Wisely Conserving Natural Resources and Creating Opportunities for Positive Economic and Community Development

Living Shorelines to Protect Waterfront Properties

The Albemarle Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. (ARC&D) is a 501c3 non-profit organization that assists local governments and community groups in northeast NC with projects that protect land and water resources while promoting economic development.

Since 1972, ARC&D has partnered with our 10 counties to complete over 500 projects using over $15 million in grants that continue to make the Albemarle Region a great place to live and work. We have delivered an overall return-on-investment (ROI) of $4:1. Each dollar invested by local governments or communities has returned at least $4 in value!

The ARC&D proudly serves the people of Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell & Washington Counties.

Perquimans County Community Center

Storm surge and heavy rain from Hurricane Isabel in 2003 eroded 30 ft of shoreline bluff in front of the multi-million dollar community center in Perquimans County. The county worked with the Albemarle RC&D Council, Perquimans Soil and Water, and Natural Resources Conservation Service to stabilize 400 ft of shoreline bluff in front of the community center building, and construct 1,000 ft of rock sill in shallow water along the shoreline.

Native trees, shrubs, and grasses planted along the bluff and shoreline have helped stabilize and protect this important public property since 2008. The project was funded through a grant from the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund and matching funds from Perquimans County.

For more information on Albemarle RC&D Council programs and services:
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The design of overlapping rock sills at the Perquimans Community Center was based on a 2004 shoreline stabilization demonstration project at the Newbold-White House. The demonstration project installed rock sills, coconut logs, and timber breakwaters to test their effectiveness for protecting the shoreline along the Perquimans River. Tropical storms destroyed all the structures except the rock sills.

Coconut Logs

Rock Sills

Timber Breakwater

The project at the Perquimans Community Center used a unique design of overlapping rock sills, which provides additional protection from wave action and creates calm water behind the sills for natural vegetation to become established.

The overlapping rock sills break wave action, which allows native plants to grow and thrive along the shoreline. Habitat also is created for small fish and other wildlife.

The cost of constructing living shorelines with rock sills is comparable to constructing vinyl bulkheads when rock may be brought in by land.