

Final Report - Wachapreague Seaside Park Plant ES Natives® Demonstration Garden

January, 2011

Prepared For:

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NOAA Grant No. NA08NOS4190466
Grant Year 2008
Task 14



Virginia Coastal Zone
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



This project was funded by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program at the Department of Environmental Quality through Grant #NA08NOS4190466 of the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended.

1.0 Introduction

The 1.5 acre Wachapreague Seaside Park was acquired by the Town of Wachapreague from the Nature Conservancy in July 2009. The parcel sits at the edge of the Atlantic coastal marsh in the heart of the town (*see Appendix A*) and affords an ideal location to demonstrate the beauty, ecological benefits and economic advantages of using Eastern Shore native plants – the message of the Plant ES Natives® social marketing campaign, initiated and funded by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program through the Virginia Seaside Heritage Program (FY 2007, Task 10.07).

To promote the use of native plants, a 12,500 square foot Plant ES Natives® Demonstration Garden was constructed in the southwest corner of the Wachapreague Seaside Park (*see Appendix A*). The garden was designed and implemented by Kim Owen, a local landscape designer and owner of In Full Bloom. In Full Bloom also has adopted and will maintain the garden with the assistance of a local nursery, Ivy Farms. The Plant ES Natives® campaign promotes the benefits and encourages the use of native plants. The garden is designed to be a 250 x 50 foot rectangular shape with one side bordering the parking area and the other side bordering the southern extent of the parcel. The garden is readily accessible from the parking area and the remainder of the park and will complement the park gazebo and benches already in place. The garden is designed to be interactive with a walking path and places to sit and experience the beauty of native plants and the habitat they provide. The Town plans to install interpretive signage at the site emphasizing native plant benefits when funding permits, as well as a sign acknowledging the garden as an official Plant ES Natives Campaign demonstration site. The site will also be featured on the Plant ES Natives campaign website and in a campaign brochure highlighting and encouraging use of demonstration sites.

2.0 Description of Construction Activities

The concept of the garden design was a collaboration of input from the Wachapreague Seaside Park Committee, Town of Wachapreague personnel, a local landscape designer,

employees of the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission, and employees of the Virginia CZM Program. A meeting between the partners was held in August 2010 to develop design concepts, a construction plan, and a management plan.

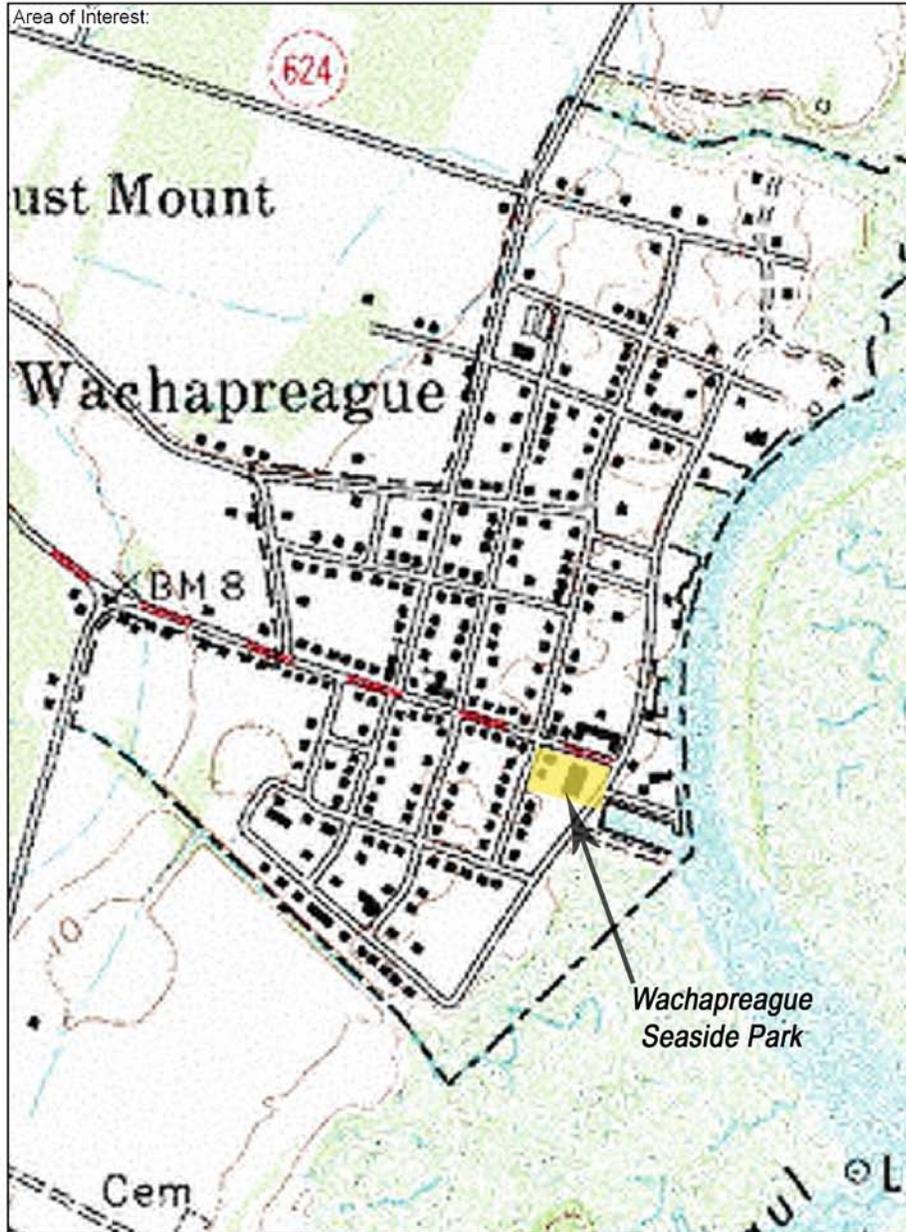
Construction of the garden began in November with initial layout of the walking path and planting bed areas. Preparation of the planting beds began by removal of existing turf and installation of erosion and weed control matting. The removed turf was reused to create a berm along the eastern boundary of the garden adjacent to Atlantic Avenue to help buffer from intrusion of floodwaters. Following preparation, the native plants were installed according to the approved landscape design plan. Photographs documenting all construction activities including the planning meeting, initial layout, installation, and completed project are included in **Appendix B**.

Native plants used in the demonstration garden were selected from the *Native Plants of Accomack and Northampton* guide produced through the Plant ES Natives campaign with an emphasis on selecting a diverse and thorough collection of Eastern Shore native plants that are especially tolerant of inundation from flooding. All native plants included in the demonstration garden are listed in **Appendix C**.

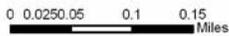
Appendix A

Site Maps and Garden Design Plan

Vicinity Map



Plant ES Natives Demonstration Garden
Wachapreague Seaside Park
Wachapreague, Virginia



Site Map



**Plant ES Natives Demonstration Garden
Wachapreague Seaside Park
Wachapreague, Virginia**



Appendix B

Photographic Documentation



Photograph 1 – Partners collaborating on the planning process during the August 2010 meeting.



Photograph 2 – Partners collaborating on the planning process during the August 2010 meeting.



Photograph 3 – Southeastward view of the demonstration garden site prior to installation.



Photograph 4 –Preparation of the planting beds by removal of existing turf.



Photograph 5 – Installation of native plants in the planting beds.



Photograph 6 – Installation of erosion and weed control matting.



Photograph 7 – Westward view of the demonstration garden during installation.



Photograph 8 – Eastward view of demonstration garden during installation.



Photograph 9– Westward view of demonstration garden during installation.



Photograph 10 – Southeastward view of finished demonstration garden.



Photograph 11 – Southern view of finished demonstration garden.



Photograph 12 – Southern view of demonstration garden from gazebo in center of park.



Photograph 13– Western view of finished demonstration garden.



Photograph 14 – Eastern view of berm along southeastern corner of garden.



Photograph 15– Southern view of berm along southeastern corner of garden.



Photograph 16 – Western view of walking paths and planting beds.



Photograph 17– Northeastern view of southern boundary of demonstration garden.



Photograph 18 – Eastern view of demonstration garden from parking lot.

Appendix C

Eastern Shore Native Plants Used in Garden

Eastern Shore Native Plants Used in Wachapreague Seaside Park Demonstration Garden	
<u>Plant Name</u>	<u>Plants Installed</u>
<i>Native Trees:</i>	
<i>Acer rubrum</i> : Red Maple	1
<i>Amelanchier arborea or Canadensis?</i> : Serviceberry	1
<i>Asimia triloba</i> : Pawpaw	1
<i>Cercis canadensis</i> : Redbud	1
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> : Fringetree	2
<i>Cornus florida</i> : Flowering dogwood	1
<i>Diosypros virginiana</i> : Persimmon	1
<i>Magnolia virginiana</i> : Sweetbay magnolia	2
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> : Black Gum	1
<i>Quercus phellos</i> : Willow Oak	1
<i>Quercus rubra</i> : Northern red Oak	1
<i>Taxodium distichum</i> : Bald Cypress	1
<i>Evergreens:</i>	
<i>Ilex glabra</i> : Inkberry ('Shamrock')	9
<i>Ilex opaca</i> : American holly ('Greenleaf')	3
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> : Emerald Sentinal	3
<i>Myrica cerifera</i> : wax myrtle	6
<i>Shrubs:</i>	
<i>Callicarpa americana</i> : American beautyberry	5
<i>Clethera alnifolia</i> : Sweet pepper bush (Sweetshrub)	9
<i>Ilex verticillata</i> : Winterberry	7
<i>Itea virginica</i> : Virginia willow (Sweetspire)	6
<i>Morella (Myrica) pensylvanica</i> : Northern bayberry	3
<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i> : Highbush blueberry	6
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i> : Southern Arrowwood	4
<i>Yucca filamentosa</i> : Common Yucca	3
<i>Perennials:</i>	
<i>Chelone glabra</i> : White turtlehead	50
<i>Coreopsis tripteris</i> : Tickseed	50
<i>Eupatorium hyssopifola</i> : Hyssop-leaved thoroughwort	50
<i>Eupatorium fistulosum</i> : Joe Pye weed	50
<i>Helenium autumale</i> : Sneezeweed	50
<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i> : Eastern rosemallow	30
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i> : Cardinal Flower	30
<i>Mimulus rigens</i> : Monkeyflower	100
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i> : Wild bergamot	50
<i>Monarda punctata</i> : Spotted beebalm	50
<i>Phlox paniculata</i> : Summer phlox (white)	50
<i>Phlox paniculata</i> : Summer phlox (lavender)	50
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> : Back-eyed Susan	35
<i>Solidago</i> : Goldenrod	100
<i>Sisyrinchium</i> : Blue-eyed grass	100
<i>Veronina noveboracensis</i> : New York ironweed	50
<i>Grasses:</i>	
<i>Andropogon virginicus</i> : Broomsedge bluestem	100
<i>Chasmanthium</i>	50
<i>Panicum virgatum</i> : Switchgrass (Heavy Metal)	35
<i>Panicum virgatum</i> : Switchgrass (Shenadoah)	35
TOTAL PLANTS	1193