

# Living Shorelines Professionals' Training

*February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010*

## Medium-Energy Systems and Sills

*Gene Slear*

*Environmental Concern Inc.*





# Environmental Concern Inc.

Mission – improve water quality and enhance habitat by promoting

- Restoration of wetlands and the construction of new wetlands,
- Stewardship of wetlands through education and outreach
- Native species horticulture





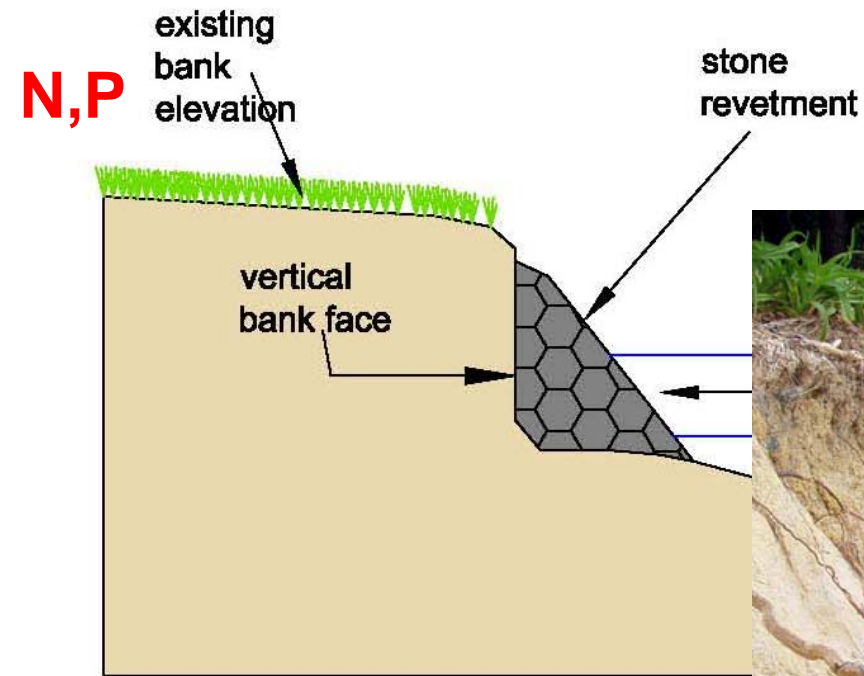
# Living Shoreline

The Living Shoreline is a wetland (tidal marsh), restored/constructed at the terrestrial/aquatic interface in order to recreate the natural functions of a shoreline ecosystem and to stabilize the bank.

The Living Shoreline design is a specific approach to shoreline stabilization intended to maximize primary productivity - thereby improving water quality and living resource habitat.



# Rip-Rap-Typical Section





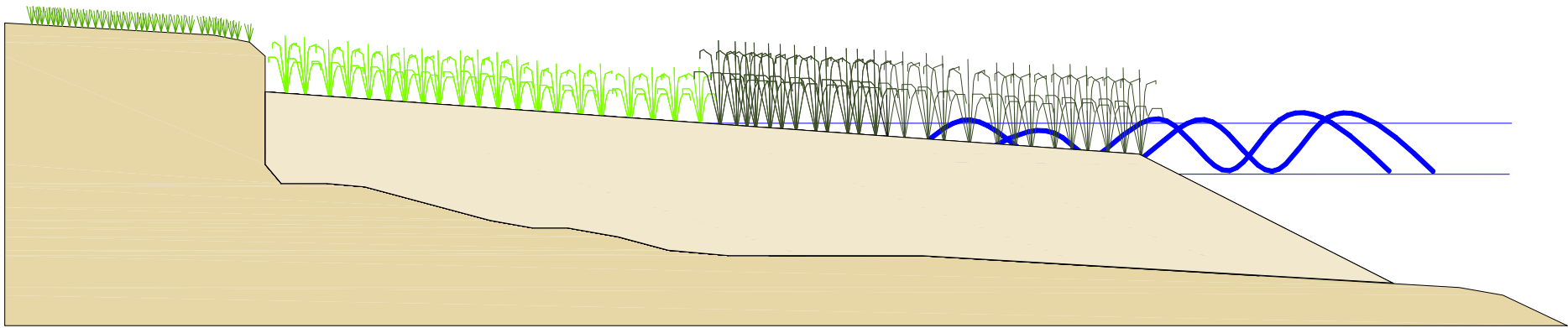






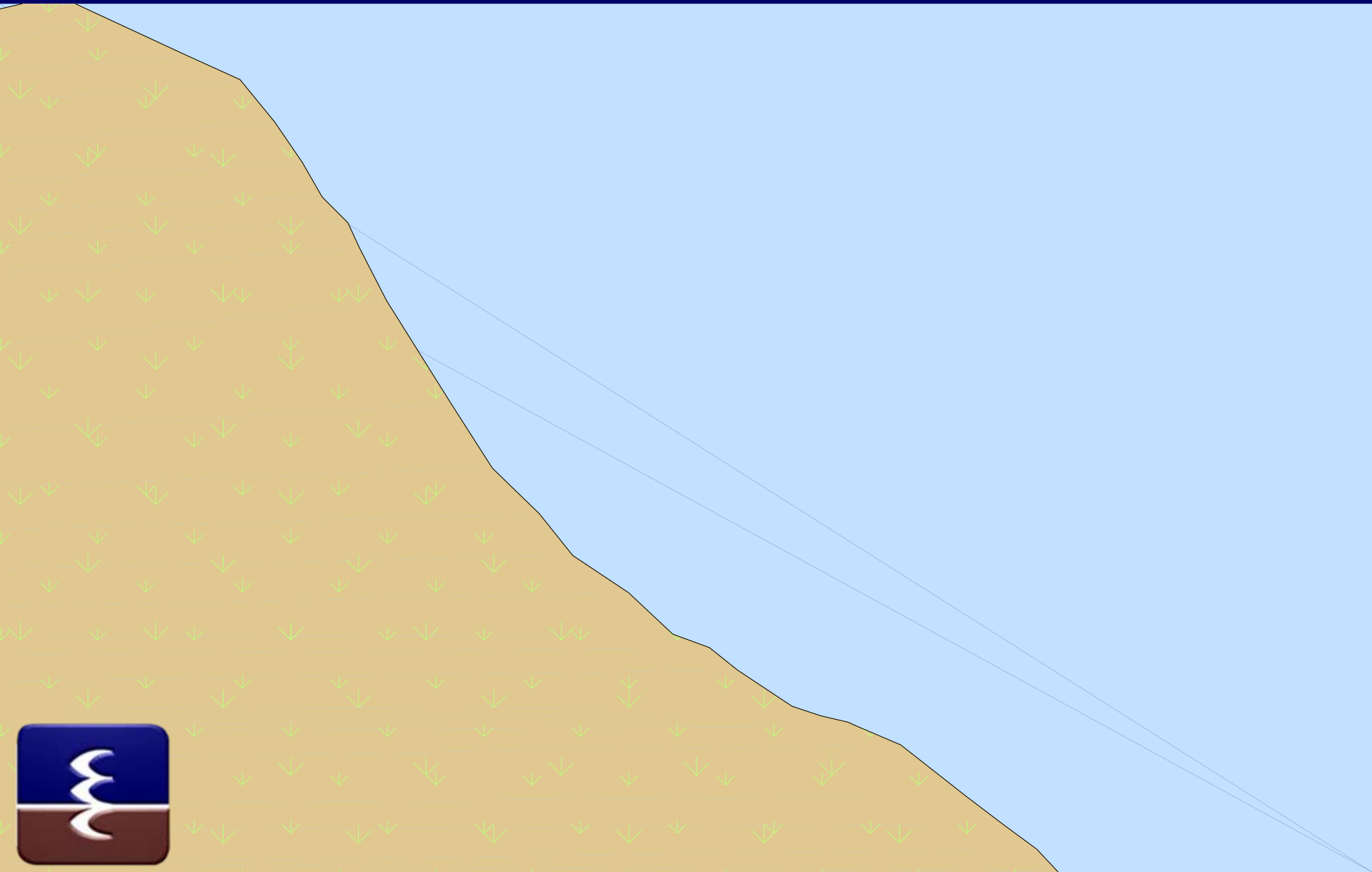


# Sand Fill



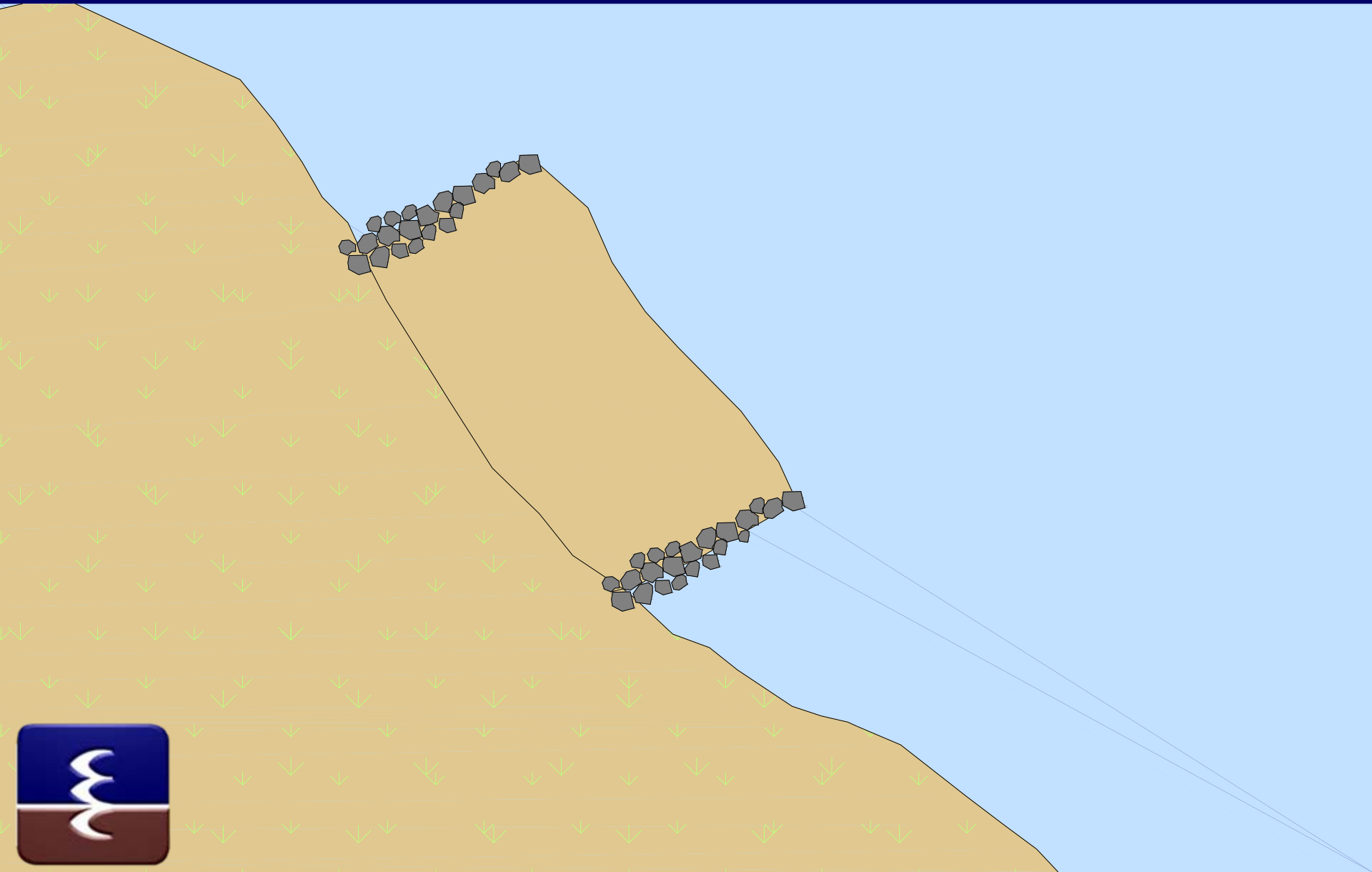


# Stone Groin

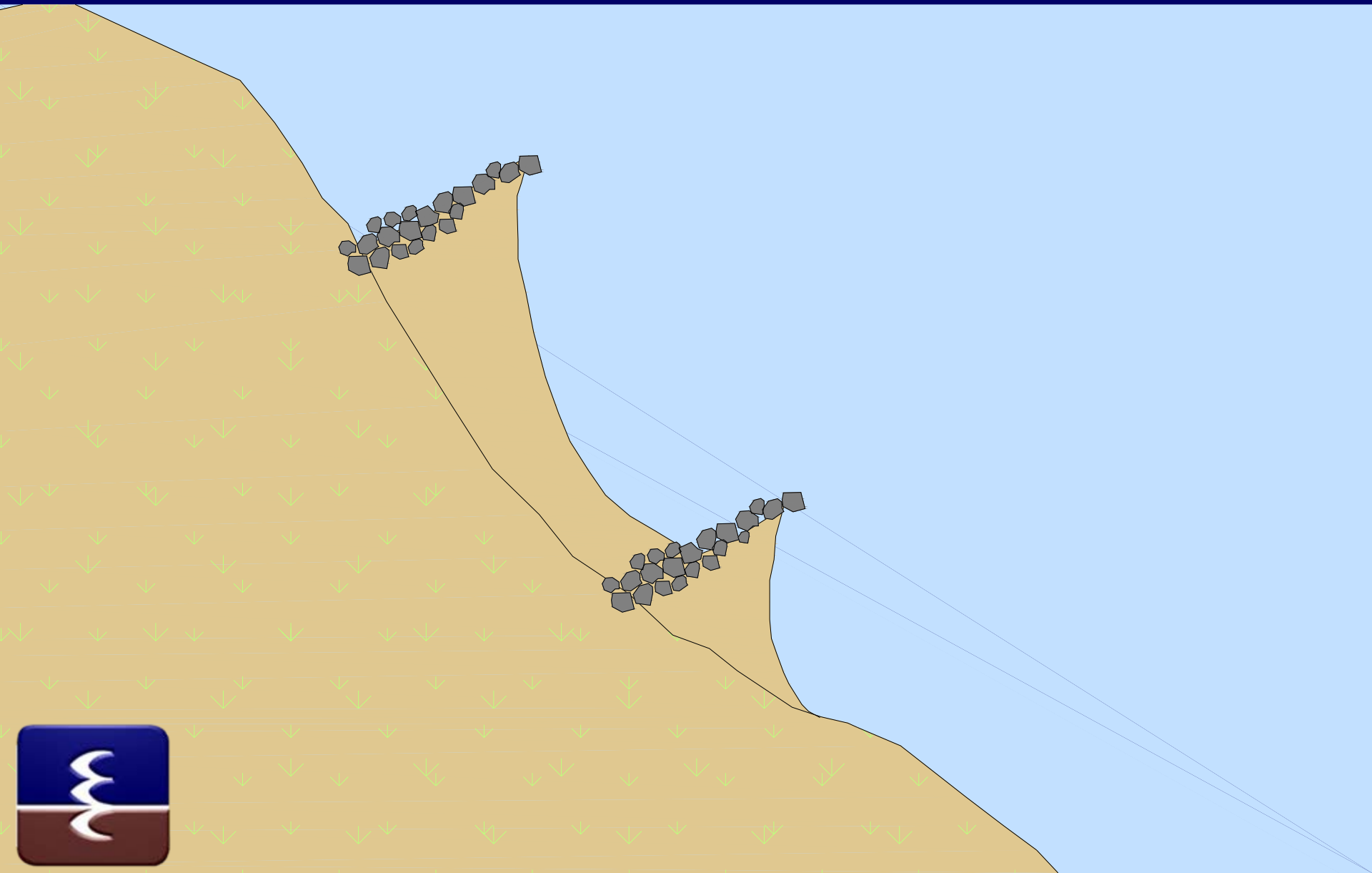




# Stone Groin



# Stone Groin









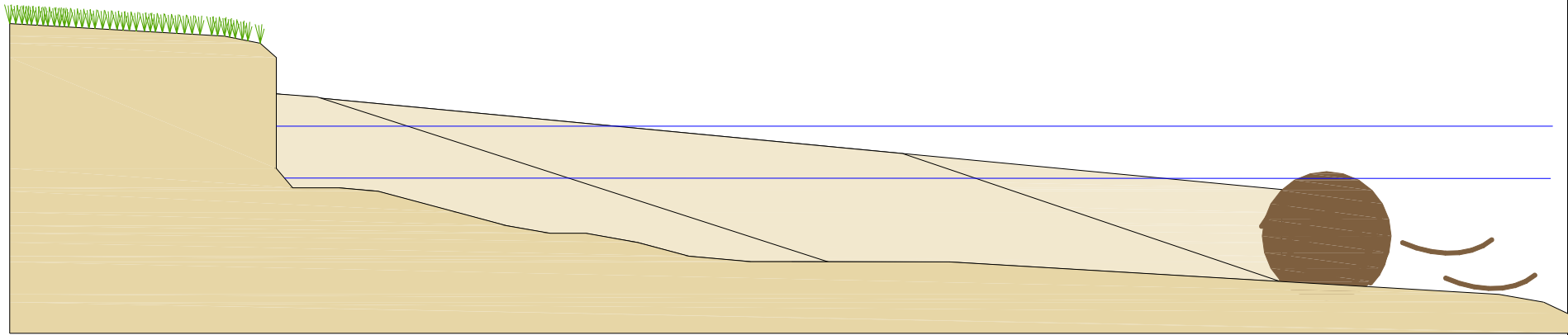








# Biolog





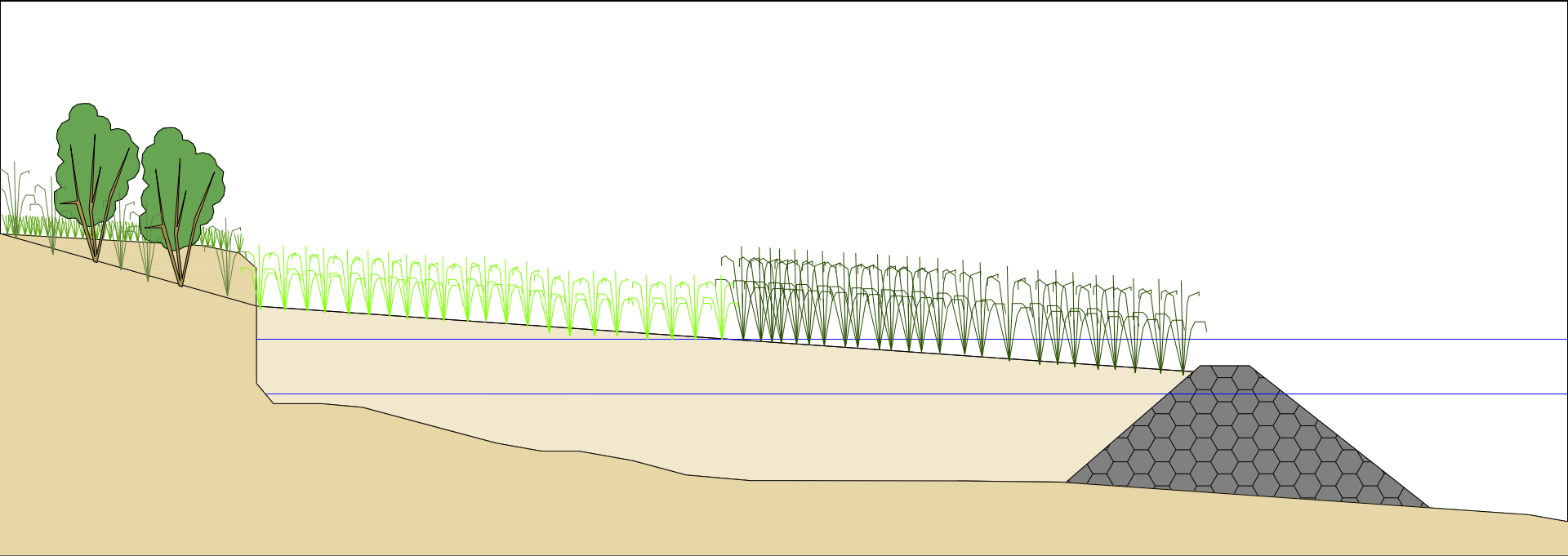








# Low Profile Stone Containment Structure



Sill



# Functions and Values of the Living Shoreline



Shoreline  
Stabilization



Water Quality



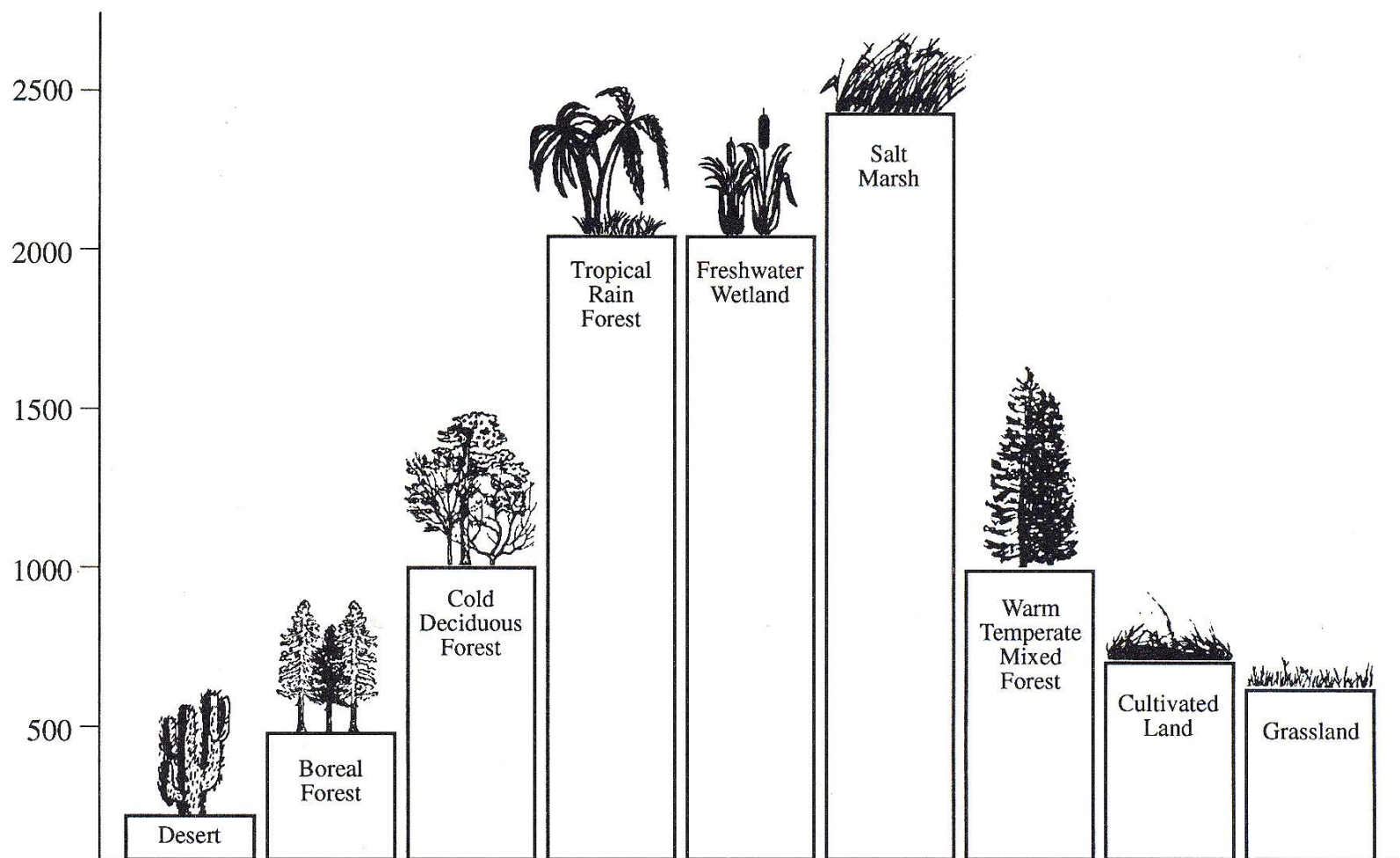
Productivity

Habitat  
Enhancement





# Primary Productivity



Net Primary Productivity of Selected Ecosystems ( $\text{g/m}^2/\text{year}$ )

adapted from Lieth (1975) and Teal (1969)



# Habitat Enhancement

## Diverse Ecosystem

- More than half of the commercially useful fish depend on the coastal marshes as spawning beds, hatcheries, nurseries or feeding grounds

(Tiner and Burke 1995; Kesselheim and Slattery 1995, Adams et. al. 1987)





Salt Marsh traps silt and pollutants  
contained in stormwater runoff **AND** in the  
receiving waters (Knutson et al. 1982; Tiner and Burke 1995).





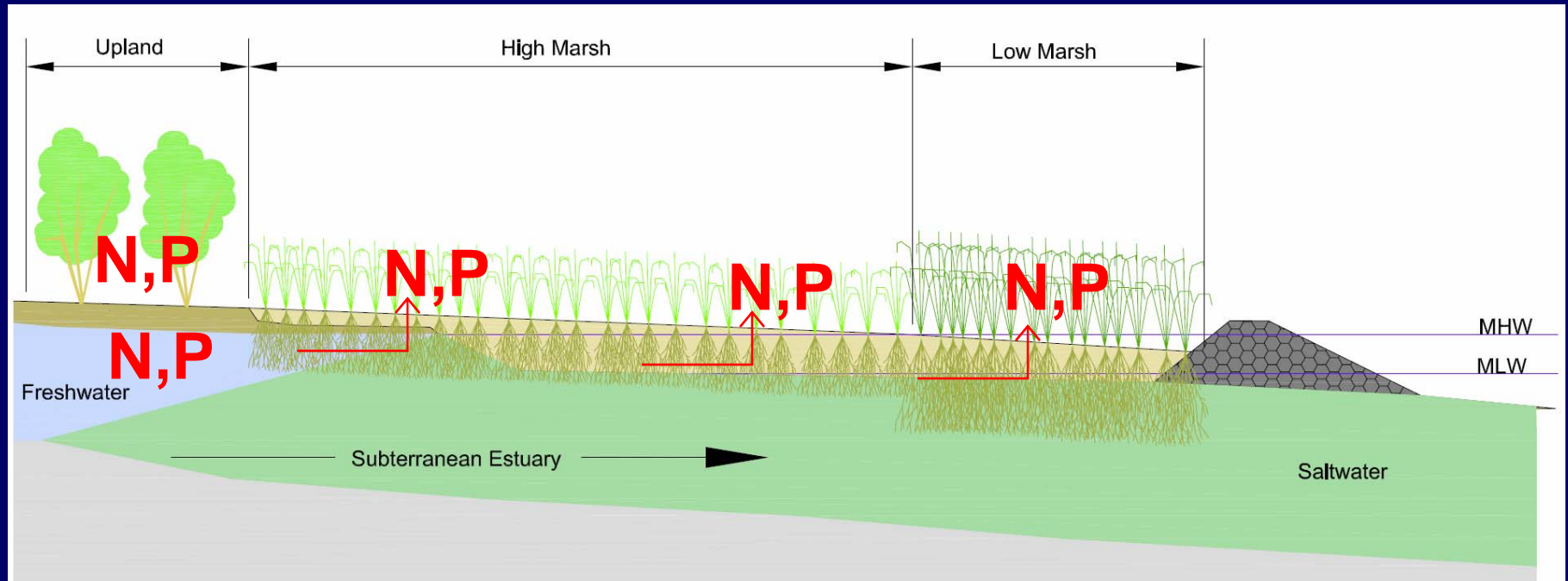
# Water Quality

- Uptake Nutrients
- Filter Pollutants
- Trap Sediments





# Nutrient Removal



- Filtration
- Denitrification
- Uptake & Sequestration

# Shoreline Stabilization

- Energy
  - Fetch (Velocity)
  - Mass (Depth)
- Sunlight
- Elevation







10 miles

# Fetch

The distance wind travels – undisturbed – over open water



# Functions & Values

## Shoreline Stabilization:

Results showed that *Spartina alterniflora* marshes significantly reduced wave height and erosional energy.

Wave height was reduced by:

- 50% within the first 5m of marsh
- 95% after crossing 30m of marsh

(Knutson et al. 1982)





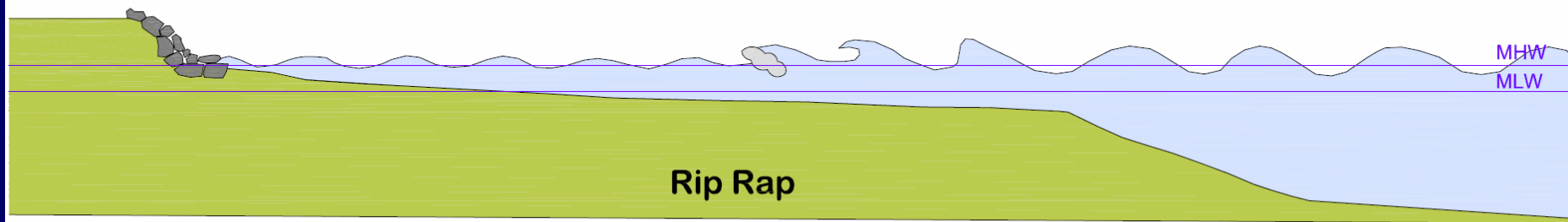
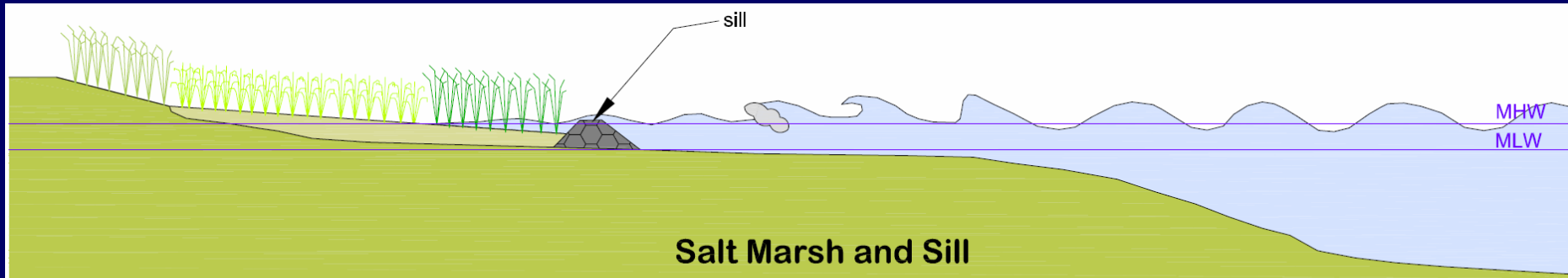
# Wave Attenuation

The reduction in wave height (wave attenuation) and thus the severity of the impact at the upland bank is a function of :

- Interaction with the bottom
- Interaction with the sill structure
- Interaction with marsh vegetation

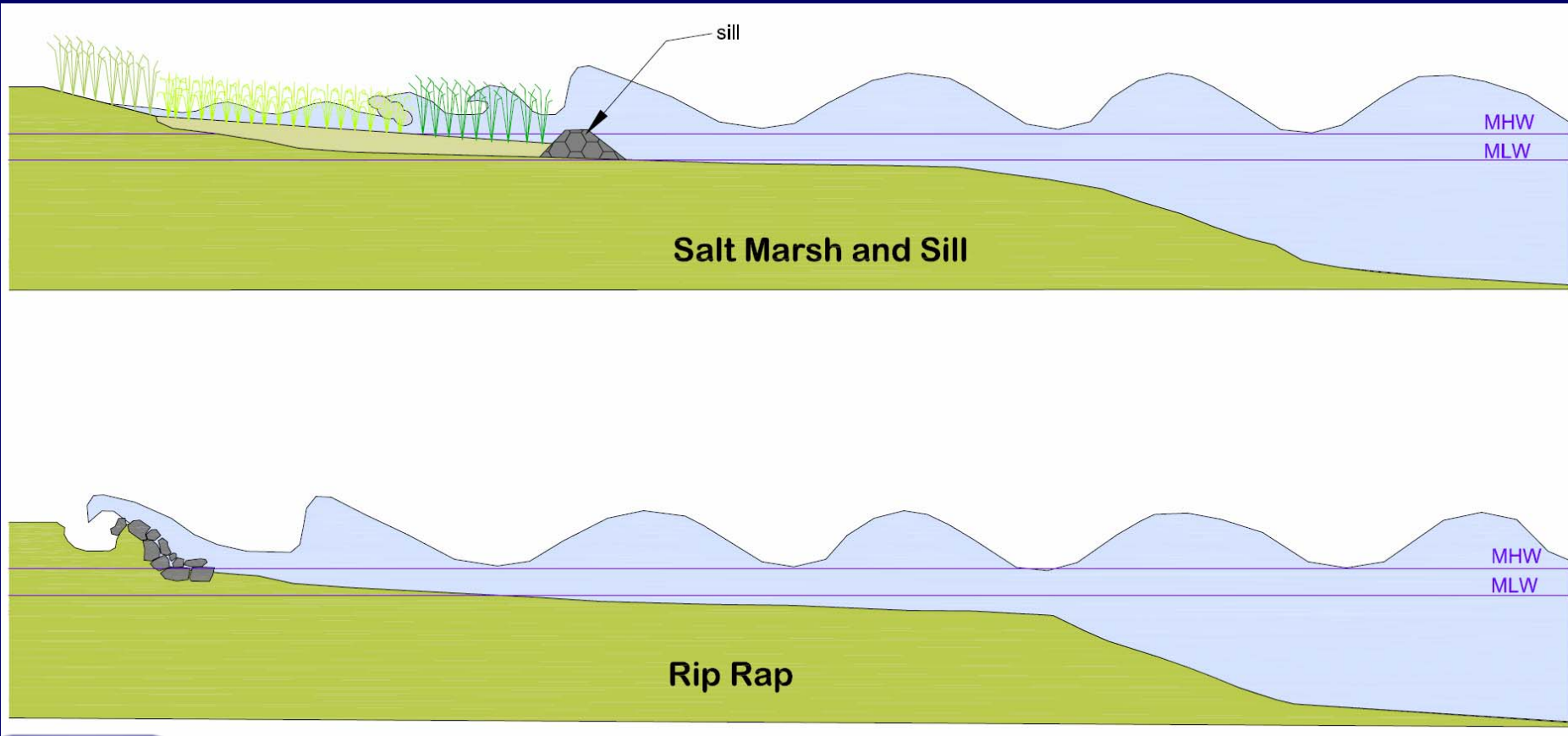


# Typical wave height

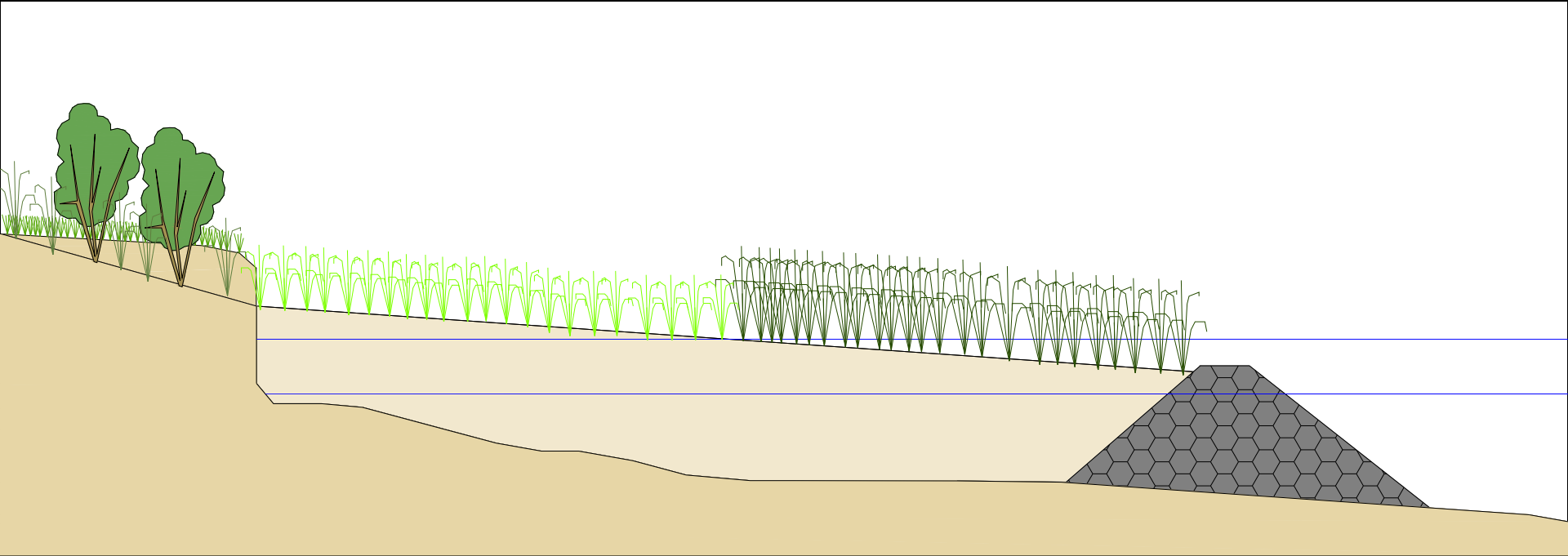




# Storm tide



# Low Profile Stone Containment Structure



Sill



# Wave Attenuation

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# Sill Height is a function of Fetch & Bathymetry





# Short Fetch – Shallow Bottom Lower Sill Elevation

High Tide



Low Tide





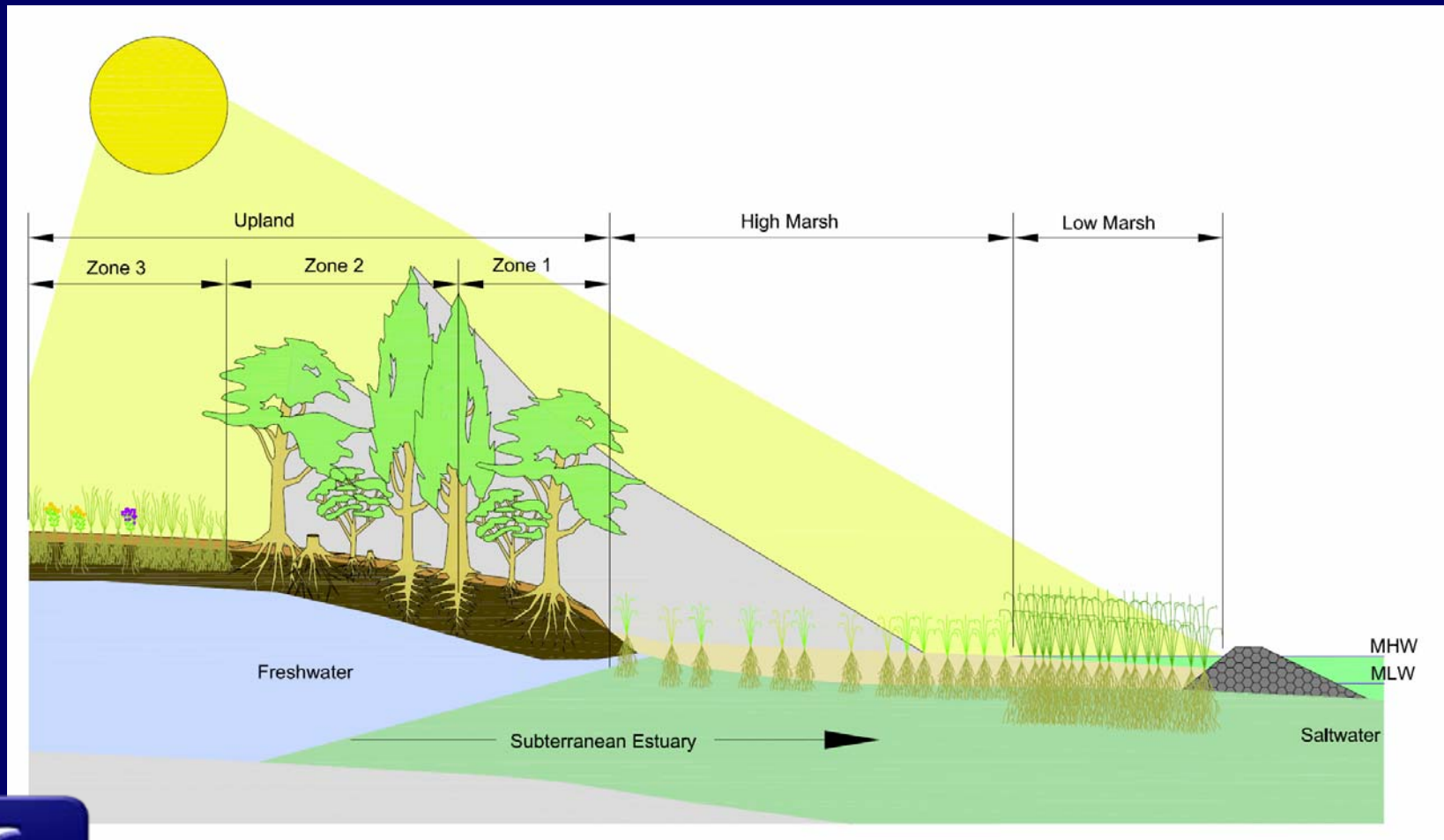
# Shoreline Stabilization

- Energy
  - Fetch (Velocity)
  - Mass (Depth)
- Sunlight
- Elevation

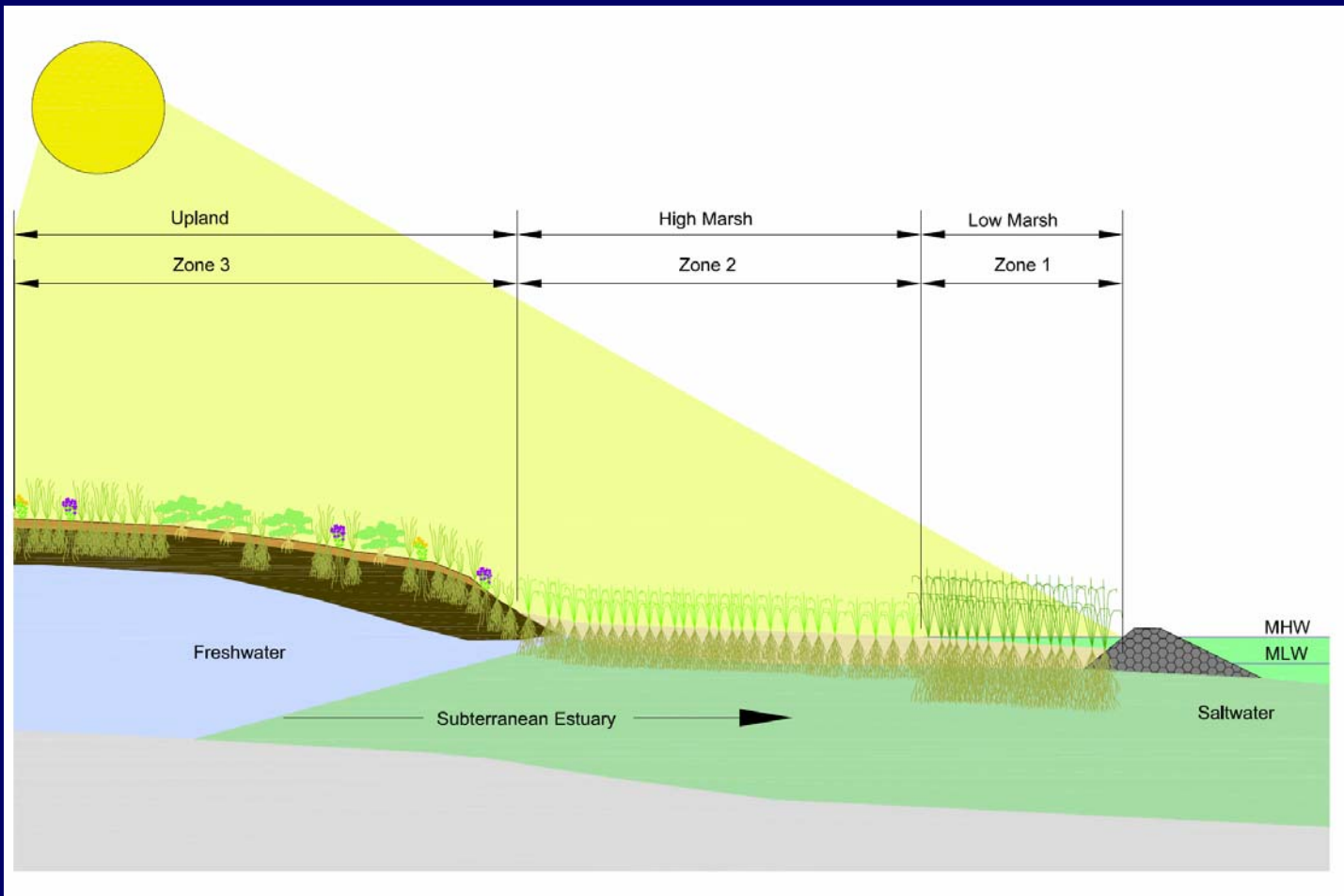




# Shade reduces health and function of marsh plantings



# Bayscape shrubs and warm season grasses do not shade marsh





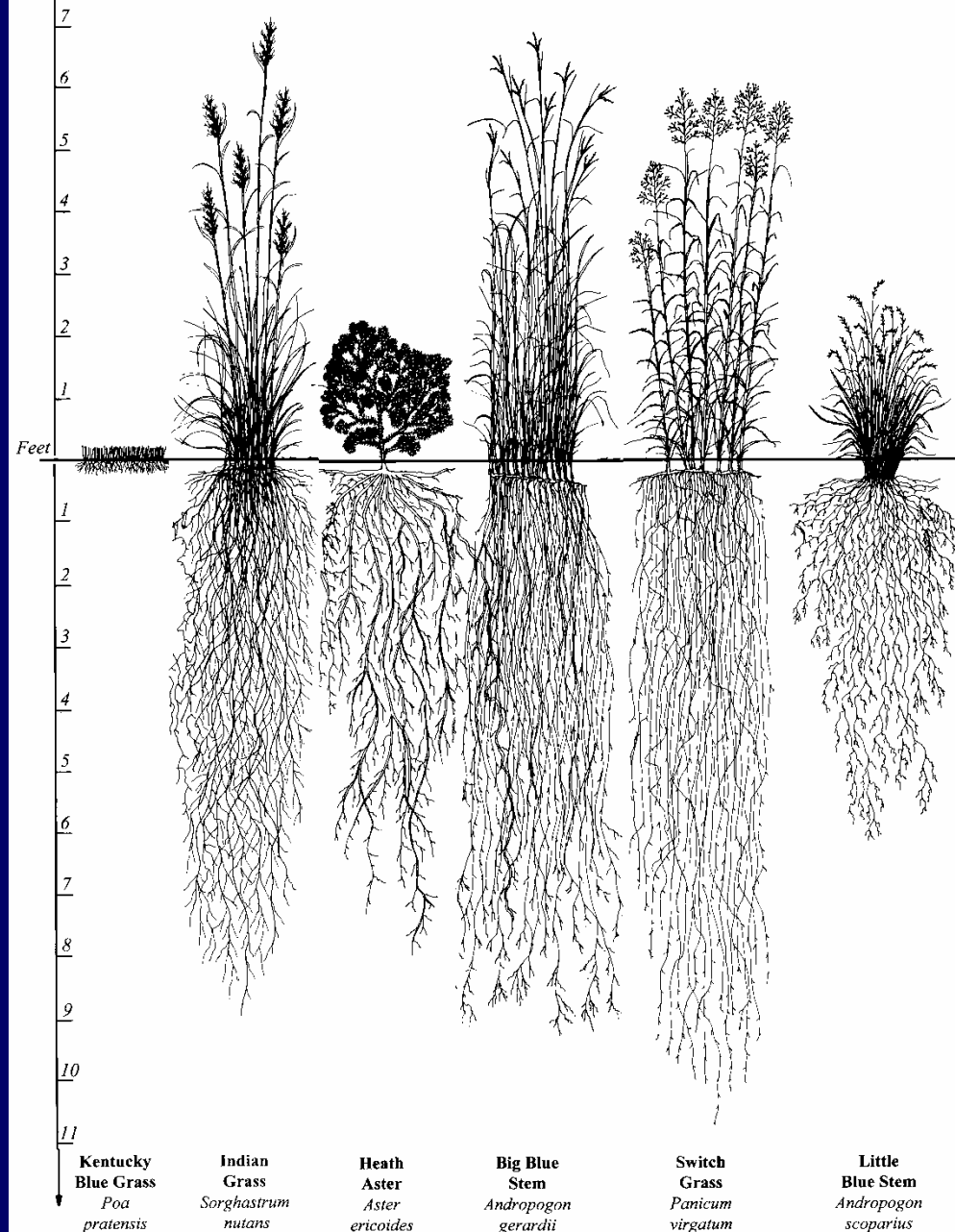




# Native Warm Season Grasses

## Benefits:

- Stabilizes the soil and controls erosion.
- Reduces sediments, nutrients and other harmful pollutants from runoff entering receiving waters.
- Maintains an area of transitional habitat between aquatic and upland communities
- Provides wildlife habitat.
- Minimizes adverse effects of human activity on tidal waters and aquatic resources.









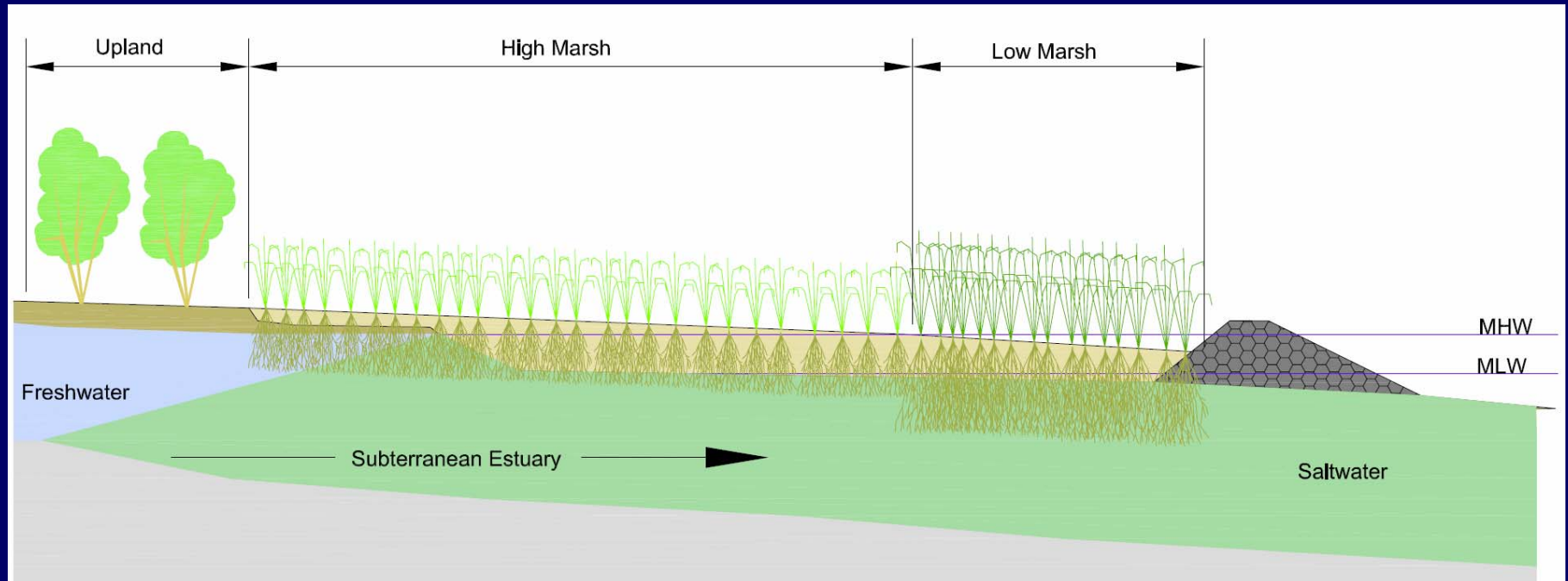
# Shoreline Stabilization

- Energy
  - Fetch (Velocity)
  - Mass (Depth)
- Sunlight
- Elevation





# Proper Elevation



- Low Marsh - *Spartina alterniflora*
- High Marsh – *Spartina patens*
- Upland (Bayscape) – *Panicum virgatum*, *Morella cerifera*



# Tidal Flushing

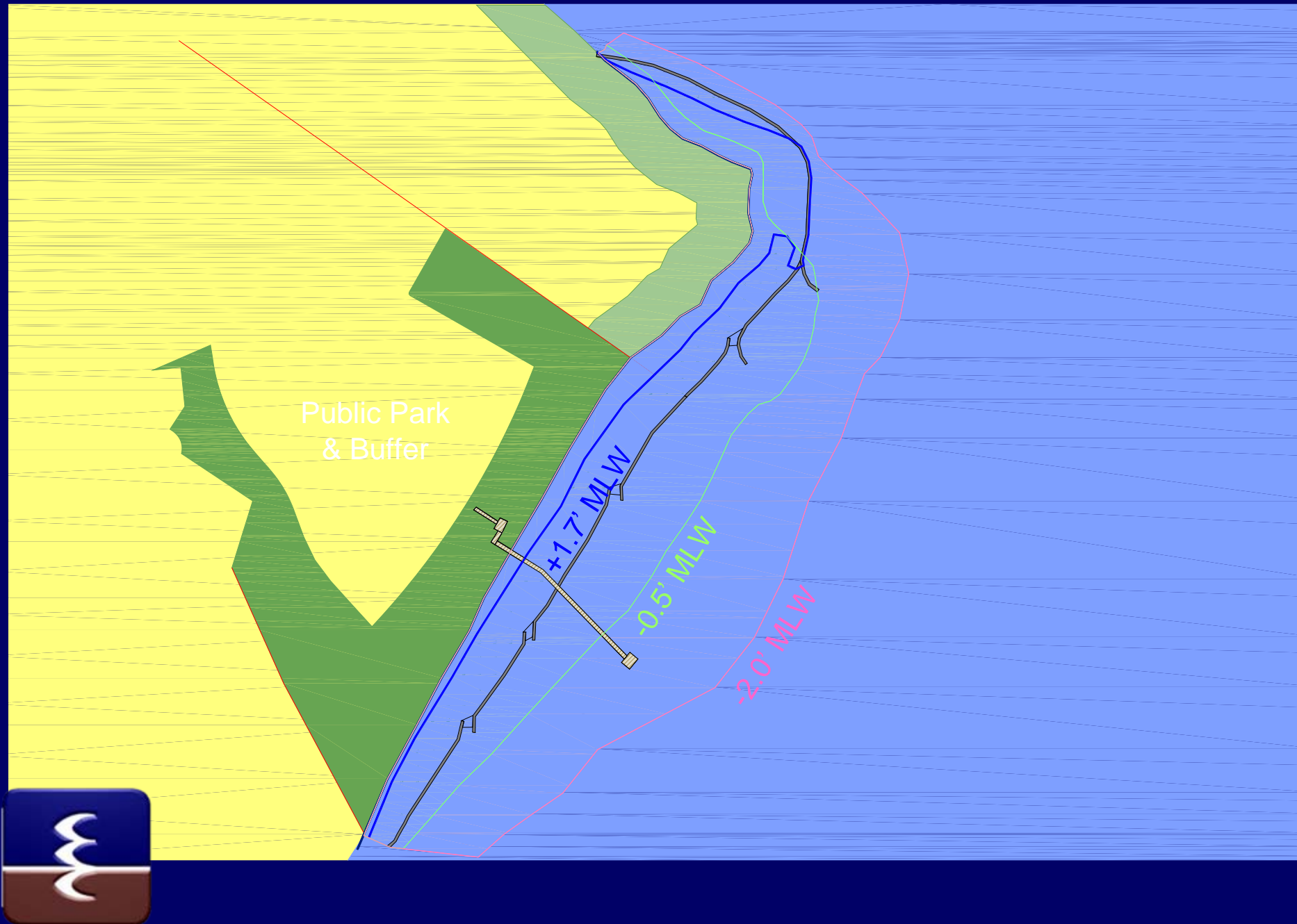


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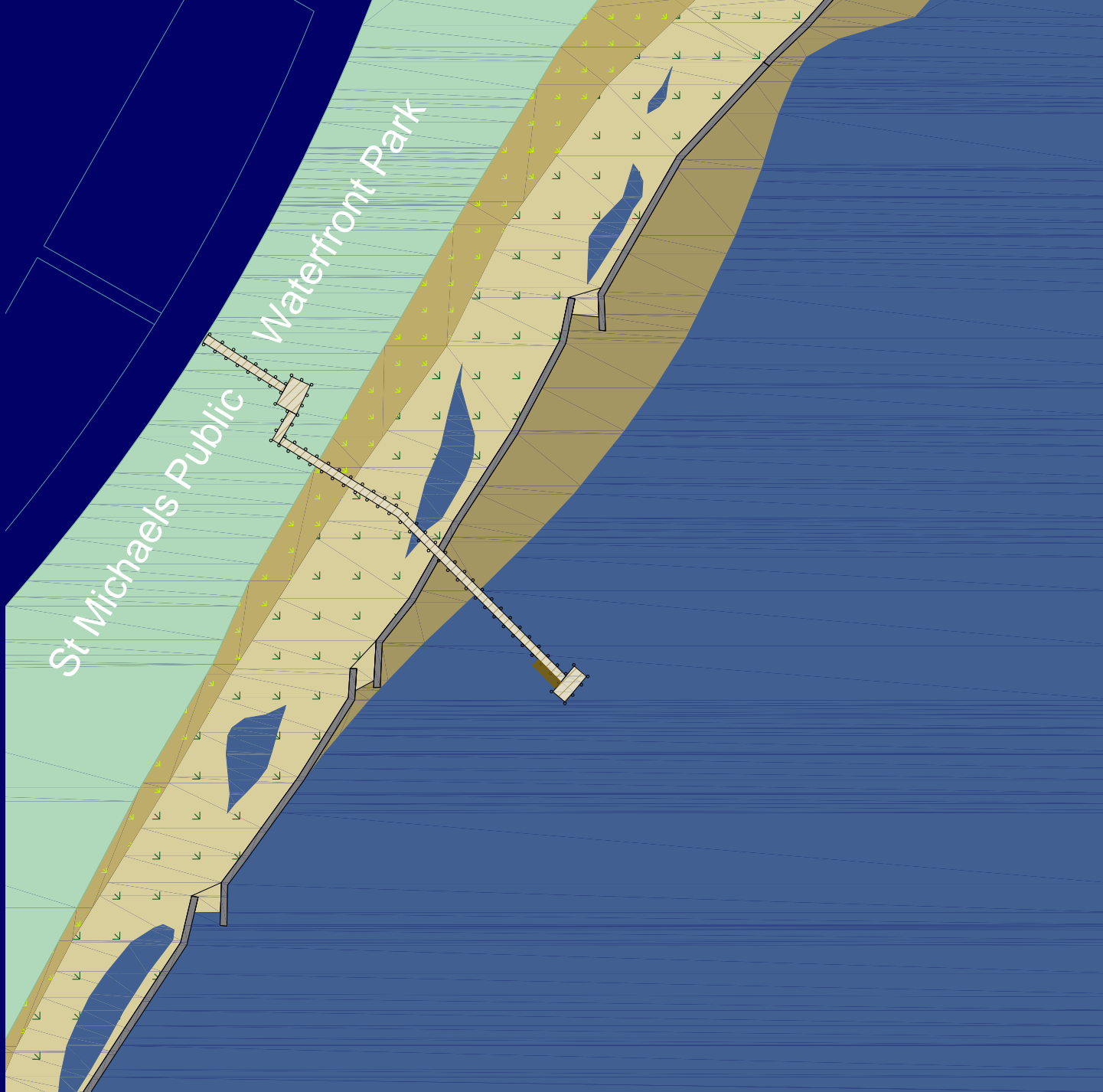


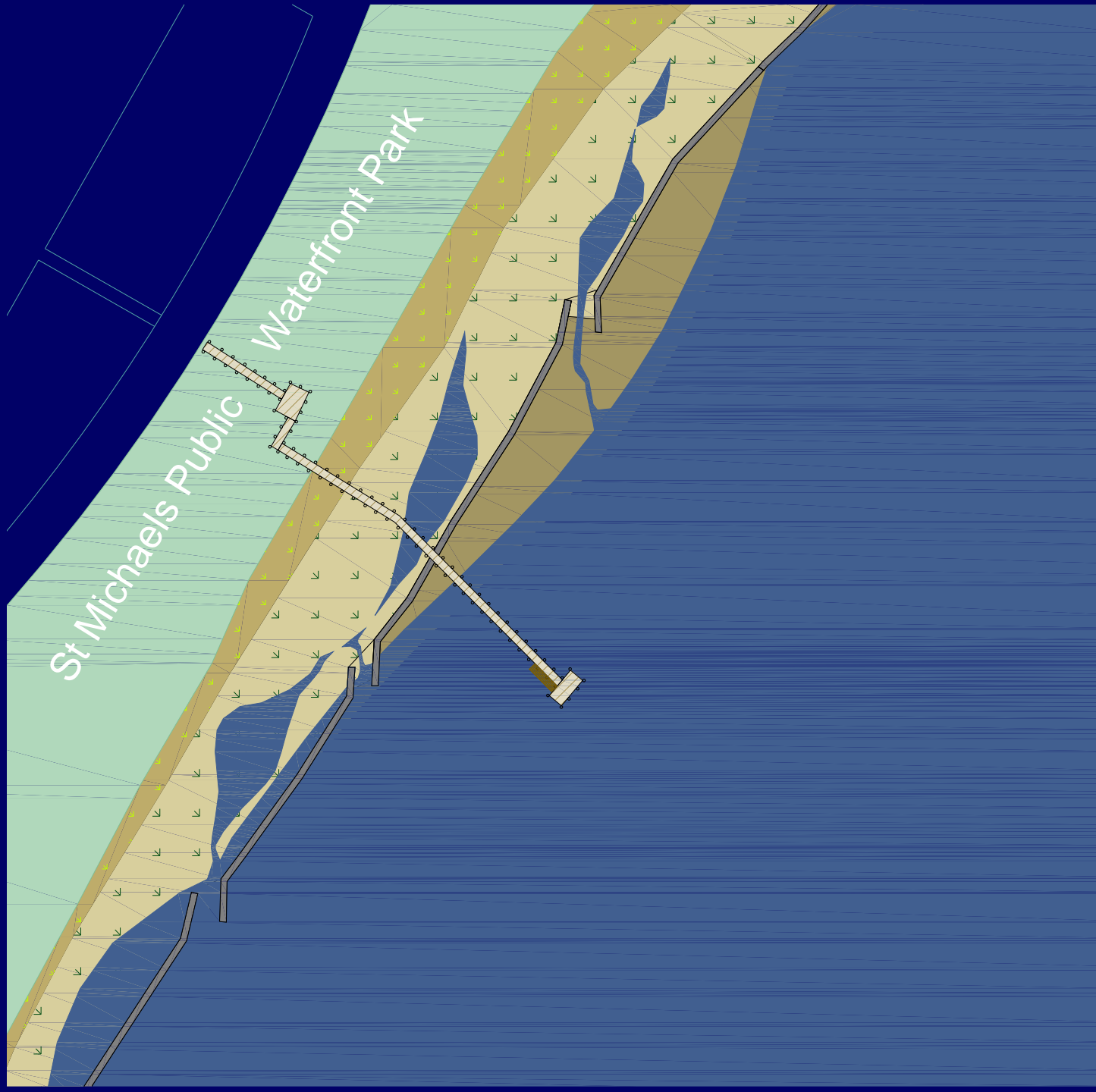




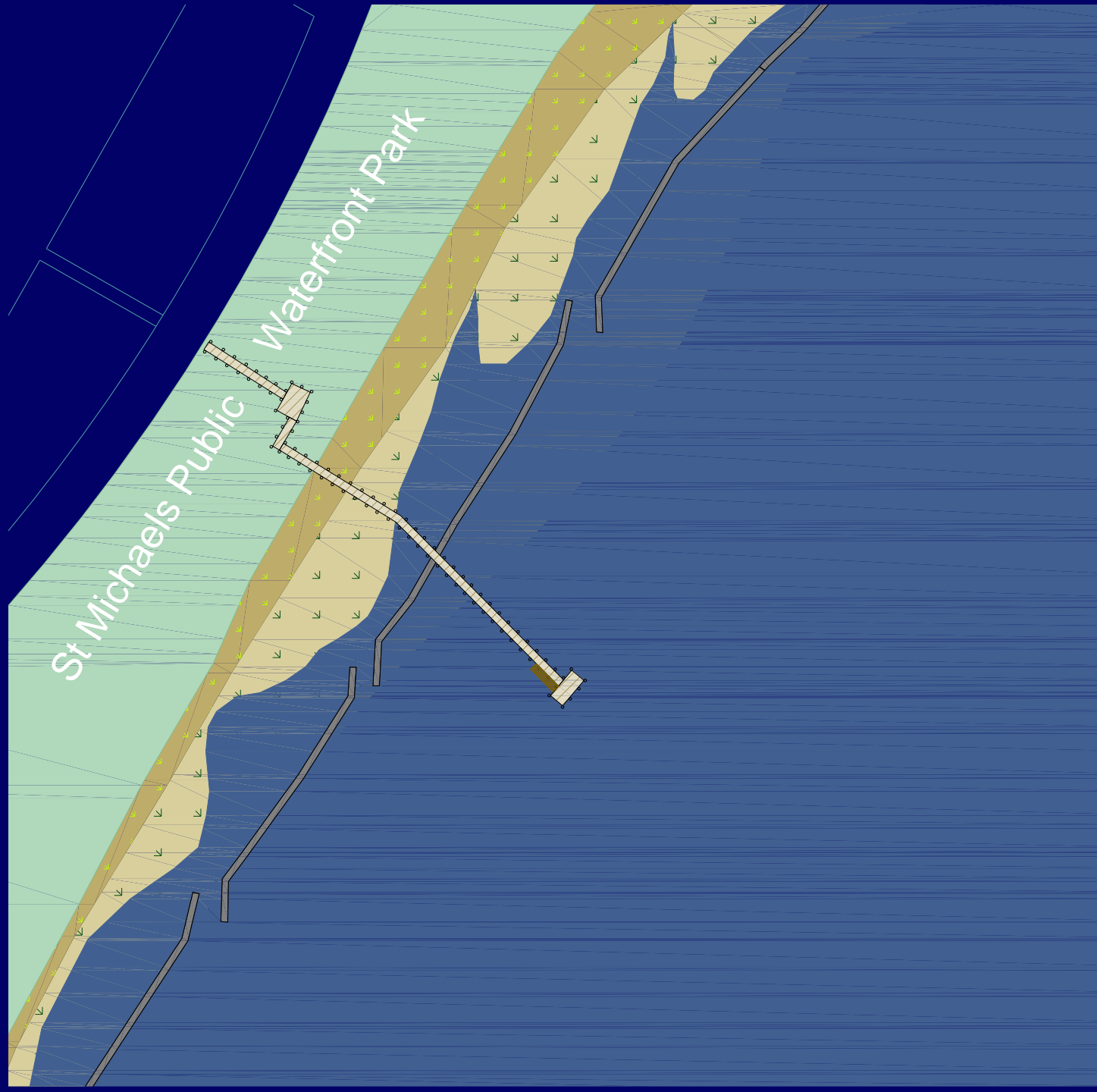


# St Michaels Public Waterfront Park

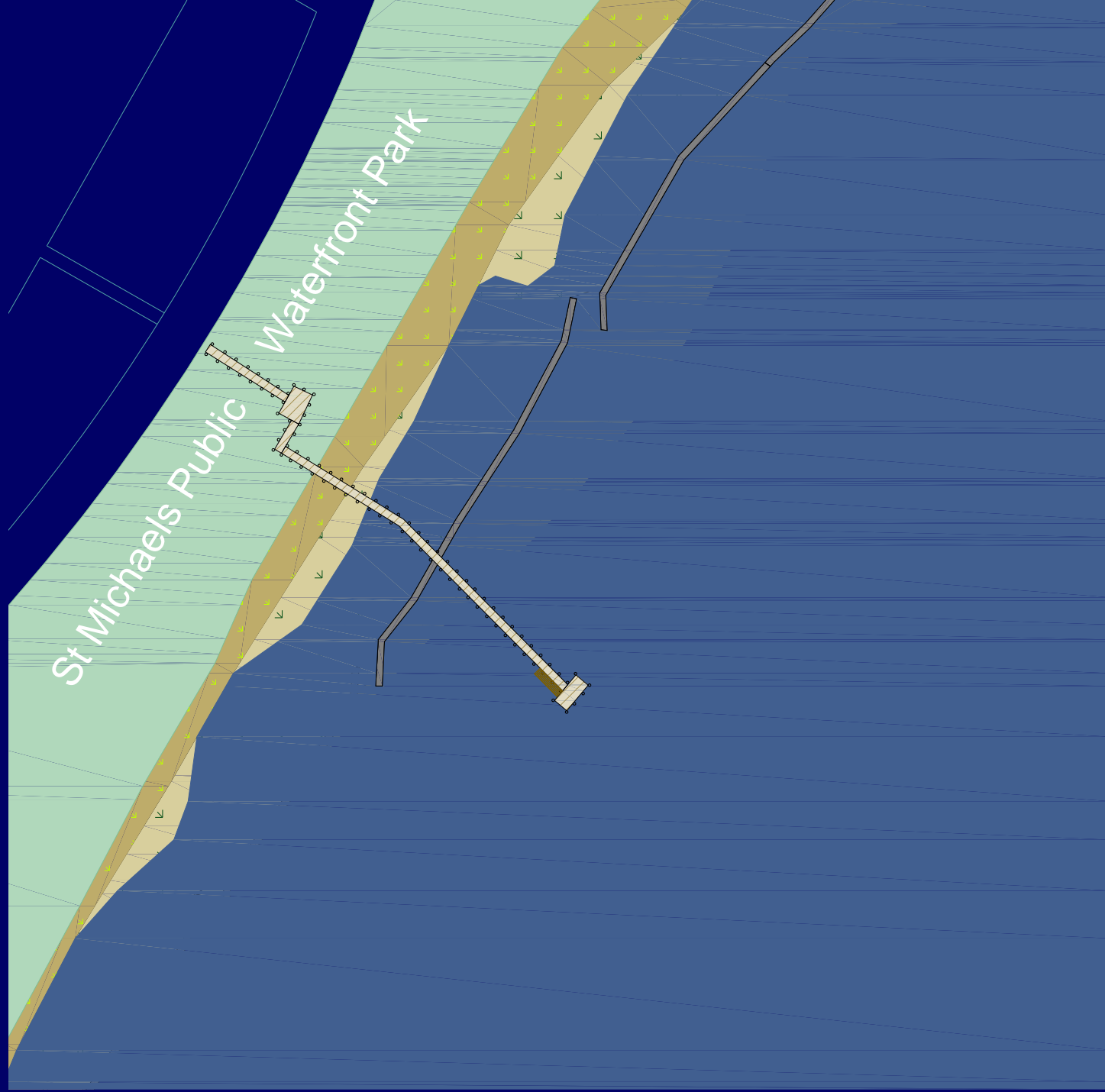








St Michaels Public Waterfront Park

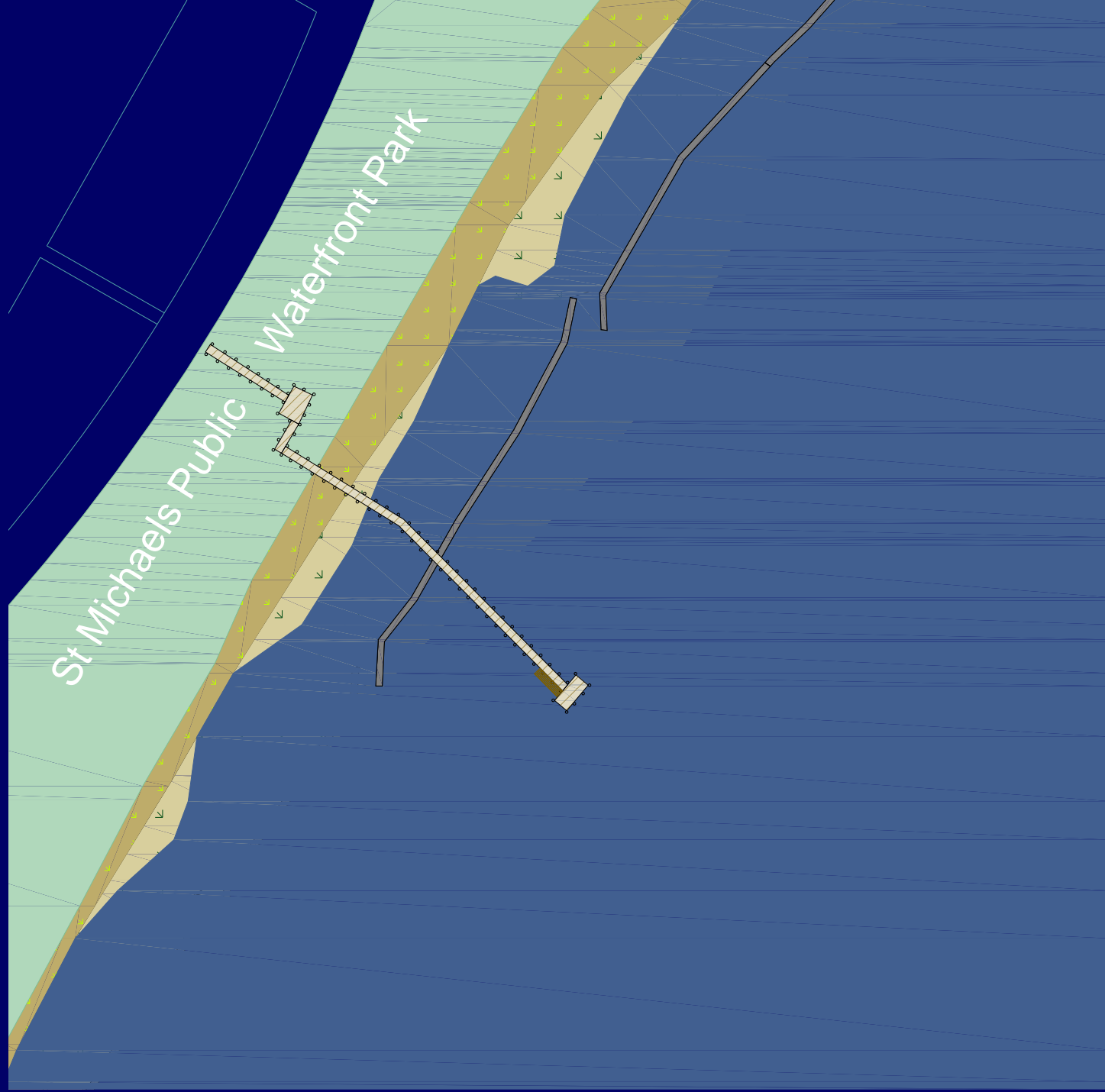




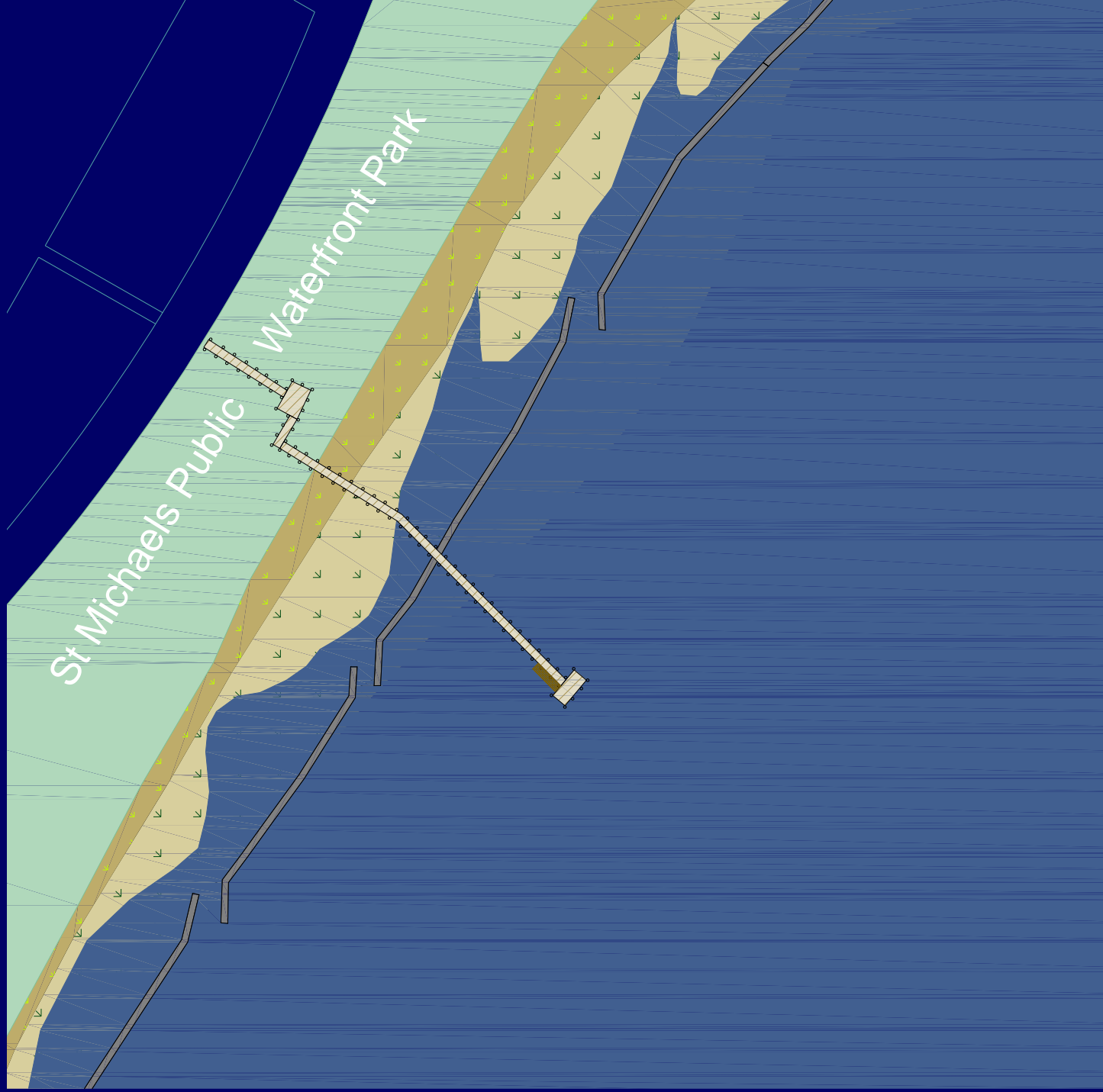
St Michaels Public Waterfront Park

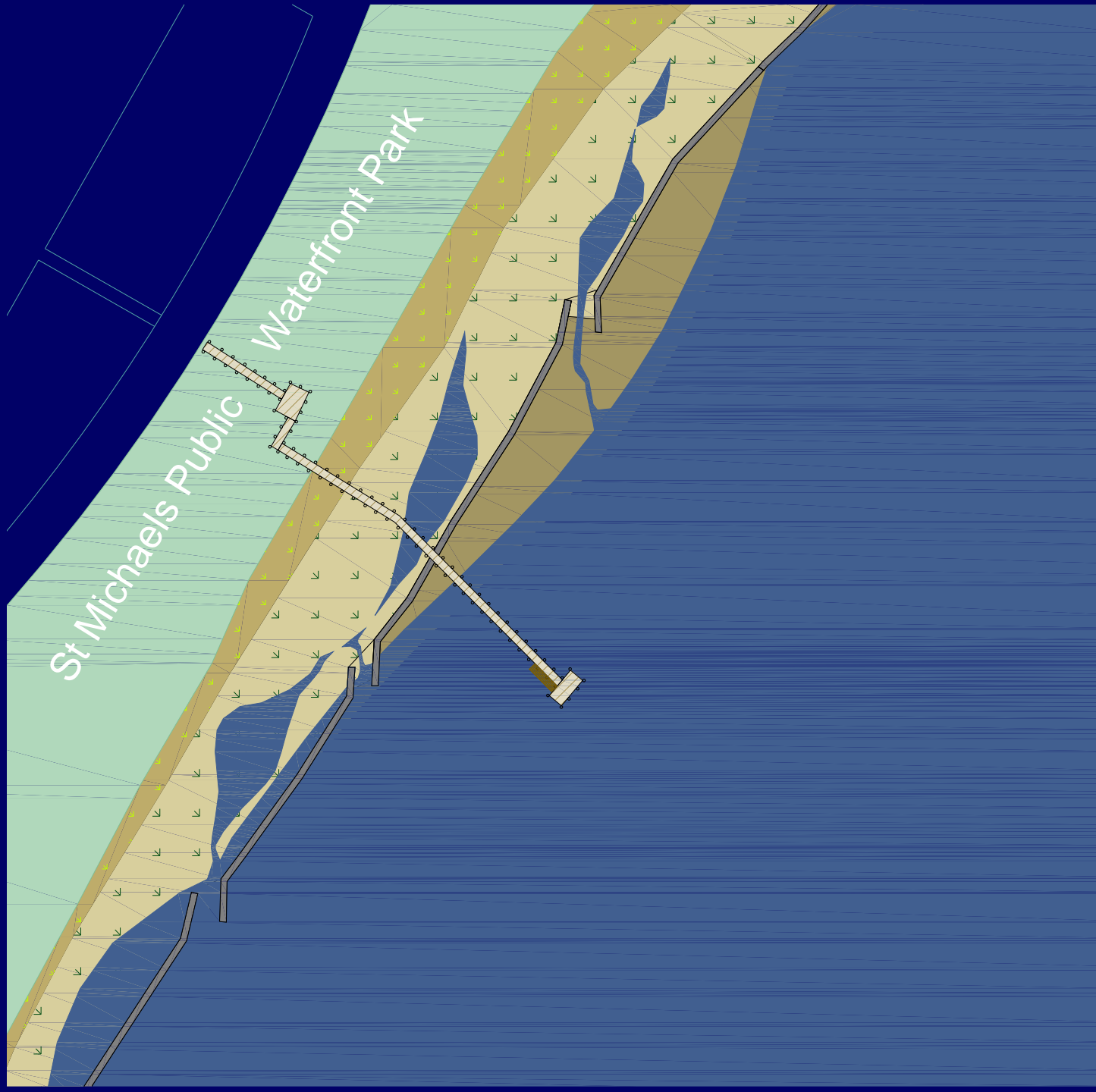


St Michaels Public Waterfront Park



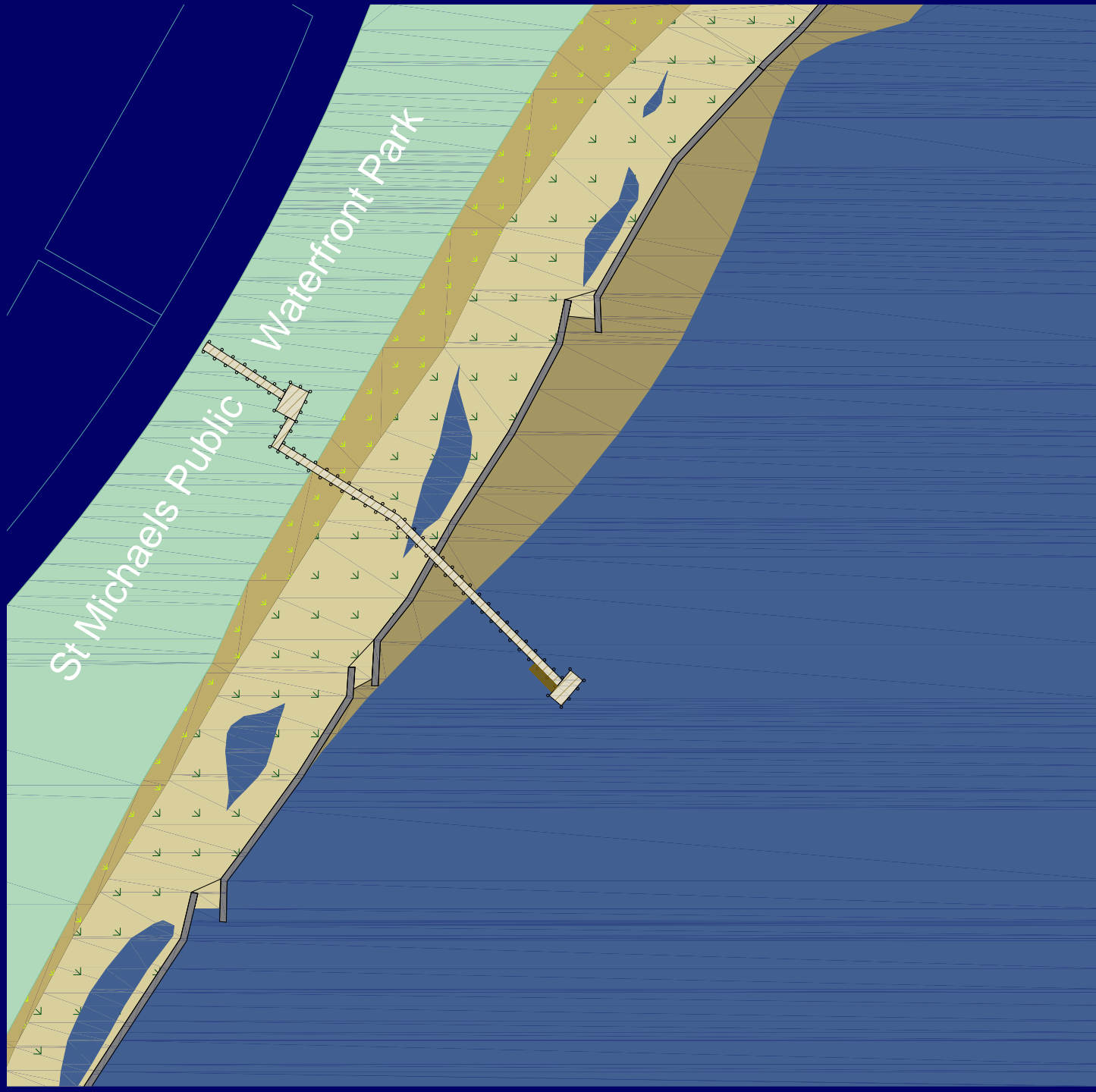




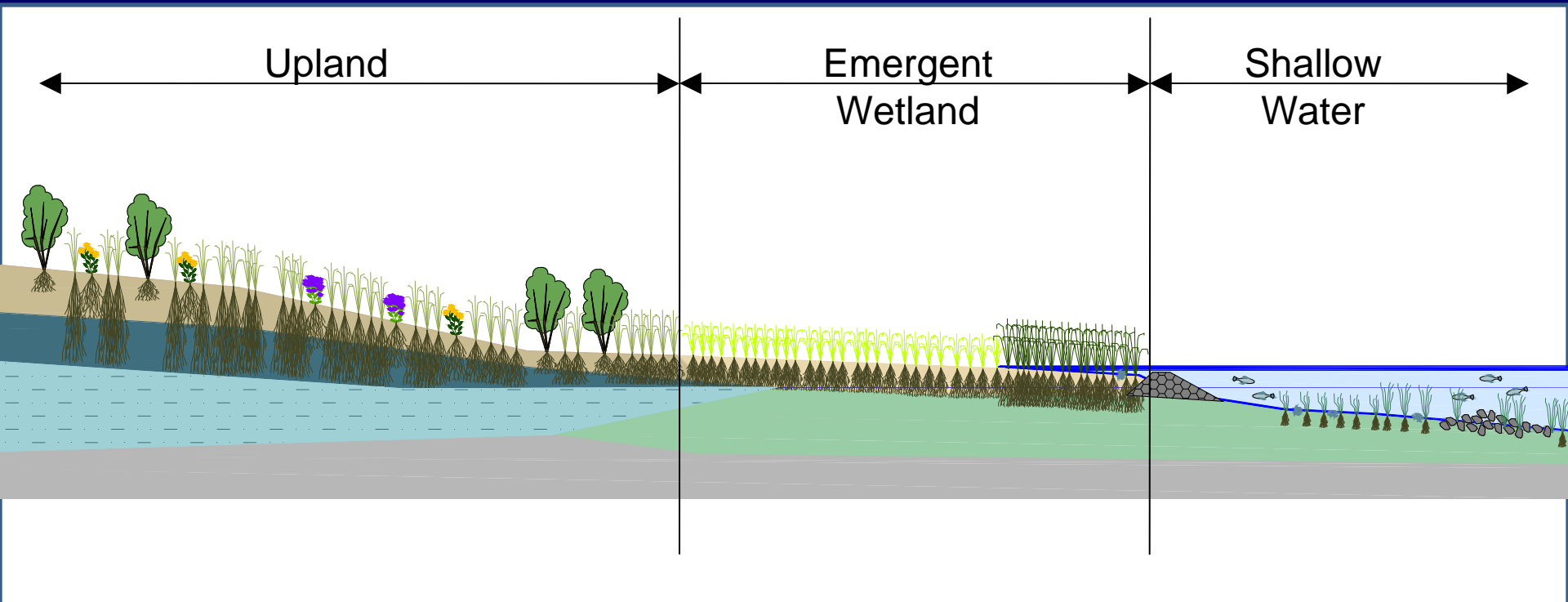




# St Michaels Public Waterfront Park



# Effect of Sea Level Rise on Living Shorelines

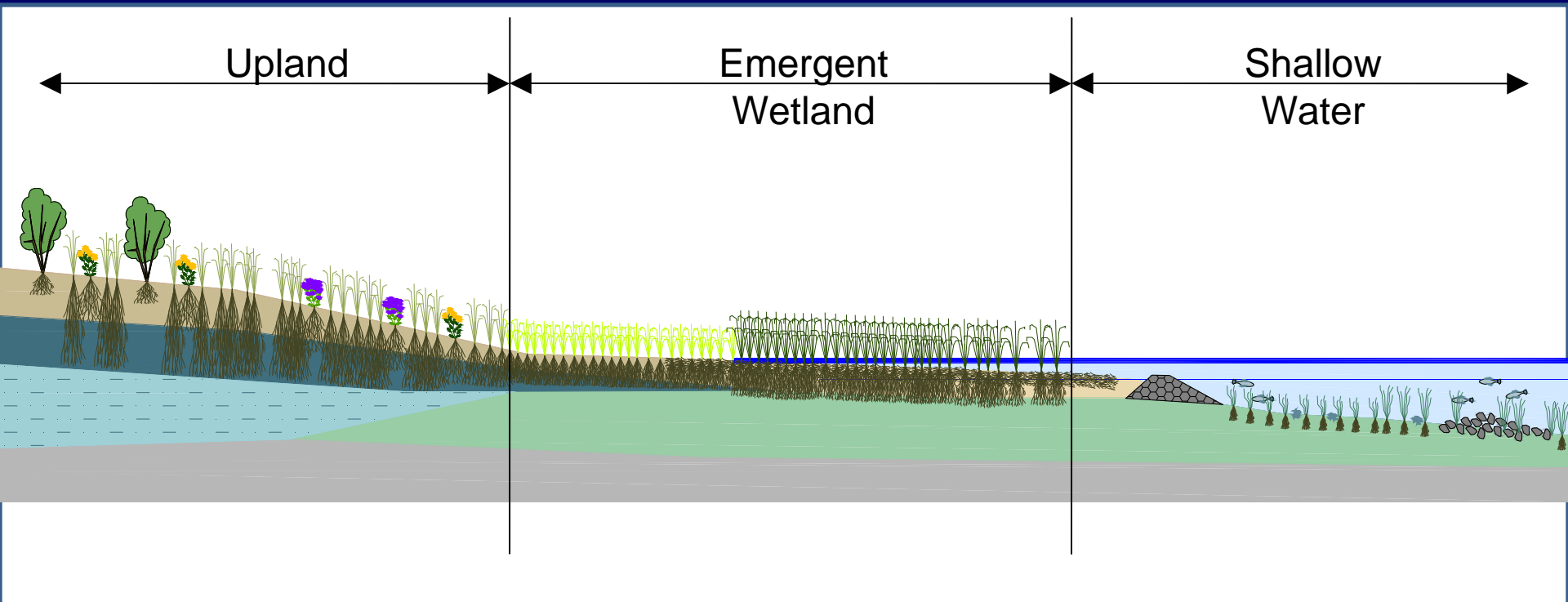


**Current**





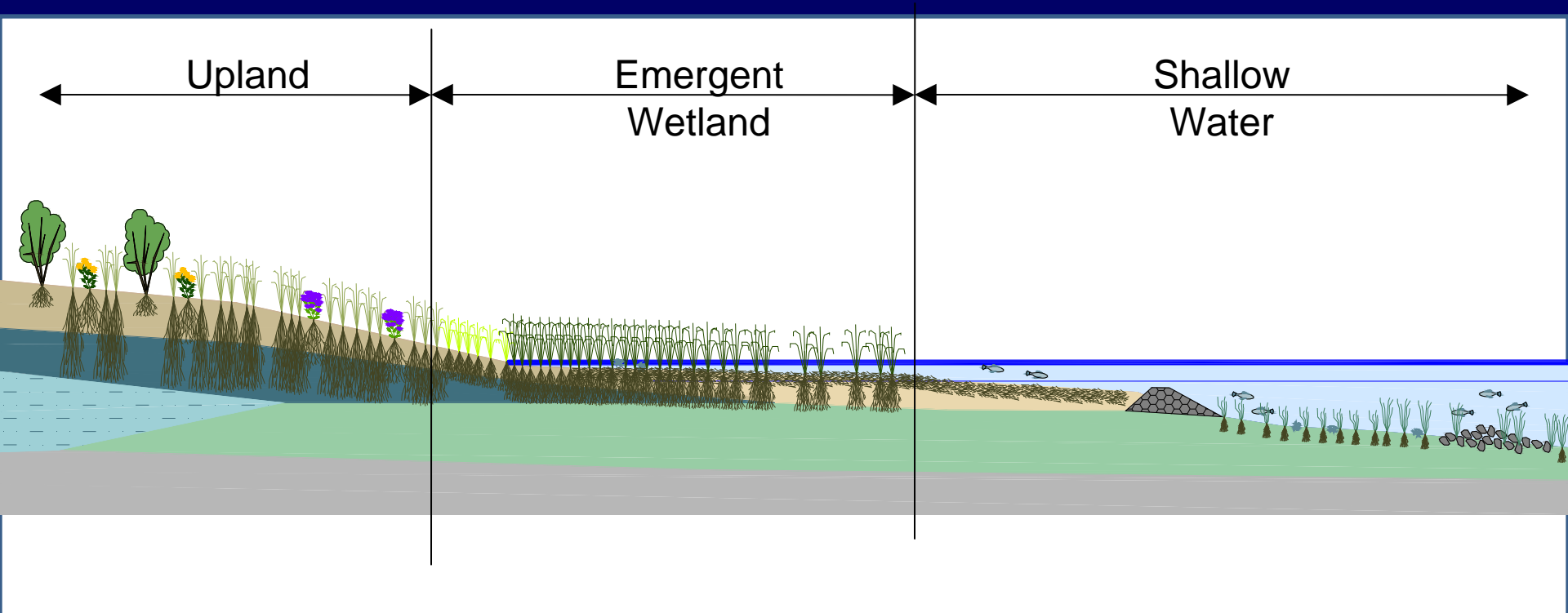
# Effect of Sea Level Rise on Living Shorelines



**+1 foot**



# Effect of Sea Level Rise on Living Shorelines

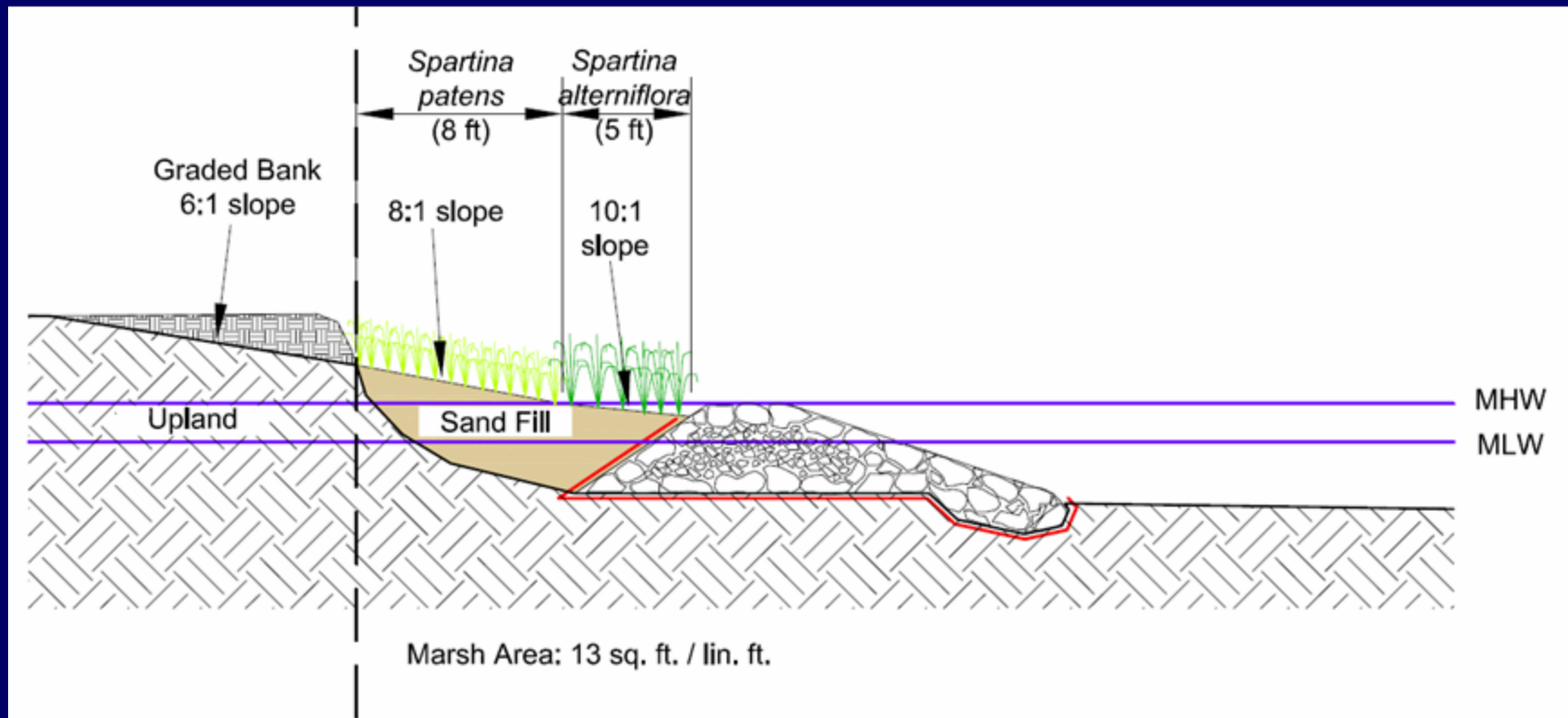


**+2 feet**

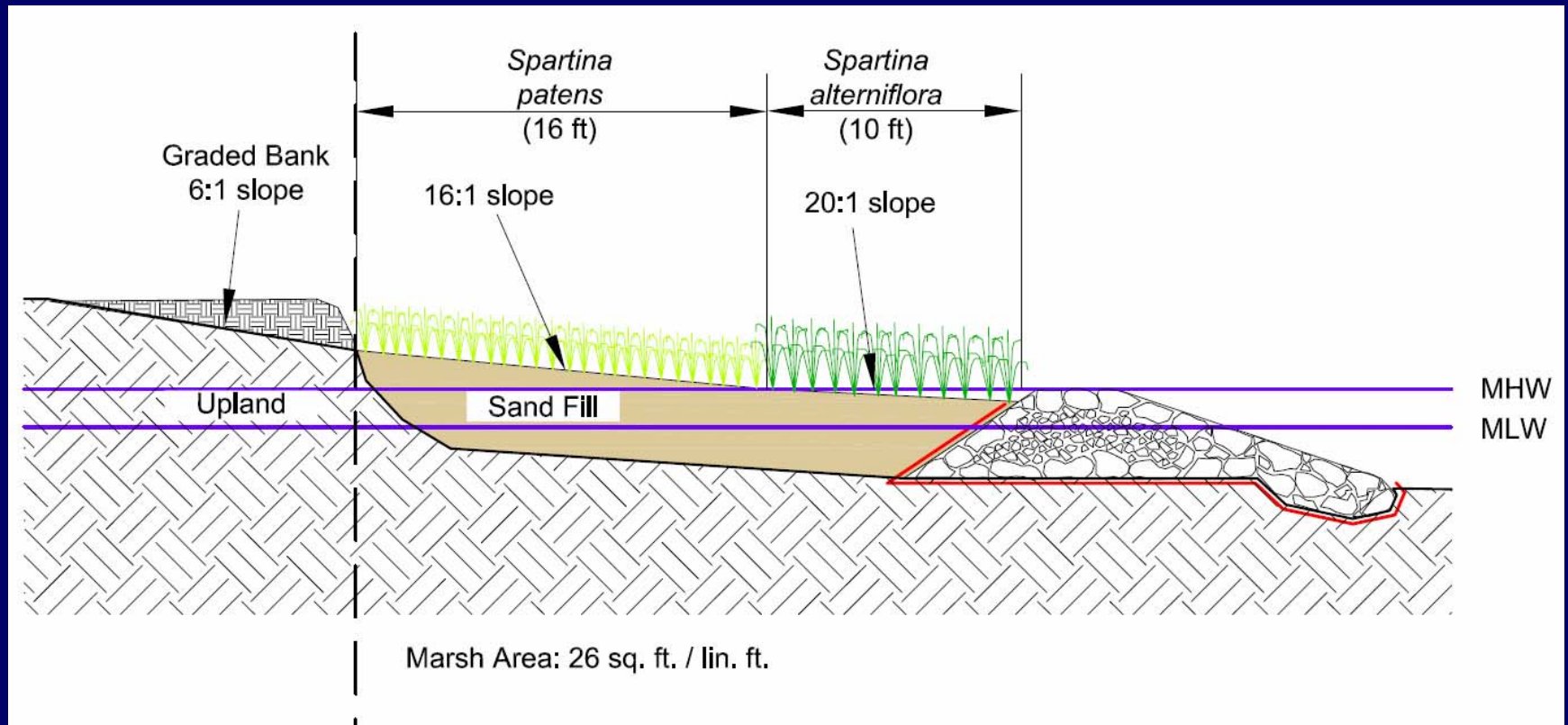




# DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS



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# Design Considerations

The reduction in wave height (wave attenuation) and thus the severity of the impact at the upland bank is a function of :

- Interaction with the bottom
- Interaction with the sill structure
- Interaction with marsh vegetation





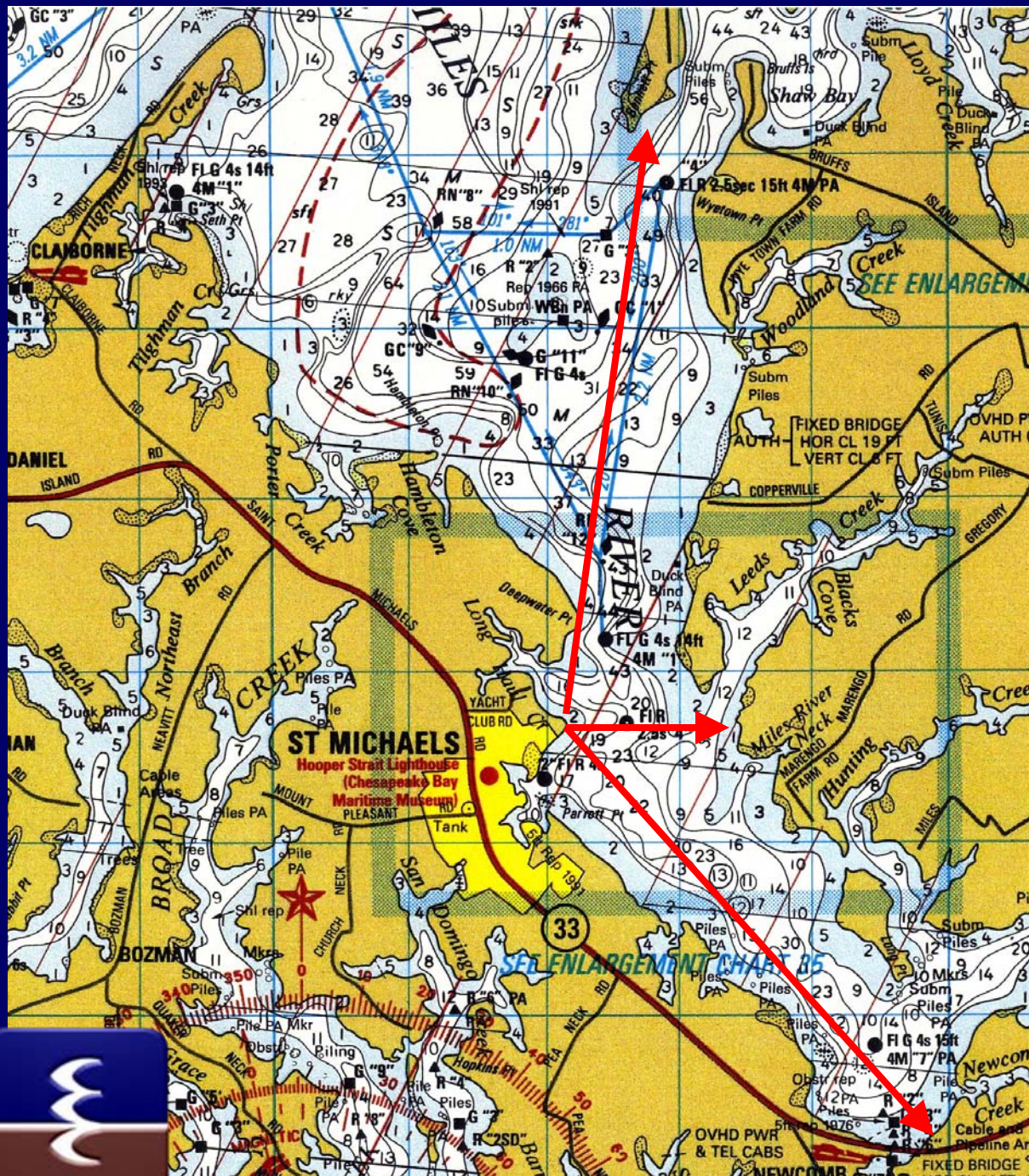
# Miles Point

Fetch:

4.3 miles NNE

1.0 mile E

3.4 miles SE





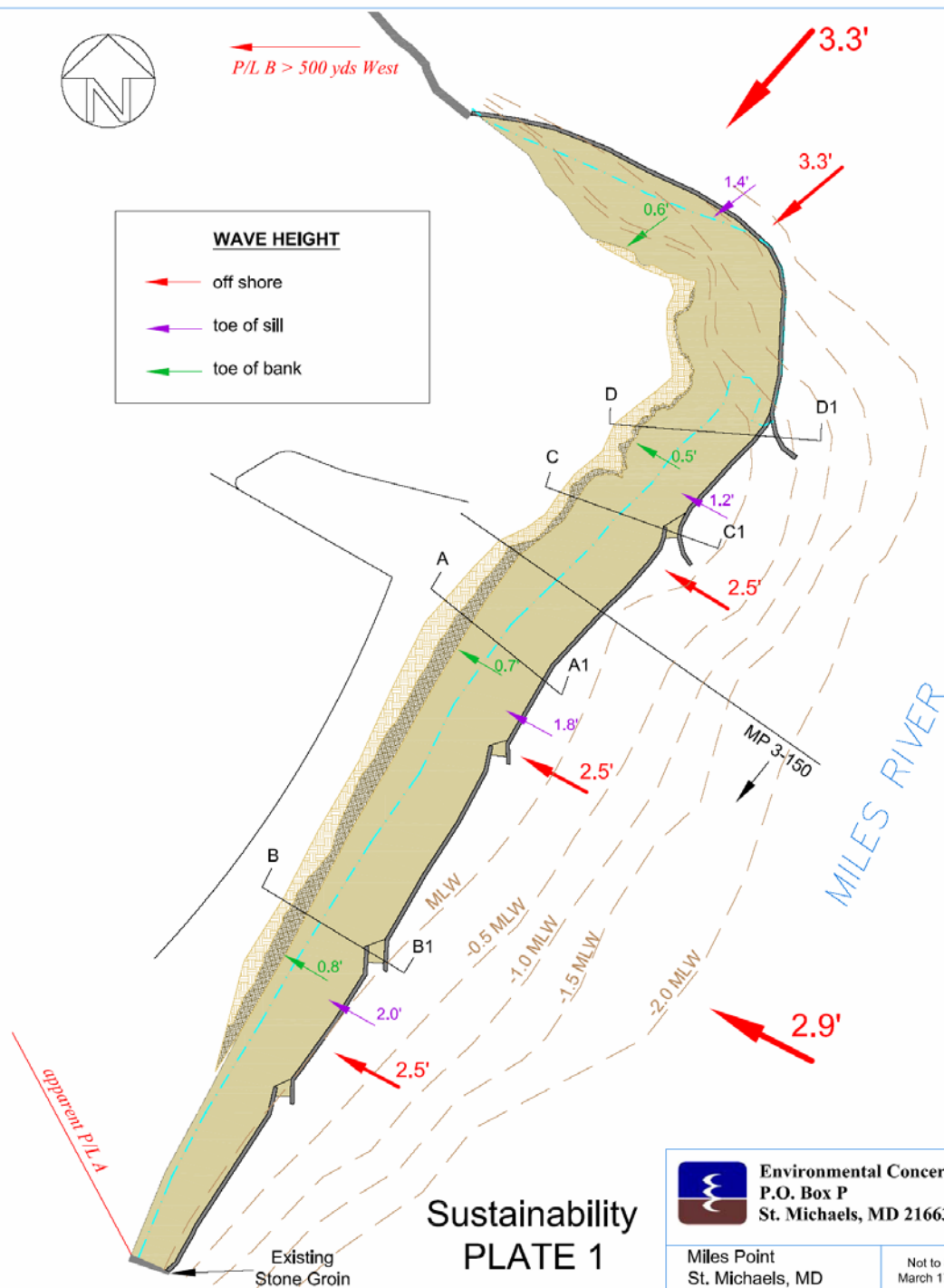


WAVE HEIGHT

off shore

toe of sill

toe of bank



# Sustainability

## PLATE 1



**Environmental Concern Inc.**  
P.O. Box P  
St. Michaels, MD 21663

Miles Point  
St. Michaels, MD

Not to Scale  
March 17, 2006





# Design Width & Bank Height

## Southerly Section:

- Existing conditions: Erosion is minimal. Bank height +3.0' MLW. Fetch 3.4 is miles.
- Design: Sill elevation +1.7' MLW, protective marsh constructed to 55 ft channelward from the existing bank.





# Design Width & Bank Height

## Middle Section:

- Existing conditions: Erosion is significant. Bank height increases to +7.0' MLW . Fetch 1 mile.
- Design: Sill elevation +2.5' to +3.0' MLW, protective marsh constructed to 90 – 100 ft channelward from the existing bank.





# Design Width & Bank Height

## Northerly Section:




- Existing conditions: Severe erosion, Bank height +8.0' MLW on average. Fetch is 4.3 miles.
- Design: Sill elevation +3.0' to +3.8' MLW, protective marsh constructed to 100 – 110 ft channelward from the existing bank.

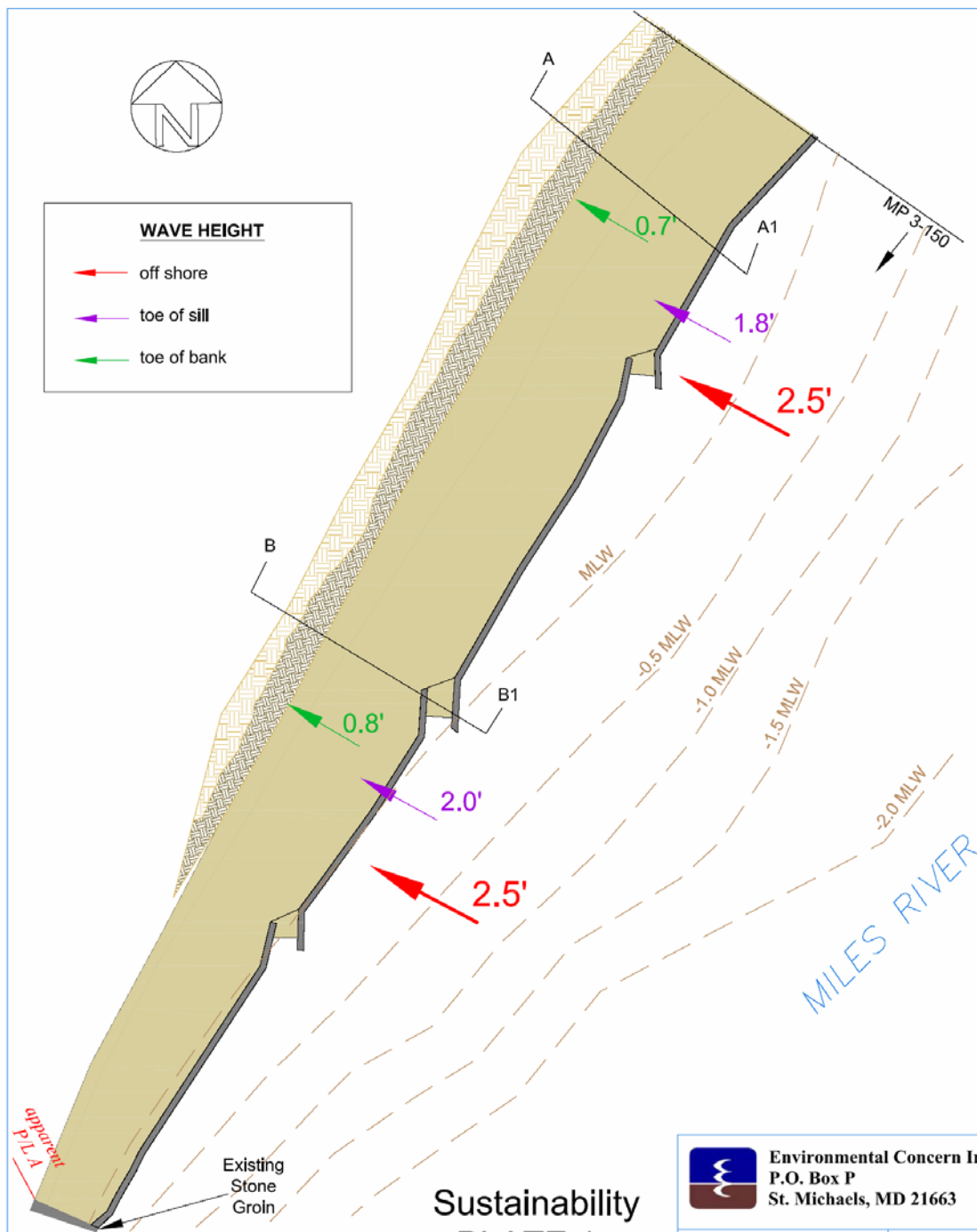






**WAVE HEIGHT**

-  off shore
-  toe of sill
-  toe of bank



Sustainability  
PLATE 1a



Environmental Concern Inc.  
P.O. Box P  
St. Michaels, MD 21663

Miles Point  
St. Michaels, MD

1 inch = 100 ft.  
March 17, 2006

# Tilghman Island Farm

Living Shoreline –

Tidal Marsh Creation: 2.3 acres

Biomass: 100,000 plugs – *Spartina alterniflora/patens*

Living Shoreline: 2,580 lin.ft.

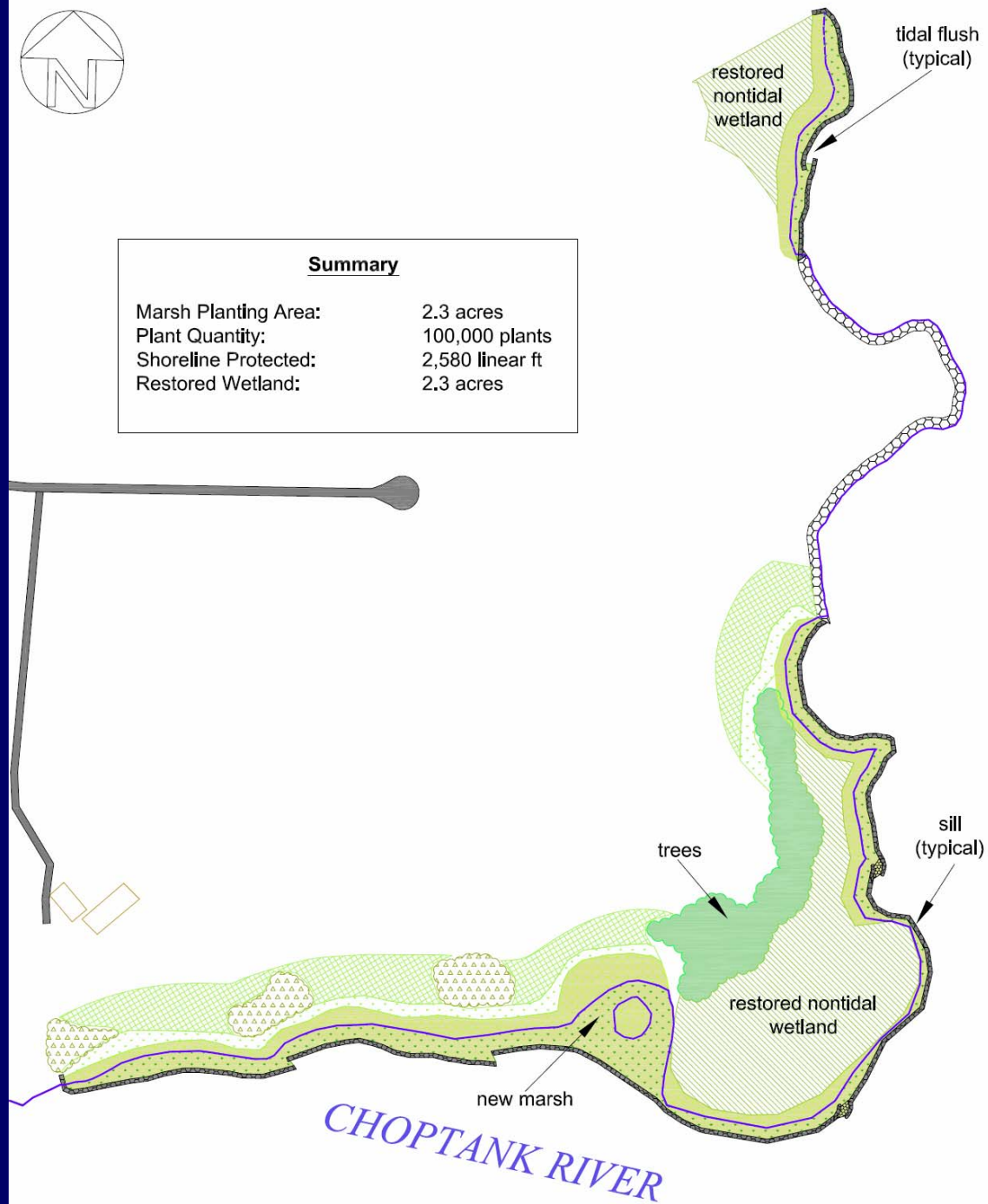




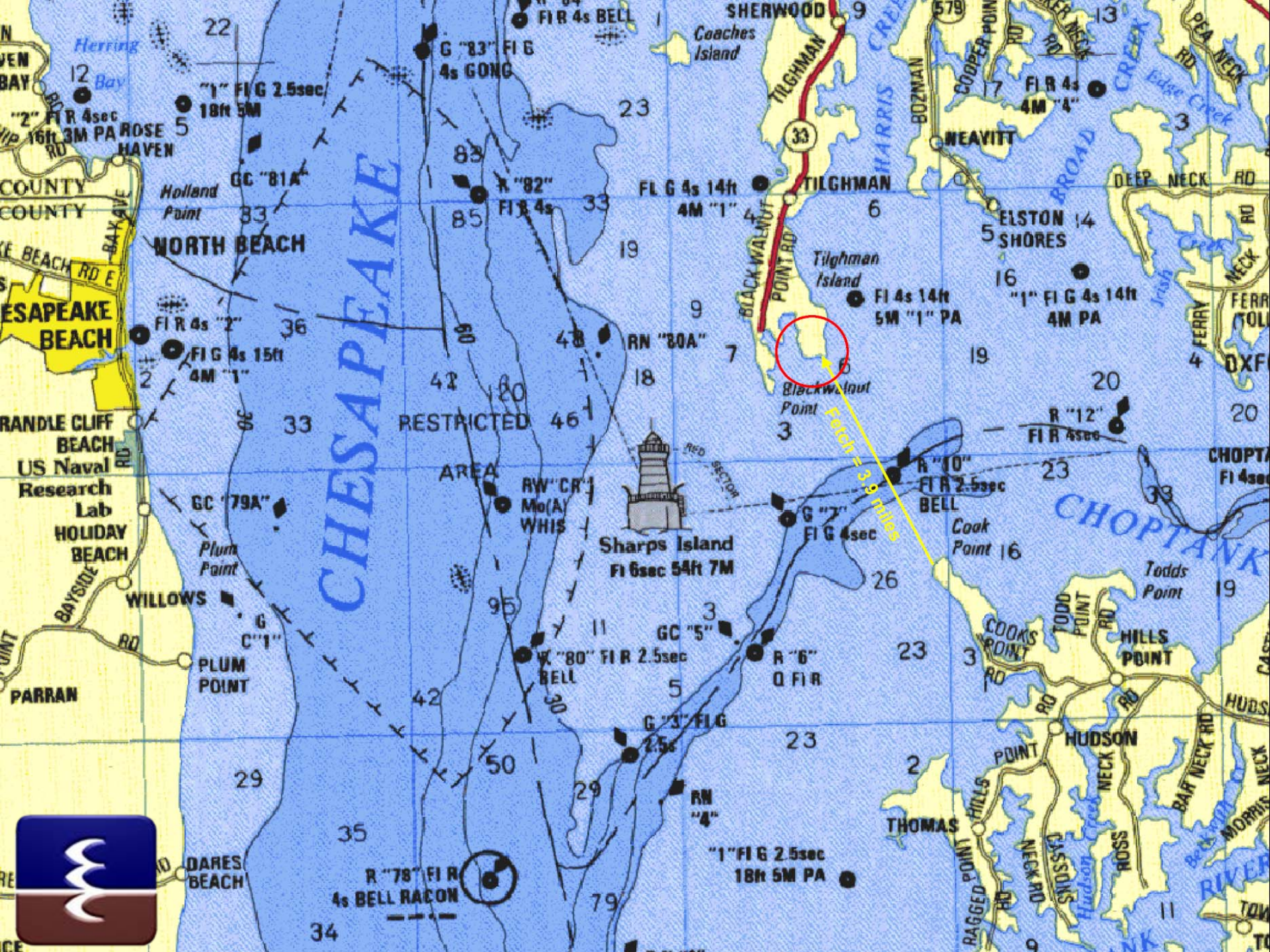


### Summary

Marsh Planting Area:	2.3 acres
Plant Quantity:	100,000 plants
Shoreline Protected:	2,580 linear ft
Restored Wetland:	2.3 acres





































































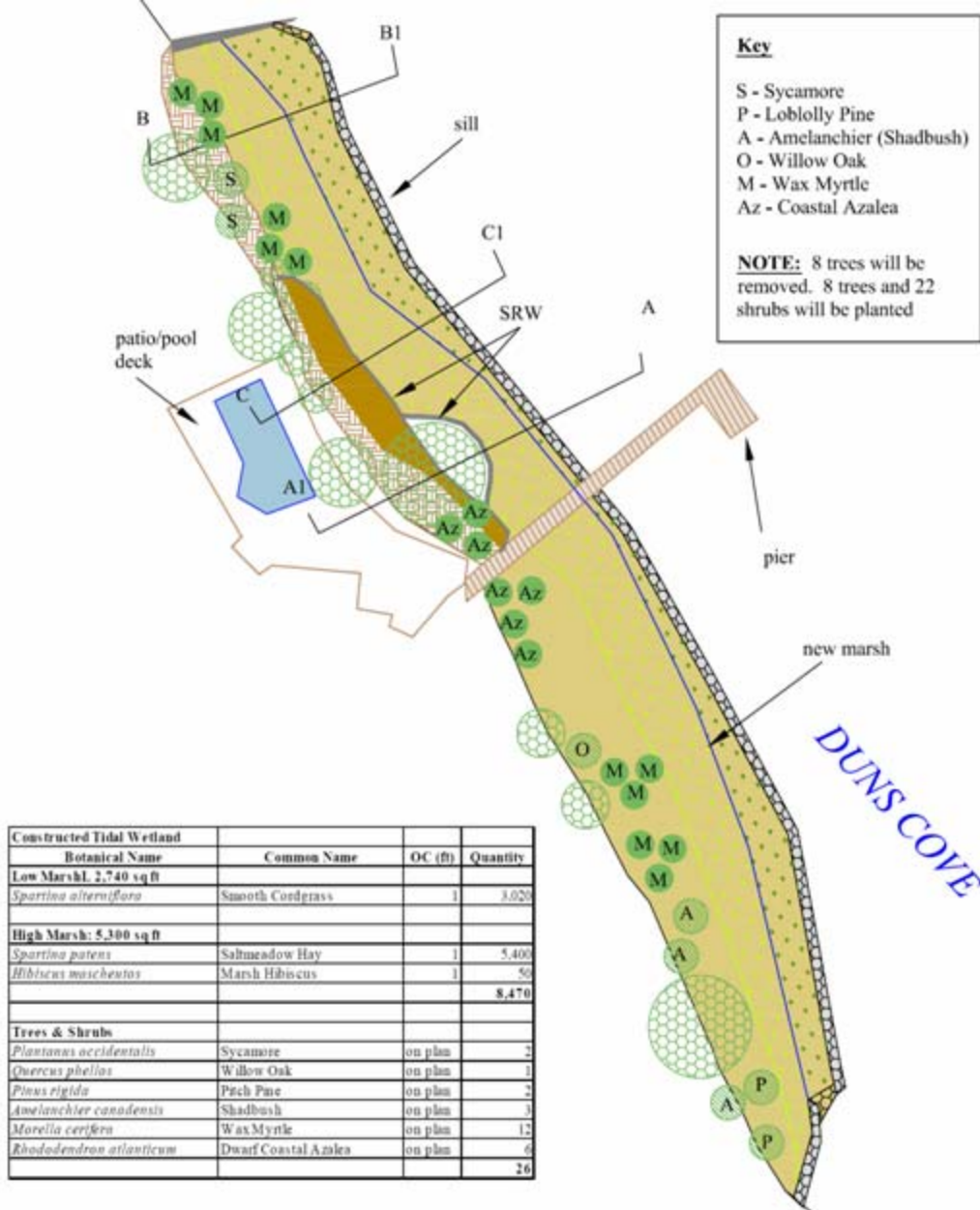


PLATE 2a - Revision  
Shoreline Stabilization &  
Buffer Management

























# Goldsborough Creek

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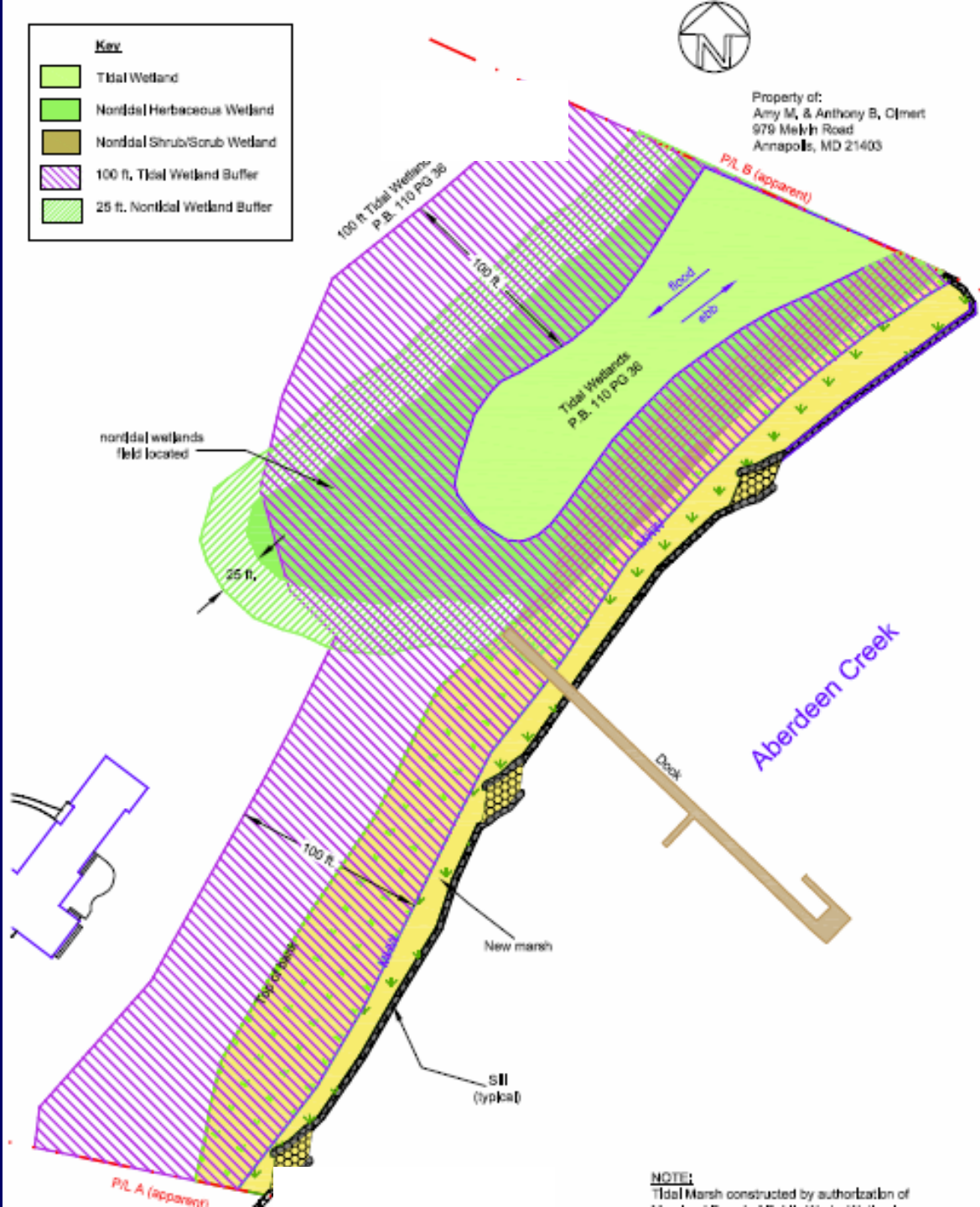








# Aberdeen Creek



















































Wye East River

**PHASE 2**

**SHORELINE EROSION**

	Soil Loss (tons)	Phase 1	Phase 2	Total
1942 to 2007	Total	23,350 tons	62,820 tons	86,170 tons
	avg/yr	360 tons	970 tons	1,330 tons
1992 to 2007	Total	5,860 tons	32,260 tons	38,120 tons
	avg/yr	390 tons	2,150 tons	2,540 tons

	Land Loss	Phase 1	Phase 2	Total
1942 to 2007	Total	60 ft	130 ft	
	avg/yr	0.9 ft	2 ft	
1992 to 2007	Acreage	1.6 acres	3.4 acres	5 acres
	Total	20 ft	70 ft	
	avg/yr	1.5 ft	4.5 ft	
	Acreage	0.4 acres	1.8 acres	2.2 acres

**Shorelines**

— 1992  
— 1942

Lloyd Creek

Shaw Bay

**PHASE 1**

















































