

Beautifully maintained yards are a pleasure, but they can take a toll on our environment.

How?

Overusing fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and special additives can add nutrients and harmful chemicals to waterways.

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Planting non-native species.

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Overwatering which allows excess water to run into the gutter and down storm drains.

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Mowing your grass too short and not leaving it as a lawn mulch.

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Leaving cut grass on the street or sidewalk, or dumping grass and yard clippings in waterways or along their banks.



Native Alaska Plants



Why it's important.

Keeping fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and other chemical additives out of our creeks and lakes improves water quality.

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Healthy riparian areas provide habitat for a variety of wildlife and fish, especially salmon.

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If more water is retained in your yard, there is less potential for flooding.

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Remember, all stormwater and yard runoff goes directly into our waterways without ANY treatment.



How can you help?

Reduce or eliminate the amount of chemical additives in your yard.

*Less is better.*

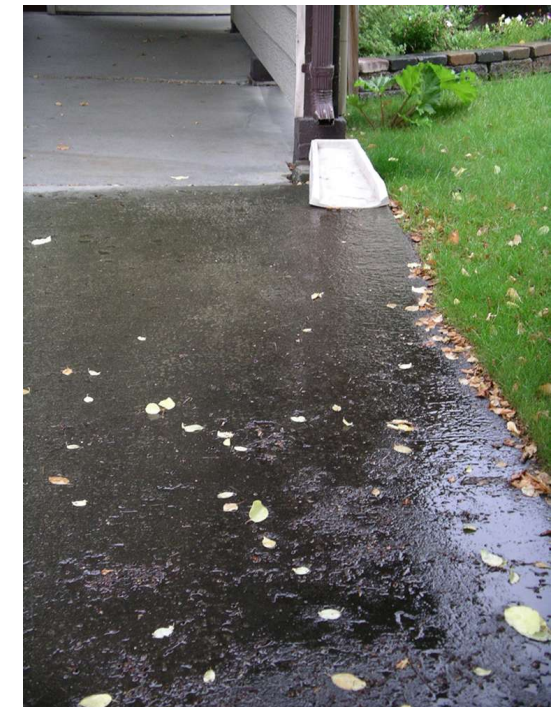
And, find out what your yard really needs.

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Buffer areas that are more susceptible to runoff, such as slopes, with dense vegetation or consider installing swales or rain gardens.

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Make use of your roof runoff by draining it into a rain barrel or by turning your downspouts onto a vegetated area.



Simply turn the downspout drain 90 degrees onto vegetation rather than on the driveway.