

**BELLINGHAM SOAKS UP SAVINGS WITH RAINGARDEN PROJECTS****CITY SAVES 78 PERCENT OVER INITIAL COST AND 49% IN STORMWATER COSTS**

BELLINGHAM, WA – Aug. 26, 2015 – The Greenroads Foundation announced that the City of Bellingham's \$997,000 [Central Business District Raingardens Project](#) in downtown Bellingham has earned a Greenroads Bronze Rating. The CBD Raingardens Project is a collection of four small projects to build 36 raingardens of varying size that treat 88 acres of stormwater.

"The team earned points for using 31 percent overall recycled aggregate and meeting very ambitious stormwater goals," said Jeralee Anderson, Executive Director, Greenroads Foundation.

"Now we are treating 91 percent of the water that comes from the Central Business District. That's awesome," said Freeman Anthony, City of Bellingham Public Works Director. "In short, we just didn't want to build another wastewater treatment facility so we came up with a different plan. It was inexpensive, effective and [very popular with our elected leaders and the community.](#)"

Bellingham's downtown area has two basins that drain into Whatcom Creek which drains to Puget Sound. With an environmentally-motivated grant from the Washington Department of Ecology, the city identified four corridors, 17 intersections and 35 corners to build raingardens. Some are tiny, [a rain bulb](#). Others include [splash blocks](#) to dissipate the water's energy. Others are larger and more typical.

The city plan also identified pedestrian, bicycle and ADA accessibility improvements that could be completed as streets corners were under construction. The result was a significant environmental benefit and a better transportation system.

"We are really happy with the results," said Anthony. "For the first time in years, I'm actually looking forward to Washington's rainy fall so I can watch this project save us money. Your move Tacoma!"

The City of Bellingham now has five completed Greenroads projects, the city of Tacoma has four. Bellingham is also making plans to do more projects by building Greenroads into their comprehensive plan.

The four projects include:

- [York and Forest Streets](#)
- [Unity Street](#)
- [East Champion Street](#)
- [East Magnolia Street](#)

**ABOUT GREENROADS**

The Greenroads Rating System is a collection of sustainable roadway design and construction best practices that address water, environment, access, community impact, construction practices and materials. There are 11 "Project Requirements" that must be completed in order for a roadway to be considered a Greenroad, as well as 37 "Voluntary Credits" that a project team can choose to pursue. After a rigorous review process, the Greenroads Foundation then assigns a project score based on the number of points earned by meeting the requirements and achieving credits. This score translates to one of four certification levels: Bronze, Silver, Gold and Evergreen.