



DELAWARE CENTER FOR THE
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CIB FY24 Work Plan



FY24 CIB Work Plan

Projects added to FY23 Work Plan:

- Submerged Gravel Wetland at Airport Site
 - CWQIG, NPS 319 grants
 - Pending CDS or BIL funds
- Sunset Park Living Shoreline
 - BIL funds for planning
 - Will apply for CWQIG and NPS 319 funding for implementation, supplemented by BIL funds
- Land Conservation Exploratory Work Group

FY24 CIB Work Plan

New projects for FY24

- Inland Bays Ag Program
- Monitoring the Response of Nekton to Novel Salt Marsh Restoration Techniques
- Coastal Marsh Resilience Planning
 - CDS and NFWF Coastal Resilience grant funding pending
- Reforestation at Glade Farm Rd (Cape Henlopen State Park)

Inland Bays Ag Program

Purpose: Many restoration goals within the Inland Bays CCMP and the CIB's Strategic Plan rely on better engagement of agricultural landowners.

CIB's Role: The CIB is best at promoting best management practices and developing partnerships that result in tangible outcomes. Therefore, the CIB's agriculture program should focus on:

1. Promoting priority BMPs to agricultural landowners.
2. Being the first point of contact when landowners are seeking management options for their farm.
3. Identifying priority land for restoration.
4. Finding creative funding solutions to reduce barriers for implementation.
5. Bringing together partners so that the process from landowner engagement to implementation is as smooth as possible.

Work plan: In the first year of this project, the CIB will partner with SCD to identify a small number of landowners to engage and begin to build a relationship with while also building the CIB's reputation for agricultural restoration.

1. The CIB and SCD will determine priority conservation practices to target for funding and implementation.
2. Using the Rapid Assessment Project Plan and Watershed Reforestation Plan, CIB and SCD will identify up to five landowners to engage in conservation efforts.
3. The CIB and SCD will pull financial resources together to fund at least one conservation practice. CIB will use Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding and SCD will use EQIP or whatever other financial resources are available. The goal is to reduce the financial burden on the landowners for project implementation.

Monitoring the Response of Nekton to Novel Salt Marsh Restoration Techniques

In an attempt to set the marsh on a self-healing trajectory the US Fish and Wildlife Service will be experimenting with selective ditch filling and hand cut runneling.

The goal of this management action is to drain the excess water off the salt marsh surface, and facilitate natural hydrology and vegetative recovery. This will, hopefully, allow for the managed marshes to keep pace with sea level rise.

The USFWS plans to conduct at least two of these projects in the Inland Bays.

This work is especially novel for microtidal marshes like those of the Inland Bays. The Center will assist in monitoring the impacts of this management action by studying how fish communities which utilize the marsh (including the open water pools) will respond to the change.

This information is important for restoration practitioners and for permittees at the State and Federal level.

Coastal Marsh Resilience Planning

Pending funding approval.

Currently, there is no prioritization for where salt marsh restoration should occur in the Inland Bays.

To effectively locate these efforts in areas where both infrastructure and ecological benefits are maximized, a planning effort is needed to identify which areas are most crucial and most in need.

This effort proposes to generate a priority list of areas for restoration or land protection by integrating existing geospatial models focused on salt marsh degradation, sea level rise scenarios, salt marsh migration, and locations of important infrastructure.

The list would identify areas where marsh migration is appropriate, or where a 'hold-the-line' approach is necessary.

Coordination with the Shoreline and Waterway Management Section at DNREC is also critical in order to identify high priority projects near planned dredging projects, helping to facilitate beneficial use of dredge spoils.

Glade Road Ag Fields - Proposed Reforestation





Thank You

Name
Title
Contact Info



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