

Checklist 3: Rain Garden Maintenance for home-owners¹

Your raingarden helps improve water quality and reduce erosion of nearby streams and lakes; as stormwater runs through plants

General information	
Location (identification and GIS if appropriate)	
Specific purpose of any parts of the rain garden (e.g. screen or buffer, food, wildlife/biodiversity)	
Date of Assessment	
Name of assessor	

and soil, pollutants are naturally removed. Thank you for your help protecting our waterways.

Additional Comments or Site Drawing / Photograph
--

Check	Yes/No	If yes, do the following maintenance / corrective action	Date fixed
Is the rain garden safe to access?	Yes / No	Contact Council who will help identify what actions will make the site safe to access.	
Inlets – Has sediment accumulated?	Yes / No	Remove sediment at inlets; check sources of sediment and exclude or stabilize the sources.	
– Are inlets clear so water can flow in?	Yes / No	Remove any litter or debris; trim plants; Reinstate damage to inlets / flow spreading devices so they are functional.	
Plants – Are plants healthy & >80% cover?	Yes / No	Identify why plants have died (check soil); fix issue; replace with suitable plants and non-floating mulch or other erosion control if needed.	
– Are there areas of weeds or pest plants?	Yes / No	Remove all weed flower and seed-heads; pullout weeds or spot-treat with appropriate herbicide if necessary (find source of weeds).	
Basin – Are bare soils or erosion present?	Yes / No	Cover bare areas with non-floating mulch and plant new plants where necessary.	
Check ponding depth and basin area. Is the design capacity maintained?	Yes / No	Excess material may need to be removed; if removing more than mulch, confirm with designer or Council.	
Is water standing for more than 24 hours after rainfall (or slower than minimum infiltration rate)?	Yes / No	Your rain garden is not functioning as designed. Further investigation is required. Contact Council.	
Outlets/Overflow - Are these clear so there is no obstruction to flow and no erosion.	Yes / No	Remove any litter or debris; trim plants; Reinstate damage so overflow is functional.	

¹ Adapted from Ramsay-Washington Metro Watershed District Rain Garden Maintenance Guide https://stormwater.pca.state.mn.us/images/f/f8/Rain_Garden_Maintenance_Guide_public_use.pdf

