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## GREEN from the Ground Up

This fact sheet is one of a series on nature-friendly development practices created by Metro through its Nature in Neighborhoods initiative.

Nature-friendly development practices minimize the impact of development on natural resources and can help developers save money and add value to their properties.

Nature in Neighborhoods is Metro's long-term effort to protect and restore fish and wildlife habitat throughout the urban area and ensure that every citizen in the region has access to nature.

# Nature-friendly design

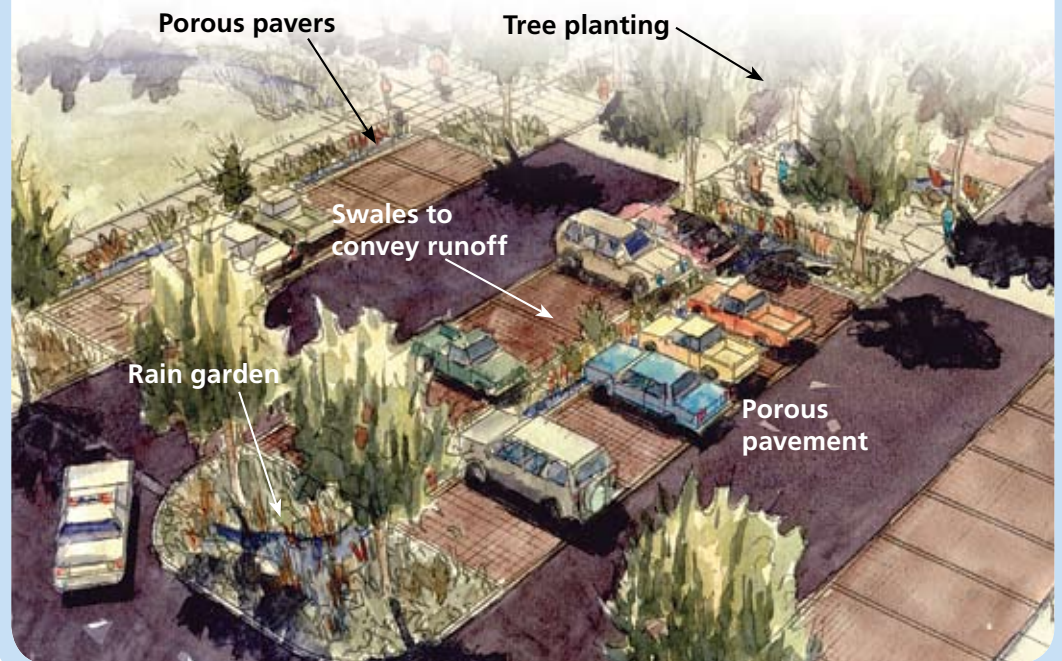
## Protecting natural assets as we grow

In an average week, the Portland metropolitan area gains more than 500 new residents. Metro's most recent population projections show that about a million more people will be living in the area by 2030. Accommodating growth while protecting our natural resources and quality of life presents major challenges. Growth results in more rooftops, pavement and stormwater runoff. Traditional ways of protecting water resources from stormwater runoff have not proven fully effective, and our streams and rivers are threatened by storm flows and pollutants carried by stormwater.

### Nature-friendly design practices.

Approaching land development and stormwater management in a way that mimics nature's processes can help. In a mature Pacific Northwest forest, very little rainwater runs off the land. Instead, it soaks into the ground where the soils remove pollutants naturally. The water nourishes trees and plants and recharges streams, wetlands and groundwater. Or the water collects on leaves and branches evaporating and becoming rainfall again.

### Parking lot using nature-friendly design practices



**Metro** | *Keep nature in neighborhoods*



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.

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**GREEN from the Ground Up**  
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**For more information** on nature-friendly development practices or Metro's Nature in Neighborhoods initiative, visit [www.oregonmetro.gov/nature](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/nature), send e-mail to [nature@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:nature@oregonmetro.gov) or call 503-797-1555.

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**Partners in the use of low impact development practices:**

Home Builders Association of Metro Portland, Building Green Council

Earth Advantage Inc.

Energy Trust of Oregon

**Some of the key features of nature-friendly development practices include:**

- protecting existing vegetation and soils
  - planting trees and native or drought-resistant plants
  - reducing impervious surfaces such as roads, parking lots and rooftops that produce runoff
  - using rain gardens, porous pavement and other small-scale stormwater controls
  - clustering houses and other buildings on a site so stormwater can follow more natural drainage patterns and valuable habitat and wildlife corridors can be preserved
- Nature-friendly development practices not only manage stormwater and conserve valuable fish and wildlife habitat, they make neighborhoods look greener and more beautiful. In some cases these projects are less expensive to build and maintain. And because they are more attractive, they may also sell more quickly and command a higher price.

**These illustrations show examples of how such practices can be integrated into developments and put nature in every neighborhood.**



Illustrations courtesy of GreenWorks. Text modified from Low Impact Development brochure, Puget Sound Action Team, 2006.