

Amazon Creek Initiative

Best Management Practices for a Healthy Creek, and a Healthy Community



Rain Gardens are sunken gardens that filter stormwater through plants and soil. They are sunken so water naturally flows towards them, and it also helps to store a greater volume of stormwater. Rain Gardens are an attractive feature in the landscape that not only showcases native plants and colorful flowers, but also attracts beneficial insects like butterflies.

Good locations for rain gardens are large turf, or barren areas, near building downspouts. The downspouts can be redirected to a rain garden where the roof runoff is filtered by plants and soil.

For more information on rain gardens, Oregon State University has a great handbook.

Call Jason Schmidt, Urban Watershed Restoration Specialist, for a site visit to determine if rain gardens are right for your business landscape.

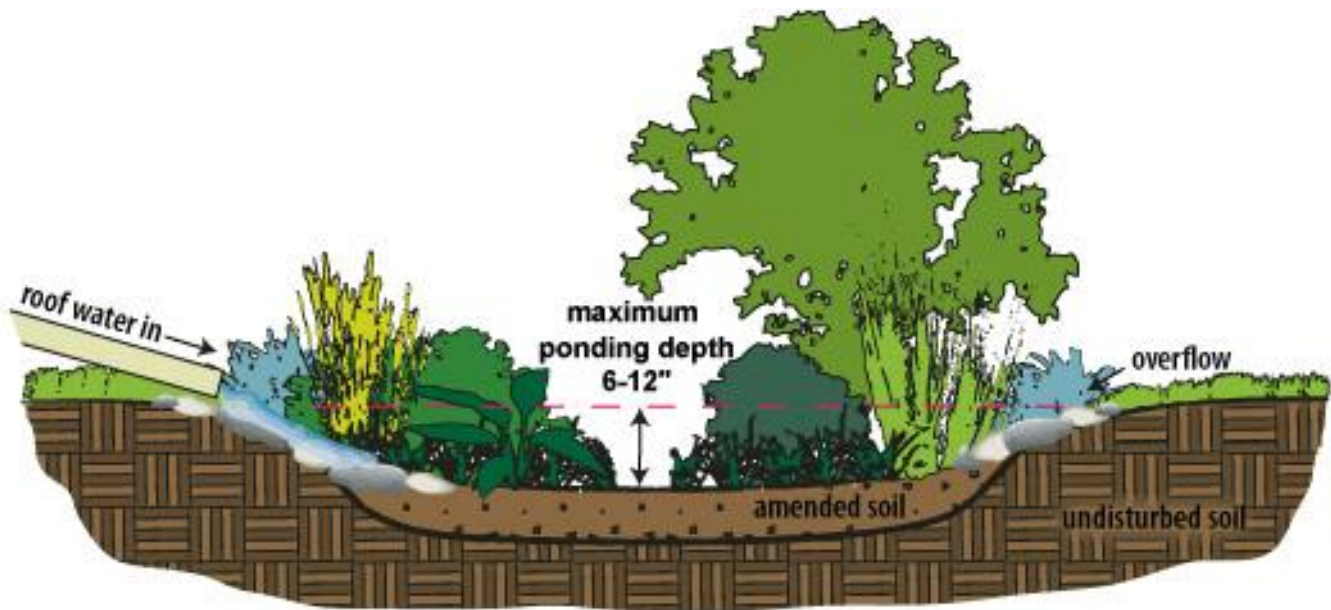
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Photo by Jason Schmidt, LTWC



Photo by City of Gresham



Typical profile of a Rain Garden.
Note the ponding depth of 6" to 12" at the center of the garden

Image by East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District

Considerations:

- **Make sure rain gardens are installed at least 10 feet from building foundations.**
- **Test your soil for drainage (more than 0.5" per hour).**
- **Overflow for the rain garden must be directed to an approved destination.**
- **Choose native plants that are adapted to our rainy season.**
- **Rain Gardens will need to be watered for the first couple of years until the plants are established. Afterwards, they will thrive on rain alone.**

Resources:

- **Long Tom Watershed Council:**
www.longtom.org
- **Oregon Rain Garden Guide:**
seagrant.oregonstate.edu/sgpubs/onlinepubs/h10001.pdf
- **City of Eugene Stormwater Management Manual — Rain Gardens:**
<http://www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/4557>

