

# PROTECT SHORES. REDUCE RISK.

## Living Shorelines for Coastal Communities

Maryland Department of Natural Resources | FY26 Opportunity

### FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

DNR is offering **\$17 million** through the [Roots for Resilience Initiative](#) that can cover design, permitting, and construction to support living shoreline projects that protect marshes on Maryland's Lower Eastern Shore. Public land projects that protect significant marsh acreage are prioritized, and multiple awards are expected.

**RFP Goal:** Award large-scale living shoreline restoration projects that will collectively protect a total of 400 acres of adjacent high quality tidal marsh habitat

**Minimum request:** \$1 million (smaller design-only requests may be allowed with DNR approval)

**Match:** Not required (leveraged funds encouraged)

**Project period:** July 2026 – August 2029

### WHAT IS A LIVING SHORELINE?

A living shoreline uses nature-based erosion control, such as marsh plantings, coir logs, sills, and breakwaters, to stabilize shorelines while maintaining natural coastal processes. These approaches reduce erosion and flooding, protect infrastructure, lower long-term costs, support working waterfronts, and strengthen coastal resilience.

### RESOURCES

- Project [Targeting Map](#) for Living Shorelines, with eligible locations
- Map [Guidance and Instructions](#)
- [Example Budget](#)

### EVENTS

- Attend the January 15th [Information Session](#)
- Attend the February 3rd [Mapping Tutorial](#)

### NEED HELP?

Contact [morgan.corey@maryland.gov](mailto:morgan.corey@maryland.gov) & [ari.engelberg@maryland.gov](mailto:ari.engelberg@maryland.gov)

Visit [go.umd.edu/RFR](https://go.umd.edu/RFR) for full application materials and timeline.



### ELIGIBILITY

- Local jurisdictions, non-profit organizations, and institutions of higher education
- Projects located within the Chesapeake Bay portions of Somerset, Dorchester, and Wicomico Counties

### GET STARTED

01

Identify potential shoreline sites with active erosion that protect extensive marsh habitat.

02

Use DNR's Living Shoreline [Targeting Map](#) to confirm site eligibility, marsh protection potential, erosion rates, and climate vulnerability.

03

Confirm landowner support and long-term site access.

04

Determine project readiness, including whether your project is construction-ready, design/build, or design-only.

05

Reach out to [DNR](#) early to discuss project ideas and schedule a site visit.

06

Complete and submit the [Living Shoreline Application](#) by **11:59 P.M. ET, April 6, 2026.**

