What is a living shoreline?

“Living shoreline” is a broad term used to describe a range of nature-based approaches to reduce erosion and protect property. In the right location, living shorelines can be used instead of seawalls or bulkheads to stabilize a shoreline. While there are different types of living shorelines, projects are made up of mostly natural materials, such as native wetland vegetation, natural fiber logs, or oyster reef breakwaters, thus maintaining natural shoreline features.

For more detailed information, see Natural and Structural Measures for Shoreline Stabilization at https://tinyurl.com/y5ao6tsb.

What are the advantages of installing a living shoreline compared to bulkheads or seawalls, and how can I tell if it is right for a certain property?

In areas where wave energy is low to moderate, living shorelines can be effective at stopping, and even reversing, erosion over time. Living shorelines are often a more economical option to install and maintain compared to bulkheads and seawalls. Additionally, living shorelines have the ability to adapt to future environmental changes, such as rising sea levels and increased storm events. Because bulkheads and seawalls are static features that do not move, they can be severely damaged during strong storms. However, they are often the only option in areas with high wave energy.

Living shorelines maintain the natural features that make coastal properties so desirable and allow easier access to the water for activities such as kayaking, paddleboarding, and swimming. Living shorelines also create wildlife habitat, providing more opportunities for birdwatching and fishing.

For more detailed information, see Living Shorelines Academy at https://www.livingshorelinesacademy.org/.
Where can I get training or learn more about installing living shorelines, such as where to find materials and installation costs?

The cost and amount of work involved in the installation of living shorelines varies depending on site conditions, size of project, and techniques and materials used. Contractor associations and government or non-profit groups are a great place to find living shoreline training resources. Trade association meetings and seminars can include training and may even provide continuing professional education credits.

For more details, including general information that applies in any state, see *Living Shorelines: A Technical Guide for Contractors in Alabama and Mississippi* at https://tinyurl.com/y2qv2bzn. For training opportunities, see *Living Shorelines Academy* at https://www.livingshorelinesacademy.org/.

What is the process and timeline for permitting a living shoreline?

Permitting a living shoreline requires a joint application through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the state agency that manages state-owned submerged lands. Generally, you can submit a joint application through your state agency. The amount of time to process and approve a permit varies by state and project type and size.

For more details, including general information that applies in any state, see *Living Shorelines: A Guide for Alabama Property Owners* at https://tinyurl.com/yy6v5o59.

Are there financial incentives or other benefits to contractors for adding living shorelines to services offered?

As customers continue to seek more ecological and economical approaches to protect and enhance their property, there is a shortage of contractors with living shoreline expertise. Fortunately, much of your equipment and knowledge will translate from traditional marine construction to the installation of living shorelines. In some areas, cost-share programs have increased the demand for living shorelines. Additionally, profit margins can be greater than for other traditional erosion control approaches.

For more detailed information, see *Restoring the Gulf Coast: New Markets for Established Firms* at https://tinyurl.com/yxmepjyw.

More resources can be found in the **Living Shorelines Resource Catalog** for your state. Visit www.gulflivingshoreslines.com.

The Living Shorelines Resource Catalogs for Gulf Coast states were created to direct different audiences to the most helpful resources related to living shoreline design, construction, permitting, and cost.