



INITIATIVE NEWS

With summer now well underway, we are continuing to work toward the release of our first ever SASMI Impact Report and gearing up for events and travel to pick back up in the Fall. We are especially looking forward to the Restore America's Estuaries Summit in September, where we will have an opportunity to present on SASMI's progress and success to-date. If you will be attending that event on the west coast, [reach out](#) to SASMI coordinator Amanda Gobeli and we'll see if we can get the SASMI crew together in San Francisco!



Matt Ray Photography

SASMI PARTNERS' GOOD WORK

[New SERPPAS "Good Map" Now Live](#). The Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS) is excited to officially share the Good Map, a tool to assist SERPPAS partners to better communicate their priorities and identify opportunities for collective action.

A user guide has also been developed to help you navigate the map as smoothly as possible and show all the features this tool provides. This guide can be found on the SERPPAS Good Map landing page or accessed directly [at this link](#).

When you check out the map, be sure to enable the SASMI map layers! Click on Layers in the left sidebar, then under "Filter by Theme," check the SASMI box.

[Redesign of SECAS website and story map](#). The Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy (SECAS) website now has a fresh look and feel! Updating the underlying software framework also provided the perfect excuse to refresh the content and streamline the flow of information throughout the site. Whether you're learning about SECAS for the first time, or you're a long-time partner looking for the latest Blueprint data, we want to make it easy to find the information you're looking for. You can find a summary of the key changes to look out for in the blog article linked above.

[What nature-based solutions look like across the world](#). This blog article highlights takeaways from the "Nature-Based Solutions for Coastal Resilience" conference in Nova Scotia, where international experts shared strategies for preserving coastal ecosystems. Topics explored include global engineering and research efforts—such as wave-marsh interactions and salt marsh restorations—that help communities across the world safeguard their shorelines against rising sea levels and storm impacts.

[NERRA trainings for real estate partners in resilience](#). Living on the coast is a dream for many, but erosion, flooding, and pollution can chip away at one of the biggest investments most people will ever make. To help real estate professionals counsel clients on these issues, Reserve Training and Engagement programs are creating learning opportunities focused on coastal ecosystems and resilience strategies. This article highlights training opportunities in multiple states, all with the same goal: to prepare real estate professionals with reliable information so they can be seen as a trusted resource by clients and in the community.

[NOAA Digital Coast: Grant Development Resources](#). NOAA's Office for Coastal Management has prepared a 5-document suite of references for finding, preparing, and submitting federal grant applications. Learn how to read the critical components of a federal notice of funding

opportunity (NOFO), identify the key items needed to develop a competitive grant proposal, include impactful community engagement in the grant-writing process, and more. Access these items for free at the link above.

FUNDING REMINDERS

[Norfolk Southern Thriving Communities Grant Program](#)

The Thriving Communities Grant Program is designed to promote sustainability initiatives, workforce development programs, and community resiliency efforts across Norfolk Southern's 22-state network. Note: as of 2026, only public 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations will be eligible for the Thriving Communities grant program. Applications are due **Monday, August 3**.

[FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance](#)

The Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant program makes federal funds available to states, U.S. territories, federally recognized tribal governments, and local governments to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings and structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in participating communities. FMA funds a variety of flood mitigation activities that are designed to reduce flood risk to policyholders to reduce the NFIP's financial exposure. The current closing date for applications is **Thursday, August 6**.

[Regional Conservation Partnership Program \(RCPP\)](#)

The RCPP promotes the coordination of NRCS conservation activities with partners that offer value-added contributions to expand our ability to address on-farm, watershed, and regional natural resource concerns. Through the RCPP, NRCS seeks to co-invest with partners to implement projects that provide solutions to conservation challenges thereby measurably improving the resource concerns they seek to address. RCPP promotes collaboration with partners, stakeholders, and various communities. Applications are due **Monday, August 24**.

[SARP's Aquatic Habitat Restoration Program FY 2027 National Fish Habitat Partnership](#)

The Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP), with funding from the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP), will support projects in the conservation opportunity areas designated throughout the SARP geography that focus on restoration and enhancement. NFHP funding provides an opportunity for state, federal, and local governments, nongovernmental

organizations, and universities to participate in the ongoing process of conservation, management, and restoration in the SARP geography. Priority will be given to those projects that enhance recreational, commercial, subsistence, or traditional fishing opportunities through habitat improvements and public access, that benefit the local economy, and that have a public educational component. Proposals are due **Friday, August 28**. To discuss project ideas, questions, or next steps to apply, please contact SARP Program Manager, Todd Ewing at todd@southeastaquatics.net.

USFWS Coastal Program

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program provides technical and financial assistance to partners to support projects that protect and restore fish and wildlife habitats on public and private lands in priority coastal ecosystems. This support is provided through cooperative agreements with conservation partners and landowners, including state and Tribal agencies. Coastal Program staff work with partners, stakeholders, and other Service programs in important areas for conservation. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis with the current window closing **Wednesday, September 30**.

National Park Service/REPI Readiness and Recreation Initiative

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) invites applications for the Readiness and Recreation Initiative (RARI), administered by the National Park Service (NPS). The purpose of the program is to: 1) provide outdoor recreation opportunities, and 2) promote or support compatible land uses and avoid incompatible development in areas in the vicinity of, or ecologically related to, a military installation or military airspace, and/or to maintain or enhance disaster resilience. Applications are accepted on a **rolling basis** through November of 2030, but funds are likely to be expended before that date.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

RAD Training for Coastal Land Stewards | August 12, 2026 | Virtual

This virtual training introduces the Resist-Accept-Direct (RAD) framework, a practical approach for managing change on lands impacted by sea-level rise. Designed for anyone working on managed lands, whether in developed areas, natural spaces, or protected reserves, this session

provides a grounding in the RAD concepts and how they apply to both built and natural environments.

[Georgia Association of Conservation Districts \(GACD\) Annual Meeting | August 23-25, 2026 | Young Harris, GA](#)

Over the years, GACD has helped forge key partnerships among federal, state, and local entities all committed to a common goal: wise use and protection of our state's natural resources. The GACD Annual Meeting will offer breakout sessions and keynote speakers aimed at providing Conservation District Supervisors and partners with timely education and information. Late registration ends August 14.

[Webinar Series: Drones in the Coastal Zone - Drone Regulatory Compliance | August 26 | Virtual](#)

This is the second in a 3-part webinar series hosted by Maryland Sea Grant exploring coastal monitoring using drones.

Is your drone compliant with current federal regulations and other recent legislation? We'll learn about the current rules for "Blue List" and National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) compliance, how this impacts manufacturers and retailers of equipment and operators, and how to approach buying new equipment. Speaker: John Slaughter, Director, and other members of the University of Maryland's UAS Research and Operations Center (UROC).

[Social Science Basics for Coastal Managers: Oral History for Coastal Managers | September 1, 2026 | Virtual](#)

Oral histories are a tool for learning detailed information about people, places, and events. This course provides participants with the knowledge to co-create oral history interviews they can use in multiple settings to understand the human dimensions of coastal work, complement economic approaches, and inform research and management needs.

[Nature-based Solutions Planning, Design & Construction Short Course | Multiple dates from September 15 – October 15, 2026 | Virtual](#)

This virtual course will meet live twice a week to provide over 30 hours of instruction and facilitated discussion with experts and practitioners from the University of Georgia and across the country.

Led by Dr. Todd Bridges and Dr. Ram Mohan, the course will include a balance of:

- Coastal, river, and inland applications
- Hazard contexts related to flooding, drought, heat, wildfire, water quality, and more
- Integrating NbS and conventional engineering for a range of infrastructure purposes
- Planning, design, and construction
- Benefit-Cost Analysis
- Regulatory evaluation
- And more...

The short course will be held on the following dates:

- September 15, 17, 22, 24 and 29 from 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. EST
- October 1, 6, 8, 13 and 15 from 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. EST

Early-bird registration pricing is available until August 16.

Have questions? Contact Ram Mohan at ram.mohan@uga.edu

[Restore America's Estuaries 2026 Coastal and Estuarine Summit | September 22-25, 2026 | San Francisco, CA](#)

Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) proudly presents the 2026 Coastal & Estuarine Summit in partnership with Save the Bay (STB) in San Francisco, California. This event will bring together the coastal restoration and management communities to explore issues, solutions, and lessons learned. The Summit will address all aspects of coastal and estuarine restoration and management, including the Great Lakes and international locales. These topics are crucial as coastal communities pursue new, more robust strategies to manage, protect, and restore their resources in a changing climate and the need to support all community members.

[Hope Summit 2026 | October 1-3 2026 | Charleston, SC](#)

The Hope Summit 2026 will explore how, to create vibrant communities, we must expand our understanding of who and what is part of a community. Topics and themes for the conference

include: preparing the conditions for seeds of change to thrive, how do you define community, Creating Communities of Care, Gardens Growing Communities, Finding Your Civic Voice, Designing a Civic Ecology and Tactical Urbanism Toolkit, Rewilding Landscapes and Seascapes, Designing Communities for Radical Hospitality, The Nature of a Resilient City, and Creating Pathways to Rights of Nature.

[SEAFWA 80th Annual Conference | October 26-30, 2026 | Nashville, TN](#)

The 80th Annual Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference will bring together leading conservation professionals, researchers, policymakers, and industry partners from across the Southeast for a week of collaboration, innovation, and professional development. Hosted October 26–30, 2026, at the Sheraton Music City Hotel in vibrant Nashville, the conference will feature technical sessions, organized symposia, networking events, poster presentations, and discussions focused on the future of fish and wildlife conservation.

[North Carolina Coastal Conference | November 17-18, 2026 | Chapel Hill, NC](#)

North Carolina Sea Grant's biennial conference serves as a platform for engaging with like-minded participants and potential collaborators dedicated to the prosperity of our state's coastal communities, environments, and economies. Join us for stimulating presentations and discussions featuring researchers, agency and business experts, community leaders, educators, students, and all individuals passionate about coastal topics.

MARSH Forward!

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