

LAWN ALTERNATIVES

Low-impact development (LID) is a process to manage rain water “at the source” using natural vegetation and inexpensive, small-scale practices. LID can be applied to new construction or as a retrofit to existing development.

What is it?

How does it help?

□ Tree Planting

Preserving and properly maintaining existing trees while also planting new trees



- Trees, especially evergreens, catch rainfall in their canopy and return much of it to the atmosphere
- The large root network helps keep soil in place, prevent erosion and allows more rainwater to soak into the soil
- Trees store carbon, improve air quality, and moderate microclimates and temperatures around your home

□ Northwest Gardens

A mix of trees, shrubs, and design features that are found in the Pacific Northwest and support native ecosystems



- The combination of native plants and compost amended soils will require less water and fertilizer
- Native plants are less susceptible to common garden pests and diseases
- Having a good diversity of plant types and heights will provide food sources and shelter to attract native birds, butterflies and pollinators

□ Meadowscaping

Native Oregon wildflowers or shortgrass prairie plants specifically intended to support pollinator habitat



- Oak savannah prairie plants are well adapted to hot, sunny locations and low nutrient soils
- Meadowscaping is ideal for hard-to-maintain areas such as parking strip planters or along walls that produce reflected heat

□ Eco-lawn

A mix of low-growing native and non-native perennials that support both traditional lawn uses and pollinators



- Drought tolerant eco-lawn plants require less water than traditional grass lawn
- Eco-lawns require less mowing and no fertilizer in comparison to traditional grass lawn
- The plant composition of the eco-lawn may evolve over time as certain plants thrive or decline based on specific site conditions



Visit www.conservationdistrict.org to learn more about the urban conservation program and additional services offered by the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District.

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