

# Clean Water Gardens

The Clean Water Gardens program was developed to help residents improve water quality and wildlife habitat in their landscapes.

The Clean Water Gardens program covers several subjects, each described in detail in a colorful guide. Topics include:

- Naturescaping
- Rain Gardens
- Rainwater Harvesting
- Common Invasive Plants
- Streamside Gardening
- Pervious Surfaces

Guides are available at local nurseries and Springfield City Hall.



Please call 541-726-3694 for more information about stormwater management and pollution prevention.



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## Bring on the Rain!

*An introduction to rain gardens*



# Bring on the rain!

*Rain gardens are a tool for keeping pollutants out of waterways — and they are beautiful too!*

As rain water flows over hard surfaces, it picks up pollutants like motor oil, pet waste, fertilizer, and pesticides. This water carries pollutants to local waterways including the McKenzie and Willamette Rivers.

Rain gardens are sunken garden beds that collect and treat runoff from hard surfaces like rooftops and driveways. They break down pollutants through natural processes and filtering before the water reaches streams.

Photo: Chris LaBelle, OSU



Photo: City of Gresham

Rain gardens filter out dirt, nutrients, and oil before they can pollute streams.

Native plants provide homes and food for wildlife. They also absorb pollutants.



Graphic: East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District

Rain gardens **reduce flooding** by absorbing runoff and **recharge our drinking water aquifers**.

Interested in planting a rain garden at your home or business? How-to guides are available at local nurseries and at Springfield City Hall. Please give us a call at (541) 726-3694 if you plant a rain garden, and we'll give you a special recognition package!