

Rain Gardens

Oct 16, 2023

Dear Grand Ave Residents,

The Grand Ave Reconstruction project installed some of the City of Minneapolis' first rain gardens along a street. The rain gardens in your boulevards help protect the water bodies in the city, reduce stormwater runoff, and improve water quality. They are designed to collect stormwater runoff from the street, sidewalk, and yards and allow it to soak into the ground. Native prairie grasses and wildflowers will make your boulevard look beautiful, attracting birds, bees, and butterflies!

Since construction was completed, we have been conducting site reviews, we have heard your feedback, and we are aware of the concerns around the rain gardens.

Starting this week, "No Parking" signs will be posted for a couple blocks at a time. The Contractor will likely begin with cleaning inlets into the swales. Following that, they will be revising some of the swales to address issues that were observed, such as the steeper slopes and drop next to the sidewalk. They will also be re-seeding in some areas and applying a new erosion control blanket, as well as some clean up of the inlets along the curb into the swale areas. Please note, we are working on the swale areas only and not the typical sodded boulevard areas.

Here are things you can do to help maintain and improve the aesthetics and function of your rain gardens:

- Pick up trash in the sediment traps, curb openings and rain gardens.
- If you see small amounts of sediment and dirt in the sediment trap or curb opening to your rain garden, this can be removed and disposed of properly in your trash.
- If you notice ponding in your raingarden lasting more than 48 hours, contact 311.
- Water the rain garden if the soil is dry.
- Weed and prune vegetation.

Thank you so much for your cooperation and patience as we work to make Grand Ave better! If you have any questions please see our website at

<https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/departments/public-works/surface-water-sewers/programs-policy/green-infrastructure/>