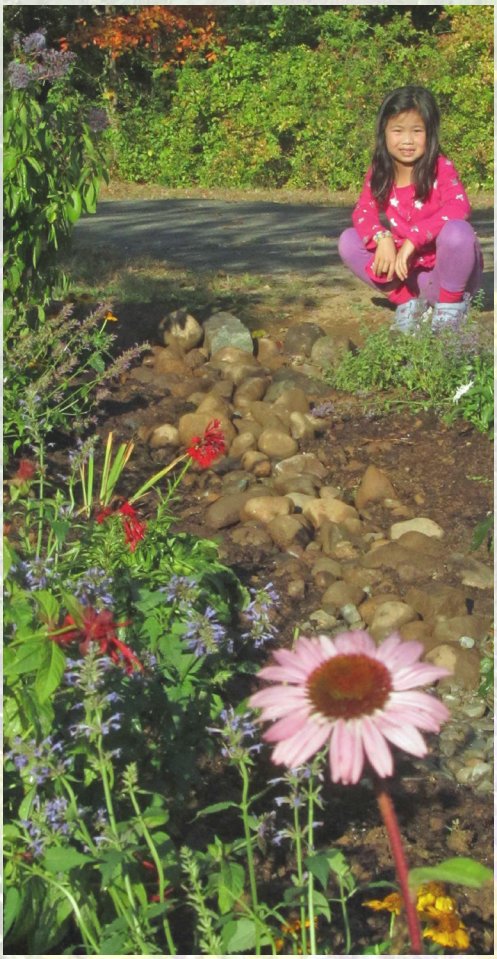
BIORETENTION (RAINGARDEN) MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Now that your rain garden has been planted, whats next?



WATER

Water is essential for the survival of your new rain garden. Please water the garden during the first three months post-planting and as needed throughout the future in times of drought. Plants should be watered every day for the first week they are in the ground and then once a week after that, unless there is substantial rainfall. In hot weather or times of drought, the rain garden will need water one to two times a week to prevent the loss of plants, even if the garden is already established.

WEEDS

Please remove unwanted weeds from the garden by hand. Pull them from the base of the weed to remove the roots. As your garden becomes established, the rain garden plants will spread and out-compete unwanted weeds.

MULCH

Mulch is used to prevent weeds and retain moisture in the rain garden. During the first year the garden is growing, please maintain a 3″ layer of mulch between plants. As your rain garden plants spread and become denser, you may find mulching the garden more difficult. Mulching beyond the first year is optional. Please be careful not to excessively mulch the garden, and keep mulch away from drains.

INLETS/OUTLETS

Please inspect the rain garden's inlets monthly, and be sure to remove any leaves, trash, or debris that may prevent water from passing through. Observe the inlet during rainstorms to make sure stormwater is flowing into the rain garden. After rainstorms, please check the garden to be sure drainage outlet paths are clear and that water is not ponding for more than 48 hours.

NO MOWING

Please DO NOT mow or use a line-trimmer inside of the rain garden. This damages the plants and can destroy the rain garden.

SUPPLEMENTAL PLANTING

Please remove and replace any dead plants in the garden as needed.

PRUNING

We recommend pruning overgrown material in the garden annually when the plants are dormant.

PHOTOGRAPH AND DOCUMENT

Please photograph your green infrastructure practice and share pictures with the Rutgers Cooperative Extention (RCE) Water Resources Program! In addition, document the maintenance of the practice, and be sure to contact RCE Water Resources Program at water@envsci.rutgers.edu if you need assistance or have any questions.

For more information, please visit:
www.water.rutgers.edu

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RAINWATER HARVESTING MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Now that your rain berrel / cistern has been installed, whats next?

FILTERS

Rainwater harvesting systems allow for the slow and controlled use of stormwater. To ensure that the rainwater harvesting system functions properly, filters must be checked for debris on a regular basis. The rainwater harvesting system contains a diverter filter. The diverter filter serves as a barrier against clogging, directly catching the debris that flows off of the roof and into the downspout. This filter should be regularly checked and cleaned. Failture to clean the diverter filter may cause the rainwater harvesting system to

OVERFLOW

The overflow pipe allows water to flow out of the rainwater harvesting system when the tank gets too full. This prevents the system from overflowing and backing up through the downspout. To help reduce the amount of water the flows directly into nearby storm drains, direct the overflow so that excess water can be dispersed along a lawn, field, garden, or other planted area. By simply using the water that is stored in your rainwater harvesting system, you can also help prevent water from flowing out of the overflow.

WINTER

The constant freezing and thawing of water in the winter time can cause many pieces of the rainwater harvesting system to crack and break. Therefore, before the temperature falls below freezing, the rainwater harvesting system should be fully drained and disconnected at the diverter. For a rain barrel, diconnect the downspout from the barrel, place the original downspout onto the gutter, and then turn the barrel upside down.

USE

The storm water held in the rainwater harvesting system is great for watering trees and gardens. However, it SHOULD NOT be used for bathing or drinking. If the water is to be used for a vegetable garden, it is advised that you water the soil not the vegetables. If concerned, feel free to get the water tested.

PHOTOGRAPH AND DOCUMENT

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PERMEABLE PRACTICES MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Now that your permeable pavement or pavers have been installed, whats next?

LANDSCAPE CARE

Permeable pavements allow water to infiltrate into the ground, decreasing the amount of storm water and pollution that drains to nearby waterways. The ability for the water to infiltrate depends on the porosity of the pavement. Soil and sediment draining from adjacent sites can cause the permeable pavement to clog and slow filtration. By maintaining the lawns and planting beds adjacent to the pavement, clogging can be prevented.

WINTER CARE

Permeable pavements are more durable during the winter than convestional pavements. When deicing permeable pavements, it is recommended to use salt and not sand. Sand will clog the pores, and therefore decrease the amount of water that can flow through the pavement. Salt, on the other hand, will dissolve into the water and drain through the pavement. Check with the manufacturer of the pavers for guidelines on salt application.

PAVER DRAINAGE

The gravel in the spaces between the pavers allows for the flow of water. This gravel also helps prevent weeds from taking root between the pavers. Over times this gavel may condense or wash away, and therefore should be regularly checked and replaced when needed.

CLEANING

Permeable pavements will naturally collect sediment and infiltration could decrease over time; therefore, cleaning the pavement may be necessary. Accumulated sediment and debris can be removed using a high pressured hose or power washer. For pavers, the spaces between pavers should be re-filled with gravel.

For larger sites, streetsweepers and commercial vacuums can be used to remove the sediment build up within permeable pavements.

PHOTOGRAPH AND DOCUMENT

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DOWNSPOUT PLANTER MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Now that your downspout planter has been installed and planted, whats next?

WATER

Water is essential for the survival of your new stormwater planter. Plants should be watered every day for the first week they are in the planter box and then once a week after that, unless there is substantial rainfall. In hot weather or times of drought, the planter box will need water one to two times a week to prevent the loss of plants, even if the plants are already established.

WEEDS

Please remove unwanted weeds from the planter by hand. Pull them from the base of the weed to remove the roots. As your planter becomes established, the plants will spread and out-compete unwanted weeds.

MULCH

Mulch is used to prevent weeds and retain moisture in the stormwater planter. During the first year the plants are growing, please maintain a 3″ layer of mulch between plants. As your plants spread and become more dense, you may find mulching the planter more difficult. Mulching beyond the first year is optional. Please be careful not to excessively mulch the planter, and keep mulch away from drains.

DRAINAGE

Please inspect the stormwater planter's drains monthly, and be sure to remove any leaves, trash, or debris that may prevent water from passing through. After rainstorms, please check the planter to be sure drainage paths are clear and that water is not ponding for more than 48 hours.

SUPPLEMENTAL PLANTING

Please remove and replace any dead plants in the planter as needed.

PRUNING

We recommend pruning overgrown material in the planter annually when the plants are dormant.

PHOTOGRAPH AND DOCUMENT

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TREE PLANTINGS MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Now that your trees have been planted, what's next?

Newly planted trees require weekly maintenance during the first two years that they're in the ground. Please be sure to weed, water, and mulch per the instructions below.

WATER

Watering your newly planted tree is the best thing you can do for it. After it has been planted, water 20-30 gallons a day for the first three (3) days immediately after planting. Then, water once a week 20-30 gallons from the spring through the fall until the ground freezes. A slow trickle from a hose for half an hour is perfect. Water more frequently during dry periods.

WEEDS

Grass and weeds compete for the same water and nutrition as the tree. Remove any grass or weeds growing in the tree bed. Be sure to remove the roots of the weed as well.

MULCH

Mulch is a tree's best friend. Mulch helps soil hold water for the tree's roots and reduces grass and weeds. Apply mulch 2-3 inches deep and make sure to keep mulch 4-5 inches away from the trunk of the tree. Improper mulching kills trees, never pile up a mound of mulch around the base of three. This will rot the bark and kill the tree.

PRUNING

Bad pruning kills trees. Please contact the New Jersey Tree Foundation at www.njtreefoundation.org and attend a workshop to learn how to properly prune your tree. Do not top your tree or cut the main branches back to stubs. Ugly, weakly attached limbs often grown back higherthen the original branches. Topping is one of the worst things you can do for the hearlth of the tree.

PLACE GUARDS OR FENCES

Never place a guard or fence in close proximity to or surrounding a tree trunk. This will cut the bark and cause wounds allowing insects and disease to enter the tree. Instead place a small fence around the perimeter of your tree bed.

PHOTOGRAPH AND DOCUMENT

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