

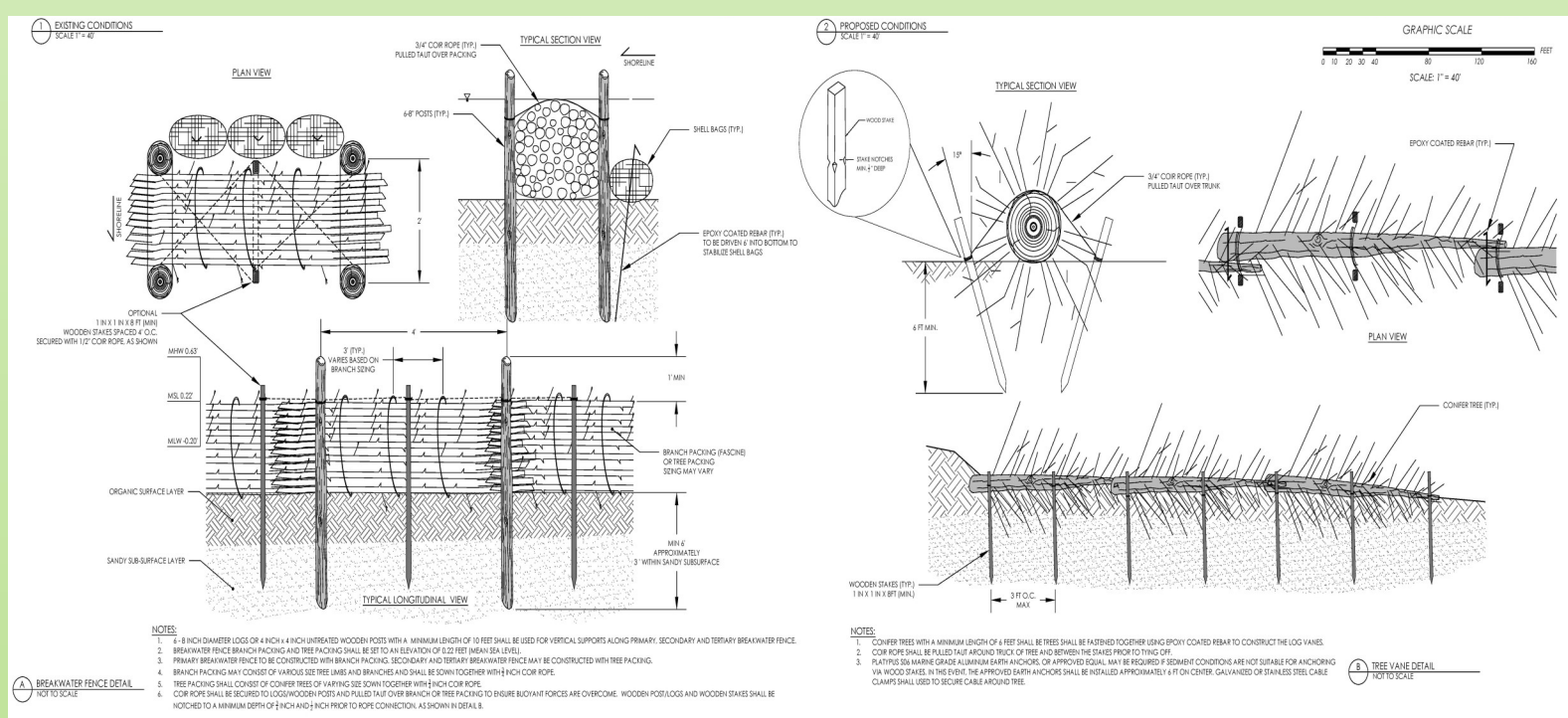


Slade Dale Living Shoreline Project

Situated along the North Branch of Beaverdam Creek – a tidal tributary that flows into the larger Metedeconk River and, eventually, Barnegat Bay – Slade Dale Sanctuary is 13 acres of pine-oak forest, hardwood swamp, and salt marsh that serves as one of only a few areas of protected open space in the otherwise heavily developed municipality of Point Pleasant, NJ. The site contains an active osprey nest and has been identified as foraging habitat for several vulnerable bird species. Unfortunately, Slade Dale Sanctuary suffers from edge erosion and has been disappearing at an alarming rate. Historic aerial imagery shows the shoreline has eroded approximately 300 linear feet since 1930, and the current vegetation composition of the site shows evidence of marsh retreat: dead or dying upland tree species in current wetland areas suggests these locations were previously upland and have since become inundated as the shoreline has eroded. All low marsh habitat has been lost.




In 2019, the American Littoral Society constructed multiple branch-box breakwaters and tree vanes using recycled Christmas trees collected by the town or dropped off by residents. Both the breakwaters and tree vanes are designed to buffer wave energy and trap suspended sediment, reducing the erosive forces impacting the shoreline, while adding material to the shoreline and creek bottom to raise marsh elevations. The breakwaters were built offshore, parallel to the shoreline, while the vanes were situated perpendicular, sticking out from the shoreline like spokes on a wheel. Both structures, collectively, consist of approximately 600 Christmas trees, hand-placed by volunteers.



Project Partners Include: Princeton Hydro LLC, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Borough of Point Pleasant, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Funding Provided By: Rotary Club, The Nature Conservancy, Borough of Point Pleasant, NJ Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership