Rain Gardens function like sponges—they absorb and filter stormwater, allowing it to drain into the soil within a few hours, recharging the aquifer and preventing soil erosion. Plants are selected to grow in wet and dry conditions, and a well-designed garden can be a beautiful addition to a home landscape.

Direct water into a rain garden from gutter downspouts, sloped driveways, concrete patios, parking lots, or any other area where water can’t naturally sink into the soil. Manuals and guidance are available from Mason Conservation District & WSU.

Mason Conservation District: 360.427.9436
www.masoncd.org

WSU LID website:

- Native plants or appropriate cultivars
- Ponding depth 6-12”
- Overflow route protected with rock
- Gentle side slopes
- Amended soil mix
- Usually 12” to 30” deep

**ZONE 1:** Water-tolerant deciduous shrubs, ferns & emergents

**ZONE 2:** Transition area ~ deciduous & evergreen shrubs, ferns

**ZONE 3:** Upland deciduous shrubs, herbaceous perennials, evergreen shrubs

Overflow

In-flow for pipes or surface
In September 2009, Mason Conservation District designed and installed a Rain Garden at the Oakland Bay Marina for the Port of Shelton.

The rain garden is designed as a landscaping project but is also a low impact development stormwater facility. The garden is located on the waterfront by the Shelton Yacht Club. It uses a special soil mixture and selection of plants to soak up and remove pollutants in stormwater draining from the parking lot.

The Oakland Bay Marina Rain Garden is an example of a simple landscaping project that protects water quality and adds an attractive garden feature to the property. The site was originally covered with invasive weeds and had a severely eroding slope. The slope has been stabilized and planted with native vegetation.

The plants used for the garden are primarily native species that would commonly be found around Oakland Bay. Oceanspray, Pacific ninebark, Shore pine, Sword fern, Snowberry and Red osier dogwood can all be seen in the garden. Cultivars of Dogwood, Spirea, and Sedge are located in the bottom of the rain garden where they grow comfortably in seasonally wet or dry conditions. Additional native plants are located in drier parts of the garden based on their tolerance for wet soils.

To learn more about designing and installing rain gardens, please contact the Mason Conservation District. The Oakland Bay Marina Rain Garden project was funded by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, which also supported the Marina’s recent certification as a “Clean Marina.”