Shore Stewards News

GUIDELINES AND RESOURCES FOR LIVING NEAR WATER | ESTABLISHED 2003

WSU EXTENSION ISLAND WSU ISLAND COUNTY EXTENSION | SPRING 2025 – ISSUE #137

INTRODUCING ISLAND COUNTY'S SHORE FRIENDLY PROGRAM

With approximately 200 miles of shoreline surrounded by marine waters, Island County has the second-highest percentage of shoreline parcels in Puget Sound. The nearshore and coastal estuaries provide critical shelter, refuge, food and physiological refuge for juvenile salmon as they transition from river to ocean stages of their life. Island County shorelines also have the second-greatest portion of Sound-wide forage fish spawning parcels, of which 70% are unarmored. Pictured above is an example of a natural shoreline. Homeowner Cliff Marston of Iverson Beach, Camano Island worked with the Shore Friendly program on this project.

The aim of the Shore Friendly program is to promote alternative strategies for shoreline residential properties that provide both the use and enjoyment of the property while promoting and maintaining the ecological properties of nearshore ecosystems for the support of fish and wildlife.

This program is perfect for Shoreline landowners around Island County that want to protect their properties while also protecting the fish, wildlife, and shoreline habitats of Puget Sound. Island County shoreline landowners are invited to apply for funding through the Island County Shore Friendly Mini-Grant program to enhance nearshore habitat and prevent the need for hard shoreline armor. Mini-grant amounts will range from $500-$5,000 and can be used toward various project types.

ISLAND COUNTY'S SHORE FRIENDLY PROGRAM – CONTINUED

Shore Friendly provides:

Free technical assistance by bringing shoreline experts to your property to discuss your unique concerns
Free technical assistance for entire shoreline communities
Financial assistance through the Shore Friendly mini-grant program
Free educational opportunities and resources for shoreline property owners

Shore Friendly works with technical professionals who can provide site-specific information about your shoreline property and give recommendations on how to address shoreline erosion, vegetation management, drainage concerns, king tides, sea level rise preparation, and even structure relocation to help you protect your property and Puget Sound. The program also offers beach walks for entire shoreline communities and HOAs. **These site visits are completely free of cost and non-regulatory.**

They can also assist with: design, permitting, and restoration. Get started by signing up for a site visit!

Project Types:

Projects must be in support of either the removal of shoreline armoring or prevention of future shoreline armoring.
Bulkhead removal
Soft shore protection
Native vegetation installation
Drainage management
Septic or house relocation

Figure.7¿House.being.relocated.by.barge¡. Photo.credit¿Island.County.MRC

Eligible Activities:

Consulting services
Project design
Permitting fees
Project implementation

The funding for the Shore Friendly program was secured by Island County Natural Resources through the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office and the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program to implement landowner incentives to reduce Puget Sound shoreline armoring and enhance marine habitat in Island County.

Learn more about the program and these eligible activities, **click here**.
Discuss your project or for more information, **contact Kelly Zupich: K.Zupich@islandcountywa.gov**.

Ready to get started? Click here.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS FOR SHORELINE PROPERTY OWNERS

FREE SHORELINE PROPERTY OWNER WORKSHOPS

Are you concerned or curious about how sea level rise will affect your shoreline property? Are these properties in Island County? Island County Marine Resources Committee, Island County Shore Friendly, and WSU Island County Shore Stewards programs are partnering together to offer two free workshops in May. Workshops will take place from 1 pm – 4 pm with light refreshments provided.

The Camano Island workshop will take place on Wednesday, May 14th at the Island County Camano Admin Building – Convergence Room. This workshop will largely be focused on the Livingston Bay and Iverson Beach residential communities.

The Whidbey Island workshop is being offered at the Freeland Hall on Tuesday, May 20th. This workshop will largely focused on Mutiny Bay and Useless Bay residential communities.

RSVPs are requested. Please scan the QR code below to save your space!

Camano Island Workshop – Wednesday, May 14

Whidbey Island Workshop – Tuesday, May 20

ADDITIONAL EVENTS AND RESOURCES

Annual Master Gardener Plant Sale | Island County

Saturday, May 10th - Whidbey

Saturday, May 17th - Camano

Camano Island Homestead Fair | Events | Sno-Isle Libraries

Saturday, May 17th, 10 am – 2 pm @ Camano Library and Camano Commons at "Terry's Corner"
Discover the charm of Camano Island's local farms and attractions, each offering unique experiences that celebrate tradition, innovation, and sustainability at the Camano Homestead Fair.

WSU Waste Wise Plastic Plant Pot Exchange - FREE Recycling/Re-use event!
Saturday, May 31st, 10 am – 12 pm @ Can Ku Road behind CASA/Island Transit
Drop off your un-needed plastic plant pots and/or pick up plastic plant pots

Resources in Your County | Shore Stewards | Washington State University

Shore Friendly - Protecting Your Property and Puget Sound

Your Marine Waterfront booklet - Soft Shoreline Stabilization (Shoreline Master Program Planning and Implementation Guidance)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife - Marine Shoreline Design Guidelines

Living Near the Edge of the Salish Sea, an excellent lecture and resource, available in PDF form.

Island County 2023 Shoreline Armory Report

If you would like to download or view previous Shore Steward newsletters, please visit https://shorestewards.cw.wsu.edu/news/

Support Shore Stewards! If you would like to see this program continue to make a difference, please consider donating to the WSU Shore Stewards Excellence Fund. Your tax-deductible donation will help ensure future funding for newsletters, demonstrations at local events, and to make sure that the program and educational materials continue to be free for shoreline landowners and others interested in protecting our islands. Thank you for your contribution!

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