



# Campus Comprehensive Plan

## Phase 1 | Interim Analysis Findings

July 11, 2024



WILLIAM & MARY

CHARTERED 1693

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# Analysis Findings

## VIMS Campus



# Campus Today

## Key Takeaways

- The VIMS campus consists of important and largely unrecognized American history sites, public sites available to visitors, large research buildings, and small private properties
- Important oyster and blue crab research occurs outside the 1964 sea wall and in the tidal flats
- Little public space is available given the steep slopes between buildings
- Pedestrian access to the water is very difficult (lack of pathway infrastructure, buildings, slopes, roads, wayfinding)
- The campus is bisected by HWY 17



# History

Gloucester Point  
Ancient Defender of the York  
– 1862 Peninsula Campaign –

Remnants of the star-shaped  
“covering work” that helped to  
defend the York River against  
Union attack from 1861 to 1862

First shots of the American Civil  
War were fired here



Star Fort  
Remains



Cornwallis planned to escape the trap at  
Yorktown by crossing the York River and moving  
north from Gloucester County  
Source: Leventhal Map Center, Boston Public  
Library

# Topography

## Key Takeaways

- The campus is made up of three topographic tiers: 1) high ground between el. 30-34', 2) mid ground between el. 10-30', and 3) low ground/research ground between el. 0-10'
- The steepness of the tiers means any new connections to the water should work with the grain of the terrain



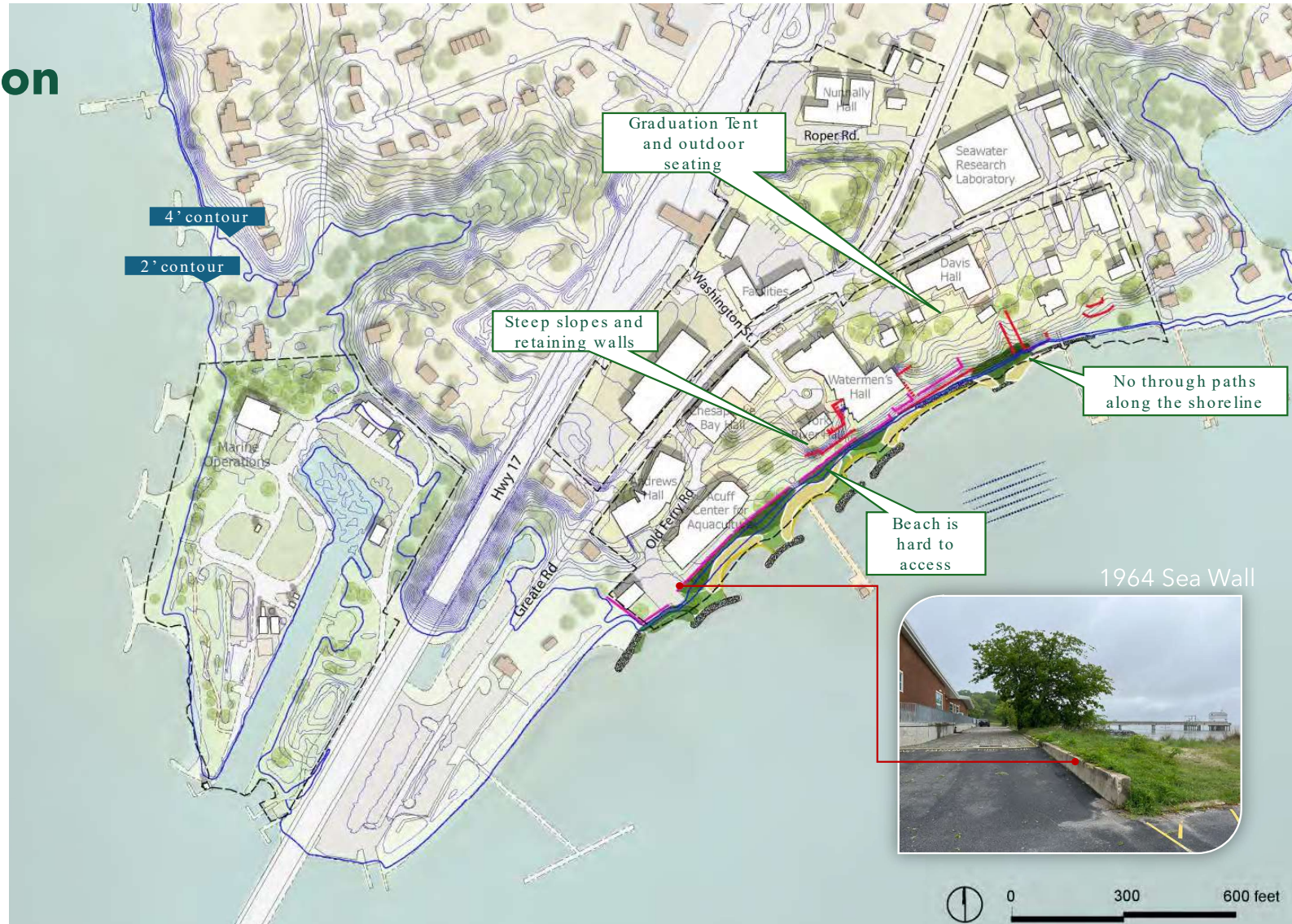
# Existing Condition Coastal Edge

## Key Takeaways

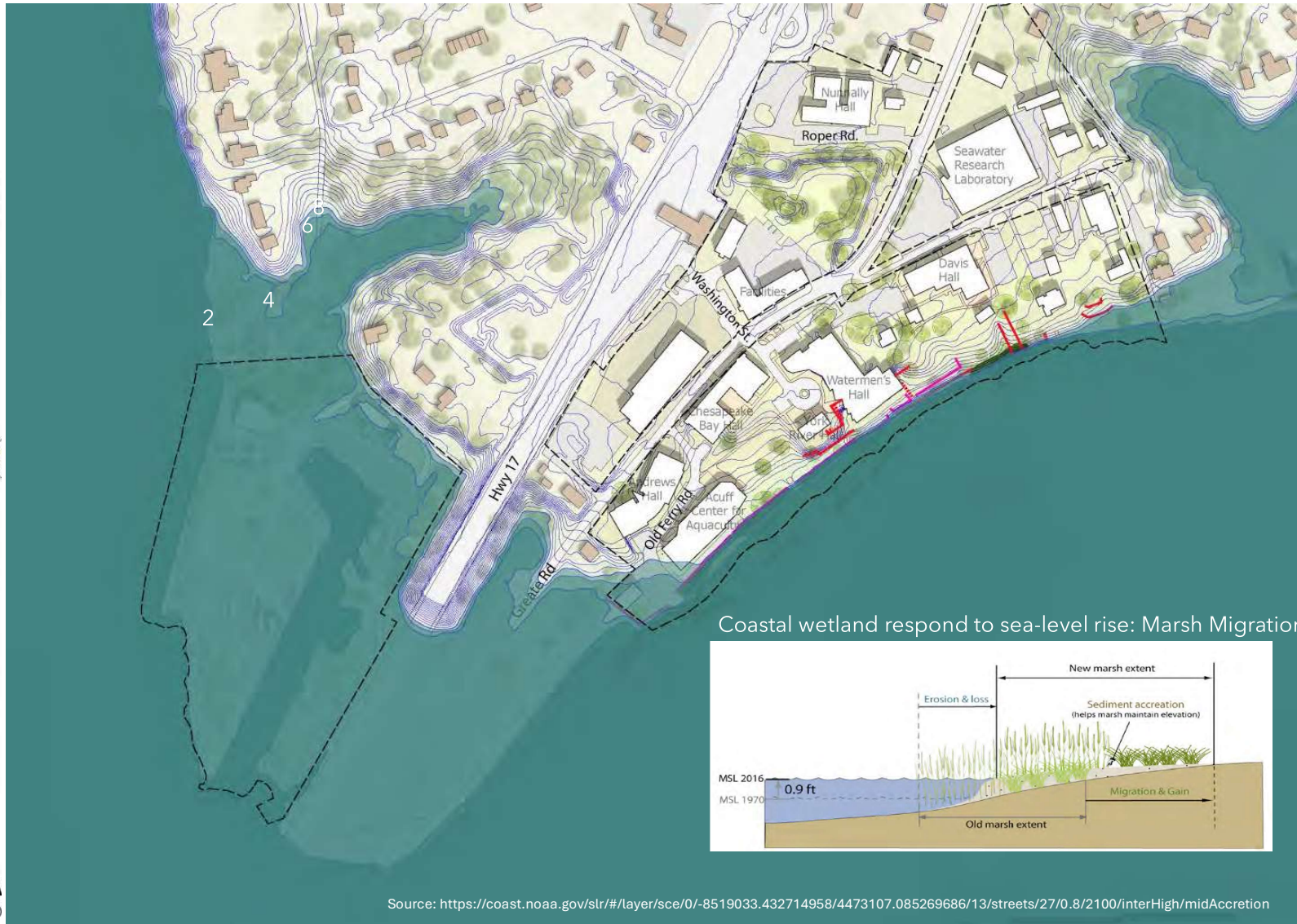
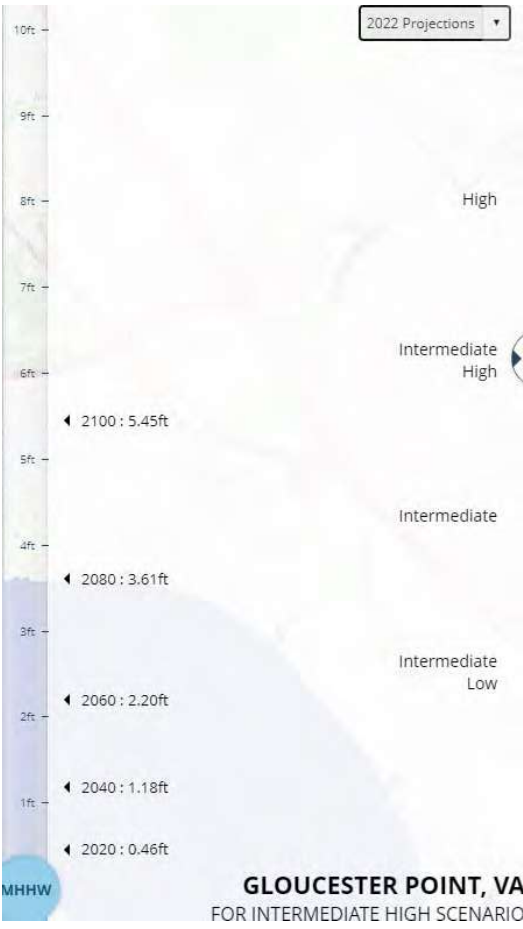
- The existing coastal edge is defined by a 1964 sea wall
- This concrete wall separates man-made lawns and “campus” landscapes from man-made coastal landscapes
- The coastal edge includes beaches, naturalized beachgrass areas, stone revetments, and thickets of woody plants
- **What coastal edge features are critical to education and research at VIMS?**

## Legend

- Stone Revetment
- Sand Beach
- Marsh
- Upper shore bushes and trees
- 1964 Sea Wall
- Retaining Wall
- Steps



# Shoreline and Sea-level Rise



Source: <https://coast.noaa.gov/slr/#/layer/sce/0/-8519033.432714958/4473107.085269686/13/streets/27/0.8/2100/interHigh/midAccretion>