



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

## Communities Around Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge

### FOCUSING ON AT RISK COMMUNITIES

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 want to work with community members like you to improve current and future flooding issues while also improving habitat for birds.

For example, by restoring barrier islands and marshes near Cape Romain, we can build a better buffer against storms and hurricanes while also providing better habitat for birds that rely on these areas. There are many other mutually beneficial solutions to improve both community resilience and wildlife habitat, and we would like to brainstorm them together!

### 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
- Water level management
- Wildlife corridors integrated into roadway design

### WHO WE ARE

Our staff is made up of scientists, teachers, 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](mailto:SC_coasts@audubon.org) to get involved.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVES

We want your help to envision a thriving community for people and wildlife. Audubon will engage community members including residents, municipal officials, local nonprofits, and faith / community-based leaders to identify projects that can improve or create wildlife habitat while benefitting people around Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge.

### 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](mailto: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>