

TNC-NJ Living Shorelines Incentives Grant Program FAQ & other resources

1. **How much** funding is available?
 - ◆ Grant amounts range from \$10,000 up to \$50,000 for design, permitting, or construction of a living shoreline project.
2. What **living shoreline techniques** are eligible?
 - ◆ A range of living shoreline techniques will be considered, from **nature-based** living shorelines that only use coir logs and vegetation to **hybrid** approaches that incorporate stone sills and breakwaters, and others. Please refer to the Living Shorelines app of the [Restoration Explorer](#), as well as the [SIT Engineering Guidelines](#) for living shorelines.
 - ◆ Definition of a living shoreline (from VIMS guidance): “Living shorelines” is a term used to define a number of shoreline protection alternatives that allow for natural coastal processes to remain through the strategic placement of plants, stone, sand fill, and other structural and organic materials.
3. **When** are proposals **due**?
 - ◆ Proposals are due by **11:59pm on Friday October 18, 2019**. Proposals should be submitted by e-mail to william.shadel@tnc.org. (**Notification** of awards will be sent out via e-mail by November 1, 2019.)
4. **Who** is eligible?
 - ◆ Non-profits, municipalities (municipal staff), green teams, environmental commissions, watershed associations, academic institutions, homeowner’s associations, nonprofit organizations, private landowners (\$10,000 limit), consultants.
5. Can **private landowners** apply for the funding?
 - ◆ Yes, private landowners may apply for funding. However, NJDEP General Permit 24 (the “living shorelines” permit) requires a project be sponsored by a government agency or academic institution. Also, the GP24 may require public access. In addition, TNC will require periodic access to the project site throughout the life of the project.
6. If a nonprofit organization applies for a grant for a project on private land, **does the \$10,000 limit still apply**?
 - ◆ In this scenario, the \$10,000 “private benefit” limit rule of the IRS does not apply. However during application review, TNC staff must ascertain the project’s conservation benefit outweighs any real or perceived private benefit.
7. Can the **State apply** for the funding?
 - ◆ No, this funding is not available to state government agencies or commissions.
8. **Where** (riverine communities, etc.) is eligible?
 - ◆ Any New Jersey water body that is **tidal or tidally influenced**. This includes riverine areas if they are tidally influenced.
9. Can I apply for **multiple phases** at one time (design, permitting, and construction)?
 - ◆ Yes, multi-phase projects are eligible and can be submitted in a single proposal. In this case, we recommend you be as detailed as possible on budget estimates and timing. Keep in mind that grant funds *must* be spent by December 1, 2020.
10. Is **adaptive management** of an existing living shoreline eligible for this grant?
 - ◆ While TNC realizes that adaptive management can be critical to project success, it is not an eligible project category under this funding opportunity.
11. What will the **reporting requirements** be?
 - ◆ Grantees will be required to submit brief **monthly updates** (brief email describing progress and funds spent) and a short **final report** that outlines the TNC-funded work that was completed, including expense tracking, photo documentation, and project outcomes. Grantees will also be required to **participate in a future training**, webinar, or case study to share lessons learned.

12. How will the **Restoration Explorer** be used in the grant process?
- ◆ The Living Shorelines app on the [Restoration Explorer](#) is a tool that provides a first look at what type of project may be possible at a given site. Using the Restoration Explorer in the development of a project proposal is not required, however using it may give your proposal a higher score. If you do use it, please provide documentation (e.g., screen shot(s), description of the information obtained).
13. The **Restoration Explorer** shows no living shoreline of any type for my shoreline. Is my site eligible for this grant?
- ◆ If your site is on a tidal waterbody and you can show documented erosion, then your project would be eligible for this grant regardless of the information in the Restoration Explorer. It is a tool that does have limits and, in general, on-the-ground information is more important.
14. Would restoration of a **land-locked marsh** be eligible?
- ◆ As long as it meets the definition of a living shoreline and the criteria for this grant program, it would be eligible.
15. Is the **expansion of a project** previously funded by TNC-NJ eligible?
- ◆ Yes, if the project results in more linear feet of linear shoreline.
16. Given the preferred grant end date of June 2020, can TNC funds be used for **field season preparation** (e.g., supplies, initial site characterization)?
- ◆ No. The outcome of the project must be either a final design, an approved permit, a constructed living shoreline, or a combination of these.
17. Is both **permitting and additional site characterization** eligible?
- ◆ Permitting is an eligible cost as long as the project results in an approved permit by the end of the grant period (December 2020).
 - ◆ If permits are a result, it seems likely that the design is already complete and site characterization is also complete. If you can justify why additional site characterization is needed at this stage, it will be considered.
18. Are **outreach** costs an eligible cost?
- ◆ Yes, as long as the output of the TNC-funded portion of the project includes design, permitting, or construction, or a combination of these.
19. Will additional consideration be given to projects that already have the **rest of the funding in place**?
- ◆ Because this makes the outcome more likely within the grant timeframe, then such a proposal would be given additional consideration.
20. Will **shovel-ready** projects be given greater consideration?
- ◆ While not required, shovel-ready projects would be given additional consideration.
21. If an entity has **received a previous grant** from TNC-NJ, is it less likely it would be awarded a grant now?
- ◆ No. Proposals from previous grant recipients will be viewed without bias.
22. **How many proposals were received and how many grants** were awarded in the two previous rounds of this TNC-NJ grant program?
- ◆ In 2017, 10 proposals were submitted and 2 were awarded grants
 - ◆ In 2018, 18 proposals were submitted and 4 were funded.
23. Is **overhead** an allowable cost?
- ◆ Yes, overhead is an allowable cost, **capped at 10%**. Overhead costs above this cap may be shown as match contributed by the applicant or a funding source other than TNC.

Proposal content:

All proposals must include the following:

1. **Contact** Information: Name, Title, Organization, Mailing Address, E-mail/website
2. **Amount** requested from TNC
3. Detailed Project **Budget**
 - a. Labor, Materials, Subcontractors (e.g., survey, assessment, design, build), Overhead (10% limit), etc.
 - b. In addition to funds requested from TNC, this should include, as applicable, funds from other sources and in-kind services or materials (Note that no matching funds (cash or in-kind) are required)
4. **Photos** of the project site
5. Aerial photo of the project **vicinity** (e.g., screen shots of Google Earth)
6. A support letter for the project signed by the **property owner**
7. A **description** of the project (not to exceed **2 pages**) including demonstrated need, expected project outcomes, visibility, community involvement, etc.

If requesting funds for design, please include:

- A. A rough conceptual sketch of the intended project
- B. Name of design contractors under consideration, if applicable
- C. Detailed cost and schedule estimates for design process
- D. Anticipated schedule for permitting and construction once design is completed

If requesting funds for permitting, please include:

- A. Completed design plans or status of design
- B. List of required permits
- C. Status of permitting activities to date, deadline for obtaining permits
- D. Schedule for construction if permits are granted

If requesting funds for construction, please include:

- A. Status of permits; completed design plans or status of design
- B. Schedule for construction
- C. Itemized construction budget
- D. List of construction activities and materials to be funded
- E. Timeline for local procurement or bidding process, if applicable

Important site factors to consider when planning living shorelines:

1. What types of natural habitat are present at the site and along adjacent shorelines?
2. What is the extent, rate, and cause of the current erosion problem?
3. Does land loss occur mostly during large storms or year-round?
4. What is the site's slope, orientation, bathymetry, prevailing currents, waves, wakes, and fetch?
5. How can the site be accessed for construction?
6. Are other hard shoreline stabilization structures adjacent or nearby?
7. What are the current and former uses of the land and water in the area and who owns or manages them?
8. How much boat traffic occurs along the shoreline?
9. Is the site suitable for planting vegetation as part of a living shoreline project?
10. What would be the result of the site if left no project was implemented/constructed there?

Project Planning Tools and Resources:

1. The [Restoration Explorer: Living Shorelines App](#) is a high level screening tool that can help you decide what type of living shoreline technique may be appropriate for a given stretch of shoreline.
2. The [Stevens Institute of Technology Living Shoreline Engineering Guidelines](#) can provide planners and engineers with guidance on technical and ecological parameters that can help with appropriate siting and design of living shoreline projects.
3. The [Community Resource Guide for Planning Living Shorelines](#) contains helpful information on project development, including budget templates for living shorelines.
4. The [Procurement Guide for Nature-based Solutions](#) contains sample RFP language to help communities contract and solicit expert input for implementing living shoreline projects.
5. A recent [White Paper: Nature Based Solutions for Coastal Highway Resilience](#) from the Federal Highway Administration contains case studies as well as a literature review on design performance of nature-based solutions, including living shorelines.
6. NJDEP Living Shorelines Project Coordinator:

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NJDEP Office of Policy Implementation
609-984-9736
Jill.aspinwall@dep.nj.gov

Information about the TNC NJ Living Shorelines Incentives Program can be found here:

www.nature.org/njlivingshorelines