

## Plant Trees to Improve Salem Streams

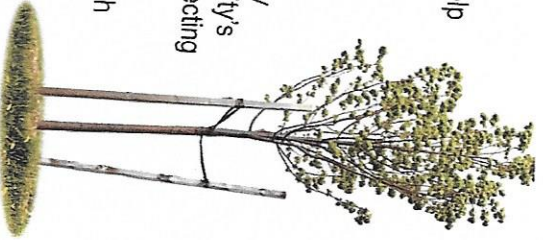
Trees reduce stormwater runoff and the pollutants it carries into Salem streams. They do this by providing shade, intercepting rain, soaking up water through their roots, and holding soil to reduce erosion and to stabilize stream banks.

### How Can You Help?

Plant a tree in your yard, especially near your driveway, where it can help reduce stormwater runoff, increase your property value, and provide year-round beauty.

Work with your neighbors and neighborhood association to beautify your street with trees. Contact the City's Urban Forester for assistance in selecting and planting street trees.

Look for planting events in fall through spring. Visit our Facebook page to learn about upcoming plantings.



## MORE WAYS TO KEEP SALEM WATERWAYS CLEAN

1. Sweep driveways, sidewalks, and patios instead of hosing them off into the street.
2. Use alternatives to pesticides for your lawn and yard care.
3. Plant bare areas, especially slopes with native species.
4. Properly dispose of household hazardous waste
5. Create a rain garden.
6. Replace unneeded pavement on your property with native plants.
7. Use stepping stones for paths.


Contact the City of Salem  
Public Works Department's  
Clean Streams Outreach Team

 503-588-6211

 stormwateroutreach@CityofSalem.net

 CityofSalem.net/Clean-Streams

 Facebook.com/CleanStreamsClearChoices

 1410 20th St. SE Bldg. 2  
Salem, OR 97302


## HOW WILL YOU HELP REDUCE POLLUTION?

Fill out our pledge form to show what actions you will take to reduce pollution.

Visit  
CityofSalem.net/Clean-Streams

Click on  
Prevent Water Pollution

Click on  
Take the Pledge to Protect Streams and Rivers

  
*Clean Streams*  
CLEAR CHOICES

PROTECTING  
OUR WATERWAYS



Our everyday behaviors affect streams.  
Our choices do make a difference.



## The City of Salem's Clean Streams, Clear Choices Initiative

Nearly 90 miles of streams run through the City of Salem, providing character, beauty, wildlife habitat, recreation, and more to our community.

These streams are the backbone of the stormwater system: More than 14,000 storm drains throughout the City of Salem drain directly into these streams as they flow to the Willamette River. Stormwater runoff does not go to a treatment plant, but instead goes directly into the streams. Because of this, our urban stormwater runoff can affect the water quality and aquatic life within those streams.

### THE DIRTY DOZEN - STORM RUNOFF

Household Hazardous Waste • Dirt • Zinc • Garbage  
Nutrients/Fertilizer • E. Coli Bacteria • Mercury  
Pesticides & Herbicides • Chromium • Copper  
High Temperatures • Lead



The Clean Streams, Clear Choices initiative was developed to help Salem residents realize that there are several steps you can take to help keep our streams clean and reduce pollution too.

## Dump No Waste, Drains to Creek Storm Drain Marking

*Dump No Waste, Drains to Creek* is The City of Salem's storm drain marking and awareness program. Volunteers place these storm drain markers on curbs near the storm drain alerting people to the fact that anything that goes down this drain, enters into our streams.



To participate in a Dump No Waste marking project, or for more information, contact the City of Salem's Clean Streams Outreach Team at [stormwateroutreach@cityofsalem.net](mailto:stormwateroutreach@cityofsalem.net) or 503-588-6211.

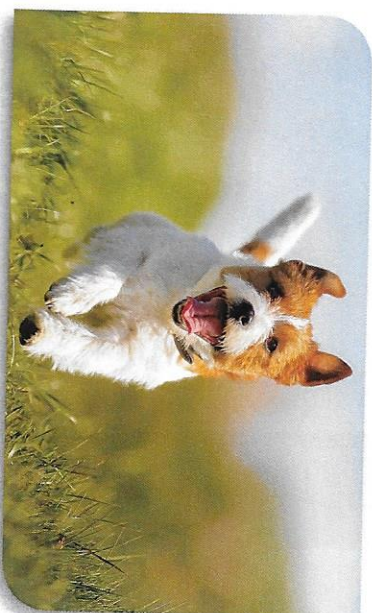
## Environmentally Friendly Car Maintenance

Vehicles are a source of many pollutants including oil, grease, antifreeze and other automotive fluids. Mud, heavy metals, and road residues build up on vehicles and then run off during washing or when it rains, entering the storm drain and harming aquatic life. None of this is good for our waterways, but there are some easy ways to help keep pollutants from vehicles out of our streams.

- Fix leaks promptly.
- Don't work on your car where oil, grease and other fluids can go down the drain.
- Properly dispose of oil and other fluids. To see how visit our Clean Streams website.
- Use soaps that are labeled as non-toxic, chlorine-free, phosphate-free & biodegradable.
- Wash your car on your lawn or gravel area instead of on your driveway, as lawn and gravel will help filter out pollutants.

## Capital Canine Club

You and your pooch can "pawsitively" make a difference in keeping local neighborhoods and streams clean.



### How Can You Help?

Pick up after your pet, every time. **See it, Scoop it, and Toss it in the trash** (not the yard waste bin or compost pile). Leaving pet waste on the ground, even for a little while, can harm waterways when it rains.

Visit: [Cityofsalem.net/Clean-Streams](http://Cityofsalem.net/Clean-Streams) to become a member of the Capital Canine Club by taking the pledge to pick up after your pet.

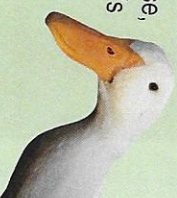
### BEST WAYS TO ENJOY & HELP WILDLIFE

Feeding wildlife human food is bad for their health and bad for the environment. Please do not feed wildlife in city parks.

Instead of feeding ducks and geese, learn to birdwatch. Contact Salem's Park Ranger to find out about bird-watching opportunities at [MZieker@cityofsalem.net](mailto:MZieker@cityofsalem.net).

Secure garbage, compost piles, and pet food to avoid attracting wildlife.

Create backyard habitats using native plants that provide the proper food source for wildlife.







Clean Streams  
CLEAR CHOICES

# Rain Gardens for Home Landscapes



*Rain Gardens are sweeping the Pacific Northwest, beautifying yards and neighborhoods, and reducing pollution in local rivers and streams.*

**Rain gardens are specifically designed to provide several benefits...**

- Help beautify your yard and neighborhood.
- Help improve water drainage in your yard.
- Help protect neighborhoods from localized flooding.
- Help filter polluted runoff before it reaches local streams in Salem, such as Pringle Creek, Mill Creek, and Claggett Creek.
- Provide habitat for pollinators, birds, butterflies, and other wildlife.



Stormwater runoff picks up a variety of pollutants as it flows from rooftop to the nearest storm drain. Consequently, pollutants that enter the storm drain system lead to pollution in local streams and rivers.



You can help reduce pollution by adding a beautiful rain garden to your home landscape. Rain gardens are uniquely created to filter out pollutants in water runoff. A rain garden receiving runoff from just 500 square feet of rooftop absorbs about 13,000 gallons of rain a year!

Rain gardens can be an easy and affordable DIY project for home owners. Depending on the location, they require minimal skill, time to create, and maintenance. Or, contact your local landscape professional for ideas and designs.

**Interested in creating a rain garden  
in your yard?**

Request a Rain Garden Guide from the  
City of Salem's Clean Streams Outreach Team at  
503-588-6211 or [stormwateroutreach@cityofsalem.net](mailto:stormwateroutreach@cityofsalem.net)

