



RainScapes Rewards Rebates

RainScapes Rewards projects are designed to reduce stormwater runoff and enhance the local environment. These voluntary projects are funded by the Water Quality Protection Charge (WQPC). RainScapes Rewards projects cannot be used to fulfill a county-required stormwater permit, and only new projects will be considered for a rebate. In order to qualify for a rebate, properties must be located within Montgomery County but outside of the municipalities of Rockville, Gaithersburg, and Takoma Park. (These jurisdictions collect their WQPC separately.)

Project Timeline and Requirements	
1	Read the website and design manual for the specific Rainscapes projects. Please also read our Application Process document.
2	Go to the online application, and fill it out.
3	Submit your RainScapes rebate application. If you don't get an email from RainScapes@montgomerycountymd.gov , then you did not finish your application. If you need help, please contact us through that email.
4	If your application contains all the necessary information, you will be contacted by the Department of Environmental Protection to schedule a mandatory preliminary inspection. These inspections are required before project installation can begin. <i>Note: No preliminary inspection is required for rain barrels</i>
5	Supporting documents specific to each rebate type will need to be submitted. This can happen before or after the preliminary inspection. Please see the project requirements for a supporting documents list.
6	Once you've passed the preliminary inspection and all your supporting documents have been approved, you will receive an application response letter. This letter gives approval details and rebate funding level. A property owner agreement will also be sent at this time. Once you receive the approval letter, installation of the project can begin.
7	Projects must be installed within six months of the date of the approval letter. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have.
8	Once the project is installed, contact the Department of Environmental Protection to schedule a final inspection.
9	At the final inspection, you may receive a list of necessary changes/adjustments to make before a rebate can be issued. Completion of any adjustments will need to be photo-documented and emailed to RainScapes@montgomerycountymd.gov . Depending on the number of adjustments, a second final inspection may be necessary.
10	Submit at the end: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Copies of the receipts, itemized and with sales tax subtracted• Electronically-signed property owner agreement
11	Your rebate will be processed for payment after your project passes final inspection and you have submitted your receipts and property owner agreement. The rebate check will be issued by the Montgomery County Department of Finance.



RainScapes Rewards Rebates Design Criteria & Requirements for Project Eligibility

Conservation Landscape

Rebate Amounts

\$5 per square foot for projects with less than 3" of temporary ponding

\$6 per square foot for projects with berms or stone check dams to provide 3" of temporary ponding

Maximum rebate: Residential - **\$7,500** • Commercial/Institutional - **\$20,000**

Required Supporting Documents

- Planting plan (with graphic scale) showing plant quantities and locations
- HOA approval letter, if applicable

Minimum size

- **Residential** – 250 total square feet (can be multiple gardens, but no gardens smaller than 75 square feet)
- **Commercial/Institutional** – 350 total square feet (can be multiple gardens, but no gardens smaller than 75 square feet)

Location

- Must be on private property. May not build in County's right-of-way.
- Replaces existing turf, invasive plants, or eroded soils
- Receives stormwater runoff from an impervious surface
- Does not temporarily pond water within 10' of a house foundation
- Does not redirect existing flow of water to a paved surface or a neighbor's property
- Does not back up water onto a neighbor's property
- After application submittal, you will be contacted for a preliminary inspection to ensure site suitability.

Design/Installation

- No sizing calculation is required for projects with less than 3" of temporary ponding.
- Projects with 3" of temporary ponding should use the following calculation to determine size:
$$\text{Impervious area draining to project} \times 20\% = \text{Required garden size}$$

(Example: 1000 ft² roof x .20 = 200 ft² garden)
- A planting plan and plant list must be submitted and approved (see "How to Make a Planting Plan" handout)
 - Plan must contain a graphic scale and show plant locations
 - List must include plant varieties, quantities and sizes.
- Use a minimum of 75% native plants (cultivars are accepted). 25% of plants used can be non-native, but they must be non-invasive. Include groundcovers.
- Use the following plant-spacing guide to create full ground coverage within 1-2 years:
12"-18" spacing for perennials • 36"-48" spacing for shrubs
- Plant container size must be a quart or larger. Landscape plugs (2" x 5") may be approved on a case-by-case basis, typically for groundcovers. Seeding is not allowed.
- Soil must be de-compacted (tilled) at least 9" and amended with 2" of compost.
- Apply 2"-3" of natural, un-dyed mulch to finished garden.
- Don't use artificial weed fabric (newspapers are OK).
- Buried downspout extension pipes are discouraged.
 - If necessary, they need to be installed with a downspout overflow (PVC Y Connection).
 - If pop-ups are used, they should follow RainScapes pop-up specifications.
- Project should be installed in appropriate weather conditions utilizing proper sediment control procedures.

Final Steps

- Submit itemized receipts (tax will be subtracted).
- Electronically sign and submit the Property Owner Agreement.
- Schedule and pass final inspection.