



Native Plant Spotlight

Red Osier Dogwood

Cornus sericea

Red Osier Dogwood, also known as Red Twig Dogwood, is an upright, deciduous shrub that develops into an open, rounded thicket. It provides year round colour and interest with dark red foliage and nutritious white berries in the autumn, showy red stems in winter, and clusters of tiny white four-petaled flowers set against dark green foliage in the spring and summer. Its structure provides valuable cover and nesting habitat and its fat-rich berries are a valuable source of food for birds and other wildlife.

- Native to the Pacific Coast
- Hardy in zones 2 to 7
- Thrives in moist soil
- 2 to 3 meters height and spread
- Useful for shoreline erosion control.

Where to source native plants for your shoreline.

<https://bit.ly/NativePlantVendors>

Welcome to the fall 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!**



The Importance of Coastal Wetlands

Coastal wetlands play a crucial role in supporting biodiversity and protecting shorelines from erosion and flooding. In the past, many developers purposely removed wetlands, such as salt marshes and seagrass meadows, in favour of manicured lawns and clean sand beaches, or unwittingly degraded them by using hard armour techniques, like riprap and seawalls, which interrupt natural shoreline processes and connectivity. Today, with greater recognition of the **vital services provided by wetlands**, preserving and restoring them has become a stewardship priority.

Coastal wetlands provide:

- **Wildlife habitat** - nourishment, breeding grounds, and habitat for migratory birds, Pacific salmon, and other wildlife.
- **Resilience to the storm surges** - by absorbing wave energy, marshes can reduce the impact of powerful storms.
- **Soil retention and bank stabilization** - through the anchoring effect of deep root systems and reduction in surface runoff.
- **Water filtration and removal of pollutants** from runoff that would otherwise enter sensitive waterways.
- **Carbon sequestering and air purification.**
- **Thermal refuge** for sensitive marine life.
- **Opportunities to enjoy natural beauty** and observe wildlife.

Help Protect Salt Marshes and Seagrass Meadows

Support wetland conservation initiatives in your area, such as those of [Project Watershed in the Comox Valley](#), and request a Green Shores shoreline assessment to learn how to protect or restore natural shoreline processes on your property.

Green Shores Neighbourhood-Scale Projects



Green Shores is a proven framework of nature-based techniques that minimize development impacts on shoreline ecosystems while protecting against climate change risks, such as erosion and flooding, for residential, commercial, and public properties.

Green Shores for Homes was developed to help homeowners protect their properties from flooding, storm damage, and erosion while supporting ecological resilience. Protecting or restoring the natural ecological systems of a single waterfront property, no matter how small, can positively impact the environment and protect against climate change risks. Imagine the positive effect of a Green Shores project involving multiple shoreline properties!

Green Shores Neighbourhood-Scale Projects are especially effective at protecting shoreline ecosystems from the impacts of development, and coastal communities from the risks associated with climate change, because they restore natural shoreline functions at a larger scale.

Coastal Wetland Restoration

Project Watershed has been actively involved in ecological restoration efforts throughout the Comox Valley. This fall, on September 20 to 21, volunteers will work with Project Watershed and K'ómoks Guardians to help plant native grasses, shrubs, and tidal marsh species as part of the [Dyke Road Park Green Shores Demonstration Project](#).

Green Shores at Gartley Beach

Gartley Beach in Royston, BC is home to a vibrant coastal community comprising numerous waterfront residences. It features a productive salt marsh habitat, an important ecosystem for shore birds and spawning herring in the region.

Project Watershed is partnering with SCBC to promote the benefits of a neighbourhood-scale Green Shores project among the homeowners of Gartley Beach.

Neighbourhood-scale projects benefit wildlife and homeowners in a variety of ways. There can be significant cost savings due to economies of scale. For example, the cost for design and permitting can be shared among homeowners and permit applications can sometimes be submitted as one single project. Neighbourhood-driven projects can also unite people with diverse backgrounds and provide a sense of connection in the community.

Ultimately, a **neighbourhood-scale Green Shores project** for this area would serve to enhance shoreline health, habitat, and biodiversity. It would also increase community resilience to the risks associated with climate change, such as erosion and flooding from storm surge and sea level rise.



Salt Marsh, Credit Crystal Norman

Green Shores Training is offered in communities throughout BC in partnership with the University of Victoria and the British Columbia Institute for Technology. All are welcome; however, Green Shores Level 1 is a prerequisite for Green Shores Level 2. Registration link below!



Autumn Training

GREEN SHORES LEVEL 1

- GSL1 Saanich, Sept 25, 9 am - 4 pm
- GSL1 Esquimalt, Oct 22, 9 am - 4 pm
- GSL1 Duncan, Nov 26, 9 am - 4 pm

GREEN SHORES LEVEL 2

- GSL2 Nanaimo, Nov 19 - 20, 9 am - 4 pm

<https://bit.ly/GreenShoresTraining>

Do you own a 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 Kespukwitik-Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve

If you live in one of these communities, and you'd like to explore Green Shores nature-based solutions for your shoreline, please visit <https://bit.ly/Shoreline-Assessment> for more information and to get started.

If you have friends or neighbours with shoreline property, please share this newsletter and suggest they subscribe!

Visit, click, or scan to subscribe:

Visit <https://bit.ly/Shoreline-Spotlight>

Contact us at:

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<https://stewardshipcentrebcc.ca>

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