About the Program
○ Old Dominion University, Mitigation and Adaptation Research Institute: Graduate Conservation Leadership Certificate Program
○ The Program has a research agenda in conservation under climate change and sea level rise
○ The internship includes working at the park to learn the intricate details of how the park is managed and completing a case study.

About the Internship
○ First Landing State Park is located in Virginia Beach, Virginia along the Chesapeake Bay.
○ The internship worked alongside park rangers and other staff to learn the intricate details of how the park functions.

The Wicked Problem
○ Assesses the impacts of climate change and sea level rise to address the potential impacts of the socio-economic role of the park for the Virginia Beach region.
○ The system of Virginia Beach and FLSP includes an economic balance that is fragile to societal changes threatening the park and community.

The Case Study
Climate Change and Sea-Level Rise: Potential Impacts on the Socio-Economic Role of First Landing State Park for the Region

The System

The Goal
To maintain FLSP’s natural land while providing educational and recreational activities for locals and tourists in order to maintain FLSP’s socio-economic role in the community.

Fragilities and Hazards
○ FLSP and local businesses are fragile to losing attraction and closure
○ Tourists are fragile to their desire and ability to travel
○ SLR is a hazard that will happen
○ Changing social pressures is a hazard
○ Economic growth and economic recessions are hazards

The Foresight
○ FLSP and Virginia Beach will become inundated from the sea
○ Economic growth and economic recessions are

The Recommendations
○ The recommendations made to First Landing State Park to address the impacts of climate change and sea level rise to address the potential impacts of the socio-economic role of the park for the Virginia Beach region.
○ It is recommended that the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and First Landing State Park:
  o Allow natural inundation to occur and use this natural process as an educational experience
  o The VDCR utilize current social media outlets to encourage tourism
  o FLSP works with an NGO to create a virtual community platform to facilitate knowledge sharing.
  o Take the virtual intervention of creating a new virtual space and include a membership fee for some of the content or costs for virtual programming.
  o FLSP allow and encourage local businesses to host booths on the park property to sell food or merchandise