

# Low Cost Shore Protection

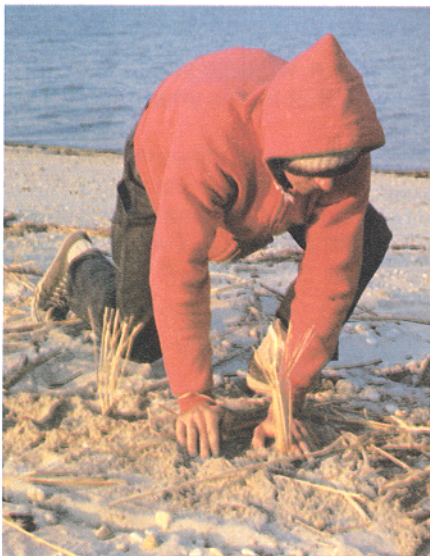
This brochure presents low cost ways for the shoreline property owner to control or slow down shoreline erosion. It will also be of interest to community leaders, local government officials, and contractors and engineers involved in erosion control.

Prepared as a public service by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the brochure is part of a program to demonstrate low cost erosion control measures. The methods described here apply to all protected and inland shores of the United States where wave height does not usually exceed six feet and severe storms or hurricanes are not annual events. These sheltered areas are the only ones where low cost, owner-implemented protection is likely to be successful. The measures described here should not normally be used on open coastlines exposed to heavy ocean waves.

The useful lifetimes of these methods vary from a year or two, for temporary structures, to over ten years, for longer-lasting installations. These numbers are approximate: unpredictable factors such as weather could shorten or prolong the expected lifetime of any shoreline structure.

While all these methods have been used to reduce erosion problems, no erosion control device will ever be completely successful in all applications. The government cannot guarantee, therefore, that a particular method will be successful in your case. If you think it is likely that one or more of the measures described here could help with your erosion problem, we urge you to seek further information and assistance in designing a solution that meets your needs.

In addition to this introductory brochure, the Corps of Engineers has prepared detailed reports to assist those who need further information. To obtain one of these reports, send in the postcard attached to the back cover. Additional sources of help are described in the back of the brochure under **Where To Go From Here**.



This brochure has four main objectives.

First, it briefly presents the natural processes that affect your shoreline property and the factors involved in erosion and erosion control.

Second, it gives you information on types of low cost erosion control measures available to property owners whose waterfronts are threatened. While "low cost" does not necessarily mean "cheap," the methods described in this brochure are within the resources of many individual property owners or groups of individuals acting together. Each method is described here in terms of the shoreforms and situations where it can be used successfully, how it protects the shore, its advantages and disadvantages, and its general design features and construction materials.

The third objective of the brochure is to help you with planning for shoreline erosion control. After the discussion of erosion control measures, the brochure describes a number of general areas you should consider before deciding on a course of action.

Fourth, the brochure is designed to give you sources for further information and assistance in making decisions and implementing them. These are presented in a section at the end.

Knowledgeable professionals can help to ensure successful protection against erosion. Poorly designed or improperly installed devices may be worse than nothing at all. They may actually accelerate erosion, change the ways in which the shoreline can be used, or create an eyesore. This brochure serves as a general introduction only, not as a technical report. It does not present detailed specifications for design and installation of erosion control devices. Some low cost erosion control measures can be undertaken by the homeowner alone, but they should be attempted only after the site has been carefully evaluated and appropriate control measures designed.

While federal aid usually cannot be used to offset the costs of erosion control measures for protecting private property, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can provide information and technical assistance.