



# Restoration Plan

## What is the shoreline restoration plan?

The shoreline restoration plan is a required part of the City's Shoreline Master Program update. The purpose of the plan is to guide the City in achieving overall improvements in "shoreline ecological functions" over time. The plan summarizes ecological problems affecting the shoreline and recommends ways to address them.

## How does the restoration plan affect private property?

The restoration activities recommended in the plan are voluntary. Private property owners are encouraged to participate in voluntary restoration on their lands as part of the overall effort to restore the City's shorelines.

## What are we trying to restore?

The goal of the restoration plan is to improve water quality, fish habitat, native shoreline vegetation, and sources of sediment that maintain our beaches. By making these improvements, we will provide better habitat for fish and wildlife, safer water for recreation, and a more naturally functioning shoreline that will require less human intervention to keep it in good condition in the future.



*Photo credits: Great Blue Herring: Cathie Conolly.*

**Further Information:** If you have any questions please contact the Gig Harbor Planning Department at (253) 851-6170.



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## How can I get involved?

Volunteering to help with a local restoration project is a fun way to be involved. Non-profit organizations and local agencies need volunteers to help install plants, control weeds, observe wildlife, and many other projects. The restoration plan lists several organizations you can contact for opportunities.

There are several measures private property owners can take to restore their shorelines. Some larger projects, and any project involving work in the water, will require permits. It's a good idea to hire a professional biologist to help with more complex projects. Common restoration measures on private shorelines include:

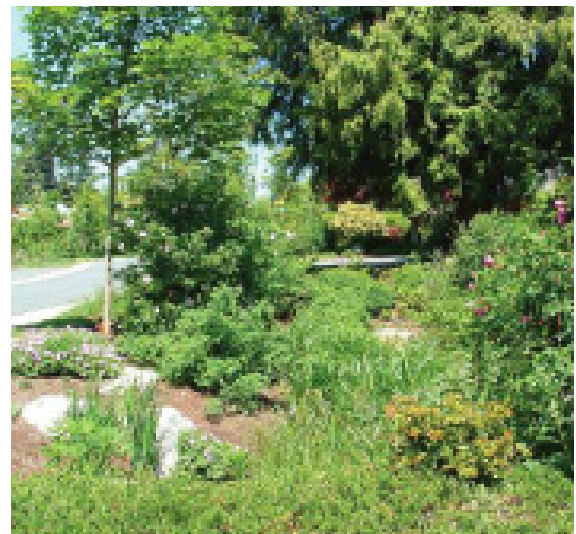
- Replacing lawn areas or ornamental landscaping with native trees and shrubs.
- Removing old docks or piers that are no longer needed.
- Replacing older docks with “fish-friendly” dock designs (for example, using metal grating instead of a solid surface to allow light to reach the water).
- Removing concrete bulkheads and installing “soft” shore protection measures, such as large wood.
- Reducing the use of chemicals such as fertilizers or pesticides in your garden.
- Installing low impact development techniques, such as swales or rain gardens, to reduce stormwater runoff.
- Working with a local government agency or land trust to set aside natural areas in a conservation easement or designated open space.



**Dock with metal grating**



**Swale**



**Vegetated Swale**

For more information, see the *Soft-shore Stabilization* and *Landscaping Your Shoreline Property* handouts.

*Photo credits: Metal grating: Barbara Nightingale; Vegetated Swale: PSAT, 2005.*

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