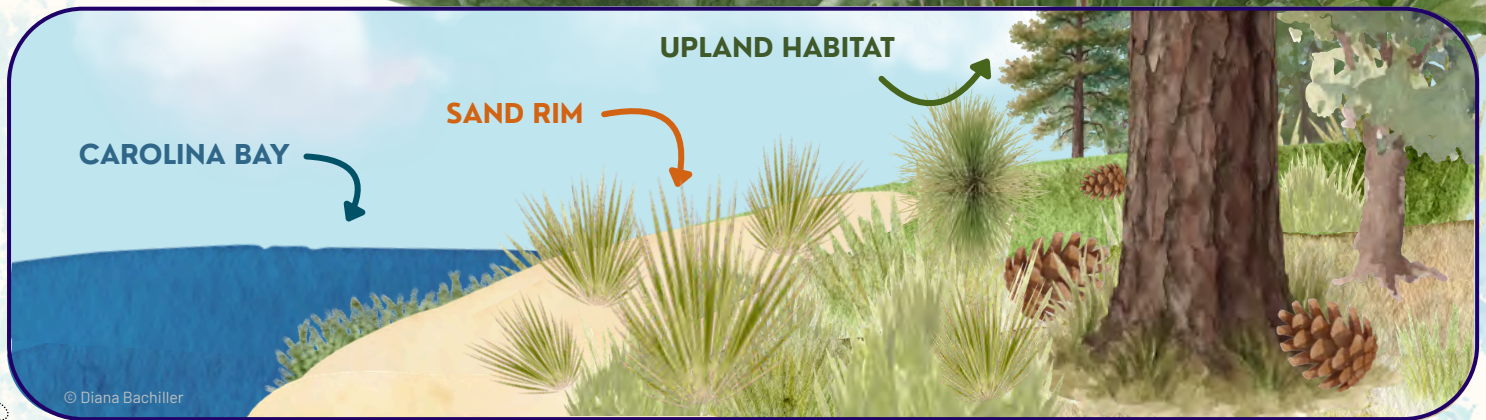


Carolina Bays: Why Management MATTERS



Carolina Bays are natural, shallow wetlands with sandy rims found across the Coastal Plain! Some look like lakes, while others look like cypress forests. These unique habitats play a key role in supporting a variety of rare species. When we manage the landscape, we protect wildlife, water, and our communities!

MANAGEMENT MATTERS BECAUSE...



WATER MATTERS

Preserving or restoring the natural, rainfall-driven water cycles of Carolina Bays supports wetland plants, improves water quality, and provides flood protection.



FIRE MATTERS

Regular, low-intensity fires reduce fuel loads and wildfire risk. Fires also maintain open habitats and support native species by eliminating non-native competition, triggering seed germination, and recycling vital nutrients back into the soil.



FORESTS MATTER

The bay is only part of the story. The sandy rim and surrounding forests provide important habitat, corridors for wildlife to move through, and protection of water quality, all while reducing soil erosion.



STEWARDSHIP MATTERS

Thoughtful stewardship helps keep Carolina Bays healthy, resilient, and thriving. For generations, Carolina Bays have provided Indigenous Peoples with food, resources, clean water, and abundant wildlife. By caring for these unique wetlands today, we can ensure future generations continue to benefit from and appreciate all they provide.

YOU CAN HELP PROTECT CAROLINA BAYS

WHAT YOU CAN DO AS A LANDOWNER



MAINTAIN NATURAL BUFFERS

Leave trees and native vegetation around the bays.



AVOID DITCHING OR FILLING

Draining or filling wetlands can cause lasting damage.



WATCH FOR INVASIVE SPECIES

Early detection and control of invasive species benefits native plants and wildlife.



USE PRESCRIBED FIRE WHERE APPROPRIATE

Fire is a natural tool that maintains healthy, open habitats.



PROTECT THE SURROUNDING LAND

Surrounding forests and uplands are critical to the health of the bay.



STAY INFORMED & GET INVOLVED

Learn about stewardship opportunities and conservation programs.

HOW CITIZENS & ORGANIZATIONS CAN HELP



OUTREACH

Raise awareness and connect landowners with resources.



RESTORATION

Support habitat restoration and invasive species management.



MONITORING

Collect data on plants, wildlife, water levels, and land conditions.



EDUCATION

Share knowledge and inspire the next generation.



POLICY

Advocate for wetland protections and funding for conservation programs.

Everyone plays a part in protecting
Carolina Bays!
Conservation efforts are stronger
when we work together!

The Nature
Conservancy



North Carolina

Visit our Website for More Info:

carolinabayconservation.org