



RainScapes Rewards

Creating Watershed - Friendly Landscapes

When it rains, local streams and rivers receive polluted runoff that washes off the yards, streets, rooftops, parking lots and built environment of our neighborhoods. RainScapes are landscapes that recreate natural ecosystem functions to help soil capture and filter the rain water – this prevents pollution runoff and erosion and recharges groundwater, while creating habitat areas full of beauty and life.

Techniques to help protect our natural resources also help our financial resources by reducing maintenance requirements, including watering, mowing, fertilizing, and pest control associated with turf-grasses. Diverse, well-planned landscaping has also been shown to increase property values.

Eligible techniques include installing rain gardens; replacing paved areas with permeable pavers, removing pavement, replacing conventional roofs with green roofs, or turf grass with conservation landscaping using native plants; planting trees for additional canopy; and installing dry wells, cisterns, or rain barrels.

RainScapes Rewards

For Your Yard, Your Watershed and Your Community

The RainScapes Rewards program offers Montgomery County residents and businesses financial incentives and technical assistance to install landscaping techniques and projects for residential, commercial and institutional lands. The RainScapes Rewards rebate values vary by project type and land use.

Rain Gardens – Harvesting the Heavens: A rain garden is a raised bed in reverse: attractive native plants are planted in a spoon-like, concave area filled with a special soil mix. The depression collects rainfall runoff and allows it to filter into the ground. Native plants in the rain garden with strong, deep roots also help to filter pollutants in the runoff and infiltrate the water into deeper layers of the soil.

Rewards Rebate up to \$2500; see Rewards table.



Conservation Landscaping with Native Plants: Turf-grass lawns can be highly compacted and may not absorb much rain. Conservation landscaping is replacing traditional lawns that are intensive in management time and expensive chemicals inputs with easily maintained gardens that are planted with native plants. These gardens soak up rain water, support biodiversity of native plant and insect populations, and are adapted to local rainfall conditions including being able to survive drought periods. They offer a beautiful addition to your property while adding improved ecosystem functions.

Rewards Rebate up to \$2500, minimum 250 sq. ft. of project area @ \$2.00 to \$3.00 a sq. foot.

Planting Trees: Increasing tree canopy is a simple technique with multiple benefits. Trees intercept falling raindrops and retain them, thus reducing the total amount of stormwater that runs off the landscape and paved surfaces. Trees have an extensive underground root system that absorbs stormwater and the evapotranspiration process cools and cleans the air. Some studies have shown that having mature trees on a property can increase its value by as much as 20%. **Rewards Rebate up to \$2500, \$200 max/tree depending on how many fit on your property.**



How to Apply

Interested property owners must fill out an application, which outlines eligibility criteria and provides guidelines for project design. To learn more about the program and submit a RainScapes Rewards application, go to www.rainscapes.org

or e-mail Rainscapes
@montgomerycountymd.gov

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Permeable Paver Retrofit: Permeable paving allows rainwater to rapidly infiltrate and enter the soil where it is naturally filtered, rather than running off the land into storm sewers. Replacing impervious surfaces such as driveways with permeable pavers reduces overall storm water runoff. **Rewards Rebate up to \$2500 for impervious area replaced @ \$4/sq.ft.**

Pavement Removal: Removing pavement, decompacting the soil and planting native plants helps to reduce the impervious area shedding water into our storm drains and streams. **Rebate up to \$1200-2500 depending on what plants are planted; see Rewards table.**

Green Roof: A green roof is a type of building roof that is specifically designed to filter rainfall and is partially or completely covered with vegetation. The roof is first covered with a waterproofing membrane, then with a specialized soil mixture and low-maintenance, drought tolerant plants such as sedums. The roof is structurally strong enough to retain some rainfall, while allowing larger volumes to percolate through the plant and soil system, and off the roof. The result is a reduced amount of runoff with improved water quality, compared to a regular roof. Green roofs also offer energy savings through increased heating and cooling efficiency, and can reduce urban heat island effects. **Rewards Rebate up to \$2500, \$10/ square foot.**

Did you know?
Residential rooftops can contribute up to 40% of the imperviousness in many urban subwatersheds – RainScapes can make a big difference by capturing some of this runoff.

Dry Wells: Dry wells are gravel filled excavations which receive rooftop runoff and which encourage water to infiltrate into the ground. The dry wells must be installed to meet County permitting requirements. Each 100 sq ft of roof area will require a 3'x 3' x 3.5' deep dry well. No more than 1000 sq ft of roof area should be directed to each dry well. Overflow from the dry well should be directed to a safe area away from adjacent houses. **Rewards Rebate up to \$600, \$1/gal.**

Rain Barrels and Cisterns: These are containers or systems which collect and store rain water from rooftops. They provide a simple opportunity for water conservation and can reduce the amount of stormwater that ends up as runoff. **Rewards Rebate requires minimum 200 gallons storage for detached homes; 100 gallons for townhouses; maximum rebate of \$200 @ \$1/gal.**

RainScapes Technique	Maximum Residential Rewards Rebates \$2500/parcel	Maximum Commercial, Multi-Family, HOA common land, and Institutional Rewards Rebates \$10,000/parcel
Canopy Trees	\$200/tree; # trees determined by space on parcel. Must shade or cover impervious area	\$200/tree; # trees determined by space on parcel. Must shade or cover impervious area
Conservation Landscaping - Replacement of turf or invasive species	\$2.00/square foot with no ponding, \$3.00/square foot with 2" of ponding Project must replace turf or invasives Project needs to intercept runoff 250 square foot minimum	\$2.00/square foot with no ponding, \$3.00/square foot with 2" of ponding Project must replace turf or invasives Project needs to intercept runoff 250 square foot minimum
Dry Wells	\$1.00 per gal ; \$600 maximum	\$1.00 per gal; \$600 maximum
Green Roofs	\$10/square foot, 250 square feet minimum	\$10/square foot; 300 square feet minimum
Permeable Pavers and Porous Concrete	\$4/square feet or \$1200, whichever is greater; 100 square feet minimum	\$4/square feet or \$5000, whichever is greater; 100 square feet minimum
Pavement Removal	\$4/square foot or \$2/square foot; rebate amount varies depending on replacement project type (turf is lower); 100 square feet minimum	\$4/square foot or \$2/square foot; rebate amount varies depending on replacement project type(turf is lower); 300 square feet minimum
Rain Garden	Based on square foot of ponding area and soil replacement (media)depth: 1' of media: \$5/ square foot 2' of media: \$7/square foot 3' of media; \$9/square foot or \$1200/ rain garden, whichever is greater – see RS design manual for sizing charts	Based on square foot of ponding area and soil replacement (media)depth: 1' of media: \$5/ square foot 2' of media: \$7/square foot 3' of media; \$9/square foot or \$2500/ rain garden, whichever is greater – see RS design manual for sizing charts
Water Harvesting: Cisterns	\$1/Gallon (minimum 250 gallons, up to 500 gallons)	\$1/ Gallon (minimum 250 gallons, up to 2000 gallons)
Water Harvesting: Rain Barrels	\$250 (must capture 200 gallons if single family home; 100 if Townhome); \$1/gallon	\$250 (must capture 200 gallons); \$1/gallon

All Projects must meet Montgomery County DEP RainScapes requirements posted on our website <http://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/RainScapes/>

Planning and planting your RainScape can be a very rewarding way to help improve water quality and habitat of local streams and the Potomac River.

