



2.7. Maintenance

Table 2.3. Recommended Maintenance for Rain Gardens

Maintenance Tasks	Frequency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water often during the first 2 months, and then as needed during 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 	<p>Upon establishment Small herbaceous plants will require more watering</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check and repair eroded areas Check inlets and overflow areas for debris or leaves that are blocking flow 	<p>After heavy rains in first 6 months; periodically in subsequent years</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove weeds by hand 	<p>Monthly for first growing season; every 3 months in subsequent years</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For meadow type Rain Gardens consisting of grasses, mow the Rain Garden in early spring For other types of plantings, check for winter damage and add mulch to bare spots as desired (2–3 inches) Do not let mulch touch base of plants Cut back perennials and remove dead growth High winter wildlife value perennials/grasses can be left until they start sprouting in the spring 	<p>February or March</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add reinforcement planting to maintain the desired vegetation density Prune trees and shrubs Thin herbaceous plants as desired Remove excess leaf matter after all leaves have fallen in the fall 	<p>Fall</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove invasive plants using recommended control methods Remove any dead or diseased plants Stabilize bare areas draining to the Rain Garden, especially if there is erosion Remove trash 	<p>As needed</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove accumulated sediment at inflow points 	<p>Annually</p>