

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can the Rain Garden be moved to another location?

DEP determines Rain Garden locations based on a number of factors. In addition to meeting DOT pedestrian and vehicle clearance and safety requirements, the Rain Garden must be precisely located to collect stormwater runoff from the street. It also must be installed in an area where the underlying soil can absorb water. DEP is building the maximum number of Rain Gardens to improve water quality in local waterways. Once the locations are deemed final, the Rain Garden cannot be relocated.

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.

Will the Rain Garden prevent people from walking on the sidewalk or block driveways and building entrances?

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.



WANT TO LEARN MORE?

View a map of Rain Garden locations or visit our expanded FAQ page at nyc.gov/greeninfrastructure

CONTACT US | Bureau of Public Affairs (718) 595-6500 | GIOutreach@dep.nyc.gov

NYC GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

nyc.gov/greeninfrastructure

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE 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



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.
- ✓ Saves New Yorkers billions of dollars.

DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

You may notice the following activities on your block during the Rain Garden design & construction process.

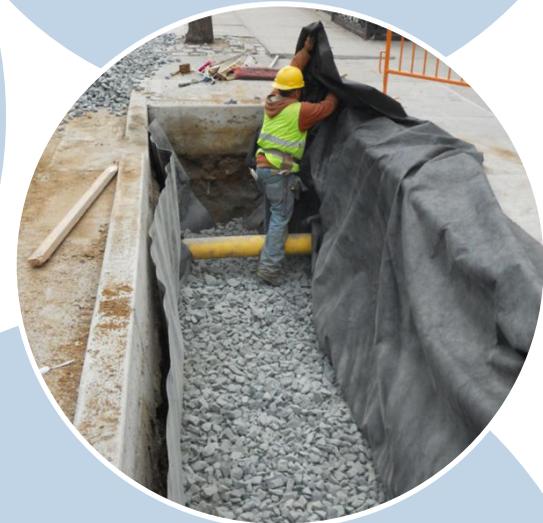


CONSTRUCTION

- The sidewalk and curb are removed and the material underneath is excavated to a depth of 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, usually including a tree, along with a tree guard.

SELECTION PROCESS

- Potential locations for Rain Gardens are marked with green spray paint.
- A drill rig is used to collect and test underlying soil to ensure that it can absorb stormwater.
- Engineers work with utility companies to eliminate conflicts with existing service lines.
- This selection process can take several months. Not all locations that receive spray paint will result in a Rain Garden.



MAINTENANCE

- The City inspects each completed Rain Garden installation to ensure it collects stormwater properly.
- The City is responsible for Rain Garden maintenance. Maintenance crews will remove litter, sediment, and weeds from each installation on a regular basis.