Improving your shoreline with native landscaping

**benefits**
- add value to your landscape
- control runoff
- receive technical assistance
- receive financial reimbursement
- 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:

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

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.

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**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 and request a free site visit at [www.lakewhatcomHIP.org](http://www.lakewhatcomHIP.org).
Creating interest with native landscaping

**benefits**
- improve your landscape
- control runoff
- receive technical assistance
- receive financial reimbursement
- protect Lake Whatcom

**functional features**
A patio with an infiltration trench beneath can provide both a sitting area and water quality protection.

**walk in the wild**
Stepping stone pathways through native landscaped areas can be an invitation to explore new features of your landscape.

**low maintenance**
A thick layer of mulch provides less watering, no mowing and more time to relax and enjoy your healthy yard.

**native plant beauty**
Native plants come in many colors and sizes to form a beautiful garden all year round.

**Add some excitement to your lawn!**

Lawns can’t absorb nutrients fast enough to keep them from washing away when it rains. Creating a landscaped area with a thick mulch layer and native plants reduces the amount of phosphorus in runoff by more than 80% and beautifies your yard.

Whether you’re considering removing all or just portions of your lawn, native landscaping can provide interest, new features in your yard, and water quality protection. HIP reimburses up to $1.30 per square foot of property that is converted from phosphorus-generating lawn to native landscaping; HIP can also provide reimbursement for landscape improvements that provide a water quality benefit.
What is meant by “native” plants?

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—the following list shows some of the most common plants you’d find at your local nursery.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>plant name</th>
<th>type</th>
<th>sun or shade?</th>
<th>wet or dry soils?</th>
<th>flower or leaf color</th>
<th>bloom time</th>
<th>deer resistant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shore pine</td>
<td>evergreen tree</td>
<td>full sun</td>
<td>wet</td>
<td>light green</td>
<td>none</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vine maple</td>
<td>deciduous tree</td>
<td>shade</td>
<td>dry</td>
<td>red/orange</td>
<td>early</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue elderberry</td>
<td>tall shrub</td>
<td>full sun</td>
<td>dry</td>
<td>white</td>
<td>mid-summer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-flowering currant</td>
<td>medium shrub</td>
<td>sun or shade</td>
<td>dry</td>
<td>red/pink</td>
<td>earliest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon grape</td>
<td>low shrub</td>
<td>shade</td>
<td>wet or dry</td>
<td>dark green</td>
<td>later</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinnikinnick (bearberry)</td>
<td>ground-cover</td>
<td>sun or shade</td>
<td>dry</td>
<td>dark green</td>
<td>mid-summer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue-eyed Grass</td>
<td>grass-like</td>
<td>full sun</td>
<td>wet</td>
<td>blue-purple</td>
<td>mid-summer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange honeysuckle</td>
<td>vine</td>
<td>part sun</td>
<td>dry</td>
<td>orange</td>
<td>later</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sword fern</td>
<td>fern</td>
<td>shade</td>
<td>wet or dry</td>
<td>dark green</td>
<td>none</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

QUESTIONS?

Find resources and request a free site visit at www.lakewhatcomHIP.org.
Installing a lakeside underground pollution filter

**benefits**

- improve your landscape
- control runoff
- receive technical assistance
- receive financial reimbursement
- protect Lake Whatcom

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**valuable views**

Relax and enjoy your waterfront view with the assurance you are doing your part to keep Lake Whatcom clean.

**room to play**

Right next to this grassy play area is a special mix of soil that filters pollution out of runoff from the surroundings.

**invisible infiltration**

A sandy beach disguises a water quality protection system at Bloedel Donovan Park. You can enjoy your lakeside property and protect Lake Whatcom at the same time.

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**Want a beach that provides enjoyment to you and clean water to our community?**

Your beach can dramatically improve the quality of water entering Lake Whatcom. Pollution filter systems under your beach can be designed to treat the pollution running off of your property without interfering with your enjoyment of your lakefront retreat.

HIP-certified professionals can help you design and install these and other improvements that are eligible for reimbursement—up to $1.30 per square foot of property improved to protect Lake Whatcom.
How much space will my underground pollution filter take up?

It depends. Many factors, including the unique layout of your property and whether you are using pipes to convey runoff into the water treatment system, influence the size of your project. A HIP-certified designer can determine the appropriate size of your lakeside underground pollution filter.

Is your property outside of Bellingham city limits?

The beach area itself can be configured in many creative ways but the maximum beach length is 30% of your shoreline. Two examples of possible clean beach configurations are shown to the right.

The beach area itself can be configured in many creative ways but the maximum beach length is 30% of your shoreline. Two examples of possible clean beach configurations are shown to the right.

**PROJECT DESIGN**
- Choose location for filter
- Determine location of piping into and out of system, if applicable

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL**
- Complete application*
- Receive free permit

**CONSTRUCTION & INSTALLATION**
- Dig out existing soil
- Place pipes and drains, if applicable
- Install sand and filter media

**MAINTAIN YOUR SYSTEM**
- Keep pipes and drains clean and replace sand when needed.
- Other upkeep activities unique to your project.

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

QUESTIONS?

Find resources and request a free site visit at www.lakewhatcomHIP.org.
Installing an underground pollution filter

**benefits**
- improve your landscape
- control runoff
- receive technical assistance
- receive financial reimbursement
- protect Lake Whatcom

**garden compatible**
Relax and enjoy your garden with the assurance you are doing your part to keep Lake Whatcom clean.

**room to play**
Right next to this grassy area is a special rock and sand mix that filters pollution out of runoff from the surroundings.

**invisible infiltration**
A gravel garden feature disguises an underground water quality protection system. You can add interest to your landscape and protect Lake Whatcom at the same time.

**Want a yard that provides enjoyment to you and clean water to our community?**
Your yard doesn’t need to look different to dramatically improve the quality of water entering Lake Whatcom. Underground pollution filter systems can be designed to treat the pollution running off of your property without interfering with the enjoyment of your backyard.

HIP-certified professionals can help you design and install these and other improvements that are eligible for reimbursement—up to $1.30 per square foot of property improved to protect Lake Whatcom.
How much space will my underground pollution filter take up?

It depends. Many factors, including the unique layout of your property and whether you are using pipes to convey runoff into the water treatment system, influence the size of your project. A HIP-certified designer can determine the appropriate size of your underground pollution filter. Generally, though, filtering systems have a smaller footprint than other HIP BMPs, like infiltration trenches.

envision the possibilities

Placing a pollution filter system below ground allows you to maintain space in your yard.

Underground pollution filters provide a blank slate for your creative landscaping ideas.

QUESTIONS?

Find resources and request a free site visit at www.lakewhatcomHIP.org.
Installing an underground pollution filter

**Benefits**

- Improve your landscape
- Control runoff
- Receive technical assistance
- Receive financial reimbursement
- Protect Lake Whatcom

### Inviting spaces

A native plant border can create an aesthetic buffer between the patio and fence, framing the space to create ambiance.

### Invisible infiltration

Downspouts route water away from your home into a facility that improves water quality.

### What pollution filter?

A patio disguises a water quality protection system. You can use your landscape creatively and protect Lake Whatcom.

**Considering a new patio to enjoy those summer evenings on?**

You can dine, relax, entertain, and protect Lake Whatcom water quality all at the same time! In some cases, an inviting patio can be designed and installed with an underground pollution filter beneath it—proving that HIP-eligible projects can be integrated into your dream yard.

HIP-certified professionals can help you design and install these and other improvements that are eligible for reimbursement—up to $1.30 per square foot of property improved to protect Lake Whatcom.
How much space will my underground pollution filter take up?

It depends. Many factors, including soil permeability, the unique layout of your property, and the type of final surface you choose, influence the design principles used to calculate the system’s size. It can be anywhere from the size of a patio you entertain on, to a walkway through your yard. A HIP-certified designer can determine the appropriate size you need.

A peagravel walkway can also function as an underground pollution filter. HIP-approved projects are easily combined with landscaping projects you might already be considering doing.

Rock and/or mulch can be used to cover the underground pollution filter to fulfill a variety of design aesthetics. How you want to utilize the aboveground space is typically the deciding factor.

QUESTIONS?

Find resources and request a free site visit at www.lakewhatcomHIP.org.
Installing a Lake Whatcom
rain garden

**benefits**
- improve your landscape
- control runoff
- receive technical assistance
- receive financial reimbursement
- protect Lake Whatcom

**enhance your yard**
Enhance curb appeal while removing nutrient pollution from our community's drinking water supply.

**create a sanctuary**
Take a step away from your busy life into a relaxing garden retreat. Birds and butterflies will join you there.

**reduce maintenance**
Landscaping with native plants allows more time to enjoy your garden with less work.

**Want to create beautiful gardens that filter pollution from your property?**
Rain gardens add excitement to your landscape, help control runoff, and improve the quality of water draining from your property into Lake Whatcom. HIP-certified designers can help you craft your rain garden location, size, and plant composition while incorporating your preferences for the overall landscape.

HIP reimburses up to $1.30 per square foot of property that filters phosphorus-containing runoff from roofs and driveways! Low maintenance rain gardens give you more time to enjoy your yard, attract beneficial pollinators, and help protect Lake Whatcom all at the same time.
How much space will my rain garden take up?

It depends. Many factors, including soil permeability, the unique layout of your property, and the amount of lawn and impervious surfaces your property includes, influence the system's size. A HIP-certified designer can help you determine the appropriate size and shape of your rain garden.

1 Project Design*
- Confirm/test soil infiltration rate
- Choose location for rain garden
- Choose planting scheme for rain garden
- Design drainage system into and out of rain garden

2 Review and Approval
- Complete application*
- Receive free permit

3 Construction & Installation*
- Dig out existing soil
- Place pipes and drains
- Add soil mix
- Install plants and mulch

4 Maintain your system
- Other upkeep activities unique to your project.

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

QUESTIONS?
Find resources and request a free site visit at www.lakewhatcomHIP.org.