

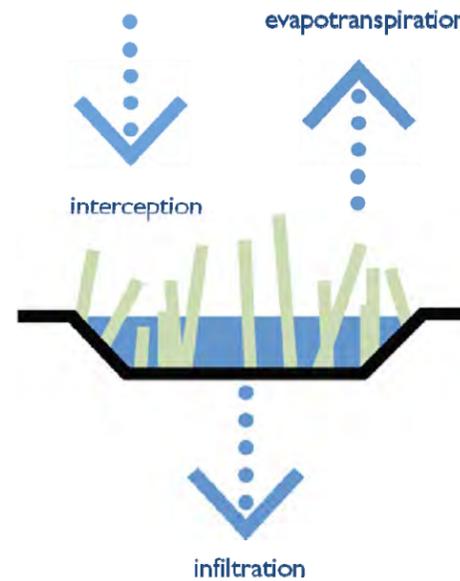
# More Than Just A Pretty Place

Rain gardens are shallow landscaped depressions that collect and filter stormwater runoff from the hard surfaces around us. Specially mixed soils and carefully selected plants allow water to soak in while absorbing pollutants, recharging groundwater, and providing wildlife habitat. Heavy rainfall may cause some water to pond temporarily up to three days.

More than just a pretty place to sit or stroll, this community demonstration features two rain gardens that treat runoff from nearly an acre of adjacent parking lot. This keeps contaminants from draining directly to Port Townsend Bay. When designed as part of an engineered stormwater plan rain gardens are called 'bioretention swales or cells'.

Rain gardens can be an attractive and functional way to address drainage issues and enhance your property but are not for growing food.

## How a Rain Garden Works



## Anatomy of a Rain Garden

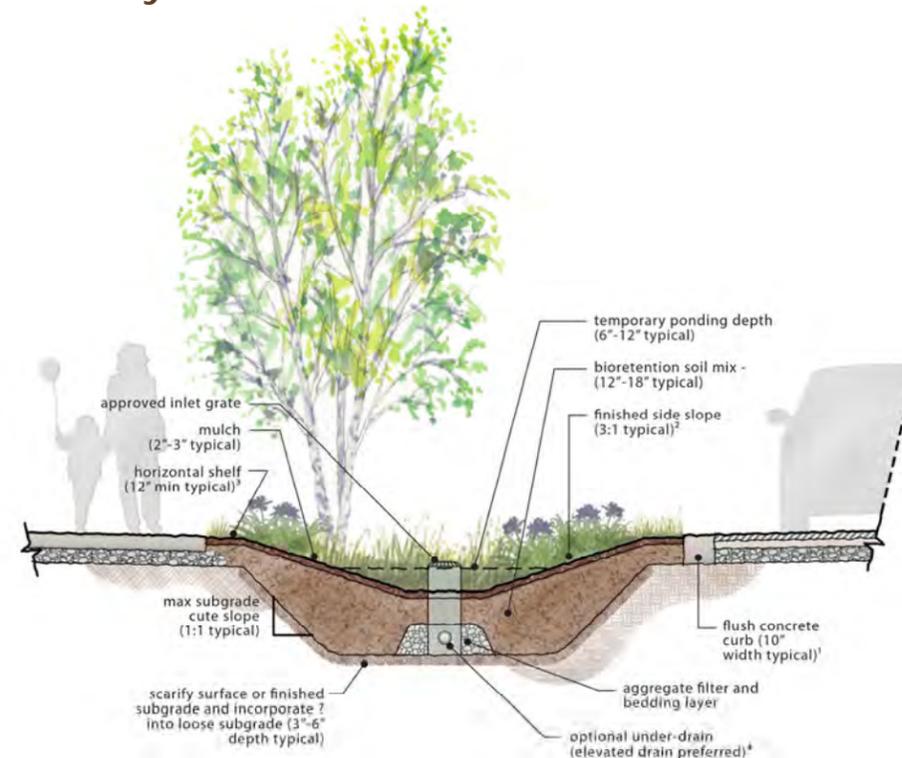


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In many cases, property owners can plan, build, plant and maintain a rain garden by following available guidance materials. Carefully assess site conditions and avoid locating rain gardens too close to buildings, utilities, wells, septic systems, or existing trees. Also avoid areas with steep slopes, landslide hazards, poor draining or contaminated soil, or shallow groundwater. A qualified professional can help assess your site and help you design a solution that will succeed.

## Recipe for a Rain Garden

Proper 'ingredients' ensure success:

- Location
- Sizing
- Inflow
- Overflow
- Native Subsoil
- Underdrain - as needed
- Amended Soil Mix
- Plants
- Mulch