



Natural & Nature-Based Features

Forests & Woodlands



Description

Forests and wooded areas are covered by upland trees more than 20 feet tall. Most coastal plain upland forests are heavily altered with a mix of native and introduced tree species. Large intact forests are generally limited to conservation lands and military installations in coastal Virginia. Forests and woodlands provide storm and flood mitigation, cleaner water, economic gains, and cultural traditions as ecosystem service benefits.

Multiple Benefits

- * Intercept & slowly release rainfall
- * Absorb & store floodwaters
- * Reduce bank erosion
- * Intercept air pollution
- * Regulate stream & air temperatures
- * Carbon storage
- * Recreation & tourism

Forest Restoration Tips

- * Protect intact forests & connect forest patches
- * Convert riparian buffer turf & impervious areas to forest
- * Choose native trees similar to local forests
- * Provide layers of plant height between tree canopy & ground
- * Allow leaves & sticks to remain for healthy soil & infiltration
- * Remove & control invasive plants
- * Consult with arborist about tree health & care

Resources

[A Guide for Forestry Practices in the Chesapeake TMDL](#)

[VA Cooperative Extension Buffers Fact Sheet](#)



Water Quality BMPs

- Ag Forest Buffers
- Ag Forest Buffers w/ Exclusion Fencing
- Ag Tree Planting
- Urban Tree Planting
- Urban Forest Buffers
- Tree Planting - Canopy
- Urban Forest Planting
- Forest Conservation
- Dry Swale



Community Rating System

Credit Potential

Wooded Areas in Special Flood Hazard Areas

Wooded areas do not typically earn credit in the CRS Program, unless the area shares space with features that could earn CRS credit.

For example, if the wooded area is located within a tidal marsh, then it could potentially earn credits under **Activity 420: Open Space Preservation, Natural Functions Open Space, & Natural Shoreline Protection.**

Learn More www.vims.edu/ccrm/nbf

