Coastal Resilience is a program led by The Nature Conservancy to examine nature’s role in reducing coastal flood risk. The program is designed around an online mapping tool that supports communities around the world who are conducting hazard mitigation and climate adaptation planning.

**WHAT IS CRS?**
The Community Rating System (CRS) promotes comprehensive floodplain management and encourages communities to go beyond the minimum standards of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). CRS is a voluntary program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that rewards communities by providing policyholders with discounts on their flood insurance premiums for activities that reduce flood risk. Activities include, but are not limited to, outreach activities about flood risk, floodplain mapping, and conserving open space.

**WHY CRS?**
Planning for growth and adaptation in the face of rising seas and the likelihood of more intense storms is vital to the economic security and wellbeing of communities across the nation. Participation in CRS incentivizes communities to take action to reduce their flood risk and improve resilience while making flood insurance more affordable.

**CRS STRATEGY**
Identifying flood risk reduction opportunities and applying for CRS credits can be overwhelming for many communities who don’t have the capacity to take full advantage of the program. To empower communities to fully participate in CRS, The Nature Conservancy is leading a strategy within the NOAA Digital Coast Partnership to coordinate efforts to meet the goals and objectives of coastal zone management in the U.S. and highlight those actions that also receive CRS credit.
Across eight communities in North Carolina, this tool identified an average of 546 eligible OSP credits, enough to promote each community at least one CRS Class, which would result in a larger flood insurance discount.

TNC and NOAA are also teaming up with Esri to develop a national Open Space Preservation (OSP) Map that will be hosted as a downloadable image service on Esri’s living atlas. This map will help to standardize screening-level impact adjusted OSP data for the nation with the goal of empowering communities that lack high resolution data to more effectively participate in CRS.

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