



# Prince George's County Newsletter

March 2018

[Mission](#) | [Rain Check Rebate](#) | [Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program](#) | [Newsletters](#)

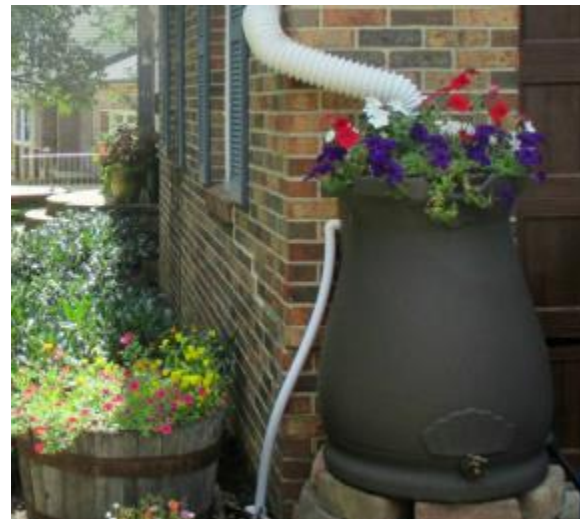
## Rain Check Rebate Program

*Beautify Your Property and Improve Water Quality*

Spring is just around the corner! Now is the perfect time to start thinking about planting trees, installing a rain garden, or installing other stormwater practices on your property to not only beautify the space but to also make a positive environmental impact in your community.

The Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) and the Chesapeake Bay Trust (Trust) are offering incentives to property owners for installing stormwater practices on their property through the [Rain Check Rebate Program](#).

The program offers seven eligible practices to install on your property. These practices will improve stormwater runoff quality, reduce runoff quantity, and improve local streams and rivers. The process is easy with a short online form and site visit by Trust staff.



**Residential property owners can receive a reimbursement up to \$4,000 and larger properties such as businesses and condominiums can receive a reimbursement up to \$20,000.**

### Eligible Stormwater Practices

The Prince George's County DoE and the Trust provide convenient fact sheets explaining each of the seven eligible practices. Check out each fact sheet to see which practices might be appropriate for your property, learn about installation tips, see the recommended maintenance schedules, and more.



[Rain Barrel](#) | [Cistern](#) | [Urban Tree Canopy](#)

[Rain Garden](#) | [Pavement Removal](#)

[Permeable Pavement](#) | [Green Roof](#)

## **STORMWATER PRACTICE HIGHLIGHT: RAIN BARRELS**

*Capture Stormwater Runoff and Reuse Rainwater for Plants*



Rain barrels collect rainwater from your rooftop's downspouts. The rain barrel stores this water to be used later to water your lawn or plants. By capturing water from downspouts that would otherwise discharge onto a paved surface, rain barrels can reduce the amount of runoff and pollutants reaching local streams and the Chesapeake Bay.

### **"Great Rain Barrel" Workshops and Events**

Bring your family and join us at the [2018 Spring Greening Fair and Expo](#) at the Mount Rainier Nature Center on Saturday, April 14th from noon to 5 pm. The event will feature environmental and sustainability presenters, demonstrations, and businesses in the fields of gardening, recycling, and energy efficiency, as well as green craft and art vendors, animals, children's activities, and fun for the whole family! The Prince George's County DoE and the Trust will attend and hold a workshop focused on stormwater and pet waste management including a Rain Check Rebate rain barrel demonstration.

The Prince George's County DoE is gearing up for the season and will organize several "Great Rain Barrel" events for the community in the coming months. Contact [Deborah Weller](#) for details.

## **STORMWATER PRACTICE HIGHLIGHT: URBAN TREE CANOPY**

*Catch, Filter, and Absorb Stormwater Runoff*



The canopy of a tree or group of trees is the area of leaves and branches that create shade under the tree(s). Like umbrellas, trees reduce the amount of sunlight and rain reaching the ground. Trees in urban environments are particularly important for intercepting rainfall before it becomes stormwater runoff. Tree leaves, branches, stems, and roots catch falling rain, filter out pollutants, and absorb stormwater. Finally, trees provide shade on hot summer days.

### **Native Tree Resources**

The [Chesapeake Bay Native Plant Center](#) is a wonderful resource for finding native trees and plants that are suitable for the space, soil, and light conditions of your site. Visit a Prince George's County plant nursery to see what native plant options they have available to spruce up your yard this spring.

### **View these Practices in Person**

Come visit **Behnke Nurseries** in Beltsville, Maryland to see demonstrations of the seven Rain Check Rebate practices. A display inside of the nursery indicates where each are located on the property and provides additional information about the Rebate program.



Behnke Nurseries was awarded two Prince George's Stormwater Stewardship grants. The first to design and implement the seven Rain Check Rebate practices and the second to install an eye-catching display inside the nursery describing the practices and the rebate program. Both grants were managed by the Low Impact Development Center, Inc. In 2017, the Trust awarded Behnke Nurseries with the Commercial Stewards Award for their dedication to environmental stewardship and community engagement.

## **PRINCE GEORGE'S RAIN CHECK REBATE PROGRAM**

*Residents Help Improve Water Quality Through Stormwater Reduction Practices*

Since 2016, the Rain Check Rebate Program has provided Prince George's County residents with the opportunity to receive a reimbursement for installing approved stormwater management practices on their property. By installing these practices, residents beautify their property, help

reduce stormwater runoff, and help improve our streams and rivers.

To date, the program results include:

- **397** rain barrels and **9** cisterns installed
- **24,092** gallons of stormwater captured
- **7,991** native plants and **219** trees planted
- **14,441** square feet of rain gardens installed
- **22,840** square feet of impervious surface removed
- **19,285** square feet of pervious pavers installed

## GET INVOLVED

*Apply Online & Install a Practice on Your Property*

Applying online is easy with our online form. Simply review the [application instructions](#), decide which practices you want to install, review and sign the appropriate property owner agreement ([Residential](#), [Commercial](#), [Nonprofit](#)), and submit an [online application](#).

Once you submit your application, the Rain Check Coordinator will review your application and contact you within two weeks to discuss next steps. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact the Coordinator at (410) 974-2941 x114 or [rebate@cbtrust.org](mailto:rebate@cbtrust.org).

## ABOUT THE TRUST

The Chesapeake Bay Trust is a nonprofit, grant-making organization dedicated to improving the streams, rivers, and other natural resources of the Chesapeake region through environmental education, community outreach, and local watershed restoration.

Since 1985, the Trust has awarded more than \$90 million in grants and projects that engage hundreds of thousands of dedicated individuals in efforts that are making a difference for all of our local systems—Chesapeake, Coastal Bays, and Youghiogheny.

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