



## Long-term Raingarden Maintenance Checklist

For residents on Silver Lake Avenue and Dexter Street in Wilmington

The raingardens and permeable pavers along Silver Lake Ave. and Dexter St. were installed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the town of Wilmington, with a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. They are designed to help reduce polluted stormwater from entering Silver Lake, reduce street flooding, and recharge stormwater to the ground. Once the gardens are established, at the end of the summer of 2008, we hope that residents along these streets will feel a sense of pride in these raingardens and take the following few measures to ensure that the raingardens stay beautiful and healthy for a long time. Please see the reverse side of this page for contact information should you require any assistance or if you have questions.

### Spring time:

- Clean out debris from the garden and the overflow pipe inlet
- Loosen/aerate the soil if it's compacted
- Replace plants, if necessary (see list on reverse side)
- Apply hardwood mulch chips (available at no cost from the town of Wilmington, each spring) - bark mulch will float and wash away

### During the summer:

- Pull out weeds, when necessary
- Apply some water during extremely dry periods

### As needed:

- If heavy sediments build up (from winter road sand, for example), you may need to excavate these built-up sediments from time to time and replace them with some healthy top soil. A tip-off that this build-up has occurred is that you notice water isn't draining well from the garden (it should completely drain within 24 hour or less).

Note! It is not permissible to fill in the raingardens or otherwise prevent them from collecting and infiltrating stormwater. They are in the town right-of-way and serve a critical stormwater management function. Thank you!!

If you need to replace the plants, the following provides some choices to help guide you:

Suggested Rain Garden Plants for Massachusetts			
COMMON NAME	SPECIES NAME	LIGHT NEEDS	OTHER BENEFITS
Blazing star	<i>Liatris spicata</i>	Sun	Attracts butterflies
Purple coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Sun	Seed heads provides food for wildlife
Moonbeam coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i>	Sun	Attracts butterflies
Sedum	<i>Sedum spp.</i>	Sun	Good ground cover
Winterberry holly	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Sun/partial shade	Food, shelter for wildlife
Dwarf fothergilla	<i>Fothergilla gardenii</i>	Sun/partial shade	Spectacular fall color
Lowbush blueberry	<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>	Sun/partial shade	Food for wildlife
New England aster	<i>Aster novaeangliae</i>	Sun/partial shade	Attracts butterflies
Daylily	<i>Hemerocallis spp.</i>	Sun/shade	Good ground cover
Joe-pye weed	<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	Sun/shade	Attracts butterflies
Arrowwood viburnum	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Sun/shade	Shelter for wildlife, attracts butterflies

For questions regarding the care of the raingardens on Silver Lake Avenue and Dexter Street, please call Steve Roy at GeoSyntec Consultants at (978) 263-9588.

For more information on the stormwater function of these raingardens, and the availability of mulch, please call the Wilmington Department of Public Works at (978) 658-4481.

For more information about raingardens, including a more extensive plant list, please refer to the following websites:

<http://greenscapes.org/Page-198.html>

<http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/river/pdf/raingardenfactsheet.pdf>

<ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/IA/news/RainGardenFS.pdf>

<ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/IA/news/RainGardens.pdf>