



HULL SPRINGS

LONGWOOD
UNIVERSITY

WETLANDS

The Hull Springs Farm Wetland Mitigation Bank saw final stabilization this past year. In August 2017, final land disturbance was completed, and the final 13 acres of wetlands and 14 acres of upland buffer were graded then seeded with a mix of native grasses and wildflowers. They were planted at a rate of approximately 600 trees per acre in December. In all, 17 distinct species of trees, 15 species of grasses, and 11 species of wildflowers were planted in the different ecotypes.

In addition, 57 acres of cropland that were added to the Conservation Easement were planted with a mix of hardwood and pine species for the creation of a Nutrient Bank in spring and early winter of 2017. The historic agricultural fields will be maintained as a forest with a minimum of

400 trees per acre in perpetuity.

In July 2018, the regulatory agency overseeing Mitigation Banks in Virginia approved the expansion of the Hull Springs Farm service area, meaning that credits generated by the project will be available for purchase in a larger geographic area. This will result in a larger potential buyer pool for the site.

Monitoring of Stream, Wetland, and Nutrient Banks are ongoing, and will continue for an additional 10 years. Activities have included monitoring the groundwater table, identifying and counting the trees, measuring soil temperature, and surveying the geometry of the stream channel to ensure adequate stability. Overall, credit sales are continuing to look promising within a quickly developing

watershed, and the site is on a great trajectory to achieving the intended ecological uplift.



LUCEE 2018

The third annual Longwood University Camp for Environmental Exploration (LUCEE) was held for rising 4th and 5th graders from Westmoreland County Public Schools (WCPS).

The experiential camp pairs Longwood students with certified teachers from WCPS in leading environmental-focused activities.

A record 83 children registered for the two week, day camp, which featured hands-on activities, presentations, and games in the midst of Hull Springs' bounty of natural and cultural assets.

This year's curriculum was developed by co-directors, Longwood Senior Liberal Studies major Taylor Banty, and WCPS educator, Andrea Cottom. Other Longwood University students and Westmoreland Educators served as camp counselors. The theme for this year's project-based learning camp was "How can we be good stewards to the environment?" Activities included presentations and



games, as well as day trips to Westmoreland State Park for nature and history interpretation and recreational swimming.

Longwood Sophomores Caroline Fornili (biology major) and Noah Heptinstall created a presentation utilizing TOGA (Tidewater Oyster Gardeners Association) materials on the importance of oysters. The children enjoyed handling the live oysters and

viewing aquariums set up to demonstrate how effectively oysters filter water.

The camp ended on July 26 with a program focused on answering the question of "being a good steward" presented to family, friends and members of the local school administration and school board.



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