

Natural & Nature-Based Features



Beaches & Dunes



Description

Beaches are sandy areas next to oceans and tidal waters. Dunes are sand mounds next to beaches with vegetation that can grow in loose, shifting sand. Beach nourishment is adding sand to a beach to make it larger. Beaches and dunes are effective storm buffers helping to protect development next to the beach. These natural features also provide cleaner water, economic gains, and cultural traditions as ecosystem service benefits.

Multiple Benefits

- * Dissipate energy of breaking waves
- * Physical barrier to storm surge
- * Sand storage for natural storm recovery
- * Pervious soils for infiltration
- * Recreation & tourism



Water Quality BMPs

Urban or Ag Shoreline Management
Urban or Ag Shoreline Erosion Control - Vegetated
Urban or Ag Shoreline Erosion Control - Non-Vegetated



Community Rating System Credit Potential

Beaches & Dunes in Special Flood Hazard Areas

Open Space Preservation beach protected with development prohibited on the beach

Natural Functions Open Space 1 beach protected and maintained in natural state without grooming or nourishment

Natural Shoreline Protection natural beach where local policy prohibits beach armoring, dune alterations, or other interventions that constrains natural ocean processes

Beaches & Dunes Restoration Tips

- * Try to match existing sand grain size
- * Avoid harm to protected species like nesting sea turtles, shorebirds, Northeastern beach tiger beetle
- * Only clean sand fill free of trash, toxics, invasive species
- * Choose dune plants similar to local beaches
- * Reserve adjacent land upslope for future beach location
- * Manage foot traffic through planted dunes

Resources

[Beach Nourishment & Dune Restoration](#)

[Learn More www.vims.edu/ccrm/nbnf](http://www.vims.edu/ccrm/nbnf)