

Bay Beach Nourishment Project Kitts Hummock

3/11/2026

Agenda

- Project Overview
- Project Timeline
- Public Access Requirements
- Easements
- Next Steps
- Q&A

Josh Lippert, DNREC
Joanna French, DNREC
Dan Kelly, USACE



Project Overview

- Enhance Delaware Bay shoreline
- Improve public recreational access
- Partnership with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- Maximize funding for one-time sand placement
- Estimated total cost: \$60 million



Project Background

- The Delaware River Dredged Material Utilization (DMU) Study, authorized by Congress in 2020, identified target areas for potential beach nourishment using dredge material from the Delaware River.
- Study analyzed dredging the Brandywine Range of the Delaware River for one-time sand placement along DE Bay beaches.
- Project deliverables propose sand placement at Pickering Beach, Kitts Hummock, Slaughter Beach, and Bowers Beach.
- In March 2026, an authorization agreement was signed between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and DNREC. Currently, the project is at 90% design completion.



Proposed target areas for beach nourishment.
(Bowers Beach exc.)

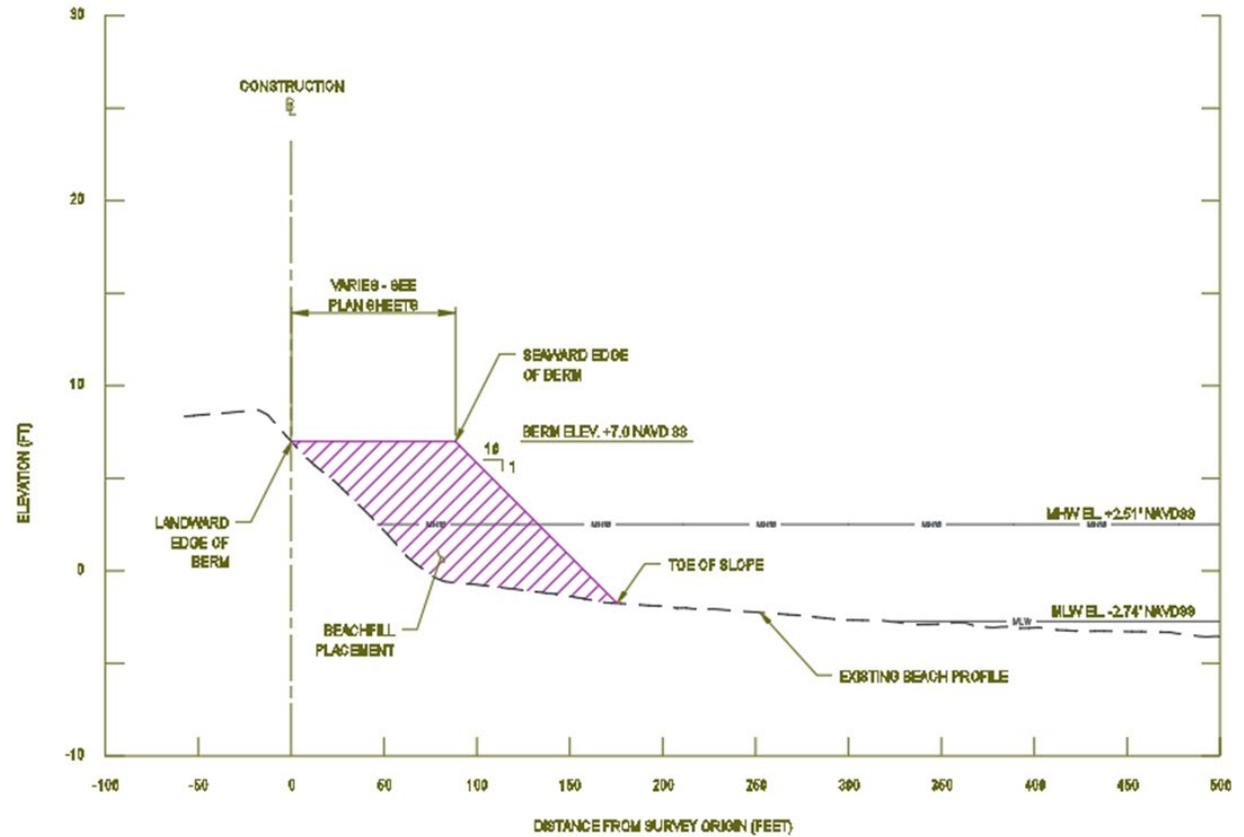
Project Design

- Berm only beachfill
- Design berm width of 55 feet and berm elevation of 7.0 feet.
- Construction berm to be 100 feet and include 45 feet of advance nourishment.
- The length of design berm - 4,400 feet w/ approximately 500 feet tapers at each end.



Project Design

- Typical Cross Section



B2 TYPICAL SECTION - BEACHFILL (KITTS HUMMOCK BEACH)
SCALE IN FEET
H: 0 50 100
V: 0 5 10

Project Timeline

- March Public Meetings
- March-April Public Access
- Spring – Easements
- Summer – Project Bidding*
- Fall/Winter – Project Implementation*

***Pending Public Access Requirements, Easement Acquisition, and time-of-year restrictions**





Public Access Requirements

Federal Public Access Requirements

Public Law 826, 1956 - fundamental law for federal fund usage for shore protection projects

Engineering Regulation (ER) 1165-2-130 requires that 'reasonable public access be provided in accordance with the recreational use objectives of the particular area.'

- **Access** – Access points should be no more than $\frac{1}{2}$ mile apart, with a $\frac{1}{4}$ beach walkability.
- **Parking** – 'Parking on free or reasonable terms should be available within a reasonable walking distance of the beach.'

DNREC Public Access Requirements

Beginning **July 1, 2026**, communities receiving nourishment and beach maintenance from the state or federal government must have a DNREC approved shoreline public access plan prior to initiation.

Federal nourishment projects currently in planning or design must have an access plan in development to remain eligible for implementation.



[Shoreline Public Access - DNREC](#)



Kitts Hummock Public Access

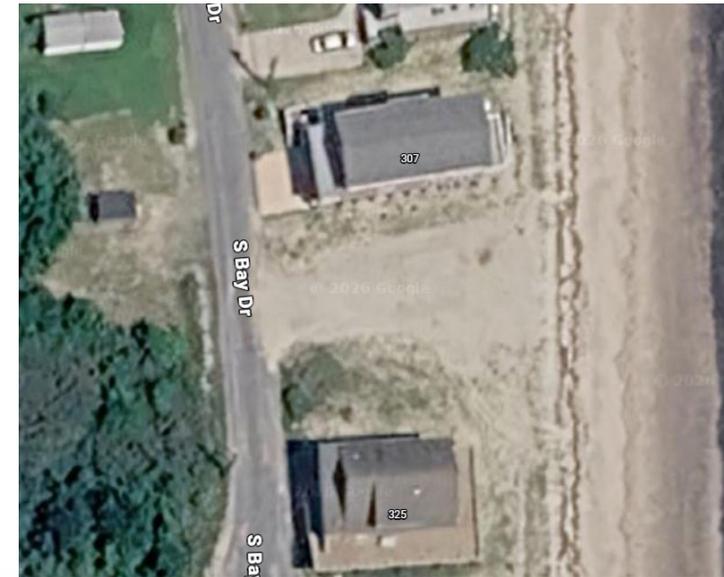
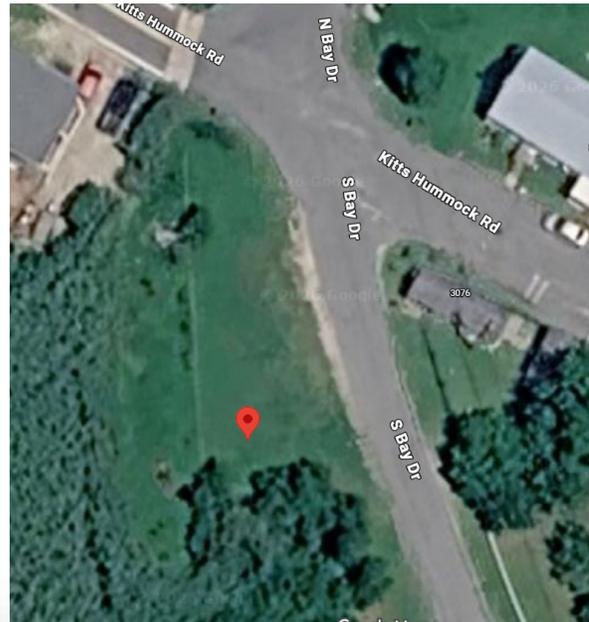
- **Existing:**
 - Kitts Hummock Road – Beach Crossover
 - 2 Existing parallel parking spaces along Kitts Hummock Road
- **Required:**
 - N. & S. Bay crossovers
 - Additional parking near crossovers



Public Access – DNREC Proposed Parking

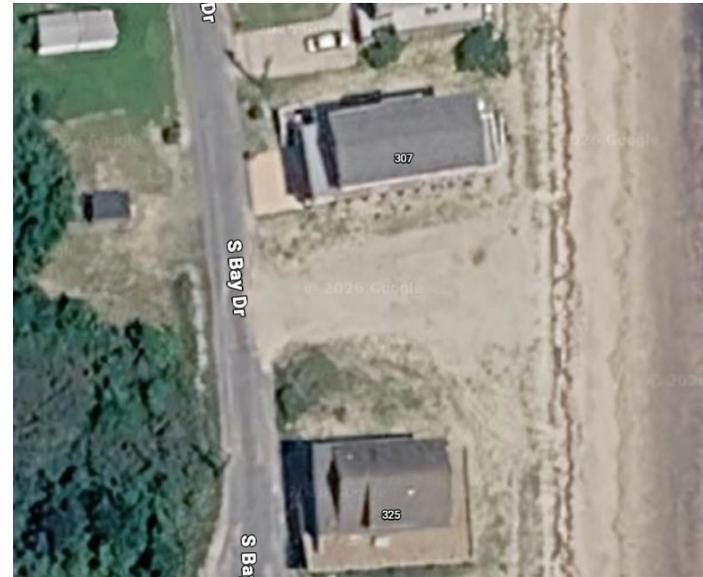
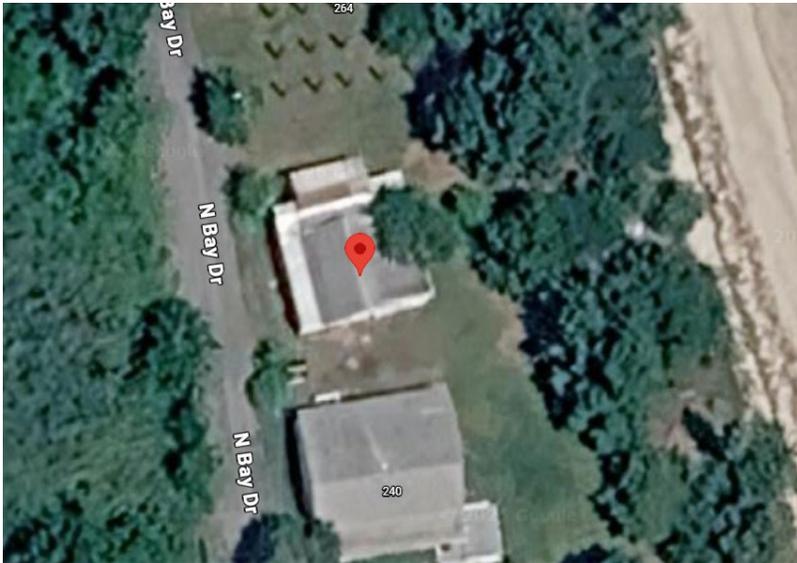
- 252 N. Bay – approx. 4 spaces*
- 16 S. Bay Parking Lot – min. 15 spaces*
- DNREC Parcel S. Bay (2-00-10600-01-1500-00001) – approx. 3-4 spaces*

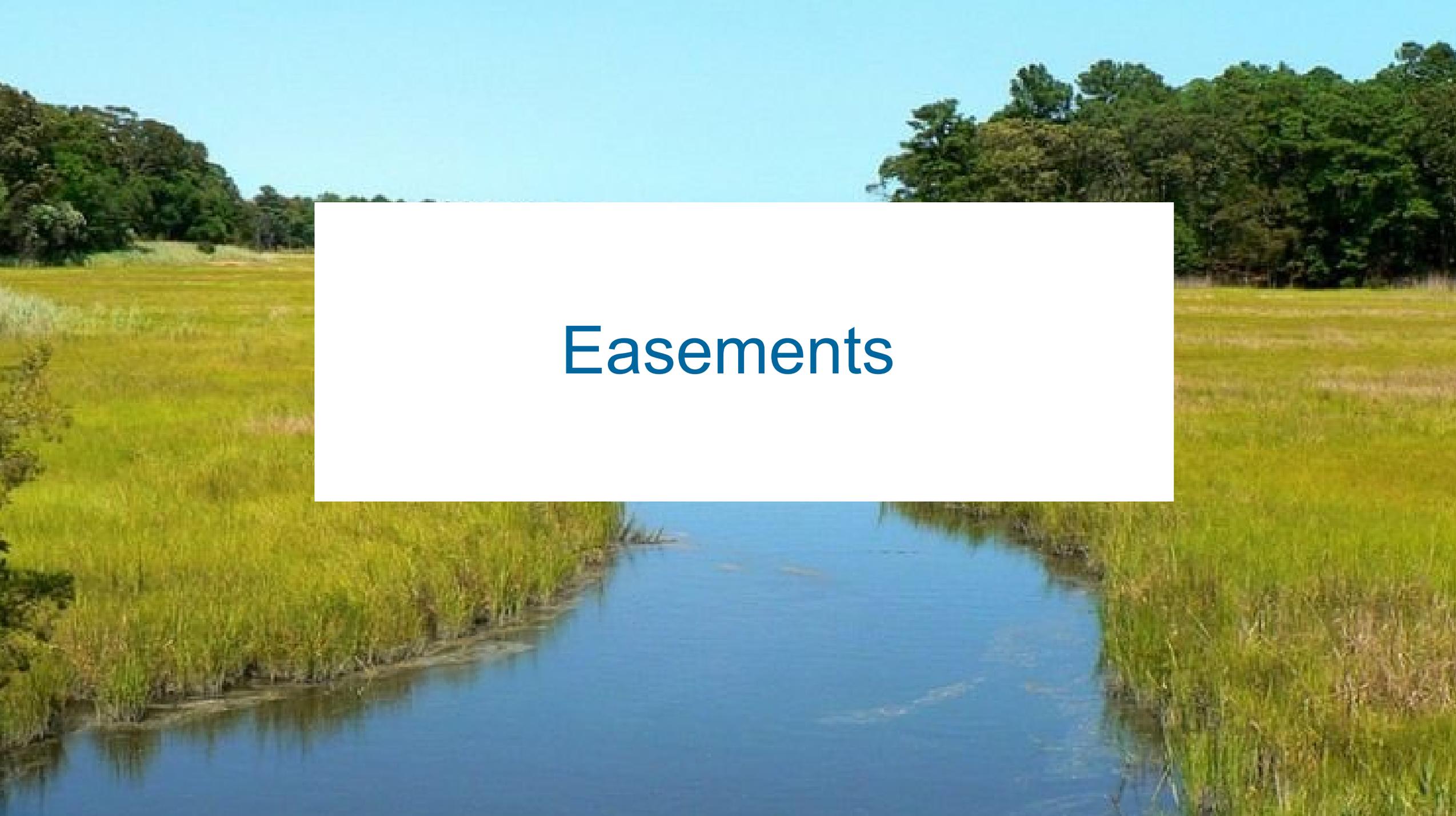
*Pending USACE/DeIDOT/Kent County review/approval and sale agreement



Kitts Hummock – Proposed Crossovers

- 252 N. Bay*
 - DNREC Parcel S. Bay (2-00-10600-01-1500-00001)
- *Pending sale agreement





Easements

Project Easement Types



Perpetual

A legal right-of-way required by all bay-front parcel owners to allow beach construction, maintenance, and long-term public use on property.



Taper

A legal, perpetual right-of-way allowing the placement and maintenance of sand where the newly constructed beach gradually transitions or 'tapers' into the natural shoreline.



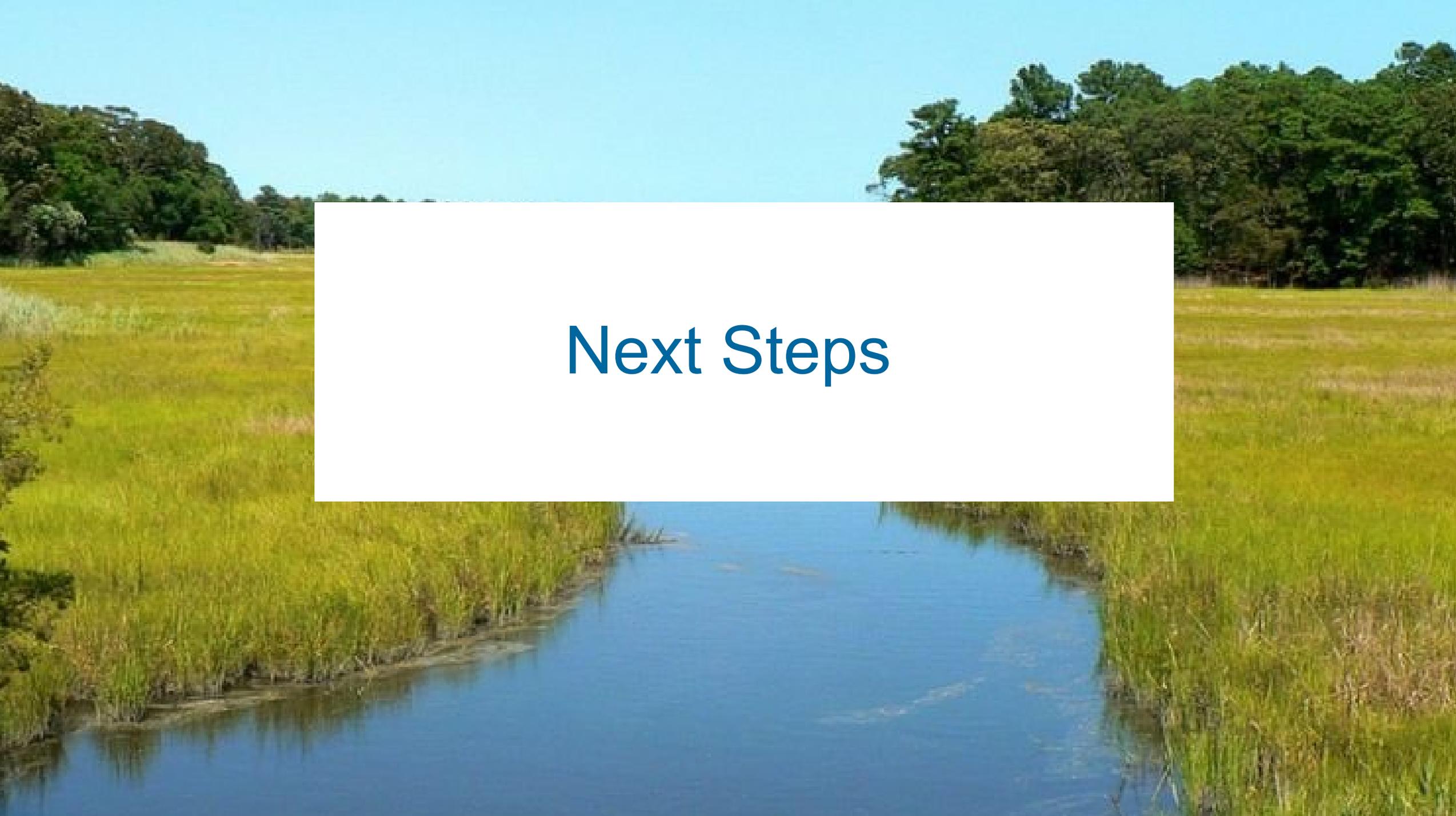
Construction Access

Temporary, legal permission to access private property for material laydown and equipment storage throughout project construction.

Perpetual Easements Process

- **Acquisition Types:**
 - Donation
 - Compensation
- **Steps:**
 1. Title Search
 2. Appraisal
 3. Easement Package provided to the property owner
 4. Property owner signature/notarized, and returned to DNREC
 5. Easement recorded with the County
 6. Executed easement provided to the property owner



A scenic landscape featuring a blue river winding through a lush green field. The sky is clear and blue, and a dense line of trees is visible in the background. A white rectangular box is overlaid in the center of the image, containing the text "Next Steps" in a blue, sans-serif font.

Next Steps

Next Steps

- **Public Access Plan – April 30th**
 - Required Plan Submission
- **Easements – Spring 2026**

Project Website:

[Delaware Bay Beach Nourishment Project](https://dnrec.delaware.gov/watershed-stewardship/beaches/bay-beach-nourishment/)

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Thank you

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