

## StormGUARDen™ Homeowner Maintenance

As Green Infrastructure (GI) is becoming more widely implemented, the benefits of such applications are becoming well known to the general public. StormGUARDen™ is a planter-style GI system with low maintenance requirements.

### To care for your StormGUARDen™:

- **Remove debris (sticks/leaves/etc.) from the trough and outlets:** A few times per year, a handful or so of leaves might gather in the trough or near the outlets on the inside of the device. With a gloved hand, clear debris from the trough and compost or dispose of it. Next, clear the outlets with a cylindrical rod such as a dowel or screwdriver. Then, with a gloved hand, remove and compost or dispose of any debris. Frequency of cleanings will vary based on proximity of nearby trees.
- **Remove weeds as needed:** As with any other garden, if you see something that's not supposed to be there, pull it! Weeds tend to get tangled up with the beneficial native plantings and restrict their access to sunlight and water.
- **Know your plants:** Different plants have different needs. Some plants may benefit from a seasonal pruning while other plants may develop a mineral deficiency. Prune and apply compost as needed for your various plants. We recommend cutting all plants down to 6" in height after the first winter freeze.
- **Note about Winter:** StormGUARDen™ has the added benefit of functioning in winter months. While rain barrels need to be emptied and taken into the garage, or flipped upside down, StormGUARDen™ manages rainwater and snowmelt all winter. If you are using your StormGUARDen™ to store water, just be sure to open the spigots before temperatures dip below freezing to allow it to empty. When the temperature rises above freezing, the system will begin flowing as usual.

