



Maintaining Your Stormwater Treatment Garden

Your water quality facility's maintenance is important for the protection of our waterways. Below are a few tips to help keep your facility in good shape and our water resources healthy.

Pollution Prevention

- Keep pesticides out of your water quality facility. Pesticides can kill aquatic life and seep into groundwater. Instead, remove unwanted plants mechanically or by hand. Regular mowing is an effective way to keep weeds under control, but be careful not to mow sedges, rushes, small native shrubs and small trees.
- Keep pets out of water quality facilities and pick up pet waste. Pet waste contains harmful bacteria, nutrients and parasites.
- Remove trash and debris. Garbage can harm wildlife and release contaminants into the environment as it breaks down.
- Keep yard debris and grass clippings out of your facility. The decomposition process decreases the amount of oxygen in water, which can be dangerous for fish and aquatic life.

Vegetation and Soil Maintenance

- Plant native plants in your facility. Native plants require the least amount of water and maintenance. They are also great for wildlife habitat and improving water quality. A list is available at our website: eugene-or.gov/raingardens
- Water your plants during the first one to two summers until they are established. Replace dead vegetation. Plants should cover at least 90 percent of the facility.
- Remove invasive plant species like blackberry, English ivy, and bittersweet nightshade. Invasive species can take over a facility causing flooding and displacement of native plants.
- Keep inlets and outlets clear of vegetation and sediment so water can flow in and out of the facility.
- Remove built-up sediment by hand, with minimum damage to vegetation during dry weather. Dispose of it in the trash.
- Maintain the amended soil depth of your facility, typically 12-18 inches of soil. Repair eroded areas by filling with topsoil during the dry season, re-grading and replanting large bare areas. Maintaining the soil depth keeps pollutants from entering stormwater and groundwater.

Rain Garden Maintenance Calendar

FALL

- Remove trash
- Fix erosion
- Remove sediment
- Remove weeds
- Plant (approved species only)**
- Drain irrigation**
- Inspect/maintain structures (inlets, outlets, grates, etc.)**
- Clean out catch basins**

WINTER

- Remove trash
- Fix erosion
- Remove sediment
- Remove weeds
- Prune trees and shrubs**

SPRING

- Remove trash
- Fix erosion
- Remove sediment
- Remove weeds**
- Plant (approved species only)**
- Check irrigation**

SUMMER

- Remove trash
- Fix erosion
- Remove weeds
- Remove sediment**
- Water plants**
- Check irrigation**

Bold indicates the optimal season for this activity.

Remember to inspect your facility several times a year. Time maintenance by season for best results. For example, it is easiest to remove sediment during dry weather. Structures such as catch basins should be cleaned before the rainy season to prevent flooding. Check during the rainy season to make sure it is functioning properly. City staff is available to provide assistance and direction if you have questions or if issues arise. Please call us at 541-682-4800 or email us at RainGarden@ci.eugene.or.us