

## BENEFITS

- Reduce shoreline erosion
- Absorb wave energy
- Enhance property aesthetics
- Reduce storm surge and flood waters
- Require minimal long-term maintenance
- Increase recreational opportunities (fishing, wildlife viewing)
- Highly versatile and easily adaptable
- Create habitat for terrestrial and aquatic species
- Maintain the natural land/water connection
- Improve water quality



*Volunteers plant marsh grass as part of a living shoreline in Lake Pasadena, Harris County. Photo courtesy of Galveston Bay Foundation.*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**GLO Permit Service Center: Corpus Christi**  
602 North Staples Street, Suite 240  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78401  
361-886-1630  
[permitting.assistance@glo.texas.gov](mailto:permitting.assistance@glo.texas.gov)

**GLO Permit Service Center: Galveston**  
Texas A&M University Galveston Campus  
1001 Texas Clipper Road  
Building 3026, Room 912  
Galveston, Texas 77553  
409-741-4057  
[permitting.assistance@glo.texas.gov](mailto:permitting.assistance@glo.texas.gov)



*Living shoreline on a private landowner's property in East Bay, Chambers County. Photo courtesy of Galveston Bay Foundation.*

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# A GUIDE TO LIVING SHORELINES IN TEXAS







*A living shoreline made out of marsh plantings and riprap protect a wooden bulkhead.  
Photo courtesy of GLO.*

## A GUIDE TO LIVING SHORELINES IN TEXAS

Learn more about Texas living shorelines in “[A Guide to Living Shorelines in Texas](https://www.glo.texas.gov/coast/coastal-management/permitting/index.html),” a guidance document from the Texas General Land Office (GLO). The guide is intended to provide streamlined information on how to implement living shorelines and outlines the steps needed to design, permit, and construct a viable project. The GLO hopes this information will help you build a living shoreline on your property that is resilient to coastal hazards and will protect your piece of Texas for generations to come.

Download the guidance document at the link below or pick up a copy at one of our Permit Service Centers:

<https://www.glo.texas.gov/coast/coastal-management/permitting/index.html>

## WHAT IS A LIVING SHORELINE?

A living shoreline is a natural shoreline stabilization approach designed to mimic nature and serve as an alternative to bulkheads, seawalls and other traditional hardened stabilization methods. Living shorelines utilize natural materials along with the strategic placement of plants and organic material to reduce erosion and protect property.

In the right setting, living shorelines can prevent land loss while, at the same time, providing all the aesthetic benefits of a natural shoreline. Living shorelines can be designed in a variety of sizes, configurations and dimensions. They can be successful in smaller residential locations and along larger sections of the coast. Living shoreline projects can be completed by private property owners, homeowner associations, non-profit organizations, local governments and more!



*Before: 03/01/2017*

*Living shorelines prevent erosion and protect the coast even from large waves caused by hurricanes. Here is a living shoreline before and after a direct hit by Hurricane Harvey in Copano Bay, Refugio County.*

*Photo courtesy of GLO.*



*After: 09/20/2017*

## PERMITTING

Living shorelines have been successfully established in most counties along the Texas coast, and in a wide variety of habitats. However, all living shoreline projects will require some authorizations and permitting. Texas provides free state and federal coastal permitting assistance through the GLO’s two Permit Service Centers.