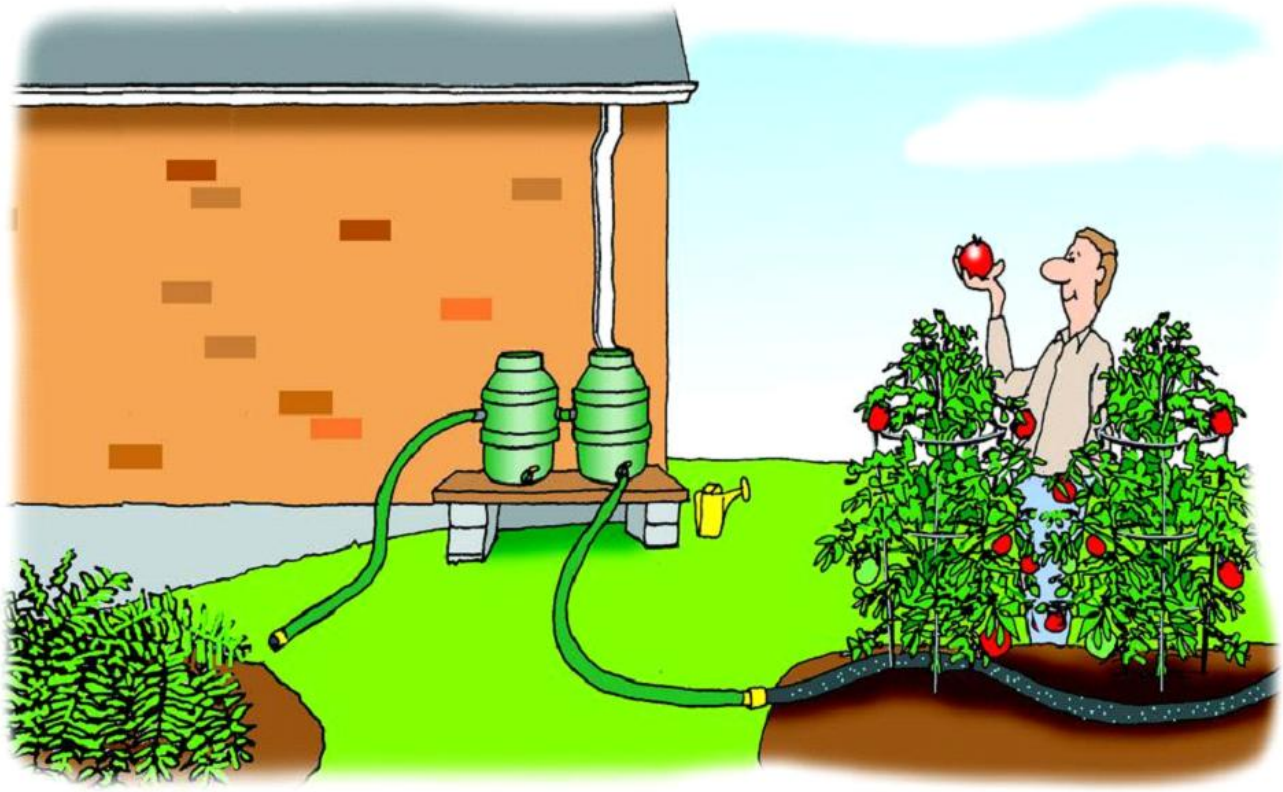
Rain Gardens ▪ Conservation Landscaping ▪ Canopy Trees ▪ Permeable Pavers ▪ Pavement Removal ▪ Green Roofs ▪ Rain Barrels ▪ Cisterns ▪ Dry Wells

2011 Montgomery County

RainScapes Rewards



For your yard…your watershed…your community

Rain Barrel Application

About the Program and Application Process

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection RainScapes Program is seeking residential, commercial and private institutional property owners to improve stormwater runoff conditions on their property by installing more natural drainage projects. The Rainscapes Program provides the opportunity for residents and property owners to participate in the effort to improve local water quality. These projects are designed to slow rainwater runoff and reduce the amount of stormwater entering local streams, increase groundwater supply, and reduce chemical and nutrient pollutants entering waterways. Other environmental benefits of these projects include reduced energy consumption and air pollution from lawn mowers, reduced water use for irrigation during droughts, and increased biodiversity in the suburban landscape. Importantly, these unique landscaping enhancements can ultimately add value to the property.

All Rewards Rebate projects must be approved prior to installation. Financial rewards will be granted for the installation of

- **rain gardens**
- **replacement of turf grass or invasive species with conservation landscaping utilizing native plants**
- **Canopy tree planting to help expand County Urban tree canopy**
- **replacement of existing impervious cover with permeable pavers**
- **pavement removal**
- **green roofs**
- **rain barrels**
- **cisterns**
- **dry wells**

Single family and townhome residential property owners are offered a financial reward of a maximum of $1,200 per residential lot, dependent on project type and actual costs. Multi-family, commercial, and private institutional land owners are offered a financial reward of up to a maximum of $5000 per property, with caps for each type of project.

All projects require approval by DEP RainScapes prior to installation, a signed and returned property owner agreement (provided to the property owner after the project is approved for installation), proof of expenditure (receipts) and the provision of a tax ID# for payment purposes. Please consult the rebate table at the end of this section for a summary of rebate rewards amounts. The reward amount is established by project type, as described in the project application, and excludes taxes. Applicants are encouraged to apply early as funds are limited. RainScapes Rewards rebates will be processed until funds are depleted.

Maximum Rebate Amounts by Property Type

Rainscapes Practice	Residential	Commercial, Multi-Family, or Institutional
Rain Gardens	**$1,200**	**$5000 total- based on $1/ sf impervious area treated or $2500/rain garden whichever $ is greater**
Conservation Landscaping - Replacement of turf or invasive species	**$250-750; $1/square feet - minimum 250 square feet**	**$3000; $3/square foot – 350 square feet minimum**
Urban Tree Canopy	**$600 per lot; $150/tree**	**$600 per lot; $150/tree**
Permeable Pavers	**$1200 – 100 square foot minimum**	**$5000 – 350 square foot minimum**
Pavement Removal	**$600 - $1200 – 100 square foot minimum; rebate amount varies depending on planting material**	**$1800 - $5000 – 300 square foot minimum; rebate amount varies depending on planting material**
Green Roofs	**$1200 – 300 square feet or ¼ of roof- retrofit**	**$5000 - 300 square feet or ¼ of roof- retrofit**
Rain Barrels	**$200 (must capture 200 gallons)**	**$200 (must capture 200 gallons)**
Cisterns	**$ 500 ($1/gallon stored, 250 gallons min.)**	**$ 2000 ($1/gallon stored, 250 gallons min.)**
Dry wells	**$ 600**	**$ 600**

- To participate, your property must be located in Montgomery County, **outside** of the municipal limits of the City of Rockville, City of Takoma Park, or City of Gaithersburg.
- Projects are **not** eligible if they are associated with permit approval requirements for new building construction, additions, or renovations.
- All requirements as outlined below, in the application, and in the *Design Guidelines and Criteria for Project Eligibility* (attached) must be met. All decisions are final and are at the sole discretion of the Department of Environmental Protection.

FOR ALL APPLICATIONS

1. **A signed RainScapes Rewards Property Owner Agreement is required to be signed and returned by time of final inspection. We will provide this document to you after the proposed project is approved.**

2. Prior to final inspection, all itemized receipts, installation/contractor bills, etcetera, covering all project costs, must be submitted to receive the rebate. Documented project costs must equal or exceed the rebate amount requested.

3. Projects which are not installed within six months of the preliminary inspection date may be removed from consideration for payment of the rebate unless approved for time continuance by DEP.

NOTE: About Project Tours

The application includes a question about voluntary participation in tours of the RainScapes' projects conducted by DEP. Project tours will help DEP educate others about the benefits and beauty of these projects, and we ask that RainScapes Rewards project participants agree to allow reasonable access to the project site for periodic tours organized by the County. The County will provide notice of at least five (5) business days before undertaking any project tour. A County employee will be present at all times during the tours and tour participants will be required to execute a waiver releasing the property owner from any liability for damages or injuries resulting from the tours.

The applicant is asked to agree to participate in public outreach activities associated with the RainScapes project, including allowing DEP to place signage, take and use photos, and complete a follow-up evaluation.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

Only complete applications submitted with all required information will be processed. Applicant is responsible for obtaining any necessary permits for construction. Rewards projects are voluntary. Rebates are not for projects that are required to meet a stormwater permit. Follow the three steps below.

STEP 1 – The Application

- Complete and sign the application form.
- Compile all necessary documentation outlined in the application.
- Be sure that you have the latest version of the ***Design Guidelines and Criteria for Project Eligibility***
- Take a "before" photo of the proposed project area (up to six photos may be submitted - small size if electronic).
- Submit the completed application form, photos, and required documentation.
- **Wait to receive application approval from the Department of Environmental Protection RainScapes Program BEFORE beginning the project (Allow three weeks for processing).**

STEP 2 – Before You Begin the Project

- You will be contacted by the Department of Environmental Protection and the preliminary site inspection will be scheduled (optional for rain barrels, and trees, depending on the site).
- For rain gardens, turf conversions (conservation landscapes), permeable paver retrofit projects, pavement removal and tree plantings, you must contact MISS UTILITY and have the project area marked prior to site inspection.
- Upon verification of eligibility and approval notification from RainScapes, you may begin your project.

STEP 3 – After You Finish the Project

- Call or email the Department of Environmental Protection RainScapes Rewards Staff to schedule a final inspection. Inspections will generally be scheduled within 10 business days. The email box: rainscapes.application@montgomerycountymd.gov is the preferred email address to use for Rebate application correspondence.
- At the final inspection, correct installation of the project will be verified, and the project area will be photographed.
- **Itemized receipts and/or final invoice for all project costs are required.** Photocopies are acceptable.
- **A signed copy of the property owner agreement must be submitted. Original signatures are required. This document will be provided to you at the time of your application approval notice.**
- You will need to provide the department with an income tax ID# so that the county can issue you a check.
- If all project requirements are met, the rebate will be approved for payment, and a check will be issued by the County Department of Finance within three to six weeks of submitting the final documentation.

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU for your interest and participation in the RainScapes Program!

Below are examples of rain barrels to give you some ideas!

This is an 80 gallon rain barrel with a seasonal diverter for winter and summer.

Linked barrels. This would be an example of 120 gallons.