

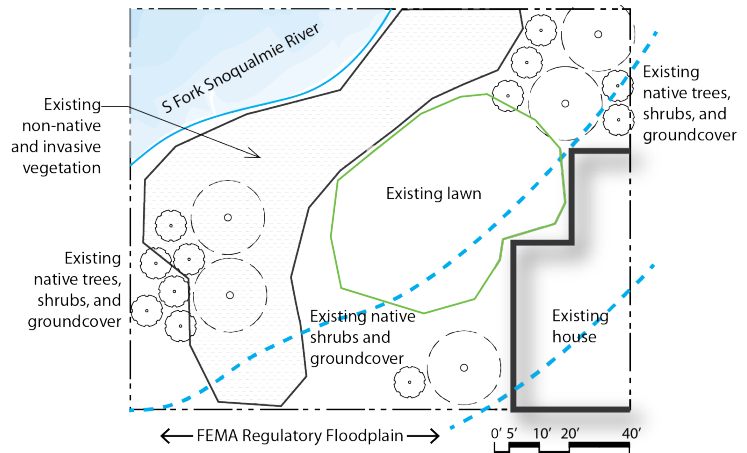


## Invasive Removal and Planting within Shoreline and Critical Area Buffer

Creating thriving shoreline ecosystems is crucial for preserving biodiversity and protecting our shorelines. Whether you're converting a landscape to native plantings or controlling the spread of invasive species, it's essential to follow proper guidelines to ensure the restoration's success. This flyer provides guide to installing shoreline vegetation conversion projects.

### 1 Identify and Remove Invasive Species

Assess the area that you are going to be replanting and identify invasive plants using King County's Noxious Weed Control website (<https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dnrp/nature-recreation/environment-ecology-conservation/noxious-weeds>). Without using herbicide, manually remove and dispose of invasive vegetation including seed pods, fruits, and leaves. Take care to protect any native and existing plants that you want to keep in place.



### 2 Prepare the soil for planting

Identify soil amendment needs by completing a soil test or by a simple visual assessment. If soil is light brown or compacted, roto-till, apply compost and mulch and mix these into the existing soil throughout the area where you will be planting.



POOR SOIL



GOOD SOIL

### 3 Select native plants

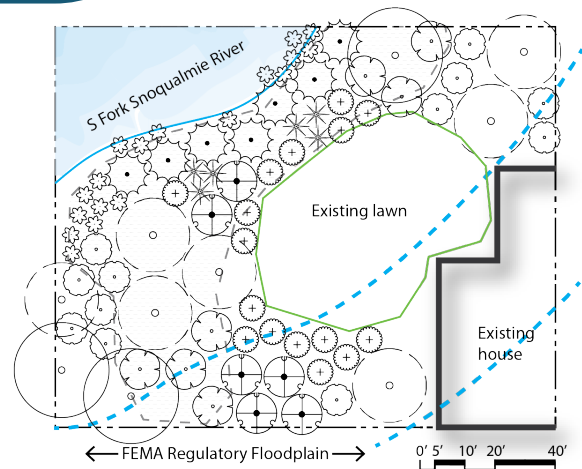
Using King County's Native Plant Guide (<https://green2.kingcounty.gov/gonative/index.aspx>), determine a list of a mixture of native trees, shrubs, perennials, groundcovers, and emergent plants for open water areas to use in your project.



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### 4 Layout plants

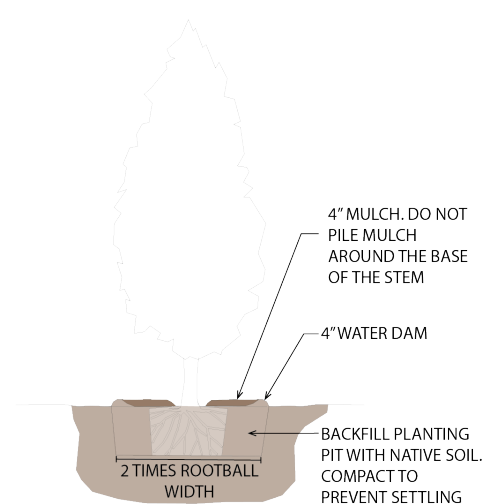
Lay out the trees first. Then layout the shrubs in groups or clusters according to species. Place larger shrubs in groups farther away and small ones closer to where the project will be viewed from. Fill in areas around trees and shrubs with groundcovers and perennials. Place emergent species closest to the water's edge.



### 5 Planting

- Lay out plants or use flags to locate each plant.
- Dig a pit for each plant that is twice the size of the rootball or plant container.
- Remove large rocks and other debris from the pit.
- Soak the pit with water by filling it at least half-way. Allow the water to drain before installing the plant. Note that some pits may not fill if the soil is very sandy.
- "Rough up" the roots of the plants, pruning or straightening circling roots.
- Install the plant in the pit, backfilling as necessary such that soil surface matches the surrounding ground level. Make sure stem of the plant is at the same ground level that it was in the nursery pot.
- Form a basin to hold water using remaining soil.
- Mulch each plant with 4 inches of coarse wood chip mulch. Do not bury the stem in mulch – mulch should be kept a few inches away from the stem.
- Water the plant again, filling up the small basin.

TREE OR SHRUB PLANTING



### 6 Care for your new plants

Water your plants consistently during dry periods for the first 2 years. Add mulch around the base of the plant once a year. Remove all weeds and invasive plants twice in the spring and once in the summer to prevent invasive species from coming back.