

# Installing a Lake Whatcom rain garden

## benefits

- ✓ improve your landscape
- ✓ control runoff
- ✓ receive financial reimbursement
- ✓ receive technical assistance
- ✓ protect Lake Whatcom



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### enhance your yard

Enhance curb appeal while removing nutrient pollution from our community's drinking water supply.



### create a sanctuary

Take a step away from your busy life into a relaxing garden retreat. Birds and butterflies will join you there.



### reduce maintenance

Landscaping with native plants allows more time to enjoy your garden with less work.

## Want to create beautiful gardens that filter pollution from your property?

Rain gardens add excitement to your landscape, help control runoff, and improve the quality of water draining from your property into Lake Whatcom. HIP-certified designers can help you craft your rain garden location, size, and plant composition while incorporating your preferences for the overall landscape.

HIP reimburses up to \$1.30 per square foot of property that filters phosphorus-containing runoff from roofs and driveways, with native landscaping! Low maintenance rain gardens give you more time to enjoy your yard, attract beneficial pollinators, and help protect Lake Whatcom all at the same time.



## How much space will my rain garden take up?

It depends. Many factors, including soil permeability, the unique layout of your property, and the amount of lawn and impervious surfaces your property includes, influence the system's size. A HIP-certified designer can help you determine the appropriate size and shape of your rain garden.

### shape shifters



*An asymmetric border, also functioning as a rain garden, adds interest to an otherwise monotonous lawn.*

*HIP-approved projects are easily combined with landscaping projects you might already be considering.*

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*Rain gardens come in many shapes and sizes depending on the needs of your individual property. Below, a newly planted rectangular rain garden collects and filters runoff.*



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## 1 Project Design\*

- ✓ Confirm/test soil infiltration rate
- ✓ Choose location for rain garden
- ✓ Choose planting scheme for garden
- ✓ Design drainage system into and out of rain garden

## 2 Review and Approval\*

- ✓ Complete application
- ✓ Recieve free permit

## 3 Construction & Installation\*

- ✓ Dig out existing soil
- ✓ Place pipes and drains
- ✓ Add soil mix
- ✓ Install plants and mulch

## 4 Maintain your system

- ✓ Other upkeep activities unique to your project.

*\*A HIP-certified professional can be hired to help complete these tasks for you.*



## QUESTIONS?

Find resources at [www.lakewhatcomHIP.org](http://www.lakewhatcomHIP.org), or request a free site visit to discuss your project options with a local expert. Call (360) 526-2381 or send an email to [info@lakewhatcomHIP.org](mailto:info@lakewhatcomHIP.org).