

Spring has sprung!

Advice for eco-friendly landscaping, native gardens, & shoreline buffers

☐ “Leaf” some for the bees

In the early days of spring, many pollinators and beneficial insects are still in hibernation. Wait until the daytime temps are consistently above 50°F to cut down stems and rake leaves out of garden beds.

☐ Don't trim oak branches or dig near oaks

April, May and June are high risk months for oak wilt, a fungal disease that kills thousands of oak trees every year.

☐ Wait to rake or fertilize your lawn

In the early spring, most lawns are still soft. Raking injures the grass and creates bare patches for weeds to grow. Fertilizing too early encourages the grass to grow tall instead of building healthy roots.

☐ Plan a native garden

Native plants provide food and habitat for birds and pollinators and don't need irrigation, fertilizer, or lawn chemicals to grow.

Use the “Plant Finder” tool at www.BlueThumb.org to learn which native plants are best suited for your yard - whether it is sunny or shady, wet or dry. The website also has links to native plant retailers.

Watershed Districts also offer grants up to \$500 for native gardens.

Comfort Lake - Forest Lake Watershed District (CLFLWD)

clflwd.org/cost-share-program.php

Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD)

ricecreek.org/minigrants

☐ Learn how to care for your shoreline buffer

Shoreline buffer workshop – April 29, 6-7:15pm

Register online at: tinyurl.com/shorelines21

If you live on a lake or wetland sign up for this free, online workshop to learn how to care for your shoreline buffer.

During this webinar, presenters will discuss:

- Benefits of buffers and native shoreline plantings
- Buffer rules & regulations
- Establishing native species and improving buffer habitat
- Seasonal maintenance
- Controlling common invasive species (terrestrial)
- Resources & funding available to landowners

Speakers include Tara Kelly and Cameron Blake, Washington Conservation District, and Angie Hong, East Metro Water Education Program. Co-sponsored by CLFLWD, RCWD and City of Forest Lake.

Washington Conservation District offers FREE site visits!

Sign up at mnwcd.org/site-visit-signup-form

A typical site visit lasts 30-60min:

- Begin planning native garden, raingarden, and shoreline planting projects
- Get advice on ways to manage erosion and invasive species
- Learn about available grants