Photos courtesy of MD DNR and Eastern Shore RC&D Council.

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**Why Are Shorelines Important?**

A shoreline is the interface between the land and the water. Nutrient/sediment runoff and habitat for fish/wildlife are affected by the characteristics of a shoreline. Many studies have shown that the coastal areas are declining in both water quality and habitat. One way to reverse the trend is to change the way we control shoreline erosion.

**What is a Living Shorelines Approach?**

It is a shoreline management practice that provides erosion control by protecting, restoring or enhancing natural shoreline habitat. Standard erosion control practices generally use rock or concrete to “harden” the shoreline. This approach is often effective at controlling erosion, but can increase nutrient and sediment run-off, and reduce habitat for fish and wildlife. The *Living Shorelines* approach controls erosion and maintains natural coastal characteristics through the strategic placement of plants, stone, sand fill and other materials.

**Are Living Shorelines Effective at Erosion Control?**

Yes, *Living Shorelines* can be very effective, especially if designed and built to address site specific issues and dynamics. To receive a copy of *Assessing the Effectiveness of Non-structural and Hybrid Erosion Control Measures* contact the Maryland Chesapeake & Coastal Program. *Living Shorelines* can be implemented on virtually any shoreline property. There are some instances however, where erosion control is best achieved with standard methods. The “energy environment” (strength of waves and exposure to storms) plays a large role in determining what method is most appropriate. The three categories of shore erosion control are outlined below.

### NON-STRUCTURAL

**Energy Environment:** Low  
**Project Types:** Marsh plantings on existing substrate or fill, beach nourishment  
**Project Aspects:** Habitat restoration/creation achieved without structures; limited erosion control.

### HYBRID

**Energy Environment:** Medium  
**Project Types:** Continuous sills, low profile & segmented sills, marshy islands, coir fiber log or stone edging, and groins with planting  
**Project Aspects:** Habitat restoration/creation assisted with structures; erosion control & habitat benefits variable depending on project selected.

### STRUCTURAL

**Energy Environment:** High  
**Project Types:** Headland control and breakwaters with sand fill and/or plantings.  
**Project Aspects:** Primarily address erosion control concerns; habitat enhancements are limited, but can be achieved through careful design.

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**Typical Project Costs**  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Energy Environment</th>
<th>Low Energy</th>
<th>Medium Energy</th>
<th>High Energy</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$150 - $250</td>
<td>$250 - $400</td>
<td>$450 - $600</td>
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<td>$750 - $1,500</td>
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**Request More Information**

- I would like to know if my shoreline is suitable for a *Living Shoreline* project.  
- I would like to know about assistance available to explore a Living Shoreline project on my property.  
- I am interested in speaking with someone about specific living shorelines questions or other resources (publications, mapping tools, etc.)

**Comments:**

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**Name:** ___________________________________

**Address:** ____________________________________

**Telephone:** _______________________________  

**Email:** ___________________________________