



Clean Water begins at home!

Landscaping

Just like rainwater runoff, runoff from watering your lawn or garden can carry pollutants into storm drains and streams. For this reason, it's important to be aware of potentially polluting substances which are used or left on your lawn or garden. These may include: fertilizer, pesticides, soil eroding from bare areas, pet waste, and oil or grease that may have leaked or spilled onto the ground, driveway, or street.

By using stream-friendly landscaping methods, we can prevent runoff from not only carrying pollutants to water sources but also from increasing erosion in streams and transferring excessive mud and sediment to wildlife habitat.

Landscapes can be designed to retain water on-site, encourage infiltration, and even to screen out some pollutants through small ponds and wetlands. Trees, shrubs, groundcovers, and other plantings can be selected with water quality protection in mind.

You can create your own stream-friendly landscaping plan using the following suggestions:

- Utilize porous or permeable pavers to increase the natural infiltration of stormwater and hose water into the ground, reducing the potential for pollutants to be carried into storm drains and streams. Some examples of permeable and porous pavers are gravel, bricks or



flagstones, interlocking pavers, crushed shells or stone, and bark chips.

- Plant pest-resistant native plants and shrubs. This reduces maintenance, along with the need for additional fertilizers and pesticides, in addition to reducing the amount of watering needed during the summer months. Remove exotic and invasive plants which can destroy the natural diversity of an existing habitat.
- Retain or create vegetative buffer zones adjacent to creeks and drainageways.
- Landscape for wildlife. Healthy wildlife and clean water are interrelated. Many practices that help protect water quality also enhance wildlife habitat. Habitats that encourage birds, bees, butterflies, and microorganisms help to sustain natural systems with natural pollutant reduction and soil conservation functions. Attracting native pollinators like bees and butterflies will also contribute to a vibrant and successful garden. Landscapes that benefit wildlife also help improve watershed water retention.

To encourage wildlife, provide the following:

Food. Every wildlife species has its own food requirements.

Water. Ponds or puddles will work.

Shelter. Cover from rain, winds, etc.

Space. Every species has its own space requirements.

Vegetative edges. This will encourage diversity and reduce fragmentation.

For more information on natural gardening, call Clark County Clean Water Program at (360) 397-6118 ext. 4345, or WSU Master Gardeners at (360) 397-6060.



For more information, please call the Clark County Clean Water Program at (360) 397-6118 ext. 4345 or visit www.clark.wa.gov/water-resources.



For other formats, contact the Clark County ADA Office: **Voice** (360) 397-2000; **Relay** 711 or (800) 833-6388; **Fax** (360) 397-6165; **E-mail** ADA@clark.wa.gov.