

**OBJECTIVE** This guide assists with shoreline naturalization projects and revegetation efforts. It recommends steps to take, questions to ask, and future considerations.

## 1 Gather your working group



### Ask who needs to be present

- Landowners
- Stewardship groups
- Funders
- Municipalities
- Environmental experts, etc.

### Ensure the group has shared

- Vision
- Goals
- Objectives

### Assign roles + responsibilities

- Community engagement
- Sourcing plants & equipment
- Planting plan & budget

## 2 Plan your project

Planning and outlining a timeline for specific components of this project will ensure its success. Winter is an ideal time for developing a planting plan and ordering plant species.

### Access



- Find your site and determine land ownership (private, municipal, provincial)
- Manage safety concerns (trails, uneven surfaces, buried lines)
- Consider proximity to public areas

### Site Preparation + Safety



- Create a volunteer liability waiver for participating community members
- Clean up garbage
- Order plants in advance to suit soil type and conditions. Ask your local greenhouse about native trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers
- Decide if tilling or mounding is needed at the site
- Aerate the soil for moisture and air to permeate, while also encouraging root growth
- Add mulch around plants to retain moisture and reduce weed competition

### APPROVALS



Will your activities need approvals? Find out at [GOA's Shoreline/Water Body Modifications Fact Sheet](#). You'll need to be complete this before you take action at the site

### Communications + Community



- Collaborate with local groups, school, and the public by inviting them to learn or participate
- Generate a registration link to gauge the number of participants
- Have someone speak about the project's benefits
- Take before and after pictures to see how the project progresses.
- Install signage to showcase the project and its benefits



### FUNDING

Are there any funding opportunities to support different pieces of your project?







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## Planting Timeline



### Spring Considerations:



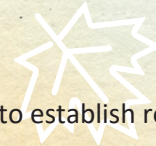
- Plants won't be 'showy' yet as their foliage may not be developed.
- A watering plan will need to be established over the summer.
- Track frost trends as the onset will vary from year to year.
- Spring may bring heavy rainfall.
- Day-time temperatures are mild compared to summer and early planting allows the plant roots to establish all summer increasing chances of survival.
- Higher availability of plant species to select from at greenhouses/nurseries.
- The soil will be damp, making it easier to dig.

### Summer Considerations:



- The hot, generally dry weather makes it the least ideal time of year. However, you can wait for optimal weather conditions, such as avoiding prolonged heat days.
- A watering plan will need to be established.
- Availability of people may be limited due to the summer holidays.
- Plants have their foliage developed which can lead to more aesthetic planting.
- Plants have finished developing their new growth, they now have energy to flower and are able to establish a healthy root system.

### Fall Considerations:



- Low availability of plants.
- Trees and shrubs need time to establish roots before a heavy freeze.
- Lower watering requirements.
- Less chances of heat stress.

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## Monitor Your Project Onsite



Once the site is planted, you'll have to continue to monitor its progress and keep in mind any factors that could impede growth.

### Competition

- Keep an eye out for invasive species
- Manage grass around small plants to increase survival rate

### Weather Conditions

- Water if dry and redirect excessive water, if possible

### Managing Foragers

- Until plants are established and healthy, watch for mice, deer, beaver, rabbits browsing. Protect seedlings and young plants, if possible

### Plant Survival

- Track growth
- Assess health, watering may be needed outside of normal precipitation
- Take before + after pictures

### Working with Municipalities

- Ensure local municipal staff (public works) are aware of the project to avoid mowing of the site

## Notes

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# Sketch Your Planting Plan Below

Include a legend, add different colors and features.