

The State of Flood Resilience Efforts in Coastal Virginia

Photo: Green Fin Studio

As sea levels rise and severe weather intensifies, flooding is more prevalent in coastal Virginia. Continued and expanded efforts are needed across the whole community to address growing threats.

DCR shares information about completed, ongoing and planned flood resilience work in coastal Virginia via the [Projects and Initiatives Inventory](#).

Projects by the Numbers



The data shown reflect inventory status as of July 2024. DCR did not review submissions to the Inventory for accuracy or efficacy.

Flood Risk is Increasing but Mitigation Saves

In the near future (2030-2060), the moderate climate scenario projects that:



1.5 million people (25% of the region) live in areas that could be exposed to a major flood today



Homes exposed to chronic coastal flooding could more than double by 2060, risking \$2.3+ billion of property damage



Flood mitigation saves up to \$7 for every \$1 invested, according to FEMA.

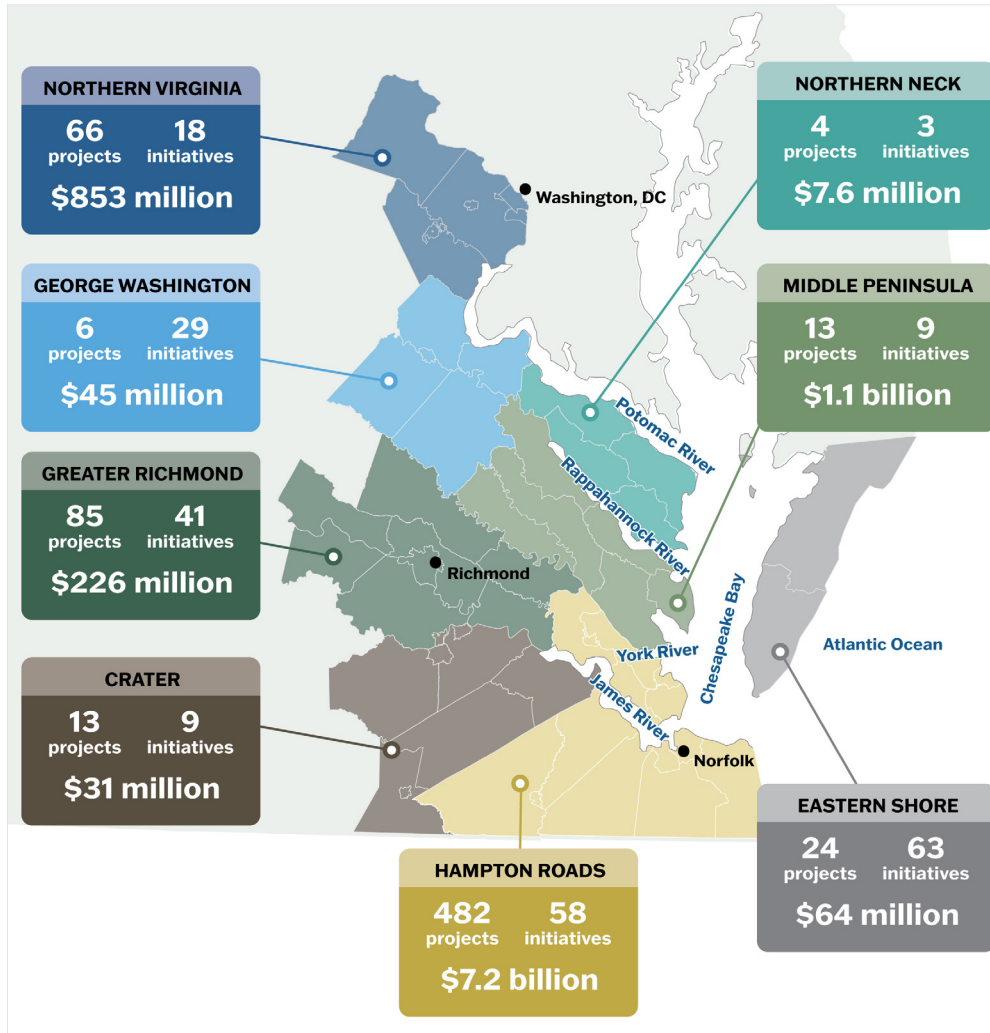
What You Can Do

1. Understand changing flood risks and impacts through the Coastal Resilience Master Plan.
2. Visit the [Projects and Initiatives Inventory](#) to explore identified resilience efforts.
3. Support investment in flood resilience efforts to ensure progress keeps pace with growing risks.
4. Participate in community flood resilience planning to better prepare, respond, and adapt to changing risks.

Coastal Virginia Communities Are Taking Action

Local governments, planning district commissions, tribal governments, and other stakeholders across the coastal region identify their flood resilience priorities through planning efforts. Of the 950 projects and initiatives submitted to the Inventory, more than 80% are owned by local governments.

Cost includes estimated value to complete all projects and initiatives.



Projects are tangible, on-the-ground actions to reduce flood risks and impacts in coastal communities.

49% of the projects listed in the Inventory address rainfall-driven flooding, valued at over \$1.3 billion.



Initiatives are studies, tools, programs, plans, policies, and technical assistance to understand risks and mitigation options.

Almost half of the region's cities and counties have a resilience plan in place. Others are developing plans now. 64% of initiatives in the Inventory are related to resilience planning efforts. Planning is a critical step for communities to identify gaps and opportunities for flood mitigation.

Examples from the Projects and Initiatives Inventory illustrating how investment in resilience protects communities and infrastructure:

DCR completed a project in Westmoreland State Park to address shoreline erosion and remove vulnerable infrastructure from the floodplain while still providing areas for picnicking and walking.

Henrico County has developed a pre-disaster voluntary acquisition program based on stakeholder input, community priorities, and a data-driven process to support effective and equitable implementation.



Explore the Projects and Initiatives Inventory:

<https://dcr.virginia.gov/crmp/projects-initiatives>