



## Targeted Watersheds Grant

# Elizabeth River, VA



**Area of Money Point where a living cap of tidal wetlands and oyster reefs will be created to isolate contaminated sediments.**

*Photo by Van White*



**Through the River Stars program, industry partners are helping with restoration, like this newly planted wetland at a Citgo facility.**



**One year later the plants are thriving at the Citgo facility.**

## Elizabeth River Project

### The Watershed

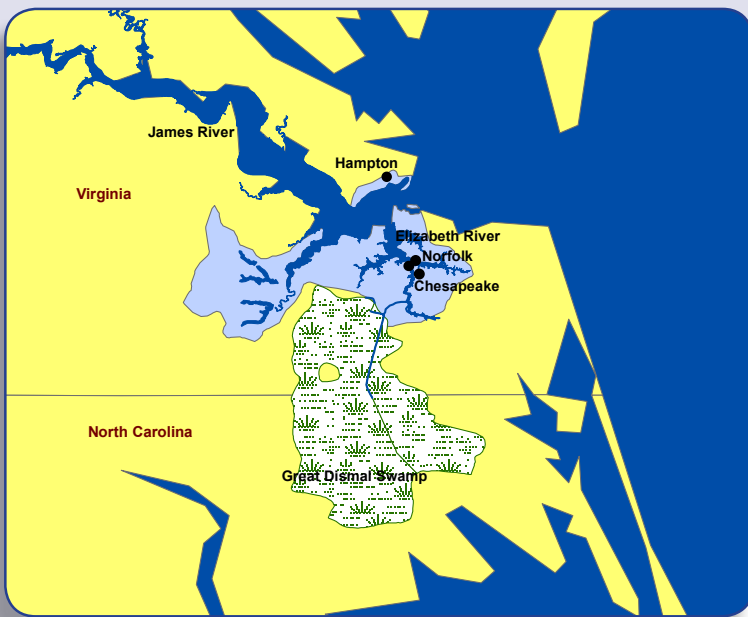
The Elizabeth River serves as the world's largest natural harbor for military and commercial shipping and also provides a vital nursery for the Chesapeake Bay. Blue crabs, striped bass, and other species depend on this tidal estuary for their existence, and yet, adjacent to the estuary resides the world's largest naval base, the nation's oldest and largest naval shipyard, and the world's largest coal exporting facility. The Money Point sub-watershed drains only 220 acres, but it contains contaminated hot spots that are the main focus of the restoration efforts.

### Issues

Sediment contamination is the primary environmental problem in the watershed. Money Point is a biological dead zone (devoid of aquatic life) as a result of the high levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in the sediments on the river bottom. The river ecosystem is dependant on a healthy bottom-community, as the bottom of the food chain. PAH levels in the sediment can be as high as 6,292 parts per million. Harmful effects can be seen in marine life at concentrations as low as 45 parts per million. Since the shoreline at Money Point is entirely industrially-owned, the Elizabeth River Project has already engaged eight of the industries in stewardship projects to help clean up the area. Stormwater controls have been recently implemented at the industrial facilities, and the City of Chesapeake will be following up with a similar project. A new tidal wetland restoration will begin in 2009.

### Project Activities

- **Remediation of Toxic Hot Spots:** To further the work that has already taken place at Money Point, toxic hotspots along the shoreline will be dredged, resulting in the remediation of 19 acres of PAH contamination.



**Elizabeth River Watershed**

**Project Partners:**

- Hess Corp.
- Kinder Morgan Southeast Terminals
- Elizabeth River Terminals
- Sims Metal Chesapeake
- Southern Aggregates
- Citgo Petroleum Chesapeake Terminal
- Lafarge North America Cement—Chesapeake Plant
- McLean Contracting
- National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration Restoration Center & Office of Response and Restoration
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
- Virginia Institute of Marine Science
- Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Virginia Marine Resources Commission
- South Norfolk Civic League
- Money Point Baptist Church

**Leveraged Resources:**

EPA Grant: \$902,500  
 Match in non-federal funds and in kind services: \$2,015,000

● **A Living Cap of Oyster Reef and Tidal Marsh:** A living cap of over 4 acres of oyster reef and tidal marsh will be installed. The living cap will isolate some of the contaminated sediment from the bottom community. The oyster reef will help stabilize the marsh and prevent further shoreline erosion.

● **River Stars Pollution Prevention and Stewardship Awards for Industry:** Recognizing their crucial role in environmental progress, industrial partners are actively recruited to participate in the cleanup of Money Point. The River Stars program provides technical assistance and public recognition to Money Point industries that achieve pollution prevention and habitat restoration at their sites.



EPA's Targeted Watersheds Grant program is a competitive grant program designed to encourage collaborative, community-driven approaches to meet clean water goals.

For more information about the selected watersheds, please visit:  
<http://www.epa.gov/twg>

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