



DEPARTMENT OF
**ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

MONTGOMERY COUNTY • MARYLAND

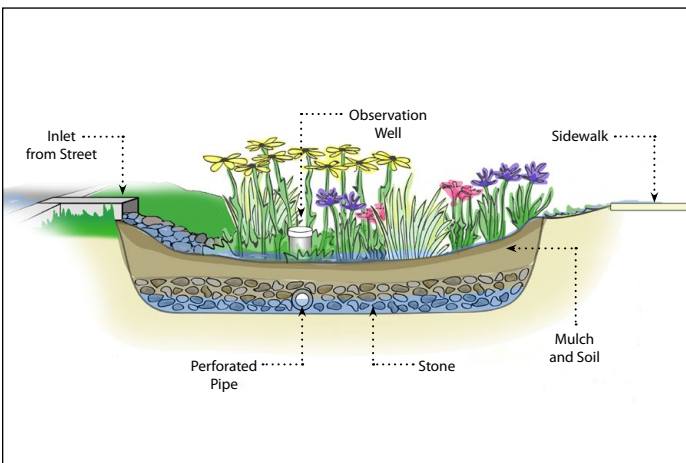
How to help care for Rain Gardens Along the Roadway

STORMWATER FACILITY MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

What are Green Streets rain gardens?

Green Street rain gardens are along roadway right-of-ways. They allow rainwater to slow down and soak in— turning stormwater into a resource that replenishes groundwater, protects urban watershed health, creates attractive streetscapes, provides natural habitat, and helps to visually connect neighborhoods, schools, parks and business districts.

All of the gardens are typically planted with native plants and have three layers beneath the plantings: mulch, a layer of sandy soil, and a stone layer. Some gardens may include a perforated pipe within the stone layer. This pipe collects and directs the filtered rainwater to a storm drain system.



Cross section of a rain garden

DEP is responsible for all maintenance

County contractors perform monthly routine maintenance to ensure practices function properly and plants are healthy. DEP welcomes your help in maintaining Green Streets.

Here's how you can help the County

Do...

As needed

- ✓ Remove any trash that has washed into the garden.
- ✓ Remove sediment from inlets.
- ✓ Remove leaves and debris from the garden.
- ✓ Mow grass around edges (but avoid blowing grass clippings into the garden).
- ✓ Rake displaced mulch back into gardens.
- ✓ Please notify DEP if you observe:
 - Standing water in the garden for more than 3 days after a rain storm.
 - Severe erosion or functional damage.
 - Dead or damaged plants.

Please Don't...

- ✗ Don't store snow or leaves in the garden.
- ✗ Don't prune or trim plants or trees in the garden.
- ✗ Don't add or replace plants.
- ✗ Don't remove dead or dying plants.
- ✗ Don't modify or alter the function or design of the garden.
- ✗ Don't add or remove soil, compost, mulch, or fill.
- ✗ Don't use fertilizer, herbicide, or pesticide.
- ✗ Don't mow or blow grass clippings or leaves into the garden.
- ✗ Don't store trash cans or other items in the garden.
- ✗ Don't apply excess salt and sand around the garden in winter.
- ✗ Don't allow pets into the garden or let them use it as a "potty."

Can I alter or remove the garden?

No, you cannot remove or alter the garden or any other stormwater practices installed by the County. The gardens were installed based on careful calculations of drainage area and rainfall amount. Removing or altering the rain garden may contribute to localized flooding issues.

Why is it important to report problems with these stormwater practices?

Poorly functioning or non-functioning rain gardens may:

- Stop filtering the rainwater, allowing trash and pollutants to enter our local streams
- Be difficult or expensive to restore if problems are not addressed in a timely manner
- Allow water to pool on the surface long enough to allow undesirable insects to breed

What you can do to help:

There are several ways that you can help prolong the life of Green Streets rain gardens and help the County save on maintenance costs.



If you see mulch piled up or displaced...
▶ You can rake to spread mulch out evenly.



If you see trash in the garden...
▶ You can remove the trash.



If you see inlets blocked with leaves, sand, or trash...
▶ You can shovel and dispose of debris.

What the County does:

DEP contractors will perform routine maintenance as well as major maintenance tasks.

By monitoring the rain gardens and reporting issues, you can partner with DEP to protect local streams and the Chesapeake Bay.



DEP contractors will remove weeds and prune plants on a set schedule.



DEP contractors will replace plants and repair erosion as needed.



DEP contractors will repair a garden holding water for more than 3 days.
▶ If you see this, please notify DEP.

QUESTIONS, CONCERNS OR COMMENTS?

- Email us at AskDEP@montgomerycountymd.gov
- Call the Montgomery County Customer Service Center at **3-1-1**
- Visit our website: montgomerycountymd.gov/stormwater.