

LONG CREEK WETLAND RESTORATION 2012

This volunteer project took place at First Landing State park along the Long Creek Trail. It was a combination of wetlands restoration and enhancement because a narrow strip of marsh vegetation was already present.

In 2001 the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) placed long stretches of piled oyster shell along the shoreline to stabilize the bank in response to storm erosion on the banks, and to restore a hard shell bottom as habitat for oysters to settle on and reestablish there. Some of the shell was placed where vegetated wetlands used to exist, and were too high to benefit oysters. So, in cooperation with VMRC and First Landing State Park, we decided to restore the wetland vegetation in 2012. We planted over 800 seedlings across 400 feet of shoreline.





This project involved moving several inches of shell by hand to below the water line.



Long Creek 2012 – volunteers moving shell to expose soil for planting



Long Creek 2012 – Boy Scouts from Troop 63 planting marsh grass plugs



Cape Henry High School students helped with the project



Cape Henry High School students also released several hundred baby oysters on this reef



Lynnhaven River NOW staff and volunteers worked on the project



State Park staff helped with the project



Restoration area in winter, before restoration work



Four months following restoration work