# Maintenance / Care Instructions for Bay-scape gardens:

Once you choose to install a Bay-scape, there are some simple steps that need to be taken to ensure the longevity and productivity of the garden. Reference the calendar at the end of this document to know when to take on these tasks.

## Inspection:

### Inlet

Regularly check the inlet to be sure it is free from accumulated trash, leaves, and other debris that might block the flow of stormwater.

### Surface

When plants are dormant, look for areas of erosion or sediment build-up on the surface of the garden. Stabilize eroded areas with mulch and plants. See Revitalization section for sediment removal tips.

### Overflow

Observe the path of stormwater as it exits the garden. Watch out for erosion or damage to the berm. Contact a professional if the garden does not seem to be performing as originally intended.

## Plant Care:

### Watering

For the first growing season, plants should be watered 3 times a week unless there has been significant rain. In the second growing season, after plants become well established, watering can be reduced to dry spells and if plants appear wilted. Native plants will adapt to our climate and require minimal watering after settling. Avoid overwatering as this will cause root rot, wilting, and discoloration of leaves.

### Weeding

Removing unwanted weeds and plants should occur once every week for the first growing season or until plants are well established. Afterward, weed once a month or so, watching out for the invasive species present in the area. Always remove weeds with vines or thorns. Avoid using chemical methods, such as Roundup. Always try to use mechanical methods (hand pulling or trowel use).

### Pruning

Prune dead or damaged branches on trees and shrubs in the late winter before they leaf out. Additional pruning to maintain shape and size should happen after the woody plant has finished flowering. This timing varies from plant to plant.

Leave the dormant stalks of plant material standing over the winter to provide habitat for birds and beneficial insects. Ornamental grasses and perennials can be cut down to within three to four inches of the ground in late winter to make room for new growth.

In order to keep perennials from getting leggy in the summer, the spring growth can be cut back a bit to encourage more bushy growth. After flowering, deadhead spent flowers to promote new growth and possibly new blooms.

### Splitting and Replanting

Many successful native perennials can be dug up and split to create new plants that can be used to cover bare areas. This can be done in spring or fall. Be sure to water the newly relocated plants.

### Pest Management

Plants should be regularly checked for pests to ensure a continued growth. Avoid using chemicals, such as pesticides, as a control-based method. Instead, use a biological or mechanical approach to removing pests. One example of a biological method is to encourage a predator of a pest into your garden; such as encouraging ladybugs into your garden to control aphids, a common pest found on milkweed. Handpicking of pests is the preferred method for mechanical removal.

## Cleaning:

### Removing Leaves

Lightly rake and remove the leaves that land in the garden in the fall. Do not blow leaves from other parts of the yard into the garden.

### Removing Trash

Windblown trash often accumulates among the plants in gardens. Remove it regularly for a tidier look.

## Mulch:

**Raking**

Inspect garden for “caking” or packed mulch. Mulch should not feel compacted or dried out. If mulch becomes caked, break up the mulch by using your hands or a leaf rake.

**Removing**

If the mulch has degraded or filled up with sediment, it should be removed. Use a flat shovel and scrape off the top three inches of material, taking care to not disturb the plants. This is best done in the late winter when most plants are still dormant. Discard the mulch in the trash as it is likely to be contaminated with surface pollutants.

**Replacing**

If the mulch has been removed, or if it has washed away during a storm, then it can be replaced. Add one to three inches of double-shredded hardwood mulch without dyes. Avoid mulching up to the base of your plants, as this will suffocate the plant and limit the amount of water and oxygen your plants need in order to thrive. Mulching once a year can help to control erosion and weeds. Once the garden plants are well established mulching can be reduced as there is less room for both mulch and weeds.

## Revitalization:

**Removing Plants**

Certain plants may be too successful. If pruning and splitting is not enough to control an overgrown species, then it may be necessary to selectively remove certain individual plants. Share the extras with a friend or neighbor!

**Removing Sediment**

The mulch and the top layer of soil will need to be replaced every three to five years as sediment builds up on the surface. Use a flat shovel and scrape off the top three to five inches of material, taking care to not disturb the plants too much. This is best done in the late winter when most plants are still dormant. Discard the mulch in the trash as it is likely to be contaminated with surface pollutants.

Replace with new soil media and mulch to original design levels. Consult a professional as necessary.

**Replacing Plants**

During the growing season it may be obvious that some plants have died or are not performing as well as expected. Replace with new native plants or by splitting some of the more successful plants in the garden.

**HEW's Maintenance Program**

Howard EcoWorks also offers a fee-for-service maintenance program for all the Bay-scapes, rain gardens, and conservation landscapes we install. Typical costs for participation in HEW's fee for service maintenance program range from $1000-$3000 per year depending on the number and size of the gardens. If this fee for service program is of interest to you, please contact Ted Wolfe at twolfe@howardecoworks.org for more details.

# Triennial Inspections

As a requirement for all stormwater best management practices (BMP), an inspection of your project will need to occur once every 3 years. This inspection is to verify the functionality and effectiveness of the stormwater BMP in question. Inspections will be performed by Howard EcoWorks staff and notification of inspections will be sent to you at least 1 month before the intended inspection date. Triennial inspections take approximately 20-30 minutes and do not require your presence, just your permission to enter the property. Furthermore, photos of the project may be requested from your in lieu of an onsite inspection.

If you have any questions regarding the Triennial Inspections process please reach out to info@howardecoworks.org for more information.

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| **PROJECT LOCATION** | | **DATE** | |
| **BMP TYPE** | Bay-scape | **BUILT BY** | Howard EcoWorks |

# MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

| | TASK | DETAILS | Winter | | | Spring | | | Summer | | | Fall | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
| 1 | Inspection | Inlet | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Surface | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Overflow | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Plant Care | Watering | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Weeding | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Pruning | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Splitting and replanting | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Pest management | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Cleaning | Removing leaves | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Removing trash | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Mulch | Raking | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Removing | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Replacing | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Revitalization | Removing plants | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Removing sediment | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Replacing plants | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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