

Identify your project goals

- a path to the lake
- vehicle access to the lake/dock
- a dock for fishing/swimming
- winter storage for the canoe/boat
- a view of the lake from house
- less lawn/less mowing
- a swimming beach
- privacy
- entertainment
- a fire pit/grill
- a quiet place to sit
- deter geese
- pet area
- wildlife viewing
- fix erosion problems
- other needs



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Master Gardener Program

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designing your lake-friendly project

Master Gardener Program



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
GRANT/ADAMS COUNTY EXTENSION

Create a base map

Start with a sketch which includes existing site conditions, setbacks, and measurements. House plans or plat maps may be helpful. Include major existing features such as house and sheds, dock, patio/deck, property lines, fences, shoreline, existing beach access, existing vegetation (trees, shrubs, garden, etc.), and recreation areas (swimming, play, other).

What do you want to add?

Desired viewscapes. Which views do you want to create or preserve?

Features that will be highlighted.

Areas that need a visual screen.

Future building or site alteration plans.

Structures (docks, paths, steps, fences, beach, etc.) to be added, relocated, or removed to accomplish project goals.

Your preferred landscape style (natural, country garden, formal, Italian, etc.)

"Bubble in" features you would like to add based on your project goals. Some people use a garden hose to mark off different areas; this can help you visualize the size and shape of your plans.

Do a site sketch From the information off your base map create a scale site sketch on graph paper, using a convenient scale such as 1"=1'. Include the following important features so you keep them in mind as you plan:

Water level history – ordinary high water (OHW) and record high/lows

Riparian, lower, upland zones and soil types and moisture in each zone

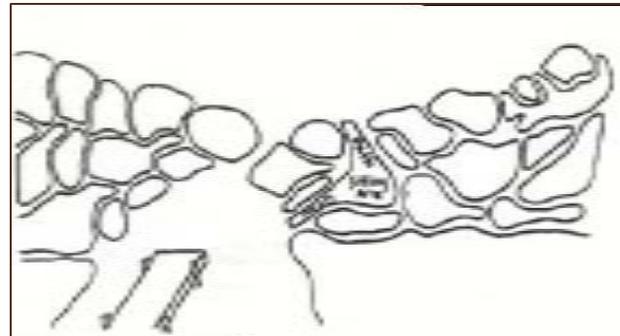
Existing vegetation

Sun exposure – sunny and shady areas

Any potential wetland buffer setback (25')

Design your planting Height, color, sun exposure, cold and heat hardiness – there are many things to consider when designing your landscape. There are also many ways to plan your landscape. You may find some useful free landscaping software on the internet. Another way is to use tracing paper and draw different layers. For example, create one layer for plants blooming in each season.

Draw free-form shapes representing your plant groupings around your existing "bones" (structures, trees, shrubs) and make several copies of it.



Separate the shapes into different times of bloom. One layer will be spring blooming plants, the next will be early summer blooming, etc.

Color the shapes with the planned bloom colors.

Number each shape and prepare a key with the numbers coordinating with the type of flower or plant.

Reflect Excluding trees and shrubs, most plants are two to four inches tall. Consider height as you plan. Place trees and taller plants so they frame your view from the house rather than obstruct it. In beds, place taller plants in the back or in the middle with the shorter plants on the edges.

The Master Gardeners of Grant/Adams Counties have prepared a free CD which lists many native plants appropriate for each shoreline zone. Pick one up at the Extension Office at the Courthouse in Ephrata.