



3. Add approximately 3 – 5 inches of stone (1 or 2 layers) on top of the fabric and tamp it down.
4. After installing the stone, check to make sure the stone is low enough in the ground to not block flow from getting into the Conservation Landscape. Figure 1.5 shows an example of cobble stone stabilization.

Step 6 - Install Plants and Mulch Install native plants per grower's instructions and add 2 – 3 inches of hardwood, composted leaf mulch, and/or other recommended organic mulch around them to retain soil moisture and reduce weed growth. Alternatively, plant an appropriate seed mix using grower's instructions (e.g., native meadow seed mix) and cover with straw or biodegradable erosion control matting.

Step 7 - Water Water plants immediately, then approximately once every three days for the first month (depending on rainfall).

1.7. Maintenance

Maintenance of Conservation Landscapes is very similar to the maintenance of traditional landscape beds. Those performing maintenance on Conservation Landscapes need to be able to differentiate between native plants and non-native plants to know which are desirable and undesirable.

Table 1.4. Recommended Maintenance for Conservation Landscapes

Maintenance Tasks	Frequency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water once every three days for the first month and then weekly during the first growing season (April-October), depending on rainfall • Expect up to 10% of the plant stock to fail in the first year, and plan accordingly for replacement plants 	Upon establishment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check inlets and overflow areas for debris or leaves that are blocking flow • Check and repair erosion areas 	After heavy rains in first month; periodically in subsequent years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove weeds by hand 	Monthly for first growing season; every 3 months or as needed in subsequent years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For "meadow" type Conservation Landscapes consisting of grasses, mow in early spring • For other types of landscapes, check for winter damage and add mulch to bare spots as desired (2–3 inches) • Cut back perennials and remove dead growth 	March or April
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add reinforcement planting to maintain the desired vegetation density • Prune trees and shrubs; thin herbaceous plants as desired 	Fall
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove invasive and non-native plants using recommended control methods • Remove any dead or diseased plants • Dead-head flowers • Stabilize any eroded or bare areas • Remove trash 	As needed