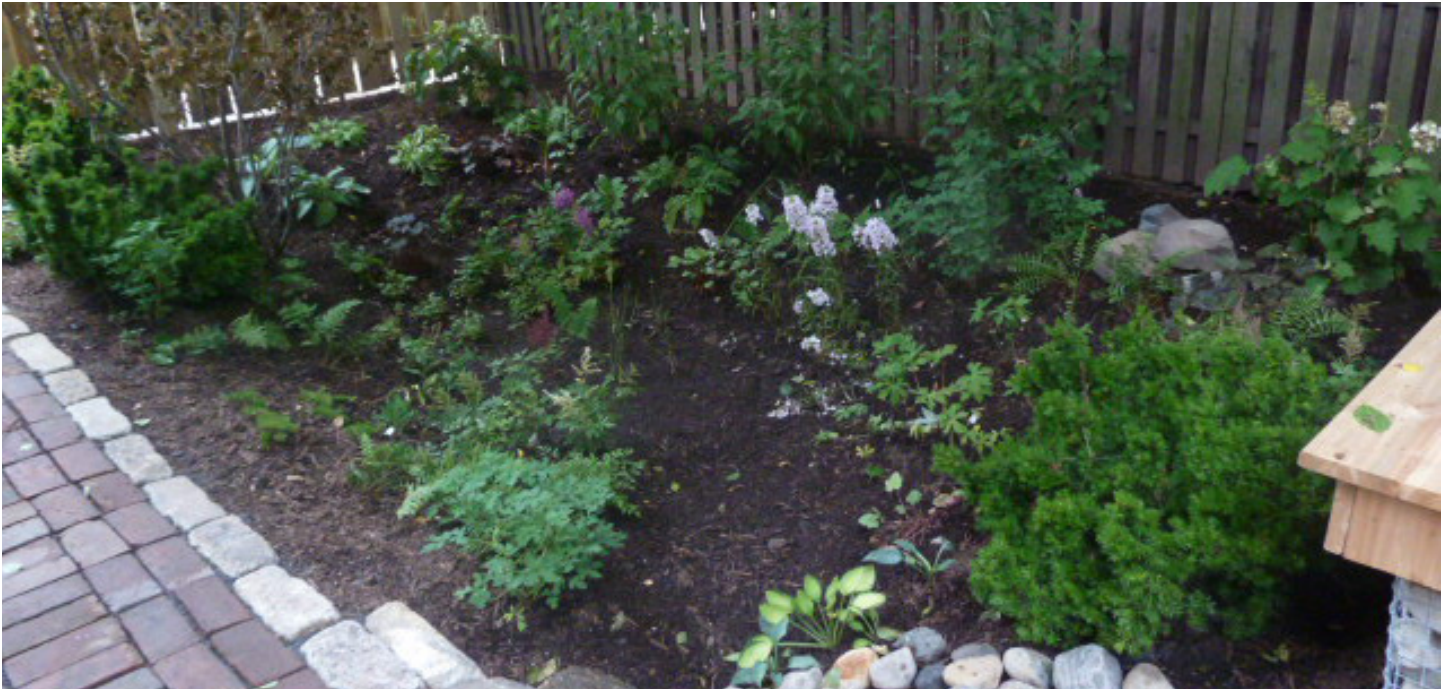


FOR PARTICIPANTS

MAINTENANCE GUIDE: Rain Garden



- Water plants 2–3 times per week for first growing season.
- Water plants weekly during dry periods after first growing season. Deep, infrequent watering is preferable to shallow, frequent watering.
- After the first growing season, the rain garden can be watered less frequently (only during extended dry periods).
- If plants start to wilt, this is most likely an indication they are not getting enough water.
- Remove weeds from rain garden (every 1–2 weeks during first growing season, as needed for rest of year).
- As plants grow to surpass weeds, weeding can be performed less frequently (every 3–4 months by third year).
- Add mulch every spring to maintain a 3-inch layer in the rain garden.
- Each spring, prune dead vegetation, deadhead flowers, and cut back tattered or unwieldy plants.
- Remove or replace vegetation that is not thriving and consider planting more of a species that is performing well. For replacement plants, ask your local garden center for native, drought-tolerant perennial species. A recommended species list is available at pwwdraincheck.org on the Contractor Resources page.
- Remove sediment and other debris from rain garden. Particular attention should be paid to keeping the water inlet and overflow locations clear.
- If all steps are taken and the rain garden is still not thriving, consider infiltration testing to determine drainage capacity of the soil and/or soil testing to determine correct pH level of soil. Soil testing kits are sold at most landscaping supply stores and big box home improvement stores.

For more information, frequently asked questions and price points, go to www.pwwdraincheck.org