

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 such as scarping, exposed roots, or a gradual loss of your shoreline?

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

Wave energy from wind driven waves, storms, or boat wakes directly impacts your shoreline and determines what type of living shoreline is suitable for your property.

What wave energy does your shoreline experience?

LOW ENERGY



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

These shorelines can be stabilized by planting suitable native plants in the intertidal zone and nearshore uplands, or by edging with natural materials such as coconut fiber 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 may be able to do a project along a low energy shoreline without the aid of an environmental consultant.

MEDIUM ENERGY



Medium energy estuarine shorelines are exposed to moderate fetch (>1 mile), wind, and/or wave energy from recreational boat traffic, and may experience scarping, root exposure, and gradual shoreline loss.

These shorelines can be stabilized by using the softer natural elements as described above for low energy shorelines in combination with low-profile hard structures such as marsh sills. Hard structure materials include consolidated oyster shell (if site is suitable for oyster growth), rock, recycled 'clean' concrete, and prefabricated modules, which can be used alone or in combination with each other. Property owners may benefit from hiring a local environmental consultant to do a project along a medium energy shoreline, though professional help is not required.

HIGH ENERGY



High energy estuarine shorelines are exposed to high wind and wave energy from across a long fetch and/or boat wakes from large vessels and ships, and may experience extreme scarping, root exposure, and shoreline loss as well as loss of infrastructure.

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. Hiring a consultant to provide engineering, design, and construction services is highly recommended.

What permits do you need?

LOW ENERGY

May qualify for a Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Living Shoreline exemption. May also require US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Nationwide Permit 54.

MEDIUM ENERGY

Will likely require authorization from both FDEP and USACE. May qualify for a FDEP exemption and would likely qualify for 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 Permit 54, 13, or 27.

To learn more please visit:

[Florida Living Shorelines.com](https://www.floralivingshorelines.com)