Comment submitted to Ecology by rain garden property owners

February 3, 2012

NAME: Mark L Evans

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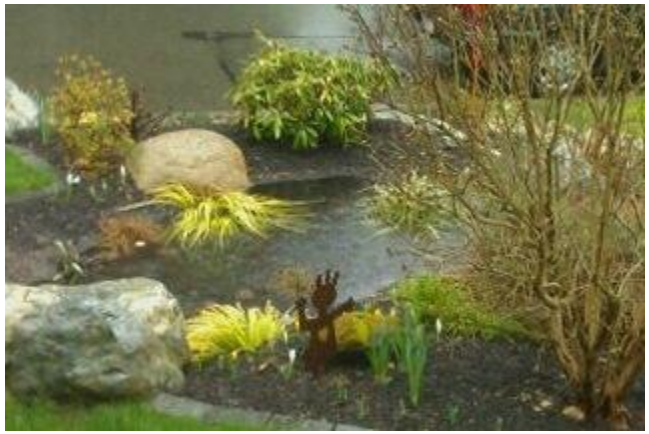
I SUPPORT STORNG STORMWATER PERMIT LANGUAGE THAT includes specific requirements for developers to avoid destruction of native plants and reduces total paved surfaces on building sites; eliminates loophole for developers, strengthen requirements for "watershed" approaches; protects forested areas and green spaces, and provides tax credits for adaption.

I WAS INSPIRED TO BUILD MY RAIN GARDEN BECAUSE a friend of mine mentioned the strong benefits of having a rain garden and it's positive impact on lowering waste water risk. **THE BENEFITS FROM MY RAIN GARDEN ARE** a beautiful front yard that is easy to maintain and totally functional even in large rain events. **The size of my rain garden is approximately** 1250 sq. ft. and the primary source of water entering my rain garden is from the roof.



NAME: Jeanine Eshpeter

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ADDRESS: Pierce County, 810 18th St SW, Puyallup WA 98371

I SUPPORT STORNG STORMWATER PERMIT LANGUAGE THAT includes specific requirements for developers to avoid destruction of native plants and reduces total paved surfaces on building sites; eliminates loophole for developers, strengthen requirements for “watershed” approaches; protects forested areas and green spaces.

I WAS INSPIRED TO BUILD MY RAIN GARDEN BECAUSE we were concerned with the pollutants that drained into a creek that used to be teeming with salmon. We live on Clark's Creek and with the runoff from yards into the streets and down drains. We felt that it was our time to become actively involved. When we read about the rain gardens, we were immediately drawn in and worked with project managers to get others in our area to think about the benefits of installing one in their yard. **THE BENEFITS FROM MY RAIN GARDEN ARE many.** We know that we are doing our part to renew Clark's Creek. The rapid drain of water from roof into garden and filtering through to drain has prevented the huge amount of water that stood in our yard and flowed into our neighbors’. It is a beautiful visual barrier from our windows to the street. We have a chance to talk about the benefits with the many 'walkers' who stroll by and comment. And the ducks love it! **THE SIZE OF MY RAIN GARDEN IS APPROXIMATELY** 250 sq. ft. **and** the primary source of water entering my rain garden are from the roof.

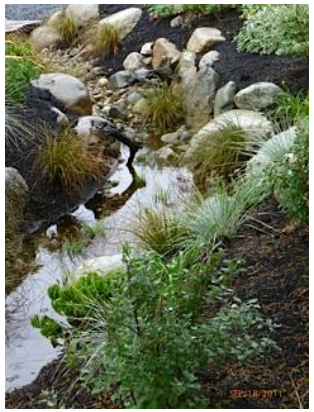
NAME: Jerome Parker

EMAIL: jerome.parker@comcast.net

ADDRESS: Thurston County, 803 Rogers Street, N.W. Olympia WA 98502

I SUPPORT STORNG STORMWATER PERMIT LANGUAGE THAT includes specific requirements for developers to avoid destruction of native plants and reduces total paved surfaces on building sites; eliminates loophole for developers, strengthen requirements for “watershed” approaches; protects forested areas and green spaces.

I WAS INSPIRED TO BUILD MY RAIN GARDEN BECAUSE I grew up in Portland. I have tracked the achievement there. I am, by training, an economist and urban planner and read in the field. Articles in Landscape Architecture routinely feature rain gardens. I am aware of both the aesthetic and the economic benefits of rain gardens. I invested in the rain garden as both an aesthetic and a political statement. **THE BENEFITS FROM MY RAIN GARDEN ARE:** The aesthetic pleasures of the garden. The example it provides to the neighborhood. **THE SIZE OF MY RAIN GARDEN IS APPROXIMATELY** 600 ft. sq. and the **PRIMARY SOURCE OF WATER ENTERING MY RAIN GARDEN** is the street. (Code required a gigantic and expensive dry well. So we get no runoff from house. All is "recruited" from street.)



NAME: Kathryn Rodgers

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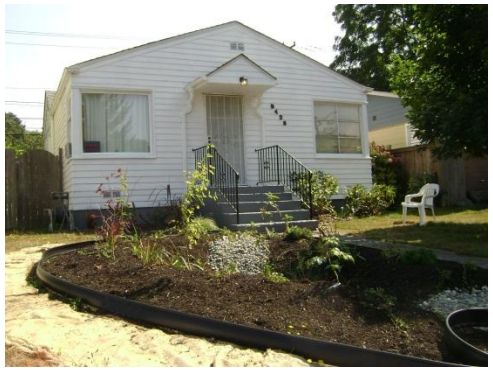
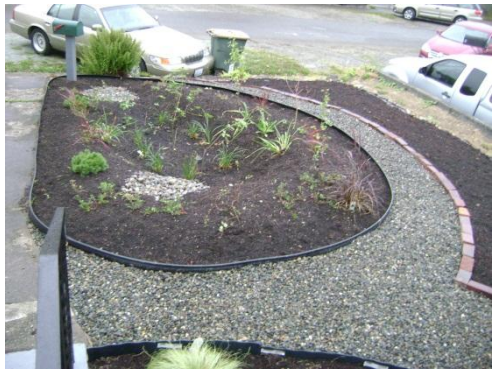
ADDRESS: King Co., 5428 25th Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98106

I SUPPORT STORNG STORMWATER PERMIT LANGUAGE THAT eliminates loophole for developers.

I WAS INSPIRED TO BUILD MY RAIN GARDEN BECAUSE the rain garden project was something our whole neighborhood was talking about and we got very inspired and excited. Good for the environment and our own Longfellow Creek and surrounding are. It sounded like a very fun project as well. **THE BENEFITS FROM MY RAIN GARDEN** help cut down on the runoff from our property. **THE SIZE OF MY RAIN GARDEN IS APPROXIMATELY** 100 sq. feet and the **PRIMARY SOURCE OF WATER ENTERING MY RAIN GARDEN** is the roof.





NAME: Theodore L Anderson

EMAIL: tadand99@gmail.com

ADDRESS: King County, 2807 NW 68th St, Seattle, WA 98117

I SUPPORT STORNG STORMWATER PERMIT LANGUAGE THAT includes specific requirements for developers to avoid destruction of native plants and reduces total paved surfaces on building sites; eliminates loophole for developers, strengthen requirements for "watershed" approaches; protects forested areas and green spaces.

I WAS INSPIRED TO BUILD MY RAIN GARDEN BECAUSE the Seattle subsidy made it financially feasible for us to improve our front yard (exchanging grass for native plants) and do our part to reduce harmful storm water runoff into Puget Sound. We enjoyed working with the contractor and love watching the plants grow in our new garden. What a great deal! **THE BENEFITS FROM MY RAIN GARDEN ARE** watching native plants grows, including wetland plants. Teaching neighborhood kids about native plants. Knowing that our storm drain is not getting clogged up over time with bits of asphalt from our roof, which should make it last longer before needing to be replaced. **THE SIZE OF MY RAIN GARDEN IS APPROXIMATELY** 1200 sq. ft. and the **PRIMARY SOURCE OF WATER ENTERING MY RAIN GARDEN** are from our **roof**.

NAME: Natasha Mosher
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I SUPPORT STORNG STORMWATER PERMIT LANGUAGE THAT includes specific requirements for developers to avoid destruction of native plants and reduces total paved surfaces on building sites; eliminates loophole for developers, strengthen requirements for "watershed" approaches; protects forested areas and green spaces.

I WAS INSPIRED TO BUILD MY RAIN GARDEN BECAUSEI believe passionately that every citizen can make a difference in combatting household pollution. We were given the opportunity to participate in a neighborhood installation of rain gardens and it brought us together as well as benefitting the common landscape (including Longfellow Creek that is a block away.)When we moved into our rental, our landlord was spraying Roundup to deal with weeds. We found garbage dug into, the soil from past tenants. My husband and I knew that we could heal the ground while we were living in this residence and a rain garden was a big piece of the puzzle. **THE BENEFITS FROM MY RAIN GARDEN ARE:** It helps move the roof water away from our home. We had issues with mold in the basement (and had to move from this rental residence). The hope is that after remediation the home will be a healthy place to live in part thanks to the rain garden. It beautifies the neighborhood. The rain garden is also self-sufficient, so I will not need to water the plants during the summer months thereby saving water. **THE SIZE OF MY RAIN GARDEN IS APPROXIMATELY (square footage):** 50 sq. ft. and the **PRIMARY SOURCE OF WATER ENTERING MY RAIN GARDEN** are from the roof.

NAME: Cari Simson

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ADDRESS: King County, 701 S. Orcas Street, Seattle, WA 98108

I SUPPORT STORNG STORMWATER PERMIT LANGUAGE THAT: Includes specific requirements for developers to avoid destruction of native plants and reduce total paved surfaces on building sites;, Eliminate loophole for developers, Strengthen requirements for “watershed” approaches, protecting forested areas and green spaces.

I WAS INSPIRED TO BUILD MY RAIN GARDEN BECAUSE the Duwamish River, and ultimately Puget Sound, receives millions of gallons of untreated wastewater each year through Combined Sewer Overflows. We wanted to design and build "curb-cut" rain gardens as a pilot project to show other communities that this is an effective way to reduce polluted stormwater flows from streets, sidewalks, and other impervious surfaces. The South Orcas Green Street project in the Georgetown neighborhood of Seattle was created using grant funds, and matched with in-kind services from local businesses. This is an effective model for future Low Impact Development projects. **THE BENEFITS FROM MY RAIN GARDEN ARE MANY.** Rain gardens in the street right-of-way reduce pollution in the urban environment by channeling stormwater off the street through a series of small cut-outs or notches in the curb into rain gardens planted with native grasses and shrubs. Our drainage calculations from King County Wastewater say that 1,375 square feet of rain gardens mitigate 100% of rainwater falling on 14,600 square feet of impervious surfaces (streets and sidewalk), and annually holding and absorbing 5,376 gallons of stormwater that would have otherwise run directly into the Duwamish River through the Combined Sewer System during heavy rains. Georgetown residents, local design and construction firms, local government, and the Georgetown Community Council joined forces to build this series of six planted depressions (rain gardens) in the planting strip along South Orcas Street. Cooperation and collaboration are added benefits to the project. Developers could use this model for their own LID requirements. **THE SIZE OF MY RAIN GARDEN IS APPROXIMATELY** 1375 square feet and the **PRIMARY SOURCE OF WATER ENTERING MY RAIN GARDEN** are from our driveway and street.

NAME: Rein Attemann

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ADDRESS: King County, 316 NW 86th St Seattle WA, 98117

I SUPPORT STORNG STORMWATER PERMIT LANGUAGE THAT include specific requirements for developers to avoid destruction of native plants and reduce total paved surfaces on building sites; eliminate loophole for developers, strengthens requirements for "watershed" approaches, and protects forested areas and green spaces.

I WAS INSPIRED TO BUILD MY RAIN GARDEN BECAUSE it was our first house project that transformed our bland, green lawn into a mosaic of diverse flowers, plants, vegetables, herbs, and happy honey bees. As our rain garden matured and took root it became a conversation piece to by-passers and an inspiration for several neighbors to build similar gardens. **THE BENEFITS FROM MY RAIN GARDEN ARE** includes effectively reducing the flooding in our basement. We have transformed our grassy lawn into an oasis of native plants with vegetable plants and herbs for our cooking needs. We have had an unexpected response from our neighbors who took steps to remove their grass lawns too. We enjoy what we have created. **THE SIZE OF MY RAIN GARDEN IS APPROXIMATELY** 1000 square feet and the **PRIMARY SOURCE OF WATER ENTERING MY RAIN GARDEN** from the roof and driveway.