

## Maintenance Plan Conservation Landscape

Task	Month											
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Monitoring <sup>1</sup>												
Pruning (if needed) <sup>2</sup>												
Apply Leafgro <sup>3</sup>												
Cut back perennials <sup>4</sup>												
Watering <sup>5</sup>												
Edging												
Weeding - as needed <sup>6</sup>												
Mulching <sup>7</sup>												
Leaf removal - as needed												
Winter weed cleanup												



<sup>1</sup> Check for weed emergence and mulch condition, remove trash from garden

<sup>2</sup> Prune only dead or broken branches. Other pruning should not be needed.

<sup>3</sup> Prior to re-mulching, fertilize with one inch of Leafgro.

<sup>4</sup> Cut back all perennials to a height of 4" in late winter (February-March)

<sup>5</sup> Water until established (weekly from May to September if it hasn't rained; biweekly October, November). Water the equivalent of one inch of rain. Once established (about a year), watering should only be needed from May to October when there has been no rain for 10 days or more.

<sup>6</sup> Weed every two weeks from April to November. Train those who will be doing the weeding to recognize the desirable plants (they may seed in). Do a winter weed cleanup in late February/early March

<sup>7</sup> Mulch with shredded pine or hardwood mulch, maintaining a depth of three inches (generally adding about one inch of mulch). Keep mulch away from shrub trunks ("doughnut", not "volcano").

# RainScapes Program - Maintenance Instructions for Newly Installed Plantings

## Watering

### Trees/Shrubs/Perennials

To get plants established, hand watering is essential. Avoid high water pressure - allow water to soak in so that it penetrates the soil to the root ball and does not wash the mulch or soil away. Watering frequency depends on soil type, sun exposure, and outdoor temperatures, observe your plants and their soils.

- Hand water at the base of each plant for 1-2 minutes (large trees 3-5 minutes). For the first 2 weeks, hand water 3 times a week; For the second 2 weeks, hand water 2 times a week; For the next 6 weeks, hand water 1 time a week
- Note – if there is steady rain (one inch or more a week), additional watering may be unnecessary. Typically, do not water Nov. 30 – April 15, unless there is an extended warm dry spell in late winter/early spring.

### Weeding and Mulching

Weeds will need to be pulled on a regular basis to prevent invasive plants from crowding out the landscape plants. Weeds that come up in mulched areas are much easier to hand-pull if you catch them early. Mulch should be used around landscape plants to inhibit weeds and conserve water. Mulches can be organic materials such as composted wood chips, pine needles, or grass clippings, or they can be inorganic materials such as crushed stone or gravel. DO NOT pile mulch onto stems of plants

### Annual Maintenance

Because organic mulches (grass clippings, shredded bark, etc.) slowly decompose, they need to be refreshed periodically. Apply 1 inch of new mulch over “roughed-up” existing mulch. Check existing mulch for ‘plating’ (hardening or caking of the surface) so that water can soak in.

### General Maintenance- Fertilizer, Pruning, Deadheading

- Trees and shrubs usually do not need to be fertilized. If you decide to fertilize, read the directions and use organic fertilizers. Before fertilizing, make sure the symptoms are not the result of over-watering or drought stress. Native plants typically do not require fertilization other than periodic addition of compost (Leafgro) for healthy soil. Have your soil tested to determine fertilizer needs if unsure.
- Minor pruning will not adversely affect trees and shrubs at any time of the year. Major pruning should be done in late winter to early spring. Most perennials need to be divided every 3 to 5 years. Signs to watch for include reduced flowering and development of weak, spindly stems. Cut perennials 6 inches above the ground in early Spring. Compost disease-free trimmings or send them to a yard waste recycling facility.
- For winter interest and wildlife habitat, grasses and attractive seed pods and calyx should be left until spring. The flowering period of perennials can be extended by removing flower heads as soon as they begin to decline and look unsightly. If the flower heads occur singly on a bare stem, cut that stem back towards the base of the plant to maintain its appearance. For extended Fall bloom of tall plants such as asters, cut back by July 4<sup>th</sup> to 18” tall.