

# What to Expect: Rain Garden Maintenance

The City of Columbus Department of Public Utilities has recently installed rain gardens in your neighborhood to help collect, clean, and drain stormwater. These rain gardens are connected to the City's storm sewer system, similar to a curb inlet or manhole. Just like other components of the sewer system, the maintenance and upkeep of the rain gardens will be completed by employees or contractors of the City. Residents are still responsible for maintenance of the right-of-way outside of the rain garden edging, which includes mowing and raking.



## Rain gardens are designed to drain in 48 hours or less. To keep them functioning properly:

- **DON'T** compact the soil by walking on, standing in, or digging within the garden.
- **DON'T** reduce the drainage capacity by adding topsoil, mulch, or additional plantings.
- **DON'T** puncture the underdrain with posts or other objects that penetrate the surface of the ground.
- **DO** report any spills or inappropriate dumping immediately to the Stormwater Prevention Hotline: (614) 645-7873.

## The plants stabilize the soil and absorb pollutants. To keep them healthy:

- **DON'T** apply fertilizers, pesticides, or other chemicals.
- **DON'T** rake your leaves into the garden, as this affects drainage!
- **DO** remove debris blocking curb inlets or drainage features.
- **DO** call Blueprint to report any unusual or concerning observations, including dying plants, sinkholes, unusual ruts, and standing water for more than 48 hours.



## City maintenance includes:

- Removing weeds, deadheads, and damaged plants.
- Removing trash or debris.
- Checking for proper drainage.
- Repairing damage to the structural components, replacing non-functioning soils, adding mulch, and replacing any plants that fail to thrive.

THE CITY OF  
**COLUMBUS**  
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC UTILITIES

**Questions? Contact the Blueprint Outreach Team:**  
Phone: 614-645-1253 Email: [blueprint@columbus.gov](mailto:blueprint@columbus.gov)

**BLUE  
PRINT  
COLUMBUS**  
Cleaner streams.  
Stronger neighborhoods.

*Any efforts to modify, break, damage, destroy, deface, cover, or tamper with the rain gardens violates City Ordinance 1145.06 regarding Department Property.*

# Get to Know A Rain Garden

## Rain Garden Benefits:

- Creates Habitats for Pollinator Species
- Improves Water Quality in Rivers & Streams
- Provides Stormwater Drainage in Neighborhoods

Native plants filter pollutants and are flood and drought tolerant.

