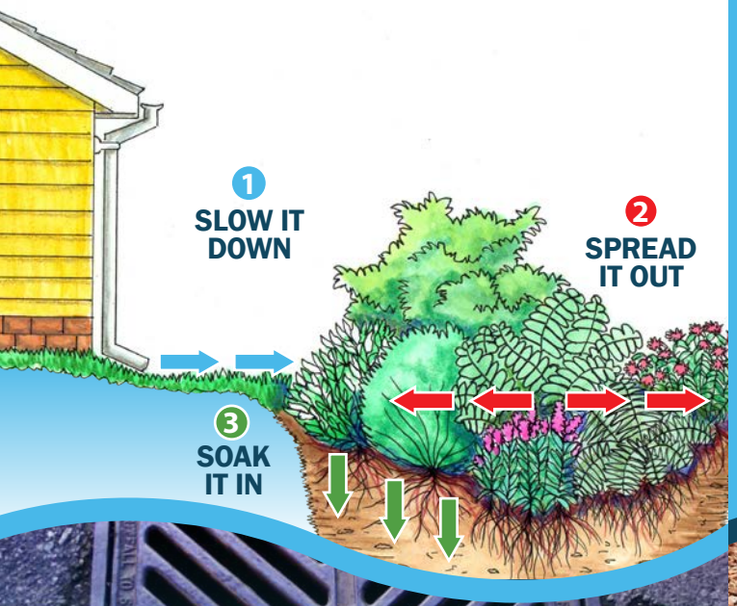
THE PROCESS OF REDUCING RUNOFF WITH A RAIN GARDEN



WHEN IT RAINS...OR WHEN WATER FLOWS OUT OF YARDS, IT FLOWS DIRECTLY INTO STORM DRAINS.

Rainfall generates runoff from roofs, roads, driveways, sidewalks, streets and lawns. Along the way it picks up harmful pollutants such as fertilizer, pesticides, sediment, livestock and pet waste, automobile fluids, micro fibers from tires, heavy metals, bacteria and more. This stormwater runoff then flows directly into the storm drain system or roadside ditch, eventually making its way to local streams, rivers, and coastal waters. Untreated runoff contaminates our waters, closes local businesses, & harms or kills fish and other wildlife.

You can help prevent these pollutants from reaching storm drains and our local streams and rivers by incorporating RainScaping practices into your landscape.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- Spread the word about RainScaping in your neighborhood
- Scoop the poop, bag it, and put it in the trash
- Regularly check your vehicle or boat for fluid leaks and keep it serviced
- Recycle plant material: reuse or compost
- Reduce or eliminate use of fertilizers and pesticides
- Take your car to a car wash or wash in grassy area - If you wash your car on the driveway, on the street, or in a parking lot, the water you use will simply run off into the nearest stormdrain

A CLEAN AND MIGHTY SKAGIT - OUR FUTURE, OURS TO PROTECT

Help keep our many streams, rivers, and beaches clean and healthy for each generation now and in the future.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Skagit Conservation District

360-428-4313 or www.skagitcd.org

SKAGIT CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SOIL • WATER • WOODLAND

SKAGIT COUNTY WASHINGTON

CITY OF ANACORTES 1891

CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY

City of MOUNT VERNON

City of Burlington

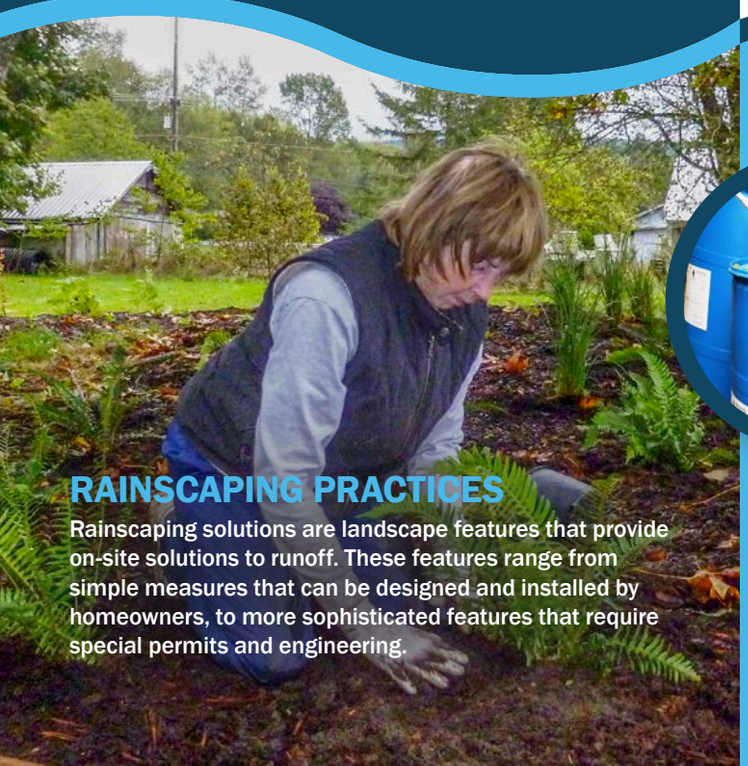
DON'T JUST LANDSCAPE, RAINSCAPE!

CREATE BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPES THAT PROTECT WATER QUALITY AND REDUCE RUNOFF

WHAT IS RAINSCAPING?

A “RainScape” is a landscape which helps absorb water at the lot level, reduces stormwater runoff, promotes infiltration, and filters runoff by controlling it at its source. RainScaping practices range from simple measures that include redirecting downspouts, building healthy soils, installing rain gardens and rain barrels, planting native trees and shrubs, and replacing hard surfaces with permeable surfaces, to more sophisticated measures such as larger bioretention and green roofs installations.

RainScape your yard for both beauty and function!



RAINSCAPING PRACTICES

Rainscaping solutions are landscape features that provide on-site solutions to runoff. These features range from simple measures that can be designed and installed by homeowners, to more sophisticated features that require special permits and engineering.

INSTALL A RAIN GARDEN

A rain garden is a landscaped, shallow depression with special soil and plants that can be shaped and sized to fit your yard. Rain gardens capture runoff from rooftops, lawns, and pavement. The rain water collected in rain gardens soaks in within a few hours to a day or two. This provides flood and erosion control, infiltration, groundwater recharge, and water-cooling benefits. Visit **12000raingardens.org** for more information and to download the Rain Garden Handbook for Western Washington.

MULCH AND AMEND SOILS

Healthy soil is the key to preventing polluted runoff. Lawns and gardens with good soil quality reduce the need for watering and minimize the need for fertilizers and pesticides. Incorporating compost-amended topsoil or well-aged compost, with an annual application of organic mulch are recommended strategies for improving soil infiltration rates, reducing compaction, and improving soil quality and infiltration capacity. For more information: **www.savingwater.org**

COLLECT RAIN IN BARRELS OR CISTERNS

The use of rain barrels and cisterns is an old idea that has been recycled. A rain barrel is a container that collects and stores rainwater from downspouts and rooftops for future use watering lawns and flower gardens. Collecting rainwater is an easy way to conserve water - and save money on your water bill. During the drier season, when water consumption often doubles, using collected rainwater also reduces the strain on the water supply and keeps more water available for fish and wildlife. For more information: **skagitpud.org/conservation/rain-barrels/**

PLANT NATIVE TREES AND SHRUBS

Trees soak up rainfall and protect soil against erosion by catching raindrops before they hit the ground. Tree roots break up tightly packed soil, increasing the amount of water the ground absorbs. Consider incorporating native plants in your landscape. They are adapted to our local soil and climate and don’t need chemical fertilizers or extra watering once established. And they provide food and habitat for local songbirds and other native wildlife and shade for our homes, which can reduce energy costs. For detailed information on native plants for our region visit: **green2.kingcounty.gov/gonative/index.aspx**

REPLACE PAVEMENT WITH PERMEABLE OPTIONS

Permeable pavement is a special type of pavement that allows rainwater to soak through it into the ground below. Unlike traditional surfaces, permeable pavement or pavers infiltrate pollutants and slow the water down, stabilizing stream flows and reducing flood potential. A few options include: interlocking pavers, porous concrete, and permeable asphalt. Permeable pavers are ideal for patios, sidewalks, and driveways. Proper installation is critical. For more information: **www.concretenetwork.com/pervious/**

CONSULT AN ARCHITECT TO DESIGN & INSTALL A GREEN ROOF

A green roof incorporates vegetation, soil or another growing medium, and a drainage layer over a waterproof membrane as an alternative to an impervious roof surface. A green roof will eliminate 50% to 80% of roof runoff. The soil and vegetation absorb precipitation and release what is not used by plants over several hours rather than the rapid runoff associated with impervious roofs. A green roof also provides air quality and aesthetic benefits and improves home energy efficiency. For more information: **www.asla.org/sustainablelandscapes/greenroof.html**