

To Whom It May Concern:

In 2012 the community of Pines on the Severn in Arnold MD began to formulate plans to deal with serious erosion and storm-water related issues on a 400-ft. stretch of community-owned waterfront on Chase Creek. We received a Chesapeake Bay Trust design grant in 2013 and, after a competitive process, Underwood & Associates was unanimously selected to complete both the design for a Living Shoreline and the construction of the project.

Pines on the Severn was started in the 1920's as a summer community, and it has one mile-long, shoulder-less main road running from Ritchie Highway to Chase Creek. Construction on our Living Shoreline began on June 1st, 2015. In the first three days of work 150 dump truck loads of dirt, sand, mulch, gravel, cobble and boulders were brought to the site, an amazing logistical feat accomplished without a single complaint from residents or the businesses at the Ritchie Hwy. end. This efficiency and professionalism was characteristic of Underwood & Associates' work throughout the project, with the bulk of the installation completed in just a couple of weeks.

The Living Shoreline, now almost two years old, is hugely popular with the community. Underwood's design has restored about three quarters of an acre of waterfront land that had disappeared decades ago. The area is now a habitat for native vegetation and wildlife and is enjoyed year round by Pines residents. Importantly the installation has also proved to be very stable. The high and low marsh grasses that were planted have flourished, so much so that we are beginning to consider installing a walkway to maintain human access along the shoreline. There has been no evidence of erosion or shifting of sand or any other materials. We are very proud of the environmental improvements that have resulted and very delighted with Underwood & Associates' work from the beginning of the process to right now. Keith Underwood has remained very close to our Shoreline, as he does with all his projects, and visits often to check on it and to bring others to see it. We very much welcome anyone who is interested in seeing the project and I would be delighted to give anyone a tour.

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