

## MAINTAINING YOUR RAIN GARDEN

Your rain garden will need a little maintenance for it to be beautiful and successful. If you are not familiar with your plants, take a photograph of the leaves. You can then differentiate your plants from weeds.

### SPRING

- Weed your garden regularly to prevent extensive weeding work in the future.
- Be alert and pull out tree saplings before they take root.
- Cut perennials and grasses to the ground or a basal rosette (see below).
- Replace mulch when bare spots start to appear or when the mulch becomes caked and will not allow water to filter through. Do not allow mulch to touch the base of a plant. Never mulch cardinal flower.
- Place weeds that have not formed seed and plant material that is not diseased into compost bins.
- Prune blooming shrubs after the blooms fade.
- No fertilizer or pest control should be needed.
- Once established, adding drip hoses defeats the principle of a rain garden.



A basal rosette



Compost bins

### SUMMER

- Continue to weed as needed.
- Water your whole garden only when you have not received 1 inch of rain that week. Water from a rain barrel or garden hose until you reach 1 inch.
- Some perennials may need trimming to keep them tidy later in the summer.



Trimmed rain garden at H.C. Conservancy



Demonstration rain garden at Alpha Ridge landfill

## **FALL**

- Water all shrubs and trees well if we have a dry season.
- Continue to weed as needed.
- Use shredded leaves as mulch (up to 2 inches).
- Leave interesting perennials to enjoy through the winter. Trim any messy looking plants.



Grasses can be left untrimmed until spring.



A weeded rain garden

## **WINTER**

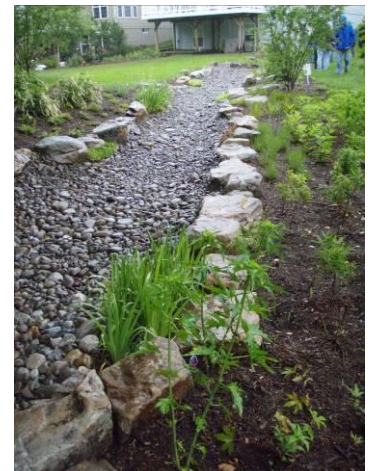
- Trim any plants damaged by snow/ice after the snow subsides.
- Notice the beauty of standing perennials in your garden and the branching of bushes and trees.
- Notice any wildlife that comes to find food or shelter.
- Rain gardens with rock can be sprayed with glyphosate (i.e. Roundup) to kill weeds at any time of the year.



A rain garden with no berm



A rain garden with a path



Rain garden with rock only

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