

Is a Living Shoreline right for your site?

Do you own waterfront property on a bay, bayou, intracoastal waterway, or tidal creek?

Do you notice any evidence of erosion along your shoreline?

If yes, a living shoreline may help stabilize your property, slow rainwater runoff, and create habitat.

Wave energy from waves, storms, or boat wakes can directly impact your shoreline and will determine what type of living shoreline is suitable for your property.

What level of energy does your shoreline experience?

LOW ENERGY



Low energy shorelines are exposed to minimal fetch (<1 mile), low boat traffic, and are usually along protected waterways.

These shorelines can be stabilized by planting suitable native plants or by edging with natural materials such as coir logs. A shallow slope along the wetland to upland profile provides a smooth transition from land to water. Maintaining an un-mowed vegetation buffer at least 10 feet wide above the Mean High Water Line (MHWL) is recommended along all waterfront properties. Property owners should consult a professional to help them through any necessary permitting, project design, and construction of a living shoreline along their low energy shoreline.

MEDIUM ENERGY



Medium energy shorelines are exposed to moderate fetch (>1 mile), wind, and/or wave energy from recreational boat traffic.

These shorelines can be stabilized by using the softer, natural elements described above for low energy shorelines in combination with low-profile, hard structures like marsh sills. Hard structure materials include oyster shells (if site is suitable for oyster growth), rock, recycled 'clean' concrete, and prefabricated modules, which can each be used individually or in combination with each other. Property owners should consult a professional to help them through any necessary permitting, project design, and construction of a living shoreline along their low energy shoreline.

HIGH ENERGY



High energy shorelines are exposed to high wind and wave energy from across a long fetch and/or boat wakes from large vessels.

These shorelines may require a hybrid stabilization approach that combines engineered structures with native plants and oyster reefs. Hard elements should be installed first to provide protection for planted vegetation. Property owners should consult a professional to help them through any necessary permitting, project design, and construction of a living shoreline along their low energy shoreline.

What permits might you need?

LOW ENERGY

May qualify for a Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Exemption and may also require a US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Nationwide Permit 54.

MEDIUM ENERGY

Will likely require authorization from FDEP and USACE. May qualify for a FDEP Exemption and would likely qualify for a Nationwide Permit 54.

HIGH ENERGY

Will likely require an individual permit from FDEP. May require an individual permit from USACE if project does not qualify for Nationwide Permits 54, 13, or 27.

To learn more, please visit

FloridaLivingShorelines.com