns, underscores the urgent need for assistance to safeguard the community's resilience, well-being, and sustainability.

According to the Eastern Shore HMP (2021), the 2015 FEMA Flood Risk Report for Accomack County models that for the Town of Onancock, an estimated total of 111 tons (5 truckloads) of debris generated from a 100-year storm event. The same event will displace 12 households (35 individuals) due to flooding; this includes households evacuated from within or very near inundated areas and of these individuals, 14 will seek temporary public shelter.



Local public works and VDOT are generally limited in their ability to maintain private roads due to legal and budgetary constraints. Private roads are typically owned by individuals, homeowners' associations, or other private entities, making them the responsibility of the property owners. State and local agencies often lack the legal authority and funding to perform routine maintenance or improvements on private roadways. As such, many of the ditches used for drainage to mitigate flooding and non-source point pollution have become derelict and, furthermore, an added hazard.

The local government faces limitations in addressing the flooding issue since the ditches and culverts contributing to the problem are situated on private property. The lack of jurisdiction and authority over these privately owned areas hinders the government's ability to implement comprehensive stormwater management and maintenance initiatives. External funding is essential to overcome this obstacle and enable the community to tackle the flooding challenges effectively.

Social Vulnerability Index

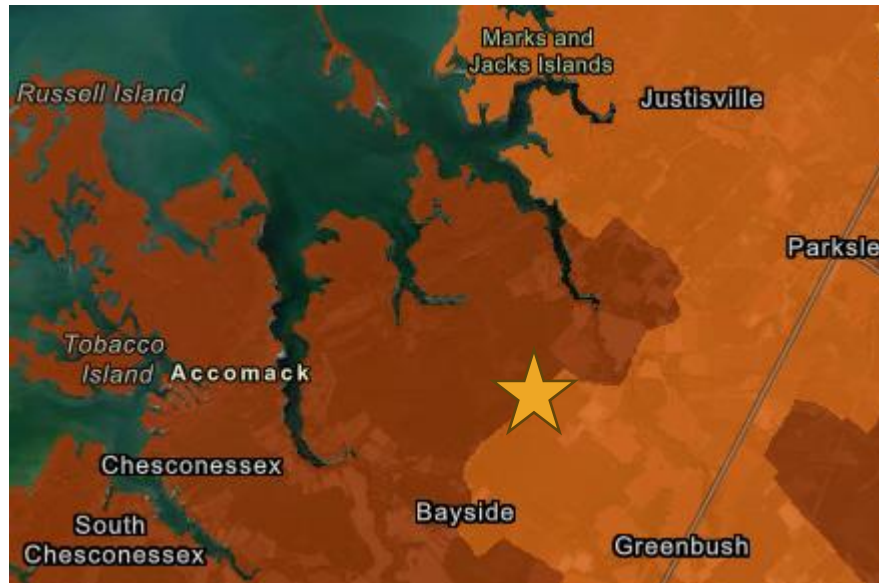


Figure 6. Social Vulnerability Rating of Onancock's Bayside Community

Referencing the Virginia Flood Risk Information System (VFRIS), the Bayside Community is split along the route (Bayside Rd) with half of the community falling in Onancock's Block 2 of Tract 090600, with a social vulnerability index score of 1.73, and the other half of the community falling in Onancock's Block 3 of Tract 090500, with a social vulnerability index score of 1.23.

Alternatives

The project proposed does employ a nature-based or hybrid solution and the total project cost is less than \$2 million.



Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives of this project is to prevent flooding in the community. VDOT has identified culverts that require replacements to ensure the flood of stormwater from the neighborhood to the designated creek. The prevent of flooding will eliminate safety and health concerns.

Approach, Milestones, & Deliverables

Twelve culverts have been identified for replacement and/or installation along with the repair and inspection of 12 additional culverts. A culvert will be replaced/installed each month with the project timeline as 12 months for the installation. Closeout for the project will consist of one month for a total timeline of 13 months. Each milestone will consist of successful installation of each culvert. The partners consist of the selected culvert installation company, VDOT, Accomack County Department of Environmental Program and Onancock's Bayside Revitalization team.

Relationship to Other Projects

The Onancock's Bayside Community Resilience Plan (Resilience Plan) demonstrates a strong interconnection with key regional and local planning documents, enhancing its credibility and alignment with broader goals:

Eastern Shore Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP)

The Resilience Plan acknowledges and aligns with the Eastern Shore HMP by addressing specific concerns highlighted in the plan, such as the impact of unmaintained ditches on flooding. The emphasis on drainage improvement projects resonates with the HMP's focus on mitigating flood risks through infrastructure enhancements.

Accomack County Comprehensive Plan

The Resilience Plan complements the Accomack County Comprehensive Plan by incorporating its recommendations for stormwater management and infrastructure repair. The alignment with the county's model stormwater management and the emphasis on coordinating with local projects reflect a collaborative approach consistent with the county's broader planning framework.

ESVA Identified Projects, Needs, & Concerns

The identified community project, "Community Stormwater Management & Existing Infrastructure Repair/Replacement," directly responds to concerns outlined in the ESVA Assessment. The project's alignment with the assessment reinforces the Resilience Plan's responsiveness to regional needs and its commitment to preserving and enhancing the historical essence of Onancock.



By integrating information from these key documents, the Resilience Plan ensures a comprehensive and well-informed approach, addressing regional priorities, leveraging existing research, and aligning with established planning frameworks. This strategic alignment enhances the Resilience Plan's effectiveness in promoting sustainable development and resilience within the Bayside community.

Maintenance Plan

The project results will be maintained and routinely inspected by VDOT and/or Accomack County Department of Environmental Programs. Additionally, Onancock's Bayside Revitalization team may seek funding for additional maintenance to ensure the lifespan of the project.

Criteria

Eligible Projects

This project is a hybrid approach resulting in nature-based solution.

Social Vulnerability Index Score

Referencing the Virginia Flood Risk Information System (VFRIS), the Bayside Community is split along the route (Bayside Rd) with half of the community falling in Onancock's Block 2 of Tract 090600, with a social vulnerability index score of 1.73, and the other half of the community falling in Onancock's Block 3 of Tract 090500, with a social vulnerability index score of 1.23.

Community Scale of Benefits

More than one census block. According to the [2020 Census Address Count Listing Files Viewer](#), the Bayside Community crosses through multiple census blocks.



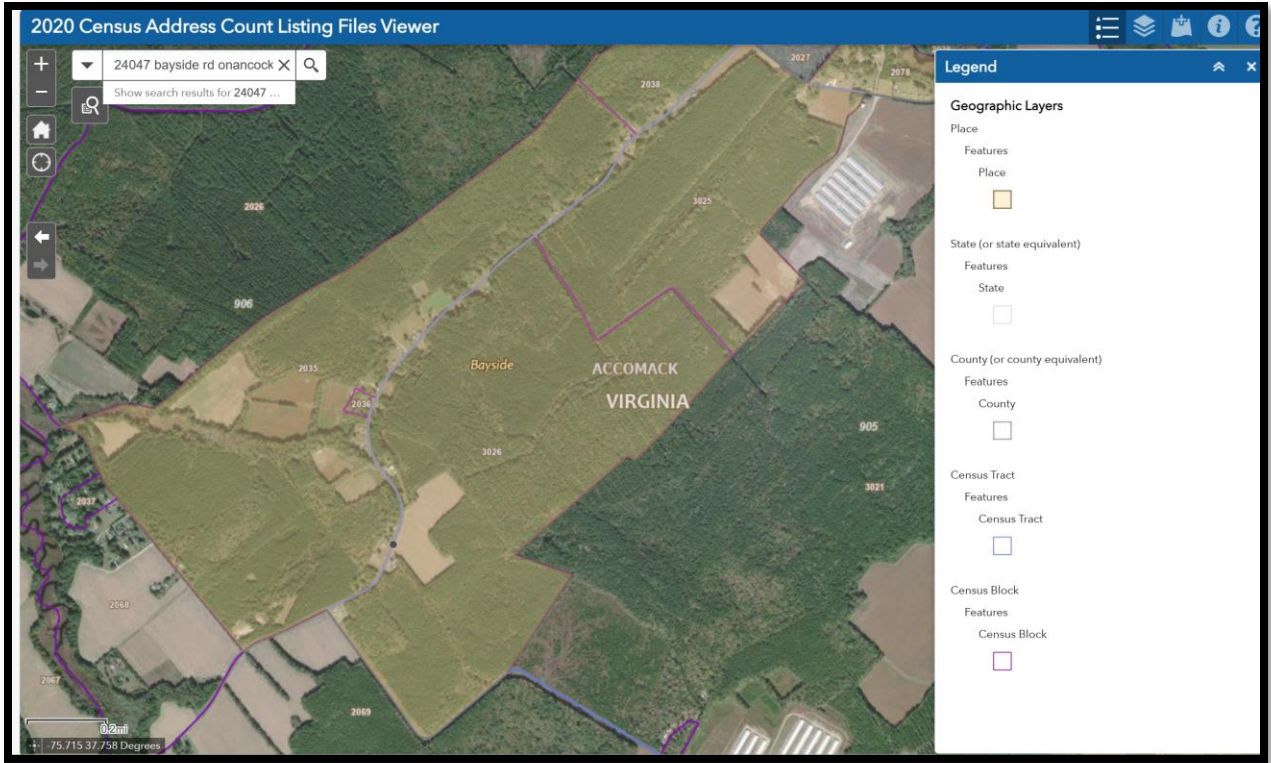


Figure 7 2020 Census Address Count Listings Files Viewer - Bayside Community



Expected Lifespan of Project

- Over 20 Years

Remedy for NFIP Probation or Suspension

No

Proposed Project Part of a Low-Income Geographic Area

Yes

Proposed Project Implements a Chesapeake Bay TMDL

Yes

Budget Narrative

Appendix A

Appendix B

Appendix C





ONANCOCK'S BAYSIDE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN

ABSTRACT

A compilation resilience plan to support funding for project implementation of the community's stormwater management system.
CID510298B.OnancockBaysideCommunity.resilienceplan

Prepared By

Jessica Steelman, Community Resilience Specialist



Executive Summary

The Bayside community in Onancock has a rich history, serving as a home for over 250 residents and various entities, including churches, stores, a barber shop, beauty shop, tax service, baseball field, seafood business, and a schoolhouse. Despite its historical significance, the community faces critical challenges, such as unmaintained ditches, dilapidated homes, inadequate drinking water, and failing septic systems. The urgency to address these issues stems from the community's diverse population, consisting largely of elderly, veterans, and low to moderate-income families.

Historically, Onancock's Bayside is also known as "White Rabbit" which was the code name for white lightning. It was noted in a January 2000 news article that "bootlegging was a major cottage industry in this neck of the woods." That "neck of the woods" has been the home of a successful community recreational baseball team, the Bayside Sluggers. The community is more notably known for the Eastern Shore Seafood which employed many of the community members as well as provided seafood to customers locally and across state lines. Moreover, the community church is the producer of a gospel album. The community has a rich history and many stories as well as memories related to the community stores, barber shop, beauty shop and other community establishments.

The Bayside community comprises 150+ parcels, with 48 homes occupied (owner-occupied and renters, including 2 businesses), 37 abandoned/dilapidated homes, 7 vacant/unoccupied homes, 26 vacant cleared lots, and 28 wooded vacant lots. The approximately 100 citizens in the community mostly consist of single, high school graduate, employed/retired individuals, with a significant number having elderly or disabled family members.

The community has achieved notable milestones, including obtaining 501(c)(3) status on January 26, 2022. It has received support and mentoring from organizations such as the Eastern Shore Housing Coalition, Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project (SERCAP), and the Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Housing Study. Additionally, the Bayside community has been recognized and endorsed by local authorities, such as the Accomack Board of Supervisors and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). In February 2022, the Onancock's Bayside community was the recipient of the annual NAACP Community Action Award.

The revitalization efforts of the Bayside community have gained media attention through articles like "[Accomack Residents Work to Revitalize Historic Bayside Community](#)" and "[Group of Citizens Aiming to Revitalize Bayside](#)," emphasizing the community's commitment to restoration. Furthermore, the Bayside Community was successful by unanimous County Board vote to include the Bayside Community to the prioritized list for future housing improvements, according to the article "[Accomack Supervisors Discuss Child Care Needs, CARES Act, Housing, Rail to Trail Project](#)." Moreover, Bayside Community was featured on SERCAP's website in the article "[SERCAP's Regional Technical Assistance Program Supports](#)

African American Community on the Eastern Shore of Virginia through Water Sampling Project Funded by EPA Environmental Justice Grant.”

The Onancock’s Bayside Community Resilience Plan is a comprehensive strategy designed to address the pressing issues faced by Onancock’s Bayside community. By leveraging community partnerships, obtaining crucial endorsements, and showcasing resilience in the face of challenges, the plan aims to restore the hopes and dreams of its residents, fostering a sustainable and thriving future for this historically significant community.

Project Prioritization

1. Is the project shelf ready (plans, team, etc.)?
 - a. YES – 1pt → Is the project shovel ready (permits, contractor quotes, etc.)?
 - a. YES – +1pt
 - b. NO – 0pts
 - b. NO – 0pts
2. Is there any funding currently allocated to the project?
 - a. YES – 1pt → Is the funding 50% or greater of the total project cost?
 - a. YES – 0pts
 - b. NO – +1pt
 - b. NO – 0pts
3. Are there any existing support partners for the project that have provided written letters or support?
 - a. YES (1 Partner) – 1pt
 - b. YES (2-3 Partners) – 2pts
 - c. YES (3+ Partners) – 3pts
 - d. NO – 0pts

Possible Community Projects

Project	Timeline	Prioritization Points
Community Stormwater Management & Existing Infrastructure Repair/Replacement	12 months	3

Relevant Elements

- #1. It is project-based with projects focused on flood control and resilience.
- #2. It incorporates nature-based infrastructure to the maximum extent possible.

#3. It includes considerations of all parts of a locality regardless of socioeconomics or race, and addresses flood resilience needs of underserved populations within the community.

#8. It includes coordination with other local and inter-jurisdictional projects, plans, and activities and has a clearly articulated timeline or phasing for plan implementation.

#9. Is based on the best available science, and incorporates climate change, sea level rise, and storm surge (where appropriate), and current flood maps.

Existing Documentation of the Issue

Plan	Page	Relevance
<u>Eastern Shore Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP)</u>	139	Although certain ditches are on private property, they still heavily impact public roadways, contributing to increased flooding if culverts and ditches are not in proper repair or maintenance.
<u>Eastern Shore HMP</u>	475	List of projects to improve drainage: continuation of comprehensive drainage plan & identification of specific projects to improve drainage.
<u>Eastern Shore HMP</u>	475	List of projects to improve drainage: maintain residential mitigation project waiting list.
<u>Accomack County Comprehensive Plan</u>	4-30 (pg. 202)	Highlighting how backed up culverts and ditches can lead to increased flooding & nonpoint source pollution.
<u>Accomack County Comprehensive Plan</u>	5-15 (pg. 246)	Adopt and administer State's model stormwater management
<u>Bayside Community Ditch Maintenance Report</u>	FULL DOCUMENT	Prepared by Accomack County Department of Environmental Programs to directly address Onancock's Bayside Community.
<u>ESVA Identified Projects, Needs, & Concerns</u>	75	Preserve and enhance the historical essence of Onancock