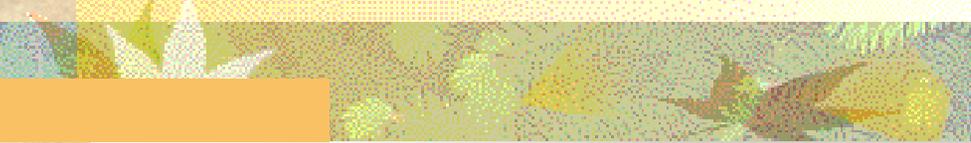


The Hampton Roads Conservation Corridor Study



Presented to
Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
By
John M. Carlock, AICP
Deputy Executive Director, Physical Planning
June 21, 2006





Project Overview

- Objective: Develop Conservation Corridor System for entire Hampton Roads region.
- Funding: Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program based on the success of the **SWAMP** (Southern Watershed Area Management Plan).



Goals for the Project

- Identify a corridor system that provides multiple benefits:
 - Habitat protection
 - Stormwater management
 - Comprehensive Planning
 - Recreation/Tourism
- Work with all localities to incorporate local planning needs.
- Provide GIS mapping of corridor system to localities.
- Educate public on benefits of the corridor system.



Green Infrastructure Defined

- “...our Nation’s natural life support system – an interconnected network of protected land and water that supports native species, maintains natural ecological processes, sustains air and water resources and contributes to the health and quality of life for America’s communities and people.”

Conservation Fund.

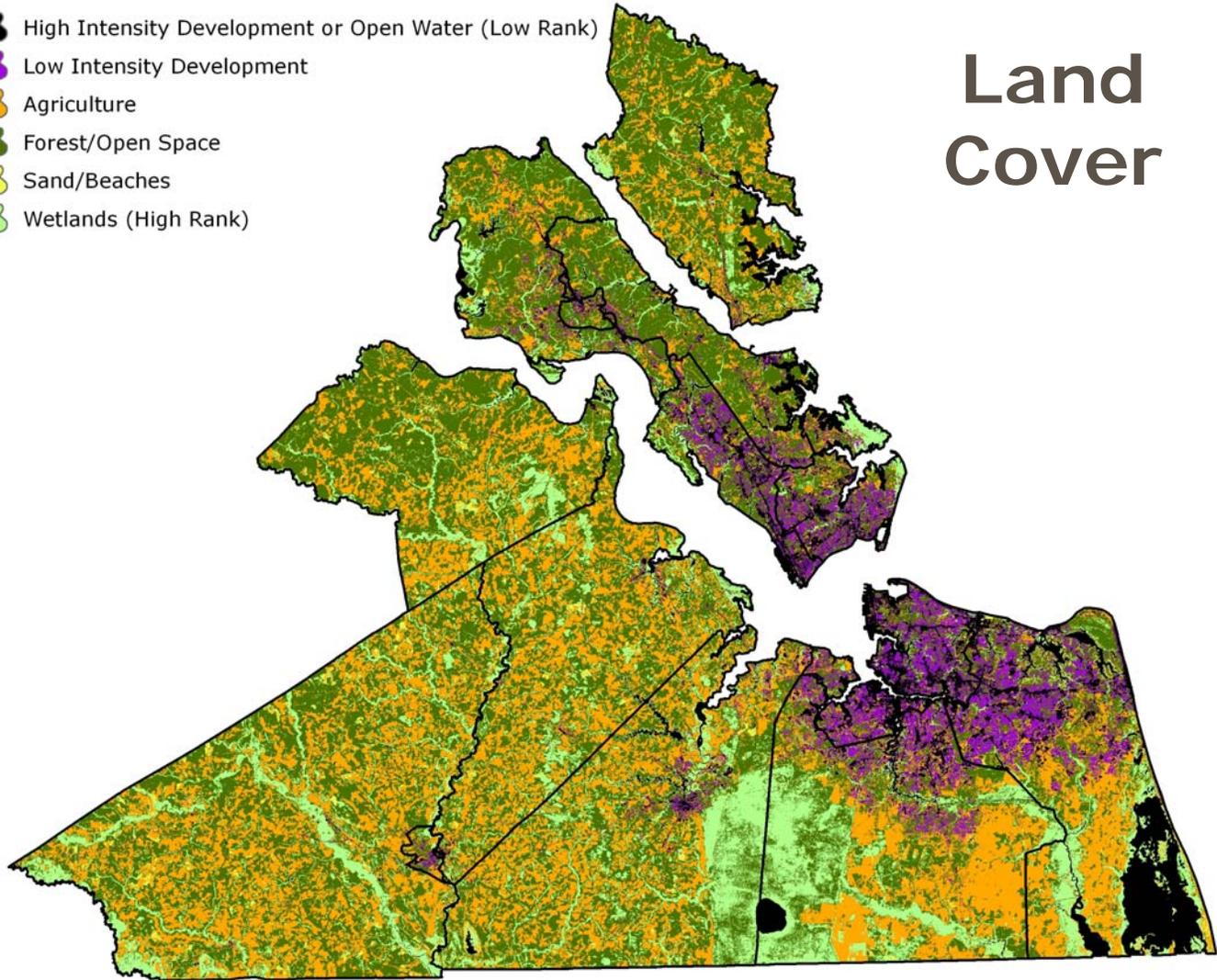


Summary of Process

- Educational Program through Joint Environmental Committee
- GIS Analysis
- Stakeholder Meetings
 - State Natural Resource Agencies
 - Local Governments

- High Intensity Development or Open Water (Low Rank)
- Low Intensity Development
- Agriculture
- Forest/Open Space
- Sand/Beaches
- Wetlands (High Rank)

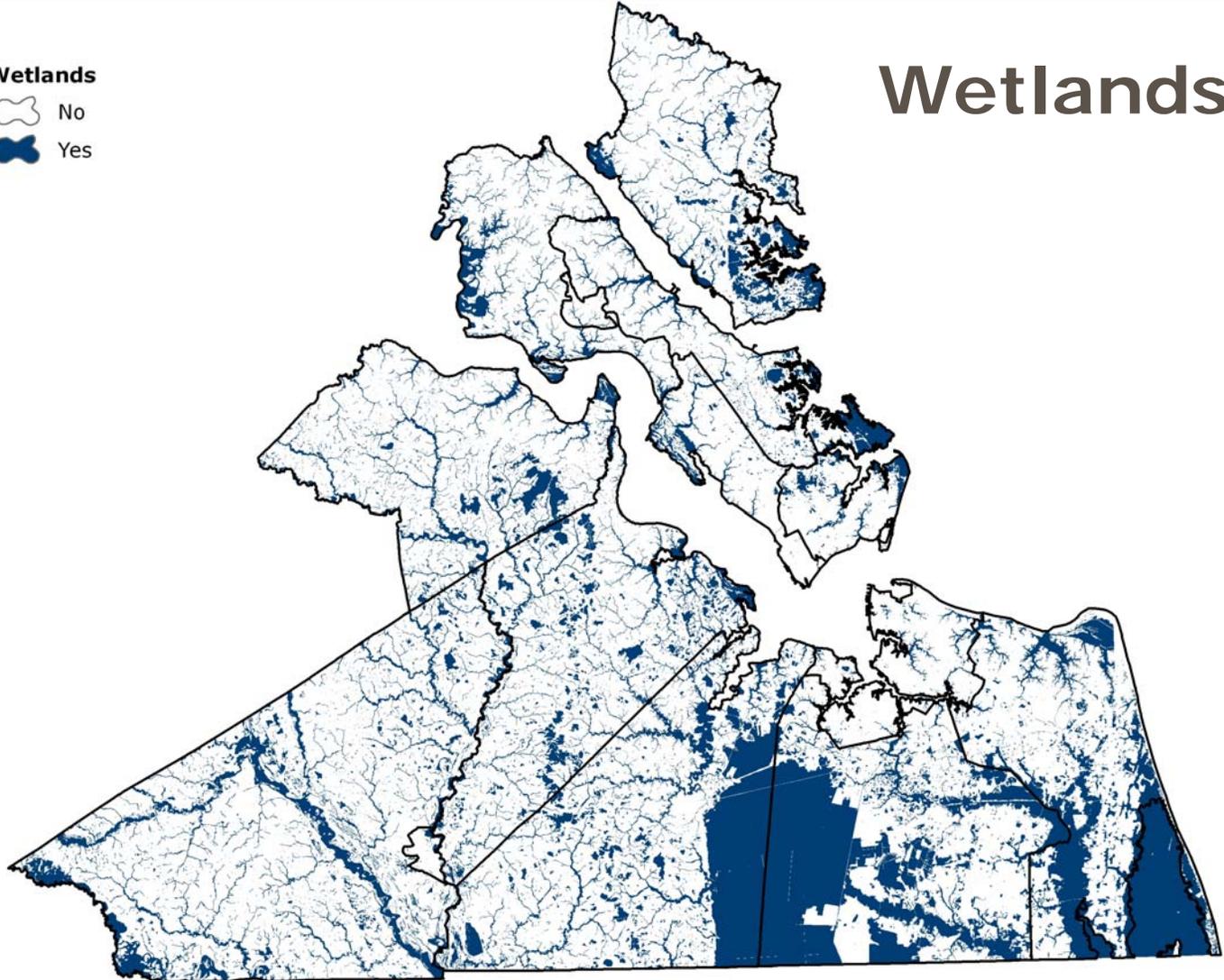
Land Cover



Wetlands

-  No
-  Yes

Wetlands

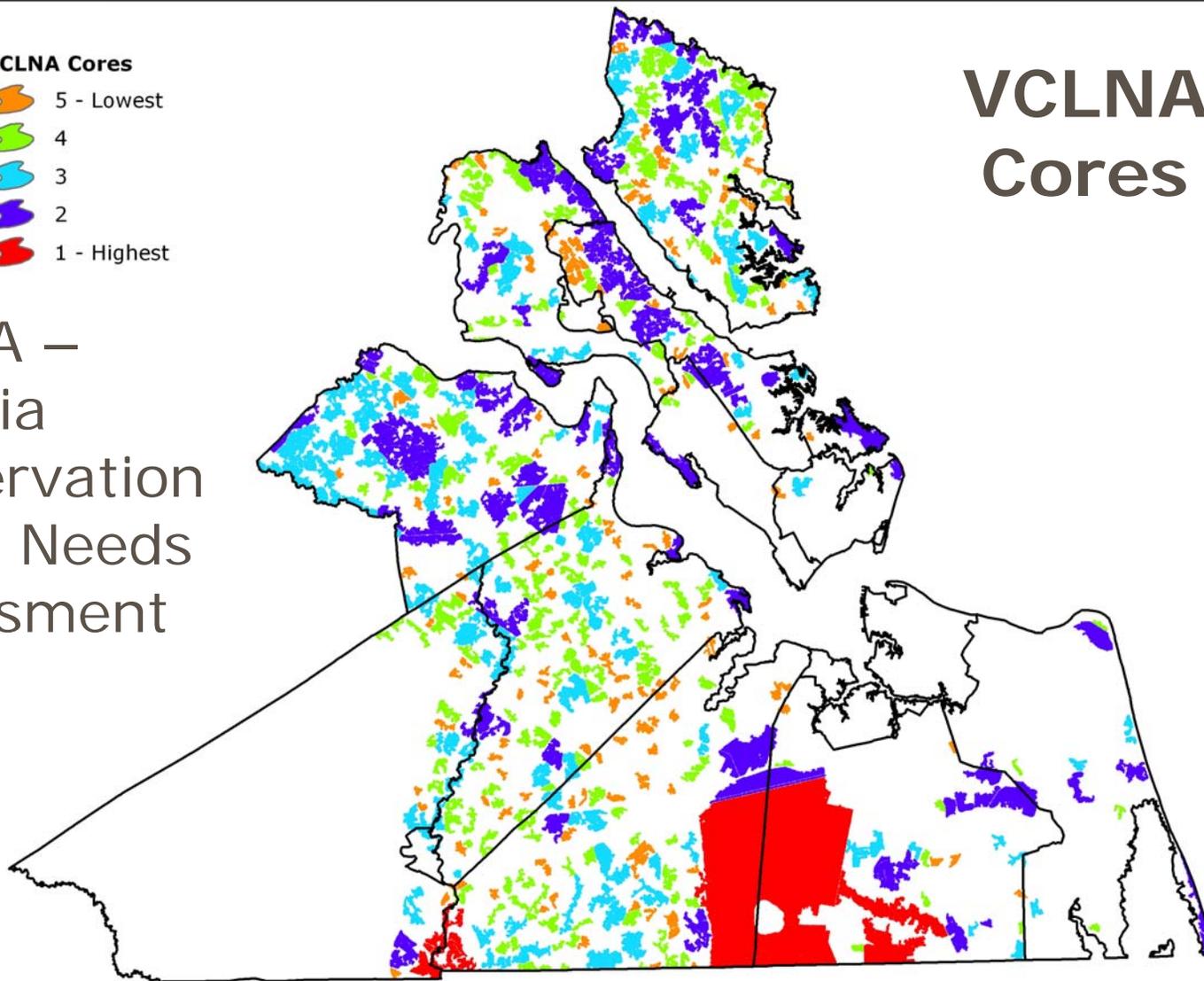


VCLNA Cores

-  5 - Lowest
-  4
-  3
-  2
-  1 - Highest

VCLNA Cores

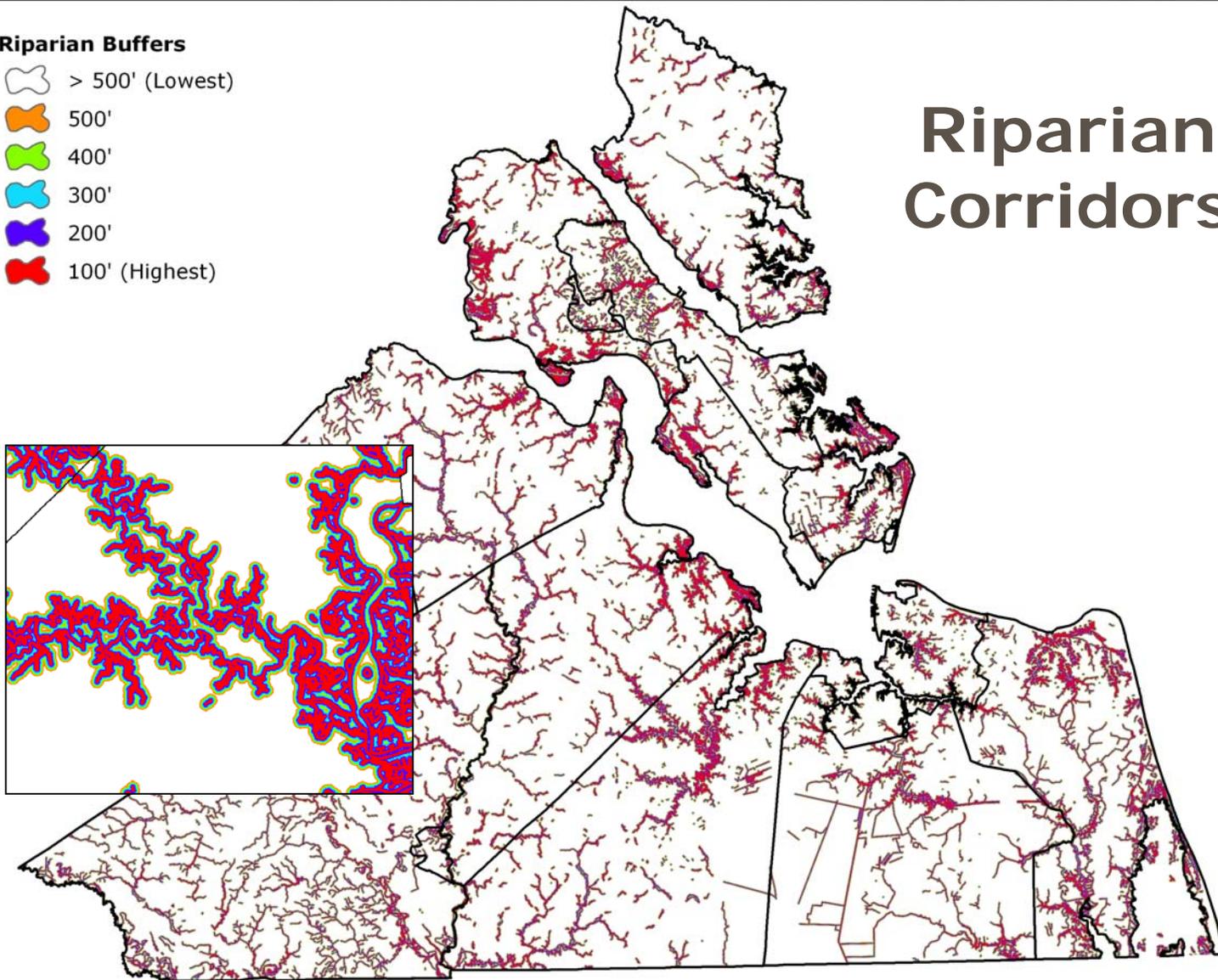
VCLNA –
Virginia
Conservation
Lands Needs
Assessment



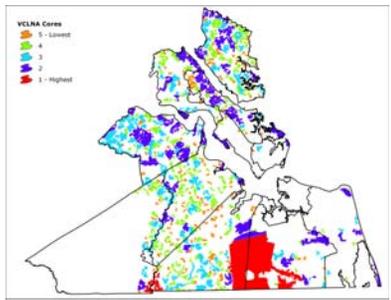
Riparian Buffers

-  > 500' (Lowest)
-  500'
-  400'
-  300'
-  200'
-  100' (Highest)

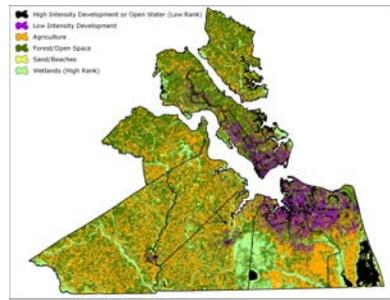
Riparian Corridors



Weighting GIS Model Criteria



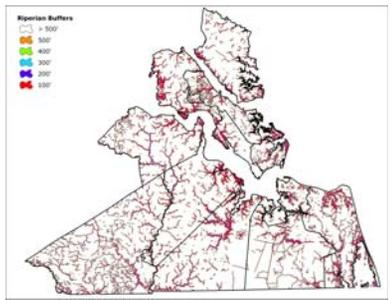
25%



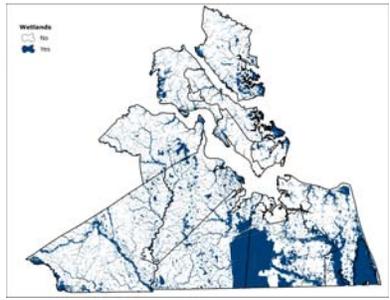
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Hampton Roads Regional Conservation Corridor: Natural Resources



Suitability for Conservation

-  Low suitability
-  High suitability - WATER QUALITY
-  High suitability - HABITAT
-  High suitability - BOTH

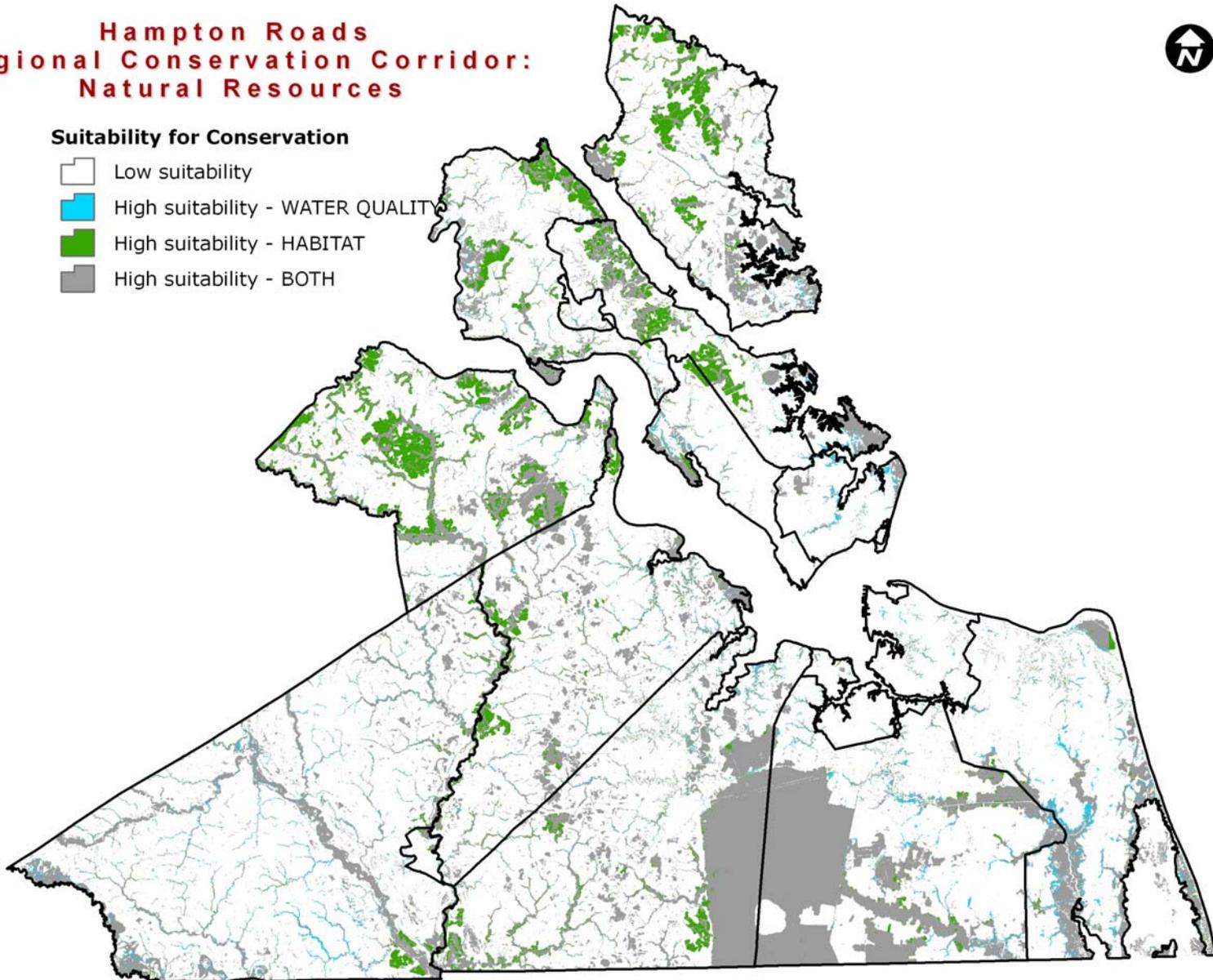


Figure 7 The Hampton Roads Conservation Corridor Study

Legend

 Opportunities for Connectivity

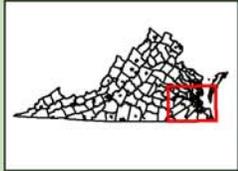
Suitability for Conservation

 Low suitability

 High suitability - WATER QUALITY

 High suitability - HABITAT

 High suitability - BOTH



Notes:

The Suitability for Conservation information identifies areas that are potentially most suitable for protection based on a wildlife habitat or water quality protection perspective. The suitability information was derived through weighted overlay analysis in GIS using the following data sources: National Land Cover Database, National Wetlands Inventory, riparian corridors, and the Virginia Land Conservation Needs Assessment habitat zones. The map was refined based on the input from natural resource experts in the Hampton Roads region.

The Opportunities for Connectivity information highlights areas where there are opportunities to create a linked network of green infrastructure in Hampton Roads. Protected and unprotected greenspaces can be linked to each other, as well as to existing recreational areas.

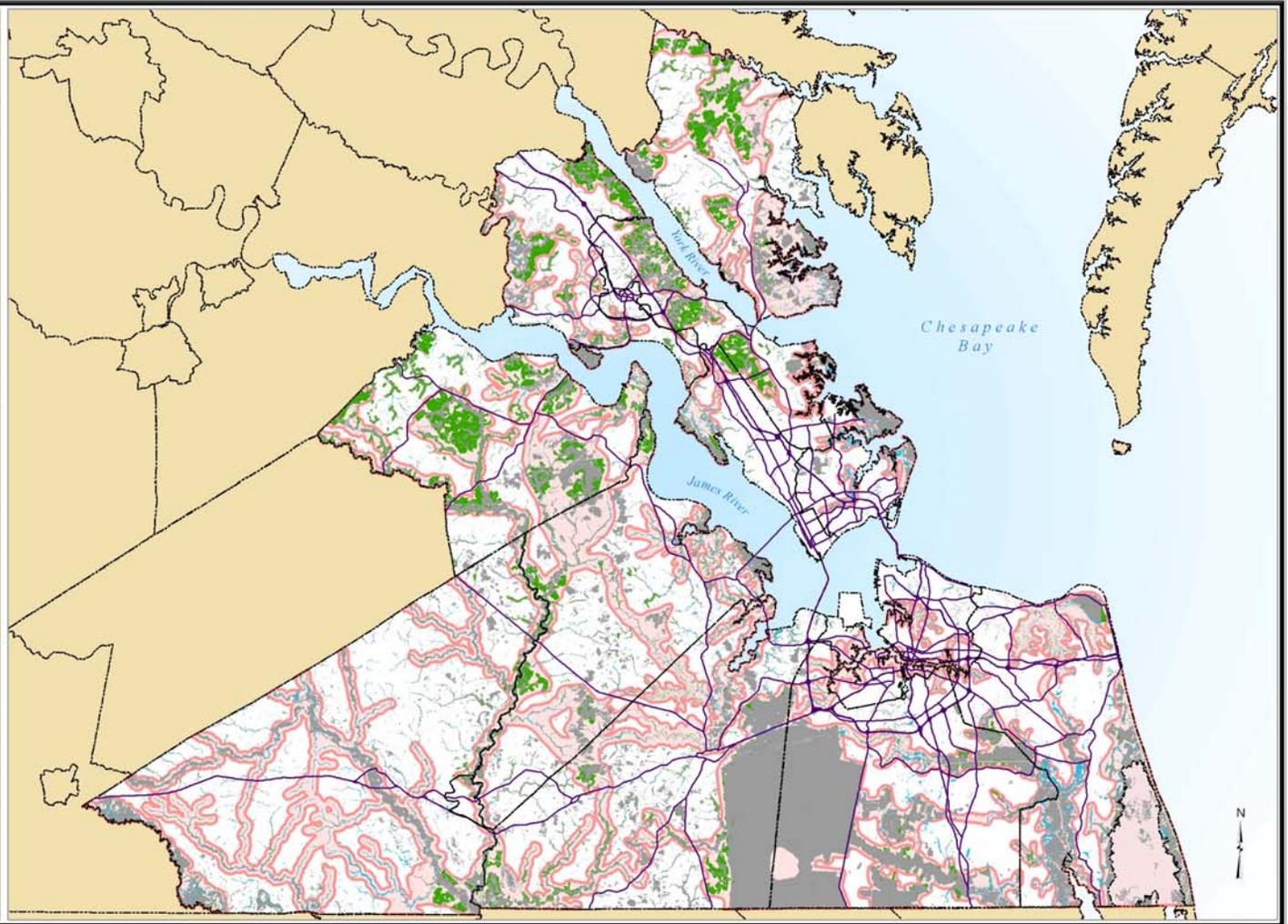
This map is intended as a tool to aid the regional planning process and does not necessarily reflect the actual future land use plans of individual Hampton Roads localities.



 Virginia Coastal Zone
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

0 5 10 20
Miles

May 2006





Application of the Corridor Study

- Conservation Goals, e.g. water quality & habitat protection
- Park, Recreation and Open Space Goals, e.g. Purchase of Development Rights programs
- Regulatory Compliance, e.g. CBPA
- Other Planning Goals, e.g. encroachment on military bases



Implementation Actions

- Tools for Local Government Use
- Public Education Materials
- Two Green Infrastructure workshops:
 - Overview – May 25, 2006
 - Implementation & funding – Summer 2006
- Ongoing work with localities, state and federal agencies to:
 - Integrate with local comprehensive plans
 - Refine and implement the HRCCS



Conclusions & Recommendation

■ CONCLUSIONS:

- Comprehensive resource & tools for localities
- Technical basis for integration of state and local initiatives
- DEQ recognized model for Coastal PDC initiatives

■ RECOMMENDATION:

- Approve the report for distribution