Kitsap County Public Works completed their latest Green Street this summer. SSWM installed new stormwater infrastructure on Forest Drive NE and 31st Street in East Bremerton. The new stormwater infrastructure will reduce local flooding and help improve water quality in Puget Sound. Two bioretention cells (curb-bulb style rain gardens) and a permeable paver parking area were built in the road right-of-way on Forest Drive.

**Traditional and “Green” Stormwater Infrastructure**

The new stormwater infrastructure includes:

- Stormwater pipes and catch basins at the intersection of NE 31st Street and Forest Drive NE, and 31st Street to Perry Avenue.
- Two bioretention cells and permeable pavers on the south side of Forest Drive.

The bioretention cells (curb-bulb style rain gardens) collect, infiltrate and filter stormwater runoff from driveways, streets, parking lots and other hard surfaces. Permeable pavement, including these pavers, allows water to flow through it and infiltrate into the ground below.

**Bioretention and Permeable Pavers in the Right-of-Way**

The bioretention and permeable pavers are built into the existing road right-of-way, extending the curb into the road and resulting in a narrower road. There is sufficient space for two lanes of traffic and for on-street parking on Forest Drive. A new sidewalk also was built along Forest Drive.

**Partnerships at Work**

This project is a partnership among the Kitsap County Surface and Stormwater Management (SSWM) Division, Road Division, and Kitsap Conservation District (KCD). SSWM installed the bioretention, permeable pavers, curb and gutter, and the stormwater pipes and catch basins. The Roads Division paved Forest Drive and 31st Street. KCD planted the bioretention cells in the fall of 2012.

**What is a Green Street?**

A Green Street uses natural drainage systems such as bioretention and permeable pavers to keep stormwater runoff near its source. Plants and soil slow, clean and infiltrate runoff.

**Benefits of a Green Street**

- Reduce stormwater runoff
- Reduce flooding
- Improve water quality
- Replenish groundwater
- Provide wildlife habitat