

RAIN GARDEN INSTALLATION BASICS



Natasha Bailey
Seattle Public Utilities
RainWise Program Manager





Rex Davis
Seattle Public Utilities
Inspections Lead



Sabine Jessel
King County
Inspections Lead

RAINWISE INSPECTORS



CONTRACTOR RESOURCES

The image shows a screenshot of the 700 Million Gallons website. On the left is a navigation menu with items: Home, The Goal, RainWise, Projects, Solutions, and Tools & Resources. The main content area features logos for 700 Million Gallons, RainWise (a partnership between Seattle Public Utilities and King County), and Seattle Public Utilities. Below these are social media links for RainWise and Seattle Public Utilities on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, as well as an email contact option. The 'Contractor Resources' link is circled in red, with a red arrow pointing to a separate window titled 'RainWise Project Paperwork Forms'. This window lists forms needed before and after project completion.

700 Million Gallons
WITH GREEN STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

RainWise
Seattle Public Utilities King County

Seattle Public Utilities

Home
The Goal
RainWise
Projects
Solutions
Tools & Resources

RainWise on Facebook
RainWise on Instagram
RainWise on YouTube
Send RainWise an Email
Contact Us
Contractor Resources
Find a Contractor
Events

Seattle Public Utilities on Facebook
Seattle Public Utilities on Twitter
Seattle Public Utilities on YouTube

RainWise Project Paperwork Forms

Before the Project Starts

Before construction begins on a RainWise project, contractors are responsible for the completion of the

- [RainWise Customer Understanding Form](#)
- [RainWise Infiltration Test Form](#)
- [Sample Site Plan](#)
- [RainWise Rebate Calculator](#) (Updated July 2022)

Project Completed: Rebate Paperwork

Here are the forms that need to be completed by the property owner and contractor to receive final re

- [RainWise Rebate Checklist for Customers](#)
- [RainWise Rebate Overview Form](#)
- [Vendor Payment Option Form](#)
- [RainWise Property Owner Agreement](#)
- [2018 W9 form](#)
- [Rain Garden Warranty Form](#)
- [Cistern Warranty Form](#)
- [Rain Garden Statement of Function Form](#)
- [Cistern Statement of Function Form](#)
- [Rockery Release Form](#)

For efficiency/ease, here is a consolidated packet of forms that contractors will need to complete with

- [RainWise Customer Packet](#)

<https://www.700milliongallons.org/rainwise/contractor-resources/>

RAIN GARDEN INSTALLATION BASICS

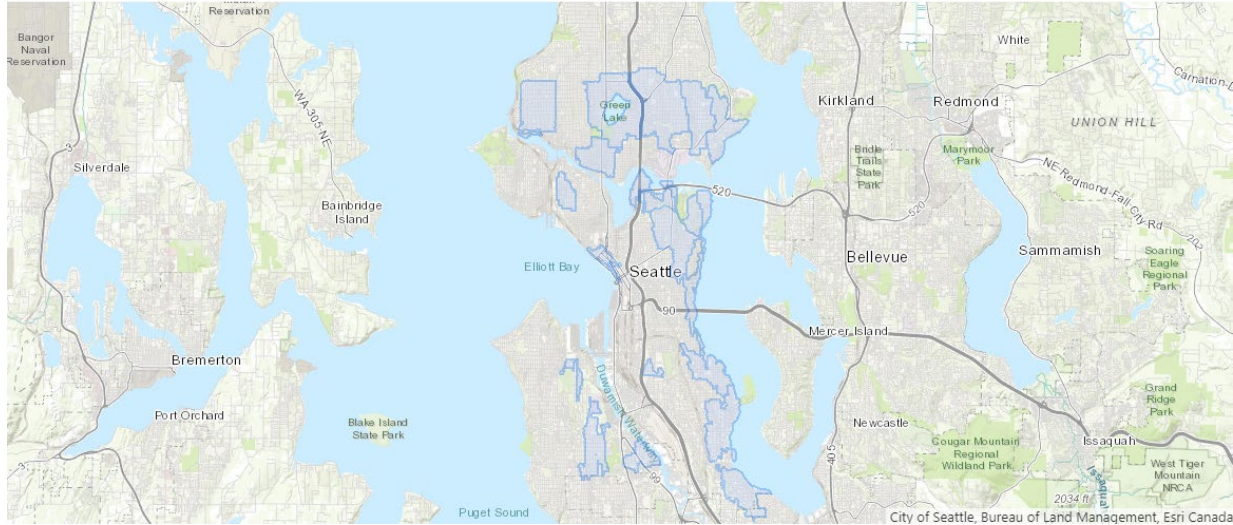


1. **Ensure eligibility for rain garden**
2. Rain garden specifications for RainWise
 - a) Site Requirements
 - b) Calculating roof area
 - c) Sizing
 - d) RainWise Calculator
 - e) Infiltration Test
 - f) Location
 - g) Structural Elements
3. Plant Selection

RAINWISE ELIGIBILITY MAP



Please do not use any punctuation (no commas, periods, dashes, etc.)



<https://www.700milliongallons.org/rainwise/eligibility/>

RAIN GARDEN INSTALLATION BASICS

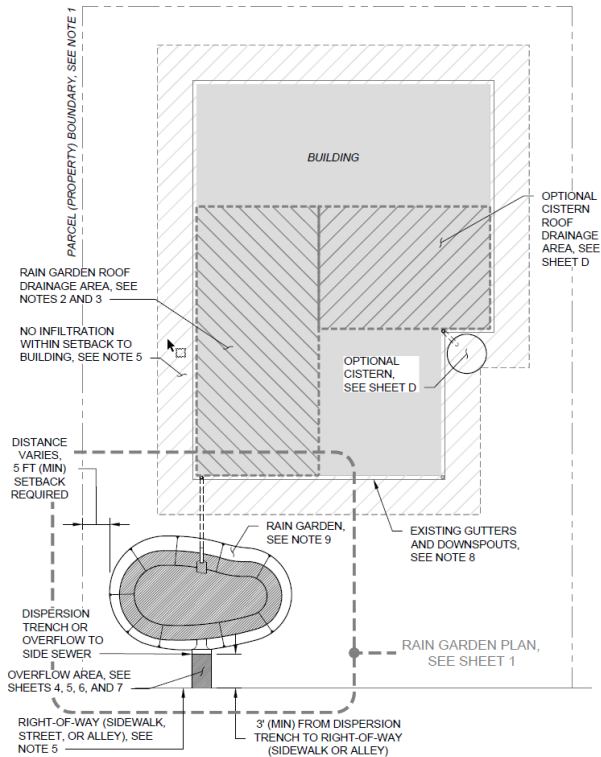


1. Ensure Eligibility for Rain Garden
2. Rain Garden Specifications for RainWise
 - a) Site Requirements
 - b) Calculating roof area
 - c) Sizing
 - d) RainWise Calculator
 - e) Infiltration Test
 - f) Location
 - g) Structural Elements
3. Plant Selection

SITE REQUIREMENTS

See RainWise design specifications

RAINWISE SITE REQUIREMENTS - RAIN GARDENS

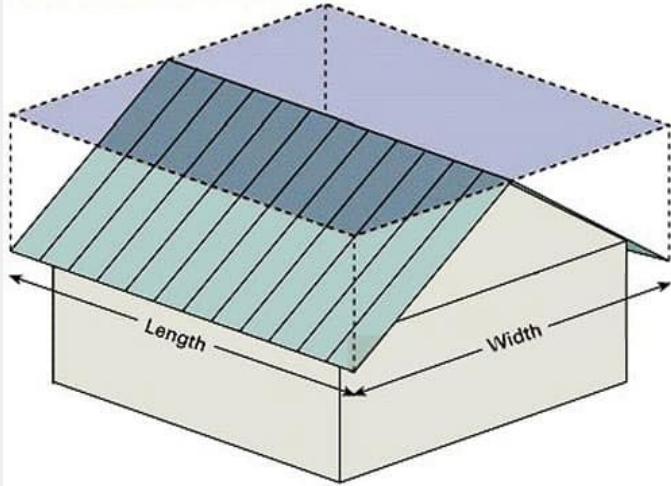


RAINWISE SITE REQUIREMENTS:

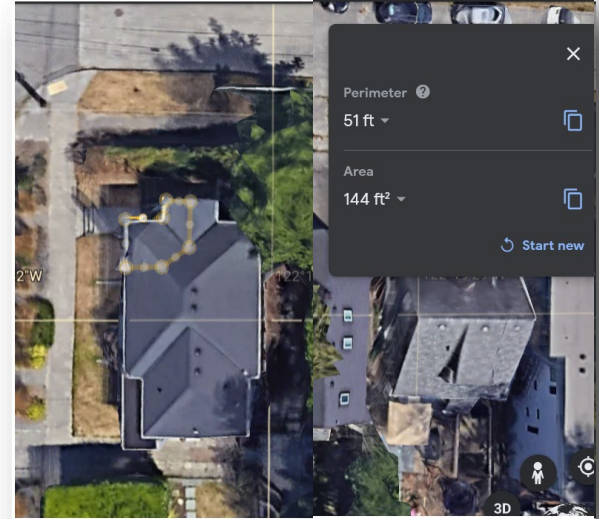
1. SUBJECT PARCEL MUST BE IN A QUALIFYING CSO BASIN.
2. A MINIMUM OF 400 SQUARE FEET OF ROOF DRAINAGE AREA MUST BE COLLECTED AND CONVEYED TO RAIN GARDEN OR CISTERN TO QUALIFY FOR REBATE.
3. ROOF DRAINAGE GREATER THAN 2,000 SQUARE FEET REQUIRES CONSULTATION WITH RAINWISE INSPECTOR.
4. PROJECTS INFILTRATING MORE THAN 2,000 SQUARE FEET OF IMPERVIOUS SURFACE MUST ADHERE TO THE SEATTLE STORMWATER MANUAL.
5. NO MORE THAN 1,000 SQUARE FEET OF CONTRIBUTING IMPERVIOUS SURFACE MAY OVERFLOW TO CITY SIDEWALK AT A SINGLE LOCATION. SYSTEMS IN EXCESS OF 1,000 SQUARE FEET SHALL HAVE TWO OR MORE OVERFLOWS (AS NECESSARY), EACH SEPARATED BY A DISTANCE OF 10 FEET OR MORE.

CALCULATING ROOF AREA

Catchment Area



[How to Measure the Square Footage of a Roof - YouTube](#)



SIZING

Rain Garden Bottom Area Sizing *Utilize the RainWise Calculator*

RainWise Sizing and Rebate Calculator Instructions

1. Enter project information.
 2. Enter total contributing roof area in square feet.
 3. Select Project Type
- For CISTERN projects**
4. Enter total number of connected cisterns.
 5. Select the cistern type or select "user defined" to enter a custom cistern.
 6. If you entered "user defined" in step 5, enter the cistern overflow height, total cistern height and volume for a single cistern.
- ** If you are proposing to use multiple cisterns of different sizes and/or geometries in series, see the "Custom Cistern Sizing" tab for guidance on developing "user defined" inputs for an equivalent single cistern.

For RAIN GARDEN projects



4. Enter native soil infiltration rate in inches per hour.

For CISTERN TO RAIN GARDEN projects

4. Enter native soil infiltration rate in inches per hour.
5. Select the cistern configuration upstream of the rain garden.



INFILTRATION TEST

Infiltration Test & Certification


This test will help determine, 1) if soil conditions are suitable for a rain garden and 2) The size of garden. *If you have questions while executing this test, contact your contractor with questions.*

Site Address: _____
(Use one certification form per rain garden.)

On-Site location (For multiple rain gardens, i.e., SW or NE): _____

Test Preparation:

- Call before you dig! Dial 811 for free utility pipeline location.
- Dig a hole 24 inches deep and at least 10 inches across.
- Add a stake with a ruler attached and set the bottom of the ruler at the bottom of the hole. Duct tape works to attach the ruler.
- Fill and drain the hole 2 times to saturate the soil.
- Each fill should be performed within 2 hours of the previous fill. You are mimicking the saturated condition of the soil during the rainy season.



Cautionary Note:
Any one of the following conditions disqualify site for a rain garden:
* hit hard pan soil * hole fills with water
* test hole does not drain at least .25" per hour

.....

Infiltration Test & Certification Form: (check all boxes)

A. Upon digging hole, did you hit hard pan? (hard pan is like concrete) Yes No

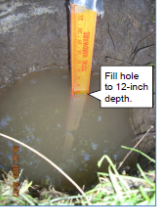
B. Upon digging hole, did the hole fill with water? Yes No
If you answered "No" to A. and B., continue test.

1. Fill the hole (1st fill) to the 12-inch mark. Done Not Done
2. Let the hole drain completely. Done Not Done
3. Fill the hole again(2nd fill) to the 12-inch mark. Done Not Done
4. Let the hole drain completely and record duration of time hole drains:
Amount of time to drain: ____ hrs. ____ mins.

5a. Fill the hole again (3rd fill) to the 12-inch mark. Done Not Done

5b. Record number of inches water has fallen in 1 hour: _____ inches

Be as accurate as possible!



Revised 12/23/15 www.rainwise.seattle.gov page 1 of 2

5c. Record number of inches water has fallen from hour 1 to hour 2: _____ inches
If hole is already empty, refill hole (4th fill) and skip to step 5e. (use the 15 minutes table).

5d. Record next entries on appropriate table. Determine which table and interval to use, by following these guidelines. Select appropriate interval with a check:

>3" per hour fall, check at 15 minute intervals = Table 1

3" to 1" per hour fall, check at 30 minute intervals = Table 2

<1" per hour fall, continue to check at hourly intervals = Table 3

5e. Now measure the fall of water 3 more times on selected table below:
If hole empties prior to given time interval, refill and continue recording.

TABLE 1 (15 MINUTES)			TABLE 2 (30 MINUTES)			TABLE 3 (1 HOUR)		
Time (15 min duration)	Ruler Reading (Inches)	Hole Refilled 12" (Yes or No)	Time (30 min duration)	Ruler Reading (Inches)	Hole Refilled 12" (Yes or No)	Time (60 min duration)	Ruler Reading (Inches)	Hole Refilled 12" (Yes or No)

6. Contractor calculation of infiltration rate: _____ inches per hour

≥ 0.25 in/hr: use 0.25 RG size in table & replace soil with 'Bioretention' soil mix
 ≥ 0.5 in/hr: use 0.5 RG size in table & replace soil with 'Bioretention' soil mix
 ≥ 1.0 in/hr: use 1.0 RG size in table and replace soil with 'Bioretention' soil mix
 > 1.0 use 1.0 in/hr RG size in table (You may not make your rain garden size smaller)

Signatures are required and must be included with your rebate materials, to be eligible for a RainWise Rebate.

I certify that I have followed the procedures outlined in this document to determine my rain garden sizing. I have chosen to size my rain garden in accordance with these results. I understand that rain gardens are sized for moderate rain events and that regardless of infiltration ability of my soil that my rain garden must have a clear and safe overflow path according to RainWise program details.

Certification Test Performed by:
 Homeowner or Contractor Print Name _____
 Signature _____ Date _____

Infiltration Rate Calculated by:
 Contractor Print Name _____
 Signature _____ Date _____

Revised 12/23/15 www.rainwise.seattle.gov page 2 of 2

INFILTRATION TEST



This test will help determine, 1) If soil conditions are suitable for a rain garden and 2) The size of garden. ***If you have questions while executing this test, contact your contractor with questions.***

Site Address: _____
(Use one certification form per rain garden.)

On-Site location (For multiple rain gardens, i.e., SW or NE): _____

Test Preparation:

- **Call before you dig!** Dial 811 for free utility pipeline location.
- Dig a hole **24 inches deep** and **at least 10 inches across**.
- Add a stake with a ruler attached and set the bottom of the ruler at the bottom of the hole. Duct tape works to attach the ruler.
- **Fill and drain the hole 2 times** to saturate the soil.
- **Each fill should be performed within 2 hours of the previous fill.** You are mimicking the saturated condition of the soil during the rainy season.

Cautionary Note:

Any one of the following conditions **disqualify** site for a rain garden:

- * *hit hard pan soil*
- * *hole fills with water*
- * *test hole does not drain at least .25" per hour*

INFILTRATION TEST

Infiltration Test & Certification Form: (check all boxes)

A. Upon digging hole, did you hit hard pan? (hard pan is like a solid layer of soil that prevents water from passing through)

Yes No

B. Upon digging hole, did the hole fill with water? Yes No

If you answered "No" to A. and B., continue test.

1. Fill the hole (1st fill) to the **12-inch mark**. Done Not Done

2. Let the hole drain completely. Done Not Done

3. Fill the hole again (2nd fill) to the **12-inch mark**. Done Not Done

4. Let the hole drain completely and **record** duration of time hole drains:

Amount of time to drain: _____ hrs. _____ mins.

5a. Fill the hole again (3rd fill) to the **12-inch mark**. Done Not Done

5b. Record number of inches water has fallen in 1 hour: _____ inches

Be as accurate as possible!

_____ inches of inches water has fallen from hour 1 to hour 2: _____ inches
If hole empties prior to given time interval, refill hole (4th fill) and skip to step 5e. (use the 15 minutes table).

Select on **appropriate table**. Determine which table and interval to use, by following the instructions below. **Select appropriate interval with a check:**

For hour fall, check at 15 minute intervals = Table 1

For hour fall, check at 30 minute intervals = Table 2

For hour fall, continue to check at hourly intervals = Table 3

5e. Now measure the fall of water **3 more times** on selected table below:

If hole empties prior to given time interval, refill and continue recording.

TABLE 1 (15 MINUTES)		
Time (15 min duration)	Ruler Reading (Inches)	Hole Refilled 12" (Yes or No)

TABLE 2 (30 MINUTES)		
Time (30 min duration)	Ruler Reading (Inches)	Hole Refilled 12" (Yes or No)

TABLE 3 (1 HOUR)		
Time (60 min duration)	Ruler Reading (Inches)	Hole Refilled 12" (Yes or No)

6. Contractor calculation of infiltration rate: _____ inches per hour

- ≥ 0.25 in/hr: use 0.25 RG size in table & replace soil with 'Bioretention' soil mix
- ≥ 0.5 in/hr: use 0.5 RG size in table & replace soil with 'Bioretention' soil mix
- ≥ 1.0 in/hr: use 1.0 RG size in table and replace soil with 'Bioretention' soil mix
- > 1.0 use 1.0 in/hr RG size in table (You may not make your rain garden size smaller)

RAINWISE CALCULATOR



HOME THE GOAL RAINWISE ▾ PROJECTS ▾ SOLUTIONS ▾ RAINCITY TOOLS & RESOURCES

RainWise Project Paperwork Forms


Before the Project Starts

Before construction begins on a RainWise project, contractors are responsible for the completion of these forms.

- [RainWise Customer Understanding Form](#)
- [RainWise Infiltration Test Form](#)
- [Sample Site Plan](#)
- [RainWise Rebate Calculator \(Updated July 2022\)](#)

<https://www.700milliongallons.org/rainwise/contractor-resources/>

RainWise Sizing and Rebate Calculator

Contractor Name 

Client Name

Project Address

Notes

Contributing Roof Area ¹ sf

Project Type

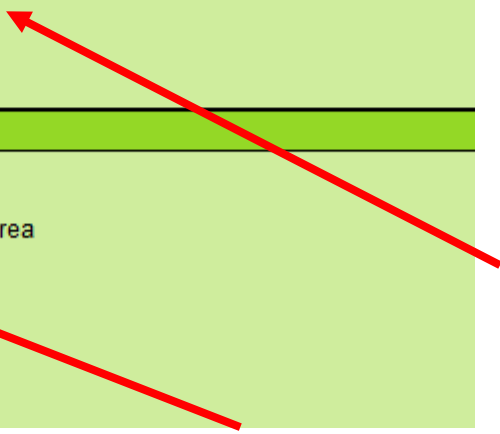
Rain Garden

Native Soil Infiltration Rate hr

Rain Garden Bottom Area
Required _____ sf

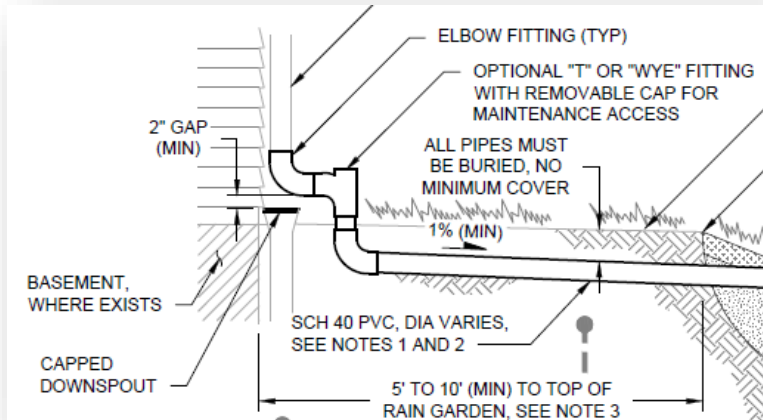
RainWise Rebate

% Construction Rebate	→	<input type="text" value="0%"/>	Enter contributing roof area per square foot contributing area
Construction Rebate Rate ^{8,9}	→	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	
Total Rebate	→	<input type="text" value="\$0.00"/>	
Gallons Managed Annually ¹⁰	→	<input type="text" value="0"/>	gallons
Required Orifice Size ¹¹	→	<input type="text" value="N/A"/>	



LOCATION

- Use minimum footprint size from RainWise calculator
- **Locate rain garden at least 5 ft from foundation walls (See NOTE 3 below)**
- At least 3ft away from nearest walkway/right of way
- Downslope from the building and impervious surfaces
- Positive overflow from rain garden to ROW or side sewer
- **DON'T** locate over underground utilities or major tree roots



3. TOP OF RAIN GARDEN SHALL BE 5 FEET (MIN) FROM FOUNDATION WALL WITHOUT BASEMENT AND 10 FEET (MIN) FROM FOUNDATION WALL WITH BASEMENT UP TO 5 FEET DEEP. FOR BASEMENTS DEEPER THAN 5 FEET, TOP OF RAIN GARDEN SHALL BE A DISTANCE OF 2 TIMES THE BASEMENT DEPTH FROM FOUNDATION WALL.

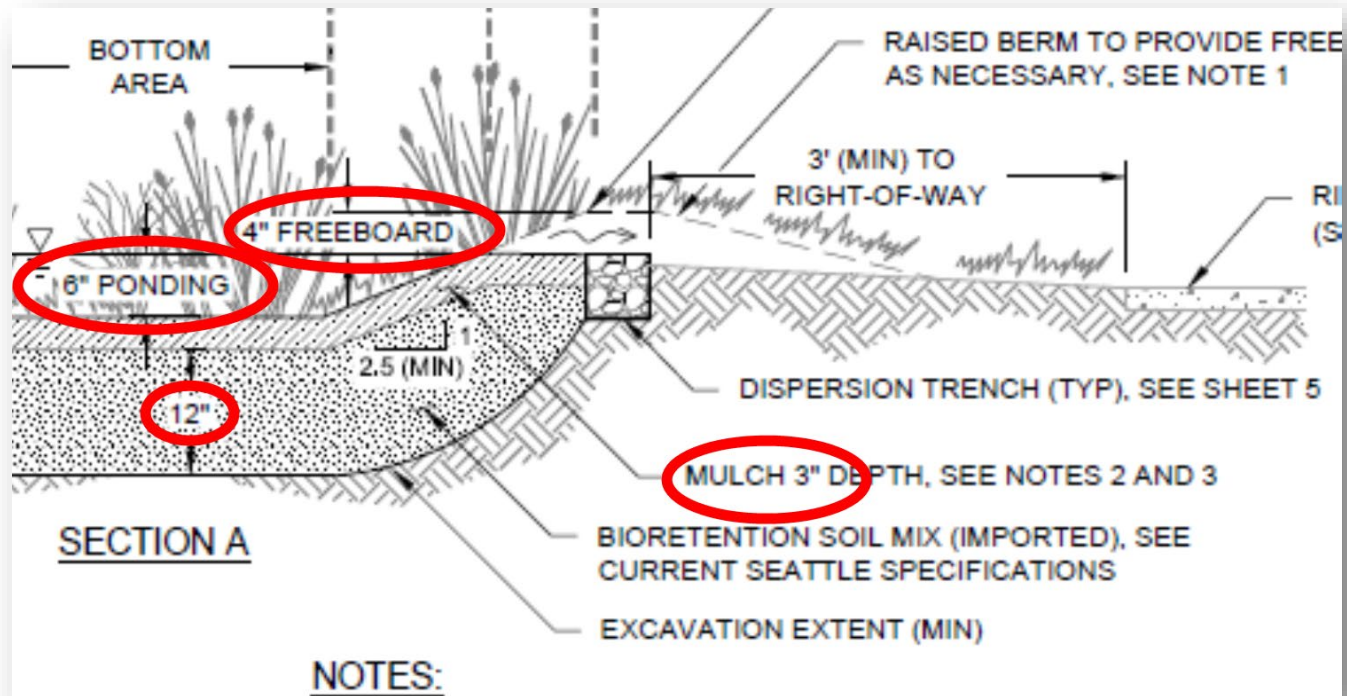
LOCATION

Best Practices:

- Lay out your rain garden to see if it fits the area well.
- Rope, string, a hose, ground paint, or chalk are good ways to mark the area because the boundaries can be easily adjusted to your preference.

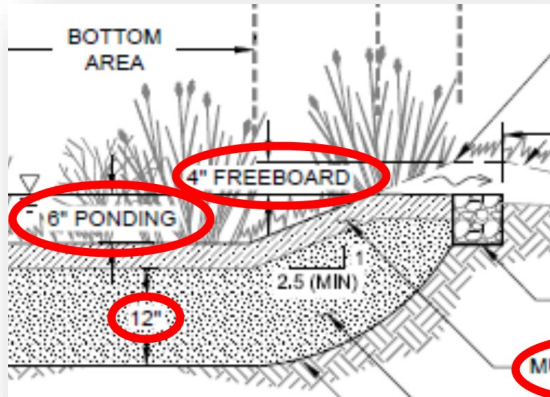


DEPTH



FREEBOARD

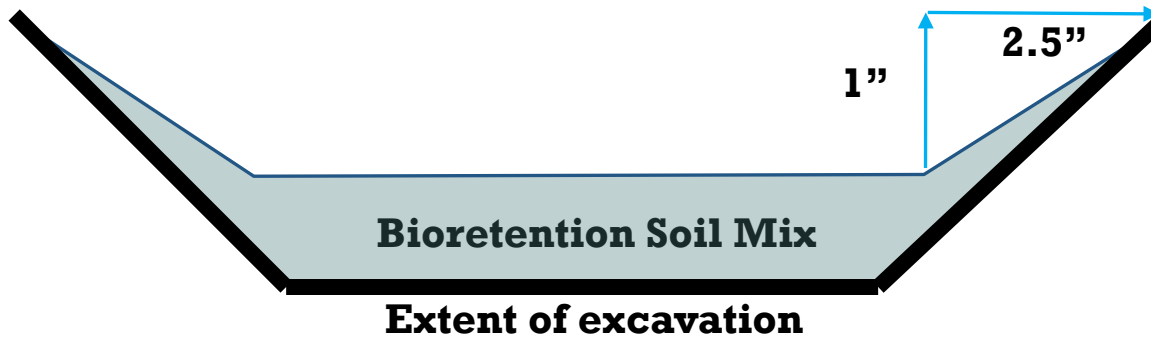
the space above ponding depth and below the top of the berm



- Berm must rise a minimum of 4 inches, at a minimum of 2.5:1 slope
- Good rule of thumb: **from the outside of the top surface of the ponding area and the berm should be at least twice as wide as it is high**

SIDE SLOPES

Slope ratio needs to be 2.5:1



*Additional requirements apply if designing for stormwater code compliance – contact DPD

BIORETENTION SOIL

Bioretention soil must be on the approved City list

- The City of Seattle has mandatory specifications for soil, including compost and bioretention soil, for all City-funded projects within city limits. See section 9-14 of the City Standard Plans and Specifications.
- Cedar Grove is an approved supplier/vendor of the City approved soil mix.



Note: homeowners not seeking a RainWise Rebate can blend compost with their existing soil in a rain garden, but to qualify for a RainWise Rebate, rain garden contractors must use the "Bioretention soil mix" from these suppliers.

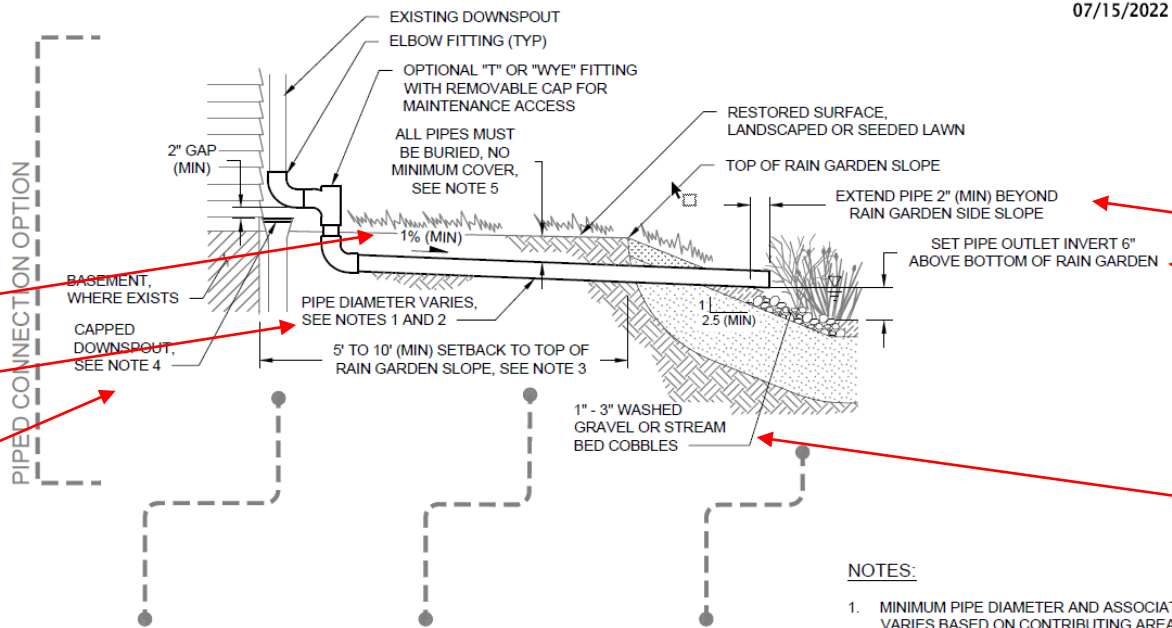
INFLOW & OVERFLOW



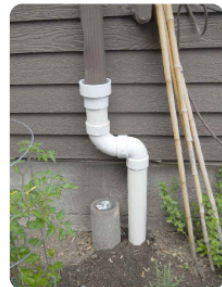
PIPE MATERIAL & SUPPORT

- Pipes in contact with the ground shall be schedule 40 PVC or approved equal
- Pipes not in contact with the ground shall be PVC schedule 40, SDR 35, or ABS
- All pipe and fitting joints shall be watertight and glued, bonded, or mechanically secured.
- Pipes shall be **supported** every 4 ft Horizontal, at changes in direction, and every 8 ft vertical





PIPED CONNECTION OPTION



ELBOW FITTINGS AND CAPPED DOWNPOUT AT EXISTING DOWNPOUT



DOWNPOUT TO RAIN GARDEN PIPED CONNECTION UNDER CONSTRUCTION

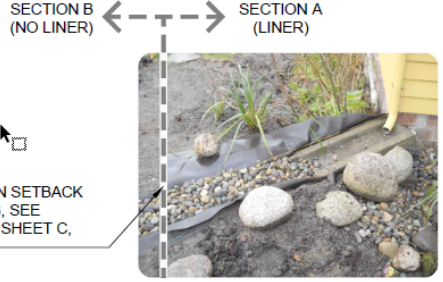
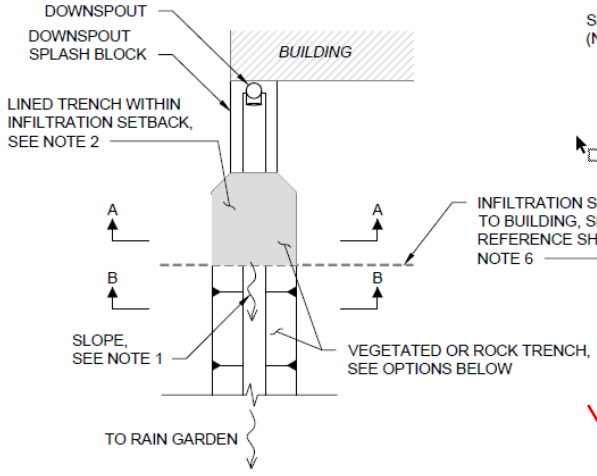


WASHED GRAVEL OR STREAM BED COBBLES AT PIPE OUTLET

NOTES:

1. MINIMUM PIPE DIAMETER AND ASSOCIATED FITTING SIZE VARIES BASED ON CONTRIBUTING AREA AS FOLLOWS:
 - UP TO 2,000 SQUARE FEET: 3 INCH DIAMETER
 - 2,000 TO 5,000 SQUARE FEET: 4 INCH DIAMETER
2. ALL PIPES MUST MEET THE GENERAL PIPING REQUIREMENT ON REFERENCE SHEET B. PIPE MATERIAL MUST BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE LOCATION AND ALL PIPE CONNECTIONS MUST BE SECURED.
3. RAINGARDEN LOCATION MUST MEET THE REQUIREMENTS ON REFERENCE SHEET C.
4. DOWNPOUT CAP SHALL BE REMOVABLE.
5. DOWNPOUT PIPED CONNECTION SHALL BE INSPECTED BEFORE PIPE IS BURIED.

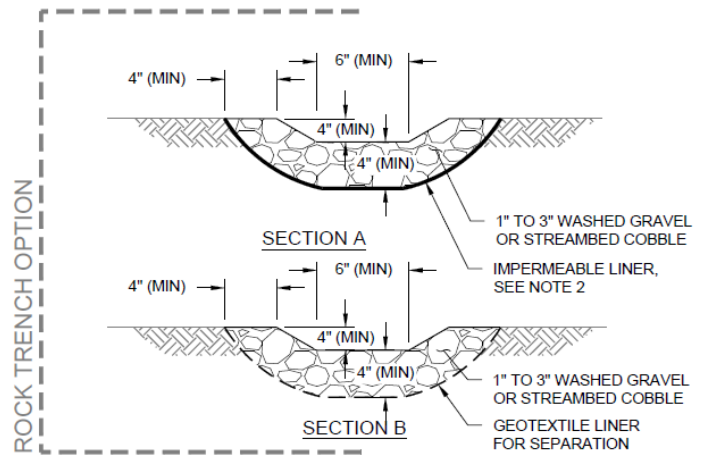
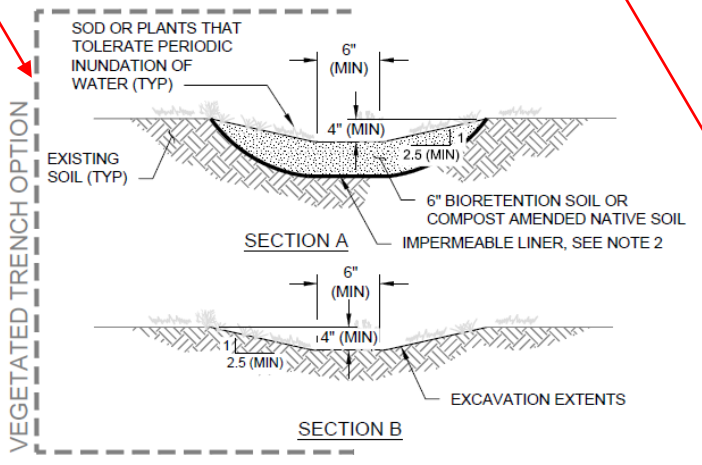
DOWNSPOUT TO RAIN GARDEN CONNECTIONS (2 OF 2)



EXAMPLE DOWNSPOUT TO RAIN GARDEN
ROCK TRENCH CONNECTION

NOTES:

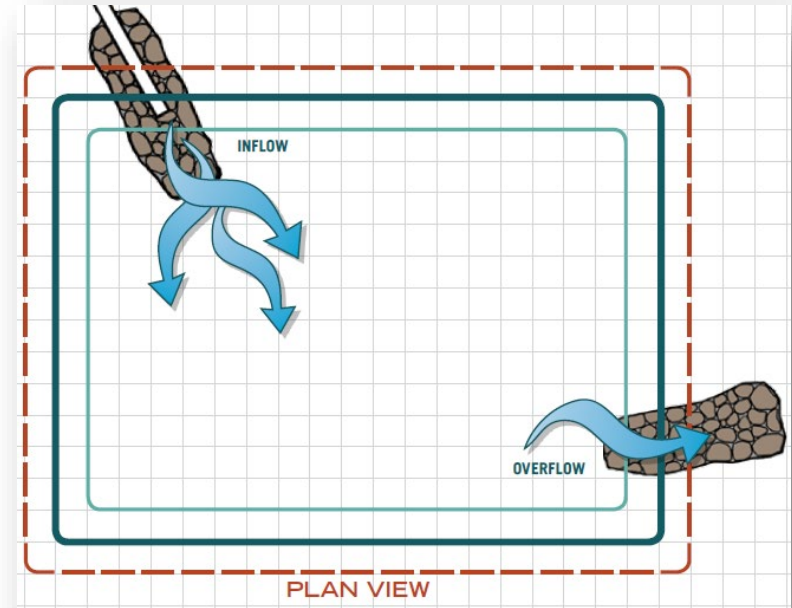
1. MINIMUM TRENCH SLOPE SHALL BE 1%. MAXIMUM SLOPE SHALL BE 4%. INSTALL CHECK DAMS PER SEATTLE STORMWATER MANUAL BMP E2.35 (VOLUME 2, FIGURE 9) FOR SLOPES GREATER THAN 4%.
2. IMPERMEABLE LINER SHALL COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS FOR "DITCH LINING" IN SEATTLE STANDARD SPECIFICATION 9-37.2, TABLE 4.



PER: 17:13:00051 (REVISED) (12/2021) (2021) (12/2021) (2021) (12/2021)

OVERFLOW

- Freeboard/berm should be a minimum of 4 inches higher than the top surface of the ponding area
- Do not direct overflow towards adjacent properties or structures.
- Overflow needs to be directed back into storm or toward right-of-way
- Overflow area shall be vegetated or discharge to 1" – 3" washed gravel or stream bed cobbles

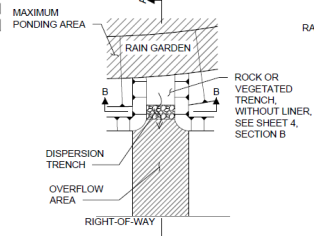


RAIN GARDEN OVERFLOW TYPE 1 - SURFACE OVERFLOWS (1 OF 2)

SHEET **5**
STANDARD RAINWISE DETAILS
07/15/2022

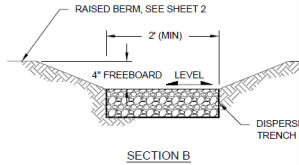


DISPERSION TRENCH OPTION



NOTES:

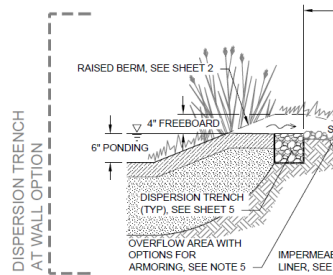
1. MINIMUM TRENCH SLOPE SHALL BE 1%. MAXIMUM SLOPE SHALL BE 4%. CHECK DAMS PER SEATTLE STORMWATER MANUAL BMP E2.35 (FIGURE 9) FOR SLOPES GREATER THAN 4%.
2. OVERFLOW AREA SHALL BE VEGETATED OR ARMORED WITH 1 INCH TO 3 INCH WASHED GRAVEL OR STREAM BED COBBLES.



SECTION B

RAIN GARDEN OVERFLOW TYPE 1 - SURFACE OVERFLOWS (2 OF 2)

SHEET **6**
STANDARD RAINWISE DETAILS
07/15/2022



NOTES:

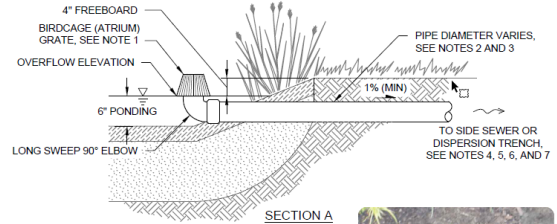
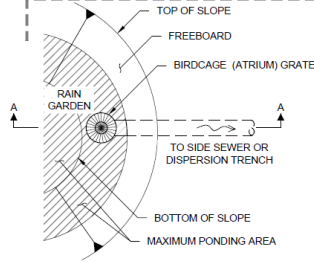
1. MINIMUM OVERFLOW AREA SLOPE SHALL BE 1%. MAXIMUM SLOPE SHALL BE 4%. INSTALL CHECK DAMS PER SEATTLE STORMWATER MANUAL BMP E2.35 (FIGURE 9) FOR SLOPES GREATER THAN 4%.
2. IMPERMEABLE LINER SHALL COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS FOR 'DITCH LINING' STANDARD SPECIFICATION 9-37.2, TABLE 4. SECURE LINER TO TOP OF WALL WITH CONSTRUCTION ADHESIVE APPROPRIATE FOR LINER AND WALL MATERIALS.
3. INFILTRATION PROHIBITED WITHIN A DISTANCE OF 2 TIMES THE WALL HEIGHT, OF A RETAINING WALL AS MEASURED FROM THE FACE OF THE WALL.
4. GRAVEL OR COBBLES SHALL BE SET 1 INCH (MIN) ABOVE BOTTOM OF SIDEWALK SLAB TO AVOID UNDERMINING SIDEWALK.
5. OVERFLOW AREA SHALL BE VEGETATED OR ARMORED WITH 1 INCH TO 3 INCH WASHED GRAVEL OR STREAM BED COBBLES.
6. RETAINING WALL HEIGHT MEASURED FROM VISIBLE TOE OF WALL TO TOP OF WALL SHALL BE 18 INCHES.
7. FOR DISCHARGE OVER RETAINING WALLS, MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE DROP FROM TOE OF WALL TO TOE OF WALL IS 18 INCHES.

RAIN GARDEN OVERFLOW TYPE 2 - SUBSURFACE OVERFLOWS

SHEET **7**
STANDARD RAINWISE DETAILS
07/15/2022



BIRDCAGE (ATRIUM) GRATE OVERFLOW



SECTION A

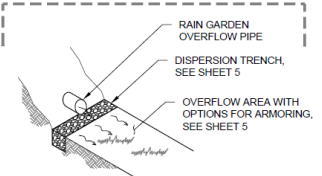
NOTES:

1. BIRDCAGE (ATRIUM) GRATE AND ANY EXPOSED PIPES AND FITTINGS SHALL BE MADE OF UV STABILIZED MATERIAL.
2. MINIMUM PIPE DIAMETER AND ASSOCIATED FITTING SIZE VARIES BASED ON CONTRIBUTING AREA AS FOLLOWS:
 - UP TO 2,300 SQUARE FEET: 4 INCH DIAMETER PIPE AND 4 INCH BIRDCAGE (ATRIUM) GRATE
 - 2,300 TO 5,000 SQUARE FEET: 4 INCH DIAMETER PIPE AND 6 INCH BIRDCAGE (ATRIUM) GRATE
 - INSTALL 6"x4" REDUCER ON OVERFLOW PIPE IF USING 6 INCH BIRDCAGE GRATE ON 4 INCH OVERFLOW PIPE.
3. ALL PIPES MUST MEET THE GENERAL PIPING REQUIREMENTS ON REFERENCE SHEET B. PIPE MATERIAL MUST BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE LOCATION AND ALL PIPE CONNECTIONS MUST BE SECURED.
4. CONNECTIONS TO SIDE SEWER MAY REQUIRE A SEPARATE SIDE SEWER PERMIT AND INSPECTION.
5. ALL CONNECTIONS TO A SIDE SEWER SHALL COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS FOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF DRAINAGE WATER DISCHARGES IN DIRECTOR'S RULES 4-2011 AND 5-2011 AND SIDE SEWER INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS IN SEATTLE STANDARD PLAN NO. 283.
6. SIDE SEWER FUNCTION MUST BE CONFIRMED FOR ABOVE GROUND OR BELOW GROUND DISCHARGE TO A SIDE SEWER. TESTING OR VIDEO SCOPING OF SIDE SEWER MAY BE REQUIRED TO CONFIRM FUNCTIONING SIDE SEWER.
7. A PRE-INSPECTION SHOULD BE REQUESTED WHEN A PIPED SUBSURFACE OVERFLOW IS PLANNED.

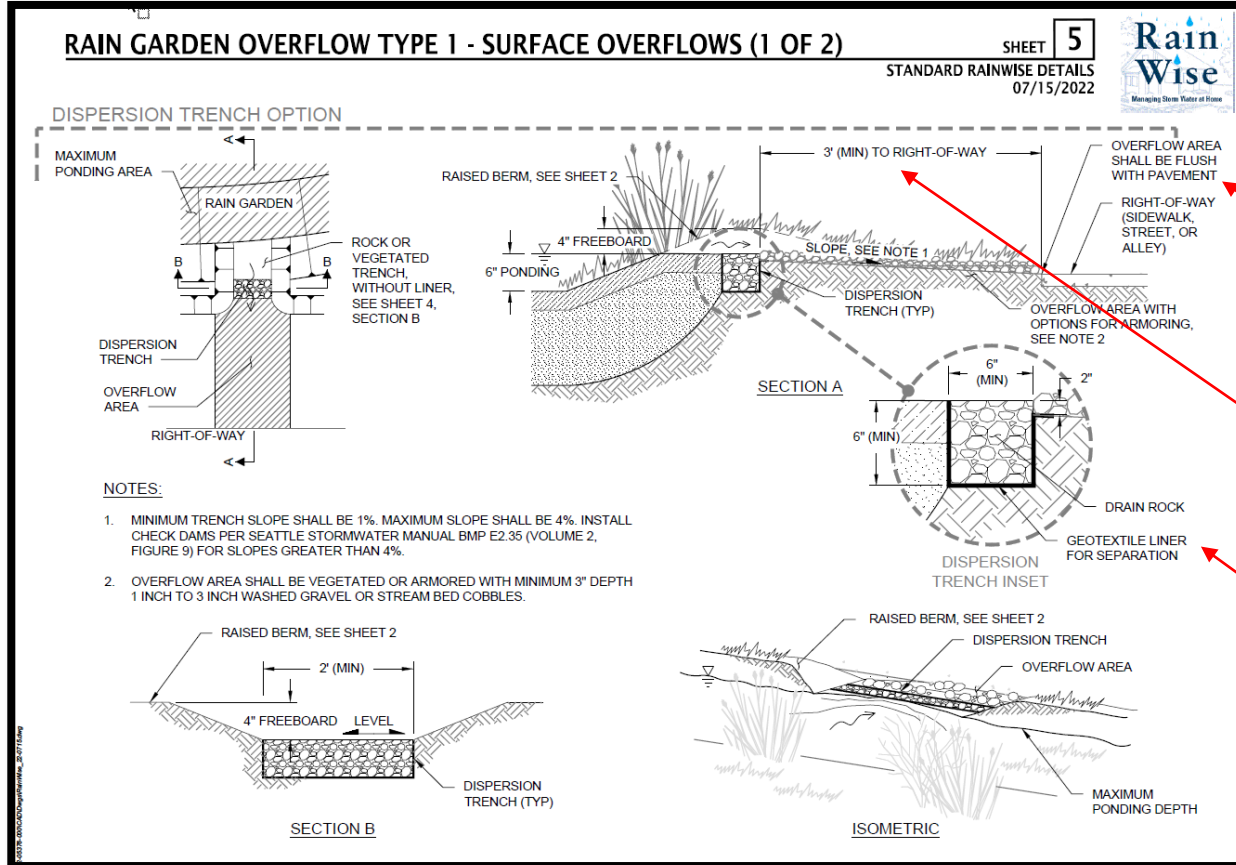


BIRDCAGE OVERFLOW

DISPERSION TRENCH OPTION



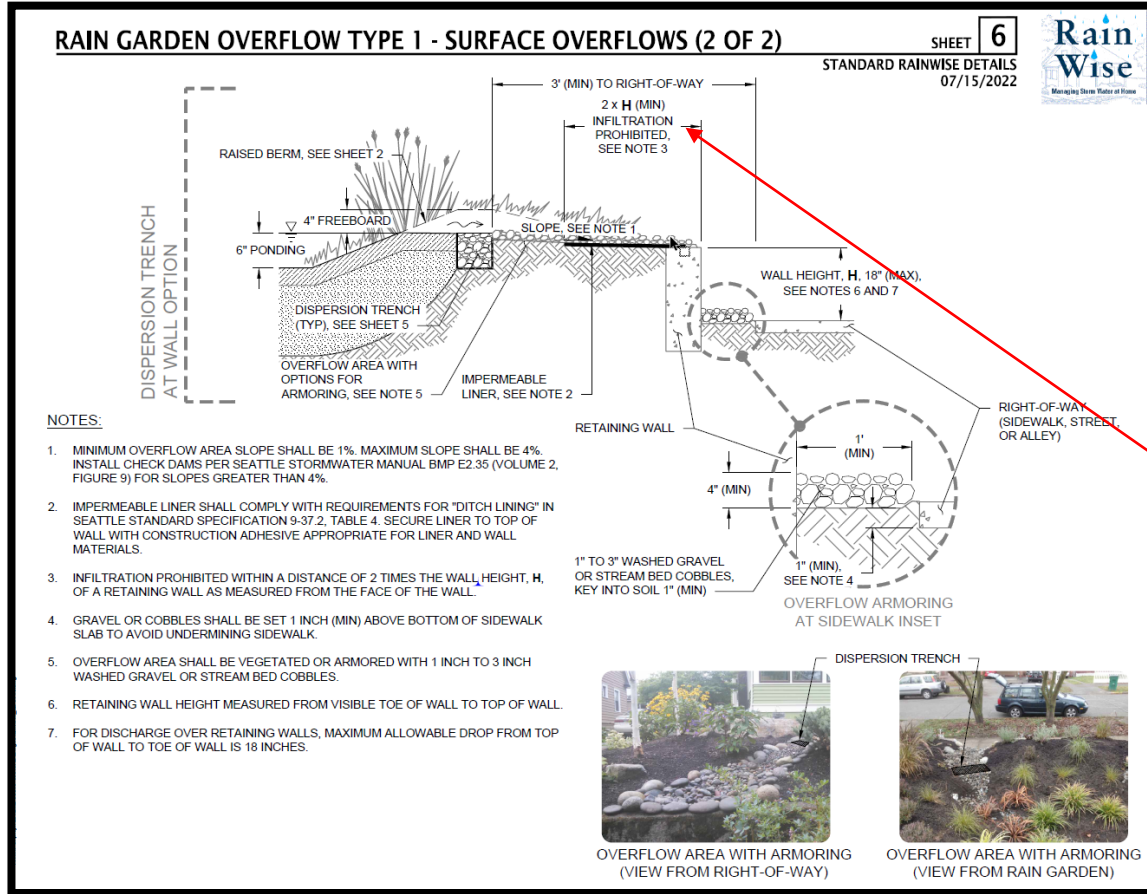
DISPERSION TRENCH TO OVERFLOW



DISPERSION TRENCH TO OVERFLOW



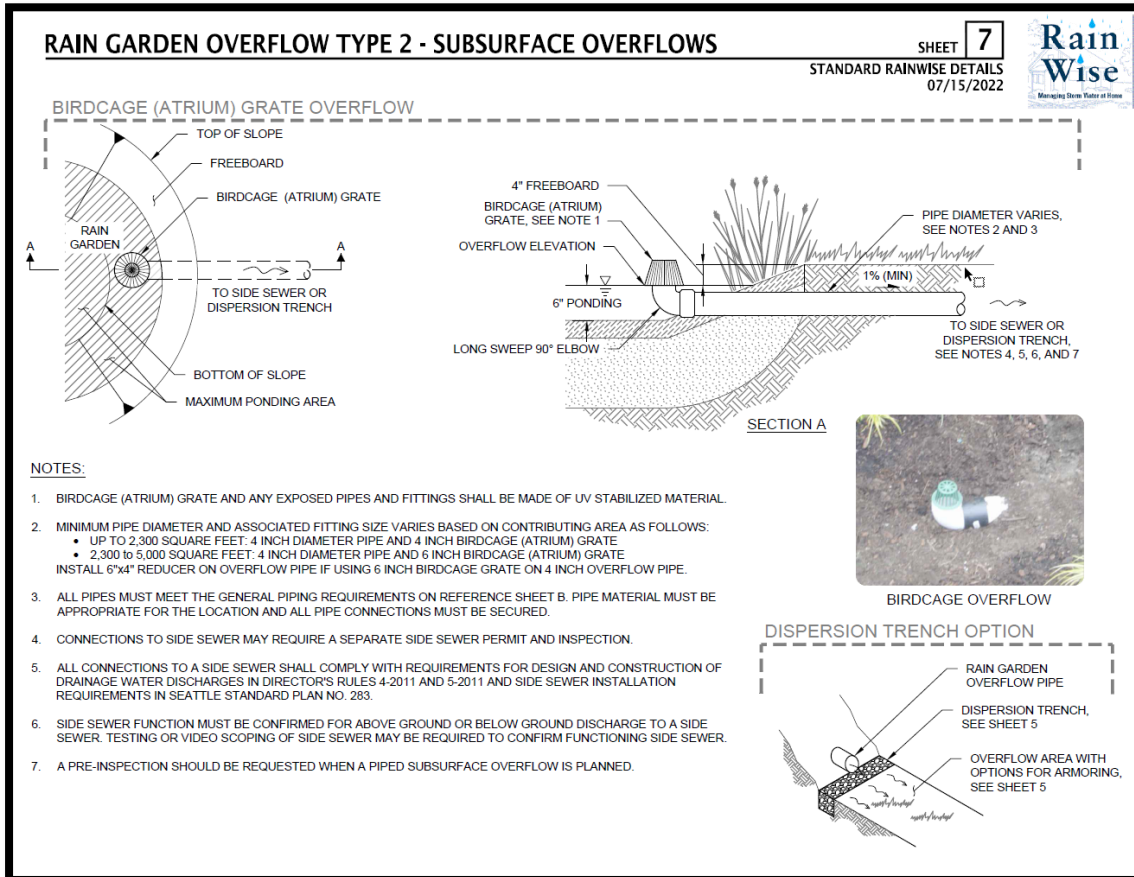
DISPERSION TRENCH TO OVERFLOW AT A WALL



DISPERSION TRENCH TO OVERFLOW AT A WALL



SUBSURFACE OVERFLOWS (AKA: BIRDCAGES)



Rain Garden Planting Plans

Selected Plants and Plans for RainWise Rain Gardens



PLANT SELECTION

Planting Zones

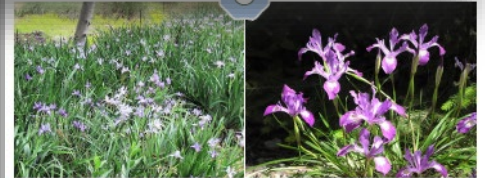
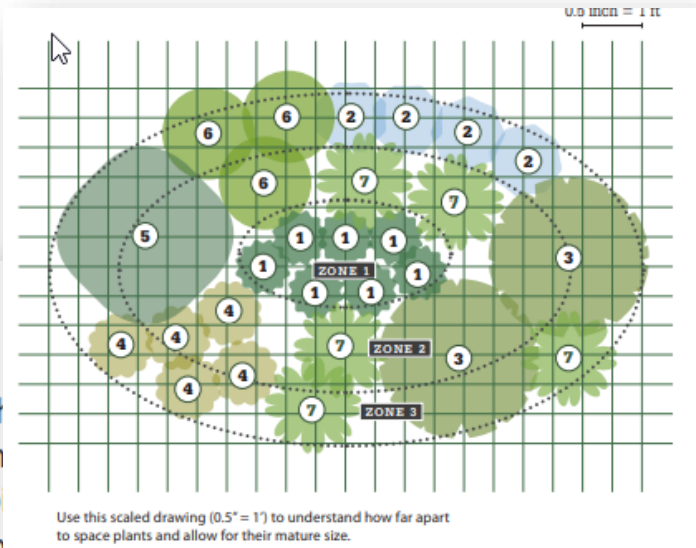
Critical when choosing and placing plants

Rain gardens are built to soak up stormwater. During the rainy season, they will stay wet and must be filled with plants that thrive in these conditions. On the upper slopes and top of the rain garden, water drains faster, leaving drier soils in the summer. These areas require different plants. Use the plant list and plan to select the appropriate plants for the following zones:

ZONE 1 Areas of periodic, or frequent, standing or flowing water in the bottom of the garden. Zone 1 plants should also tolerate the seasonally dry summers in Western Washington without extra watering beyond the first two to three year establishment period.

ZONE 2 Periodically moist or saturated soils during larger storms. Plants are typically planted on the side slopes in this zone and can help protect against erosion.

ZONE 3 Drier soils found at the top of the rain garden. This zone can blend with the existing landscape.



Pacific Coast Iris *Iris douglasiana* (E)



Little Heath Lily of the Valley *Pieris japonica* 'Little Heath' (E)

PLANT SELECTION

Plant List

See Plant List Legend on page 2 for terms and abbreviations

Common Name Scientific Name	Zone			D or E (Semi)	Native	Exposure			Mature Size		Comments GPP = Great Plant Picks (www.greatplantpicks.org)	
	1	2	3			Sun	Partial	Shade	Height	Width		
Plants less than 2'												
<i>Abelia x grandiflora</i> dwarf cultivars Prostrate Abelia	2	3		E		○	●		18" – 24"	4'		
<i>Acorus gramineus</i> and cultivars Sweet Flag	1			E			●	●	6" – 24"	12"	GPP. Cut to the ground in late winter to encourage filling in.	
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i> 'Vancouver Jade' Vancouver Jade Kinnikinnik		3		E	N	○			6"	5"	Native ground cover.	
<i>Blechnum Spicant</i> Deer Fern	1	2	3	E	N		●	●	24"	24"	GPP. Tolerant of occasional flooding.	
<i>Camassia quamash</i> Common Camass	1	2	3	D	N	○	●		18" – 24"	12"	Native bulb with beautiful blue flower spike in spring. May self-seed. Drought-tolerant & dies down in summer.	
<i>Carex 'Ice Dance'</i> Variegated Sedge	2	3		E		○	●		18"	3'	Cut to the ground in late winter to encourage filling in.	
<i>Carex testacea</i> Orange New Zealand Sedge	1	2	3	E		○	●		12" – 18"	18"	May self-seed. Fine-textured clumping sedge.	
<i>Carexpsis verticillata</i> 'Zagreb' Tickseed		3		D		○			18"	18"	Yellow flowers in summer.	
<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i> 'Aurea' Golden Cinklod Hair Grass	1			E		○	●		20"	12"	Leave foliage and seed heads for winter interest and cut back in March before new growth emerges.	
<i>Epimedium rubrum</i> or <i>perralchicum</i> Barrenwort	2	3		E			●	●	18"	18"	GPP. Cut back in March before new growth and flowers emerge.	
<i>Euonymus fortunei</i> 'Emerald & Gold' Wintercreeper euonymus	2	3		E		○			18"	24"	Yellow/green variegated leaves.	
<i>Euonymus fortunei</i> 'Interbolwi' Blondy Wintercreeper	2	3		D			●	●	18"	24"	Yellow leaves with green margins.	
<i>Euonymus fortunei</i> 'Kewenisi' Wintercreeper euonymus	2	3		E		○	●		6"	12"		
<i>Festuca 'Beyond Blue'</i> Blue Fescue	2	3		D		○			12"	18"	Blue foliage.	
<i>Geranium 'Gerwat' Rozanne</i> Rozanne geranium	2	3		D		○	●		18"	18"	Cut to the ground in late winter for neater appearance.	

- Consider a mix of native plants and evergreen plants
- Avoiding planting within the root zones of existing trees and shrubs
- Evergreens will provide year-round greenery and shade, which will reduce weed growth and maintenance
- Edging around the rain garden provides separation from lawn and other landscaped areas while allowing access for maintenance

RAIN GARDEN INSTALLATION BASICS

SUMMARY



1. Ensure eligibility for rain garden
2. Rain garden specifications for RainWise
 - a) Site Requirements
 - b) Calculating roof area
 - c) Sizing
 - d) RainWise Calculator
 - e) Infiltration Test
 - f) Location
 - g) Structural Elements
 - i. Depth
 - ii. Inflow/Outflow
3. Plant Selection

RAIN GARDEN INSTALLATION BASICS



Rex Davis
Seattle Public Utilities
Inspections Lead



Sabine Jessel
King County
Inspections Lead



Natasha Bailey
Natasha.Bailey@seattle.gov
206.586.2297

Q&A