



Understanding the Importance of Using Native
Plants for Roadside Revegetation

the
**art &
science**
of revegetation

Building roads through natural landscapes can cause damage

that lasts for decades. This damage can negatively affect wildlife, plant life, the habitats of nearby waterways, and make the road less safe for drivers.

To avoid these problems, it is important for all of the groups involved in the road project to have a common vision of the desired future condition of the landscape, and for them to collaborate throughout the project.

The processes used to reestablish the landscape that was disturbed by the road project are collectively known as “roadside revegetation.”

In the past, the elements of effective roadside revegetation were not well understood and efforts sometimes led to undesirable results: Sometimes the plants and seeds chosen for the project didn’t grow well, or non-native species were used which out-competed native species. These problems can cause bare slopes which are prone to erosion, and erosion is the primary cause of the negative effects of the road project.

More recently, by using indigenous plants native to the project area within a systematic project cycle that employs science-based principals and protocols, revegetation efforts enjoy much greater success.



1. Initiation

is the process of fact-finding and coordination among the various members of the team.

2. Planning

is the process of creating a revegetation plan. Appropriate species and planting techniques are determined.

3. Implementation

is when the revegetation plan is started: Plants are obtained, mitigation procedures are carried out, and plants are installed.

4. Monitoring

of the revegetation site is carried out after year one, year three, year five, and year ten. The level of success of the revegetation plan is estimate and any necessary adjustments proposed.

5. Adaptation

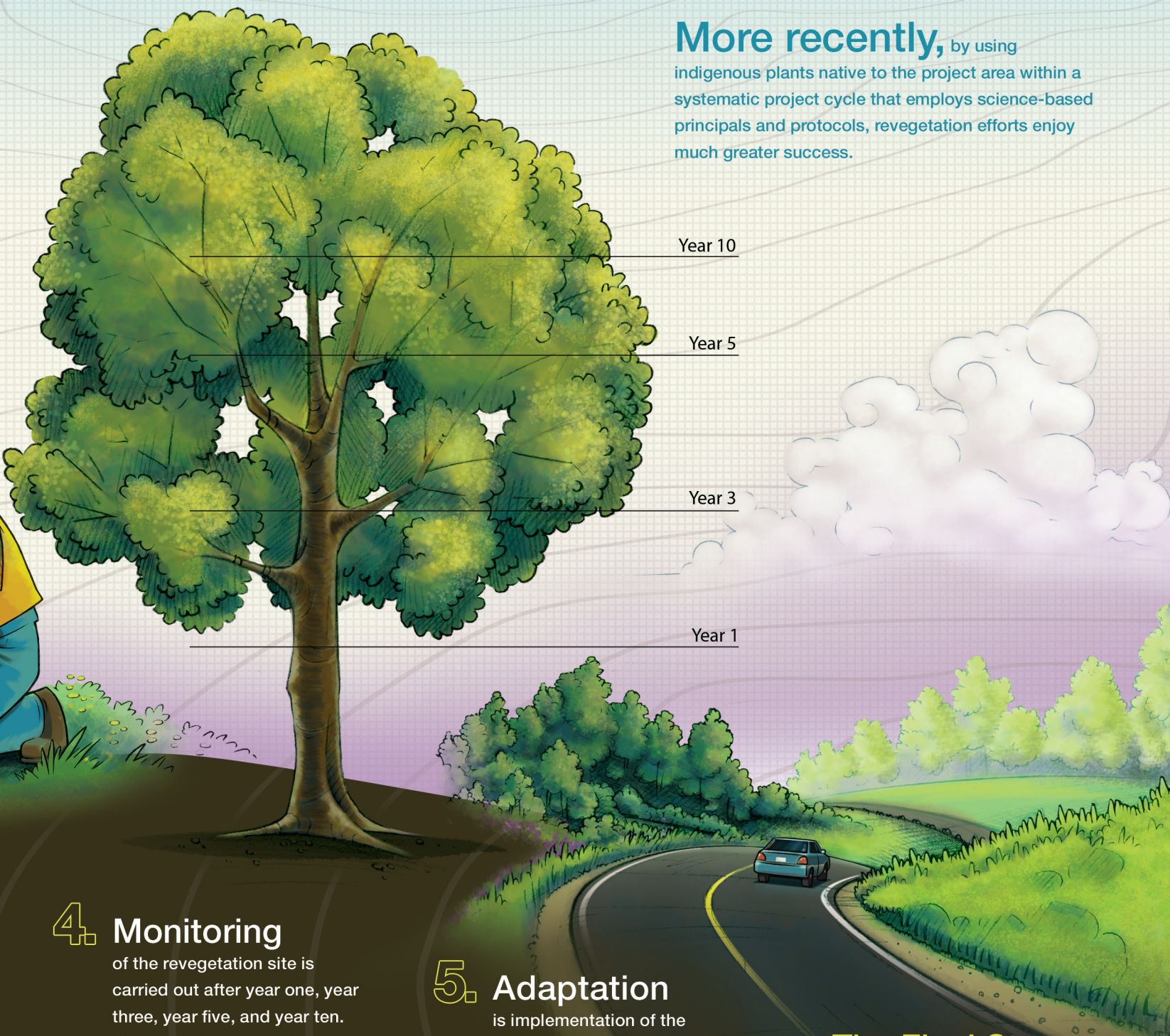
is implementation of the adjustments suggested by the results of the monitoring phase.


The Final Step

is to gather all of the information acquired from the current project, documenting it, and proactively using it for the benefit of future projects.

The Project Cycle of Revegetation

The process begins at the same time as the road project, and continues well after its completion.





When planned well, successful roadside revegetation programs support transportation goals for safety and efficiency, stabilizing slopes, reinforcing infrastructure, and improving the road user's experience by creating natural beauty and diversity along the roadside.

For more information, please visit
www.NativeRevegetation.org

Federal Highway Administration
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