

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE



What is green infrastructure?

When it rains, water washes over streets, roofs, lawns and parking lots picking up oil, sediment, bacteria, grease and chemicals. This stormwater flows into storm drains and eventually local streams and the Tualatin River. Green infrastructure, also known as Low Impact Development Approaches (LIDAs), is a way to collect stormwater, filter out pollutants and slow the flow to nearby waterways.

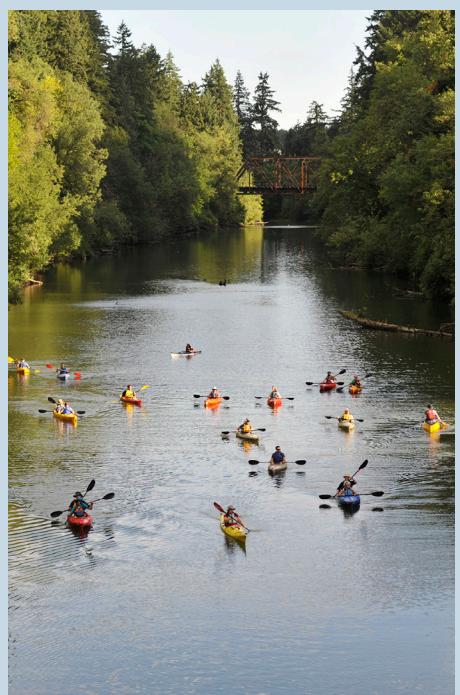
Green infrastructure types include:

- Bioswales – planted areas near streets and parking lots that slow down, filter and absorb runoff
- Rain gardens – native plants and soil slow down stormwater and filter out pollutants as water soaks into the ground.
- Porous pavements – water flows through pavement and into the ground, recharging groundwater and reducing runoff
- Green roofs – roof tops covered in soil and drought-tolerant plants, reduce impervious area and runoff
- Native plants and trees – naturally soak up water, reduce erosion and provide wildlife habitat
- Rain barrels and cisterns – collect and store water from roofs for irrigation, reduce runoff

Benefits

Well-functioning green infrastructure will reduce stormwater pollution from entering local waterways and can reduce localized flooding and erosion. Vegetated water quality facilities can also be beautiful and add to the aesthetic value of your property if maintained properly. Ultimately, green infrastructure helps protect water quality in the Tualatin River Watershed, a natural resource that provides drinking water and recreational opportunities in Washington County.

- Visual amenities, property value
- Habitat benefits
- Preserve trees and vegetation
- Reuse stormwater, recharge groundwater
- Reduce streambank erosion
- Improved water quality for plants, animals, fish and people



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Green Infrastructure in Our Community

North Bethany – This rapidly growing area is utilizing stream enhancement and engineering design techniques as well as neighborhood stormwater planters and swales to capture, slow and filter stormwater and improve water quality. It also increases wetland area, wildlife habitat and provides opportunities for people to interact with nature in one of the fastest-growing parts of Oregon.



Highland Park Middle School – CWS partnered with students and staff at Highland Park Middle School in Beaverton to design a swale that slows down and filters stormwater from 8,600 square feet of the school's parking lot. This project engaged students in learning about the benefits of green infrastructure while integrating science engineering and design practices throughout the course of the project.



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Resources

Clean Water Hero Program – Free technical assistance to help residents create a rain-friendly landscape. cleanwaterservices.org/hero



Native Plants – Each fall, residents in the Tualatin River Watershed are eligible for free native plants to use at home. cleanwaterservices.org/plants



Salmonberry

Everything we do at Clean Water Services aims to protect public health while enhancing the natural environment of the Tualatin River Watershed.