

North Shore Preserve Reforestation

Why:

Forests sequester and store carbon, filter water, help retain topsoil, and sustain biodiversity. After acquiring the Preserve, the Conservation Land Bank (Land Bank) reviewed existing and potential forest cover while considering ecological values, future recreational uses and maintenance requirements. Faced with the decision to continue mowing large areas or to restore them to forest, the Land Bank chose to eliminate carbon emissions associated with mowing, save staff time and support wildlife.

Where:

Portions of the Preserve were cleared decades ago for pasture or other uses. To prevent herbivory by deer, we enclosed part of this acreage in temporary fencing repurposed from another preserve. We're planting areas outside of the fence with deer-tolerant shrubs such as snowberry, tall Oregon grape, Nootka rose and gooseberry.

When:

After approval of the Land Bank's Interim Stewardship and Management Plan, staff, contractors and volunteers planted over 13,000 trees and shrubs across roughly three acres in early 2024. This winter, we'll install an additional 4,000 plants in remaining gaps. We will maintain the plants over the next several years and remove the fencing in about ten years. Thanks to the inclusion of multiple flowering and fruit-bearing species, these forest and shrub areas will provide important resources for pollinators, birds and bats, and reduce the need for mowing.

What:

Much of North Shore Preserve is forested with common conifers such as Douglas fir, Western red cedar, grand fir, and Western hemlock. Common hardwoods on site include bigleaf maple, red alder, and Douglas maple. The forest understory supports shrubs such as salal, snowberry, baldhip rose, oceanspray, and low Oregon-grape. We planted these and other native species in rows to facilitate maintenance through establishment. The full list of species planted follows:

Planting List

<i>Acer macrophyllum</i> - Bigleaf maple	<i>Prunus emarginata</i> - Bitter cherry
<i>Alnus rubra</i> - Red alder	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> - Douglas fir
<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i> - Western serviceberry	<i>Ribes divaricatum</i> - Black gooseberry
<i>Cornus sericea</i> - Red osier dogwood	<i>Rosa gymnocarpa</i> - Baldhip rose
<i>Crataegus douglasii</i> - Black hawthorn	<i>Rosa nutkana</i> - Nootka rose
<i>Lonicera involucrata</i> - Black twinberry	<i>Rosa pisocarpa</i> - Swamp rose
<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i> - Tall Oregon grape	<i>Rubus leucodermis</i> - Blackcap raspberry
<i>Mahonia nervosa</i> - Low Oregon grape	<i>Rubus parviflorus</i> - Thimbleberry
<i>Malus fusca</i> - Western crabapple	<i>Rubus spectabilis</i> - Salmonberry
<i>Oemleria cerasiformis</i> - Osoberry	<i>Salix scouleriana</i> - Scouler's willow
<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i> - Mock orange	<i>Sambucus racemosa</i> - Red elderberry
<i>Physocarpus capitatus</i> - Pacific ninebark	<i>Spiraea douglasii</i> - Douglas spiraea
<i>Picea sitchensis</i> - Sitka spruce	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i> - Common snowberry
<i>Pinus contorta v. contorta</i> - Shorepine	<i>Thuja plicata</i> - Western red cedar
<i>Populus balsamifera</i> - Black cottonwood	<i>Tsuga heterophylla</i> - Western hemlock