



LIVING SHORELINES GRANT PROGRAM

The Nature Conservancy is soliciting proposals to develop and implement living shorelines in New Jersey as a nature-based solution to coastal erosion. Living shorelines stabilize coastlines using elements such as native vegetation. Examples include biologs, oyster reef breakwaters, marsh sills, and other techniques.

We invite non-profit organizations, community associations, academic institutions, local governments, and consulting firms to submit applications for funding under this Living Shorelines program.

- Eligible activities include design, permitting or construction of NJ living shoreline projects
- The deadline for proposals will be Friday, May 4, 2018
- Explore upcoming trainings, resources and apply at nature.org/njlivingshorelines

Living Shorelines Grant Program

Invitation for Proposals Spring 2018



I. Introduction & Overview

The New Jersey Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is soliciting proposals to develop and implement living shorelines in New Jersey as a nature-based solution to coastal erosion and other coastal hazards. Living shorelines are defined as shoreline stabilization techniques that incorporate native vegetation and natural materials to protect coastlines from erosion, while also providing benefits to plants and wildlife. Where appropriate, hybrid living shorelines that incorporate a combination of natural and structural materials, will also be considered. We invite non-profit organizations, community and homeowner's associations, academic institutions, local governments, and consulting firms to submit applications for funding under this Living Shorelines Grant Program.

In addition to financial support, TNC is also supporting the development of local expertise in implementing living shoreline projects. Therefore, we are also offering technical assistance through this program to "demystify" the process, encourage new partnerships, and help communities plan and implement projects.

The most highly scored proposals will be:

- ❖ Projects that seek to restore or enhance natural coastal habitats (e.g.: tidal marsh, sea grass, shellfish, upland forest or shrub beach)
- ❖ In areas currently experiencing erosion
- ❖ Projects where demonstrated planning has been conducted as evidenced by one or more of the following: Matching funds, detailed budgets, project is part of a larger plan, and/or the [Restoration Explorer](#) has been used for site identification

While not required, additional considerations will be given to projects that include:

- ❖ Social equity focus (e.g. partnering with a group that works with low-income families; or socially vulnerable communities). For more info on mapping social vulnerability see <https://svi.cdc.gov/>
- ❖ Evidence of community buy-in (e.g. through volunteer involvement or demonstrated stakeholder engagement)

II. Eligible Activities

Eligible activities under this program include:

- *Design* of a living shoreline that stabilizes and reduces erosion of a natural coastal shoreline.
- *Permitting* of a living shoreline that stabilizes and reduces erosion of a natural coastal shoreline.
- *Installation* of a living shoreline project, including the cost of supplies, labor, and equipment that stabilizes and reduces erosion of a natural coastal shoreline.

Living shoreline projects can include elements of native wetland vegetation, buffer plantings, and non-structural bank stabilization materials, as well as hybrid structural elements including low-profile off-shore sills, or breakwaters where appropriate. Projects should be designed with both erosion reduction and habitat goals in mind. For applicants that are not conservation organizations, we strongly recommend that you consult, and where possible, develop a project partnership with a conservation organization or agency to ensure the project is designed to maintain the ecological integrity of the site.

If you do not currently have a project that would fall under these eligible activities but are interested in identifying a living shoreline project in your area, or would like feedback on your proposed project, contact TNC at john.truscinski@tnc.org for free technical assistance.

III. Application and Award Process

The deadline to submit an application package will be by 11:59pm, Friday May 4th, 2018. The application package should be submitted via e-mail to john.truscinski@tnc.org. Grant size requests can range from **\$5,000 to \$35,000**. Notification of awards will be sent out via e-mail by Tuesday June 5th, 2018. All money related to the grant should be spent and reports submitted to TNC by June 15th, 2019.

All applications should include the following:

- Contact Information: Name, Title, Organization, Mailing Address, E-mail/website
- Amount requested
- Total Project Budget
- Photo(s) of the site
- Vicinity map of the site (e.g., screen shots of Google Earth)
- A support letter for the project signed by the property owner
- A description of the project; including demonstrated need, expected project outcomes, visibility, community involvement, etc. (not to exceed 2 pages)
- **If requesting funds for design:**
 - A rough conceptual sketch of the intended project
 - Detailed cost and schedule estimates for design process
 - Anticipated schedule for permitting and construction once design is completed
- **If requesting funds for permitting:**
 - Completed design plans or status of design
 - List of required permits
 - Status of permitting activities, deadline for obtaining permits
 - Schedule for construction if permits are granted
- **If requesting funds for construction:**
 - Status of permits; completed design plans or status of design
 - Schedule for construction
 - Overall itemized construction budget
 - List of construction activities/materials to be funded
 - Local procurement or bidding process timeline (if applicable)
- No direct match required; however, please include the project's total budget, including any cash or in-kind match.

IV. Project Deliverables

A short, final report outlining project details and outcomes will be required upon completion of the project. The deadline for project deliverables will be negotiated as part of a grant agreement. Examples of deliverables that will be included with a final report include:

- Final design
- Copy of permit applications and/or final permits
- Photos of project construction, invoice for materials, etc.
- Summary of project costs
- Summary of lessons learned

V. Sharing Project Successes & Lessons Learned

In addition to final reports, grantees will be required to share project successes and lessons learned with the wider community of coastal stakeholders in New Jersey through one of several ways, to be negotiated during grant agreement. Possible examples include:

- Presentation of the project during a webinar
- Presentation of the project during an in-person workshop or training
- Participation in short online videos or case studies

For updates and announcements on upcoming trainings please visit:

www.nature.org/njlivingshorelines

An informational webinar for the grant program will take place on Thursday March 15th. To register:

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=tczov8cab&oeidk=a07ef5v9v25b0679c8a>

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