

# GREEN shorelines

Bulkhead alternatives  
for a healthier  
Lake Washington



## City of Seattle Department of



### **Partners:**

Seattle - Restore Our Waters

King Conservation District

Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish  
Watershed Salmon Recovery  
Council (WRIA 8)

# Background

- Chinook salmon is listed as threatened under ESA - 1999.
- Development at the shoreline eliminates crucial habitat for Chinook, birds, insects, plants, and other organisms. 2001, 70% of Lake Washington was armored and 2,737 docks.
- Regulatory agencies are discouraging shoreline armoring, but there has been a lack of clear information about the alternatives
- Start to address problem by encouraging voluntary improvements on residential properties.



Roger Tabor

Thursday, December 10, 2009



# What is *Green Shorelines*?

- A guidebook developed to inform homeowners about more sustainable options and stimulate interest in these projects – compile information in one place.
- Surveys indicate that a majority of homeowners prefer the vegetated shoreline “look,” but that they have four main concerns:
  - Lack of information
  - Cost
  - Reliability
  - Permitting process
- Designed to provide information and images to address issues, shift preferences away from the mono-habitat of a bulkhead to more diversity at the shoreline.

# Process

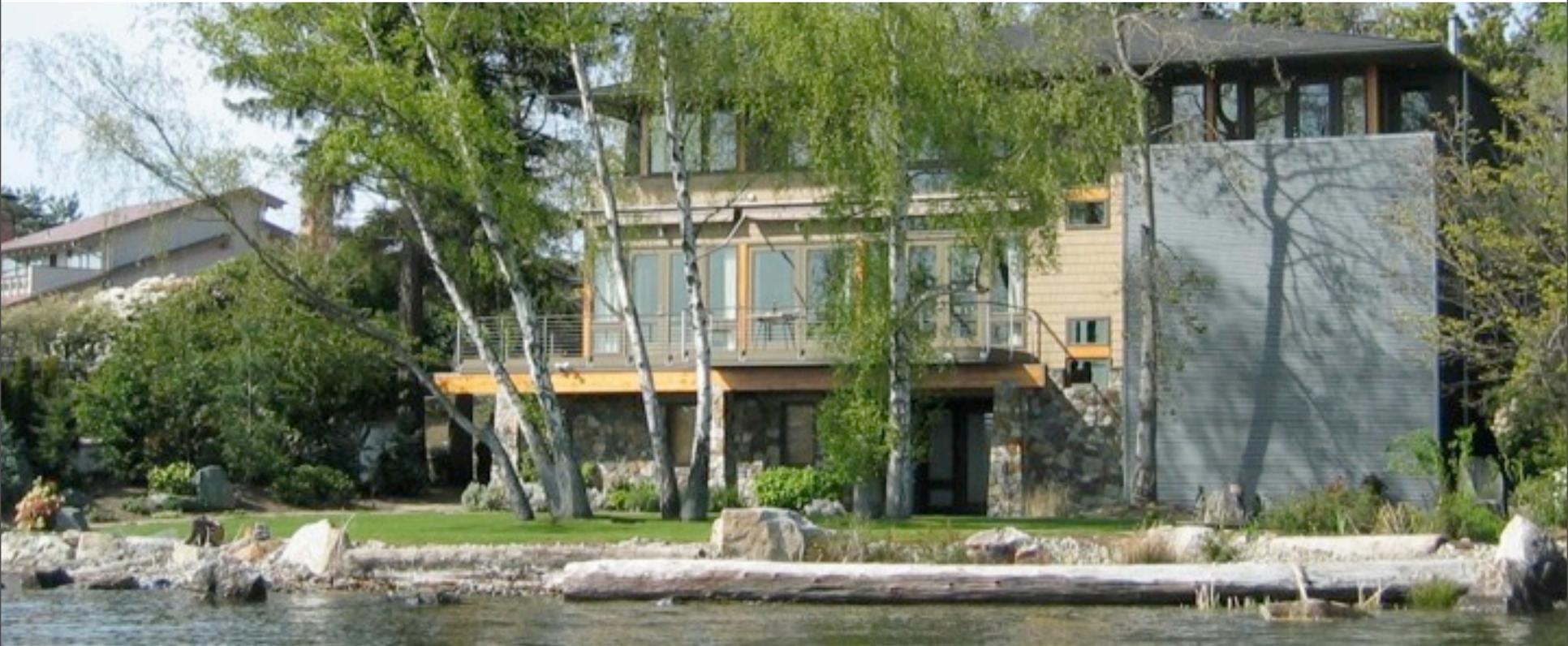
- Literature review -- WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan, UW studies, various publications on shoreline stabilization practices
- Draw up draft recommended practices, look for existing sites
- Review and revise with input Technical Advisory Committee: engineers, designers, contractors, regulators



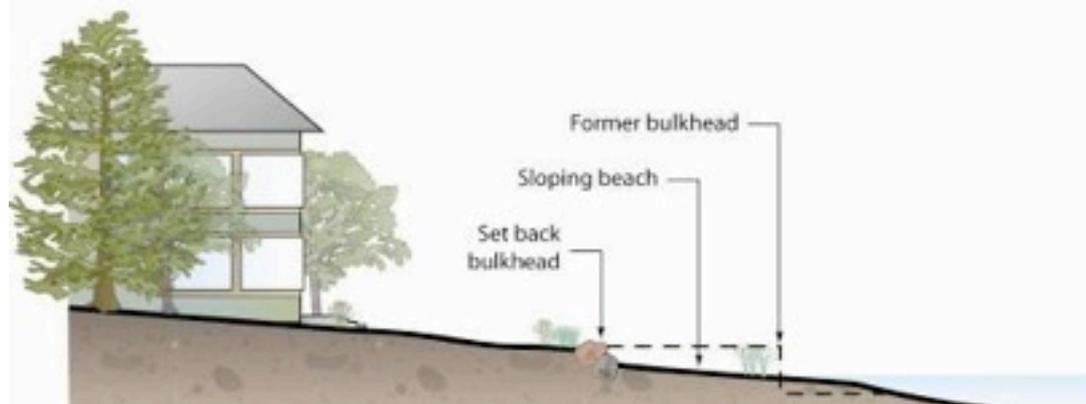
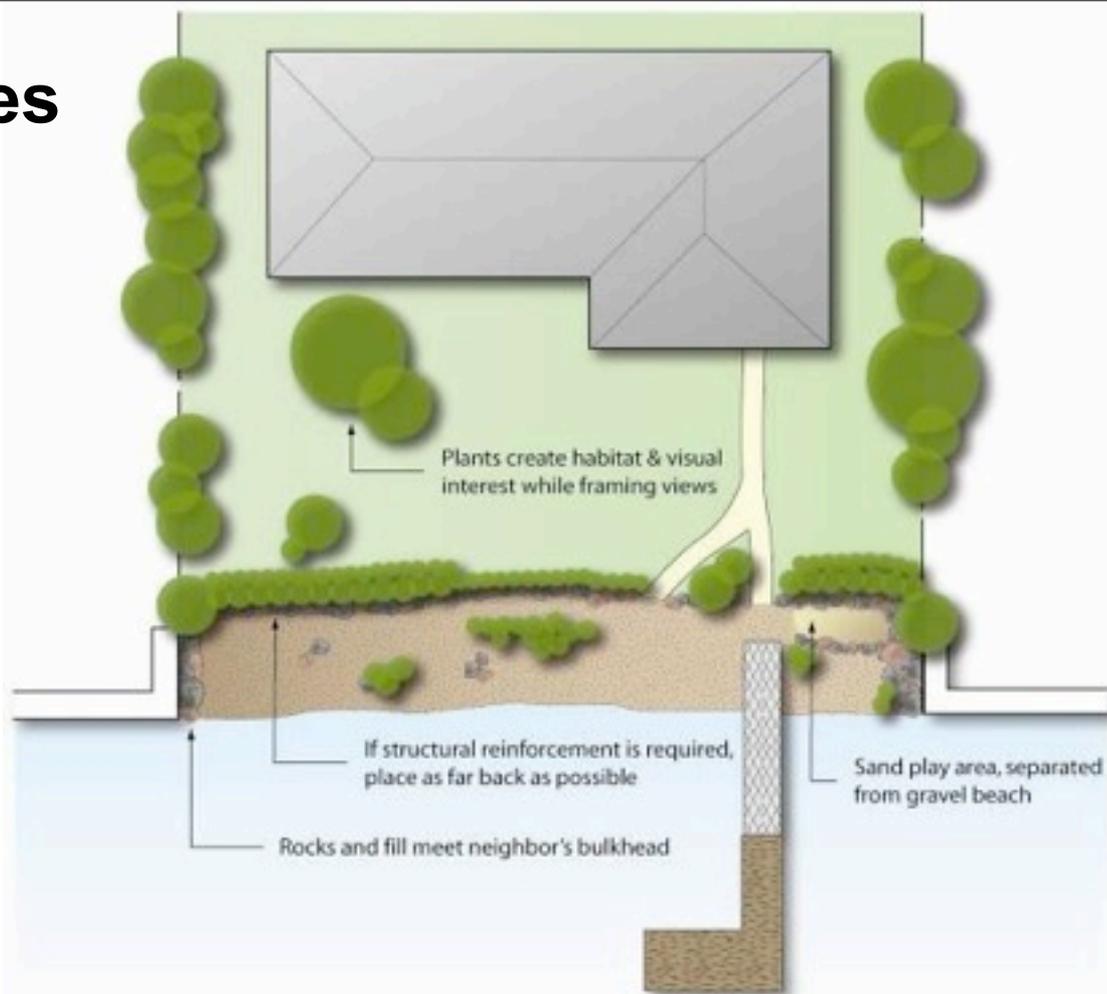
Anchor Environmental

# Green Shorelines practices

- Full beach installation
- Beach coves
- Setting back bulkheads
- Vegetated buffers
- Slope bioengineering
- Log placement



# Full Beaches





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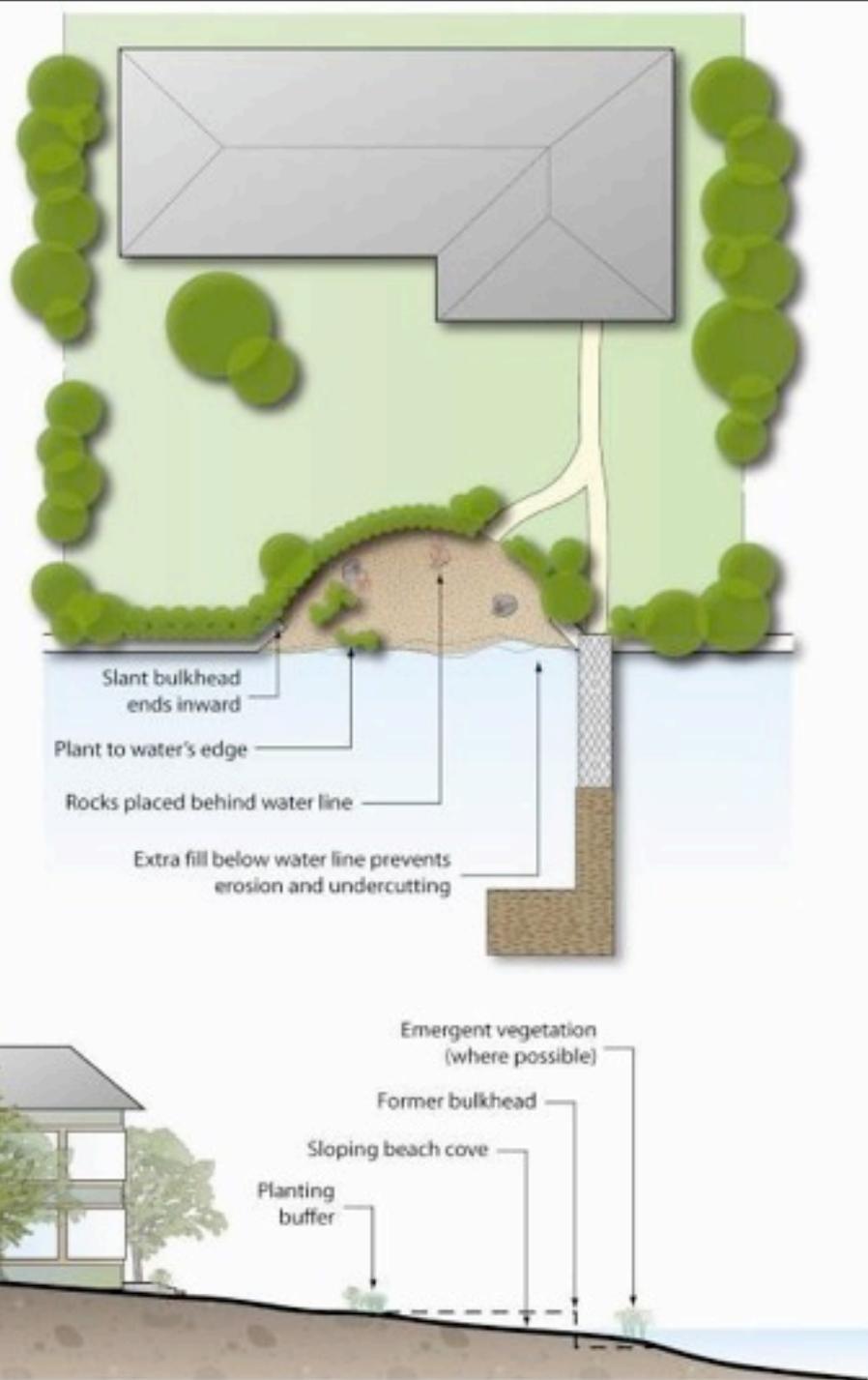


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# Beach Coves





Watershed Company

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Hendrikus Group

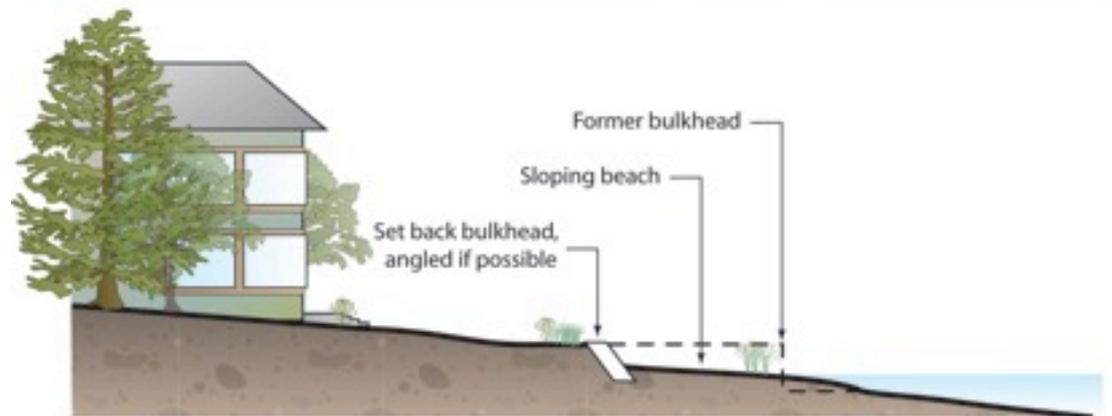
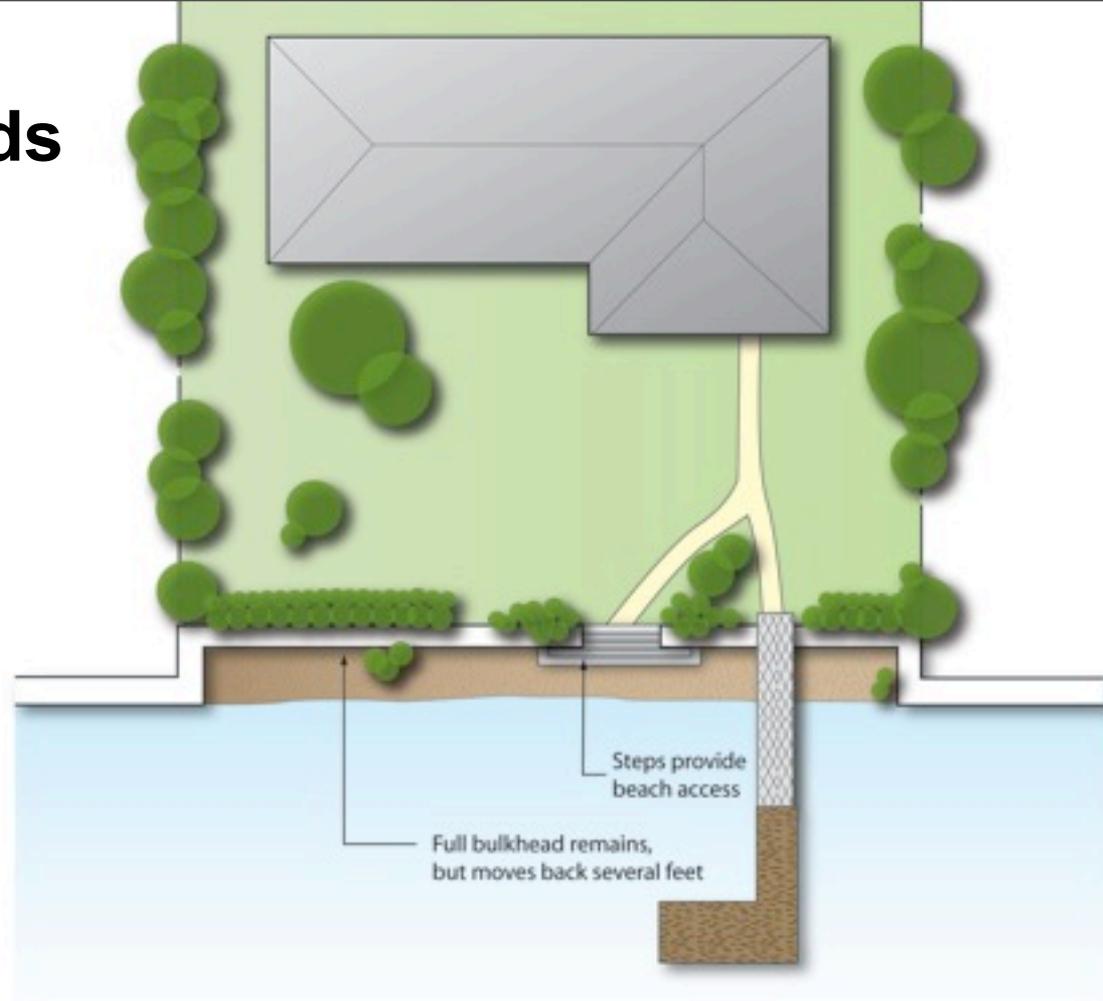
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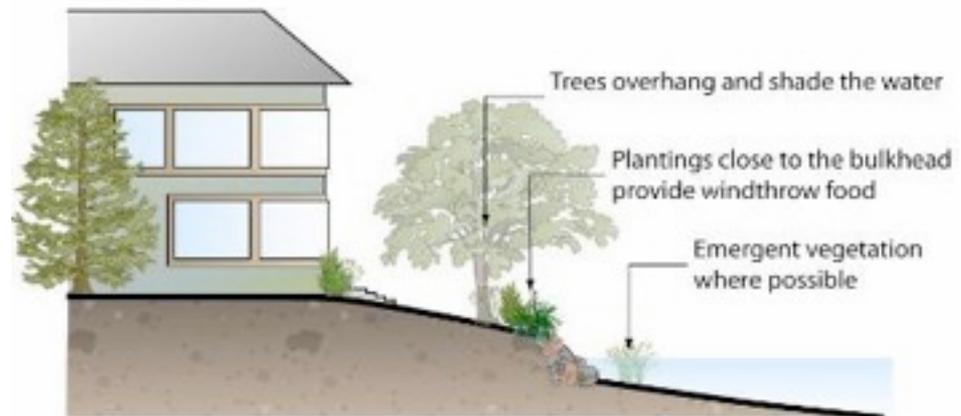
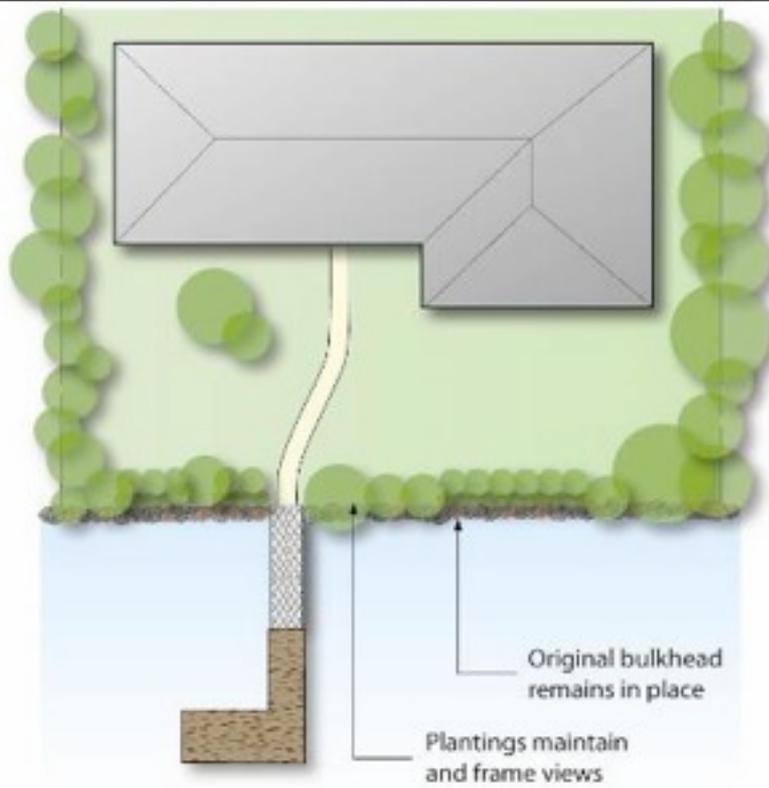
Waterfront Construction

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# Setting Back Bulkheads



# Vegetated Buffers





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Berger Partnership

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Joanna Buehler

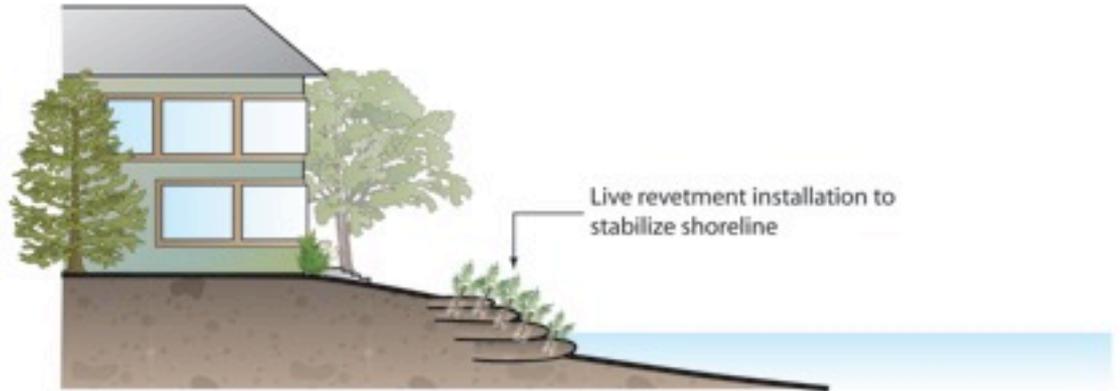
# Slope Bioengineering



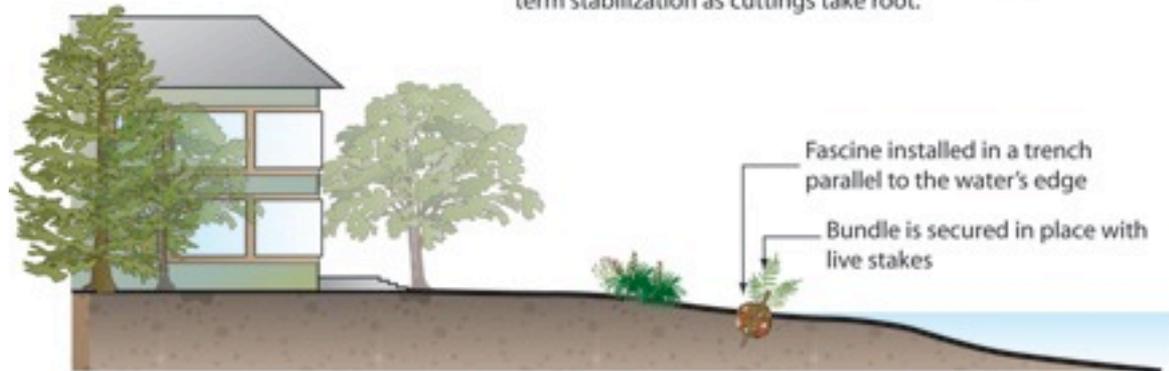
Live stakes, inserted in the ground, establish roots and hold soil in place



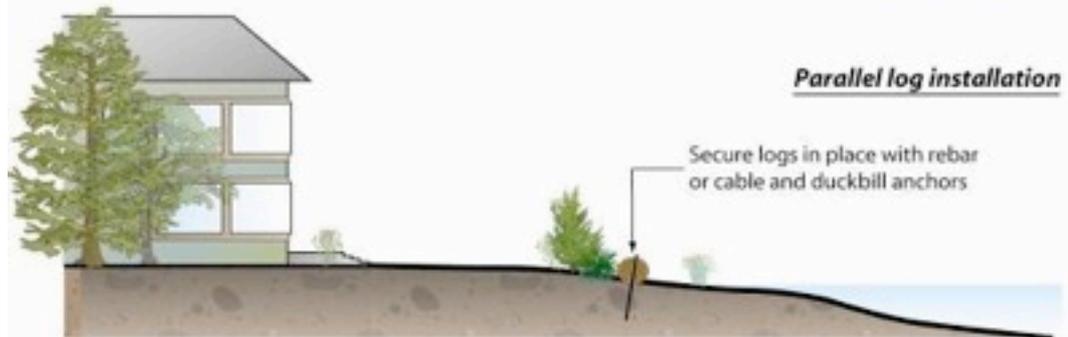
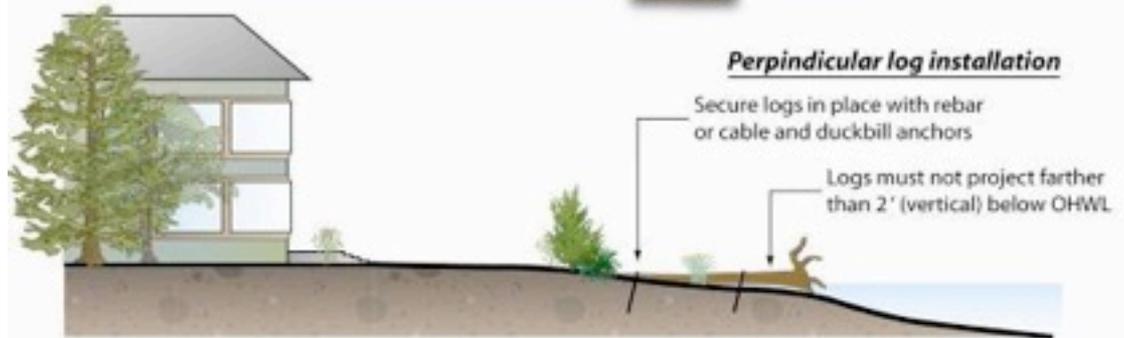
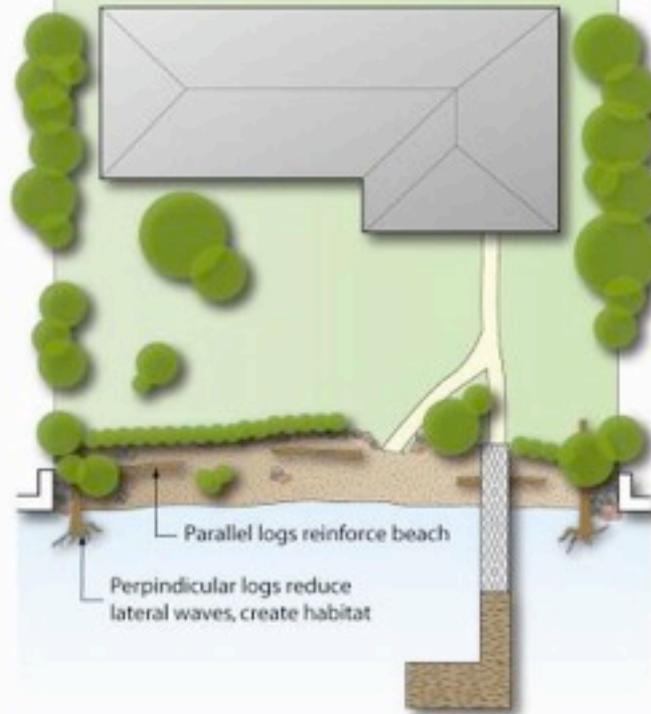
Live revetment uses live stakes and geotextile fabric to rebuild slopes



Fascines are bundles of live plant cuttings, used to provide short term erosion control as well as long-term stabilization as cuttings take root.



# Log placement





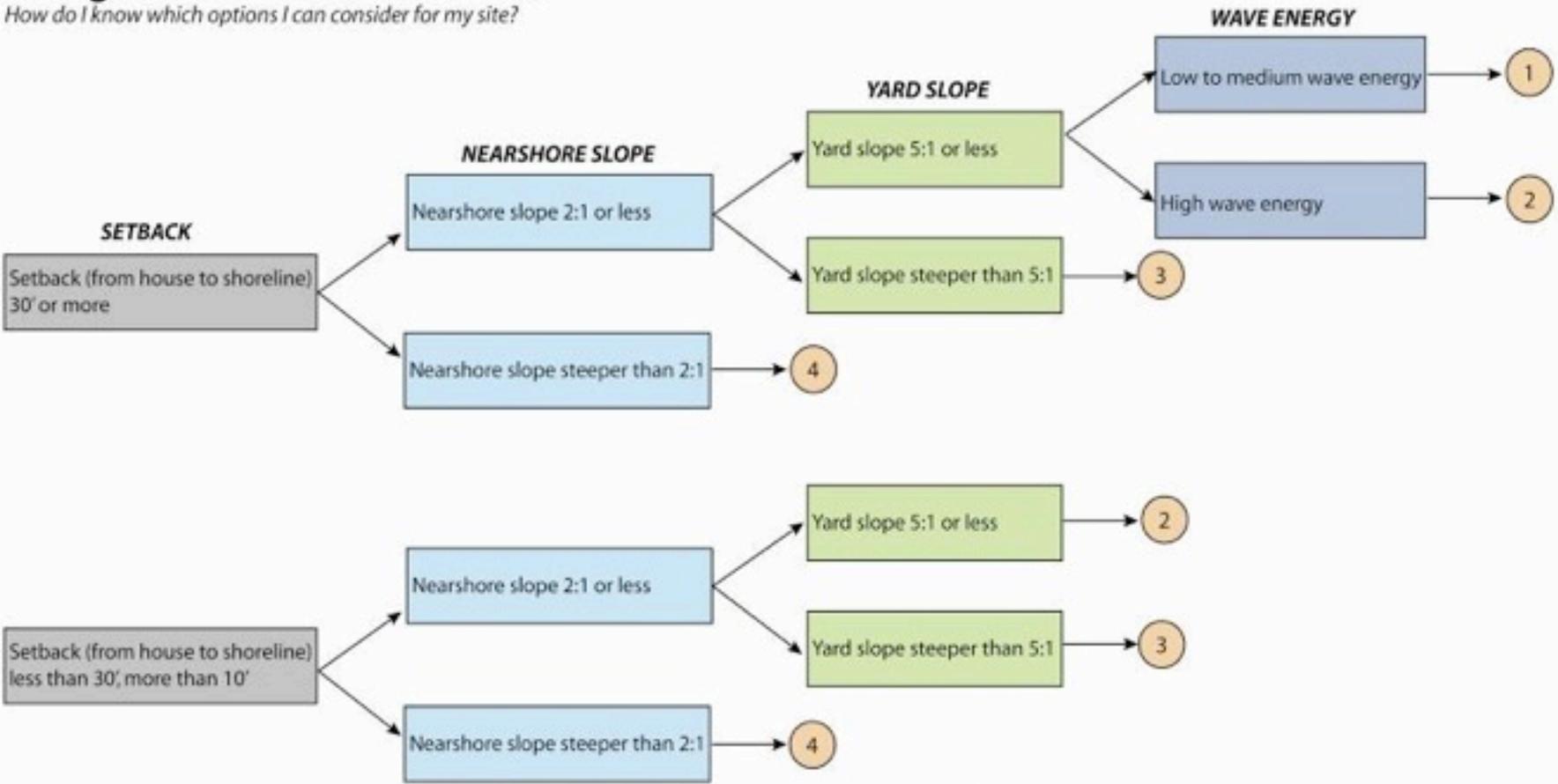
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# Green Shorelines Decision Tree

How do I know which options I can consider for my site?



**Notes:**

-The use of plant buffers or logs is a viable option for any site, including those that employ hard engineering such as bulkheads.

-Sites with less than a 10' setback are not included on this decision tree, because in most cases they will depend on hard engineering solutions like bulkheads or riprap. As noted above, plant buffers are appropriate.

- 1 full beach, beach coves, setting back bulkhead, bioengineering
- 2 beach coves, setting back bulkhead, bioengineering
- 3 setting back bulkhead, bioengineering
- 4 bioengineering

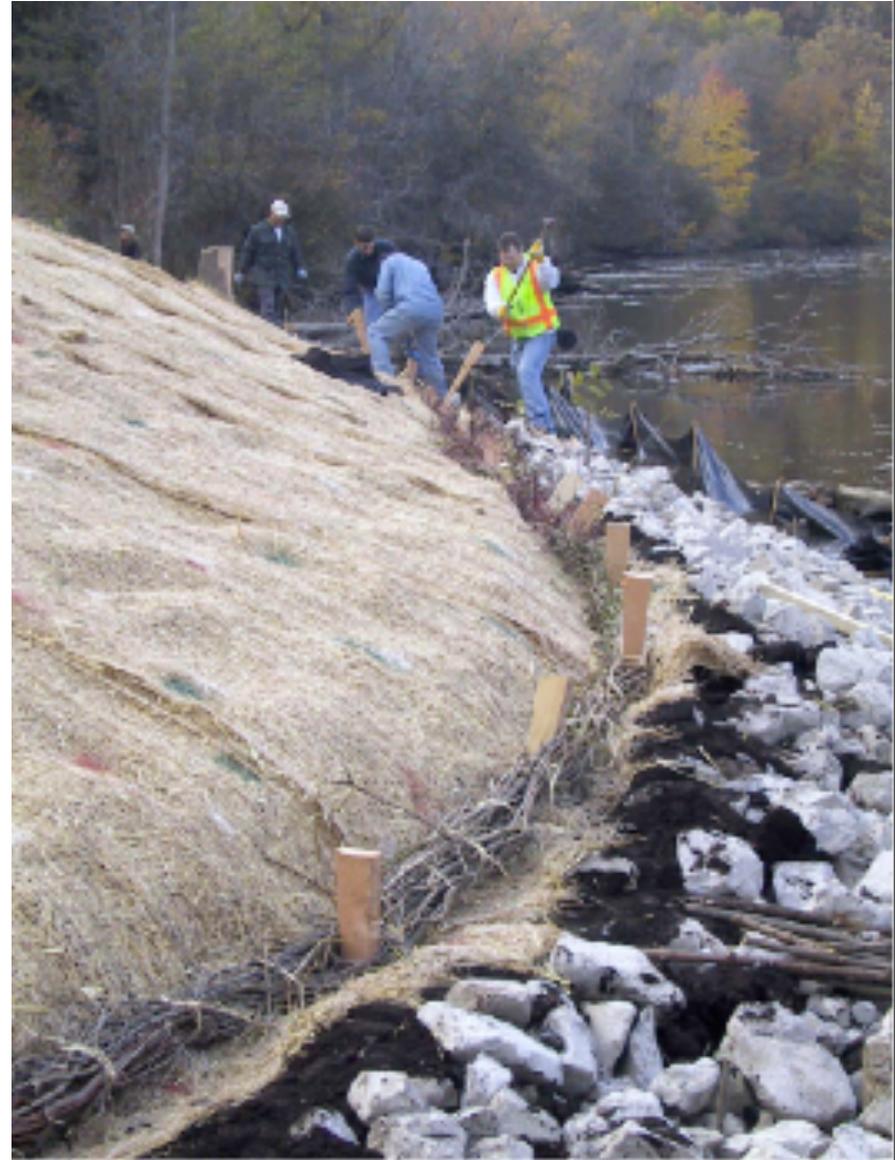
# Shoreline construction costs

	Bulkhead Removal Costs for 50 Linear Feet of Shoreline		
Site Access	Wood	Riprap	Concrete
Accessible from shore	\$1750	\$2625	\$5125
Accessible from water only	\$2375	\$3375	\$5625

	CONVENTIONAL TREATMENTS		GREEN SHORELINES	
Cost Category	Bulkheads	Riprap	Slope bioengineering	Beach Establishment
Capital Costs	Concrete = \$18,750	\$8,125	\$32,500	\$17,500
Design and Permitting	20-25% for smaller projects  10-15% of capital costs for larger projects (greater than \$100K),		15-20% for smaller projects  7-12% of capital costs for larger projects (greater than \$100K),	
Maintenance	No maintenance is usually required for 25-50 year life span of projects		Sand replenishment at a 1-5 year frequency, gravel at 5-10 years, both \$3 to \$6 per square foot of beach Approximate cost \$3,000 - \$6,000	

## Other practices and topics...

- Salmon-friendly docks
- The permitting process, including streamlined options
- Choosing designers and contractors
- Recommended plants
- Public shoreline restoration projects



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