

Maintenance Checklist

WEEKLY

- Water** 1 inch per week including rainfall for the first 3 years. Water new trees and shrubs weekly until soil at depth of roots is moist. Water established rain gardens during summer droughts and unseasonably hot and dry periods.
- Weed** regularly, before seeds can spread.*
- Mow** lawn around rain garden and direct clippings away from the rain garden as they can cause clogging. **Do not mow** rain garden plants (unless garden is designed to be mowed).
- Clean up** trash, organic debris, and pet waste from within and around garden.
- Inspect** the rain garden bed for standing water lasting over 48 hours after a heavy rain. This indicates a clogged surface layer.*

MONTHLY, *following heavy rain, or as needed.*

- Replace plants** that are not thriving with approved native plants to maintain ground cover. Annuals may also be used to maintain ground cover.
- Remove sediment buildup** from inflow structure and any flow channels (including gutters if they are directed toward garden) and from bed of rain garden when it accumulates 1 inch of sediment.
- Cut back perennials** and mow tall grasses (removing clippings) in the fall, or leave task until early spring for winter interest and to provide habitat for birds and other wildlife.
- Prune** trees and shrubs to encourage growth in the spring or fall.
- Repair gullies** and any other problems caused by soil erosion in or near the rain garden.*
- Stabilize soil** if there is erosion on areas draining to the rain garden. Cover bare soil with mulch or reseed.
- Fill animal burrows** and gently pack if there are any in or around rain gardens.
- Replenish mulch** once per year to a depth of 2-3", using shredded non-dyed hardwood mulch.
- Never fertilize** rain garden, apply pesticides, or add compost. Fertilizer and compost add nutrients that are not needed.

**See the Troubleshooting page for more information and guidance.*