Be RainWise rebates for rain gardens & cisterns

Seattle Public Utilities

King County

Big Roof Case Study

Willis House

6341 5th Ave NE

Willis House's rain garden in front of the building for all to enjoy.

RainWise contractor Vireo Design Studio worked with Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) to complete the installation.

Contractor: Vireo Design Studio | 10 cisterns | One rain garden | 7,614 ft^2 of roof captured | Rebate amount TBD | Completed in 2010

Project Summary

Located in the Green Lake neighborhood of north Seattle, Willis House is one of 400 **Seattle Housing Authority** (SHA) sites that provides long term, low-income rental housing for Seattle residents. Willis House is part of SHA's Seattle Senior Housing Program and comprises of 42 apartments. Willis House's RainWise installation manages rainwater runoff from over 7,500 square feet of flat roof area. The project

- creates community collaboration towards maintaining the rain garden,
- keeps 27,000 gallons out of the sewer system every year,
- maintains a habitat for pollinators and native plants,
- protects Puget Sound from combined sewer system overflows.

The installation was completed in May 2019, with a total of $xxx covered by the RainWise rebate program.

For more information, please visit: rainwise.seattle.gov

Alternative Formats Available—Call 206-633-0224 or TTY:711

Willis House

Project Specifications

Vireo Design Studio directed water from 7,614 square feet of roof area to flow into 10 cisterns and one rain garden. Large native shrubs were installed adjacent to the cisterns for natural screening and for beneficial wildlife habitat. To maximize the amount of storm water collected, Vireo Design Studio arranged the cisterns in a 'daisy chain' aligned closely to the building to ensure positive drainage towards the existing side sewer. They were careful not to damage existing plantings and replanted in a few places to ensure plant viability.

This project diverts **27,000 gallons** from the sewer system each year to reduce combined sewer overflows.

"Residents were, for the most part, very supportive and viewed the addition of the rain garden as a positive change!

Jan Satterthwaite, Vireo Design Studio

Three 530-gallon cisterns on north side of building.

Two beige cisterns to match the complex.

A total of 10 cisterns adorn the property.

Stakeholder Collaboration

Working with Seattle Housing Authority was a new experience for Vireo Design Studio because of the multiple stakeholders involved in a Big Roof project, including administrative managers, project managers, site managers, landscape maintenance professionals and outreach professionals.

Vireo created an extensive detailed proposal and illustrative drawings to communicate the concept to not only SHA staff but to the 30 plus individuals who live at Willis House.

Willis House is proud to be the first SHA RainWise site and encourages other residential properties to join the RainWise program to reduce pollution into our beautiful waterways.

Project partners include SHA staff, King County staff, RainWise outreach staff and the creative design talents of the RainWise contractor, Vireo Design Studio.

About RainWise

RainWise is a joint program between Seattle Public Utilities and King County Wastewater Treatment Division that provides rebates for rain gardens and cisterns to private property owners in eligible areas. Rain gardens and cisterns help control stormwater, reducing sewer overflows and the erosion of hillsides and stream banks. We'll help you determine if your property qualifies.

For more information, please visit: rainwise.seattle.gov

RainWise
Seattle Public Utilities
King County

Case study completed by Urban Systems Design. Contact us at Sonja.rainwise@gmail.com.