

Living Shorelines Overview



What is a Living Shoreline?

Living Shorelines can come in a wide variety of forms, but they are defined by SCDHEC as, "a shoreline stabilization approach utilized in intertidal wetland environments that maintains, restores, and/or enhances natural estuarine processes through the strategic placement of native vegetation and/or use of green infrastructure...". They use natural processes of sediment accretion and oyster growth to strengthen and restore shorelines.

Source: Coastal Conservation League



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Advantages

- Less expensive than traditional "gray" infrastructure like bulkheads, seawalls and riprap
- Low profile, naturally aesthetic
- Can be effective at protecting against flooding and storms by dissipating wave and wind energy
- Minimal maintenance required
- Creates oyster, and in some cases, salt marsh habitat utilized by a variety of fish, birds and wildlife

Note: it is illegal to take oyster shells from DNR recycling bins!



Source: Coastal Conservation League

Costs

Living shorelines can range
\$50-\$400 / linear ft

Wooden bulkheads in
Charleston can range
\$550-\$725 / linear ft



Want to learn more? Head over to:



<https://www.clemson.edu/extension/living-shorelines/index.html>

<https://scdhec.gov/environment/your-water-coast/ocean-coastal-resource-management-ocrm/living-shorelines-regulations-update>