

NOVEMBER 2023

WATERSHED WISE

Mason Conservation District



Skokomish River Restoration

Upcoming Events

- 12/01 Native Plant Sale Opens
(See pages 5-8 for more info)
- 12/09 Natural Yard Care Workshop
9:00am - 10:00am
(The Salmon Center, Belfair)
- 12/12 Natural Yard Care Workshop
5:30pm - 6:30pm
(Shelton Civic Center)

➤➤➤ EARLY SIGNS OF PROGRESS - ESTUARY

The Skokomish River is at the heart of Mason County and leads to the Skokomish Estuary which is vital to the health and abundance of many marine and wildlife species for which this county is known. In 2006, Mason Conservation District (MCD) partnered with the Skokomish Tribe to restore the Skokomish Estuary on Hood Canal. In 2018, partners, funders, natural resource agencies, and community leaders gathered to celebrate the completion of the estuary restoration. Salmon, seals, and birds also celebrated as they reclaimed the area proving just how impactful this project would be on our community and the ecosystem. In total, this project restored more than 900 acres by removing 3.45 miles of levee, improving 6.4 miles of tidal channels, removing/modifying 51 fish passage structures, and more.

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➤➤➤ EARLY SIGNS OF PROGRESS - UPPER WATERSHED

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Watershed partners have been working to improve natural processes in the upper reaches of the Skokomish River for many years. Actions have included road decommissioning along with other erosion prevention measures and instream large wood installations to improve habitat while storing gravel in the upper watershed. Storing gravel in the upper watershed is a crucial step toward improving flood conditions in the Skokomish Valley which is burdened by overly abundant gravel in the channel. MCD completed the fourth phase of instream wood construction in 2022 and is currently working toward the fifth phase of construction planned for 2026.

➤➤➤ RIVER MILE 5 PROJECT

Early progress in the upper watershed and estuary has set the stage for successful restoration in the Skokomish Valley. The river historically supported large populations of Salmon, but throughout the past few decades those populations have declined and flooding in the Skokomish Valley has worsened. MCD is working toward implementing 10 large-scale restoration projects in the valley, and this list of projects continues to grow. These projects are intended to reduce flooding while also improving habitat for fish and wildlife. Last summer MCD completed the first large scale instream restoration project in the valley. Our team implemented a multistage project that increased river capacity by creating a 2,500 ft side channel, and by constructing engineered log jams that mimic old growth wood jams that scour a deeper river channel. MCD looks forward to working with partners in the Skokomish community to implement more of these projects that help recover endangered fish populations while also improving human well-being.

PROGRESS SINCE 2006

- Reduced flooding in the lower Skokomish Valley
- Reestablished shellfish beds in estuary
- Increasing populations of endangered salmon species
- Underwater eel grass beds double in size, great for crab
- Reopening the view of the estuary between US 101 and US 106
- Reduced sediment supply from the upper watershed

➤➤➤ COMMUNITY IMPACT

We are proud to be working on restoration in the Skokomish, and we are committed to continue working toward ecosystem recovery, reduced flooding, and overall improvements to human well-being. The restorative progress that we have seen since beginning efforts has been gratifying and exemplifies how impactful our community can be when we join forces for the greater good.

MEET ALEX CHACON

STEWARDSHIP FORESTER

»»» EDUCATION AND BACKGROUND IN THE FIELD

Alex grew up in Rancho Cucamonga, California, before attending the University of California, Santa Cruz. Alex studied plant sciences during his undergraduate years and worked on a research project in tree ecophysiology, which he published in 2020. Upon graduating, Alex was a consultant for a utility company focusing on vegetation management in Southern California. After two years working in California, Alex took a position in Denver, Colorado, doing similar work. During his years in utility vegetation management, Alex obtained an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Arborist Certification, which led him to pursue job opportunities in forestry. After spending three years in Denver, Alex moved back to Southern California in 2020.

»»» FORESTRY EXPERIENCE

A brief position as a utility forester opened a door for Alex to pursue his ambition of working in the public sector. By the end of the year, Alex had become the Forest Health Specialist for the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District (IERCD). In this position, Alex got to work with private and public organizations, including the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Alex helped with recovery and reforestation efforts after the 2020 “gender reveal fire” which burnt 23,000 acres in Southern California, in addition to his work on many other noteworthy projects, such as the USFS Santa Ana Watershed Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project. In December of 2022, Alex moved to Washington and joined the Mason Conservation District team.

“It’s a different world up here,” Alex explained when asked about his forestry work here compared to Southern California. “The missions of the conservation districts are the same, but the natural resource concerns are very different.” Alex has enjoyed the changes in scenery and his work, as there are endless opportunities to make an impact as a forester in Mason County. Alex works alongside Margaret Kreder to bring better forestry practices and awareness to our community.



“Alex has been an exceptional team member here and we’re excited to have his skills and experience available as a resource for our community!”

–Margaret Kreder, MCD Stewardship Forester

RAINGARDEN RESTORATION

AT ORCA RECOVERY DAY 2023

>>> PURPOSE OF RAINGARDENS

Raingardens are designed to increase storm runoff reabsorption by the soil. Raingardens are depressed areas in a landscape that collects water runoff from roofs, driveways, or streets. Implementing raingardens into urban landscaping can help reduce pollutants from directly entering water ways and negatively affecting the fish and wildlife that relies on clean water. Raingardens reduce carbon foot prints while protecting properties from flooding. An average home rain garden naturally filters about 30,000 gallons of water per year according to a Puget Sound Organization.

ABOUT ORCA RECOVERY DAY 2023

This year we had 27 kind volunteers attend our restoration event at Oakland Bay Historical park. In addition to restoring the raingarden, volunteers had the opportunity to learn about our Southern Resident Orcas and the Salmon populations that feed them, via an informative trail through the park created by Mason Conservation District and Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group AmeriCorps members. Food and Coffee for the event was donated by Safeway and Urraco Coffee Company of Shelton.

>>> BENEFITS OF RAINGARDENS

Not only are raingardens good for the environment but they can be a beautiful addition to home landscapes. Raingardens are specially designed using spongy living soils and properly chosen plants. Planting native grasses and perennials in your raingarden helps filter the water and creates beautiful habitat for bees, butterflies, birds, and other wildlife. Installing a raingarden can beautify your home and are more affordable than traditional drainage systems. With the right soil and plants raingardens require minimal time to install and maintain.



ALL ABOUT THE PLANTS

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➤➤➤ Riparian Planting Program

We know you take pride in your property, and we believe that enhancing the beauty of your land could also benefit the environment and wildlife. Our riparian planting program could fund removing invasive plants such as knotweed, Scotch broom, and blackberry and installing native plants like Sitka spruce, cedar, and grand fir along waterways. If you have a waterway on your property and are interested in improving it

with native plants, we may be able to cover the cost of removing invasive plants within 300 feet of water, planting native trees and shrubs to enhance wildlife habitat and maintenance. By planting trees and shrubs next to waterways, we can improve water quality, reduce erosion, provide shade to streams, and create an ideal habitat for wildlife. To learn more about the program and to find out if you are eligible, please contact our Riparian Program Coordinator: Megan Chapman mchapman@masoncd.org

➤➤➤ Purpose of Planting Redwoods

This year we have added a special tree to our Native Plant Sale, the Coast Redwood. Researchers have suggested planting Redwoods in the PNW as their migration north has not kept pace with climate suitability according to Forest Ecologist for Resilient Forestry LLC, Russell Kramer. Redwoods not only can live 1000 years longer than other PNW species but due to their size they are able to store more carbon. Redwoods are fire resistant and fire resilient meaning that they are less likely to be affected by fire and can rebound if they are affected. Planting redwoods increases biodiversity in our ecosystems and would be a great addition to your forest property.

Redwoods are sold individually.



Red Flowering Currant



Western Columbine



Coastal Strawberry



Snowberry



Crevice Alumroot

Each plant in the package comes in bundles of three.

More information on the following pages.





Natural Yard Care Package







































This year's natural yard care package features beautiful native plants that will add color and diversity to your landscape. We encourage planting native species as they attract native pollinators and birds, and they are better suited for our soils meaning they require less maintenance than non-native species. The species included in this year package can thrive in any conditions, making it easy to add vegetation and color anywhere on your property. With a mix of vibrant flowering groundcovers and shrubs you will love this package.

Place Your Order Online at WWW.MASONCD.ORG

Number of Bundles	Plant Species	Plant Size	Price Per Bundle	Amount
	Evergreen Tree			
	Coastal Redwood	Plug	1 Tree for \$4.75	
	Douglas-fir	12" Bare Root	5 Trees for \$8.15	
	Grand Fir	Plug	5 Trees for \$9.85	
	Pacific Madrone	Plug	5 Trees for \$30.25	
	Shore Pine	Plug	5 Trees for \$9.85	
	Sitka Spruce	Plug	5 Trees for \$8.80	
	Western Hemlock	Plug	5 Trees for \$8.80	
	Western Redcedar	Plug	5 Trees for \$8.80	
	Western White Pine	Plug	5 Trees for \$8.80	
	Deciduous Tree			
	Bigleaf Maple	Plug	5 Trees for 13.90	
	Oregon White Oak	12" Bare Root	5 Trees for \$17.35	
	Shrub & Herbaceous Perennials			
	Beargrass	Plug	5 Plugs for \$24.40	
	Blackcap Raspberry	6-12" Bare Root	5 Shrubs for \$16.40	
	Cascade Blueberry	Plug	5 Shrubs for \$19.40	
	Cascade Penstemon	Plug	5 Plugs for \$5.75	
	Mock Orange	12" Bare Root	5 Shrubs for \$16.30	
	Nootka Rose	12" Bare Root	5 Shrubs for \$18.35	
	Pacific Ninebark	12" Bare Root	5 Shrubs for \$15.20	
	Pacific Wax Myrtle	3-6" Bare Root	5 Shrubs for \$15.40	
	Pink Honeysuckle	3-6" Bare Root	5 Vines for \$15.40	
	Red Flowering Currant	12" Bare Root	5 Shrubs for \$11.40	
	Redstem Ceanothus	12" Bare Root	5 Shrubs for \$18.45	
	Sea Thrift	3-6" Bare Root	5 Plants for \$5.75	
	Shiny Leaf Spirea	3-6" Bare Root	5 Shrubs for \$13.65	
	Silk Tassel Bush	Plug	5 Plugs for \$29.30	
	Thimbleberry	12" Bare Root	5 Plugs for \$15.20	
Number of Packages			Price Per Package:	
	Natural Yard Care Package		15 Bare Root Plants \$32.70	
Total				

Legend:
  Full Sun
  Part Shade
  Full Shade
  Evergreen
  Deciduous
  Flowers
  Edible

Number of Packages	Price Per Package
Natural Yard Care Package	    (3) Coastal or Beach Strawberry - <i>Fragaria chiloensis</i> (3) Crevice Alumroot - <i>Heuchera micrantha</i> (3) Red Flowering Currant - <i>Ribes sanguineum</i> (3) Western Columbine - <i>Aquilegia Formosa</i> (3) Snowberry - <i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>

COMMON NAME GENUS SPECIES	HEIGHT	CLASSIFICATIONS	Habitat and Growth Characteristics. Typical Uses and Description.
EVERGREEN TREES			
Coastal Redwood <i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>	360'	  	Fast growing evergreen tree is well adapted to our area. Does best in full sun, moist, acid, and well-drained soils.
Douglas-fir <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	250'	  	Important food source for chickadees, finches, and Douglas squirrel. Grows best in full sun to part shade on well-drained soil.
Grand Fir <i>Abies grandis</i>	250'	  	Glossy, dark green to bright green needles. Grows in dry to moist conditions and is a shade tolerant species.
Pacific Madrone <i>Arbutus menziesii</i>	70'	   	Glossy evergreen leaves and clusters of creamy white blooms that give way to bright red fruits. Brownish red bark peels away in summer.
Shore Pine <i>Pinus contorta</i>	50'	 	Fast growing tree with bluish-green foliage and drooping branches. It grows well in moist, well drained soils. Salt spray tolerant.
Sitka Spruce <i>Picea sitchensis</i>	200'	  	Fast growing evergreen. Short, thin needles are prickly to the touch and bluish green in color. Grows best in full sun on moist, well-drained sites.
Western Hemlock <i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>	160'	  	Moderately fast-growing evergreen tree that is shade tolerate. Found in dry to wet sites. Graceful branches that droop with deep green needles.
Western Redcedar <i>Thuja plicata</i>	150'	  	Lustrous dark green foliage. May be planted under existing canopies on moist sites. Vigorous growing, ornamental tree.
Western White Pine <i>Pinus monticola</i>	100'	  	Evergreen tree with light bluish-green, slender, and flexible needles. Well drained to moist soils.
DECIDUOUS TREES			
Bigleaf Maple <i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	95'	  	Fast-growing shade tree that grows well in dry to moist sites. Can be planted on sites infected with laminated rot for site rehabilitation.
Oregon White Oak <i>Quercus garryana</i>	75'	   	Dry to moist, well-drained, gravelly soils. Full sun to partial shade. Once established, it provides good habitat for many species of birds and mammals.
SHRUBS & HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS			
Beargrass <i>Xerophyllum tenax</i>	4'	   	Forb with evergreen leaves and plume of beautiful white flowers. Grows in semi-shade or no shade areas in moist, well-drained soil.
Blackcap Raspberry <i>Rubus leucodermis</i>	7'	    	Deciduous perennial shrub with edible reddish-purple fruit when ripe. Grows in sun or partial shade and does well in moist soils.
Cascade Blueberry <i>Vaccinium deliciosum</i>	4-15"	   	Mat-forming shrub with pink rounded flowers and blue edible berries. In the fall, leaves turn beautiful reddish green, and it flowers late spring.
Cascade Penstemon <i>Penstemon serrulatus</i>	2'	   	Perennial forb with clusters of blue to purple flowers that grows in part shade in moist to wet soils. Used by hummingbirds and native bees.
Mock Orange <i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	10'	   	Fragrant, white 2" flowers. Arching green branches. Highly adaptable, grows in most locations.
Nootka Rose <i>Rosa nutkana</i>	3-8'	   	Clusters of large 2" pink flowers & red fruit. Grows well in most areas. Good for erosion control & wildlife habitat.
Oceanspray <i>Holodiscus discolor</i>	10'	   	Multi-stemmed deciduous shrub suited to rocky, dry slopes. Masses of cream-colored flower clusters are attractive in spring.
Pacific Ninebark <i>Physocarpus capitatus</i>	10-15'	   	Arching branches hold small white flower clusters. Prefers wet, somewhat open sites. Provides a good source of cover and protected nesting sites for birds.
Pacific Wax Myrtle <i>Myrica californica</i>	20-30'	   	This evergreen shrub is fast growing and requires little care. Displays glossy foliage with purple fruit and blooms spring to summer.
Pink Honeysuckle <i>Lonicera hispidula</i>	10'	   	Perennial vine with attractive pink honeysuckle blossoms. Grows in sun or partial shade and does well in dry soils.
Red Flowering Currant <i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	3-10'	   	Hummingbirds are attracted to the pale pink to red flowers blooming March - June. Grows in clearings and open forest areas that remain dry.
Redstem Ceanothus <i>Ceanothus sanguineus</i>	3-10'	   	Tall, open branching deciduous shrub with clusters of small white flowers. After leaf fall, reddish stems are attractive in the winter landscape
Sea Thrift <i>Armeria maritima</i>	6-12"	  	Evergreen perennial with clusters of pink flowers atop slender stalks rising well above the plant's foliage. Blooms mid to late spring. Easy to grow.
Red Osier Dogwood <i>Cornus sericea</i>	15'	   	Red winter branches. Large white flowers. Grows best in moist areas. Good for erosion control. Excellent food & cover for wildlife.
Shiny Leaf Spirea <i>Spiraea lucida</i>	3'	   	This low growing deciduous shrub grows well in sun to part shade, best in moist soil. Small white flowers grow in flat-topped clusters in May-July.
Silk Tassel Bush <i>Garrya elliptica</i>	10-15'	   	Evergreen shrub with 2" slim cascading flower clusters. Thrives in full sun to part shade in well-drained moist soil often in coastal conditions.
Snowberry <i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	5-10'	   	Bright white berries are ornamental after the leaves drop. Good in partial shade and moist locations. Excellent for erosion control. Drought tolerant.
Thimbleberry <i>Rubus parviflorus</i>	2-8'	    	An adaptable plant that grows in moist to dry and wooded to open sites. White flowers followed by edible berries.



CONSERVATION DISTRICT

450 W Business Park Rd

Shelton, WA 98584

Phone: (360) 427-9436

www.masoncd.org



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PLANT SALE INFORMATION

Online Store Opens December 1st

- Plants are sold in bundles of five, except for the Natural Yard Care Package, and the Redwoods.
- View, Order, and Pay for Plants **Online**. Payment via credit card is required for all online purchases.

Quantities are limited and sold on a first come first serve basis, so don't wait.

Plant Pick Up:

Friday, February 23rd 10:00am to 5pm

Saturday, February 24th 9:00am to 2:00pm

450 W Business Park Rd, Shelton, WA 98584

Learn, Plant, Grow your Native Yard.

NATURAL YARD CARE WORKSHOPS

Workshop and Garden Work Party in Belfair

Saturday, December 9th - 9:00am-12:00pm - 600 NE Roessel RD, Belfair

Join MCD Staff at The Salmon Center at 9:00am for the Natural Yard Care Workshop, then grab some gloves and head outside for the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group Garden Work Party from 10:00 to 12:00.

Shelton Civic Center Workshop

Tuesday, December 12th - 5:30pm-6:30pm - 525 W Cota ST, Shelton

Join MCD Staff Tuesday evening for a workshop providing information and support for planting and maintaining a natural yard. We will cover the importance of planting native species and offer best practices to help you maintain a beautiful, healthy, and environmentally friendly yard.

For more information visit masoncd.org or call us at 360-427-9436



REGISTER ONLINE NOW