



Rain Garden Rebate Instructions and Design Guidelines Rockville RainScapes Rebate Program

The City of Rockville offers a rebate for the installation of a rain garden, at a rate of \$10 per square foot. The minimum area required is 75 square feet. The rebate amount cannot exceed documented costs. Eligible properties can receive a lifetime total of \$5,000 in RainScapes rebates. You must apply prior to installation and retain and submit itemized receipts and/or final invoices for all project costs.

Eligibility

- ✓ Projects must be installed at a private single-family residence, homeowners' association, condominium association, housing cooperative or other non-profit property located in the City of Rockville.
- ✓ Projects will **not** qualify for rebates if they are partially or completely finished before approval.
- ✓ Projects are **not** eligible if they are associated with permit approval requirements for new building construction, additions, or renovations.
- ✓ Applicants are responsible for obtaining any required HOA approvals, permits or other permissions related to their project.
- ✓ All requirements must be met as outlined in this document and in the approved application. All decisions are final and are at the sole discretion of the City of Rockville.

Application Process and Requirements

- 1. Review requirements and submit your application.**
Review all requirements and *Design Guidelines* below. Then, complete the online application found at <https://cbtrust.org/grants/rockville-rainscapes-rebate/>. Have photos of the project area(s), approval letters, and other documentation ready to upload. *Please allow at least 14 business days for application processing.*
- 2. Receive application approval and sign Property Owner Agreement.**
Wait to receive approval from the RainScapes Coordinator before purchasing or installing the project. After application approval, a Property Owner Agreement will be sent to you for signature.
- 3. Begin and complete your project.**
Projects must be completed within 12 months of approval. Make sure the project meets the *Design Guidelines* and that all HOA approvals, permits, or other permissions are obtained. You must retain and submit itemized receipts and/or final paid invoices (showing a zero balance) for all project costs.
- 4. Final inspection/approval.**
Once the project is complete, upload all related receipts, final invoices, and photos of the completed project to <https://www.grantrequest.com/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2faccountmanager.aspx%3fSA%3dAM%26sid%3d1520&SA=AM&sid=1520>. A site visit may be scheduled within 14 business days. At the final inspection, installation of the project will be verified, and the project area will be photographed.
- 5. Receive reimbursement check.**
If all requirements are met, the rebate will be approved, and a check will be issued by the Chesapeake Bay Trust within two to three weeks.



Rain Garden Design Guidelines Issue Date 7/2025

*** 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.

Rain Garden Requirements

- **Minimum Size:**
 - **Residential:** 75 square feet of total garden area.
- **Location Requirements:**
 - Must be on private property. No projects are permitted in the public right-of-way (area between sidewalk and street).
 - Downhill from buildings and at least 10ft away from foundations.
 - Not over utilities (water, gas, electric)
 - Offset a minimum 36 inches for gas and 18 inches for everything else.
 - Overflows onto pervious surface (grass, garden, etc.) for at least 10ft before reaching impervious surface (driveway, sidewalk, etc.)
 - Receives stormwater runoff from an impervious surface.
 - Does not back up water onto a neighbor's property
 - Does not redirect existing flow of water to a paved surface or a neighbor's property.
 - Soil must pass a perc test (See "How to Do a Perc Test" handout).
 - Perc rates from 0 - 36 hours require amending the soil with compost to a depth of 12-inches (below the 6-inch ponding depth)
 - Perc rates over 36 hours indicate an unsuitable location for a rain garden. In this case, a conservation landscape with 3 inches of temporary ponding may be a better option.
 - Projects within close proximity of large canopy trees will be approved on a case-by-case basis.
 - After application submittal, you will be contacted for a preliminary inspection to ensure site suitability.
- **Design/Installation:**
 - Install according to the RainScapes Rain Garden Manual and program requirements.
 - Should be sized to treat a minimum of 1.2 inches during a 24-hour storm event. Treating 2.7 inches over a 24-hour storm event is encouraged. Contact RainScapes staff or use the rain garden sizing table on the next page to size your project.
 - Soil must be decompacted at least 18 inches and amended with 2 inches of compost.
 - A planting plan and plant list must be submitted and approved (see "How to Make a Planting Plan")
 - 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.

- Documentation of a percolation test, using this template: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/water/Resources/Files/rainscapes/How-to-do-a-Perc-Test.pdf>
- 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.
- Apply 2"-3" of natural, un-dyed mulch to finished garden.
- Don't use artificial weed fabric (newspapers are okay).
- 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.
- Call 1-800-MISS-UTILITY (1-800-257-7777) before you dig!

Sizing table for 1 ft planting media. Inches of

rain stored Media footprint (square feet)	Drainage area (square feet)					
	100	200	300	400	500	600
5	1.1	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2
15	2.2	1.1	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.4
30	3.8	1.9	1.3	1.0	0.8	0.6
50	6.0	3.0	2.0	1.5	1.2	1.0
60	7.1	3.6	2.4	1.8	1.4	1.2
75	8.8	4.4	2.9	2.2	1.8	1.5
100	11	5.7	3.8	2.9	2.3	1.9
125	14	7.1	4.7	3.6	2.8	2.4

Rain Garden Documentation Requirements

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

Pre-Installation:

- A plant list that includes plant species, sizes, and quantities.
- A diagram of the planting area showing plant spacing and density.
- Photos of the project site (up to five).
- Documentation of a percolation test. Template available here: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/water/Resources/Files/rainscapes/How-to-do-a-Perc-Test.pdf>.
- If applying as 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.

Rain Garden Resources:

- Sod Installation and Tips (UMD Extension): <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/sod/>
- Conservation Landscape Design Manual (Montgomery County): <https://mygreenmontgomery.org/project/create-a-conservation-landscape/>
- Landscaping with Native Plants (Maryland Native Plant Society): <https://www.mdflora.org/resources/Publications/GardenersGuidelines/Landscaping-Natives.pdf>
- Deer Resistant Native Plants (UMD Extension): <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/deer-resistant-native-plants>
- RainScapes Landscape Professionals List (Montgomery County): https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/water/Resources/Files/rainscapes/Contractor_List.pdf
- Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professionals List: <https://certified.cblpro.org/>