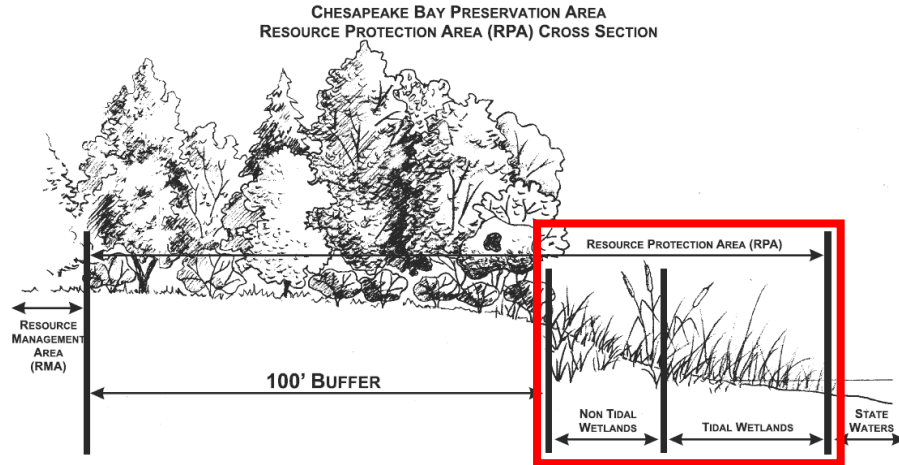


Natural Floodplain Functions Form

Gloucester County, Virginia

Open space preservation property details: The undeveloped and undisturbed non-tidal and tidal wetlands located in Gloucester County are open space areas, preserved in their natural state (no development, grading, or farming), making the wetlands acreage eligible for credits under the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System (CRS). These areas can be seen in the diagram below.



Wetlands protection information: Tidal and non-tidal wetlands are protected by the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act and the Tidal Wetlands Act, both of which are enforced by Gloucester County.

Summary of the habitat or natural benefits provided on the properties: Virginia's wetlands provide essential habitat benefits to birds, mammals, and fin and shell fish, offering primary productivity for the coastal food web. Wetlands also provide water quality benefits, removing sediments, nutrients, and chemical pollutants. Emergent wetlands also reduce damage from flooding, erosion, and storm surges. Wetlands are also a significant carbon sink.

Professionals certifying this form:

- Pamela Mason, Virginia Institute of Marine Science's Center for Coastal Resources Management. B.A. Biology, University of Delaware & M.S. Marine Science, College of William & Mary. Senior Research Scientist.
- Walter Priest, Gloucester County Wetlands Board member & Wetland Design and Restoration consultant. B.S. Biology, Virginia Military University & M.S. Marine Science, Old Dominion University. Certified Professional Wetland Scientist.

Signatures: (Digital signatures) *Walter Priest* *pamela mason*