



# ABOUT RAIN GARDEN INSTALLATIONS

A rain garden is a type of landscaped stormwater facility that temporarily collects, absorbs, and filters stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces including roofs, driveways, patios and other compacted surfaces such as gravelled areas.

## DO YOU NEED A PERMIT FOR YOUR RAIN GARDEN?

Typically NO, but if your project involves any of the following you may need a permit and should consult with city staff:

- The total proposed drainage area is more than 2,000 sq. ft.;
- The rain garden is located closer than 50 ft. from a slope of 10% or more;
- The rain garden or disturbance area is more than 5,000 sq. ft. in size;
- The rain garden flows into or discharges to a critical area or buffer, or is within 100 ft. of a critical area or buffer;
- The soil test(s) indicate a drainage rate of 0.6 inches per hour or less;
- Removal of a significant tree or trees;
- More than 50 cubic yards of grading (earth movement) is proposed; or
- There is an associated land use or development / construction permit.

## IMPORTANT DESIGN INFORMATION

Even though a permit may not be needed, all designs are required to comply with the current *Rain Garden Handbook for Western Washington* and the Brier Municipal Code. Some particular considerations include:

### *Planning*

- o Call 811 to request utility location markings, and contact the city to check if a side sewer as-built is on file.
- o Complete soil testing, preferably in winter and in multiple locations. Soils in Brier tend to have a high clay content and many areas of the city have a high water table.
- o Brier is located in Region 3 of the *Rain Garden Handbook*.

### *Location*

- o Minimum 10 ft. away from any public right-of-way or structure;
- o Minimum 7 ft. away from any side or rear property line;
- o Minimum 5 ft. away from any underground utility easement or utility line (e.g. sewer, gas, water, telecommunications);
- o Outside any overhead electrical transmission line easement; and
- o Outside any critical area or its buffer.

### *Overflow*

- o Overflow should be rock-lined and the flow path should be a minimum of 25 ft. long to ensure safe dispersion.
- o Flow path cannot extend onto a neighboring property. Flow paths also cannot extend into the public right-of-way or into a critical area or buffer without permit review and approval.

### *Maintenance*

- o Maintenance, liability, and downstream damage from an improperly constructed or maintained rain garden is the sole responsibility of the property owner.

## RAIN GARDEN RESOURCES

- Design Standards: [Rain Garden Handbook for Western Washington](#)
- Requirements and Definitions: [Brier Municipal Code Chapter 14.04](#)
- Contractor List: [Washington Stormwater Center Provider Directory](#)
- Additional Resources: [Washington State University Extension Rain Garden Program](#)