

Is a Living Shoreline right for you?

Do you own waterfront property along a river, tidal creek, or bay?

Yes



No



A living shoreline will not be the best approach to protecting your property, but native species can enhance your yard and provide habitat for pollinators.

Have you noticed your shoreline gradually eroding? Erosion can be caused by boat wakes, rough waves, and large storm events.

Yes



No



It is not necessary for you to create a living shoreline or hard armor your shoreline. However, you can always spruce up your property with Florida native plants.

Wave energy can have a big impact on your shoreline, and helps to determine what kind of living shoreline is suitable for your property. What wave energy does your shoreline experience?

- **High energy** sites usually require a “hybrid living shoreline” approach with man-made hard armoring technique such as a revetment, bulkhead, or seawall and plants at the toe to add habitat, provide filtration, and increase biodiversity in front of your property while protecting it.
- **Medium energy** environments can combine softer man made hard armoring techniques such as sills and breakwaters, with natural elements like vegetation to create a living shoreline that both protects your property and provides habitat and filtration for the ecosystem.
- Since **low energy** shorelines don't experience as many waves as medium and high energy shorelines it is safe to use softer techniques to protect your shoreline. Edging the shoreline with natural materials and planting native shoreline species will provide a buffer and break up small waves.

Look around your property at low tide, do you see any oysters growing on rocks, pilings, or on an oyster bar?

Yes



No



If you do not have oysters around your property refrain from using oyster shell based elements. Instead use hard armoring techniques such as rip rap or concrete rubble if needed.

By adding hard elements to your living shoreline such as oyster bags or reef balls you are helping to create habitat for oysters while protecting your property.

To learn more please visit:

[Florida Living Shorelines.com](http://FloridaLivingShorelines.com)