**PAYNE PARK RAIN GARDEN MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION GUIDANCE**

**EXAMPLE**

1. **SCHEDULE**

Water from rainfall and spray park flows over land to concrete flow channels and into rain gardens, where water soaks into soil and pollutants are filtered out. Any overflow moves through flow channel on to the next garden, with final discharge at storm sewer. Regular inspection and maintenance are critical to ensure that rain gardens function as designed and should be performed per the schedule below as part of routine park maintenance operations:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Maintenance & Inspection Activities** |  **Recommended Frequency\*** |
| *Weekly* | *Monthly* | *Annually* | *After Large Storms* |
| For first 3 years rain gardens and trees must receive weekly watering. Encourage public to use spray-park during unseasonably hot and dry periods. | X |  |  |  |
| Mow and weed-whack turf around the gardens and direct clippings away from the infiltration beds | X |  |  |  |
| Remove trash and organic debris from within and around gardens | X |  |  | X |
| Access flow channels and clear out sediment build-up, organic debris and trash with leaf-blower and trash-picker |  | X |  |  |
| Remove any weedy or invasive plants |  | X |  |  |
| Remove sediment build-up from surface of infiltration bed and sediment forebay\*\* |  | X |  | X |
| Remove dead plants and replace with approved species |  | X |  | X |
| Check for and repair soil erosion gullies within the gardens  |  | X |  | X |
| Check for and fill animal burrows in or around rain gardens |  | X |  |  |
| Check signage and report if missing or faded. Clean if tagged. |  | X |  | X |

*\* All inspections/activities are intended to be performed during the growing season, and on an as-needed basis*

*\*\* Sediment shall be disposed of offsite in a pre-approved location*

1. **TROUBLESHOOTING AND LONGTERM MAINTENANCE**

Some maintenance and inspection considerations are beyond the basics and may require some troubleshooting.

* A major cause of tree and shrub loss is planting them too deep. When planting, keep trunk flare at or a little above existing ground level and when backfilling do not cover trunk flare. Mulch should be at least 4 inches away from the trunk.
* Erosion within the system can signal different problems depending on its location. If erosion is occurring near overflow then the garden may be too small to handle the amount of water it is receiving. If erosion is occurring through the garden then flow paths must be considered and energy dissipators adjusted or added.
* If standing water is remaining 48 hours after a storm event or last spray park use, surface layer (1”-2”) of soil is clogged and should be removed and replaced. Be sure to dispose of sediment properly.
* Do not fertilize or add compost as a soil amendment to rain gardens. Part of the function of a rain garden is to trap and remove nutrient loads. Compost and fertilizers are both sources of nutrients.
* After 3-year establishment period, add to checklist: Mow rain garden plants once in early spring to 1/3 their height.
* For assistance identifying weeds and invasive species, refer to the URI weed identification guide year-round at <https://web.uri.edu/riss/in-the-weeds/>
* For assistance with diagnosing the cause of poor plant health, contact URI Master Gardeners March – October, Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm at **(401) 874-4836** or by email at **gardener@uri.edu**.

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Prepared by City of Pawtucket, designer Tim Gerrish, of Gardner&Gerrish Landscape Architects LLC, and, with funding from Rhode Island Department of Transportation, URI Cooperative Extension. These editable templates are intended for use by municipalities, designers, and others to customize for their own projects.

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