Bioretention Swales
Collecting Stormwater & Filtering Pollution Naturally

Our swale incorporates a compost-soil mix that has a high infiltration rate and native plants that thrive in wet weather and dry summers. Bioretention swales are flow-through systems that collect, clean and slowly release stormwater. They can be installed in lawns, median strips, parking islands, along roads and incorporated into new or existing developments. The Kitsap County Surface and Stormwater Management (SSWM) Program will be retrofitting some ditches with bioretention swales to enhance water quality.

Bioretention Benefits
- Reduce flooding
- Remove pollutants
- Control runoff volume and flows
- Recharge groundwater
- Provide wildlife habitat

Why are there rocks in the swale?
This swale is on a slope so a series of check dams are built to pond and slow water down. A check dam “checks” water, reducing erosion, encouraging the settling of sediment and pollutants and allowing water to absorb.

Do bioretention swales support mosquitoes?
No. Bioretention swales absorb water so quickly — within 24-48 hours — that mosquitoes don’t have enough time to hatch.