

DIG Downtown Improvement Gardens

Frequently Asked Questions



Find out if your business can be a DIG Steward.

What is the DIG program and why is it important?

The Downtown Improvement Gardens (DIG) program aims to improve Whatcom Creek. Installing 36 raingardens in strategic locations downtown will help treat and infiltrate stormwater from over 80 urban acres. DIG also creates attractive urban green spaces in our downtown, enhances pedestrian and bicycle safety, and helps protect sewer ratepayers' investments in the piped collection system.

Who maintains and cares for DIG?

To really keep the raingardens in good shape, DIG Stewards will need to provide oversight and care, especially during establishment. The City is responsible for looking after these raingardens as an important part of the city's stormwater collection system. City Stormwater Maintenance crews will visit DIG sites periodically, every 6-12 months, to make sure they function properly.

What is the role of a DIG Steward?

Becoming a DIG Steward is voluntary. As a DIG Steward, you will be partnering with the City to help with simple activities; picking up trash and debris, making sure curb openings and overflow drains are unobstructed and pulling out invasive weeds. This will help keep dirty stormwater and pollutants out of our streams while maintaining attractive streetscapes for our community. Anytime you suspect your DIG isn't functioning properly, you can call the City Stormwater crews.

Do I need to attend a training workshop?

The City recommends that you attend a training workshop for more information on how to be the best DIG Steward by making sure your DIG looks and functions properly. Training dates will be provided on the City webpage.

How much time will it take me?

As a DIG Steward, you can spend as much time as you want caring for your raingarden. We know you're busy and appreciate any time you can provide. Important times to check on your DIG are before and after a storm event when heavy rains can cause trash and debris to collect around curb openings and drains, preventing stormwater from entering the raingarden. Removing any trash, debris, and leaves from curb openings and overflow drains ensures your raingarden will function properly. A periodic check for invasive weeds improves both performance and appearance.

Can I add plants, flowers, or vegetables to my DIG?

Adding colorful plants and flowers to your raingarden may seem attractive, but they can disrupt the raingarden's function in managing stormwater. The City carefully selects the plants and soil that work best for stormwater management. Any changes or plant additions to your raingarden may disrupt this function and crowd out desired plants. If you think more plants are needed, check with the City Stormwater crews.

To learn more - www.cob.org and search DIG

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