



## DID YOU KNOW?

An evergreen, such as this pine outside City Hall, is a tree that retains its leaves throughout the year, and is always green. Species include hemlocks, spruce, cedar, and holly. In comparison, a deciduous tree, next to the pine, sheds its leaves seasonally as it adapts to cold or dry/wet seasons. Examples include maple, elm, aspen and birch trees.

(within 200 feet of the ordinary high water mark from the Green or White River); and those that are located in the floodplain jurisdiction, identified by FEMA mapping, are subjected to additional rules and restrictions. City of Auburn Planning and Environmental Services staff can confirm whether or not trees are located within any of these areas, what activities can be undertaken, and what additional permitting requirements would apply.



If you would like to report concerns or have any questions regarding the maintenance or removal of a specific tree located in the public right of way, please call Public Works at 253-931-3010.



## Maintaining Your Rain Garden

A rain garden is a shallow landscaped area that collects, absorbs, and filters rainwater runoff from rooftops, driveways, patios and other hard surfaces that don't allow water to soak in. In the summer issue of Auburn Magazine, we talked about some important elements to consider when preparing to plant a rain garden. Maintenance is another important thing to consider as you design and build your rain garden. The first year or two of establishment will require more frequent maintenance, but the long term goal is simply annual pruning and occasional clean-up. To make maintenance easy and ensure the proper functioning of the rain garden, keep these ideas in mind:

### PRUNING & WEEDING

Plants work together with the soil to help manage rainwater runoff that enters your rain garden. Keeping plants healthy is especially important in the first two years after being installed, so regular weeding will be needed. As plants become established, less weeding is required. Selecting the right plants can help minimize the need for pruning, but occasionally you may need to prune to keep sidewalks clear. You will also need to clear the areas where water flows in the garden and where water overflows gather.

### EROSION CONTROL

A cobble rock pad at the inflow of your rain garden should help prevent soil erosion caused by rainwater entering the space. If there are other areas where rainwater is wearing down the soil layer, stabilize these with more rocks to disperse the flows. If sediment is being deposited into the rain garden from water flowing in, try to locate the source and stabilize that area as well. Refreshing the shredded or chipped wood mulch layer in between plants is another important maintenance practice to help control soil erosion, so plan on applying mulch once or twice a year.

### CLEAN UP DEBRIS

Picking up litter and debris will keep your rain garden looking great and help it manage rainwater better. Check periodically around the inlets and overflow for leaves and litter, especially after large storms or in the fall. Some natural leaf debris can serve as beneficial compost for the garden, but this should be raked to clear the inlet so that water can enter the garden.



### RAIN GARDEN RESOURCES

Check out these resources for managing your rain garden:  
Free pdf Rain Garden Handbook for Western Washington

<http://ext100.wsu.edu/raingarden/>

Natural yard care and organic materials management information from the Washington State Department of Ecology

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/organics/soil.html>

Noxious Weed Control: King County website on managing noxious weeds <http://www.kingcounty.gov/weeds>



## Quick Pick

Sustainability efforts cannot rest solely on the shoulders of the government. In fact, it is local area businesses and everyday citizens that make the biggest impact, and reduce our overall carbon footprint. One great example of a local business thinking and acting sustainably is PICK-QUICK. This award winning, family owned quick-service restaurant proudly offers our community a local, natural and sustainable dining option.

Not only have they incorporated several low-impact development and sustainability elements into the development of their location – including rain gardens, pervious pavement, energy efficient architecture and reserved parking for fuel efficient vehicles, but they have also integrated sustainability goals into their company brand. Step into the lobby and you will be immersed in informational reminders of the various conservation and composting efforts that have become a company standard. “PICK-QUICK has been a model of sustainability since



its 1949 founding in Fife, WA,” says Gerard Centiolo, President and CEO of PICK-QUICK Development Company LLC. “Over the past 67 years customers have enjoyed dining atop picnic tables, on lush lawns, surrounded by beautiful flowers and plants. The City of Auburn understood our commitments to sustainability which is why PICK-QUICK No. 2 was opened here 5 years ago.”

Thank you Pick Quick for not only serving delicious food but for also embracing a business model that cares for our community, and cares for the environment... one meal at a time!

## Auburn’s 2016 Sustainable Living Field Trips, Workshops & Tour Series

Learn more about Sustainable Living by joining us for our final two events.

### Green Cleaning & Healthy Homecare Workshop, Auburn, WA October 20, 2016, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Improve your health and energy by creating a sparkly clean and vibrant home – the residue-free way. Cleaning the residue-free way reduces your family’s exposure to chemicals and saves you time and money. Denise Frakes, owner of Blue Sky Services will be sharing tips and wisdom from her 25 years of experience in cleaning for healthy homes.

(Please find appropriate image)



### “Just Eat It” – Sustainability Movie Night

**November 10, 2016, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

Join us for a free community movie screening of Just Eat It. Filmmakers and food lovers, Jen and Grant, dive into the issue of waste from farm, through retail, all the way to the back of their own fridge. After catching a glimpse of the billions of dollars of good food that is tossed each year in North America, they pledge to quit grocery shopping cold turkey and survive only on foods that would otherwise be thrown away.



## Reduce Food Waste and Save Money

Americans waste about 25 percent of the food and drinks we buy, to the tune of \$130 every single month. Whether it’s old milk, limp salad mixings, old meats and cheeses or a left over restaurant take-out meal, chances are you wasted food. Take steps this holiday season to reduce food waste and save on your family grocery bill. Visit King County’s, “Food: Too Good to Waste” webpage for information on smart shopping, food preparation, storage and saving tips at <http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/wasteprevention/too-good-to-waste.asp>. If you do have food that is no longer edible, put it in your compostables cart for collection or into your closed compost system in your backyard. All yard debris and food waste collected in your carts goes to Cedar Grove Composting to be made into a healthy compost product that enhances your soil.



Register at [www.auburnwa.gov/solidwaste](http://www.auburnwa.gov/solidwaste).  
Call 253-931-3038.