



Rain Gardens in NYC

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is building rain gardens and other types of green infrastructure to manage stormwater and improve water quality in local waterways.

Rain gardens are planted areas designed to collect and manage stormwater that runs off the streets and sidewalks when it rains.

Green infrastructure is a cost-effective way to help create a sustainable New York City.

- ✓ Beautifies neighborhoods
- ✓ Purifies air
- ✓ Reduces temperature during hot weather
- ✓ Improves street drainage
- ✓ Reduces puddles and ponds



nyc.gov/raingardens

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WANT TO LEARN MORE?

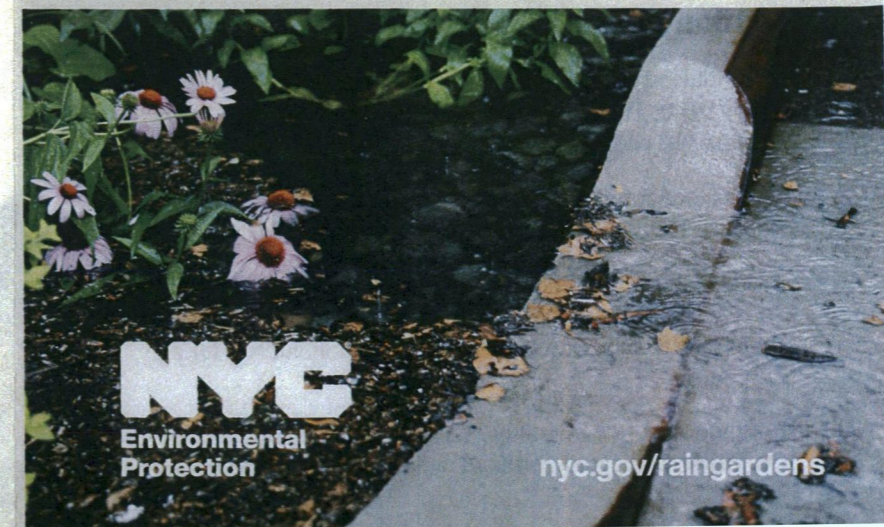
Visit our website for additional information and a map of rain garden locations at nyc.gov/raingardens

Call 311 anytime or call us directly at (718) 595-7599

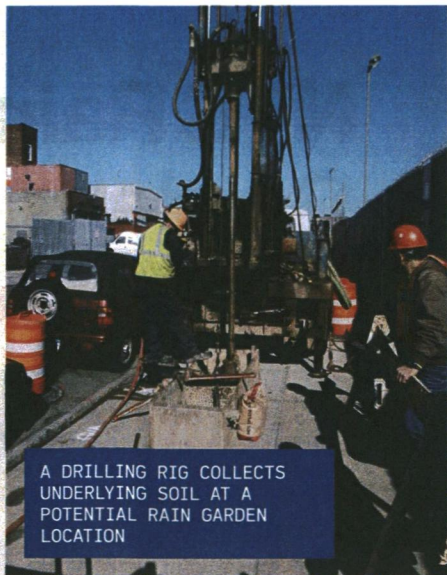
You can also email us at RainGardens@dep.nyc.gov

NYC Rain Gardens

Green Infrastructure



nyc.gov/raingardens



Design & Construction

You may notice the following activities on your block during the rain garden design and construction process.

Selection Process

- Potential locations for rain gardens are marked with green spray paint. This spray paint dissolves over time. Property owners will not receive a ticket for our spray paint.
- Not all locations that receive spray paint will receive a rain garden. This selection process can take several months.
- A drilling company is used to collect and test underlying soil to ensure that it can absorb stormwater. Only locations that effectively absorb stormwater are considered for a rain garden.
- Engineers work with utility companies, including ConEdison, to avoid conflicts with existing service lines.

Construction

Before construction begins, DEP will reach out to owners of abutting property with a letter and a robocall.

To be removed from consideration, one-, two-, and three-family homeowners will be able to submit:

1. an image of a sprinkler system installed in the grass strip or;
2. a copy of a resident's parking placard for people with disabilities issued by the NYC Department of Transportation within thirty days of the letter.

During construction, the sidewalk and curb are removed and the material underneath is excavated to depth of about five feet. The excavated area is backfilled with stone and engineered soil, which allows for infiltration.

The sidewalk and curb that were removed for the installation are replaced. The new curb has one or two curb cuts that allow water to flow in or out.

The contractor installs plants and trees and cares for them so they thrive in their new setting.

Maintenance

- Before taking over maintenance, the City inspects each completed rain garden to ensure it collects stormwater properly.
- The City is responsible for rain garden maintenance. Maintenance crews remove litter, sediment, and weeds from each installation on a regular basis. Crews will also replant the greenery as needed.

To report a maintenance issue, please call 311 or visit www.nyc.gov/311

CONTRACTORS FINISH A CONCRETE EDGE AND REPLACE THE SIDEWALK AROUND A NEW RAIN GARDEN



Frequently Asked Questions

Will the rain garden attract mosquitoes?

Mosquitoes require a minimum of 72 hours in standing water for larvae development. Rain gardens are designed to drain in 48 hours or less. If your rain garden does not appear to be draining properly, please call 311 or email us at raingardens@dep.nyc.gov.

Will the rain garden prevent people from walking on the sidewalk or block driveways and building entrances?

No, DEP works with the Department of Transportation (DOT) to ensure that rain gardens comply with the City's requirements for pedestrian access and safety.

Will the rain gardens remove parking?

Most rain gardens are installed in the sidewalk and are designed to have no impact on parking. When larger rain gardens are proposed, DEP and DOT work to minimize parking impacts.

Will tree roots crack the sidewalk or interfere with utility lines?

During design and construction, DEP and utility companies work together to ensure that rain gardens will not directly interfere with existing underground and above-ground utility service lines. Older tree roots can break sidewalks because the tree pit is not large enough for the tree roots. But the City's standard rain gardens are at least 10 feet long, which gives tree roots plenty of space to grow.

Contractors have been working on rain gardens in my neighborhood and there are tree guards but no plants. Why are these sites still unfinished?

Construction on rain gardens may begin at different times throughout the year. However, planting of the rain gardens must occur during the spring or fall season when conditions are optimal for planting. Construction on these rain gardens may have begun earlier in order to be ready for the next appropriate planting season.



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Starting March 1, 2020

Plastic Bag Ban (New York State)

Single-use plastic carryout bags are **banned**, with limited exceptions, in New York State.



Paper Bag Fee (New York City)

Businesses will begin collecting a **five-cent fee** on paper carryout bags.

This fee **will not apply** to any customers using SNAP or WIC.



To learn more and get a free reusable bag, visit nyc.gov/bags or call 311.

nyc.gov/bags | call 311

   NYCsanitation • NYCzerowaste



sanitation

2020 Census FAQ

What is the census?

The census is a count of every person who lives in the United States and its territories. It happens every 10 years. In early 2020, you will be asked to count everyone who lives in your home as of April 1. Responding to the 2020 Census is a chance to shape your future.

What's in it for me?



Your responses inform where over \$675 billion is distributed each year to communities nationwide for clinics, schools, roads, and more.



Census data gives community leaders vital information to make decisions about building community centers, opening businesses, and planning for the future.



Responding also fulfills your civic duty because it's mandated by the U.S. Constitution. The United States has counted its population every 10 years since 1790.



Your responses are used to redraw legislative districts and determine the number of seats your state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Is my information safe?

Your responses to the 2020 Census are safe, secure, and protected by federal law. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics. They cannot be used against you by any government agency or court in any way—not by the FBI, not by the CIA, not by the DHS, and not by ICE.

When can I respond to the census?

In early 2020, every household in America will receive a notice to complete the census online, by phone, or by mail. In May, the U.S. Census Bureau will begin following up in person with households that have yet to respond.

What will I be asked?

You will be asked a few simple questions, like age, sex, and the number of people who live in your home, including children.

What won't be asked?

The census will never ask for Social Security numbers, bank or credit card numbers, money or donations, or anything related to political parties.

For more information, visit:

2020CENSUS.GOV

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For more information or help applying, please call
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Federal Relay Service: 1-800-877-8339 TTY/ASCII
www.gsa.gov/fedrelay
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