

Green from the ground up

Nature-friendly practices for homeowners



Mature trees



Permeable pavers



Disconnecting downspouts

Metro's Nature in Neighborhoods initiative is a long-term effort to conserve and restore nature throughout the urban area and ensure that every citizen in the region has access to nature.



Make the place you call home nature friendly

Do it yourself! Help protect water quality and wildlife habitat. You can make a difference and provide your home and your community with many benefits:

- greener neighborhoods
- increased property values
- improved water quality
- a more unique and desirable region
- healthy habitat for fish, wildlife and people.

With a little planning and inspiration, you can create a home and lifestyle that balance beauty and sustainability. Look here for ideas that you can try at home.

Preserving mature trees

- Preserving and planting trees is one of the best and least expensive ways to reduce your home's energy and sewer bills.
- Mature trees filter pollutants from soil and water, improve air quality, and provide shade that cools air and water.
- Studies have shown that mature trees increase property values and marketability.





Natural gardening

- By gardening naturally, you protect our rivers and streams from harmful rainwater runoff of soil, fertilizers and pesticides. You also protect yourself, your family and local wildlife from these chemicals.
- You can prevent most pests, weeds and diseases by building healthy soil and growing the right plants. Avoiding pesticides will also spare the beneficial insects that help fight pests.
- Adding compost and mulches increases the soil's ability to absorb and store water. Compost also adds nutrients and microbes that help plants to thrive naturally.

Landscaping with native plants

- Native plants are easier to care for because they require less water and do not need harmful chemicals to thrive.
- By incorporating native plants into your yard, you help keep local rivers and streams healthy.
- Native plants provide food, cover and habitat for local birds and bugs that are not only good for your garden but are also fun to watch.

Designing nature friendly patios and driveways

- Pervious pavers or pervious pavement can be used for areas such as patios, walkways, driveways, parking areas and even some portions of streets.
- Using these materials can reduce runoff by allowing rainwater to soak into the ground before being routed into storm drains and sewers, which helps protect water quality.
- Pervious pavers are typically made of concrete, brick, stone or cobbles. They are durable and attractive and allow great flexibility of design.

Disconnecting downspouts

- Downspout disconnection is a simple and effective way to keep rainwater on site.
- Using a short extension and splash block that directs water to a grassy or vegetated area allows runoff to be absorbed into the ground instead of storm drains.
- Check local regulations to ensure that downspout disconnects are recommended in your neighborhood.

Creating bioswales and rain gardens

- Bioswales and rain gardens collect runoff and allow it to slowly filter into the ground.
- Soil and plants in bioswales and rain gardens filter and clean rainwater runoff before it goes into storm drains and sewers, which helps protect water quality.
- Bioswales and rain gardens mimic natural systems, protecting our local rivers and streams.

Homes using "green" practices are not only good for your health, they are also good for the fish, wildlife, water quality and natural areas in our region. You are helping to keep nature in neighborhoods by choosing to use these practices.

To learn more, visit www.metro-region.org/nature.

Partners in the use of green development practices:



Clean air and clean water do not stop at city limits or county lines. Neither does the need for jobs, a thriving economy and good transportation choices for people and businesses in our region. Voters have asked Metro to help with the challenges that cross those lines and affect the 25 cities and three counties in the Portland metropolitan area.

A regional approach simply makes sense when it comes to protecting open space, caring for parks, planning for the best use of land, managing garbage disposal and increasing recycling. Metro oversees world-class facilities such as the Oregon Zoo, which contributes to conservation and education, and the Oregon Convention Center, which benefits the region's economy.

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