ChooseCleanWater COALITION

Pines on the Severn Living SHORELINE

Pines on the Severn Living Shoreline

mostcenter.org/casestories

Problem:

Pines on the Severn is a waterfront community on the Severn River north of Annapolis. Failing wooden bulkheads and fallen trees along the community's shared beach made 300 feet of waterfront inaccessible to residents.

Solution:

Faced with a need to repair and rehabilitate the waterfront, community leaders considered various forms of shoreline reinforcement including hard structures such as bulkheads and riprap, as well as more natural approaches. The community ultimately opted to create a living shoreline, which would not only control erosion but also contribute to habitat restoration. The project – funded through grants from state agencies – quadrupled the community's usable waterfront acreage and made the area more aesthetically appealing and wildlife-friendly. It has also raised residents' awareness of water quality issues and created a sense of shared pride.
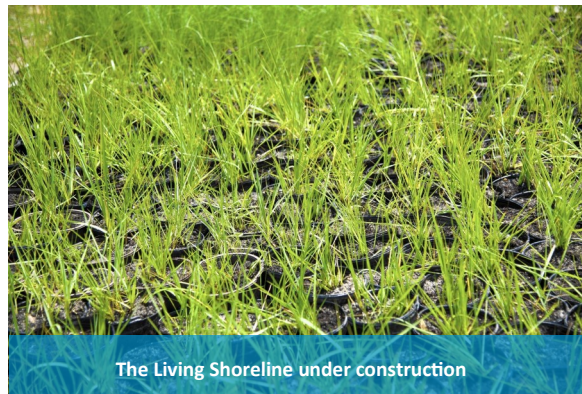

Plants ready for planting at the living shoreline

The Living Shoreline under construction

Photo credit: Underwood and Associates

Key Project Facts

Location: Arnold, MD

Cost: $325,000

Scale: 400 feet of waterfront

Funding Sources: Chesapeake Bay Trust, MD Department of Natural Resources' Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund, and community donations

Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKrRervoZYI

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What is Polluted Runoff?

The growth of our cities has resulted in too many paved surfaces, which prevent rain water from being absorbed by the ground. Instead, the water runs off streets and buildings, collecting trash and dangerous chemicals on its way. This contaminated water overflows into our streams and rivers, creating public health hazards and toxic waters.

Stormwater projects create safe paths for polluted runoff to be captured and filtered before it reaches our waterways. They keep communities healthy and the environment clean.

When communities and their local governments work together to solve big problems like stormwater runoff, that's a story worth telling!