

LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT AT YOUR HOME



Your home has a stormwater facility that is designed to capture and filter runoff before it drains to the nearest wetland or creek. You may think of it as your “planter box” or “rain garden” – yet it’s also part of the system that protects water quality for our whole community.

What is stormwater and why do we care?

Stormwater is generated when rainfall hits impervious surfaces – such as streets, roofs and driveways – and flows into storm drains. From there, the runoff travels to the nearest river, stream or wetland. Along the way, it picks up pollutants such as oils, sediment, bacteria, grease and chemicals that can pollute streams and rivers.

The Low Impact Development Approach

The stormwater facility on your property is considered a Low Impact Development Approach, or LIDA. LIDA facilities are vegetated landscape elements with specialized plants and soil. They help keep local waterways healthy by filtering pollutants out of stormwater and, in some cases, infiltrating the water into the ground before it reaches local waterways.

Benefits of the LIDA Approach

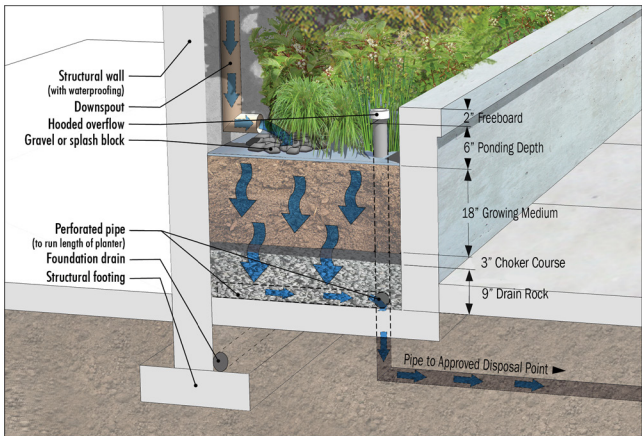
- Cleans stormwater before it enters waterways.
- Slows down runoff to waterways, which reduces flooding and stream erosion.
- Provides beneficial wildlife habitat.
- Provides a visual amenity for your home and community.

What assistance is available?

Clean Water Services and its jurisdictional partners can provide information and guidance to help your stormwater facility pass inspection, function well, and look good.

LIDA AT HOME

Flow-Through Planter



What are my responsibilities?

A homeowner is required to maintain the stormwater facility on their property, per a recorded Maintenance Agreement. Maintenance activities include:

- Removing weeds by hand, rather than with pesticides.
- Pruning vegetation as needed.
- Removing leaves, trash and other debris.
- Inspecting the facility annually.
- Replacing dead plants with native plants.
Visit the Private Water Quality Facility webpage for a list of appropriate plants.

These activities not only keep the facility functioning properly, but also increase its visual appeal.

Resources

- Find more information, including plant lists and maintenance tips: cleanwaterservices.org/pwqf
- Learn about additional steps you can take to make a difference at and around your home: cleanwaterservices.org/hero

Everything we do at Clean Water Services aims to protect public health while enhancing the natural environment of the Tualatin River Watershed.


Clean Water Services

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