

Ten Urban and Community Conservation Tips

- 1 Avoid using toxic pesticides and switch to organic fertilizers and natural chemicals that do not build up in the soil.
- 2 Establish native plant habitats to attract urban wildlife. Remove ivy and other invasive plants.
- 3 Plant vegetation buffers for ponds and streams.
- 4 Create on-site storm water management including disconnected down spouts, rain gardens and permeable pavers.
- 5 Implement water conservation including native plant use, mulching, drip irrigation and sprinkler applications set for early morning or late evening.
- 6 Convert part of the lawn to edible vegetables and fruit trees or native plant landscaping.
- 7 Buy local garden supplies, nursery products and food from farmers markets and community supported agriculture.
- 8 Compost kitchen and yard debris to build soil fertility.
- 9 Plant the right plant in the right place – consider your soil, space, wind, sunlight and best energy saving spot.
- 10 Consider how these tips can be applied to your neighborhood, business and schools.



Our District is a place where communities, environments and economy thrive together.

Urban and rural areas thrive when they are interdependent – ecosystem services and rural products are brought into urban areas and urban services flow into rural areas.



Clackamas County Soil and Water

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Good dirt. Clean water.

CHECK OUR WEB SITE for more information on conserving your soils, water, air and energy resources. www.conservationsdistrict.org

This brochure was developed by the innovative team of District staff, Mary Stewart and Cogan Owens Cogan LLC.

Consistent with the District's vision, mission, values and guiding principles, this brochure was printed on paper from a Forest Stewardship Council-certified forest and using soy ink.

Cover Photo © IStock

**GOOD DIRT
CLEAN WATER
CONTACT**

Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District
www.conservationsdistrict.org • 503-655-3144
221 Molalla Avenue, Suite 102 • Oregon City, OR 97045

The Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, marital status, familial status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information and political beliefs. CCSWCD is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Urban conservation starts right under your feet



CLACKAMAS COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

www.conservationsdistrict.org

Good dirt. Clean water.



Reducing your carbon footprint starts on your own property.



A rain garden is a planted depression that absorbs rainwater runoff from impervious urban areas such as roofs, walkways and compacted ground. Rain gardens cut down on the amount of pollution reaching streams. Courtesy of Portland Environmental Services

Whether you live or work in the cities, towns, villages and hamlets of Clackamas County, good conservation starts right under your feet.

The Conservation District helps you make responsible choices about the soils, water, air and energy resources in your yard or on your public building campus.



Bioswale with native plants in parking strip absorbs run-off from sidewalk.

LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

helps plan and implement stormwater management strategies including rain gardens, bioswales, permeable paving, native plantings and ecoroofs for landowners and communities. Mitigates stormwater, conserves water and existing natural site features, emphasizes native plants and creates beautiful places.

Clair Klock and Dave Phipps confer on lawn health.



GOLF COURSE QUALITY LAWNS™ PROGRAM

teaches landowners to reduce landscape chemical and water use while still producing high-quality green lawns. Partner: Oregon Golf Course Superintendents Association.



Oak trees and other natives salvaged and relocated.

NATIVE PLANT SALVAGE NURSERY PROGRAM

saves native plants from damage due to construction and relocates them in the community. The program establishes a salvage nursery at Canby High School to nurture the salvaged plants and to provide public education. It also uses rainwater catchment and irrigation systems to conserve water.



Contact our office to get help with your questions and plans. Fact sheets, workshops, online materials, resource guides and one-on-one technical assistance are all available.

**– Rick Gruen,
District Manager**

CHECK OUR WEB SITE www.conservationdistrict.org

IN THE KNOW

In Clackamas County there is a knowledgeable group of conservationists who are available to help you take the best care of your soils, water, air and energy resources.

Nikki Cerra, Conservation Specialist - Urban and Community
email: nikki.cerra@or.nacdnet.net