Creating interest with native landscaping

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

**functional features**
A patio with an infiltration trench beneath can provide both a sitting area and water quality protection.

**walk in the wild**
Stepping stone pathways through native landscaped areas can be an invitation to explore new features of your landscape.

**low maintenance**
A thick layer of mulch provides less watering, no mowing and more time to relax and enjoy your healthy yard.

**native plant beauty**
Native plants come in many colors and sizes to form a beautiful garden all year round.

**Add some excitement to your lawn!**

Lawns can’t absorb nutrients fast enough to keep them from washing away when it rains. Creating a landscaped area with a thick mulch layer and native plants reduces the amount of phosphorus in runoff by more than 80% and beautifies your yard.

Whether you’re considering removing all or just portions of your lawn, native landscaping can provide interest, new features in your yard, and water quality protection. HIP reimburses up to $1.30 per square foot of property that is converted from phosphorus-generating lawn to native landscaping; HIP can also provide reimbursement for landscape improvements that provide a water quality benefit.
What is meant by “native” plants?

Native plants are adapted to our environment, drought-resistant, require no fertilizer, and can establish themselves easily. There are more than 900 species of native plants—the following list shows some of the most common plants you’d find at your local nursery.

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1. **Project Design***
   - Define areas to plant
   - Complete a plant list
   - Choose your favorite mulch

2. **Review and Approval**
   - Complete project application*
   - Receive free permit

3. **Construction & Installation***
   - Spread mulch
   - Install plants

4. **Maintain your system**
   - Weeding and watering for two years until plants are established.
   - Other upkeep activities unique to your project.

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

**form and function**

Native landscaping can be structured like any other landscaped garden, and provide the same aesthetic function. The bonus is the water quality protection benefit. You don’t have to sacrifice the beauty and uses of your yard when including natives as part of your landscape.

**QUESTIONS?**

Find resources and request a free site visit at www.lakewhatcomHIP.org.
Installing an underground pollution filter

**benefits**
- improve your landscape
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**inviting spaces**
A native plant border can create an aesthetic buffer between the patio and fence, framing the space to create ambiance.

**invisible infiltration**
Downspouts route water away from your home into a facility that improves water quality.

**what pollution filter?**
A patio disguises a water quality protection system. You can use your landscape creatively and protect Lake Whatcom.

**Considering a new patio to enjoy those summer evenings on?**

You can dine, relax, entertain, and protect Lake Whatcom water quality all at the same time! In some cases, an inviting patio can be designed and installed with an underground pollution filter beneath it—proving that HIP-eligible projects can be integrated into your dream yard.

HIP-certified professionals can help you design and install these and other improvements that are eligible for reimbursement—up to $1.30 per square foot of property improved to protect Lake Whatcom.
How much space will my underground pollution filter take up?

It depends. Many factors, including soil permeability, the unique layout of your property, and the type of final surface you choose, influence the design principles used to calculate the system’s size. It can be anywhere from the size of a patio you entertain on, to a walkway through your yard. A HIP-certified designer can determine the appropriate size you need.

**Project Design***
- Confirm/test soil infiltration rate
- Choose location for filter
- Choose your surfacing material
- Lay out piping into and out of system

**Review and Approval**
- Complete application*
- Receive free permit

**Construction & Installation***
- Dig out existing soil
- Place pipes and drains
- Install rock or sand
- Optional: place surfacing (gravel, pavers, river rock, etc.)

**Maintain your system**
- Keep pipes and drains clean and replace rock when needed.
- Other upkeep activities unique to your project.

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**QUESTIONS?**
Find resources and request a free site visit at www.lakewhatcomHIP.org.
Installing Natural Drainage Dispersion

**benefits**
- Improve your landscape
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**yard enhancement**
Your drainage trench can be designed to look like garden features such as dry creek beds and walkways to add interest to your landscape.

**low maintenance**
Landscaping with native plants allows more time to enjoy your yard with less work after plants are established.

**forested privacy**
Native forests and vegetation capture and recycle pollution in runoff from your property and can add privacy to your yard.

**Your native forests and vegetation can clean the water running off your property!**
Keeping your property dry and Lake Whatcom clean can be complimentary goals. Natural drainage systems direct water from your house and lawn to a dispersion trench (or buried rock-filled trench) that moves the water into vegetated areas.

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The native plant advantage

Native forests and vegetation—together with a thick mulch layer—are a great place to direct polluted runoff from your property, improving your property drainage and our drinking water supply.

 QUESTIONS?  
Find resources and request a free site visit at www.lakewhatcomHIP.org.
Installing a Lake Whatcom rain garden

**benefits**
- improve your landscape
- control runoff
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- receive financial reimbursement
- protect Lake Whatcom

**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! 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.

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

2. Review and Approval
   - Complete application*
   - Receive 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.

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

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.

QUESTIONS?

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**garden compatible**
Relax and enjoy your garden with the assurance you are doing your part to keep Lake Whatcom clean.

**room to play**
Right next to this grassy area is a special rock and sand mix that filters pollution out of runoff from the surroundings.

**invisible infiltration**
A gravel garden feature disguises an underground water quality protection system. You can add interest to your landscape and protect Lake Whatcom at the same time.

**Want a yard that provides enjoyment to you and clean water to our community?**
Your yard doesn’t need to look different to dramatically improve the quality of water entering Lake Whatcom. Underground pollution filter systems can be designed to treat the pollution running off of your property without interfering with the enjoyment of your backyard.

HIP-certified professionals can help you design and install these and other improvements that are eligible for reimbursement—up to $1.30 per square foot of property improved to protect Lake Whatcom.
How much space will my underground pollution filter take up?

It depends. Many factors, including the unique layout of your property and whether you are using pipes to convey runoff into the water treatment system, influence the size of your project. A HIP-certified designer can determine the appropriate size of your underground pollution filter. Generally, though, filtering systems have a smaller footprint than other HIP BMPs, like infiltration trenches.

envision the possibilities

Placing a pollution filter system below ground allows you to maintain space in your yard.

Underground pollution filters provide a blank slate for your creative landscaping ideas.

QUESTIONS?

Find resources and request a free site visit at www.lakewhatcomHIP.org.

1 **Project Design***
- Choose location for filter
- Determine location of piping into and out of system, if applicable

2 **Review and Approval**
- Complete application*
- Receive free permit

3 **Construction & Installation***
- Dig out existing soil
- Place pipes and drains if applicable
- Install special filter material

4 **Maintain your system**
- Keep pipes and drains clean and replace filter material when needed.
- Other upkeep activities unique to your project.

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