



## Shore Friendly Pierce | Mini-Grant Program

Pierce Conservation District (PCD) is pleased to offer *Shore Friendly Mini-Grants* to marine waterfront landowners for projects that implement Shore Friendly Practices. This program helps Pierce County landowners complete projects that benefit the ecosystems and processes of Puget Sound shorelines while also addressing landowner goals.

### ELIGIBLE SHORELINE PRACTICES:

Projects must implement one or more of the following Shore Friendly Practices:

- Weed removal/lawn reduction
- Waterfront planting
- Drainage improvements
- Hard armor removal

### BASIC ELIGIBILITY:

- Property must be located in Pierce County, WA.
- Projects must take place on a marine shoreline (freshwater shorelines, e.g. shorelines on lakes, creeks, rivers, and wetlands, are *not eligible* for this program).
- You do not need to have a home on the property to qualify, but you must own the property.
- All projects must follow the standards PCD provides and must comply with all Pierce County shoreline permitting requirements and critical area regulations.

### REIMBURSEMENT:

A portion of project costs are reimbursed after the project is completed. The program will reimburse 50% of the cost of eligible projects **up to a maximum amount**, as described on the following pages.

Applicants must receive a "Notice of Award" **before making any project-related purchases or expenditures**. Any costs incurred prior to receipt of the "Notice of Award" will not be eligible for reimbursement.

### EXAMPLE OF HARD ARMOR REMOVAL PROJECT



**BEFORE:** A failing bulkhead serving no purpose.



**AFTER:** The restored beach and bluff after bulkhead removal.

*Removing shoreline armor and restoring shoreline vegetation improves nearshore habitats for organisms that are critical in Puget Sound food chains. These efforts can provide ecosystem-wide benefits, reaching all the way to endangered salmon and Orca whales.*

**GRANT LIMITS PER PRACTICE**

Shore Friendly Practice	Description/Standard	Practice Limit
<b>WEED REMOVAL or LAWN REDUCTION, + PLANTING</b> <i>Invasive weed and/or lawn reduction; replanting with native trees and shrubs.</i>	Invasive weeds or areas of lawn will be removed completely (including roots) and replaced with native plants. A minimum of 3 trees and 10 shrubs from the PCD list of recommended native shoreline plant species must be planted within 100 feet of the high tide line or top of bank. Wood chip mulch can be included in project costs where appropriate (mulch use generally not advisable on slopes).	50% of project cost, up to \$500
<b>WATERFRONT PLANTING PROJECT</b> <i>Planting of native trees and shrubs along the marine shoreline.</i>	A minimum of 3 trees and 10 shrubs from the PCD list of recommended native shoreline species must be planted within 100 feet of the high tide line or top of bank. Wood chip mulch can be included in project costs where appropriate (mulch use generally not advisable on slopes). [Non-native plants are <i>not eligible</i> for reimbursement in this program.]	50% of project cost, up to \$500
<b>DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS</b> <i>Drainage improvements that address problems with slope stability or beach erosion issues.</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.	50% of project cost, up to \$500
<b>HARD ARMOR REMOVAL FROM A MARINE SHORELINE</b> <i>Removal of concrete, riprap, creosote pilings, rock, or other types of shoreline armor.</i>	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. PCD will review designs prior to awarding funding and may assist with project design and permitting where possible. This practice may also require a waterfront planting project for shoreline stabilization.	50% of project cost, up to \$1500

**Project Example:** Mr. Jones would like to remove a portion of his lawn that is within 50’ of the shoreline and replace it with native plants. He also wants to better anchor a tight line pipe that drains his roof and gutters down a slope, and to install a tee-diffuser at the end of the pipe to prevent beach erosion. Mr. Jones pays \$1500 to remove existing lawn and install native plants and mulch. He pays \$500 to make drainage improvements. He will be reimbursed 50% of the cost of each practice up to the practice limit. Mr. Jones will be reimbursed a total of \$750 for these two practices.

Lawn Removal = \$1500 x 50% = \$750, but he will be reimbursed \$500, which is the practice limit.

Drainage Project = \$500 x 50% = \$250, which is half of the project cost and is within the practice limit.

## Additional Information and Requirements:

- **Property Ownership** - Projects must be proposed for implementation on property owned and maintained by the grant applicant in Pierce County.
- **Permitting** - If permits are required for the project, the applicant is responsible for obtaining and/or purchasing them before beginning project work. A copy of the permit will be required before reimbursement. Permits are a reimbursable expense (permits will be required for armor removal projects).
- **Agreements** - Participants of this program will be required to sign (1) a Cooperator Agreement with PCD (included in this application), (2) a Financial Assistance Contract (upon grant award) that demonstrates a commitment to maintain the project for its life, (3) a Reimbursement Form upon completion of the project.
- **Grant Timeframe** - Projects must be completed, and all receipts submitted to PCD within the timeframe designated in the “Notice of Award” acceptance letter. Any work completed prior to the “Notice of Award” will not be reimbursable. If a grant is awarded and no evidence of progress has been made **within 2 months**, PCD reserves the right to withdraw the grant and award it to another landowner who is ready to proceed.
- **Use of Grant Funds** – Grant funds are for implementation only (not intended for private design costs). Machinery rental may be reimbursed if it is necessary for implementing the Shore Friendly Practice. Direct contractor costs for implementation can be included in total project cost for reimbursement.
- **Maintenance** - Property owners are expected to maintain the project for at least the “lifespan” of the practice, which is typically a minimum of 10-15 years.

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## How it works:

1. **Schedule a free, non-regulatory site visit by a Pierce Conservation District resource technician.** The site visit will include an evaluation of your property that addresses your concerns. Visits typically assess stormwater drainage management, bank erosion and stabilization, beach condition, vegetation management, and shoreline habitat. Options to address any issues that may exist on your property will be discussed.
2. **Choose a project.** After the visit, the technician will provide you with a written summary of recommended site improvements. Select the practice(s) that you are most interested in completing and that meet the Shore Friendly Pierce Mini-Grant program criteria.
3. **Apply for the Mini-Grant.** Fill out the attached Application, Cooperative Agreement, and Project Site Plan and return them to the Shore Friendly Program at Pierce Conservation District for evaluation and ranking. You can email you completed Application to Mary Krauszer at [maryk@piercecd.org](mailto:maryk@piercecd.org) OR send a hard copy to Pierce Conservation District | ATTN: Mary Krauszer | PO Box 1057 | 308 West Stewart Ave | Puyallup, WA 98371. **\*\*While staff are in work-from-home status for COVID-19 safety, please email to let us know if you are mailing anything to the office.**
4. **Receive a Notice of Award.** If your project is selected for grant funding, you will receive a Notice of Award and Financial Assistance Contract from Pierce Conservation District. (Any costs incurred prior to the “Notice of Award” will not be eligible for reimbursement.)
5. **Document and Complete the Project.** Once your grant is approved, take pictures of the project site for the “Before” state. Complete the project according to the design and specifications recommended by PCD. Take additional pictures after completion to document the change. Submit “Before and After” photos of project site to PCD.
6. **Arrange for a Completion Site Visit.** If required, the resource technician will revisit your site to see the completed project and check that it meets specifications.
7. **Submit all receipts related to the project.** Receipts for materials, labor, contractors and your time will all be counted towards the cost of the project. You will be reimbursed 50% of the cost, up to the maximum amount per practice for the project you completed.