The purpose of this guide is to help you maintain the beauty, health and performance of your rain garden. See below for general gardening tips, to be done as needed. The following pages include seasonal tips, to be done at a specific time of year, recommended native plants for your garden, and weeds to watch out for. With proper care, your garden will continue to help keep our lakes and the Mississippi River clean by capturing runoff and removing pollution.

How is my rain garden doing?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions?</th>
<th>IF YES, perform these recommended tasks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is there flooding for more than two days (48 hours) after rainfall?</td>
<td>Rain garden is not functioning and requires assistance. Please contact our Urban BMP Specialist Andrew Novak (email and phone below).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is anything blocking the flow of water into the garden through the inlet?</td>
<td>Remove dirt, weeds and other debris from the inlet regularly and after each rainfall. Sand and dirt from the street should go in the trash.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has dirt, leaves, trash or other debris collected in the garden?</td>
<td>Remove and dispose of excess dirt and debris. Sand and dirt from the street should be thrown out with the trash. Leaves and stems can be composted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is there erosion or bare soil in the garden?</td>
<td>Select and add plants based on your sun, shade and soil moisture conditions. Refer to Blue Thumb’s Plant Finder for more information on planting conditions: blue-thumb.org/plants. Replenish mulch in bare spots to prevent weeds or erosion. 3” layer of double-shredded hardwood mulch is recommended.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do the plants need more water?</td>
<td>After planting, water every day for one week unless it rains that day. During the first growing season, water weekly with 1” of water.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Seasonal Garden Care

**SPRING 🌸**
- Remove dead plants, seeds, stalks and any decaying material.
- Thin or prune overcrowded/overgrown plants.
- Clear inlets or pipes of any obstructing materials from winter.
- Add, move, or divide plants if crowded or bare spots visible.
- Weed mid- to late-May, before Memorial Day, or when dandelions first turn yellow.

**SUMMER 🌼**
- Prune decaying, unattractive, or taller plants.
- Check for erosion, ponding or flooding after big storms.
- Remove warm season weeds by the 4th of July and late summer weeds by mid-August.

**FALL 🍂**
- Remove or replace plants, especially poor performing ones.
- Clean up leaves from garden or inlet.
- Prune shrubs and plant stalks when dormant after first frost.
- If desired, leave native plants for winter as food and cover for wildlife.

**WINTER 🥶**
- Replace mulch in early winter where needed.
- Remove trash and debris.
- Avoid snow piles or chemicals on garden (i.e. salt).
- Prepare gardening tools for spring!

Capitol Region Watershed District | Andrew Novak: andrew@capitolregionwd.org, 651-644-8888
capitolregionwd.org | facebook.com/CapitolRegionWD
CRWD Recommended Native Perennials

Cardinal Flower
Sensitive Fern
Pink Turtlehead
Prairie Blazing Star

Little Bluestem
Swamp Milkweed
Blue Flag Iris
Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle

Butterfly Weed
Fox Sedge
Purple Dome Aster
Switchgrass
Common Rain Garden Weeds

Refer to Blue Thumb’s Plant Finder for more information on planting conditions: blue-thumb.org/plants.

Dandelion
Canada Anemone
Jacob’s Ladder
Wild Geranium

Plantain
Crabgrass
Reed Canary Grass
Creeping Charlie

Thistle
Prickly Lettuce
Clover