

Clark County's CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT

New tools and techniques

When it comes to sustainably managing stormwater runoff, low impact development offers an effective alternative to detention ponds, underground vaults and other conventional treatment facilities.

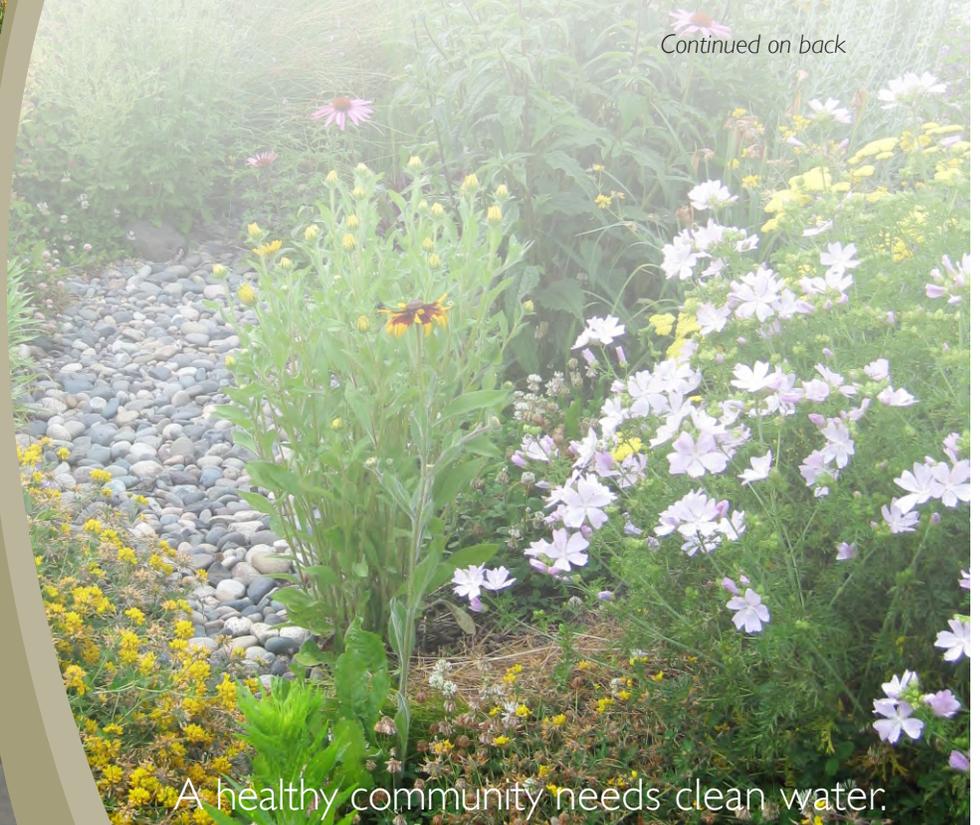
Low impact development typically involves two types of activities: site design and structures. In site design, careful attention is paid to preserving native vegetation and soils, clustering buildings and parking areas, and minimizing hard surfaces that generate runoff. Next comes building on-site features that allow stormwater runoff to soak into the ground or be treated near its source, where rain falls on roads, parking lots or other hard surfaces.

Clark County has already used low impact development for several projects, including improving NE 99th Street east of SR 503 in north Orchards and building a new Park & Ride lot east of NE 10th Avenue in Salmon Creek.



Rain gardens installed along
NE 99th Street

Ditches are meant to drain water; biofiltration swales remove pollutants. Sometimes a ditch can act like a swale.



Continued on back

A healthy community needs clean water.

LID practices include rain gardens, permeable pavements, and bioinfiltration swales - just a few examples are shown here.

The two on the cover are bioswales, which can be used in combination with a curb extension as you see in the lower photo. Bioswales capture stormwater runoff from impermeable surfaces and filter it before releasing it into the groundwater.

Rain gardens capture runoff from roofs and other hard surfaces, such as roads and parking lots. Rain gardens may be small yard plantings, serving a single house or they may be large enough to receive water from a parking lot.

Permeable pavements include permeable concrete, asphalt, and pavers. Permeable pavements can be used in parking areas, streets, patios, driveways, and walkways to eliminate runoff entirely.

A large rain garden at Clark County's Public Service Center receives water from the parking lot.

Small rain gardens can be an attractive yard feature.



Permeable pavers used in a park and ride near La Center can also work well for patios and walkways.



Clark County Environmental Services | P.O. Box 9810 | Vancouver, WA 98666-9810
www.clark.wa.gov/environment | cleanwater@clark.wa.gov | (360) 397-2121 | Printed February 2012

 For other formats, contact the Clark County ADA Office: **Voice** (360) 397-2322; **Relay** 711 or (800) 833-6388; **Fax** (360) 397-6165; **E-mail** ADA@clark.wa.gov.