

Planting Strategies

Green Rainwater Infrastructure

The plant community design approach seeks to leverage the framework of natural plant communities, a group of plants that occur together and share similarities in growing conditions. By emulating the structural elements and growing conditions of natural plant communities, we can design dynamic landscapes that include natural processes, like plant succession and competition, which are more resilient in the face of climate change.

Naturalized, informal planting strategy

During phase 1 engagement we heard a strong preference for a naturalized, informal planting strategy. We heard you and have made this the foundation of our planting concept.



Juncus effusus

- GRI superstar
- Habitat creator
- BC native
- Evergreen, winter interest



Yerba Santa

- Food for California Tortoiseshell
- Drought tolerant
- California native

Include adaptive naturalized plants

Highlighted in our ethnobotany engagement, many plants that are not from Coast Salish territory still offer benefits to people, animals and other plants. In addition to native plants we have included some adaptive plants to enhance the ecological function of the Rainway.



Monardella

- Food for Western Bumblebee
- BC native
- Drought tolerant

Planting for pollinators and habitat

PLANTING STRUCTURE

the **lowest planting zone** receives the most amount of water, and supports plant species that can tolerate standing water as well as fluctuating water levels. We consider plants that thrive in this area as our **GRI superstars**

The **middle zone or side slope** is slightly drier, but also supports plant species that can tolerate fluctuating water levels.

The **outer zone or edge** contains plant species that do not anticipate standing water. Plant species in this zone should be highly tolerant of drought, and urban pollution.

New trees to maximize canopy

To keep the St George Rainway cooler during the summer months, while adding vertical beauty, new trees will be planted to increase the canopy cover.



River Birch

- Improves tree canopy
- BC native
- Naturalized look



Creeping Blueblossom

- Evergreen, winter interest
- Great pollinator
- Drought tolerant
- California native

Planting for all four seasons

To ensure the rain garden looks beautiful year round we've included evergreen plants, plants that have winter interest and included some adaptive plants to extend the bloom season.



Wood Sorrel

- Shaded ground cover
- BC Native
- Evergreen, winter interest

Evergreen plants to manage water year-round

Western Buttercup

- Good plant, bad rep
- Evergreen, winter interest
- Habitat creator
- BC native



Plant "good plants with a bad rap"

Identified in our ethnobotany engagement, good plants with a bad rap are plants that are typically seen as invasive or weedy but have the opportunity to thrive in rain gardens, such as western buttercup and horsetail.

Want to learn more about rain garden plants? Check out our [GRI Planting and Ecology Guideline](#) and [GRI Recommended Plant List](#)