



Residential

# Rain Garden

Maintenance and Upkeep Guide

Rain Gardens are simple gardens that are designed in pocket-like depressions to capture and temporarily hold rainwater from your rooftop, driveway and lawn. The rainwater slowly soaks into the ground over the period of a day or two.

## Benefits of a Rain Garden

- Striking landscape feature
- Filters pollutants
- Can attract butterflies
- Protects nearby streams

## Why is it important to maintain a Rain Garden?

While an individual rain garden may seem like a small thing, collectively they produce substantial neighborhood and community environmental benefits. They help protect streams from pollutants and provide valuable habitat for birds, butterflies and other pollinators.

## Need Assistance?

Contact Knox County Stormwater at:

Email [Stormwater@KnoxCounty.org](mailto:Stormwater@KnoxCounty.org)

Phone (865) 215-5540

Web [knoxcounty.org/stormwater/esp](http://knoxcounty.org/stormwater/esp)



## Rain Gardens have minimal maintenance needs:

1. As a general rule, plants need one inch of water per week. Water immediately after planting and continue to water twice a week (unless rain does the job) until the plants are well established. You should not have to water once the plants are established.
2. Some weeding will always be needed for your garden, but the most time-consuming weeding will occur in the first two years. Remove by hand only those plants you are certain are weeds.
3. After each growing season, the stems and seed-heads can be left for winter interest, wildlife cover and bird food. Once spring arrives and new growth is 4-6 inches tall, cut tattered plants back.
4. The amount of time that waters stays in the rain garden should diminish over time as the plants mature. The roots grow and improve infiltration as time passes. If soils were compacted during construction, additional time may be needed for the roots to loosen the soil. If there is an accumulation of fine sediment on the mulch surface, remove it. Rough or till the top of the soil as best you can to promote infiltration.

