RainCity Partnerships – Embrace the Rain

RainCity Partnerships

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Seattle's people and land have always been shaped by rain. But rain running off our urban landscape causes flooding and carries pollutants to our creeks, lakes, and Puget Sound – home to salmon and orca whales.

We all play a role in creating a resilient future where we live, work, and play. RainCity Partnerships wants to work with you to be part of the solution by embracing the rain in your community. Work with us to install projects that slow down and soak up runoff.

What is Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI)?

Before Seattle was developed into an urban metropolis, the area was covered in forests and meadows. These natural environments soaked up the rain through the soil and slowly released the clean, cool water into nearby rivers, streams, lakes, and the Puget Sound. Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) seeks to mimic these natural processes.

GSI practices include absorbent gardens, rainwater reuse, vegetated rooftops, porous pavement and more. These practices offer many benefits to our environment and communities.

- **Reduces the risk of flooding in our neighborhoods**
- **Enhances fish habitat by providing cleaner and cooler water**
- **Beautifies our neighborhoods**
- **Improves air quality**
- **Lowers urban heat**

Bioretention

Bioretention (also called “rain gardens”) practices temporarily store and filter stormwater in shallow depressions filled with a special soil and variety of plants. Treated stormwater either soaks into the ground or is connected to the city drainage system.

Rainwater Reuse

Rainwater reuse (or “harvesting”) practices collect, store, and use stormwater. Above or below ground tanks store stormwater from your roof for reuse as landscape irrigation, exterior washing, or indoor toilet flushing.

Cisterns

Cisterns temporarily store stormwater from your roof in above ground tanks. A small hole at the bottom of the tank slowly releases the stormwater to make room for the next storm. Water either flows to your yard or is connected to the city drainage system.

Permeable Pavement

Permeable pavement helps reduce runoff and pollutions by allowing stormwater to soak into the ground instead of flowing over asphalt, collecting pollution, and going into the sewer system.

How to Get Involved

Property

Do you own private multifamily or commercial land in Seattle? Become part of the solution! Eligibility Requirements:

- Privately owned
- Non-single family use
- Within the two highest priority tiers of the City's Race & Social Equity Index
- 5,000 square feet impervious (hard surface) area
- Connected to the City's sewer system
- Area of known wastewater or drainage needs

Outreach

Looking for opportunities to connect your community with the environment? The program will work with at least ten community-based organizations to manage your stormwater in a way that meets your needs and aspirations. Email our Community Outreach Project Manager to schedule a time to meet!

Contact: Jean Jensen, Project Manager for Community Outreach and Grant Funding, Jean.jensen@cisolutions.com, 253-389-1109

Mentorship

Seeking to expand your business opportunities in GSI? The Mentorship Program aims to foster a supportive and structured environment where participants can access training, mentorship, networking, and resources to excel in the GSI industry. Head to the Mentorship Program section on our website to learn more!