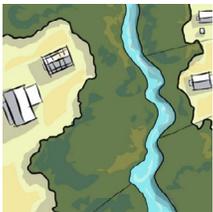




Overview

Nature-based solutions, sometimes called engineering with nature, build resilience by learning from and designing with natural landscapes and ecosystems. Nature-based solutions [often cost less](#) than traditional infrastructure and offer [improved disaster resilience](#), [green jobs](#), [increased property values](#), [economic growth](#), [greenspace equity](#), and [improved public health](#). Environmental policy can engage and build nature-based solutions through outdoor recreation, education, access, and equity.

Examples of Nature-Based Solutions



Land Conservation



Stormwater Parks



Green Streets



Greenway and Trails



Waterfront Parks



Tree Canopy

Figure 1: Nature-based solution examples for three scales/locations: watershed or landscape scale, neighborhood or site scale, and coastal areas. Source: FEMA.



Case Study: Outdoor Access as a Climate Solution in North Carolina's North Waterfront Park

North Carolina established, improved, and continues to expand urban waterfront parks as part of the [North Carolina Climate Risk Assessment and Resilience Plan](#) developed by their Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR).

North Waterfront Park will be a 7-acre park developed with local organizations and constituents to meet community needs. Restoring natural floodplains and waterfronts grows outdoor opportunities while protecting communities and critical infrastructure from flooding, erosion, and extreme heat.

State legislators were crucial in supporting NCORR ([H.B.200](#), [H.B.259](#)), which inspired South Carolina ([S.B.259](#)) and Louisiana ([H.B.526](#)) to establish offices of resilience. States can also create a competitive policy environment (e.g. Rhode Island [S.B.172](#)) empowering localities to dedicate land as public trust land in perpetuity. Perpetual trust land is more competitive for federal funds (e.g. [America the Beautiful](#)).

Photo Source: City of Wilmington North Carolina Parks and Recreation ([original](#)).

Policy Options

- **Empower Local Resilience:** Maryland ([S.B.457](#)) allows and offers guidance for local governments to establish Resilience Authorities to fund climate infrastructure and resilience.
- **Commit to Climate:** Washington's [Climate Commitment Act](#) ([S.B.5126](#)) expands on California's cap-and-invest program with robust environmental justice and directing funds generated to climate adaptation.
- **Expand and Protect Greenspace:** Maryland ([S.B.923](#)/[H.B.503](#)) established a Greenspace Equity Program to increase greenspace in overburdened and underserved communities funded by an existing property tax.