



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

Para una copia en español, visite nyc.gov/raingardens

中文翻译, 请访问 nyc.gov/raingardens

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





GREEN SPRAY PAINT MARKS THE LOCATIONS OF POTENTIAL RAIN GARDENS



A DRILLING RIG COLLECTS UNDERLYING SOIL AT A POTENTIAL RAIN GARDEN LOCATION

Construction

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

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.