

MINNESOTA WATER STEWARDS

Community Leadership for Clean Water

Raingarden 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 during a dry period with a flat shovel. Dispose of sediment in a garbage bin. Loosen soil bottom with a rake to aerate soil. |
| Is trash, excessive leaves, grass clippings, or other debris present? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | Remove any trash or debris present and dispose of appropriately. Leaves, grass clippings and other organic material can be composted or brought to/collected by your local yard waste facility. |
| Is anything blocking or clogging inlets or outlets? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | Remove any debris or sediment that is preventing water from flowing into or out of the raingarden. If an inlet/outlet structural problem is present, contact local engineer/landscape professional. |
| 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. Destroy invasives according to DNR regulations. |
| 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. If the addition of vegetation and mulch does not solve the erosion, contact your local watershed district's district inspector for guidance on additional erosion control methods. |
| Is vegetation dying? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | Remove and replace vegetation. Occasionally water vegetation until well established. Drought tolerant plants should be on the outer edge of the garden with wet tolerant plants in the middle of the garden. |
| 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, there are two likely causes: the raingarden is clogged by sediment, or the soil has been compacted. Remove sediment with a shovel during a dry period. Loosen soil bottom with a rake to aerate soil and break up soil if compacted. Replenish mulch. If water is still present, contact your watershed district's district inspector/engineer for help; the soil type may be inappropriate for a raingarden. |

Importance of Raingardens

The raingarden on your property makes a 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 degraded water quality. Raingardens also 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.



Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District