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Rain Gardens: Effective, Natural, and Cheap

by Tim Brockway and Kas Kinkead

“Two area schools — one just built, one in the works — have adopted sustainable stormwater management systems that save money, improve aesthetics and behave like a natural forest ecosystem,” writes Brockway and Kinkead.

These systems, called rain gardens, release stormwater into the ground more effectively than traditional collection and treatment systems.

Brockway and Kinkead add, “Building rain gardens into site and landscape designs is becoming more popular and cost effective as sustainable building practices become more commonplace. This is especially true when sustainable strategies are a part of early design.”

The two schools referenced in the article are Benjamin Franklin Elementary School in Kirkland and Gray Middle School in Tacoma. Both schools were designed by Mahlum Architects with structural/civil engineering services provided by Coughlin Porter Lundeen.

Tim Brockway is a senior project manager at Coughlin Porter Lundeen and Kas Kinkead is a principal at Cascade Design Collaborative.



Benjamin Franklin Elementary School, Kirkland