

NATIVE GROWTH RETENTION AREA

A **Native Growth Retention Area** is a preserved landscape of native trees and plants that let rain soak into the ground.

Types of Plants in a Native Growth Retention Area



Trees



Shrubs

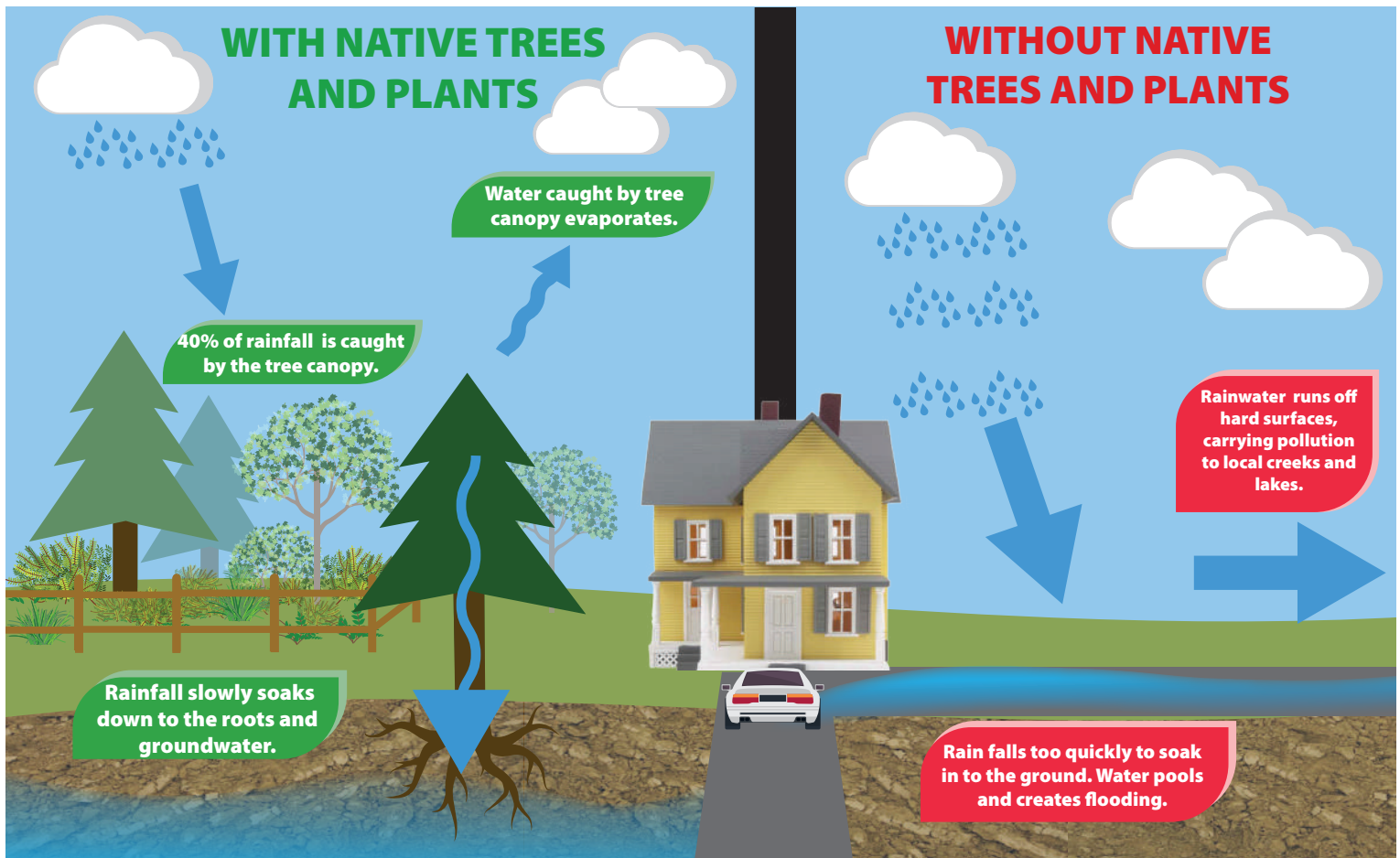


Ground Cover

Who is Responsible for Maintenance?

Property owners in Kirkland are required to **permanently maintain** their Native Growth Retention Areas. Maintenance keeps plants and soil healthy and functioning to naturally absorb rainwater runoff from your property. A well-maintained Native Growth Retention Area will grow into a lovely native forest and can help prevent flooding on your property.

See reverse side for maintenance information.



NATIVE GROWTH RETENTION AREA MAINTENANCE

Proper maintenance of your Native Growth Retention Area keeps trees and plants healthy and your backyard beautiful. Most maintenance should be done in Spring and Fall.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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Every Spring and Fall

- ✓ Replace dead or dying plants with similar native plants.
- ✓ Keep a 4-inch layer of leaves, wood chips, or plant debris as mulch to protect underlying soil. Add mulch as needed. Soil should feel soft and spongy.

Year-round

- ✓ Inform contractors working on your property of the location of the native growth retention area to prevent damage.
- ✓ Remove weeds as necessary. This is best done when soil is moist and weeds are young so the roots can be easily pulled.

Caution

- X No building is allowed on this portion of your property.
- X Do not remove or change plants without permission from Kirkland Public Works staff. This area must remain planted with native plants.
- X Do not remove trees. Only hazard trees may be considered for removal with permission from Kirkland staff.
- X Do not prune or hedge shrubs. Allow plants to grow naturally. Abundant shade from native plants will keep weeds out.



With proper maintenance, a Native Growth Retention Area will become a mature urban forest with abundant benefits.

Troubleshooting

PROBLEM	CAUSE	SOLUTION
⚠ Water pooling on the surface of the soil.	Soil has become compacted, preventing water from soaking in.	Replace plants as needed. Add wood mulch to create a minimum 4-inch thick layer.
⚠ Area is overgrown with weeds.	Delayed or improper maintenance.	Manually remove weeds from site. Contact King County Noxious Weeds for help with identification and removal techniques. Add mulch to prevent regrowth.
⚠ Native plants are dead or dying.	Various causes.	Try to determine cause of death. Ensure young plants receive enough water. Replant with like native plants as needed. Contact Kirkland staff for assistance.



For more information visit
www.kirklandwa.gov/stormwater