



Conservation Corridors Land Acquisition Opportunity

Presented to the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

by

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What is Green Infrastructure?

“A planned network of green spaces that benefit wildlife and people and link urban settings to rural ones. Green Infrastructure should form an integral part of government budgets and programs.”

- **The Conservation Fund**



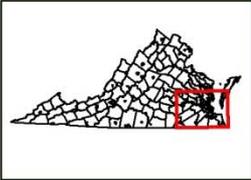
Figure 7 The Hampton Roads Conservation Corridor Study

Legend

 Opportunities for Connectivity

Suitability for Conservation

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



Notes:

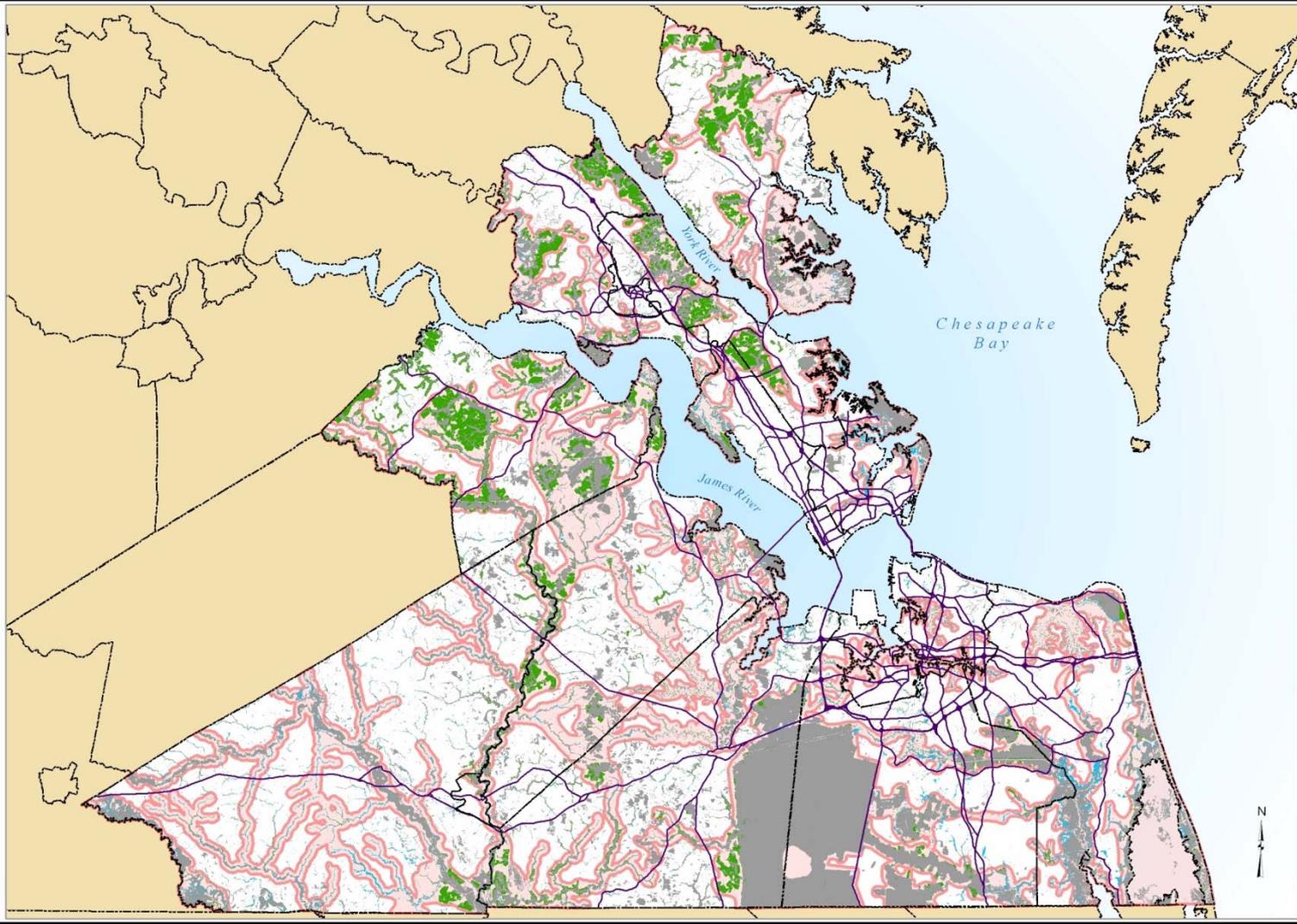
The Suitability for Conservation information identifies areas that are potentially most suitable for protection based on a wildlife habitat or water quality protection perspective. The suitability information was derived through weighted overlay analysis in GIS using the following data sources: National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



0 5 10 20 Miles
May 2006





Current Activities



- ★ White paper on integrating green infrastructure implementation with development approval process
- ★ Workshop on using green infrastructure to deal with encroachment at military bases was held on February 29, 2008
- ★ Use of green infrastructure to facilitate regulatory compliance
- ★ Continued refinement of the regional conservation corridor network
- ★ Identification and selection of conservation corridor implementation priorities



Land Acquisition Opportunity



- ★ The Conservation Fund approached the HRPDC for assistance in identifying parcels in the Chesapeake Bay watershed that are representative of green infrastructure planning
- ★ HRPDC staff solicited proposals from member localities based on
 - Location of the parcels in the Corridor System
 - Readiness to Proceed
- ★ HRPDC and City of Virginia Beach staff developed the proposal

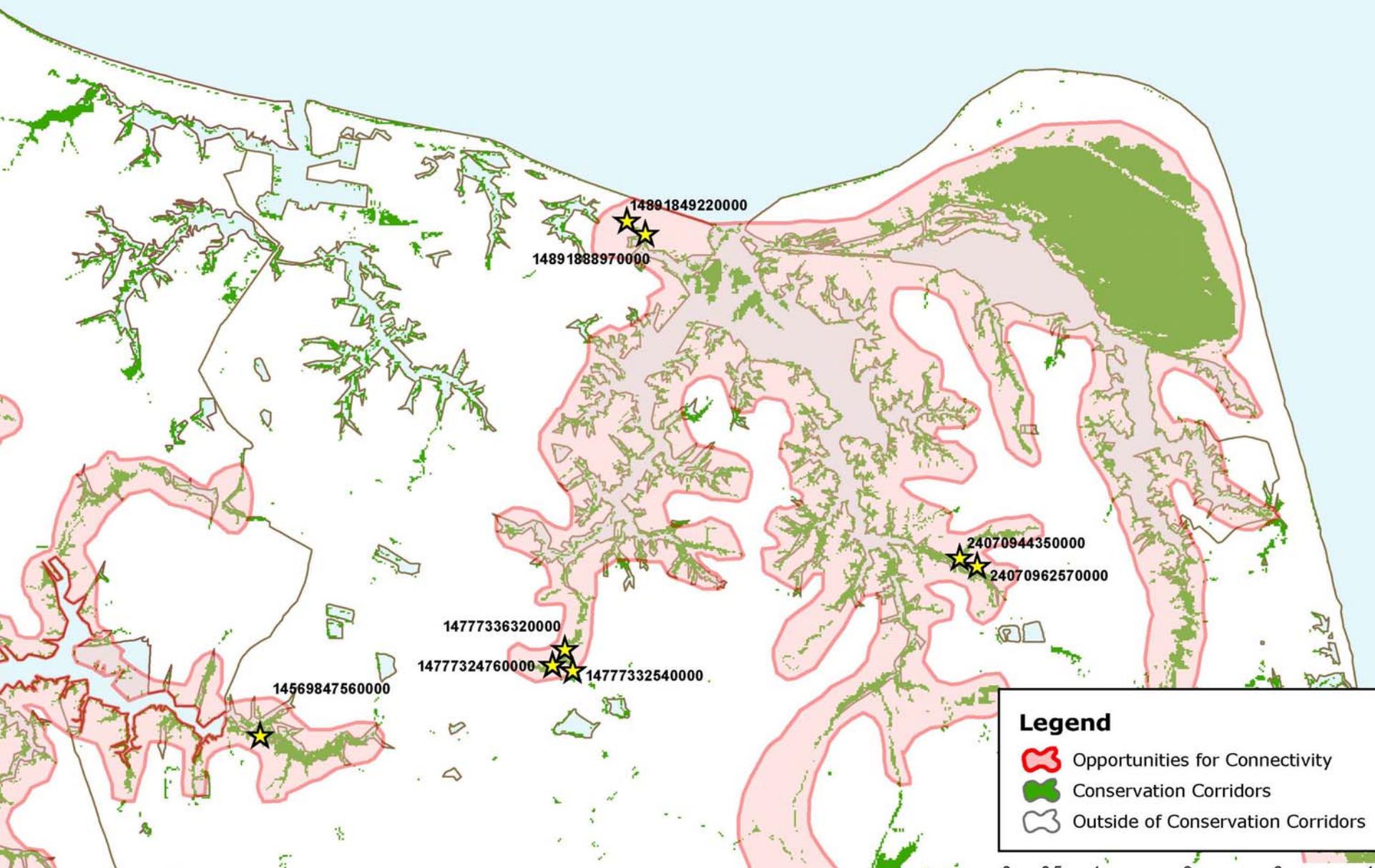


Proposed Acquisition

- ★ Three parcel groupings in the Lynnhaven River watershed and a single parcel in the Elizabeth River watershed are included in the proposal
- ★ The proposal recommends that the State provide 50% matching funds to assist Virginia Beach in purchasing the parcels
- ★ The City of Virginia Beach will manage the parcels through environmental restoration and provision of passive recreational opportunities

Location of Potential Open Space Acquisition Sites

Elizabeth River and Lynnhaven River Watersheds



Legend

-  Opportunities for Connectivity
-  Conservation Corridors
-  Outside of Conservation Corridors



The Conservation Fund

- ★ The Conservation Fund will contribute the funds required to document the project and publish the documentation - giving full credit to the State, the City and the HRPDC for their leadership in strategic conservation planning.
- ★ Since its founding in 1985, the Conservation Fund has helped its partners safeguard wildlife habitat, working farms and forests, community greenspace, and historic sites totaling more than 6 million acres nationwide



Recommended Actions

- ★ Support State Funding for the Acquisition
- ★ Approve the Letter of Support to the Governor