

# Building a Rain Garden

## 4 Easy Steps

LOCATE  
1



DESIGN & BUILD  
2



PLANT  
3



MAINTAIN  
4



Residents in unincorporated Kitsap County receive technical assistance and funding to install a rain garden. Residents who qualify for the cost-share program may be reimbursed 1/2 the cost to install a rain garden or other green stormwater solution, up to \$1000.

To learn more, contact:  
Kitsap Conservation District:  
t-brooks@conservewa.net  
360.337.7171 ext 24.

Residents in the Cities of Port Orchard, Bremerton, Poulsbo, and Bainbridge Island: Obtain free technical assistance from rain garden mentors. Contact WSU Kitsap County Extension: 360.307.4378 | cmiko@co.kitsap.wa.us

Download a copy of the *Rain Garden Handbook for Western Washington* homeowners at: [KitsapGov.com/pw/raingardens.pdf](http://KitsapGov.com/pw/raingardens.pdf)



# Rain Gardens

Designing your landscape to protect Puget Sound



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Native Soil and Forests of Western Washington store, filter, and slowly release cool, clean water to streams, wetlands, and the largest estuary on the west coast-Puget Sound.

The rich diversity of life in marine and fresh water, as well as on land, depends on clean water to thrive.



As the region grows, native forests and soils are replaced with roads, rooftops and other hard surfaces. When it rains or snows, more water flows from these surfaces than undisturbed areas, carrying oil, fertilizers, pesticides, sediment and other pollutants downstream.



In fact, much of the pollution in streams, wetlands and Puget Sound now comes from stormwater (water flowing off developed areas). The added volume of water and associated contaminants from developed land are damaging water resources and harming aquatic life in western Washington.



# What is a Rain Garden?



A rain garden is a landscaped area that collects, absorbs, and filters stormwater runoff from roof tops, driveways, patios, and other hard surfaces that don't allow water to soak in. Rain gardens are sized to accommodate temporary ponding after it rains and are not meant to be permanent ponds. Simply put, rain gardens are shallow depressions that:



- Can be shaped and sized to fit your yard
- Are constructed with soil mixes that allow water to soak in rapidly, treat runoff, and support plant growth.
- Can be landscaped with a variety of plants to fit the surroundings.



## Benefits of a Rain Garden



- Filter oil and grease from driveways, pesticides and fertilizers from lawns, and other pollutants before they reach the storm drain and eventually streams, wetlands, lakes and marine waters.
- Reduce flooding on neighboring property, overflow in sewers, and erosion in streams by absorbing water from impervious surfaces.
- Provide habitat for beneficial insects and birds.
- Increase the amount of water that soaks into the ground to recharge local groundwater.

