

## **COST-SHARE FOR VEGETATIVE SHORELINE STABILIZATION**

Shoreline erosion is a natural process that shapes the land around us. Unfortunately, changes in land use, increased development, and recreational activity on Delaware's rivers, ponds, and bays have accelerated the loss of land, resulting in increased dredging cost and frequency, the loss of valuable shoreline habitat, degraded water quality, and in extreme cases, damage to dwellings and other structures.

Over the years, stone (rip-rap), timber structures (bulkheads), and numerous other methods have been used to reduce shoreline erosion. Unfortunately, many of these best-intended practices can cause other problems-additional loss of habitat, chemical leaching, redirection of wave energy, and lack of visual appeal.

To address the shortcomings of these and other shoreline stabilization practices, the Sussex Conservation District, in cooperation with DNREC – Division of Water Resources and Division of Soil and Water Conservation are providing cost-share assistance for vegetative shoreline stabilization. Some projects may simply require minor grading and wetland grass planting while other projects may require major earthwork, the use of bio-stabilization products (coir fiber logs, wattles, etc.), and the use of several different types of plants. The important thing to remember is that each site is different and an approved plan and permits are required to be eligible for financial assistance.

To determine if your property is suitable for cost-share assistance for vegetative shoreline stabilization, contact DNREC – Division of Water Resources at (302) 739-9943. Please remember that most types of work in or near Delaware's precious water resources may require a permit.

### **VEGETATIVE SHORELINE STABILIZATION REQUIREMENTS**

1. Cost-share is only available for projects located throughout the State of Delaware.
2. Cost-share will be paid at 50% of the actual cost of the project, not to exceed \$5,000.
3. The cost-share shall not apply to any portion of the stabilization project that is not approvable under this program.
4. Landowners must agree to maintain the practice for 3 years.
5. The following types of projects will be considered for cost share:

- Shoreline stabilization projects that use natural shoreline plantings to control shoreline erosion without the use of rock or other shoreline hardening techniques. (Shoreline stabilization projects in non-tidal waters that use any rock, rip-rap or other shoreline hardening techniques shall not be eligible for cost-share funding.)
  - Projects, in tidal waters, that use less than 1 cubic foot of rock per linear foot of shoreline in combination with vegetative components. Note that the vegetative component must be at least twice the area of the footprint of the rock.
  - Marsh toe sill revetment designs in tidal waters that use less than 0.5 cubic yards of rock per linear foot of shoreline and incorporate a wetland vegetative component that is at least twice the area of the footprint of the rock toe.
6. Written approval in the form of a letter and applicable permit from the DNREC Division of Water, Wetlands and Subaqueous Lands Section, is required before you start work.

To be eligible to collect the cost-share money YOU MUST REGISTER YOUR NAME AND PROJECT IN ADVANCE of doing the work at the Sussex Conservation District Office located at 21315 Berlin Road, Unit 4, Georgetown, Delaware, 19947. Contact Bobbi Heck at (302) 259-7455 for more information. A step by step summary of the process to obtain the cost-share funding is as follows:

1. Submit an approvable design and shoreline stabilization permit application to the DNREC, Division of Water Resources, Wetlands and Subaqueous Lands Section (WSLS), 89 Kings Highway, Dover, Delaware - Phone: (302) 739-9943.
2. Obtain an approval letter for the project and the applicable permit from the WSLS. The WSLS will submit the approval letter to the Sussex Conservation District.
3. Register with the Sussex Conservation District and present the approval letter to Bobbi Heck, who can be contacted at (302) 259-7455.
4. Construct the project.
5. Fill out the post-construction report and return to the WSLS office upon completion of the construction activity. Representatives from the WSLS office will then conduct an on-site inspection and notify the Sussex Conservation District of the findings.
6. Representatives from the Sussex Conservation District Office may conduct an on-site inspection.

7. If the project has been determined to have met the requirements set forth by the cost-share approval, the Sussex Conservation District will contact you for the itemized receipt showing the costs of materials, labor, etc. for the cost-share eligible portion of the project.