



# Maintaining Your Landscaping

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## Landscaping

Landscaping is the outside features of ones property that includes trees, shrubs, grasses, and other plants. The purpose of landscaping is to improve the overall appearance of public ways, parking areas, and provide a buffer for non-compatible land. This landscaping not only improves the appearance of the property, but also helps with storm water runoff, air pollution, noise, light, and the overall public health of the surrounding area. This landscaping can include things like a raingarden, bio-retention ponds, and your more simple landscapes around the property. Native plants are better, but your landscaping is not limited to native plants only.

## Maintenance

The process of maintaining the landscaping on our property includes clearing out any debris and old foliage from the area. Replacing and maintaining plants is important if one dies off or becomes overgrown. Seasonal upkeep is essential with the salty air and sandy soil having an impact on many of the plants in the surrounding area. Trimming and pruning the plants helps keep them contained and healthy at the same time. If any trees, shrubs or other landscaping is removed it must be replaced.



A rain garden located in Ocean City's downtown. Note how the curb cuts allow storm water enter into the garden.

## Rain Garden

Rain Garden's are a way to help treat your storm water on site while also providing an aesthetic component to the landscaping on your property. Runoff water will drain from your roof or lot and funnel towards the garden. Here the water will be treated from any pollutants while it slowly infiltrates into the soil removing any nutrients before they reach the bay. The gardens are composed of a mix between grasses and perennials of native plant species.

## Maintenance

Maintenance is relatively easy for rain gardens . These gardens must be kept clear from debris, frequently clearing of any solid wastes (i.e. trash) is important to help keep the plants in your rain garden healthy. The plants should be pruned seasonally and weeds kept clear from the garden.

## Suggestions for your Rain Garden

**Salt Tolerant:** Daylily, Cherry Birch, Bayberry, Lilacs, Saltspray Rose.

**Sunny:** Beachwood Blend, Switch Grass, Tall Sunflower.

**Shady:** Basil Balm, Sensitive Fern, Spreading Jacob's Ladder.

## Seasonal Landscape Maintenance:

**Spring:** Remove old mulch, remulch at base of trees and shrubs, prune summer flowering plants, begin planting.

**Summer:** Water as needed, weed as needed (2-3 times per summer), prune spring blooming shrubs and plants, trim hedges after first growth, deadhead faded flowers.

**Fall:** Clean up any rotten or fallen landscaping, cutback perennials, harvest any plants before first frost, rake and compost leaves.

**Winter:** Maintain wintering bulbs, remove any dead or rotten plants, use alternatives from salt to avoid killing any plants.