# **Opportunity: Restoring Shorelines**



Shorelines where the river meets the land can support a wide array of plants, animals, and fish and act as natural water filters if kept and managed in a natural way.

There are over 20 miles of shoreline along the Christina and Brandywine Rivers in the project area. Where these shorelines have not been hardened with bulkheads or other structures, restoring living shorelines can provide natural habitat and help prevent erosion and flooding. A gradually sloping natural shoreline can also offer opportunities for people to view and interact with these natural areas and the water's edge.



Restoration and Protection of Wetlands



Restoration and Protection of Shorelines



Increase Community Resilience

Restoration and Protection of Riparian Areas

Remediation of Contaminants

Which CBR4 goals does this opportunity meet?

Impr

Improve Community Access to Rivers

Restor

Restoration and Protection of Adjacent Habitats

## Restoring Shorelines: 7th St. Peninsula



**Summary:** Skate park and old boat ramp with sites of ecological interest

**Existing Conditions:** Characteristic mudflats with varying levels of protection that may be accreting, wetland forest with fringing *Phragmites* 



### Restoring Shorelines: 7th St. Peninsula

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Figure 2 7th Street Park - Plan View

## Restoring Shorelines: 7th St. Peninsula



# 1. Wetland forest understory restoration

- Control invasive
  *Phragmites*
- Plant native vegetation
- Trail alignment



### Restoring Shorelines: 7th St. Peninsula

#### **Project Features:**

1. Wetland forest understory restoration

# 2. Armored Intertidal living shoreline

- Increase tidal exchange
- Vegetation plantings and mussel installations



### Restoring Shorelines: 7th St. Peninsula

#### **Project Features:**

- 1. Wetland forest understory restoration
- 2. Armored Intertidal living shoreline
- 3. Intertidal living shoreline
- Upstream protection
- Plantings or structures



# Restoring Shorelines: 7th St. Peninsula

<u>R</u> estoration	Improved tidal exchange, increased habitat diversity, and potential mussel installations will restore key intertidal ecosystem characteristics and functions
<u>R</u> emediation	Sediment evaluation needed prior to redistribution; consider borrow material sources.
<u>R</u> esilience	Improving stability at high-energy confluence, potential flood mitigation
*Public Access	Public access will be integrated into the design to encourage more positive interaction with the site



Signature Species

Eastern Elliptio



Eastern Elliptio is a freshwater mussel. It filters and improves water quality and serves as food for other species like fish, raccoons, otters, and birds.

### **Restoring Shorelines**: Dravo Shoreline



### Summary: Stretch of historic pilings

### **Existing Conditions:**

- Vegetation growing atop pilings
- North end rip-rapped and steeper
- South end characterized by softer, but stable sediment and gentler slope



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Figure 6 Dravo Shoreline - Plan View

### **Project Features:**

# 1. Management of existing vegetation

- Control invasive species
- Bolster native plant populations



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Figure 6 Dravo Shoreline - Plan View

#### **Project Features:**

- 1. Management of existing vegetation
- 2. Wetland habitat uplift
- <u>Northern half</u>: experimental floating wetlands



## **Restoring Shorelines**: Dravo Shoreline

#### **Project Features:**

- 1. Management of existing vegetation
- 2. Wetland habitat uplift
- <u>Northern half</u>: experimental floating wetlands
- <u>Southern half</u>: stabilized, modular living shoreline pockets



<u>R</u> estoration	Management of invasives and maintenance of important native plant communities will benefit pollinators and aquatic species
<u>R</u> emediation	Less sediment disturbance necessary, but evaluations will still take place
<u>R</u> esilience	Floating wetlands and pocket living shorelines will contribute to cleaner, healthier waters
*Public Access	Offers great opportunity to pilot novel floating wetland and modular living shoreline concepts at a site that experiences considerable foot traffic.



Signature Species

Juvenile Striped Bass



Young striped bass live and forage in estuarine environments before they grow large enough to migrate; they receive protection and abundant food from complex vegetated habitats