



Natural & Nature-Based Features

Tidal Marsh



Description

Tidal marshes are wetlands in tidal waters covered by herbaceous plants or shrubs. Woody plants and trees are mostly absent. Tidal marshes can be large extensive features, marsh islands, or a fringe along the shoreline. Different plant communities grow in salt and freshwater tidal marshes. Tidal marshes provide storm and flood mitigation, cleaner water, economic gains, and cultural traditions as ecosystem service benefits.

Multiple Benefits

- * Dense stems reduce incoming wave energy
- * Flood storage
- * Nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment capture
- * Seafood production
- * Carbon storage
- * Fish & animal habitat

Tidal Marsh Restoration Tips

- * Locate normal & extreme tide elevations on land, present and future scenarios
- * Choose wetland plants based on local salinity average
- * Plant low and high marsh, expect plant changes over time
- * Reserve adjacent land upslope for future tidal marsh location
- * Be prepared for periodic inspections and maintenance, like removing trash and storm damage recovery

Resources

[Living Shorelines—Planted Tidal Marsh](#)

[Low and High Salt Marsh Plants](#)



Water Quality BMPs

- Urban or Ag Shoreline Management
- Urban or Ag Shoreline Erosion Control - Vegetated
- Urban or Ag Shoreline Erosion Control - Non-Vegetated



Community Rating System

Credit Potential

Tidal Marshes in Special Flood Hazard Areas

- Open Space Preservation** development must be prohibited
- Natural Functions Open Space 1** undeveloped marsh or restored to natural state
- Natural Functions Open Space 4** undeveloped or restored marsh in a connected network of wetlands as shown in approved plan
- Natural Shoreline Protection** natural marsh where local policy prohibits shoreline armoring or other interventions that constrain natural processes

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