Statement of Rain Garden Function

In order to reduce excess stormwater flows to the combined sewer system, Lake Washington and Puget Sound, rain garden systems must be designed to meet or exceed the RainWise program’s standards and constructed so they cause no harm to you or your neighbors. While our inspector is able to check for minimum standards of primary importance to the city or county (such as sizing and appropriate setbacks), only you, the homeowner, live with your new rain garden on a daily basis. You are in the best position to evaluate whether your system is functioning as designed. Your evaluation of system function via this document ensures that our ratepayers are getting the value of the service we are funding through the RainWise rebate program, and also ensures you have a functioning system before you make your final payment to your contractor.

Please follow the instructions below, answer the question, and sign and return this document with your rebate package.

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO EVALUATE AND CONFIRM TO SPU/WTD THAT YOUR SYSTEM IS FUNCTIONING PROPERLY.

Rain Garden Systems

Ponding duration
Observe your rain garden during and after rain events. During summer or extended dry periods, use a hose to fill your rain garden to its ponding depth (up to the level of the overflow). Ponding is normal in a rain garden, but in the absence of continuous rain the majority of your rain garden should drain over a 24 hour period after it stops raining.

Overflow conveyance
Observe your rain garden during large rain events, or use a hose to simulate flows. Ensure that water leaving the rain garden discharges to the approved discharge location and not your neighbor’s property or your basement.

If your rain garden does not function properly, notify both your contractor and the RainWise Program.
You may call 206-684-0100 or email inspectionrequest@seattle.gov

Your contractor will work with you according to the terms of the RainWise warranty agreement to make sure your rain garden functions correctly. Seattle Public Utilities and King County Wastewater Treatment Division are not responsible for construction practices undertaken by the contractor that could cause the system to be nonfunctional. Examples would be failure to test for soil infiltration, over-compacting the soil, or allowing silts or other fine materials to contaminate the bio-retention soils which could impede proper draining of a rain garden.

Certification:
I have observed my rain garden and its function, and assert that it drains within a 24 hour period and overflows to an approved discharge location.

Printed name_________________________________

Signature_____________________________________

Date __________________

Revised 10/2/2014