What is the Credit Program?

Property owners can reduce their Water Quality Protection Charge by installing stormwater management practices on their property.

Stormwater management practices capture and treat rainwater so that the water does not flow directly into storm drains or streams. They remove pollutants, protect public health and prevent flooding, stream damage and erosion.

How are Credits Determined?

The amount of the credit earned by each stormwater management practice is based on the type of practice and the volume of water treated.

Intensive practices, such as wet ponds and swales treat a lot of stormwater, and therefore, give property owners a large credit. Less intensive practices, such as rain barrels, provide a smaller credit.

Stormwater management practices can beautify your property with native flowering plants that attract butterflies.

Want to learn more?
Visit the RainScapes program at **www.rainscapes.org** for resources, tips and rebate information.

Ready to Apply for a Credit?

If you have a stormwater management practice on your property and you maintain it in accordance with DEP requirements, then you are ready to apply for a credit. Download an application at:

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/wqpc

The credit application for residential properties is different from the application for multi-family and non-residential properties. For more information, visit the WQPC website.

Applications are due in the autumn. The credit is applied to the following tax year and is valid for 3 years. For a listing of application deadlines, visit the WQPC website.

Water Quality Protection Charge

The Water Quality Protection Charge (WQPC) raises funds to improve the water quality of our streams and reduce stormwater pollution. The WQPC can be found on Montgomery County property tax bills.

The WQPC is calculated based on the potential for a property to contribute to stormwater pollution. Typically, a larger, more developed property produces more pollution, and therefore, receives a larger charge.

Contact the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection:
WQPC.Credits@montgomerycountymd.gov
240-777-0311

Water Quality Protection Charge Credit Guide

Department of Environmental Protection

Save Money and Help Protect Our Local Waters

Common Types of Stormwater Management

Rain gardens are bowl-shaped landscaped areas that are designed to temporarily fill with water when it rains. They are planted with plants that are adapted to extremes of wet and dry.

Conservation landscaping uses native plants that are adapted to local rainfall and soil conditions to replace part of traditional lawns. Native plants provide habitat for wildlife as well as beautify your property.

Pervious pavement is designed to allow water to penetrate the surface and flow into a collection area that drains to the underlying soil. Pervious pavement can be used on driveways, parking lots, walkways and patios.

Rain barrels are containers that collect and store rainwater for later use. Rainwater typically flows into rain barrels by gutters or downspouts off of roofs.

Above Ground:

Stormwater is stored or treated above the surface

Dry Ponds temporarily hold stormwater after a storm, but they remain dry between storms. After it rains, the water is slowly released or absorbed into the ground. Some dry ponds also have sand filters in the bottom.

Wet ponds are designed to hold stormwater to provide time for pollutants to settle out. Wet ponds continuously have water.

Green roofs are roofs designed to be planted and filter stormwater. In urban areas, green roofs are a great way to reduce pollution and lower energy costs.

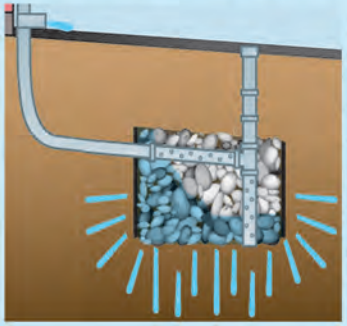
Sand filters treat stormwater by passing it through sand to remove pollutants. They are typically depressions in the ground filled with sand, so to the untrained eye, a sand filter may look like a sand box or volleyball court.

Swales are channels with vegetation on the sides and bottoms. The channel captures stormwater to settle out pollutants and provide time for water to absorb into the ground.

Infiltration trenches are filled with rocks and gravel. A trench captures stormwater in the spaces between the rocks to filter out pollutants and temporarily store water.

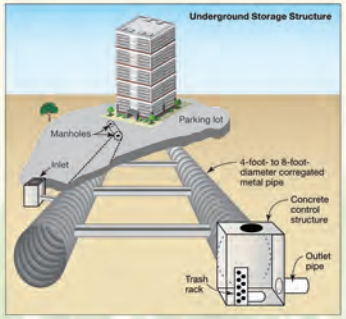
Underground:

Stormwater is stored or treated below the surface



Dry wells are underground gravel pits that collect rainwater from roof gutters and let it absorb into the soil. They are a good option for properties with limited space.

Underground storage structures capture and treat stormwater in large pipes or vaults. If you think you have underground storage on your property, contact the Department of Environmental Protection.



For more information on stormwater management practices, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/stormwater