

The Natural Floodplain Functions Alliance

Background:

The Natural Floodplain Functions Alliance (NFFA) is an affiliation of nonprofit and private organizations, government agencies and individuals dedicated to the protection and preservation of the natural functions of floodplains, including coastal areas. NFFA was established to promote, protect, and enhance the protection, restoration, and management of natural floodplain resources. Members share information and may elect to coordinate actions on issues of interest, but the NFFA is not an advocacy group nor does it take formal positions on matters of national policy, guidance or legislation.

Goals:

1. Encourage information-sharing among organizations and agencies that support restoration and conservation of natural floodplain resources
2. Use sound science to develop fair and reasonable policies and programs that support restoration and conservation of natural floodplain resources
3. Integrate natural floodplain management into broader landscape and watershed management initiatives.
4. Facilitate creation and integration of programs and policies to sustain and restore natural floodplain resources
5. Support revision or elimination of policies and programs that degrade and destroy natural floodplain resources
6. Improve communication about the importance of natural floodplain resources at all levels of government

Objectives:

1. Create an awareness of the urgency of protecting and restoring naturally functioning floodplains to help address societies critical needs, including:
 - Reduce unsustainable economic losses due to natural disasters
 - Restore viable fisheries and wildlife habitat for economic and recreational use for future generations
 - Protect and restore soil and water quality in streams, rivers, and estuaries needed to sustain economic well-being
 - Provide national resilience to weather extremes and increasing population growth in managing flood and drought, and maintaining vegetated buffers to reduce temperature and mitigate air pollution impacts
2. Communicate this information to all levels of government, using sound science and with a focus on economic benefits, to encourage development of policies that will:
 - Protect and restore floodplain resources for environmental and economic benefit
 - Promote identification and revision of polices, ordinances, or programs that degrade floodplains
 - Integrate natural floodplain management into local development codes; stormwater management ordinances; economic development plans; watershed management planning; local and regional parks, greenways, and green infrastructure plans; climate mitigation planning; and other related documents.

For more information about NFFA, please visit:

<http://www.aswm.org/watersheds/natural-floodplain-function-alliance>.