

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point
COMMUNICATION STRATEGY AND OPERATIONS



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Living Shoreline Project Underway at Cherry Point

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION CHERRY POINT, N.C. (Nov. 18, 2024) —Work to construct a living shoreline to restrain erosion along the marine border of Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point is set to begin Nov. 19, 2024.

T.D. Eure Marine Construction was awarded the \$6.4-million project to construct approximately 9,700 linear feet of granite sill and associated planting of vegetation along the Neuse River boundary.

Cherry Point environmental records show the Neuse River shoreline has suffered significant erosion, receding more than 50 feet in some locations since 1994. The eroding shoreline threatens the installation's recreational facilities and housing, and impacts ground training and operational capabilities.

The new shoreline layout will incorporate designs that will reduce wave energy and allow the shoreline to accumulate sediment material as opposed to continual erosion. The choice of a granite sill design was determined to be the best option to lessen the impact of wave energy that has had the most adverse effects to the area's existing shoreline. It will also offer additional benefits of improved water quality, restoration to the salt marsh and fisheries habitat, and being lower maintenance and more resilient than bulkheads.

An additional phase of the work will be completed in cooperation with the North Carolina Coastal Federation, by utilizing multiple grants received by the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program and the State of North Carolina to fund an additional 2,000 linear feet of shoreline protection. The work on this phase will begin in early December and will be constructed by Coastal Wildlife Consultants, LLC.

The construction of the living shoreline will significantly curtail erosion, promote ecosystem health, provide water quality benefits to the surrounding communities, and protect the installation from the threat of sea-level rise, thereby enhancing the resilience of MCAS Cherry Point.

More than 12,100 linear feet of shoreline will be protected once the entire project is complete. Jessica Guilianelli, Cherry Point EAD Natural Resources Manager stated the project paves the way for the use of a Nature Based Solution that protects existing infrastructure, is environmentally conscious, and sets the installation up for success for decades to come.

Questions can be directed to Cherry Point's Communication Strategy and Operations Office at 252-466-4241 or cherrypoint@usmc.mil.

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