

# Rain Garden Maintenance Guide

Inspection Checklist	Y/N		If yes, perform the following maintenance.
Is there sediment accumulation?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Remove sediment that has accumulated in the inlets, outlets, and bottom of the basin with a shovel or other appropriate tool.
Are trash, excessive leaves, grass clippings, or other debris present?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Remove any debris present.
Is anything blocking or clogging inlets or outlets?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Remove any debris or sediment that may be preventing water from flowing in to or out of the rain garden.
Are weeds or invasive plants present?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Pull weeds and invasive plants out by the roots to prevent them from returning. Spot treat perennial weeds with appropriate herbicide if necessary.
Are there areas of bare soil or erosion?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Add mulch where it has been depleted and add additional plants where necessary. Use appropriate erosion control methods for more serious cases of erosion.
Is there standing water 48 or more hours after a rainfall?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	This is an indication that your rain garden is not functioning as designed, likely due to a larger problem that will require further study and action.

Additional Comments:

## Importance of Rain Gardens

The rain garden on your property makes a significant positive impact on the water quality of nearby lakes and streams. The vegetated shallow depression is designed to capture and absorb rainwater. The soil in your rain garden naturally removes pollutants like phosphorus, nitrogen, and heavy metals from the water. This helps prevent pollutants from entering our lakes and streams where they can cause unwanted algae and degrade water quality. Rain gardens contain plants with long roots that should soak up all water within 48 hours of an average rainfall. Thank you for your help in protecting our water resources by keeping your rain garden looking great and functioning properly.

