

City of ZEELAND STREET FACILITY RAIN GARDEN



What is a rain garden?

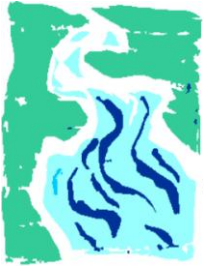
A rain garden is an area of landscaping in which native wildflowers, sedges, grasses, shrubs, and small trees are planted. This area is designed specifically to catch and infiltrate water in a natural way. You may ask yourself, “Doesn’t turf catch and infiltrate water?” The answer is turf does, but rain gardens do this much better.

Rain gardens have the capacity to filter water that runs off impervious surfaces such as roofs, streets, parking lots, and walkways. With urban development, there is an ever-increasing number of impervious surfaces. Anything on these surfaces, like sediment and grass clippings, can be washed into the storm drains and rivers right into Lake Macatawa. With the filtration of the rain garden however, the load of these pollutants into Lake Macatawa is reduced, which is important for the health of the lake.

What kind of care does a rain garden require?

Rain gardens require routine maintenance, and the specific activities to be done at the Zeeland Street Facility are outlined on the next page. As you’ll notice, weeding is one of the activities. This task can be more difficult than it seems though, so a weeding guide is provided in this packet. The species on the pages labeled “**KEEPERS**” are those that were purposefully planted in the garden. The page labeled “**WEEDS AND INVASIVES**” is a list of weeds and invasive species that may have started to grow in the garden. Care must be taken in weeding to leave the planted species and to pull the weeds and invasives. Keep in mind that plants can look different at various stages of growth and will not always look like they do in the picture. If you are unsure of what you are pulling, ask a professional.

Thanks to all volunteers and those who made this rain garden project possible



DEQ
 Michigan's
 Nonpoint Source
 Program

Maintenance Activities	Schedule
Maintain vegetation in order to enhance appearance and prevent erosion of the soil mixture	First year: 1× per month After first year: as needed
Prune and weed to maintain appearance	First year: 1× per month After first year: as needed
Remove trash and debris	As needed
Replace mulch when erosion is evident	As needed
Clip standing dead vegetation stalks to maintain weed-free vegetation	First year: 1× per month After first year: each spring
Remove stems and seed heads to promote cover and bird food	Each spring
Collect grass clippings within the bioswale and garden	Ongoing
Repair eroded areas	Monthly
Inspect and re-seed grass filter strip	Spring and fall
Replace mulch within the bioswale and garden	Each spring
Inspect overflow inlets	Ongoing
Maintain healthy plants	Ongoing
Maintain proper pH level of soil	1× per year
Keep snow from being stockpiled in the bioswale	Ongoing

KEEPERS



kgNaturePhotography.com

Red-osier Dogwood



kgNaturePhotography.com

Shrubby cinquefoil



USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

Black Chokeberry



kgNaturePhotography.com

Highbush cranberry



kgNaturePhotography.com

Nannyberry



Robert H. Mohlenbrock @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

Bluejoint



kgNaturePhotography.com

Common Rush



kgNaturePhotography.com

Fox Sedge



Used with permission.
John Hilty, illinoiswildflowers.info

June Grass



Used with permission.
John Hilty, illinoiswildflowers.info

Little Bluestem



co.washburn.wi.us

Sand Dropseed



Used with permission.
John Hilty, illinoiswildflowers.info

Indian Grass



kgNaturePhotography.com

Long Hair Sedge



kgNaturePhotography.com

Marsh Blazing Star



USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

Cutleaf Coneflower



kgNaturePhotography.com

Blue lobelia



kgNaturePhotography.com

Swamp milkweed



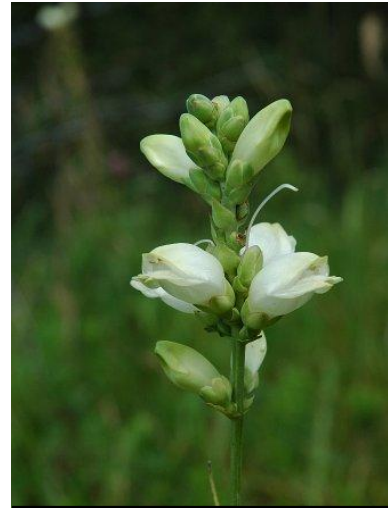
kgNaturePhotography.com

New England aster



Clarence A. Rechenthin @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

Coreopsis



kgNaturePhotography.com

White Turtlehead



kgNaturePhotography.com

Joe-pye weed



kgNaturePhotography.com

Boneset



Meredith Praamsma, MACC

Purple Coneflower



kgNaturePhotography.com

Cardinal Flower

WEEDS AND INVASIVES



Used with permission.
www.msuturfweeds.net

Wild Violet



Richard Old, XID Services, Inc,
Bugwood.org

Horseweed/Marestail



Used with permission.
www.msuturfweeds.net

Annual Bluegrass



Used with permission.
www.msuturfweeds.net

Crabgrass



Used with permission.
www.msuturfweeds.net

Knotweed



Used with permission.
www.msuturfweeds.net

Yellow Nutsedge



Used with permission.
www.msuturfweeds.net

Black Medic



Richard Old, XID Services, Inc,
Bugwood.org

Ground Ivy



Used with permission.
www.msuturfweeds.net

White Clover



Used with permission.
www.msuturfweeds.net

Purslane/Little Hogweed



Used with permission.
www.msuturfweeds.net

Canadian Thistle



Used with permission.
www.msuturfweeds.net

Dandelion



Used with permission.
www.msuturfweeds.net

Pigweed



Erin Hill, www.msuweeds.com

Lambsquarters



John Byrd, Mississippi State Univ,
Bugwood.org

Chickweed



Used with permission.
www.msuturfweeds.net

Wild Carrot/ Queen Anne's Lace