

COASTAL RESILIENCE AND THE COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM (CRS)

CoastalResilience.org



Preserved open space provides cost savings and becomes a natural asset for community resilience and well-being.

TRAINING AND OUTREACH

INSTRUCTOR-LED TRAININGS AND COLLABORATIVE WORKSHOPS that provide step-by-step best practices, live tool demonstrations, scenario based workflows, and assistance for implementation to maximize community participation in the CRS program and to help guide the CRS planning process.

SUCCESS STORIES to engage local decision makers on the benefits of the CRS program and highlight lessons learned from top-scoring CRS communities.

ONLINE TRAINING RESOURCES for planners and GIS practitioners including decision support tool tutorials, E-Learning simulations, and comprehensive guidance documents.

Coastal Resilience is a program led by The Nature Conservancy to examine nature's role in reducing coastal flood risk. The program is designed around an online mapping tool that supports communities around the world who are conducting hazard mitigation and climate adaptation planning.

WHAT IS CRS?

The Community Rating System (CRS) promotes comprehensive floodplain management and encourages communities to go beyond the minimum standards of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). CRS is a voluntary program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that rewards communities by providing policyholders with discounts on their flood insurance premiums for activities that reduce flood risk. Activities include, but are not limited to, outreach activities about flood risk, floodplain mapping, and conserving open space.

WHY CRS?

Planning for growth and adaptation in the face of rising seas and the likelihood of more intense storms is vital to the economic

security and wellbeing of communities across the nation. Participation in CRS incentivizes communities to take action to reduce their flood risk and improve resilience while making flood insurance more affordable.

CRS STRATEGY

Identifying flood risk reduction opportunities and applying for CRS credits can be overwhelming for many communities who don't have the capacity to take full advantage of the program. To empower communities to fully participate in CRS, The Nature Conservancy is leading a strategy within the NOAA Digital Coast Partnership to coordinate efforts to meet the goals and objectives of coastal zone management in the U.S. and highlight those actions that also receive CRS credit.

[learn more >](#)

DECISION SUPPORT TOOLS

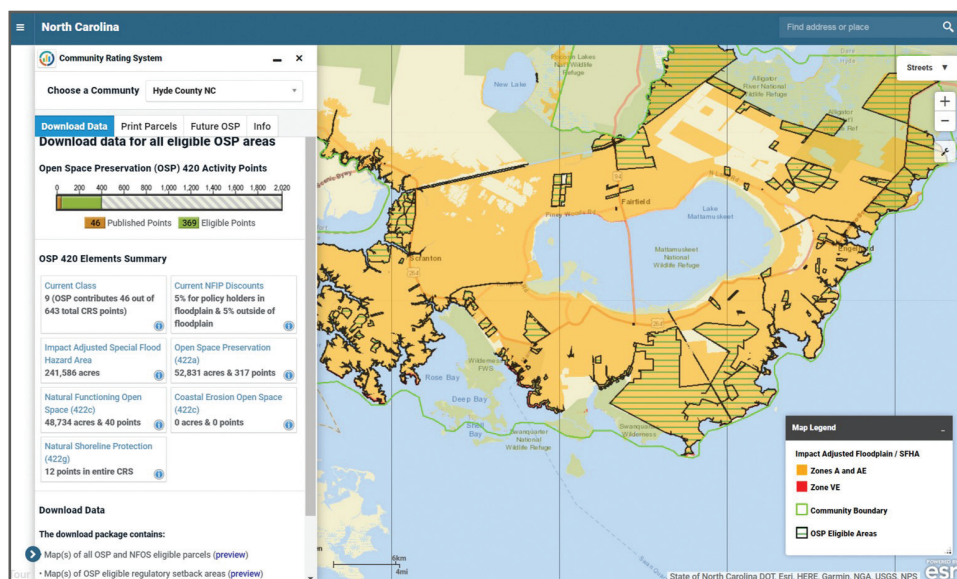
Digital Coast partner organizations including [The Nature Conservancy \(TNC\)](#), [NOAA's Office for Coastal Management \(OCM\)](#), [Association of State Floodplain Managers \(ASFPM\)](#), and [Coastal States Organization \(CSO\)](#) are investing in the development of tools and guides to support communities in applying for CRS credits.

NOAA

How-To Map Open Space Preservation for Community Rating System Credits: This guide describes a stepwise workflow to help planners and GIS specialists identify eligible OSP parcels and calculate potential CRS credits.

TNC

The Community Rating System Explorer app provides a mechanism to visualize and interact with outputs that come from the NOAA workflow and allows planners



TNC's Community Rating System Explorer App in action on the Coastal Resilience mapping portal for North Carolina.

to more effectively engage decision makers, influence land management decisions, and explore unprotected parcels that may be most beneficial to protect for the future. OSP is one of many activities within CRS, and aligns with TNC's mission to illustrate the value of nature-based solutions to reduce flood risk while also providing the largest amount of CRS points to communities.

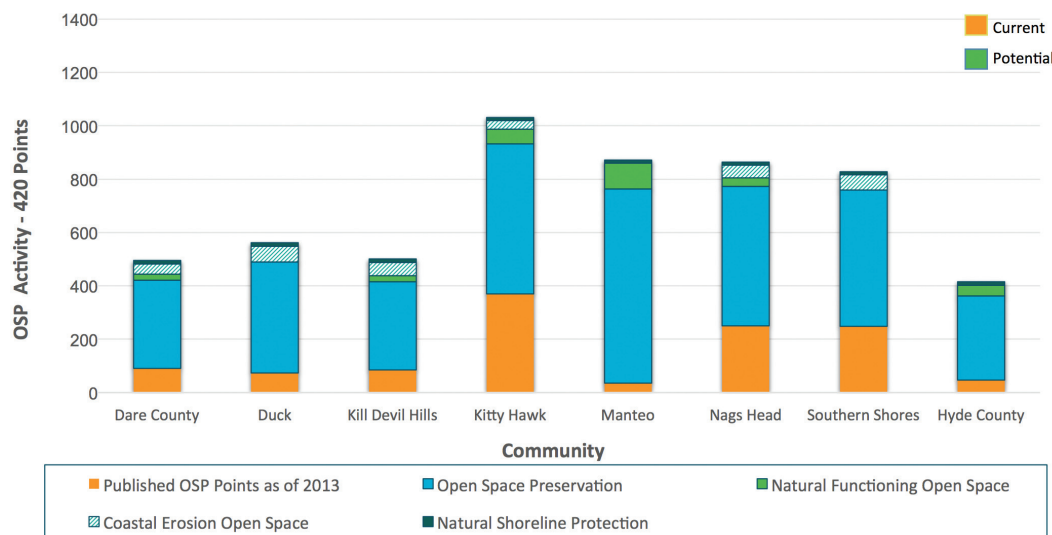
The CRS Explorer is expanding to the Gulf of Mexico where TNC and partners prioritized communities that have both a high probability of future flood damages and unprotected high conservation value open space as those that could benefit most from preserving these areas as part of the CRS program. To ensure the app is replicable, updatable, and scalable to other communities across the

U.S., a custom model is used to standardize the analyses needed to support the app while enabling communities to maintain their own data over time.

TNC and NOAA are also teaming up with Esri to develop a national Open Space Preservation (OSP) Map that will be hosted as a downloadable image service on Esri's living atlas. This map will help to standardize screening-level impact adjusted OSP data for the nation with the goal of empowering communities that lack high resolution data to more effectively participate in CRS.

ASFPM AND CSO

CRS Green Guide: Features best practices and case studies derived from interviews with CRS communities earning top-scores for CRS elements that preserve or enhance the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains.



Across eight communities in [North Carolina](#), this tool identified an average of 546 eligible OSP credits, enough to promote each community at least one CRS Class, which would result in a larger flood insurance discount.

Nags Head Woods Preserve, North Carolina. Photo Credit: Ben Herndon/Tandemstock.com