



CALVERT COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

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Shannon Nazzal, Director
Karyn Molines, Division Chief

FROM: Karyn Molines, Division Chief
RE: Flag Ponds Living Shoreline values, in no particular priority order
DATE: December 8, 2021

The Flag Ponds Living Shoreline Project is a critical priority based on the following criteria:

- 1) The proposed project design protects approximately 500 linear feet of shoreline and creates approximately 10,000 square feet of marsh. Future phases of shoreline protection would extend approximately 6,000 feet south of the proposed project, ultimately protecting the entire shoreline of Flag Ponds Nature Park.
- 2) The high rate of erosion; over 6 feet per year.
- 3) Shoreline erosion threatens the two freshwater ponds separated from the Chesapeake Bay by a narrow beach dune system. A breach and intrusion of brackish water would essentially destroy the freshwater aquatic and wetland ecosystems. Duncan's Pond (approx. 9 acres) is the southern, most vulnerable pond; Richardson's Pond (approx.. 28 acres) has a well-traveled boardwalk where visitors observe the unique freshwater pond ecology, while environmental education programs provide meaningful watershed experiences and field studies.
- 4) Flag Ponds Nature Park shoreline is protected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS). The Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) of 1982 (16 U.S.C. 3501 et. seq.) was enacted by Congress to minimize the loss of human life, reduce wasteful federal expenditures, and minimize damage to the natural resources associated with coastal barriers.
- 5) Erosion at the project site threatens private property.
- 6) Flag Ponds Nature Park is a public recreational area which provides passive recreation to more than 40,000 visitors.
- 7) For 30 years, every Calvert County 3rd and 5th grade student participate in field investigations at Flag Ponds (approximately 2,200 students, teachers and chaperones in FY2020). In 2020, the 5th grade classes studying Oysters in the Chesapeake Bay had to relocate to another park because of the accretion of sand at the pier.
- 8) This project would mitigate the damage within the Long Beach Community caused by flooding identified in the Calvert County Flood Mitigation Plan.
- 9) The project would also be eligible to provide credits for the County's Watershed Implementation Plan for sediment and nitrogen control.
- 10) Flag Ponds Nature Park was acquired using NOAA's Coastal Energy Impact Program funds (federal funds to address impacts of energy development such as Calvert Cliffs nuclear power plant) and Maryland Program Open Space funds.
- 11) Improvements to the park infrastructure, cultural heritage preservation, and educational facilities were funding through the Coastal Energy Impact Program, the EPA's Chesapeake Bay Shoreline Improvement Program, and NOAA's Resource Management Improvement Grant. Other local, state, and federal grants as well as county excise taxes have been used for improvements to the Visitor Center, boardwalks and piers, and interpretation of the natural and cultural resources found on the park.