



Co-Creating Inclusive Community Resilience Projects with Nature-Based Solutions

Communities Around Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge

FOCUSING ON AT RISK COMMUNITIES

Over the last 18 months, Audubon SC has been working with communities in the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge and the lower Santee River (Charleston County) area to identify resilience issues of concern. Guided by the Building Resilient Communities with Nature Steering Committee, and supported by experts from Surculus, The Asiko Group, and Robinson Design Engineers, we have captured extensive community insight, mapped areas of concern, and began the process of describing opportunities for nature-based solutions. Audubon is engaged in this work because we believe that resilience projects that work with nature and that are guided by community knowledge, can lead to long term solutions that benefit both birds and people.

Awendaw, McClellanville, and nearby unincorporated communities are all a part of the Santee Watershed and have been significantly impacted by recent major storms. This area also has a high risk of flooding in the future. We would like to share with you a summary of community-identified resilience issues of concern for the project area such as flooding, impacts from storms, and retaining or enhancing sense of community and quality of life. We invite your engagement with us as we help to facilitate the connection of the community with agencies, organizations, and individuals who can help to improve current and future flooding issues while also improving habitat for birds.

NATURE-BASED SOLUTION EXAMPLES

Using nature-based solutions is the most effective way to deal with long-term flooding problems. Some examples include:

- Beneficial use of dredged sediment (marsh enhancement, island restoration)
- Park designs that hold flood waters
- Living shorelines
- Two-stage ditch designs with native plants
- Creek restoration to return flow

WHO WE ARE

Our staff is made up of scientists, communicators, writers, nature-lovers, and bird-watchers. We love to connect people with nature, and to connect with people in nature to learn and share knowledge. Reach out by emailing SC_coasts@audubon.org to get involved.

UPCOMING MILESTONES

Over the next six months, we will:

- Hold a Community Resilience Resource Fair on February 21 where community members can engage directly with state and local agencies/organizations that have relevant programs, technical assistance, or funding opportunities.
- Refine analysis and conceptual design of two potential areas where nature-based solutions could address identified problems.
- Provide collected data, analysis, and maps to the communities for their ongoing engagement and advocacy.

PROJECT AREA MAP



PROJECT TIMELINE



Data Processing & Visualization

This phase will produce graphic summaries and geospatial maps focusing on vulnerability related issues and opportunities for nature-based interventions.

Community Presentation

We will host a series of larger meetings with your community to present our findings and provide your community with a chance to offer feedback, critiques, and suggestions.

Community & Stakeholder Presentation

We will present your community and identified stakeholders with a suite of Nature-Based Designs and financial analyses for evaluation and prioritization



Images courtesy of Angela M. Singleton & Surculus

DEC. 24'

Strategic Engagement & Communication Plan

JAN. 25'

Community Listening Sessions

Our team will host community listening sessions to explore local relationships with nature and climate issues. The outreach will offer multiple ways for input, including in-person, written, online, and phone options.

FEB. 25'

MAR. 25'

Social & Environmental Data Collection & Groundtruthing

Our team will conduct in-depth community research to validate census data and enhance vulnerability analyses. Data collection will align with key weather and tidal events to better understand how your community is impacted by land-water dynamics.

APR. 25'

MAY. 25'

JUN. 25'

JUL. 25'

AUG. 25'

NBD Recommendations with Supporting Financial Analysis

Our Design Team will analyze the data and feed-back to develop a suite of Nature-Based Designs for prioritization.

SEP. 25'

OCT. 25'

NOV. 25'

DEC. 25'



Images courtesy of NCSU CDDL & RDE

JAN. 26'

FEB. 26'

MAR. 26'

Final Recommendations & Community Workshops

Our team will facilitate workshops in your community to present ideas and gather feedback on proposed projects. We will ask you to help rank the proposed projects for prioritization.

APR. 26'

MAY 26'

JUN. 26'

Community Presentation & Celebration

The project will conclude with a celebratory presentation to your community, marking the achievements of the project and launching the implementation process. The project aims to empower rural, disenfranchised communities to become active agents of change, fostering sustainable development and social justice.

GET INVOLVED

Please share your experiences with us!



- Share project information in your community
- Invite us to speak by emailing SC_coasts@audubon.org or calling 843.459.2473
- Share your photos & stories with us
- Attend a community event or meeting. See the calendar on our website for upcoming events.

<https://sc.audubon.org/conservation/building-resilient-communities-nature>