

# Improving your shoreline with native landscaping

## benefits

- ✓ add value to your landscape
- ✓ control runoff
- ✓ receive financial reimbursement
- ✓ receive technical assistance
- ✓ protect Lake Whatcom



### **maintain view & beach**

Improving landscaping can enhance your beach and view to and from the lake.



### **deter geese**

A native plant only has to be 30-inches high to deter geese, so you can still have your shoreline views and access.



### **add color**

Native plants are more diverse than ferns and salal! There are many native plants that offer beautiful color.



### **low maintenance**

You can have a beautiful yard and enjoy it too! Landscaping with native plants allows more time to enjoy your garden with less work.

## **Thinking about landscaping part of your shoreline?**

HIP reimburses up to \$1.30 per square foot of property that is converted from phosphorus-generating lawn to native landscaping! You can choose the aesthetic native plant buffer for your property, continue to enjoy your shoreline, and help protect Lake Whatcom all at the same time.

When you live along the shoreline, there isn't much room to absorb runoff from roofs, driveways, and lawns before it seeps into the lake. Creating a landscaped area with a thick mulch layer and native plants reduces the amount of phosphorus in runoff by more than 80%.



## What is meant by “native” plants and which ones are good for the shoreline?

Native plants are adapted to our environment, drought-resistant, require no fertilizer, and can establish themselves easily. There are more than 900 species of native plants—here are some you might find at your local nursery that are ideal for planting along freshwater shorelines:

| plant name          | type           | sun or shade?    | mature height | deters geese | frames views | deer resistant |
|---------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| Shore pine          | evergreen tree | part sun         | 25-50'        |              | ★            | ★              |
| Red-twig dogwood    | deciduous tree | part to full sun | 15'           |              | ★            |                |
| Pacific ninebark    | tall shrub     | part to full sun | 13'           |              | ★            |                |
| Mock orange         | medium shrub   | sun or shade     | 9'            | ★            | ★            | ★              |
| Clustered wild rose | low shrub      | full sun         | 6'            | ★            |              | ★              |
| Coastal strawberry  | ground-cover   | sun or shade     | 1'            |              |              | ★              |
| Golden-eyed Grass   | grass-like     | full sun         | 1.5'          | ★            |              |                |
| Great camas flower  | emergent       | full sun         | 2'            |              |              |                |
| Maidenhair fern     | fern           | shade            | 2'            | ★            |              | ★              |

## 1 Project Design\*

- ✓ Define areas to plant
- ✓ Select plants
- ✓ Choose your favorite mulch

## 2 Review & Approval\*

- ✓ Complete project application
- ✓ Receive free permit

## 3 Construction & Installation\*

- ✓ Spread mulch
- ✓ Install plants

## 4 Maintain your system

- ✓ Weeding and watering for two years until plants are established.
- ✓ Other upkeep activities unique to your project.

*\*A HIP-certified professional can be hired to help complete these tasks for you.*

## enhance for ambiance

*Incorporating native landscaping adjacent to your shoreline can provide a private “room” while allowing full use of your beach. In some cases, it even expands the beach space.*



## QUESTIONS?

Find resources at [www.lakewhatcomHIP.org](http://www.lakewhatcomHIP.org), or request a free site visit to discuss your project options with a local expert. Call (360) 526-2381 or send an email to [info@lakewhatcomHIP.org](mailto:info@lakewhatcomHIP.org).