

# Be **RainWise** rebates for rain gardens & cisterns



Seattle  
Public  
Utilities



King County

## Big Roof Case Study

# Our Lady of Guadalupe

7000 35th Ave SW



*Our Lady of Guadalupe principal, Donna Ramos, stands proudly above the three cisterns covered by the RainWise rebate program.*



*Rain Dog Designs installed a “vertical” rain garden in a planter box to capture water flow from the cisterns.*

Contractor:  
Rain Dog Designs



Three  
cisterns



One rain  
garden



4,760 ft<sup>2</sup> of  
roof captured



\$16,374.40  
rebated



Completed  
in 2016

## Project Summary

Located in the High Point/Delridge neighborhood of West Seattle, Our Lady of Guadalupe (OLG)’s RainWise installation represents a success story of multi-stakeholder collaboration towards managing rainwater runoff from 4,760 square feet of flat roof area. The project

- generates substantial water storage for summer landscape irrigation,
- provides detention and infiltration of the existing roof area,
- protects Puget Sound from combined sewer system overflows, and
- created an elevated or “vertical” rain garden in an existing planter box – which was inspired by existing stormwater code for new developments, a first for RainWise.

The project was completed in 2016, with a total of \$16,374.40 covered by the RainWise rebate program.

**For more information, please visit: [rainwise.seattle.gov](http://rainwise.seattle.gov)**

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

# Our Lady of Guadalupe

## Project Specifications

The entire roof drains into three 1,320 gallon cisterns. Two cisterns overflow into the “vertical” rain garden and the other cistern overflows into a buried pipe, then out to a tree planter area.

This “vertical” rain garden allows water to collect via roof, but instead of a shallow depression in the ground, contractors placed the spongy soil and plants above ground in an existing planter box. Rain Dog Designs got pre-approval for this installation and Our Lady of Guadalupe is the first to use this option within the RainWise program.

While not appropriate at all sites, this innovation is an example of contractors working together with their clients and RainWise to allow rebates at complex sites.



*One cistern flows into this square planter area while the other two flow into the “vertical” rain garden.*



*Cisterns under ramp.*



*Elevated rain garden, before and after.*

## Environmental Stewardship & Stakeholder Collaboration

Project partners include church leadership, King County staff, RainWise outreach staff and the creative design talents of the RainWise contractor, Rain Dog Designs. All stakeholders worked together to keep thousands of gallons of rainwater out of the sewer system each year.

The project connected the Peace Lutheran GreenTeam, who previously participated in the RainWise rebate program, with OLG leadership to kick start the project. Even the Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle took notice and is sharing OLG’s success story with other Catholic schools and churches. The collaboration continues, with Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic School developing a RainWise curriculum for science students to learn about the system on their property.

## 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](http://rainwise.seattle.gov)**

*Case study completed by Urban Systems Design. Contact us at 206-678-2604 or email at [Sonja.rainwise@gmail.com](mailto:Sonja.rainwise@gmail.com).*





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## Big Roof Case Study

# St. Benedict's School & Parish

1805 N 49th St



*St. Benedict's Church first RainWise project entailed one cistern going into a rain garden.*



*The rain garden will get fuller and fuller each year.*

Contractors:  
Wenger Designs &  
Aster Rosa Ecology



One  
cistern



One rain  
garden



??? ft<sup>2</sup> of  
roof captured



\$???  
rebated



Completed  
in 2018

## Project Summary

St. Benedict's School and Parish is located in the Wallingford neighborhood of Seattle. Metropolitan Management Co. manages 45 properties in Seattle and even more outside the city. Two of their properties, Barton Court, located in the Barton neighborhood of West Seattle, and The Bostonian in Capitol Hill, became RainWise in recent years. The project

- manages rainwater runoff from almost 5,300 combined square feet of flat roof area,
- provides detention and infiltration of the existing roof area,
- protects Puget Sound from combined sewer system overflows, and
- serves as an example to other property management companies to become RainWise.

Project completion was in 2016 and 2017, with a combined rebate total of \$13,759.98 covered by the RainWise

**For more information, please visit: [rainwise.seattle.gov](http://rainwise.seattle.gov)**

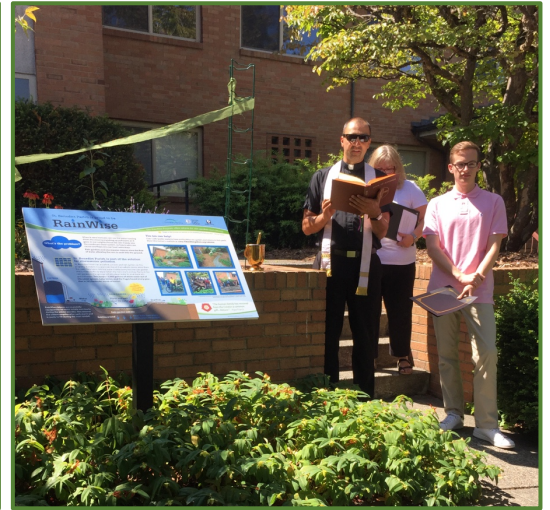
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# St. Benedict's School & Parish

## Project Specifications



**Phase One** *DIRT Corps members construct the rain garden.*



**Dedication**

## Customer Relationship Building

In July 2015, RainWise reached out Blake Sommerville of Metropolitan Management. Blake expressed great interest in the RainWise program, with four of the properties that he manages being RainWise eligible. The RainWise outreach team sent out a request for contractors and John Coghlan from HomeGrown Organics saw the opportunity and provided a consultation and site design for Barton Court Apartments. The collaboration forged a relationship between Blake and the RainWise team.

*"This project shows the impact of large roofs, as one roof like this has easily as much impact as five or six households participating in RainWise. Blake went all in, anywhere we could realistically install a RainWise job at a property that qualified, we would make it happen. Met Management wants to make a statement that they care about these environmental issues."*

*Homegrown Organics*

With that in mind, Blake decided to have the rest of his eligible buildings become RainWise and entrusted the same contractor, John, to take on those projects. This included The Bostonian, Laura May and Maxwell Apartments. Blake also volunteered to connect us with other Metropolitan Management eligible properties even though he is not the manager.

RainWise now has a happy customer who is willing to help promote the program and represent a success story to our future customers. The RainWise program is dedicated to building positive customer relationships to maintain the image of RainWise. Our outreach team strives to help RainWise customers get the most out of the rebate so that they can focus on being part of this positive environmental solution.

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