

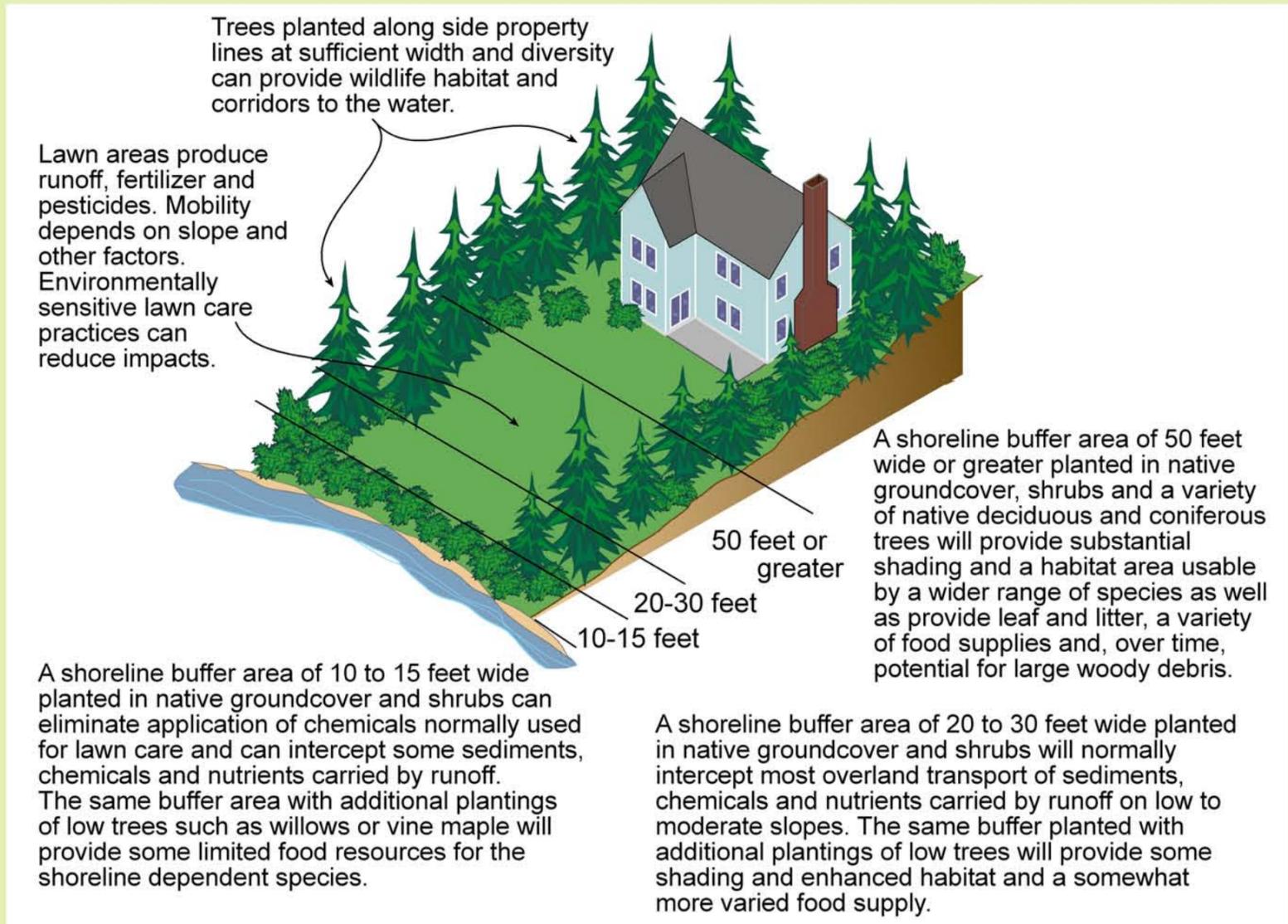


City of Renton Shoreline Master Program Update



Vegetation Conservation

Shoreline Vegetation Ecological Functions



Shoreline Management Guidelines

Excerpts from WAC 173-26-221 (5)

The intent of vegetation conservation is to protect and restore the ecological functions and ecosystem-wide processes performed by vegetation along shorelines.

Master programs shall include:

- Planning provisions that address vegetation conservation and restoration, and
- Regulatory provisions that address conservation of vegetation; as necessary to assure no net loss of shoreline ecological functions and ecosystem-wide processes, to avoid adverse impacts to soil hydrology, and to reduce the hazard of slope failures or accelerated erosion.

The most commonly recognized functions of the shoreline vegetation include, but are not limited to:

- Providing shade necessary to maintain the cool temperatures required by salmonids, spawning forage fish, and other aquatic biota.
- Providing organic inputs critical for aquatic life.
- Providing food in the form of various insects and other benthic macroinvertebrates.
- Stabilizing banks, minimizing erosion, and reducing the occurrence of landslides.
- Filtering and vegetative uptake of nutrients and pollutants from ground water and surface runoff.
- Providing a source of large woody debris into the aquatic system.

Local governments should identify which ecological processes and functions are important to the local aquatic and terrestrial ecology and conserve sufficient vegetation to maintain them.

