

# Compost Amendments

**74%**

The potential reduction of lawn water runoff across a small watershed.

**\$0.84 - \$1.87  
per square foot**

The cost range for incorporating compost amendments into urban soils.

## Help Protect Your Watershed

Amending urban soils with compost involves incorporating decomposed organic material into the existing soils to improve the quality of the soils for planting and infiltration. Compost amendments are typically used on urban soils that have become highly compacted and have low organic matter and nutrients. Compost amendments are most effective in reducing stormwater runoff if application in a watershed is widespread.

### Case Study

The City of Redmond, Washington Stormwater Utility staff estimated that for the 6-month, 24-hour storm, the detention volume required for an on-site stormwater facility dropped by 7% of the original detention volume after compost amendments were applied, at a cost savings of \$8,640.

*Some of the projects that can benefit from compost amendments include:*

- Reforestation
- Turf conversion
- Rain gardens
- Wildflower plantings

*Advantages of Compost Amendments:*

- Decreased peak flows from all but the most severe storm events.
- Greater lag time for hydrograph response.
- Improved water holding capacity.
- Increased baseflow after storm event.
- Reduced stormwater runoff volume.
- Increased infiltration rates.
- Increased nutrient retention.
- Reduced need for chemical use and watering.
- Better plant survival rate.
- Long-term cost-savings to the landowner.
- No maintenance associated with applying compost amendments.



If you would like more information, please check our web site at:  
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414-272-5100



*In cooperation with the  
2020 Facilities Plan*

