



Shore Friendly Mini-Grant Program for Shoreline Property Owners

Shoreline property owners in Island County are invited to apply with the ***Island County Shore Friendly Program*** for small grants to benefit habitat, species, and coastal processes. These grants are part of a larger effort to reduce impacts of or prevent the need for hard shoreline armor (e.g., bulkheads, groins, seawalls) along the marine waters of Puget Sound.

As a marine shoreline landowner, you are deeply connected to the Salish Sea. There are actions you can take that will both protect your investment in your property as well as the beautiful marine ecosystem we are all so fortunate to enjoy. Hard armor may seem like your only defense, when in fact, these structures may accelerate erosion and beach loss while also burying critical habitat and interrupting physical processes necessary for fish that spawn on our beaches and migrate along our shorelines.

Maintaining natural shorelines or using alternatives to hard armor where feasible can provide protection to erosion, help reduce wave energy, absorb storm surge, and distribute sand and gravel where it is needed while ensuring a healthy nearshore to benefit people and wildlife. Adding a buffer of native trees and shrubs, improving upland water management, removing shoreline armor, installing soft shore protection, and even considering relocation of upland structures including septic systems and homes are all actions you can take to reduce your risk of erosion, increase resiliency to sea level rise, and improve habitat for forage fish, salmon, marine birds, and orcas.

Available funds are limited and project elements approved for reimbursement must be completed by April 30, 2021. Applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications will be evaluated for approval based on meeting Shore Friendly program goals to remove or prevent hard armor and improve nearshore habitat. In the event that Island County receives more applications than funds can support, projects will be ranked and funds will be granted to projects that provide the greatest benefit to habitat and shoreline processes.

Eligible project costs up to the maximum approved amount will be reimbursed after the project is completed, and receipts or other proof of payment is submitted. See the chart below for detailed project types and reimbursable amounts.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Must take place along a marine waterfront.
- Must be proposed and implemented on private property owned and maintained by the mini-grant recipient. Landowner must provide verification of ownership and control of the property under consideration. **If actions include design or potential implementation of actions on tidelands, verification of ownership and control of those tidelands must also be provided.**
- Must be pre-approved by Island County personnel prior to starting the work.



- Will be funded on a reimbursed basis following completion of the work.
- All applicable permits and approval processes must have been completed and received before implementation, including cultural resources assessments and endangered species consultations. Island County will assist with initial determination of the need for cultural resources assessments through the Recreation and Conservation Office (granting agency for this program).
- Must agree to the terms and conditions outlined in the Project Description and Project Requirements on the approved project application, including long-term care of the project site.
- Projects must be started within 60 days of receiving approval and completed before April 30, 2021, or funds may be directed to other projects.

Project Types:

- Consultant fees for assessment, design, and/or permitting of the following actions: native vegetation installation, drainage management, house or septic relocation, hard armor removal, soft shore protection, or hard armor replacement with soft shore protection when protection is needed.
- Invasive weed removal and replacement with native shrubs and trees.
- Conversion of lawn into native plantings.
- Addition of native plants and trees for stabilizing shoreline slopes and banks.
- Re-slope and revegetation of bluff slopes.
- Improvement of drainage management to address erosion or slope stability issues on coastal bluffs.
- Construction costs for removal of hard shoreline armor such as rock, riprap, bulkheads, groins, and seawalls.
- Construction costs for approved soft shore protection alternatives to hard armor, where some form of shoreline stabilization is determined to be necessary.
- Construction costs for replacement of hard shoreline armor with suitable and approved soft shore protection alternatives to hard armor.
- Applicants may be considered for more than one funding opportunity. For example, landowners requesting funding support for armor removal may also apply for assistance with vegetation installation to ensure adequate riparian connection between upland and nearshore habitat.



Shore Friendly Practice/Service	Description	Max Reimbursement
SITE VISIT ASSISTANCE		
CONSULTATION FOR VEGETATION MANAGEMENT	Landowner will hire a consultant/native vegetation expert or work with Whidbey Island Conservation District (Whidbey Island properties only) to conduct site visit and provide recommendations for native vegetation management.	\$500 Or directly with WICD
CONSULTATION FOR DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT	Landowner will hire a consultant/contractor with expertise in drainage management on steep slopes or work with Whidbey Island Conservation District (Whidbey Island properties only) to conduct site visit and provide recommendations for stormwater management practices on bluff properties.	\$500 Or directly with WICD
CONSULTATION FOR SHORELINE ARMOR REMOVAL or REPLACEMENT OF HARD ARMOR WITH SOFT SHORE PROTECTION	Landowner will hire a consultant with expertise in shoreline armor removal, soft shore protection, and coastal geomorphology or work with the Northwest Straits Foundation to conduct a site visit on properties with hard armor and assess feasibility for removal or replacement with soft shore protection.	\$1,500 Or directly with Northwest Straits Foundation
CONSULTATION FOR NEW SOFT SHORE PROTECTION	Landowner will hire a consultant with expertise in soft shore protection and coastal geomorphology to conduct a site visit on properties without hard armor and assess need and feasibility for use of soft shore protection for erosion abatement.	\$1,500
CONSULTATION FOR SEPTIC or HOUSE RELOCATION	Landowner will hire a consultant with expertise in house or infrastructure relocation to conduct a site visit and assess the feasibility of relocation of homes and infrastructure landward to reduce risks associated with bluff erosion.	\$1,000
DESIGN, PLANNING, AND PERMITTING ASSISTANCE		
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT DESIGN PLANS	Landowner will hire a consultant/native vegetation expert or work with Whidbey Island Conservation District (Whidbey Island properties only) to design planting plans or re-slope/revegetation plans to enhance shoreline buffers, remove lawn or invasive species, and replace with native trees and shrubs.	\$1,000 Or directly with WICD
DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT DESIGN PLANS	Landowner will hire a consultant/contractor with expertise in drainage management on steep slopes or work with Whidbey Island Conservation District (Whidbey Island properties only) to design drainage management design plans. Design plans must include considerations for soil types and slope stability. Plans recommending tight-lines cannot use exposed flexible corrugated pipes.	\$1,000 Or directly with WICD
SHORELINE ARMOR REMOVAL DESIGN PLANS, INCLUDING REPLACEMENT	Feasibility site assessments are required for armor removal projects, which can include removal of bulkheads, boulders, riprap, or other forms of hard armor from the shoreline to improve function and habitat. Landowner will hire a consultant with expertise in shoreline armor removal, soft shore protection, and coastal geomorphology to determine feasibility for armor	\$1,500



WITH SOFT SHORE PROTECTION	removal without replacement or with replacement using soft shore protection for erosion abatement. For sites where feasibility has been completed, funds may be used to further removal concepts into conceptual through final design as applicable.	
SOFT SHORE PROTECTION DESIGN PLANS	Feasibility site assessments are required for soft shore protection. Landowner will hire a consultant with expertise in soft shore protection and coastal geomorphology to determine feasibility for use of soft shore protection for erosion abatement. For sites where feasibility has been completed, funds may be used to further soft shore concepts into conceptual through final design as applicable.	\$1,500
DESIGN PLANS FOR SEPTIC or HOUSE RELOCATION	Landowner will hire a consultant with expertise in house or infrastructure relocation to provide designs for relocation of homes and infrastructure landward to reduce risks associated with bluff erosion.	\$1,000
PERMITTING SERVICES AND FEES FOR RESTORATION PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION	Landowner may hire consultants to assist with permitting requirements to implement approved vegetation, drainage, house or septic relocation, shoreline armor removal, or soft shore protection projects. Funds may be used to reimburse for permit application development, biological assessments, cultural resources assessments, and permit fees.	\$2,000
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION		
LOW/NO-BANK WATERFRONT NATIVE VEGETATION PLANTING, INVASIVE WEED REMOVAL or LAWN CONVERSION, with PLANTING	Landowner may conduct native vegetation planting and invasive weed removal on their own, in accordance with an approved planting plan, or may hire a contractor. Invasive weeds or areas of lawn will be removed completely (including roots) and replaced with native plants. Wood chip mulch can be included in project costs where appropriate (not always advised for slopes). Plants must be purchased at a native plant nursery. A list of native plant nurseries compiled by King County is available here . This list may not be exhaustive and is not intended as an endorsement of the businesses listed. Non-native plants are ineligible for reimbursement.	\$1,000
COASTAL BLUFF RE-SLOPE / RE-VEGETATION	Landowner will hire a contractor to remove invasive species and revegetate a coastal bluff. Establishing new slope gradients and replanting un-vegetated slopes or slopes dominated by invasive species can help stabilize coastal bluffs. Contractors must have an understanding of the processes affecting slopes, techniques to be employed to ensure success, and the potential hazards of working on steep slopes in critical areas.	\$1,000
DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT		
DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS <i>Drainage improvements that address problems</i>	Projects that will improve management of upland drainage to avoid negative impacts to a shoreline bluff, bank, or beach. Installing appropriate tight line outlet “tee diffusers” to avoid beach erosion is an eligible activity. Tight lines using exposed flexible corrugated pipes are not eligible.	\$1,000



<p><i>with slope stability or beach erosion issues.</i></p>		
<p>ARMOR REMOVAL & SOFT SHORE IMPLEMENTATION</p>		
<p>HARD ARMOR REMOVAL FROM A MARINE SHORELINE <i>Removal of concrete, riprap, creosote pilings, rock, or other types of shoreline armor.</i></p>	<p>A feasibility site assessment is required for these projects, which can include removal of bulkheads, boulders, riprap, or other forms of hard armor from the shoreline to improve function and habitat. This practice may also require a waterfront planting project for long-term shoreline stabilization purposes if sufficient riparian vegetation is not present. Additional funds for planting may be applied for and combined with this option in appropriate situations.</p>	<p>\$5,000</p>
<p>SOFT SHORE PROTECTION – NEW OR TO REPLACE EXISTING HARD ARMOR <i>(bulkhead alternatives)</i> <i>Installation of practices that stabilize eroding shorelines in areas where appropriate.</i></p>	<p>In cases where shoreline stabilization is needed to protect a home, and soft shore protection solutions are feasible, they can be used as an alternative to hard armor. This practice may involve the use of bioengineering practices like native plants, anchored logs, or beach replenishment, and other techniques to stabilize eroding areas while protecting nearshore habitat. A feasibility site assessment is required for these projects.</p> <p>A small percentage of hard armor may be necessary to protect adjacent infrastructure. This may be allowable following review of designs and engineering by Island County. Soft shore protection may also require a planting project. Additional funds for planting may be applied for and combined with this option in appropriate situations.</p>	<p>\$5,000</p>
<p>CONSTRUCTION COSTS FOR HOUSE RELOCATION <i>Vertical or horizontal relocation of house</i></p>	<p>Homes on bluff properties must be moved to a minimum distance of 80 feet from the bluff crest to be eligible for reimbursement. Homes on no/low-bank properties must meet or exceed flood development standards. Management of upland drainage must avoid negative impacts to a shoreline bluff, bank, or beach.</p>	<p>\$5,000</p>
<p>CONSTRUCTION COSTS FOR SEPTIC RELOCATION</p>	<p>Septic systems must be relocated landward of the home. Management of upland drainage must avoid negative impacts to a shoreline bluff, bank, or beach.</p>	<p>\$1,000</p>



Mini-grant funding process:

1. Contact Island County to discuss site needs and schedule a site visit, if needed.
2. Complete and submit an application to be considered for mini-grant funding.
3. Island County will evaluate applications for approval based on meeting Shore Friendly program goals to remove or prevent hard armor and improve nearshore habitat.
4. Island County will notify Landowner if application is approved for funding.
5. For restoration implementation actions (e.g. construction, planting), an initial determination of the need for cultural resources assessment is required before work can begin. Island County will assist with initial determination of the need for cultural resources assessment through the Recreation and Conservation Office. Please allow 30 days for the initial review. Additional review time may be required if further action is necessary.
6. Acquire all necessary permits and begin your project. Contact Island County as needed for assistance in planning and implementation as outlined in the Project Description included in the approved application. For construction projects, take photos before, during, and after construction from photo points established prior to beginning.
7. Complete the project and schedule a follow-up visit with Island County.
8. Submit a reimbursement request to Island County that includes all applicable receipts and documentation of work completed. You will be reimbursed up to the approved maximum amount per service for the project you completed.

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