



Native Plant Spotlight

Hooker's Willow

Salix hookeriana

Hooker's Willow, also known as Dune, Beach, or Coastal Willow, is a salt-tolerant deciduous shrub with soft, silvery leaves. It often forms protective thickets just above the driftwood line on beaches. *Salix hookeriana* is very easy to establish. Simply insert a cut branch in the ground and it will root and grow! Willows provide excellent shoreline stabilization, water purification, and wildlife habitat. Branches that overhang the water provide important nutrients and shady refuge for heat-sensitive aquatic life.

- Native to the Pacific Coast
- Zones 6 to 10
- Can grow to 8m tall, 3m wide
- Tolerates salt, sandy beaches, and wetlands
- Useful for shoreline erosion control.

Where to source native plants for your shoreline.

<https://bit.ly/NativePlantVendors>

Welcome to the summer edition of **Shoreline Spotlight**, a quarterly newsletter that shares useful science-based information, resources, and inspiration for those interested in nurturing healthy, resilient waterfront properties using Green Shores® nature-based solutions for shoreline protection and rehabilitation. **Please feel free to subscribe and share!**



How Trees Benefit The Shoreline

Shoreline trees are sometimes considered a nuisance because they drop debris, like needles or leaves, and interrupt beach and ocean vistas. However, **the benefits trees provide to people and ecosystems far outweigh any inconvenience.** Trees and shrubs, living and dead, are essential for nearly all nature-based shoreline protection and restoration projects on the Pacific coast.

- Temperature regulation - treed areas can be **up to 12°C cooler** than areas without trees due to transpiration, the evaporation of moisture through leaves, and the shade they provide.
- Soil retention and bank stabilization through the anchoring effect of deep root systems and reduction in surface runoff.
- **Water filtration and removal of pollutants** that would otherwise enter our waterways.
- **Carbon sequestering and air purification.**
- Beautiful landscapes and opportunities to view wildlife.
- Nourishment, nesting habitat, and cover for birds, insects, and other wildlife.
- Branches that overhang the water provide food, shelter, and thermal refuge for heat-sensitive fish species.

What can you do to protect your shoreline?

Don't default to the wall! The **Green Shores for Homes** program provides information, tools, and resources that make it easier for homeowners & their project teams to avoid the recurrent expense and ecological damage caused by hard armoured approaches like seawalls. Reclaim the beach for you and for wildlife. Contact a **Green Shores Approved Professional** who can help assess whether Green Shores nature-based solutions are right for your property.

Green Shores Demonstration Projects: Nature-Based Solutions in Action.

Are you looking for inspiration for your shoreline project? Visit a Green Shores Demonstration Site near you to see how nature-based solutions have been applied, what environmental, aesthetic, and social benefits have been recognized, and how they hold up in a storm!

The Stewardship Centre for BC collaborates with funding and technical partners across Canada to establish **Green Shores Demonstration Projects** in multiple communities. Waterfront homeowners, coastal community members, land use planners, and others can learn how nature-based solutions, such as planting native vegetation to anchor shorelines and restore sensitive shoreline ecosystems can protect against the effects of climate change and increase coastal resiliency. Furthermore, visitors can witness how well these solutions hold up to stressors such as storms and rising sea levels over time.

Click on the Green Shores Demonstration projects below, or visit them in person to learn more!

[Songhees Walkway Pocket Beach, Victoria, BC](#)

[Esquimalt Gorge Park, Esquimalt, BC](#)

[Dyke Road Park, Comox Valley, BC](#)

[Colquitz Park, Saanich, BC](#)

[Cultus Lake Park, BC](#)

[Mahone Bay, NS](#)



What Will You See?

When you visit a Green Shores Demonstration site, you will see a beautiful, natural-looking shoreline with lush vegetation and plenty of wildlife. However, you might not be aware of all the steps that went into completing the restoration project or why.

The following nature-based techniques used in Green Shores Demonstration projects could be effective for shorelines in your neighbourhood.

- **Seawalls, riprap and other hard structures are removed** to restore natural shoreline processes.
- **Slopes are amended through addition of local sand, stones, and organic debris** to restore the look of an unspoiled beach and buffer the energy of incoming waves.
- **Beach nourishment is added** to restore critical fish spawning habitats.
- **Logs, root balls, and other woody debris are strategically placed on the back and foreshore** to provide habitat for wildlife.
- **Native vegetation is planted** in the riparian and intertidal zones to anchor sediment and protect against erosion, provide habitat for wildlife and migratory birds, regulate temperatures through shade and the cooling effect of plant respiration, and improve water quality by slowing the flow of stormwater runoff from the upland, filtering pollutants that would otherwise enter the waterway.

Do You Have Waterfront Property in One of These Communities?

British Columbia:

Comox Valley Regional District
Town of Qualicum Beach

Nova Scotia:

Pictou County, West Hants, and the Kespukwitk-Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve

The Stewardship Centre for BC and TransCoastal Adaptations in Nova Scotia are offering a limited number of free Green Shores Shoreline Assessments to homeowners in select communities of BC and NS.

If you live in one of these communities, and you're interested in exploring Green Shores nature-based solutions for your shoreline, please visit <https://bit.ly/Shoreline-Assessment> for more information and to apply.



Stay Tuned for Future Editions

Upcoming issues of **Shoreline Spotlight** will feature Green Shores for Home case studies; Green Shores training opportunities in your community; explanations of ecosystem services provided by natural shorelines and why hard-armouring techniques may work against you; tips on what you can do to support habitat and biodiversity using native plants, and more!

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Do You Have Questions?

Contact us at info@stewardshipcentrebc.ca
<https://stewardshipcentrebc.ca/>
<https://bit.ly/GreenShoresForHomes>



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