

RainScapes Rewards Program Information Session 9/16/2026

Presented by Megan Kelsall & Sadie Friesen
Environmental Services Division/The Chesapeake Bay Trust

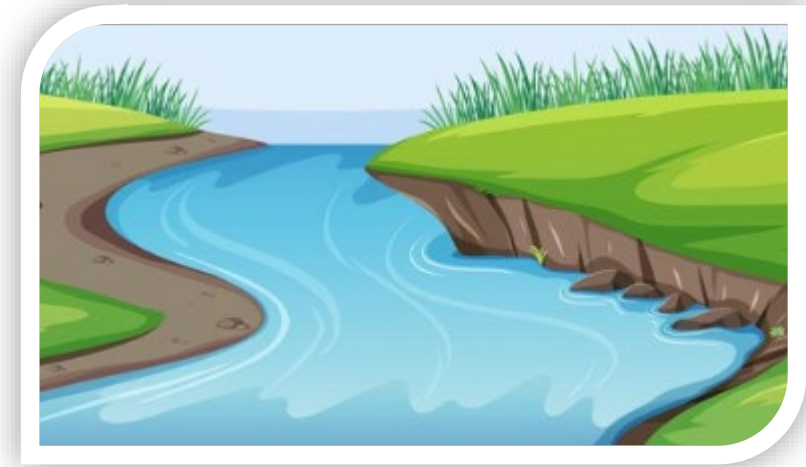
Agenda

1. Environmental services city goals
2. Why do we have these goals
3. What is RainScapes Rewards?
4. Program Eligibility
5. Required Documents and Rebate Allowances
6. Eligible Project Types
7. How to Apply

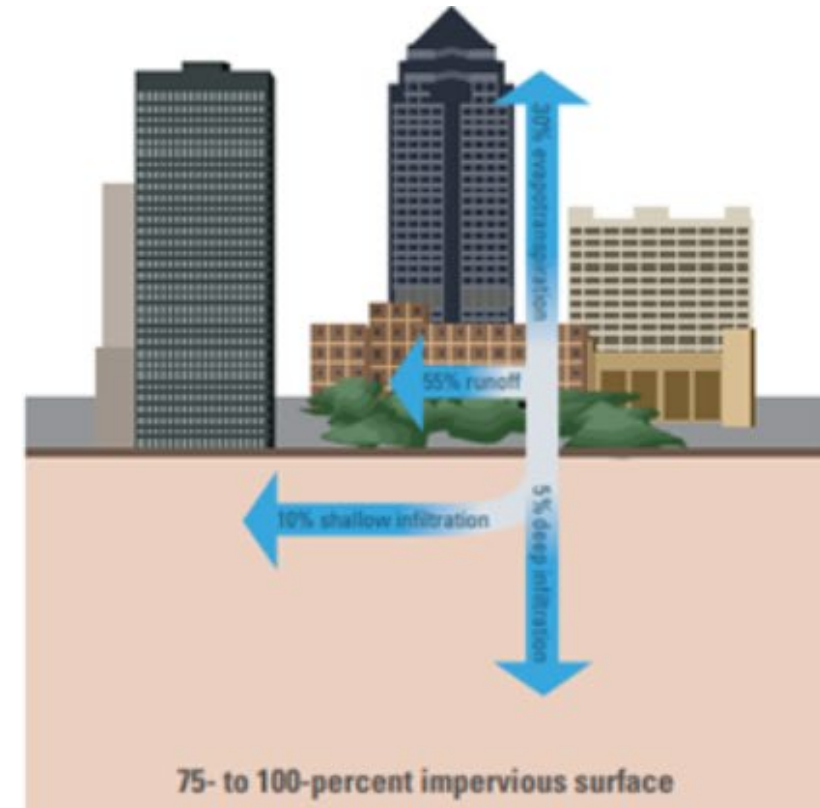
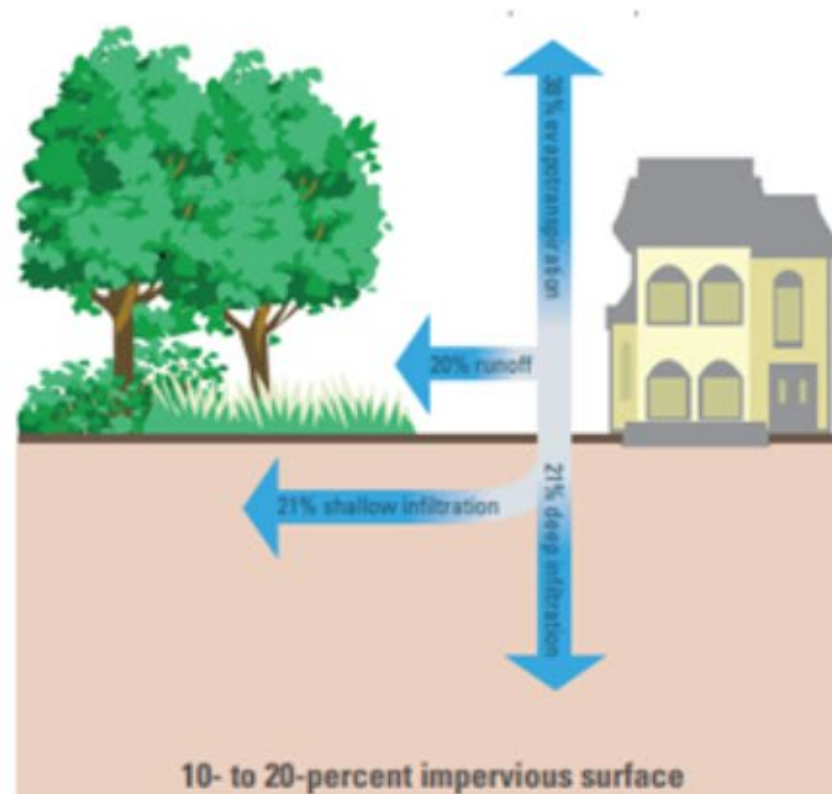
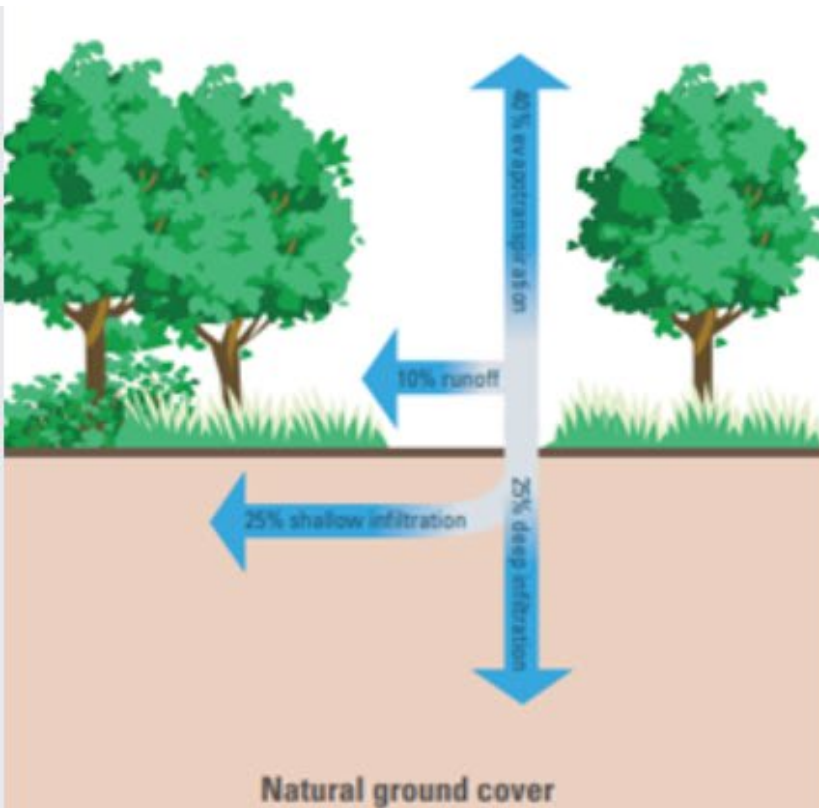


Rain Barrel

City Goals



What is stormwater and why is there so much of it?



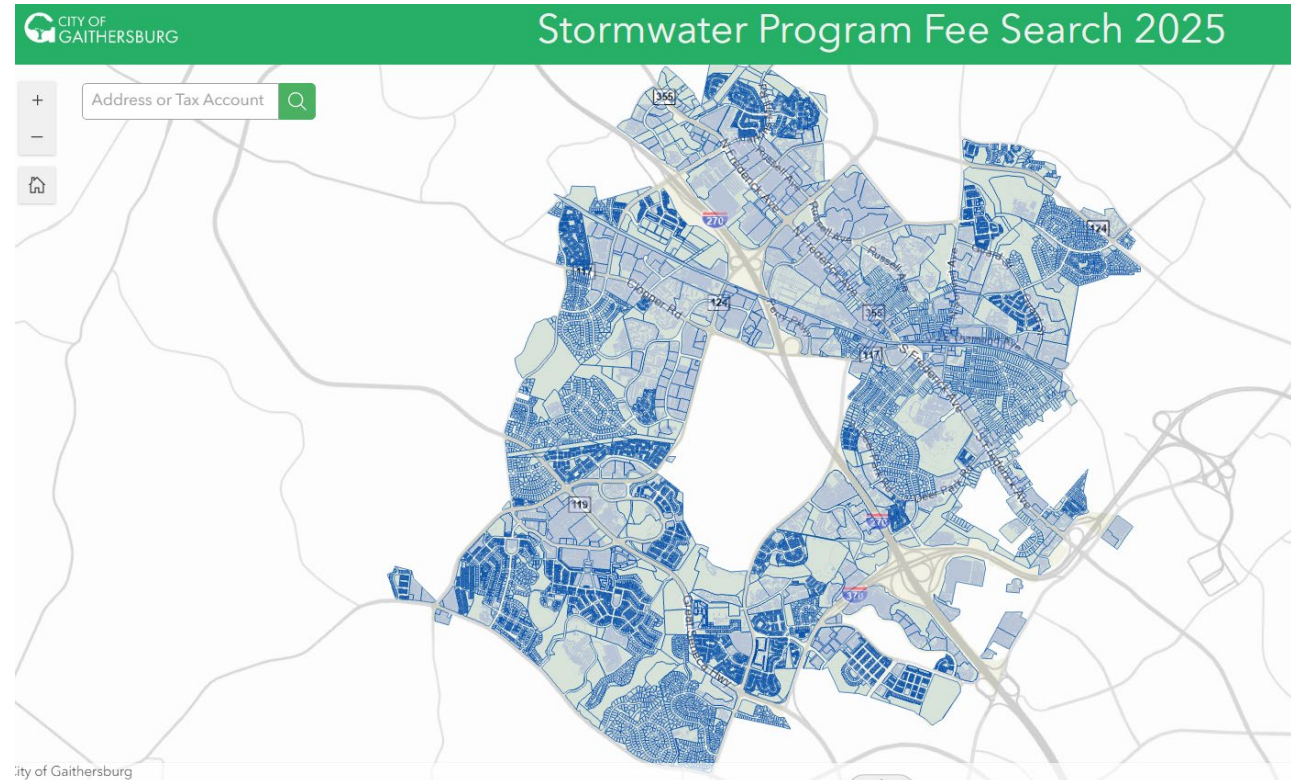
What is RainScapes Rewards?

- Program to incentivize projects that help reduce stormwater volume, and keep it clean
- Provides guidance on how to complete projects for optimum effectiveness, and provides a small rebate to reduce the cost burden
- Funded by the City of Gaithersburg who partnered with the Chesapeake bay Trust for administrative assistance for the residents of Gaithersburg
- Project completion: June 1, 2027



Eligibility

- **Single-family homes**
- **Multi-family home units**
- **Renters**, with property owner approval
- **Nonprofits** (religious institutions, private schools, homeowners associations and condominium associations)
- Must be **within Gaithersburg City limits**
(gburg.md/StormwaterProgramFee)



Eligibility

- Applicants are required to receive **approval from HOAs** (if applicable)
- Applicants who are renters are required to receive **approval from property owners** (if applicable)
- Applications are **not eligible if they are associated with permit approval** requirements for new building construction, additions, or renovations.
- Applications must be submitted **before** the project has been installed.



Requirement Checklist Documents



<https://cbtrust.org/grants/city-of-gaithersburg-rainscapes-reward-program/>

City of Gaithersburg RainScapes Reward Program



RainScapes Rewards

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Interested in learning more? Check the sidebar for webinar details to learn about the program!

The Chesapeake Bay Trust is proud to partner with the City of Gaithersburg on its RainScapes Reward Program. The RainScapes Reward Program offers rebate incentives to homeowners, not-for-profit organizations, and others to install practices that will improve stormwater runoff quality, reduce pollution, and improve local stream and river health.

What this funds: Eight types of stormwater practices are eligible for rebates: rain barrels, cisterns, rain gardens, conservation landscape, pavement removal, pervious pavers, and soil tests.

- Montgomery County manages its stormwater program independently of the City of Gaithersburg and therefore properties outside the City of Gaithersburg are not eligible.

Eligibility: An applicant must be the property owner, or a renter with permission from the property owner. Check to make sure you're a resident by using our address check map: gburg.md/StormwaterProgramFee. Applicants are not eligible for a rebate under this program if the project is part of the permit approval requirements for new building construction or renovations.

Maximum rebate amounts: Each of the practices supported by the program has its own rebate allowance based on the type.

The total maximum rebate amount is \$5,000 per property owner for residential properties and not.

Program Status: OPEN

Interested applicants should review the [Program Guidance and Application Instructions](#) document prior to submitting an application.

Funds are available on a first come, first served basis, and demand for the program this fiscal year has been high.

Deadline: Rolling. Applications are accepted on an on-going basis.

Online Application

Applications are processed within two weeks of submission and the applicant will receive an email with next steps. All projects, with the exception of soil tests, **must be pre-approved prior to project installation.**

[Get Started with a New Application](#)

[Continue with a Previous Application](#)

Paper Application

Download the paper application form [here](#) or contact us to get a copy mailed to you. Complete the paper application form and the

Requirement Checklist Documents

<https://cbtrust.org/grants/city-of-gaithersburg-rainscapes-reward-program/>

Eligible Practices, Operations, and Maintenance

Frequently Asked Questions

Rain Barrels



A rain barrel is a container used to collect and temporarily store rainwater that flows from the rooftop. Install rain barrels that store and collect rain water from your roof to help reduce runoff in your yard and reduce pollutants to local streams.

Rebate allowance: \$1/gallon

Requirements: must be at least 50 gallons for all property types

[Learn More and View Project Guidelines](#)

Cisterns



A cistern (essentially a larger version of a rain barrel) is a sealed tank used to collect and temporarily store rainwater that flows from the rooftop. Collected water can be reused for non-potable purposes such as watering your flower garden, trees, or lawn.

Rebate allowance: \$1/gallon

Requirements: must be at least 250 gallons for all property types

[Learn More and View Project Guidelines](#)

Tree Canopy



Plant native trees that can help slow runoff, filter pollutants, provide shade and help local birds and other wildlife.

Rebate allowance: \$150/large tree;
\$100/small trees

Requirements: must be native species, meet at least one of the following criteria (at least five-gallon pot, 5 feet tall, 1/2 inch caliper), and planted between September and May

[Learn More and View Project Guidelines](#)



Cistern Design Guidelines

Issue Date 7/1/2025

****These guidelines and criteria will be periodically updated to ensure currency with the latest technical information and best practices – please verify that you have the latest version.****

Written approval from the RainScapes Coordinator is required before you begin installation or construction. Projects installed before approval will not qualify for rebates.

Cistern Requirements:

- ☐ Minimum size: 250 gallons
- ☐ Required elements:
 - o Inlet connected to a downspout.
 - o Secure lid and/or screen for safety and mosquito control.
 - o Water spigot at the bottom of the cistern for releasing water.
 - o Made of hard plastic or wood, no bags.
 - o Overflow with pipe that releases water on to the ground.
 - o Clear access for cleaning the inlets when necessary.
 - o If re-purposing a barrel, it needs to be food grade.
- ☐ Location requirements:
 - o Must be above ground.
 - o Must be on private property.
 - o Installed on a solid, level support base.
 - o Overflow must drain onto a pervious surface (grass, garden, etc.) or back into the downspout.
 - o Positive overflow drainage outlet must be directed a minimum of 4ft away from building's foundation and must not change the pre-existing flow path of stormwater.
 - o After application submittal, you will be contacted for a preliminary inspection to ensure site suitability.

Documentation Requirements:

To complete the application process, you will need to complete and submit the following:

Pre-Installation:

- ☐ Photos of the project site (up to five).
- ☐ Location plan; indicate foundation area and plan (materials, thickness, width, drainage, etc.)
- ☐ Cistern description, which may be submitted as a link in a word document or PDF of planned purchase.
- ☐ A plan for winter drawdown/emptying, safe overflow, and mosquito management
- ☐ If applying as a homeowner within an HOA, condominium association, or non-profit, you will need to upload a project approval letter from your organization's board.
- ☐ If applying as a renter, you will need to upload a project approval letter from the property owner.
- ☐ Sign and submit the Property Owner Agreement.

Post-Installation:

- ☐ Submit itemized receipts (tax will be subtracted).
- ☐ Schedule and pass final inspection.

Rebate Allowances



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Chesapeake
Bay Trust

Rebate Practice	Rebate Allowance
Rain Barrel	\$1/gal.
Cistern	\$1/gal.
Pavement Removal	\$7/sq. ft. if replacing with conservation landscaping
	\$3/sq. ft. if replacing with sod
Permeable Pavers	\$14/sq. ft.
Rain Garden	\$10/sq. ft.
Conservation Landscaping	\$6/sq. ft. with soil improvement
	\$5/sq. ft. without soil improvement
Tree Canopy	\$150/large tree
	\$100/small tree
	\$150/invasive tree removed
Soil Test	\$20/test

Rain Barrels

A container used to collect and temporarily store rainwater that flows from the rooftop.

- Reduce runoff in your yard
- Reduce pollutants running into local waterways
- Water can be reused for non-potable purposes such as watering flowers, trees, or lawn

Requirements:

- Rain Barrels must be at least 50 gal.



Rain Barrel

Cisterns

A sealed tank used to collect and temporarily store rainwater that flows from the rooftop.

- Reduce runoff in your yard
- Reduce pollutants running into local waterways
- Water can be reused for non-potable purposes such as watering flowers, trees, or lawn

Requirements:

- Cisterns must be at least 250 gal.



Cisterns

Pavement Removal

Remove impervious surfaces such as patios, walkways, or excess driveway.

Can be replaced with conservation landscaping or sod.

Requirements:

- Must be at least 100 sq. ft. of pavement removed



Permeable Pavers

Replace your existing driveway, patio, walkway, etc. with a paver system designed to allow rainwater to soak back into the ground.

Requirements:

- Permeable Pavers must be installed by a qualified contractor, at least 100 sq. ft. of permeable pavers installed



Permeable Pavers



Close-up

Rain Garden

A planted shallow depression that uses water-tolerant native plants and landscaping to soak up stormwater runoff.

- Habitat for pollinators
- Aesthetically pleasing
- Captures and filters water on your property

Requirements:

- Rain Gardens must be at least 75 sq. ft.



Rain Garden

Conservation Landscaping

Replace lawn, bare soil, or non-native invasive plants with plants native to the Chesapeake Bay region.

- Low cost, sustainable alternative to traditional landscaping
- Helps pollinators
- Creates wildlife habitat
- Beautifies your yard

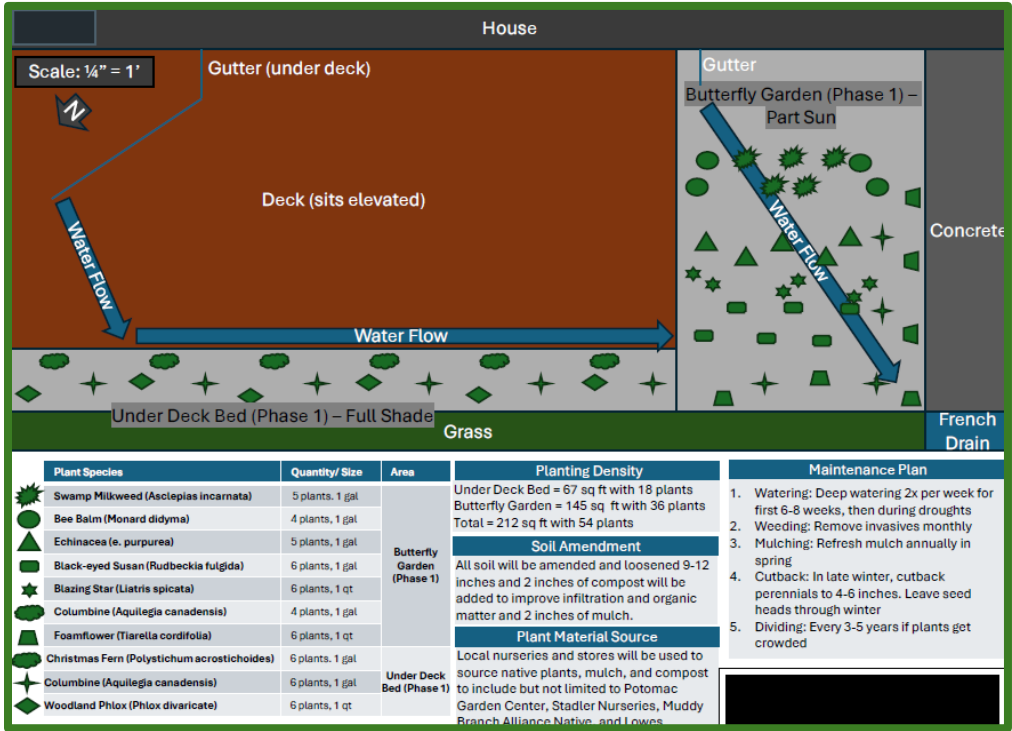
Requirements:

- Conservation landscaping must be at least 200 contiguous sq. ft.

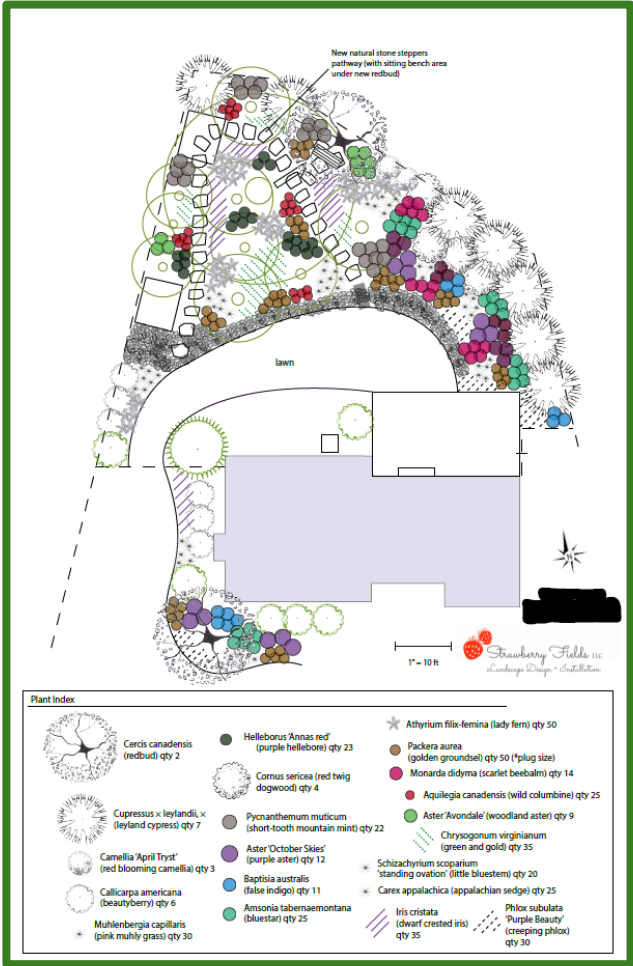


Conservation Landscaping

Conservation Landscaping



Example DIY Planting Plan



Example Contractor Planting Plan

Tree Canopy

Plant native trees that can help slow runoff, filter pollutants, provide shade and help local birds and other wildlife.

Optionally, remove invasive tree species to further protect our habitats.

Requirements:

- Trees planted must be native species, meet at least one of the following criteria (at least 5 gal. pot, 5 feet tall, 1/2 in. caliper), and planted between September and May.
- Invasive trees removed must be a pre-approved invasive species, and must be replaced with a native tree.



Trees installed

Soil Test

Test your soil to determine its fertility, health, and quality.

- Can help you determine what's right for your garden

Requirements:

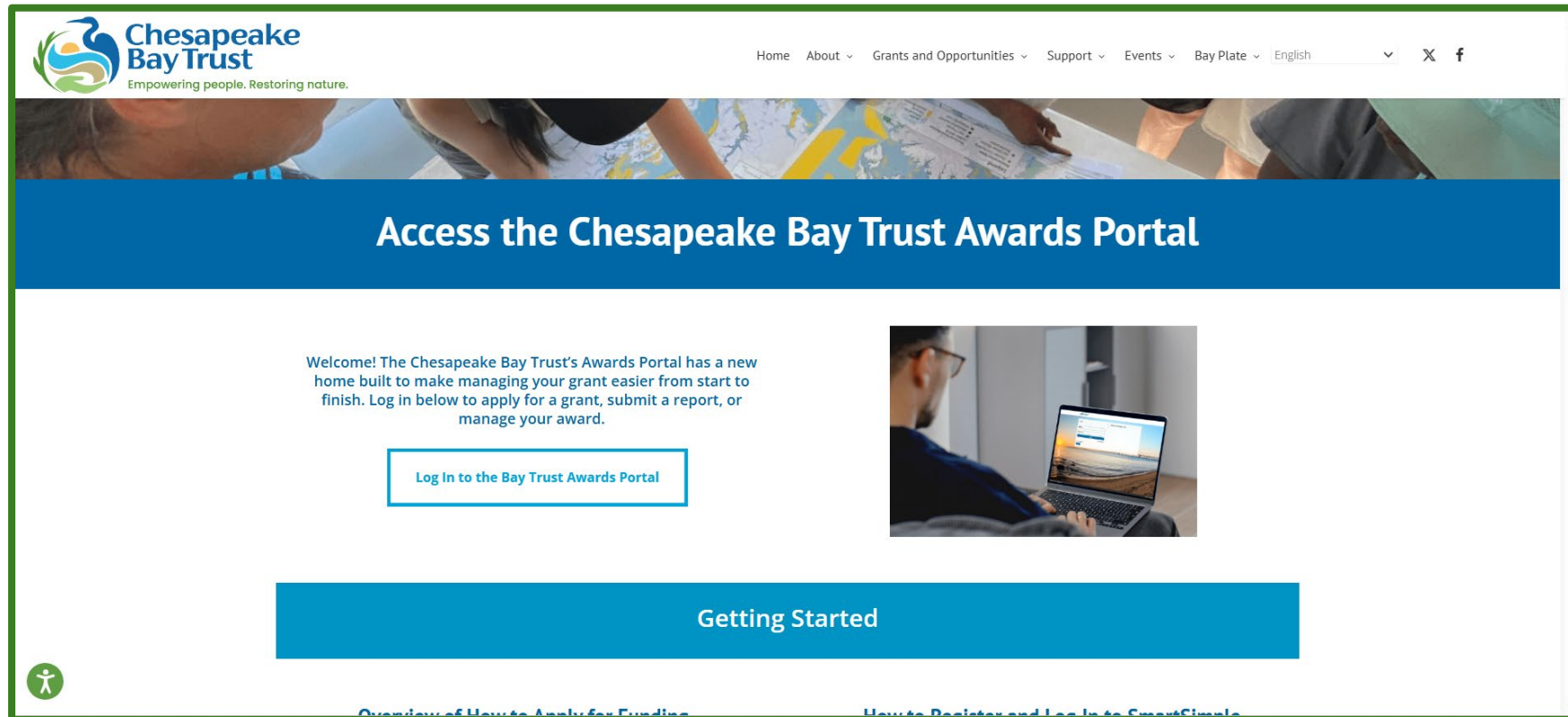
- Maximum of two rebates per year for up to \$40 per property.



Location for soil test

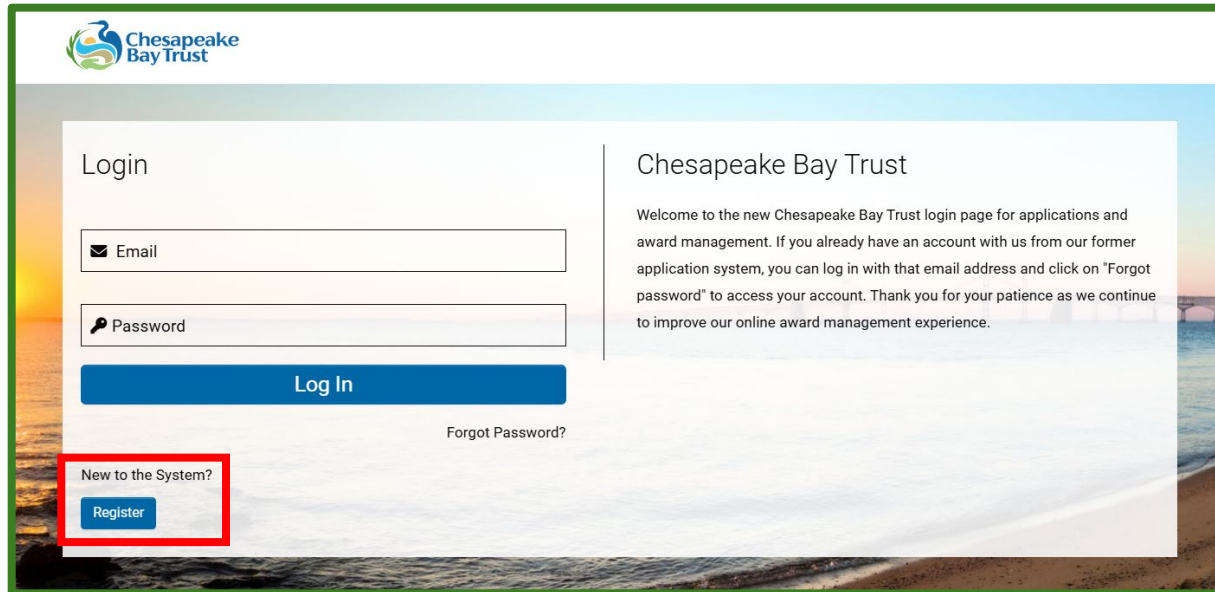
Application Form

1. Go to www.cbtrust.org/login for video tutorials, FAQs, and helpful tips



Application Form

1. Go to www.cbtrust.org/login for video tutorials, FAQs, and helpful tips
2. Log in or create your account



The screenshot shows the login page for the Chesapeake Bay Trust. It features a login form with fields for Email and Password, a Log In button, and a link for Forgot Password?. A red box highlights the 'New to the System?' link and the Register button.

Chesapeake Bay Trust

Login

Email

Password

Log In

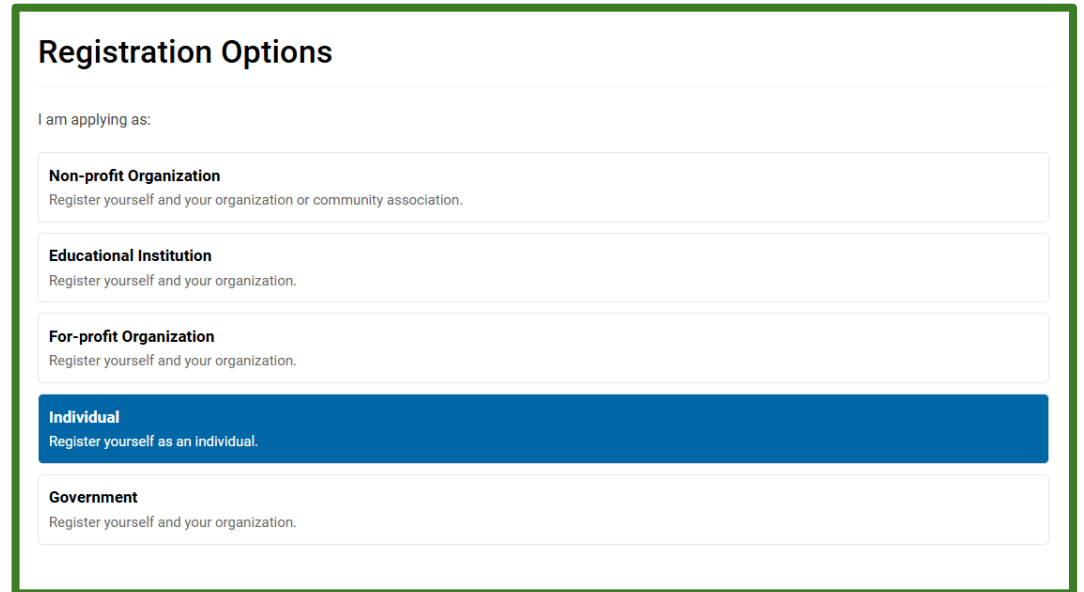
Forgot Password?

New to the System?

Register

Chesapeake Bay Trust

Welcome to the new Chesapeake Bay Trust login page for applications and award management. If you already have an account with us from our former application system, you can log in with that email address and click on "Forgot password" to access your account. Thank you for your patience as we continue to improve our online award management experience.



The screenshot shows the Registration Options page. It lists five options for registration: Non-profit Organization, Educational Institution, For-profit Organization, Individual, and Government. The Individual option is highlighted with a blue bar.

Registration Options

I am applying as:

Non-profit Organization
Register yourself and your organization or community association.

Educational Institution
Register yourself and your organization.

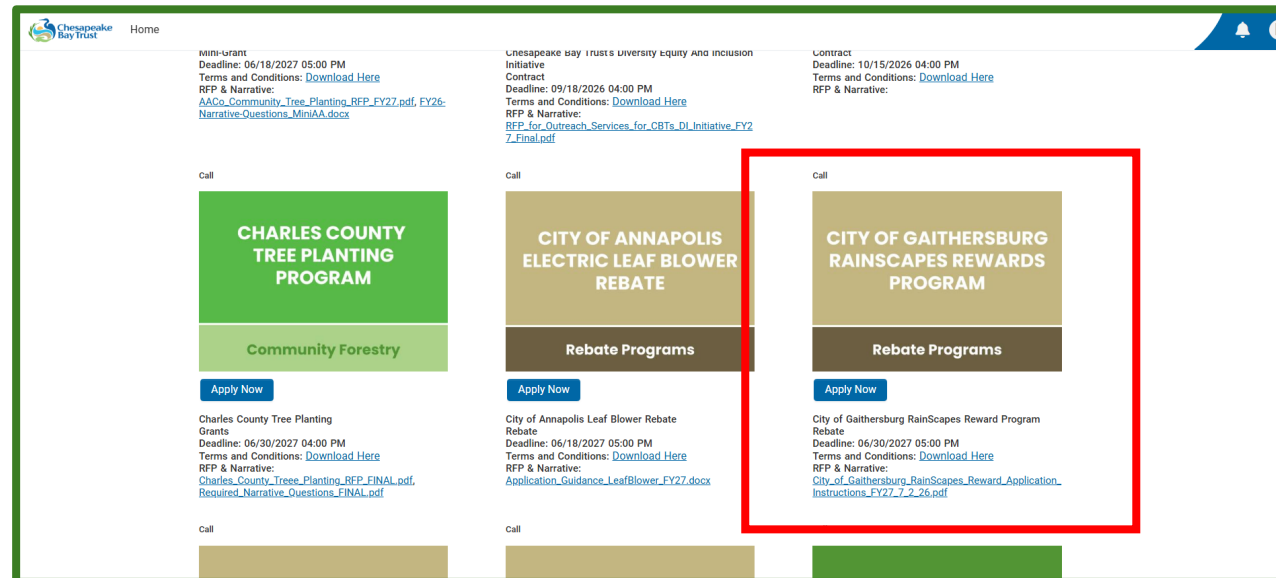
For-profit Organization
Register yourself and your organization.

Individual
Register yourself as an individual.

Government
Register yourself and your organization.

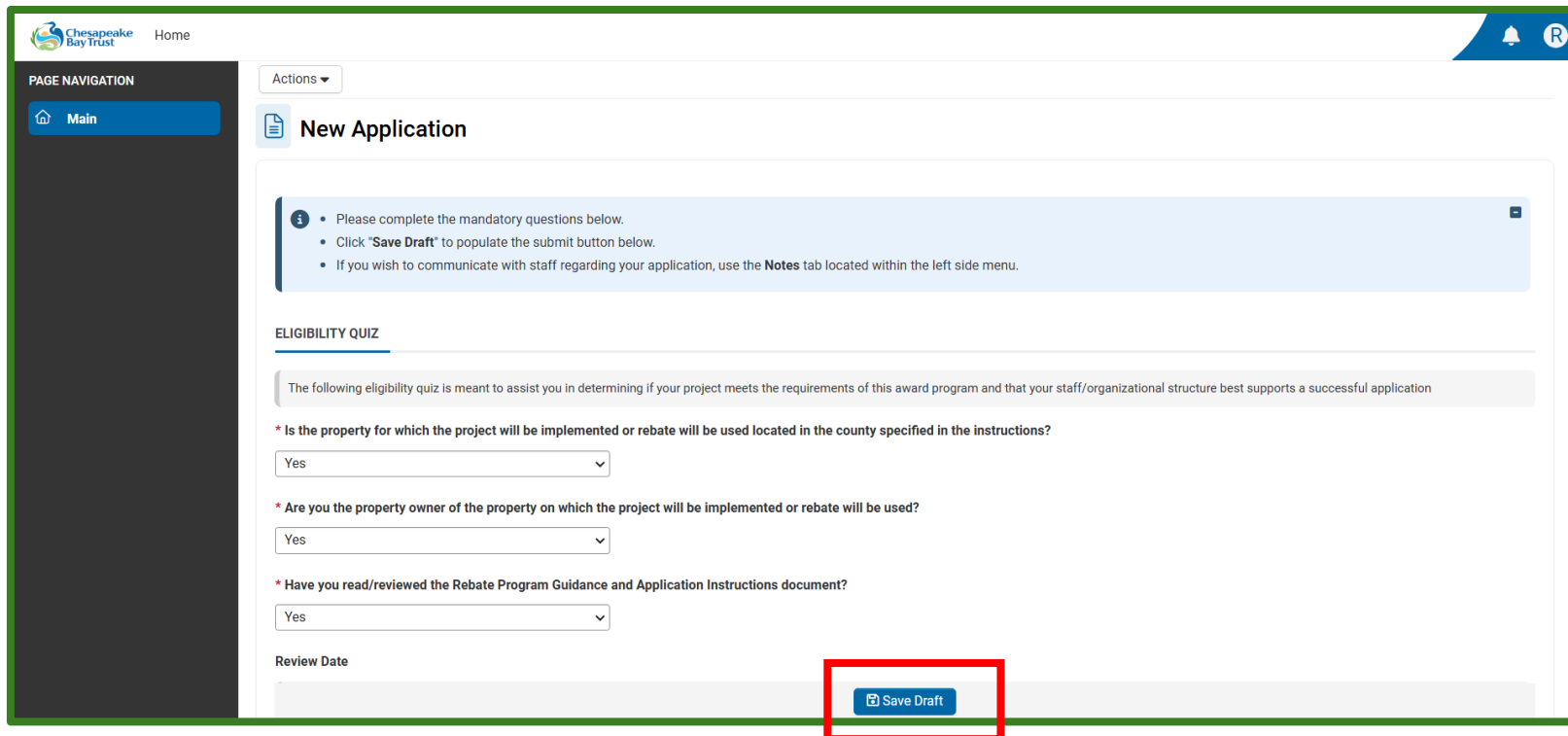
Application Form

1. Go to www.cbtrust.org/login for video tutorials, FAQs, and helpful tips
2. Log in or create your account
3. Select the *City of Gaithersburg RainScapes Rewards Program* on the “Funding Opportunities” tab



Application Form

4. Complete the eligibility quiz and click “Save Draft,” then “Submit”



The screenshot displays the 'New Application' page of the Chesapeake Bay Trust application system. The page features a dark sidebar with 'PAGE NAVIGATION' and a 'Main' button. The main content area is titled 'New Application' and includes an 'Actions' dropdown. A light blue information box contains instructions: 'Please complete the mandatory questions below.', 'Click "Save Draft" to populate the submit button below.', and 'If you wish to communicate with staff regarding your application, use the Notes tab located within the left side menu.' Below this is the 'ELIGIBILITY QUIZ' section, which states: 'The following eligibility quiz is meant to assist you in determining if your project meets the requirements of this award program and that your staff/organizational structure best supports a successful application'. The quiz consists of three mandatory questions, each with a 'Yes' dropdown menu:

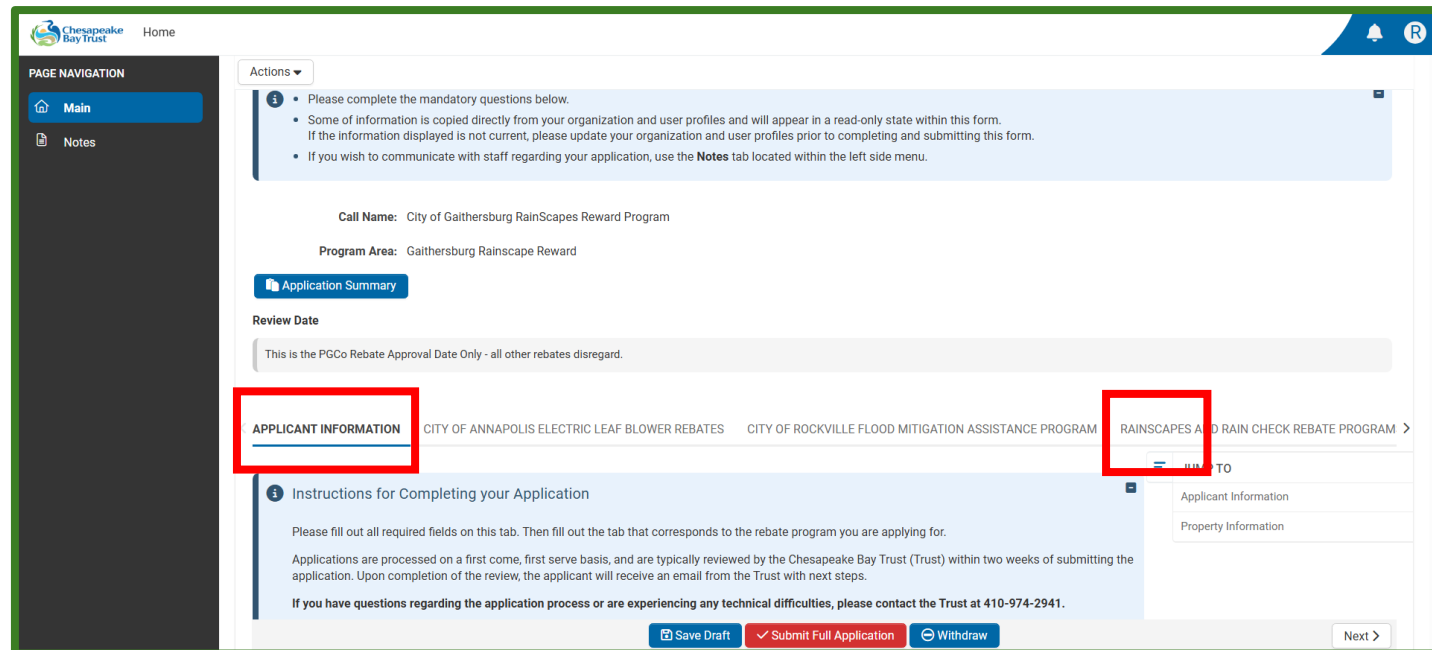
- * Is the property for which the project will be implemented or rebate will be used located in the county specified in the instructions?
Yes
- * Are you the property owner of the property on which the project will be implemented or rebate will be used?
Yes
- * Have you read/reviewed the Rebate Program Guidance and Application Instructions document?
Yes

Below the quiz is a 'Review Date' field. At the bottom right, a blue button labeled 'Save Draft' is highlighted with a red rectangle.

Application Form

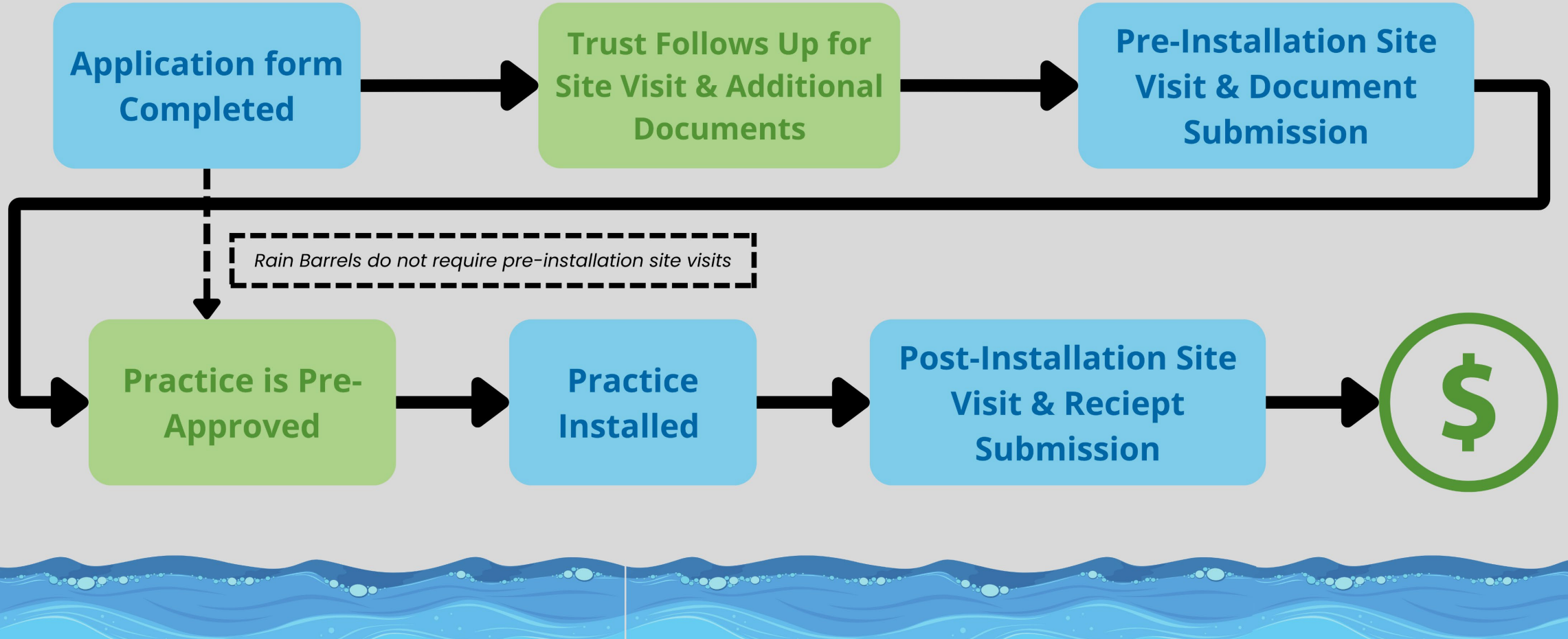
4. Complete the eligibility quiz and click “Save Draft,” then “Submit”

5. Complete the “Applicant Information” and “RainScapes” tabs of the application form, ensuring you upload the *Property Owner Agreement* and any *additional documentation* required for your practice, then click “Submit Full Application”



The screenshot shows the Chesapeake Bay Trust application form interface. The left sidebar contains a 'PAGE NAVIGATION' menu with 'Main' and 'Notes' options. The main content area displays the 'Application Summary' tab, which includes a 'Review Date' section and a 'Call Name' field. Below this, there are tabs for 'APPLICANT INFORMATION', 'CITY OF ANNAPOLIS ELECTRIC LEAF BLOWER REBATES', 'CITY OF ROCKVILLE FLOOD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM', and 'RAINSCAPES AND RAIN CHECK REBATE PROGRAM'. The 'APPLICANT INFORMATION' tab is highlighted with a red box. The 'RAINSCAPES AND RAIN CHECK REBATE PROGRAM' tab is also highlighted with a red box. The 'APPLICANT INFORMATION' tab contains instructions for completing the application, including a note about the first come, first serve basis and a contact number for technical difficulties. At the bottom, there are buttons for 'Save Draft', 'Submit Full Application', and 'Withdraw', along with a 'Next >' button.

RainScapes Reward Workflow





Thank you!

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Thank You!

For more information visit
cbtrust.org