



Coastal Ecological Restoration Workgroup 2025 Work Plan

Reporting Period: June 2025 – December 2025

WORKGROUP STEERING COMMITTEE

Workgroup Leads:

Martha Maxwell-Doyle, Terry Doss, Liz Semple,

Initiatives Leads:

Meredith Comi, Terry Doss, Adrianna Zito-Livingston, Danielle McCulloch, Quinn McHerron, Tyler Kinney

CURRENT INITIATIVES

Applied Science

Beneficial Use Restoration Taskforce (BURT)

Coastal Habitat and Resources Restoration & Management (CHaRRM)

Managing Director Liaison: Amanda Archer

Workgroup Members: [Membership List](#)

Work group membership is open to all NJCRC members. Members are expected to contribute to promoting and facilitating science-based ecological restoration that is applicable to New Jersey. Initiative lead(s) will determine the best way to offer membership to current members.

Purpose Statement

The Coastal Ecological Restoration Workgroup aims to create a collaborative network and central information hub to support ecological restoration and resilience needs across the state. By connecting landowners, resource managers, and experts, the group helps guide and support restoration planning, research, and implementation. The Workgroup will achieve this through focused initiatives, which currently include Applied Science, Beneficial Use Restoration Taskforce (BURT), and Coastal Habitat and Resources Restoration & Management (CHaRRM).

Overall Goals

- **Promote nature-based solutions** as a first choice for coastal ecological restoration to enhance community resilience and ecosystem health
- **Support science, research, and innovation** in ecological restoration practices and projects
- **Facilitate knowledge sharing** on green infrastructure and nature-based solutions across urban, developed, and natural areas
- **Advance the beneficial use of dredged materials** by linking ecological restoration efforts with navigational dredging needs in New Jersey
- **Collaborate with landowners and resource managers** to address coastal and ecological restoration challenges
- **Streamline restoration efforts** by sharing information to improve permitting, address knowledge gaps, and identify barriers and solutions

Workgroup Actions and Outcomes:

OBJECTIVE 1 – Launch Coastal Ecological Restoration workgroup.

Lead: Workgroup Steering Committee

Task 1: Develop Coastal Ecological Restoration Workgroup work plan.

Deliverables:

Expected Completion Date: June 2025

Task 2: Develop communication strategy for transition to new workgroup. This strategy will include a communication plan for existing members and reorganization of the NJCRC workgroup and initiatives webpages.

Deliverables:

Expected Completion Date: July 2025

OBJECTIVE 2 – Bring on facilitator for the Coastal Ecological Restoration workgroup to provide administrative support to the workgroup and the initiatives.

Lead: Workgroup Steering Committee

Task 1: Develop scope of work for facilitator

Expected Completion Date: July 2025

OBJECTIVE 3 – Create workstream for Applied Science initiative to promote science and research in ecological restoration work, advise and work on science and research-related tasks in response to emerging issues, and promote facilitation of and knowledge sharing around nature-based solutions to improve resilience throughout the New Jersey coast.

Lead: Meredith Comi, Terry Doss

Expected Completion Date: Ongoing

Task 1: Continue to advance Improving Ecosystem Rehabilitation through a Mosaic Approach – Advancing a Regional Philosophy in New Jersey whitepaper

Task 2: Help coordinate the 2025 Restoration Conference

Task 3: Continue to work towards inclusivity of all areas of the state and all ecological restoration projects/techniques being undertaken by all partners.

Task 4: Transition Resource Library to share responsibility with this larger group
How to update/maintain the resource library: vetting submissions, collecting submissions

OBJECTIVE 4 – Create a collaborative space for BURT (Beneficial Use Restoration Taskforce) that connects ecological restoration opportunities to navigational dredging priorities in New Jersey by promoting and facilitating the beneficial use of dredged material to increase community and habitat resilience.

Lead: Adrianna Zito-Livingston, Tyler Kinney, Quinn McHerron, Danielle McCulloch

Task 1: Identify and aggregate habitat restoration and resilience needs by engaging key stakeholders, practitioners, land managers, and resource agencies.

Deliverables: Compile list of identified areas of interest and potential project locations in a central spreadsheet and/or database*. *To be later linked to existing web-based tools.

Expected Completion Date: December 2025

Task 2: Identify needs to implement beneficial use sediment placement opportunities by engaging with interested state, federal, and local dredging entities.

Deliverables: Conduct meetings as feasible with interested dredging entities and/or regional dredging teams and produce a list of actions/needs identified by dredgers to match sediment with potential placement sites.

Expected Completion Date: June 2026

Task 3: Support the beneficial use of dredged material Community of Practice.

Deliverables: Deliver one presentation at the NJCRC 2025 Coastal Ecological Restoration Technical Workshop and host one dedicated track or session at the NJCRC 2026 Coastal and Climate Resilience Conference.

Expected Completion Date: September 2025; March 2026

OBJECTIVE 5 – Streamline ecological restoration efforts, facilitate knowledge sharing on NBS, improve permitting processes, and improve collaboration among scientists, restoration practitioners and regulators/resource managers through CHaRRM.

Lead: Danielle McCulloch

Task 1: Publish Learning Webinar Factsheets to disseminate information and promote knowledge exchange with resource managers

Expected Completion Date: September 2025 for past webinars. Ongoing for upcoming webinars.

Deliverables: 6-8 easy-to-reference factsheets from learning webinars on

current ecological restoration topics like SAV, living shorelines, marshes, innovative restoration tactics, etc. More after September.

Task 2: Continue knowledge exchange through Learning Webinar Series on restoration and resource management topics (Collaborating with BURT for July BUDM webinar, and Applied Science for monitoring webinar in the fall)

Expected Completion Date: Ongoing. Webinars currently planned for May, July and Aug.

Deliverables: 4-6 recorded webinars on current topics including design guidance for shorelines, using dredged materials, standardized monitoring guidance, shellfish restoration and policies, etc.

Task 3: Spring Field Trip to Degraded back bay habitat area where living shoreline and BUDM are being planned (Cattus Island)

Expected Completion Date: Done.

Task 4: Set up a Steering Committee Meeting w all states in Mid-Atlantic represented to promote cross-state and cross-watershed knowledge exchange and collaboration

Expected Completion Date: Done.

Task 5: Develop a Standardized Data Collection/ Monitoring Document (will collaborate with Applied Science). To answer outstanding resource management and regulatory questions, help us compare project success across sectors, orgs, and watersheds, and advance NBS and coastal resilience.

Expected Completion Date: Early 2026

Deliverable: Easy-to-Reference guidance, as an accompanying document to the permitting guidance document, to help practitioners develop a monitoring plan, measure success, develop adaptive mgmt triggers, for Mid-Atlantic coastal NBS projects will be developed to help with permitting, and measuring/reporting success. (FYI: CHaRRM's Permitting Guidance Document is well underway, but *currently paused* until various state and federal regulation decisions impacting coastal restoration work are made).

Task 6: Organize and lead a CHaRRM Session at NJ CRC Sept 11 workshop. Plan to either organize a learning webinar and open discussion or present published factsheets and lessons learned from those. Or to collaborate with Applied Science on a relevant topic (like shellfish restoration and policy).