



Shore Friendly Mason | Mini-Grant Program

Waterfront Planting Projects

Native plants play a critical role in the health of our waterfront environment. Along natural marine shorelines, native trees and shrubs overhang the beach at high tide, contributing food and shade to the small marine animals that live there. Their roots bind the soil near the beach, where dense vegetation can act like a “natural bulkhead” moderating the process of shoreline erosion. As they mature, trees can be pruned to frame your views of Puget Sound. Native shrubs, trees, and groundcovers hold an irreplaceable role in the marine food web. They drop bugs and leaves into the water, feeding small creatures that are eaten by salmon, which eventually feed the magnificent orcas - and our families.

Planting and nurturing native trees and shrubs along your shoreline is an important step in restoring the health of our marine waters. Waterfront plants offer many additional benefits - less time mowing, weeding, and managing lawns; soil and slope stabilization; stormwater runoff reduction and even drainage improvements. Partner with us to create a Shore Friendly waterfront at your home.



Minimum Requirements for a mini-grant:

- At least 3 trees and 10 shrubs must be planted to qualify for a grant – areas generally measure 300 square feet or more. We encourage planting more native plants for a greater impact.
- The planting area must be clearly defined and all weeds or grass and associated roots in the planting zone should be completely disposed of prior to planting native plants.
- Mulch is recommended for use around new plantings, with a small space cleared around the stem of the tree/shrub. Exception: don't use mulch on steep slopes or bluff edges.
- 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 \$250 will be reimbursed for projects completed as designed. Reimbursement typically takes 4 weeks after all paperwork is received.