

# DIG



- ✓ Good for **Downtown**
- ✓ Good for the **Creek**
- ✓ Good for **Business**

- Improves downtown's sense of place through enhanced vegetation
- Improves water quality of Whatcom Creek
- Adds pedestrian safety with added green islands

Find out if your business can be a  
**DIG Steward.**



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**DIG Steward.**

Contact:



360 647-7093

[www.sustainableconnections.org](http://www.sustainableconnections.org)

or



360 527-8710

[www.downtownbellingham.com](http://www.downtownbellingham.com)



To learn more visit

[www.cob.org](http://www.cob.org) and search for DIG

or contact

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CITY OF BELLINGHAM  Low Impact Development



# DIG

## Downtown Improvement Gardens



600 local businesses taking action for a healthy community.



## The DIG Program

To help improve the water quality in Whatcom Creek, the City of Bellingham recieved a grant from the Department of Ecology. Installing 36 raingardens in strategic locations downtown will help treat and infiltrate stormwater from over 80 acres in our central business district.

At the same time, this project will improve downtown by bringing more landscaping and green space to our urban center.

Now that is something to DIG!



## Piping Pollution

Right now, the stormwater runoff from 80 downtown acres picks up oil, grease, heavy metals, sediments and bacteria from the paved surfaces and carries it

directly to Whatcom Creek. The creek is now an impaired urban stream. Temperatures are too hot and fecal coliform is too high. The City of Bellingham has developed a plan to help address this issue; raingardens!



## A Green Solution

Raingardens are gardens designed to:

- Filter pollutants from stormwater as close to their source as possible
- Reduce runoff from streets and infiltrate stormwater into the soil and ground
- Improve water quality to nearby streams
- Beautify neighborhoods with minimal maintenance once the plants are established
- Reduce stormwater and sewer infrastructure costs

**In a recent downtown planning survey, green space downtown was the second highest ranked priority for community resources.**



## DIG Stewards

To participate in DIG, an adjacent business will be asked to become a DIG Steward and provide oversight and maintenance; keeping trash out and plants alive. DIG Stewards will improve their business curb appeal and water quality in the creek. It's a win-win! The city maintenance staff will complete thorough maintenance and review annually, leaving the technical work to the professionals.

It's that easy.

**Find out if your business can be a DIG Steward.**

