

What is meant by “Living Shoreline” erosion control?

Living shoreline erosion control treatments address erosion in lower energy situations by providing long-term protection, restoration, or enhancement of vegetated shoreline habitats through strategic placement of plants, stone, sand fill, and other structural or organic materials. However, living shoreline treatments do not include structures that sever the natural processes and connections between uplands and aquatic areas.

What are the benefits of building a Living Shoreline?

Living shoreline treatments preserve and restore natural shoreline ecosystems and help to improve water quality, clarity, and wildlife habitat. They also enhance the appearance of the shoreline and add economic value to the property.

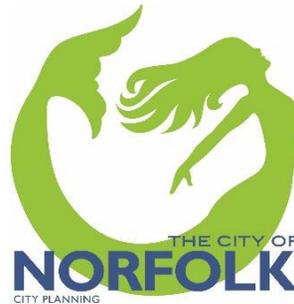
Are there any incentives for building a Living Shoreline?

Yes! The City and the State are working together to provide permit incentives for living shoreline treatments that would expedite permit processing and reduce or eliminate permitting costs. Living shoreline treatments will also help Norfolk meet federally mandated pollution reduction requirements. Living shoreline projects may also help homeowners qualify for River Star Homes recognition with the Elizabeth River Project or Bay Star Homes recognition with the City of Norfolk.

Additional Information

- Virginia Institute of Marine Science, contact Karen Duhring: 804-684-7159.
- Lafayette Wetlands Partnership, contact John Stewart: 757-623-8127.
- Digital Copy of the JPA: <http://www.norfolk.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3832>.
- Elizabeth River Project: 757-399-7487.
- Bay Star Homes, Norfolk Public Works Stormwater division: 757-823-4000.

Questions regarding the Living Shoreline process? Please contact the Bureau of Environmental Services at: (757) 664-4368 or email at: planning@norfolk.gov.



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LIVING SHORELINE PROCESS



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How do I get a permit for a Living Shoreline?

The permit process for living shoreline erosion control treatment is the same as for other types of shoreline erosion control. The applicant must complete a wetland **Joint Permit Application (JPA)** and mail it to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) (see Additional Information for resource links).

Where do I apply for a permit for a Living Shoreline?

For any questions or to schedule an informational site visit, contact Wetland Board staff (757-664-4368). Completed JPAs are sent to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission: Habitat Management Division, 2600 Washington Avenue, 3rd Floor, Newport News, VA 23607-0756.

How long does the permit process take and what does it cost?

Currently, the process takes the same time as any other JPA permit processing – **60-90 days**. However, City and VMRC staff are working on an expedited “General Permit” for living shoreline projects, which may reduce application time and cost. Fees for living shoreline projects are the same for other types of JPAs - **\$255** to cover the cost of required legal advertising.

Are there any places I can go to see a completed project?

The City of Norfolk has a number of living shorelines on public property that you can visit and evaluate. They include the following sites:

- Birdsong Wetlands at the Larchmont Library, 6525 Hampton Blvd, **Built 1997**
- Virginia Zoo, 3500 Granby Street (east end of the parking lot), **Built 2009**.
- Haven Creek Shoreline (north of the public boat ramp at the corner of Llewellyn Avenue and Delaware Avenue), **Built 2012**.
- 47th Street – eastern terminus (living shoreline + rain garden), **Built 2012**.
- Colley Bay (along the shoreline behind the Larchmont Elementary School), 1145 Bolling Avenue, **Built 2013**.

A particularly good example is located at the Hermitage Museum and Gardens, 7637 North Shore Road (Contact the Curator of Gardens and Grounds: 757-423-2052 ext. 202 for a tour or more information), only open during daylight hours.

What if I have a bulkhead currently; can I replace it with a Living Shoreline?

In many cases, yes. Historically, many shorelines were hardened with bulkheads and revetments unnecessarily and caused the loss of natural shorelines and their valuable ecosystem functions. A recent revitalization of natural shoreline protection measures combined with research and advances in construction techniques have made erosion control using living shoreline treatments a viable option for many property owners. **City staff can advise homeowners when a living shoreline treatment is not appropriate.**

Along with citizens, the City’s mutual goal is to preserve the quality of our waterways by preventing erosion and protecting wildlife and aquatic ecosystems.

