



# Rain Garden Incentive Program

## City of Olympia | Capital of Washington State

### Guidelines

#### **Background Information**

The Storm and Surface Water Utility is offering Olympia property owners the opportunity to apply for up to \$400 reimbursement for plants and/or compost used for the construction of a rain garden. The purpose of the program is to take stormwater runoff from a roof top, yard, driveway or parking area, and direct it to the rain garden where it will be captured and infiltrated into the ground.

The Rain Garden Incentive Program is targeted for residential properties, but commercial, school, or religious-use properties may also be considered for participation in the program. If you are affiliated with one of these types of properties and are interested in putting in a rain garden, call (360) 570-3794 or e-mail [smccleary@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:smccleary@ci.olympia.wa.us) for more information. This incentive is not available for permitted rain gardens associated with new construction. Rain gardens need to be constructed this year and maintained by the property owner. Rain gardens must be a minimum of 100 square feet. More than one rain garden per parcel may be installed, but the total reimbursement will not exceed \$400 per residence. The selected applicants must commit to keeping the rain garden on the property and maintaining it for five years.

#### **Resources**

Guidance for designing and building a rain garden can be found in the Washington State University's *Rain Garden Handbook for Western Washington Homeowners*. The handbook can be found online at: <http://www.12000raingardens.org/resources/> Also on this web link, you can watch a 32- minute video: *How to Build a Rain Garden in the Pacific Northwest*.

#### **Process for Application**

1. Watch rain garden video, read the rain garden handbook, and/or attend a rain garden workshop. Determine if you have the time, resources, and place to construct a rain garden on your property.
2. The instructions for the soil percolation test required for the application can be found on pages 8 and 9 of the [Rain Garden Handbook for Western Washington Homeowners](#). The basin and stormwater treatment maps can be found on the City [Rain Garden page](#).
3. Submit complete application to the City for review and approval. Application can be submitted at any time, allow two weeks for review.
4. During the selection process, City of Olympia Staff may visit your property to see the proposed rain garden site; arrangements will be made with applicant.
5. Up to ten locations will be approved and property owners notified in writing.
6. Final plan for the rain garden, including cross section with depth of rain garden, must be approved by the City Staff. The plan must be followed to receive the reimbursement. If needed, City Staff is available during the construction process to provide technical assistance.
7. During construction, retain original receipts for plants and/or compost to submit for reimbursement and take before, during and after construction photos.
8. When installation is complete, submit completion form, receipts and photos to City of Olympia by October 31st to receive reimbursement. All plants must be planted in the rain garden and the original receipts from purchasing the plants and compost must be submitted in order to receive reimbursement.



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9. At the City's discretion, rain garden photos may be posted on the City's website, along with other rain garden details and the rain garden plan. Rain garden may be included in a tour of rain gardens. City Staff will give prior notification on these activities.

Please complete all **four pages of the application** and email to [smccleary@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:smccleary@ci.olympia.wa.us) or mail to:

**Rain Garden Incentive  
Program Attn: Susan McCleary  
City of Olympia  
PO Box 1967  
Olympia, WA 98507-1967**

Please remember to submit two 'before' photos with your application. Note that your application will not be considered complete until we have received the photos. If you do not have access to a camera, please contact us as soon as possible to have your property photographed.

### **Assistance Available**

If you need assistance with your application, please call Susan McCleary at 360.570.3794 or [smccleary@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:smccleary@ci.olympia.wa.us).