

# LANDSCAPING with NATIVE PLANTS on LAKE GASTON

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## Steps to Developing a Native Shoreline Landscaping Plan

1. Assessment
2. Planning
3. Preparation
4. Installation

### Step 1 – ASSESSMENT

- Assess your yard. What areas of your yard can be used to install a project? How large or small do you want your project to be? Notice where trees and existing landscaping are. Examine the type of soil you have. These are all a part of a site assessment.
- As you begin thinking about your shoreline, you will become aware of the site conditions that can influence your restoration project:
  - Surrounding area
  - Topography
  - Drainage
  - Soil
  - Vegetation
  - Micro-climate
  - Views
- Have Your SOIL ANALYZED -County Cooperative Extension Office

### Step 2 - PLANNING

- Create a scaled map of the area indicating:
  - Buildings & Patios/decks
  - Property & shore-lines
  - Water access, docks & boathouses
  - DOM high water mark & ROW
  - Soil moisture (areas excessively wet or dry)
  - should show MATURE plant size
  - All Existing vegetation
  - Exposure: sunny and shady areas
  - Slopes, drainage patterns, eroding areas
  - Add in your proposed/new plantings
  - Plan
- TIP: You can print a view of your property from your county's GIS map and draw your site map over it like the image shown to the right
- Things to consider when creating your design:
  - Reduce lawns & Establish a Buffer zone
  - Imitate Nature
    - Choose deeply rooted woody vegetation which holds the soil & captures rainwater & runoff
    - Use curves instead of straight lines
    - Create layers of vegetation
  - Provide Diversity
    - Provide a diversity of native plants
    - It ensures that flowers, fruits, seeds & nectar attractive to birds, butterflies, & other wildlife will be available throughout the year.
    - Mix evergreens with deciduous plants.
  - Right plant - right place
    - Match Native plants with your existing site conditions:
    - Light requirements, Moisture requirements, Soil, Supplements
  - Keep it small & simple

### Step 3 - PREPARATION

Transferring your plan onto the land

- Remove undesirable & invasive plants - remove stump & roots
- Eliminate unwanted turf
- Layout planting beds & buffer zones
- Amend your soil

- Locate & purchase Native plants – see list of SourcesSite preparation begins with eliminating non-natives and lawn in the areas where you are going to plant.

#### **Step 4 - INSTALLATION**

- Proper planting technique improves the likelihood of a plant's success in the garden.
- Water thoroughly at the time of planting.
- Continue **frequent watering for the first year** after installation.
- Mulch - 3-6" deep, avoid landscape cloth or plastic; opt for biodegradable OR use native groundcovers

#### **Native Plant Resources:**

- Best/complete information on Native species: [https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/find\\_a\\_plant/?tag=nc-native-pollinator-plant](https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/find_a_plant/?tag=nc-native-pollinator-plant)
- <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/native-plants-finder>
- <https://www.plantvirginianatives.org/native-plants-for-southern-piedmont>
- <https://gardening.ces.ncsu.edu/native-plant-resources/>

#### **Invasive Species lists & Information:**

- NC Invasive Plant Council: <https://nc-ipc.weebly.com/nc-invasive-plants.html>
- <https://ncwildflower.org/invasive-exotic-species-list/>
- VA Invasive Plant list: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/invspdflist>
- Invasive Plant list of the US: <https://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/index.cfm>
- <https://www.ncplantfriends.org/invasive-species.html>
- A Field Guide for the Identification of Invasive Plants in Southern Forests: <https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/35292>
- Invasive Exotic Plant Guide from the NC DOT: chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://connect.ncdot.gov/resources/Environmental/Compliance%20Guides%20and%20Procedures/Invasive\_Exotic\_Plants\_Manual\_May\_2012.pdf

#### **Landscaping & Shoreline Management Aides & Resources:**

- <https://www.plantvirginianatives.org/landscape-choices-inspired-by-nature>
- Map Existing Site and Vegetation: <https://wildlifefriendlylandscapes.ces.ncsu.edu/how-to-make-wildlife-friendly-landscapes/step-two-map-existing-site-and-vegetation/>
- Design a Native Plant Landscape <https://wildlifefriendlylandscapes.ces.ncsu.edu/how-to-make-wildlife-friendly-landscapes/step-three-design-a-native-plant-landscape/>
- Blue Thumb—Planting for Clean Water: <https://bluethumb.org/about/>
- Dept. of NR-Restore Your Shore: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rys/index.html>