

# Rain Garden Care Instructions

## **First Two Weeks after Planting**

- Water all plants every day for the first 14 days after planting

## **First Two Years**

- Water plants regularly if there has not been a significant recent rainfall (mid-March through December)
- Cover any bare spots with mulch or groundcover plants
- Weed the garden area and around planted trees as needed (at least 4 times a year)
- Watch out for erosion and repair it before soil and mulch wash away
- Keep an eye on trees and shrubs for pests or disease and call the Cooperative Extension Service at 757-683-2816 to find out how to handle the problem

## **Each Year in Late Winter (February to Early March)**

- Prune dead branches from trees and shrubs

## **Every Spring (April 15 to May 30)**

- Cut back all dead and dying plants (remember that many of your plants naturally die back each year and return in the Spring)
- Replace dead plants with new ones. Please plant only native perennials that are adapted to the conditions appropriate to your garden.
- Add new mulch (every two to three years, take out old before adding new) as needed

## **Every Fall (October 1 to November 30)**

- Prune all dead and dying plants
- Put in new shrubs or trees to replace dead ones. Again, please only plant native trees and shrubs adapted to your garden conditions.

### Watering Tips

A heavy soaking 2-3 times a week is needed, if it has not rained heavily. A soaker hose or gentle spray that waters slowly is best. New plants need about an inch of water a week. To see if watering is needed, clear away the mulch and poke a stick or screwdriver in the soil. If it does not go down six inches, you need to water.