Shoreline Naturalization Guide



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



Gather your working group

Landowners

Municipalities

• Funders

Stewardship groups

Ask who needs to be present



Ensure the group has shared Vision

- Goals
- Objectives

Assign roles + responsibilities

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



Plan your project

• Environmental experts, etc.

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

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

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



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

Assess Site & Gather Knowledge

Before settling on a site, there are several factors to consider. If there is more than one option, the following factors might help determine which is most suitable.



Ownership & Management

Notify adjacent landowners

Landscape Description

- Determine soil Classification (sand, clay, organic, etc.)
 If compacted or lacking organic, consider adding clean top soil or compost.
- Note water features (drainage, high water)
 This will affect what and where you plant

Site Ecosystem

• Note the plant types, animals, and invasive species in the area

Investigate Site History

- Find out if the site has buried lines
- Stay clear of septic lines

Location - Size - Map

• Take photos for reference and dimensions

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Planting Plan

After finding your site, there are many factors to consider. It's a good idea to plan your site out in detail and order plants in advance.



Overview

- Utilize an aerial shot to develop a planting plan.
- Where do certain species need to go? This will be best decided once general site conditions are investigated.
- Are the species adapted to fluctuating water levels, shade, high-sun, etc.

Considerations

- If the site does not have vegetation established, the plants will be impacted by sun stress unless tolerant of high sun-exposure.
- How tall and wide are they expected to get?
- Do you want a natural look (random) or structured (rows).
- Spread native grass + wildflower seeds to fill patches

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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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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

Monitor Your

Project Onsite

• 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

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NORTH SASKATCHEWAN

WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Sketch Your Planting Plan Below

Include a legend, add different colors and features.