Rain Check Rebate Year in Review
The Prince George’s County Rain Check Rebate Program offers incentives to homeowners, businesses, and other property owners to install practices that will reduce stormwater runoff, reduce pollution, and improve the health of our local rivers.

The seven stormwater practices eligible for rebates include rain barrels, cisterns, urban tree canopy plantings, rain gardens, pavement removal, permeable pavement installation, and green roofs.

The total maximum rebate amount for the lifetime of a property is $6,000 for residential properties and $20,000 for commercial, industrial, and institutional properties. Please note that the total maximum rebate amount for residential properties has increased from $4,000 to $6,000 as of March 2022. So, if you previously had reached the cap, you may be able to apply for more projects now!

We are excited to announce that Fiscal Year 2023 (July 2022 to June 2023) for the Rain Check Rebate Program was another successful year with 181 approved applications, representing 571 projects, for a total rebate amount of $269,155. The projects included rain barrels, cisterns, rain gardens, urban tree canopy, pavement removal, and permeable pavement, and helped treat 150,309 square feet of impervious surface, a little over the size of two and a half football fields! Thank you to all of the residents of Prince George's County for their participation and support! We could not have done this without you!

Read More on our Blog

Oxon Hill Resident Received $6,000 Rebate for Installing a 610 Square Foot Rain Garden

Planting native plants in rain gardens help reduce stormwater runoff and beautify our communities. Rain gardens are shallow, planted depressions that contain water-tolerant native plants that soak up stormwater. Rain gardens allow water to slowly seep into the ground, or infiltrate, which reduces the amount of water flowing across impervious surfaces.
The pictures above show the installation of a 610 square foot rain garden planted at a residential property in Oxon Hill, through the [Prince George’s County Rain Check Rebate Program](https://example.com). The rain garden includes native plants like creeping phlox, laced elderberry, and dixie wood fern! The resident received the maximum rebate per property: $6,000 ($10 per square foot for rain gardens). Congratulations to this resident on a great project!

[Learn More About Rain Gardens](https://example.com)

**Prince George's County Community Gardens Mini Grant Program is Open!**

The Prince George’s County Department of the Environment and the Chesapeake Bay Trust are excited to announce a new mini grant program: [The Prince George’s County Community Gardens Mini Grant Program](https://example.com).

This mini grant program supports the creation and need for community gardens that provide resources to the Prince George’s County community while supporting the Prince George’s County Climate Action Plan. The primary goal of this mini grant is to fund community garden projects that help address food security and support neighborhood scale implementation of regenerative agriculture and other sustainable gardening practices.

This program supports both the development of new community gardens as well as the growth of existing community gardens that plan to expand regenerative practices. New
community gardens can request up to $9,500. Existing community gardens can request up to $3,000 OR $9,500 with the addition of mentorship. Mentorship can include, but is not limited to, mentoring applicants applying for community gardens, holding classes and information sessions, and conducting tours.

Requests are accepted on an on-going basis until funds for this fiscal year (FY24) are exhausted.

Photo: Laurel City Community Garden: Courtesy of City of Laurel

Learn More About this New Mini Grant Program

**Greenbelt Homes, Inc. Community Conservation Landscaping Demonstration Project**

Through the Mini Community Engagement and Restoration Grant Program and funding from Prince George's County Department of the Environment, Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) created a 3990 sq. ft. area of conservation landscaping on a community space across from Greenbelt Elementary School (GES). The goal of this project was to mitigate erosion issues, support pollinators, and provide a demonstration site for conservation landscaping. Volunteers from the GHI Parcel X Woodlands Caretaker team and the GES Parent Teacher Association completed the installation of the project in the summer of 2023. The conservation landscape project included the installation of crescent shaped berms to retain water and the planting of a variety of native plants such as blue false indigo, moss phlox, winged sumac, buttonbush, and winterberry. This project will improve water quality by reducing the amount of stormwater runoff. The linked video shows and narrates how the berms were installed, the native planting
day, and how water infiltrates into the ground. GHI is currently wrapping up this grant and installing signage. Congrats on an amazing project!

Click Here to Watch the Community Conservation Landscaping Video

**Thank You for Applying to the Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program**

Thank you to this year's applicants for applying to the Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program. We appreciate the time and effort that applicants put into developing their applications. The next step in the process is application review. All applications are reviewed and evaluated by an external Technical Review Committee (TRC) composed of individuals who are experts in the fields supported by the Request for Proposals (RFP) and individuals who represent communities served by projects funded by the RFP. The TRC ranks and scores all applications based on the evaluation criteria specified in the RFP including the consistency with the RFP, likelihood of project success, sustainability, cost-effectiveness, justification, partnerships, and demonstration value and transferability. Decisions will be announced in March 2024.

**Maintenance Support Available for Rain Check Rebate Participants**

**MAINTAINING STORMWATER PRACTICES IN THE ANACOSTIA WATERSHED**

Receive FREE assistance with your stormwater practices!

Have you had a stormwater practice installed through the Prince George's County Rain Check Rebate Program? Introducing the Maintaining Stormwater Practices in the Anacostia Watershed program! This program is funded by the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation to help support residential property owners with maintenance of their Rain Check Rebate projects. This program offers support for Anacostia watershed residents through:

- **Free Inspections**: A landscape professional will evaluate your stormwater practice and provide a written report of maintenance recommendations
- **Discounted Maintenance**: 50% of the cost, up to $750, could be covered for the maintenance of your green feature while you learn proper maintenance techniques through hands-on preparation
- **Stormwater Maintenance Resource Center**: Check out the online maintenance resources for more information about caring for your stormwater practices
- **Green Ambassadors Program (GAP)**: Are you interested in joining a community volunteer maintenance team to maintain neighborhood stormwater practices, including yours?

If you are interested in participating, please review the [Property Owner Guide](#) or visit the [Stormwater Maintenance Resources website](#).

If you have any questions, please contact:

Kristen Parsons  
202-599-8164  
[kparsons@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:kparsons@allianceforthebay.org)

Thank you for doing your part to improve water quality and promoting a cleaner, healthier Chesapeake Bay!

In partnership,

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**Opportunity for Increased Urban Tree Canopy Rebates in Underserved Communities**

**New! Increased rebates for tree planting projects in eligible underserved communities**

Additional rebate funding will be distributed on a first come, first served basis.

See the Rain Check Rebate program website or contact program staff at rebate@cbtrust.org for more details.
You may be eligible for a $300 rebate for every 2 to 2 ½ inch caliper or larger native tree installed on your property! The Prince George’s County Department of the Environment was awarded funds to supplement existing tree planting programs as part of the Five Million Maryland Trees for Climate Progress initiative. If your property is located within a designated underserved area, you may be eligible for an increased rebate.

*Native trees should be planted between the months of October and May to optimize survival and success of the tree. Start planning your fall planting now!

This is a pilot program contingent on funding. Contact rebate@cbtrust.org for more information.

Learn More about this Program

Growing Green with Pride in Prince George’s County
Join Sustainable Maryland staff and energy finance experts on Monday, February 26 from 9am-4pm for a hybrid leadership training on accessing funding for climate and energy-related projects. During this training, you will learn about the Climate Solutions Now Act (CSNA), existing and upcoming funding opportunities, electric vehicle transition, adoption renewable energy, and best practices for securing funding.

This free event will be held at the Adele H Stamp Union at the University of Maryland in College Park, as well as virtually via Zoom.

Free Training for Landscape Professionals
RAIN CHECK REBATE
Contractor Training

April 10, 2024

DAY 1
Course topics include:
- Urban Tree Canopy
- Rain Barrels
- Cisterns
- Rain Gardens
- Permeable Pavement
- Pavement Removal
- Green Roofs

DETAILS
DATE / TIME
April 10, 2024
6:15AM - 4:30PM
(RAIN DATE: April 11, 2024)

LOCATION
1801 McCormick Drive
Largo, MD 20774
1st Floor Conference Room

COST
Free of Charge for Landscape Professionals!
***BYO Lunch!!***

Did you know that Prince George’s County’s Rain Check Program offers rebates to homeowners, businesses and others to install best management practices (BMPs) intended to capture stormwater runoff? This training is designed to provide landscape professionals with practical hands-on information on the seven Rain Check Rebate practices and processes. Special emphasis is placed on rain gardens, pavement removal and permeable pavement.

This all-day training teaches landscape professionals how to plan, design, construct and maintain Rain Check Rebate practices. Classroom exercises provide guidance on practice selection, site assessment and site selection. After completion of the classroom training, participants are eligible to sign up for Day 2, which will be a field day to further hone their skills and help install or assess stormwater BMPs. Participants who successfully complete both sessions (classroom training + field day) will be added to the County’s public list of landscape professionals who have completed the Rain Check Rebate Contractor Training.

HOW TO REGISTER
Go to: https://raincheck_april2024.eventbrite.com
Click “Reserve a spot” and RSVP for FREE!

Questions? Contact kgmatten@lisdcenter.org
This free, all-day training will provide landscape professionals with practical hands-on information on Rain Check Rebate practices and processes, with special emphasis on rain gardens, pavement removal, and permeable pavement.

Landscape professionals will learn how to plan, design, construct and maintain Rain Check Rebate practices. After completion of the Day 1 classroom training, participants are eligible to sign up for Day 2, in the field. Professionals who successfully complete both sessions will be added to the County's public list of contractors, which is a great resource for Rain Check Rebate applicants!

Register for the Contractor Training

Be Featured in Our Newsletter!

Send us any news, photos, project success stories, and upcoming events to Megan Andreasen at mandreasen@cbtrust.org to be featured in an upcoming newsletter.

ABOUT THE CHESAPEAKE BAY TRUST

The Chesapeake Bay Trust shares a bold vision for a restored and protected Chesapeake Bay watershed and other natural resources in our area—from the Coastal Bays to the Chesapeake to the Youghiogheny River. We uniquely empower local community-based groups on the ground with the resources they need to take on a meaningful and measurable role in restoring forests, streams, rivers, bays, wildlife, and more in their own communities.

The Trust empowers these groups by providing grants and technical assistance. Every year, about 400 groups are awarded project money or provided other assistance to accomplish environmental education, community outreach, and local watershed restoration projects. Since 1985, the Trust has awarded $146 million in grants and engaged hundreds of thousands of resident stewards in projects that have a measurable impact.

The Trust has received the highest rating from Charity Navigator for over two decades: on average 90 percent of the Trust’s expenditures are directed to its restoration and education programs.