Living shoreline completed

By JORDAN DODSON
Wetlands Biologist

A multi-partner project to complete a living shoreline on one of Georgia’s barrier islands has been completed.

In 2018, CRD, in partnership with Little Cumberland Island Homeowners Association, The Nature Conservancy, the Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve, the Caretta Foundation, and Coastal Wildscapes, was awarded a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Coastal Wetlands Conservation grant for the construction of a living shoreline along Shell Creek, Little Cumberland Island. This living shoreline project will be beneficial through the creation and preservation of coastal wetlands.

Clemson grad welcomed as SeaGrant fellow

CRD STAFF REPORT

Meghan Angelina will be serving as the 2020-2021 Georgia Sea Grant State Fellow at CRD. This program gives students and recent graduates the opportunity to gain direct experience in coastal management and marine policy. Angelina will be leading a flood literacy project where she will investigate the scope of flood terms being used by various organizations within the field and promote efficient communication of coastal flood hazards between groups and with the public. CRD has awarded over $22 million through their Coastal Incentive Grant.

New application portal will streamline process

By BETH TASCOTTI
Grant Specialist

Cycle 24 of CRD’s Coastal Incentive Grants is in full swing. In September, a press release was sent to coastal newspapers and posted on our website announcing the opening of the grant cycle with the publishing of the request for proposals. In October, three virtual CIG workshops were conducted, with a total attendance of 28 people from local governments and educational institutions. CRD has had follow-up calls with people seeking additional information. Pre-applications are due on Friday, Dec. 4, 2020, and full applications will be due Feb. 12, 2021.

One major change to this year’s CIG process is that we will be using an online submission portal for the entire grant process. This includes the pre- and full application, as well as reporting. The online portal will allow for a more consistent process and better data collection and analysis. Visit our website for more information: www.CoastalGaDNR.org/CoastalIncentiveGrant

The Cycle 23 Coastal Incentive Grants awarded this year were:

- “Sustainable Ecotourism & Shorebird Habitat Protection: Building a Certification

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of essential fish habitat, the potential to improve water quality through the addition of living organisms, and the ability for the island to become more resilient to shifting sea levels as the shoreline matures and oysters and plants expand to stabilize the bank.

Construction was completed in September 2020. Also associated with the grant is the publication of a children’s book on living shorelines, which is expected to be published by 2023. Two workshops will also be held in Camden County to highlight living shorelines as nature-based shoreline management techniques.

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Study examines stormwater management best practices

By KELLY HILL
Green Infrastructure Specialist

In 2016, the Georgia Coastal Management Program funded an Inventory of Stormwater Low Impact Development (LID) Best Management Practices (BMPs) located in the 11 coastal counties. The practices inventoried included permeable pavement, cisterns, bioswales, bioretention, stormwater wetlands, green roofs, rain gardens and rain barrels located on civic, public, commercial, and mixed-use properties. The goal of this project was to collect as much data as possible on different types of BMPs and provide that information online in a mapped format - allowing practitioners to locate on the ground BMPs in their area. The current Inventory can be viewed online at CoastalGaDNR.org/DemoSites. You can view information collected for each site as well as associated photos for each practice. Since the Inventory represented a snapshot in time, GCMP is funding an update to the Inventory. GCMP will partner with UGA Marine Extension/Ga. Sea Grant and Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood to add new sites, update existing sites, and add a more detailed and local construction and maintenance cost pilot study, and conduct an outreach strategy that will provide workshops to local governments and industry practitioners on the findings of the updated Inventory.
Survey slated to improve GIS user experience

Surveys launched in mid-October

By COLBY PEFFER
GIS Specialist

CRD's two geospatial data portals, the Georgia Coastal and Marine Planner (GCAMP), and Georgia Wetlands Restoration Access Portal (G-WRAP), will each be hosting user surveys this fall and winter.

The aim of the surveys is to gain an understanding of each visitor’s objectives in visiting the portals and to understand who the users and stakeholders are, how they use the portals, applications, and widgets within each portal, and how the portals can be improved upon in the future to better suit CRD staff's and the stakeholder's needs.

User surveys were launched in mid-October and will be analyzed in the spring and summer of 2021.

The portals are a collaboration with Georgia Tech and can be found at www.geospatial.gatech.edu/GCAMP/ and www.geospatial.gatech.edu/G-WRAP/.

From PROJECTS

Program for Tour Guides” by UGA Research Foundation, Katie Higgins

“Experiential Learning to Foster Appreciation and Conservation of Coastal Wetlands” by UGA Research Foundation, Katy Smith

“Applicability of HGM to Georgia Salt Marsh Mitigation” by UGA Research Foundation, Lori Sutter

“Artificial Reefs, Habitat, and Bathymetry in Georgia Coastal Waters, PH II,” by UGA Research Foundation, Clark Alexander

“Jekyll Island Fortson Pond Restoration - Improve Water Quality and Habitat for Fish, Plants, and Wildlife,” by Jekyll Island Authority, Yank Moore

“Rethinking Runoff Plan - Green Infrastructure Feasibility Assessment,” by City of Brunswick, Garrow Alberson

“Reducing Non-Point Source Pollution and Increasing Resiliency,” by UGA Research Foundation, Leigh Elkins

“Assessing the Utility of eDNA Techniques to Monitor White Shrimp Abundance,” by Georgia Southern University, John Carroll

“Evaluating the Use of Biodegradable Hardscape for Oyster Reef Habitat,” by Savannah State University, Dion Hoskins Brown

“Faces of Resiliency Video Project,” by UGA Research Foundation, Anne Lindsey

“Coastal Empire Resilience Network,” by Metropolitan Planning Commission, Chatham County, Kait Morano

“Evaluating Best Practices for Dune Restoration,” by City of Tybee Island, Alan Robertson

“Are Georgia’s Salt Marshes Keeping Up With Sea Level?” by UGA Research Foundation, Amanda Spivak

“Estimating the Economic Impact of Recreational and For-Hire Fishing in Georgia,” by UGA Research Foundation, Adam Stemle

“Boat Stories: Leveraging Cultural Heritage,” by Georgia Southern University, Jennifer Tookes