

# DOWNSPOUT PLANTER

## What is a Downspout Planter?

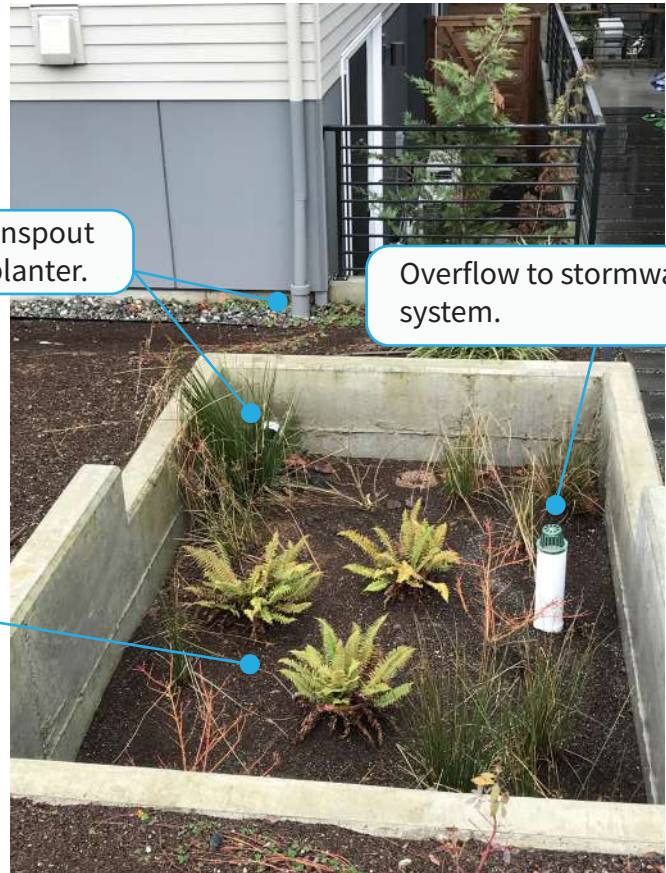
A **downspout planter** is a planter box specially designed to collect and filter rainwater coming from rooftops. Rainwater enters the planter through a downspout and is filtered through a layer of mulch, soil, and sand before it flows onto your landscaping or into a standpipe.

A downspout planter can be made of metal, concrete, or wood and collects water from a roof downspout. They can either be above ground or partially buried.

Roof downspout flows to planter.

Overflow to stormwater system.

Native plants and mulch to filter water.



## Who is Responsible for Maintenance?

Property owners in Kirkland are required to maintain their downspout planter to help prevent clogging and allow rainwater to soak into the ground naturally.

Maintenance also extends the lifespan of your downspout planter and helps prevent flooding elsewhere on your property.

Below: Keeping roof gutters clean will help prevent clogging and keep your downspout planter functioning.







**See reverse side for maintenance information.**





# DOWNSPOUT PLANTER MAINTENANCE

Proper maintenance extends the lifespan of your downspout planter and helps prevent flooding elsewhere on your property.



## Every Spring and Fall

-  Remove leaves and tree debris from roof gutters and planter to prevent clogging.
-  Repair any damage to gutters/downspouts caused by winter snow or ice.
-  Replace any dead or dying plants in the fall.
-  Check the entire system (gutters, downspout, planter bed, outlet, undrain) to ensure the downspout planter is functioning




## As Needed

-  Water plants deeply and slowly during dry summer months.
-  Weed as necessary year-round, especially when the soil is still moist.
-  Check and maintain a wood chip mulch layer to a depth of 3 inches.
-  Remove any litter, debris, or sediment that may have entered the downspout

## Caution

-  Never use herbicides or pesticides in your downspout planter.
-  Keep grass clippings out of downspout planter.

## Troubleshooting

PROBLEM	CAUSE	SOLUTION
 Standing water in downspout planter.	If standing water lasts more than 48 hours, the planter could be clogged or the drain could be blocked.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If planter has a layer of sediment on surface, remove it and replace with new soil and mulch.</li><li>• Clear any blockages from drain.</li></ul>
 Erosion, bare soil, or no mulch.	Water is moving too fast through planter, plants have died, or mulch layer has decomposed.	Stabilize the soil by planting new vegetation. If needed, use rocks to slow the flow from the downspout. Replenish mulch to a depth of 3 inches.
 Weeds taking over the planter.	Weeds establish without regular maintenance.	Manually remove weeds and do not allow weeds to go to seed. Maintain mulch layer.



For more information visit  
[www.kirklandwa.gov/DrainageInspection](http://www.kirklandwa.gov/DrainageInspection)