

Installing Natural Drainage

Dispersion

benefits

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



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.

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.



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.

plant name	type	sun or shade?	wet or dry soils?	flower or leaf color	bloom time	deer resistant
Shore pine	evergreen tree	full sun	wet	light green	none	★
Vine maple	deciduous tree	shade	dry	red/orange	early	★
Blue elderberry	tall shrub	full sun	dry	white	mid-summer	
Red-flowering currant	medium shrub	sun or shade	dry	red/pink	earliest	★
Oregon grape	low shrub	shade	wet or dry	dark green	later	★
Kinnikinnick (bearberry)	ground-cover	sun or shade	dry	dark green	mid-summer	★
Blue-eyed Grass	grass-like	full sun	wet	blue-purple	mid-summer	
Orange honeysuckle	vine	part sun	dry	orange	later	★
Sword fern	fern	shade	wet or dry	dark green	none	★

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.



1 Project Design*

- ✓ Select location of planting area to receive runoff
- ✓ Choose native plants if necessary
- ✓ Lay out piping into and out of system

2 Review and Approval

- ✓ Complete application*
- ✓ Receive free permit

3 Construction & Installation*

- ✓ Dig out existing soil
- ✓ Place pipes and drains
- ✓ Add drain rock
- ✓ Install plants and mulch if necessary

4 Maintain your system

- ✓ Other upkeep activities unique to your project.



QUESTIONS?

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