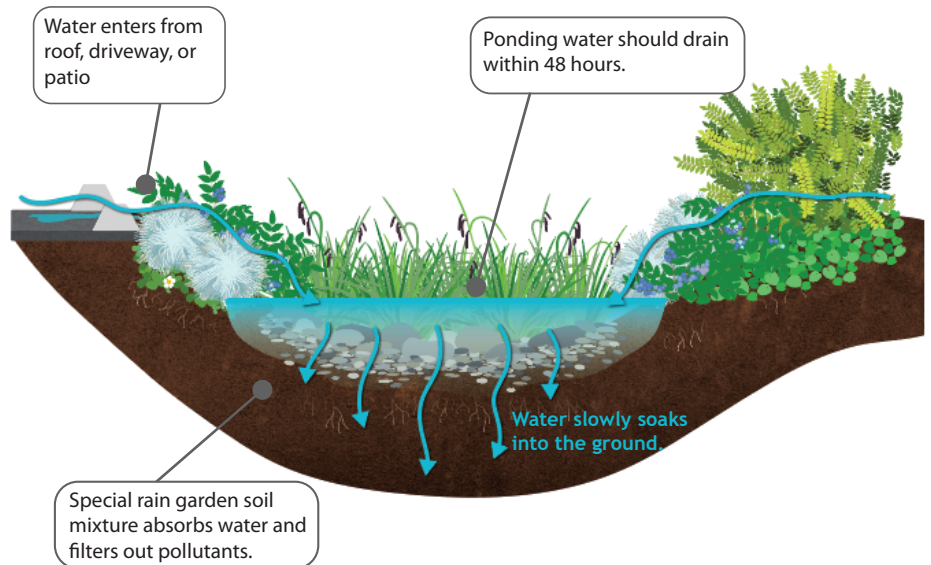


RAIN GARDENS

What is a Rain Garden?

A **rain garden** is a bowl-shaped garden designed to collect water from your roof, driveway, or patio and allow it to **filter into the ground**.

Rain gardens are filled with a rich layer of mulch and compost to help water soak in. They are landscaped with a variety of plants to fit your yard's sun and soil conditions.



How Do You Identify a Rain Garden?



Rock channels and curb cuts indicate where water enters and sometimes exits a rain garden.

Who is Responsible for Maintenance?

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

Maintenance also extends the lifespan of your rain garden and helps prevent flooding elsewhere on your property.

Below: A well-maintained rain garden adds beauty to your landscaping.



See reverse side for maintenance information.

RAIN GARDEN MAINTENANCE

Proper maintenance extends the lifespan of your rain garden and helps prevent flooding elsewhere on your property.

Every Spring and Fall

- ✓ Remove leaves and tree debris from roof gutters, yard drains, and the rain garden inlet to prevent clogging.
- ✓ Repair any damage to gutters/downspouts caused by winter snow or ice.
- ✓ Replace any dead or dying plants in the fall.
- ✓ Maintain a mulch layer at least 3-inches thick. Add mulch seasonally.

As Needed

- ✓ Inform contractors working on your property of the location of the rain garden to prevent damage.
- ✓ Water new plants during their first 2-3 summers to ensure survival. Water deeply to moisten the top 6-12 inches of soil.
- ✓ Remove weeds as necessary. Removing weeds is easiest when soil is moist and weeds are young.

Caution

- ✗ Never use herbicides or pesticides in your rain garden.
- ✗ Keep grass clippings and yard waste out of rain garden to prevent clogging.
- ✗ Do not fill in your rain garden.



Inspect your rain garden every year, and after large storms to make sure it is draining properly.

Troubleshooting

PROBLEM	CAUSE	SOLUTION
⚠ Standing water in the rain garden for more than 48 hours.	Soil or mulch layer are compacted or bottom of rain garden is uneven.	Use a garden fork to loosen soil and mulch. Rake back mulch and smooth out bottom of rain garden, then replace the mulch.
⚠ Erosion or bare soil in the rain garden.	Water is moving too fast and/or plants have died. Mulch has naturally decomposed.	Stabilize the soil with new plants. If needed, use rocks to slow the flow of water. Add mulch to maintain a 3-inch layer.
⚠ Weeds taking over the rain garden.	Weeds establish without regular maintenance.	Remove weeds by hand and prevent weeds from going to seed. Keep a 3-inch mulch layer. Never use chemicals.



For more information visit
www.kirklandwa.gov/DrainageInspection