

Lakeshore Restorations/Buffer Beltways/Landscapes-Birth & New Life

By Bloomin' Buddies, Lakeshore Restoration and Natural Landscapes; Diane Crandall, Principal



Our past few articles have provided background information on the benefits of Shoreline Restoration and/or Greenbelts (buffers) and how to design your installation. Now we are ready for the most exciting part of the whole project! Yes, we are at the preparation and implementation stage which will create the birth and new life at your home.

The first step is to prepare the area for planting. In my view and experience, preparation is critical for a beautiful and bountiful project. After all the time you have spent on research, design, creativity, and choices, in order for your desired vision to bloom before your eyes, the preparation of your site needs to be done with major care.

In order to make room for the new plants, the area for the new plantings must first be cleared. Clearing the area is a complex matter because of the combination of factors: the existing soil structure, existing plants or bushes, invasive species, weeds, and the most important issue of what is going to be used to kill the grass. Soil structure can be a challenge since the firm, compacted form will require more time for killing the grass and removing or relocating other plants. I prefer to recycle any plants or bushes that are removed from the area and we will discuss this to see if you are open to that option. There are a few environmental choices that are recommended for killing existing grass, and this will be a matter of your personal choice and decision. Once the area is cleared, natural

nutrients may be added, if decide to use a supplement. Depending on the options chosen for preparation, some sites may take at least one week before we can begin planting.

If your site needs a biodegradable blanket (to prevent erosion or provide stabilization) this is laid over the area and staked into the ground before planting. A shoreline restoration site will require the blanket to be tucked under biodegradable coir logs before plants are placed and set into the shore.

Now we are off to the final stretch of adding new life, protection and beauty. The plants or bushes are installed in their desired area and zones. To ward off weeds, protect the plants, and hold moisture, I recommend mulch as the topper of your project.

The magic ingredient to help the plants with their future hard work is: water...water...water. For a couple of weeks, water your site at least two times a day, to ensure the roots have established themselves. Take a seat, sip on a refreshment, watch with anticipation and enjoy the future show!

Smile everyone, as winter is officially here but spring is right around the corner!