



Shore Friendly Mason | Mini-Grant Program

Lawn Reduction + Planting | Invasive Weed Removal + Planting



Above left: A shoreline that would benefit from trees and native plants. Above right: Invasive ivy infests a shoreline.

Lawn Reduction: Reducing the amount of lawn area along the marine shoreline offers many benefits - less time spent mowing, weeding, and fertilizing; soil and slope stabilization; stormwater runoff reduction and drainage improvements. Converting waterfront lawn back into a mixture of native shrubs and trees also provides food and shelter for insects, animals, and marine life that depend on healthy natural shorelines.

Invasive Weed Removal: Problem weeds invade many shorelines, choking out native plants, hiding erosion or other stability issues, and degrading natural shoreline habitat and function. English Ivy, Scotch Broom, Knotweed, and Blackberry are a few that often present a challenge. For a successful project, these plants must be completely removed (root and all) to allow establishment of replacement plants. In the case of knotweed or ivy, all removed plant parts should be disposed of in trash bags rather than composted. For difficult projects, herbicides may be an option but chemical use near water is not recommended and is closely regulated. Contact the Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board (360) 427-9436 x 592 for guidance.

Minimum Requirements for a mini-grant:

- The area of lawn or weed removal must be clearly defined and all weeds or grass and associated roots should be completely disposed of prior to replanting with native plants.
- After clearing weeds, the disturbed area must be replanted with native species. At least 3 trees and 10 shrubs must be planted to qualify for a grant –typically areas measuring 300 square feet or greater. We always encourage planting more native plants for a greater long term benefit.
- Mulch is recommended for cleared areas - except on steep slopes or the top edges of bluffs.
- Because the goal is to establish native vegetation along the shoreline, projects must take place within 100 feet of the high tide line or the top of a bluff/bank adjacent to water, or along the face of the bank where feasible.

Project completion:

- If 2 months lapse with no evidence of progress, MCD reserves the right to withdraw the grant award and offer it to another property owner who is ready to proceed.
- Before and after pictures, original receipts for expenses, and a site check after planting are required for grant reimbursement.

Reimbursement:

- 50% of the project cost, up to a maximum award of \$500, will be reimbursed for projects completed as designed. Reimbursement typically takes 4 weeks after all receipts and paperwork are received.



BEFORE: Restoration site covered in a blanket of invasive ivy.



IN PROCESS: Wood chip mulch installed after ivy removal.



AFTER: A restoration site 2 years after planting, with snowberry, sword fern, and native sedges becoming established.