Living Shorelines: National Perspective and the Living Shorelines Academy
ASPA Conference
March 20, 2017
Who We Are

Restore America's Estuaries is dedicated to the protection and restoration of bays and estuaries as essential resources for our nation.

www.estuaries.org
What are Living Shorelines?

Living Shorelines: From Barriers to Opportunities

• Definition:

Any shoreline management system that is designed to protect or restore natural shoreline ecosystems through the use of natural elements and, if appropriate, manmade elements. Any elements used must not interrupt the natural water/land continuum to the detriment of natural shorelines ecosystems.
...and there are a LOT of terms

Soft Stabilization
Nature-Based Shoreline Management
Soft Armoring
...and the list goes on...

Bottom Line: Every site is different, so every project is different. We’re working to implement methods and approaches that increase the habitat value while managing shorelines.

Edenton, NC
Credit: Tracy Skrabal
They Work!

Erosion Protection

Image Credit: Dr. Rachel Gittman, Northeastern University
They Work!

Phase 2 Reef Constructed, No Grass yet

Phase 2 & Phase 3 Reef Constructed – Grass is fully established

Image Credit: Jason Kirkpatrick, MacDill AFB
RAE’s Living Shorelines Efforts

- *Living Shorelines: From Barriers to Opportunities*
- Living Shorelines video
- Living Shorelines Summit
- National Technology Transfer Meetings
- Community of Practice
- Regional Workshops and…

Check out the video!
Available at www.livingshorelinesacademy.org
LSA Website Components

- Two training modules: lay persons and professionals
- National database of LS project databases
- National database of highlighted LS projects
- Database of literature
- Catalogue of existing living shoreline resources
- Searchable database of professionals
- Interactive Forum
In-Person Meetings

- LS Summit: Hartford, CT – December 2015
- Southeast workshop: Jacksonville, FL – April 2016
- Gulf workshop: Galveston, TX – November 2016
- Northeast workshop: May 2016
- Pacific Northwest workshop: TBD
Why This Matters

• They work!
• Provide alternatives that stabilizes a shoreline, fosters habitat, and supports economies
• Cost effective
• Gives communities more options to manage their shorelines
• Great outreach & engagement
What You Can Do

• Be role models – install demonstration projects on public properties
• Champion softer approaches
• Change laws and regulations that ideally favor, but at least put these techniques on equal footing, as hardened options
• Educate your colleagues, staff, and leadership regarding living shorelines
• Use the Living Shorelines Academy and add to it!
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https://estuaries.org/living-shorelines
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