

## Our stormwater system

Water that results from heavy rains or snow and overflows is called **stormwater**.

### Where does rainwater go?

In natural areas, rainwater is absorbed into the ground.

In cities, we have “impervious surfaces” like roads and sidewalks that cannot absorb rain. This stormwater is collected by a system of catch basins and stormwater pipes that carry the water to local streams.

When there is too much rain, the stormwater system can be overwhelmed – the result is flooding.

### How can I reduce stormwater impacts from my property?

Managing stormwater is essential in the urban areas. **Low Impact Development (LID)** is a simple and effective way to reduce stormwater flows by capturing rainwater and stormwater runoff and allowing it to be absorbed into the ground instead of having it flow into the City’s stormwater system. Simple, small-scale home improvement projects can result in a lower impact on our natural environment.

**Learn more inside!**

## Resources to get more information:

Check out the **Rogue Valley Stormwater Quality Design Manual** – it describes more stormwater management tools you can implement to allow the natural hydrologic process to prevent flooding and protect local streams– search for *Rogue Valley Stormwater Quality Design Manual* in your browser.

### OSU Extension Residential Water Resources

Find fact sheets on vegetated roofs, porous pavement and other approaches to low impact development – search for “*OSU Extension Services Residential Water Resources*” in your browser.

### Keeping Contaminants Out of Local Streams

Learn more about Ashland’s stormwater system and how you can contribute to protecting local streams – search for *Ashland Stormwater Education* in your browser.



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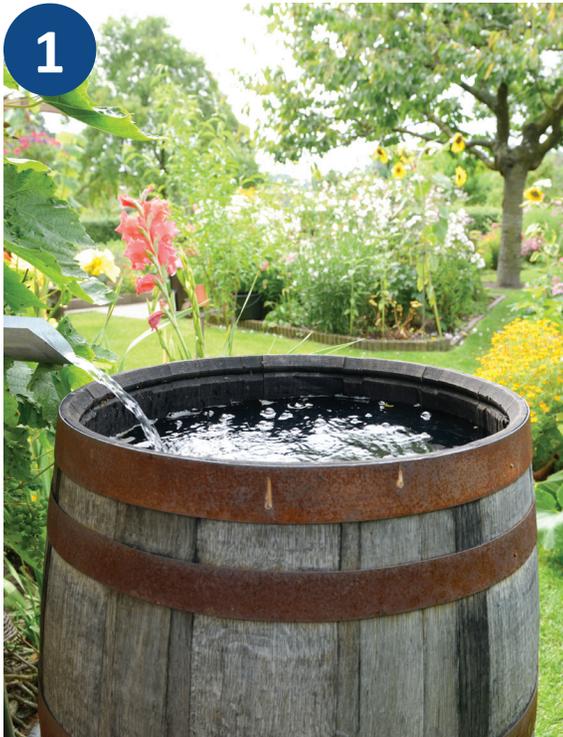
## Reducing Your Residential Footprint Using Low Impact Development (LID) Tools



**YOU can help manage stormwater at the source**

# LID techniques can be part of your next landscaping project – you can improve your property and help the environment at the same time! Here are three relatively easy options to consider.

**Install a rain barrel** to collect rainwater from roofs, reducing the amount of water that flows off your property. Water collected in rain barrels can be stored for future use such as watering gardens and lawns, conserving our water resources. More information is available on the City's website – just search for *City of Ashland Rain Barrel Installation Guide* in your browser.



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**Create a garden with a purpose** – a rain garden is a sunken garden that fills with rainwater during storms. The water absorbs into the ground after the storm has passed. Rain gardens are both attractive and effective and often contain plants and soils specifically chosen to clean stormwater.

Here are some things to consider when creating a rain garden:

- Locate the garden on flat ground. Do not install rain gardens in wetlands or native habitat areas or in seasonally wet areas.
- Vegetation should cover a minimum of 90% of the rain garden area within three years.
- Choose native plants whenever possible – plants that are good at filtering water, thrive in the local climate and are drought tolerant. The Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District Rain Garden Plant List provides online guidance for picking plants that are appropriate for Ashland.

Maintenance of rain gardens is also important. Inspect your rain garden quarterly to make

sure that the stormwater is flowing uniformly through the soil and there is no erosion. If the rain garden does not drain within 48 hours, scrape out 1" of soil. Remove leaves, woody material and dead vegetation before it covers 10% of the surface area.

A comprehensive guide was developed by the Oregon Sea Grant Program – just search for *Oregon Rain Garden Guide* in your browser to purchase or view a PDF online.



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**Use pavers instead of concrete or asphalt** for driveways and garden paths. The pavers can be made of stone, concrete or other durable materials – what's important is how they are installed. Pavers should be set within and over a base rock, without any plastic sheeting. This allows rainwater to flow between the pavers and be absorbed into the ground underneath. Some contractors also offer porous concrete or asphalt that allows rainwater to drain right through.