



# Rain Garden

## *Maintenance*

### *Intended Purpose*

Rain gardens collect stormwater runoff and remove nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus as well as bacteria, oil and grease, sediment and litter. The processes involved are infiltration followed by plant uptake of nutrients and sediment removal from filtering.

### *Maintenance*

To keep the gardens working properly, these maintenance steps are recommended:

- Remove weeds and unwanted grasses. Hand pull, no herbicides
- Trim dead stalks from perennial bushes (in our garden this is the purple mist flower and butterfly weed)
- Remove diseased or dying plants, remove litter
- Remove mulch that is sticky and filled with clay and sediment fines (clay pan)
- Add new mulch in areas less than 2-3 inches. Use double or triple shredded hardwood mulch
- Water during drought about 1 inch every two weeks.
- No fertilizer use on the plants, stormwater provides. We want the rain garden to *remove* N and P
- Weed eat edges to keep Bermuda from entering. Remove Bermuda runners
- When cutting the grass around the edges, cut so the grass is thrown away from the garden.

### *Frequency*

- ❖ Quarterly beginning in the spring for plant care and mulch replacement, if necessary.
- ❖ Other maintenance issues such as sediment removal, litter removal and outfall pipe and area cleanout can be assessed on a case-by-case basis after heavy rains.