



WTD's Commitment to Green Stormwater Infrastructure Solutions

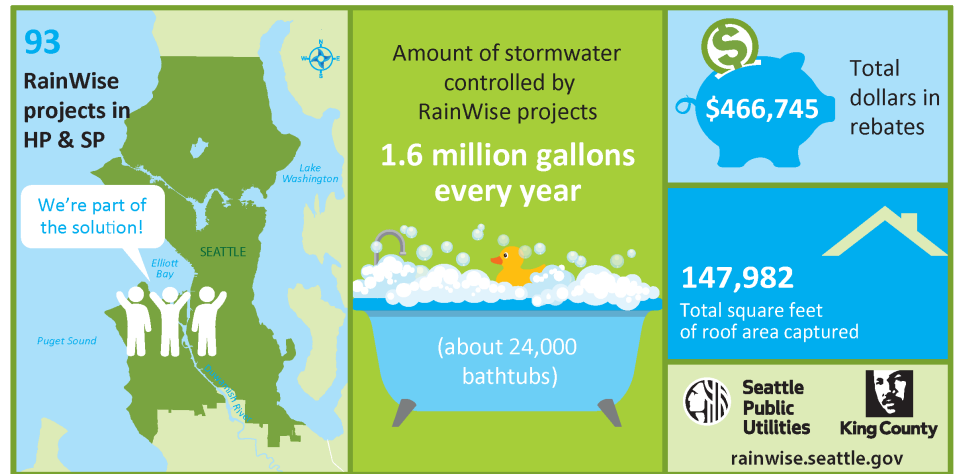
King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) is working to control all our combined sewer overflows (CSOs) through a number of strategies. One way we are reducing CSOs is through [natural drainage solutions](#), also known as green stormwater infrastructure (GSI), which **use plants, trees, and soil to soak up the rain**. These solutions help our neighborhoods manage stormwater naturally and on-site, and compliment [traditional infrastructure improvements](#) being made by the county.

WTD is committed to expanding GSI opportunities within the Lower Duwamish Watershed – below are some examples of that work and investments that have been made over the past decade:

RainWise Program

[RainWise](#) helps private property owners install rain gardens and cisterns to help manage the rain that falls on their roofs. In addition to stopping water pollution, these installations can add attractive landscaping, provide water for summer irrigation, and may reduce flooding.

The South Park and Highland Park neighborhoods are both RainWise eligible CSO basins and have been open since King County first joined the RainWise program in 2013.



GSI Mini Grants in the Lower Duwamish Watershed

The [GSI Mini Grant program](#) provides small grants to private property owners in the WTD service area. These Mini Grants fund various green stormwater installations that help stop polluted runoff by managing the rain that falls on their properties. GSI Mini Grants were developed by Stewardship Partners and have been funded by WTD's WaterWorks Grant Program, Sediment Management program, and other King County sources. Mini Grants provide up to \$1,500 for homeowners and \$4,500 for income-qualified homeowners and nonprofits to put in rain gardens, stormwater cisterns and other GSI features.

Within the Lower Duwamish Watershed, GSI Mini Grants have resulted in:

- Number of Grants awarded: 32
- Contributing sq ft: 38,155
- Grant amount awarded out: \$82,972

Supporting Green Career Pathways & Training

The GSI industry is not only a natural and sustainable solution for stormwater management — but it also provides opportunities for living-wage jobs. Expertise in the design, construction, and maintenance of green infrastructure is growing in demand. Since 2015, King County has provided substantial funding for [DIRT Corps](#), a bilingual green infrastructure job training program that offers on-the-job training for young adults.

The program specifically encourages women, people of color, veterans, and un- or under-employed adults to develop GSI skills, such as sustainable design, habitat enhancement, water quality enhancement, and public education. In addition to skill-building, DIRT Corps helped participants match their GSI career interests and expertise with available vocational/technical coursework and job-finding tools.



Georgetown Green Wall

In partnership with the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition and Just Health Action, King County WTD explored potential solutions to environmental issues in the Georgetown neighborhood. As a result, the [Georgetown Green Wall](#) was built in 2016 and is the largest freestanding green wall in the Seattle area – a 126-foot long, 13-foot high vegetated trellis at CDL Recycling.

Green walls not only improve air quality, they also help rain soak into the ground and filter out pollutants. As green walls grow and their plants mature, they become a living, breathing member of the community filtering dust from industrial activities to help protect the eyes and lungs of nearby residents. Another wall is at the entrance to the library across the river in South Park.



Equinox Studios Demonstration GSI

Located in Georgetown, Equinox Studios joined forces with ECOSS to develop the first of its kind, large-scale industrial GSI demonstration site. The Equinox “Industrial Strength” GSI demonstration site showcases stormwater solutions that can be adopted by any industrial or manufacturing business to improve water quality from rainwater pollution.

WTD worked with both Equinox Studios and ECOSS to develop and fabricate interpretive signage for each of the GSI examples present on site. The result is an educational walking tour for community members to learn more about what the benefits GSI can provide their neighborhoods and celebrate the example being set there.



WaterWorks Grant Program

The WaterWorks Grant Program provides \$4 million every 2 years for community-led projects that protect water quality, control pollution, and build healthy communities.

Between 2015 and 2019, the program funded 47 projects totaling \$4M partially or entirely within Lower Duwamish Watershed. Learn more about projects funded by WaterWorks and future funding cycles at: www.kingcounty.gov/waterworks-grants

