

## **FAQs for Home Owners**

### **Once the project is complete, is there maintenance work that needs to be done for the living shoreline projects?**

A homeowner explains that he considered the living shoreline maintenance to be an extension of his kitchen garden, and we agree! Maintenance is critical for the success of a living shoreline project. For proper maintenance by the owners upon completion of the living shoreline projects, consistent removal of leaves and/or debris (driftwood, plastic debris, wracklines, etc.) and periodic pruning of shoreline overhanging branches may be necessary with County Critical Area approval to maintain sunlight transmission to the marsh grasses.

### **Are there any organizations or programs that I can partner with to help alleviate the cost of a living shoreline project?**

There are several organizations or programs that can help alleviate the cost of a living shoreline project:

- Maryland Department of Natural Resources (Shoreline Conservation Service Loan)
- Maryland Department of the Environment (Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund)
- Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund (Grant)

### **Can I do a living shoreline project on my own?**

Yes, provided that you have the necessary certifications. Certifications are necessary to collaborate on any potential living shoreline projects in accordance with Chapter 286 of the 2010 Laws of the State of Maryland required being a Registered Marine Contractor with the Maryland Department of the Environment.

### **Will a living shoreline guarantee the protection of my property from continued erosion?**

A living shoreline, properly designed, will reduce erosion, but it will not guarantee the protection of property from continued erosion.

### **What exactly is a living shoreline?**

Living shorelines are the result of applying erosion control measures that include a suite of techniques which can be used to minimize coastal erosion and maintain coastal process. Techniques may include the use of fiber coir logs, sills, groins, breakwaters or other natural components used in combination with sand, other natural materials and/or marsh plantings. These techniques are used to protect, restore, enhance or create natural shoreline habitat.

### **What is a sand containment structure?**

A stone groin is trapezoidal shaped stone shaped interlocked generally perpendicular to the natural existing shoreline on existing hard bottom on top of geo-textile to an approved design height, slope, line, grade and length designed to contain sand and reduce erosion.

### **What is a stone sill?**

A stone groin is trapezoidal shaped stone structures interlocked generally parallel to the existing shoreline on existing hard bottom on top of geo-textile to an approved design height, slope, line, grade and length designed to trap sand and reduce erosion.

### **What type of sand is used?**

Sand material shall contain less than 10% passing the number 100 sieve, not more than 10% by weight retained on a number 4 sieve, with no stone having a diameter greater than one-half inch. The material shall consist of rounded or semi-rounded grains with a median diameter of 0.6mm (+/- 0.25mm). No frozen material, trash, roots or other organic material will be permitted in the fill.

The type of sand used in typical living shoreline projects is similar to concrete specification sand that will meet the above required specifications.

### **What types of marsh grass are generally planted? Where can I find them?**

The types of grasses generally planted are *Spartina patens*, *Spartina alterniflora*, and *Panicum virgatum* which can be found at several nurseries throughout the State.

The nurseries listed here are some of the many nationwide that specialize in native plants. Many of these offer a wholesale pricing schedule. Most will ship or deliver. Please contact the nurseries directly for a catalog and conditions of sale. Inclusion on this list is not an endorsement by Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Chesapeake Aquatic Nursery  
1820 Cromwell Bridge Road  
Baltimore, MD 21234  
410/324 4053  
410/823 1427 fax  
sales@chesapeakeaquatics.com  
[www.chesapeakeaquatics.com](http://www.chesapeakeaquatics.com)

Environmental Concern Inc.  
PO Box P 201 Boundary Lane  
St. Michaels, MD 21663  
Phone (410) 745-9620

Fax (410) 745-3517  
e-mail: [nursery-sales@wetland.org](mailto:nursery-sales@wetland.org)  
[www.wetland.org](http://www.wetland.org)

Maryland Natives Nursery  
PO Box 158  
Baltimore, MD 21128  
Phone (410) 529-0552  
Fax (410) 529-3883  
e-mail: [info@marylandnativesnursery.com](mailto:info@marylandnativesnursery.com)  
[www.marylandnativesnursery.com](http://www.marylandnativesnursery.com)

Lower Marlboro Nursery  
7011 Flint Hill Rd., P.O. Box 1013  
Dunkirk, MD 20754  
301/812 0808 phone & fax  
contact@lowermarlboronursery.com  
[www.lowermarlboronursery.com](http://www.lowermarlboronursery.com)

Providence Center Horticulture  
370 Shore Acres Rd.  
Arnold, MD 21012  
443-995-9729  
410-757-7751  
[jslaven@providencecenter.com](mailto:jslaven@providencecenter.com)

Signature Horticultural Services  
19960 Gore Mill Road  
Freeland, MD 21053  
Contact Name Kevin T Fabula  
Phone: (410) 329-6466  
Fax: (410) 329-2156  
e-mail: [info@signaturehort.com](mailto:info@signaturehort.com)  
[www.signaturehort.com/](http://www.signaturehort.com/)

### **What permits are required?**

Federal permits, State wetlands license, and Local permits are required.

### **How much sunlight per day is required to maintain the new marsh plantings portion of a living shoreline project?**

The new marsh plantings portion of a living shoreline project requires a minimum of 6 hours of sunlight per day to maintain.

**How long does it take for the planted marsh to fully propagate within a newly-completed living shoreline project?**

For the planted marsh to fully propagate within a newly-completed living shoreline project it takes approximately a minimum of 3 seasons of growth.

**What is *Phragmites australis*?**

*Phragmites australis* is a non-native invasive species that thrives above Mean High Water (MHW) elevation and eventually blocks required sunlight and nutrients to native marsh grasses.

**Can I look at or visit some past living shoreline projects?**

Yes, we encourage those interested in living shoreline projects to visit completed sites and learn more about this technique. If you are interested in visiting past living shoreline projects, please contact Bhaskar Subramanian (office): 410-260-8786 (email): [bsubramanian@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:bsubramanian@dnr.state.md.us)

**I think I have an eroding shoreline. Can someone visit my property?**

Yes, please contact DNR's Shoreline Conservation Service project Manager, Bhaskar Subramanian (office): 410-260-8786 (email): [bsubramanian@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:bsubramanian@dnr.state.md.us)