

# RainScapes Rewards

## Reducing stormwater from the source

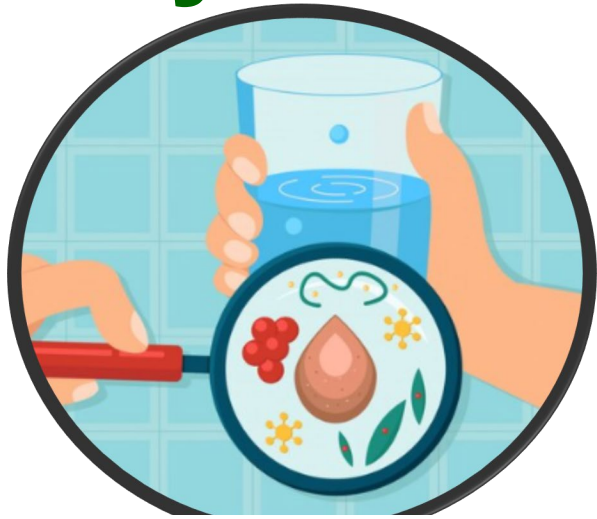
Presented by Megan Kelsall & Grace Dho  
Environmental Services Division/The Chesapeake Bay Trust



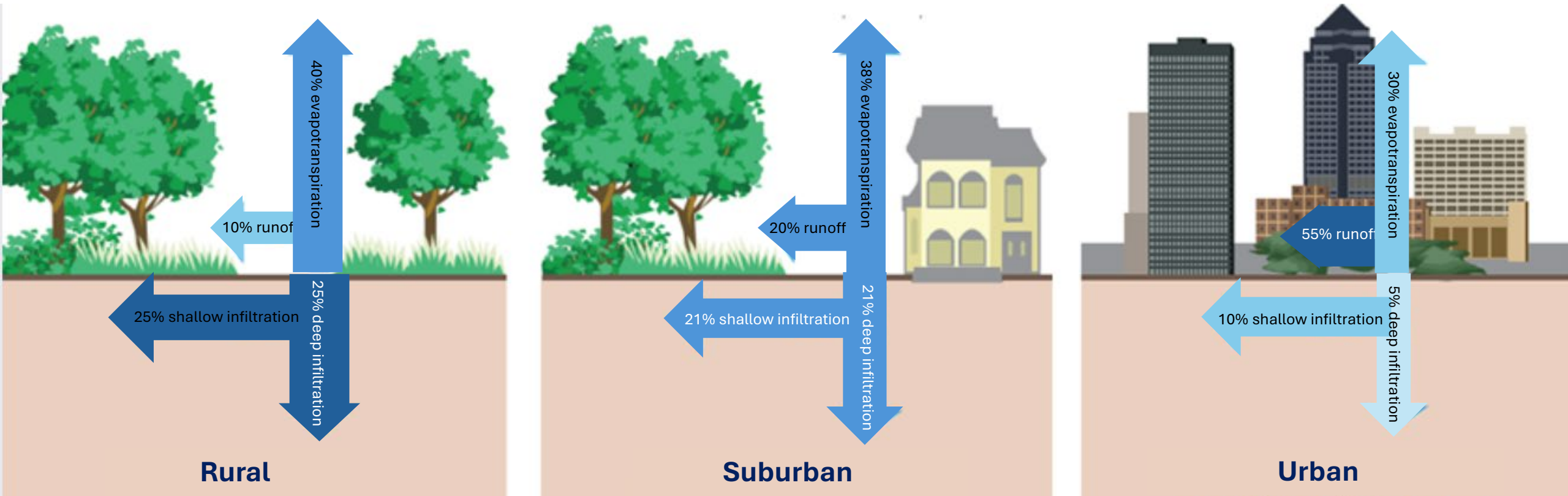
# Agenda

- **Brief intro into the goals of the city specifically from environmental services**
- **Why do we have these goals?**
- **What is RainScapes rewards?**
- **How does it help us reach our goal?**
- **Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) introduce the application process**

# City Goals



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





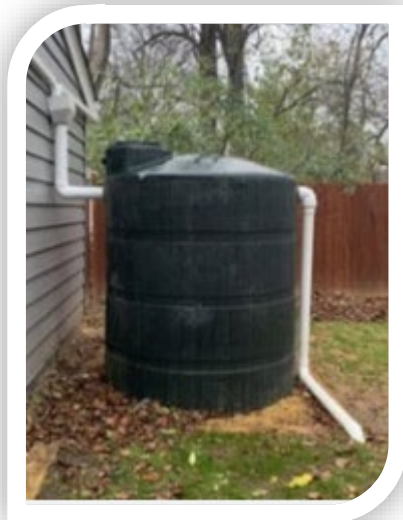
# What is RainScapes Rewards?

- Rebate or reimbursement program to incentivize and reduce the installation costs of specific actions that improve water quality or reduce stormwater runoff. Up to \$5,000 per household!

**Water collection**  
**\$1 per gallon**



**Min 50 gal**



**Min 250 gal**

**Conservation landscaping**  
**\$5-\$6 per sq. ft.**



**Min 200 ft sq. ft.**

**Soil Testing**  
**\$20 per test**



**Max 2 tests per yr.**

*\*Photos shown from Rockville RainScapes program*

# What is RainScapes Rewards?

## **\*New** Categories of RainScapes for Gaithersburg!

**Rain Garden**  
**\$10 per Sq. Ft**



**Min 75 Sq. Ft.**

**Tree canopy**  
**\$100 small tree**  
**\$150 large tree**



**Must be native!**

**Pavement removals**  
**\$7 per sq. ft.**



**Min 100 Sq Ft**

**Porous Pavers**  
**\$14 per sq ft.**



**Min 100 Sq Ft**

*\*Photos shown from Rockville RainScapes program*

# How can the RainScapes help?

**Capture stormwater**



**Increase infiltration**

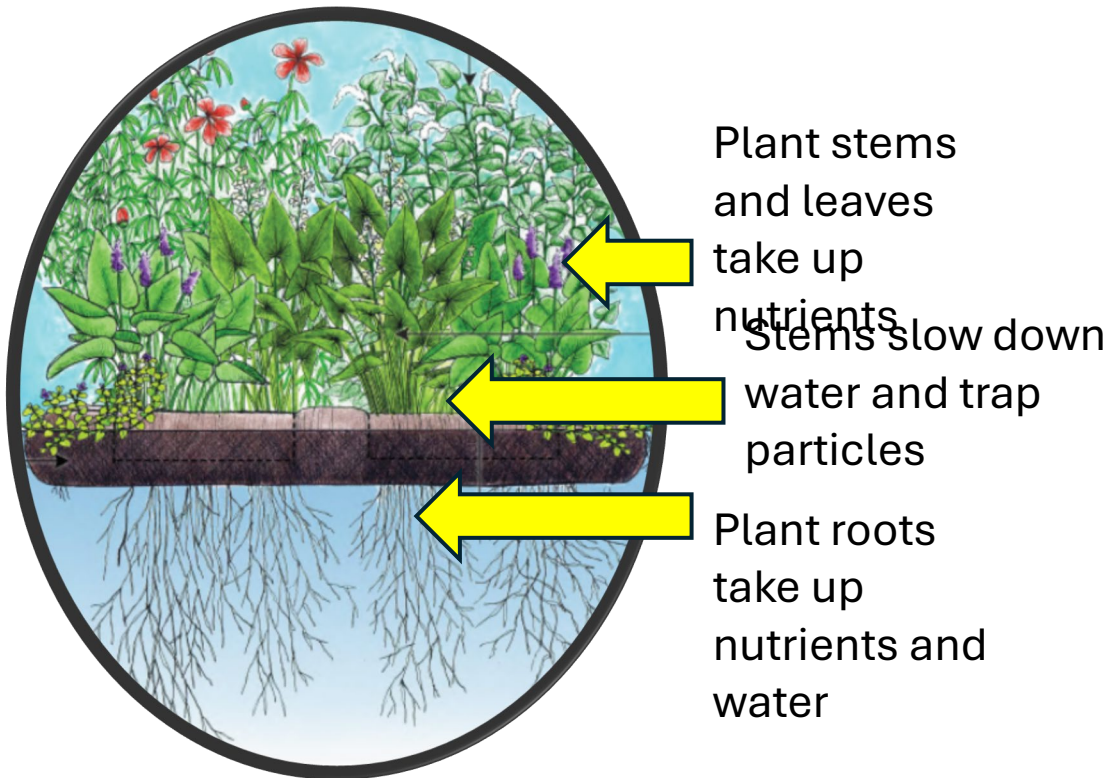




# How can the RainScapes help?

## Treat stormwater

## Reduce nutrient inputs



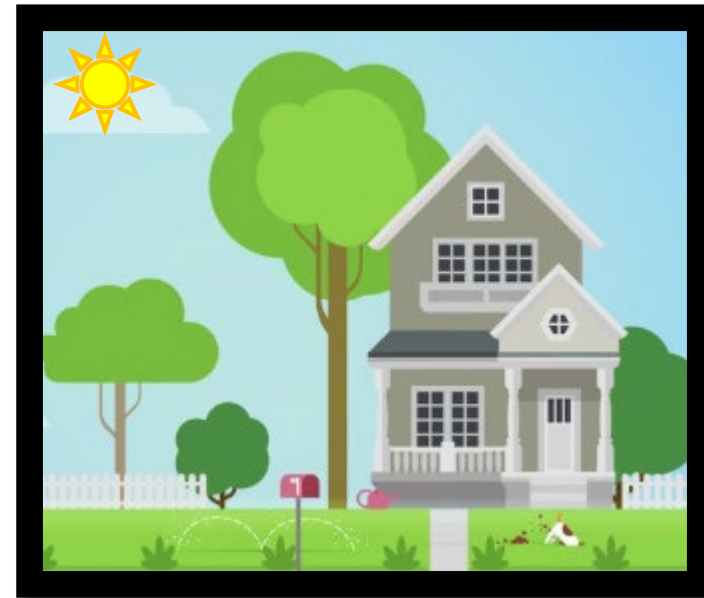


# How can the RainScapes help?

**Increase  
biodiversity**



**Increase tree  
canopy**

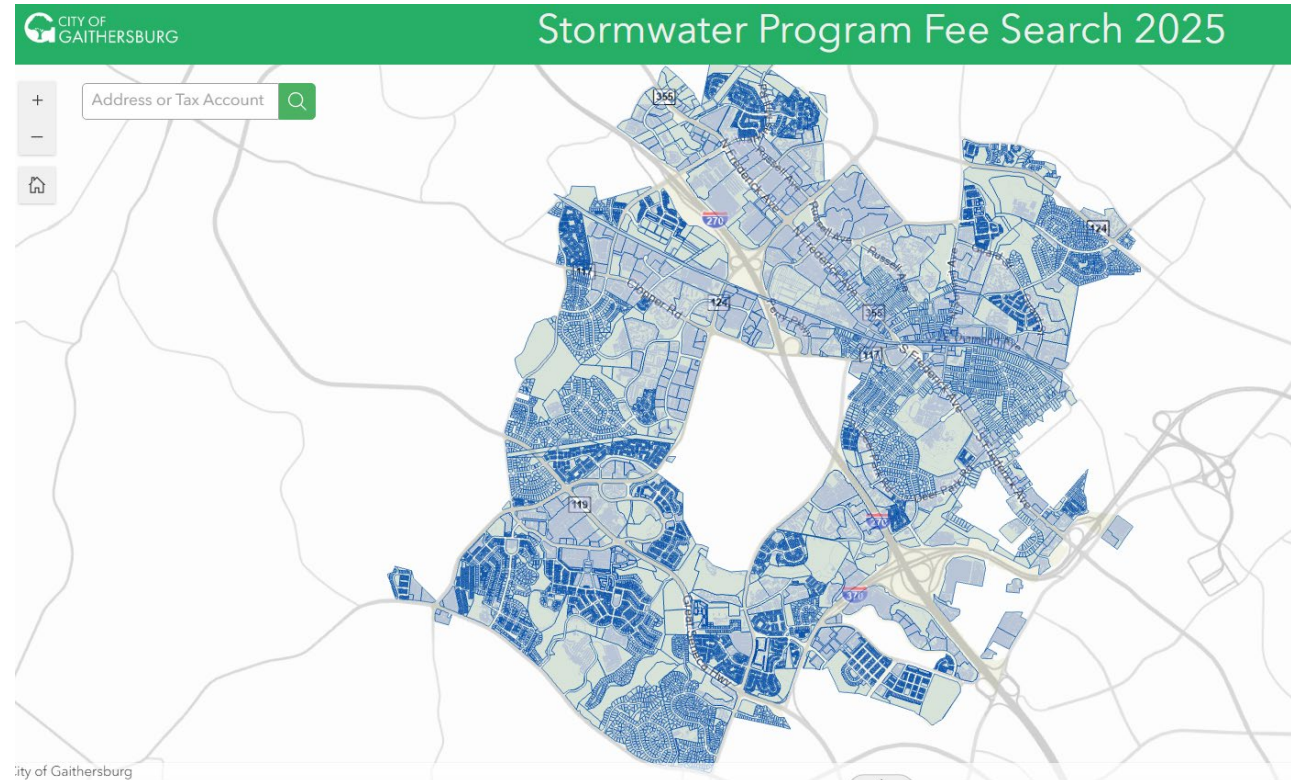


**Goal 40% Canopy**  
**Currently at: 34% amount**

# 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](http://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.



# Document Checklists



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

## City of Gaithersburg RainScapes Reward Program

The logo for RainScapes Rewards, featuring a blue water drop icon above the word "RainScapes" in blue and "Rewards" in dark blue, with a green grass-like icon between them.  
The logo for the City of Gaithersburg, featuring a green stylized tree icon to the left of the text "CITY OF GAITHERSBURG" in green capital letters.

**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](http://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



# Document Checklists



<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



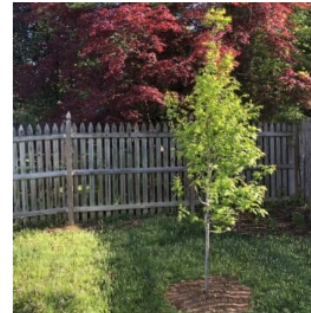
A cistern (essentially a larger version of a rain barrel) is a sealed tank used to collect and temporarily store rainwater that flows from the rooftop. Collected water can be reused for non-potable purposes such as watering your flower garden, trees, or lawn.

**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.

# Documentation Needed



- Property Owner Agreement
- Homeowner association approval, if in an HOA
- Property owner approval, if a renter
- Required documents are outlined in the practice checklists  
(<https://cbtrust.org/grants/city-of-gaithersburg-rainscapes-reward-program/>)



## Gaithersburg RainScapes Rewards Property Owner Agreement

This Agreement is between City of Gaithersburg, Maryland (the "City"), a municipal corporation of the State of Maryland, and \_\_\_\_\_ ("Participants" or "Property Owners"), owners of the property located at \_\_\_\_\_ (the "Property") in Gaithersburg, Maryland. This Agreement becomes effective once the designated representatives of both the Participant(s) and the City (collectively, the "Parties") have signed it.

The purpose of the Agreement is to specify the general terms and conditions of the Property Owner's participation in the City of Gaithersburg's RainScapes Rewards Program (the "Program").

### Definitions

**Rain barrel** means a container that holds at least 50 gallons or more of precipitation for landscape irrigation or other non-potable uses.

**Cistern** means a container that holds at least 250 gallons or more of precipitation for landscape irrigation or other non-potable uses.

**Rain Garden** is a planted shallow depression that uses water-tolerant native plants and landscaping to treat stormwater flowing from downspouts or hard (impervious) surfaces.

**Conservation Landscaping** is the removal of turf grass, impervious surface, and/or non-native invasive species and replacement with plant species that have more extensive, deeper root systems.

**Tree Canopy** is the installation of native trees.

**Pavement Removal** means the removal of hard (impervious) surfaces and replacement with pervious and/or native surfaces.

**Permeable Pavers** refers to a system of interlocking concrete pavers, installed in such a way that allows water to filter through the gaps between the pavers to the specially prepared gravel layers and infiltrate into the ground.

**Soil testing** is used to determine the fertility, health, and quality of soil.



# Rain Barrels & Cisterns

## Rain Barrel Checklist



### **Documentation Needed:**

- Site photos
- Barrel description/link

## Cistern Checklist



### **Documentation Needed:**

- Site photos
- Site plan
- Cistern description/link

# Rain Garden & Conservation Landscape



## Rain Garden Checklist



### **Documentation Needed:**

- Site photos
- Planting plan (list of species & diagram)
- Percolation test

## Conservation Landscaping Checklist



### **Documentation Needed:**

- Site photos
- Planting plan (list of species & diagram)



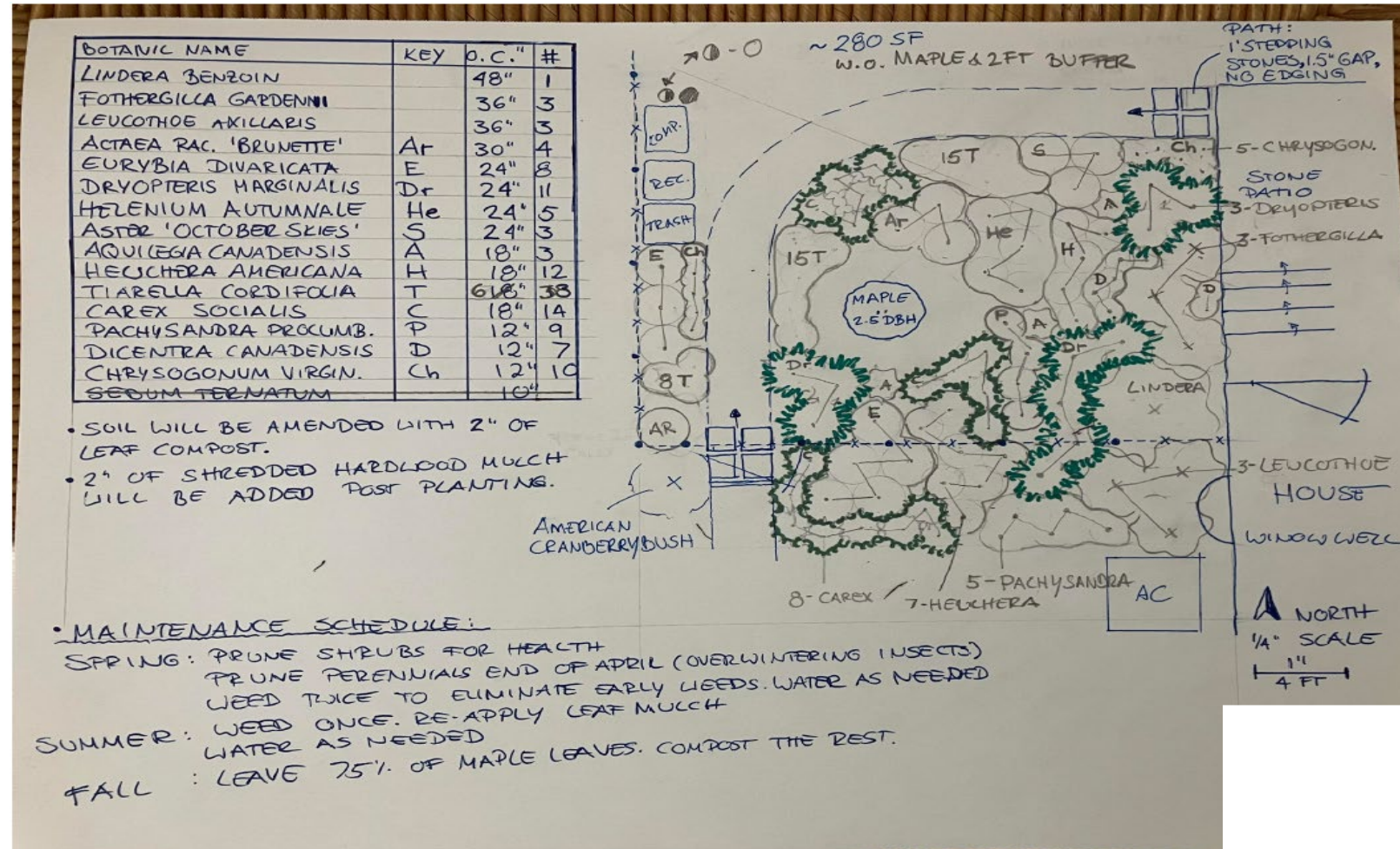
# Example Planting Plan



CITY OF  
GAITHERSBURG



Chesapeake  
Bay Trust





# Pavement Removal & Permeable Pavers

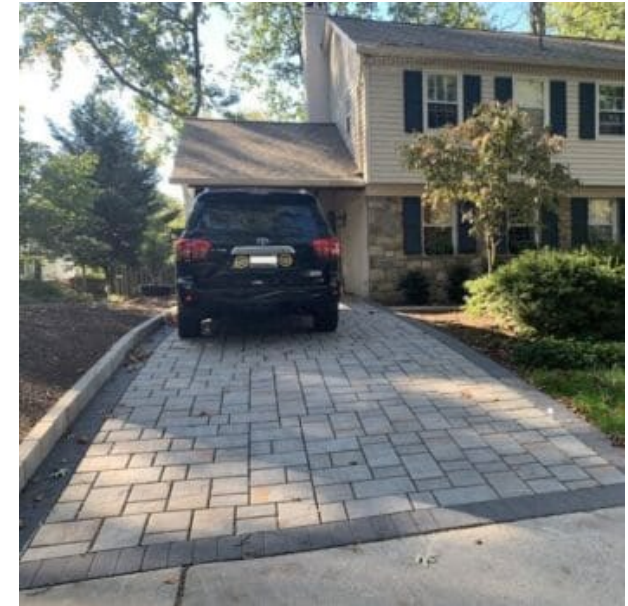
## Pavement Removal Checklist



### **Documentation Needed:**

- Site photos
- Planting plan (list of species & diagram), if doing conservation landscape

## Permeable Pavers Checklist



### **Documentation Needed:**

- Site photos
- PICP contractor training documentation
- Proposal from contractor
- Percolation test

# Tree Canopy & Soil Tests

## Tree Canopy Checklist



### **Documentation Needed:**

- Site photos & diagram
- Native species
- Meets planting size requirement

## Soil Test Checklist



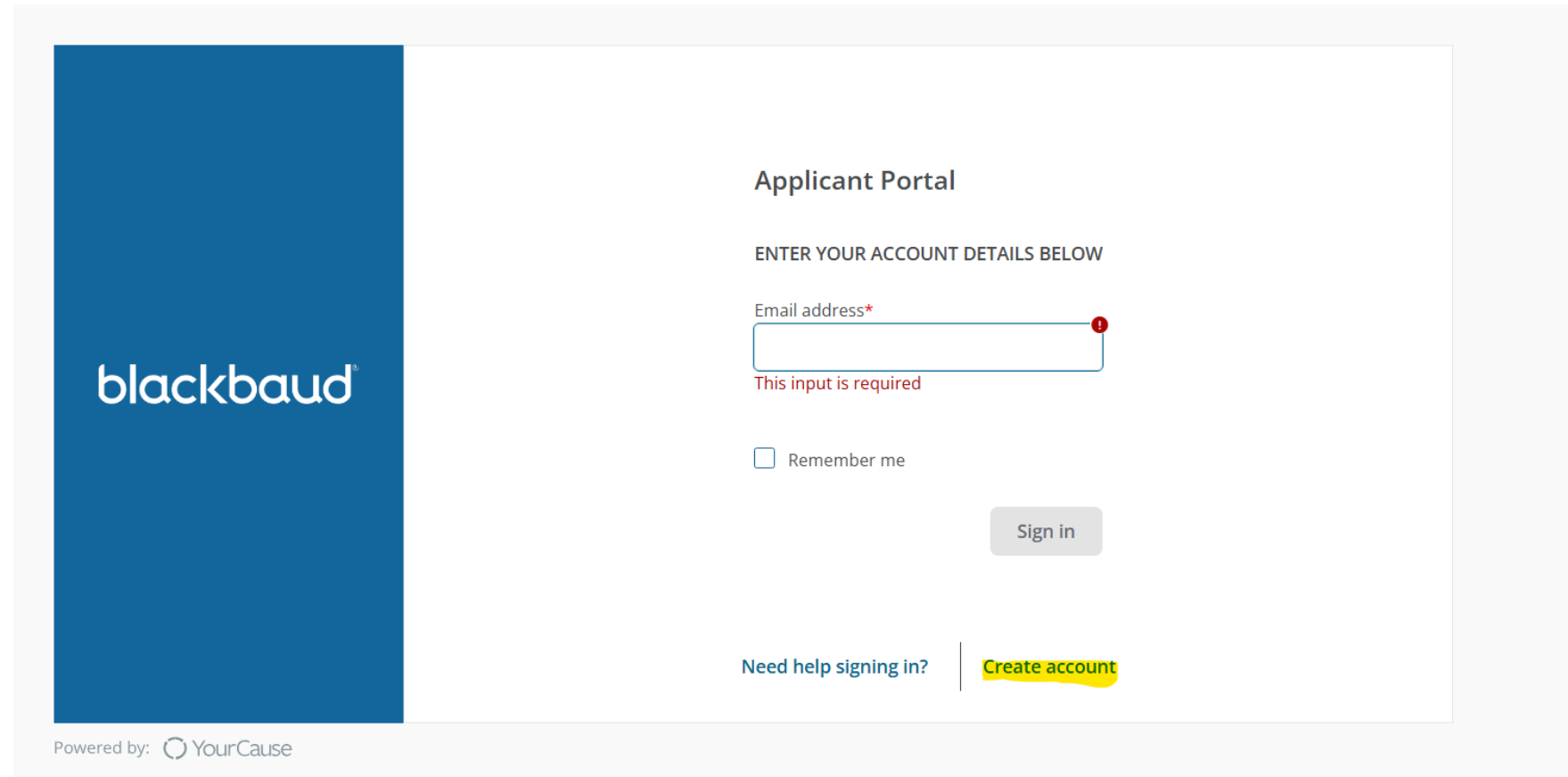
### **Documentation Needed:**

- Site photos
- Description of tests

# Application Form



## 1. Create an account



The screenshot shows a web page for the "Applicant Portal". On the left is a large blue vertical rectangle with the "blackbaud" logo in white. The main content area on the right has the heading "Applicant Portal" and the instruction "ENTER YOUR ACCOUNT DETAILS BELOW". It contains a text input field for "Email address\*" with a red asterisk and a red error message "This input is required" below it. There is a "Remember me" checkbox below the input field. A "Sign in" button is positioned to the right of the checkbox. At the bottom, there is a link "Need help signing in?" followed by a "Create account" link that is highlighted in yellow. The footer of the page states "Powered by: YourCause" with a small circular logo.

blackbaud

Applicant Portal

ENTER YOUR ACCOUNT DETAILS BELOW


Email address\*

This input is required

☐ Remember me

Sign in

Need help signing in? | [Create account](#)


Powered by:  YourCause



# Application Form



1. Create an account
2. Take eligibility quiz

  
[View Guidelines](#)

### City of Gaithersburg Eligibility Quiz

Applicant Information

GD

Grace Dho  
2000 1st St. NW, Gaithersburg, MD 20878  
202-200-0000

#### ELIGIBILITY FORM QUESTIONS

Complete the required fields below.  
Program is accepting applications

**The following eligibility quiz is meant to assist you in determining if your project meets the requirements of this award program.**

Welcome and thank you for your interest in the Gaithersburg RainScape Reward Program!

This eligibility review is meant to assist you in determining if your project meets the requirements of this program.

# Application Form



1. Create an account
2. Take eligibility quiz
3. Fill out pages 1-3

**FORM QUESTIONS**

Download

Complete the required fields below.  
Program is accepting applications

1. Applicant and Property I...

2. Project Information

3. Supporting Documents

4. Rain Barrel/Cistern

5. Tree Canopy

6. Rain Garden/Conservation...

More

**Steps to Complete the Online Application**

All applicants must complete the following sections of the online application:

1. Applicant and Property Information
2. Project Information
3. Supporting Documents

After completing tabs 1 through 3, complete the remaining tabs (tabs 4 through 8) according to the practices/project types that you are interested in installing (rain barrel/cistern, rain garden/conservation landscaping, urban tree canopy, pavement removal/permeable pavers, soil tests). The data you enter in tabs 4 through 8 are not final project details and can be changed throughout the rebate process with the assistance of the RainScapes Reward Coordinator.

Note: If you are unsure what practice(s) might be suitable for your property, contact us to discuss or use estimates in your application to give the RainScapes Reward Coordinator an idea of the practices you are interested in for your property.

**What to Expect After You Submit Your Application**

Applications are processed on a first come, first served basis, and are typically reviewed by the RainScapes Reward Coordinator within two weeks of submitting the application. Upon completion of the review, the applicant will receive an email from the RainScapes Reward Coordinator with next steps. This email will normally include the request of additional project information, if necessary, which must be completed in order to provide pre-approval. All projects, except for soil tests, must be pre-approved prior to implementation. Applicants should not begin work on their project until they receive pre-approval.

If you have questions regarding the application process or are experiencing any technical difficulties, please contact the Trust at 410-974-2941

# Application Form



1. Create an account
2. Take eligibility quiz
3. Fill out pages 1-3
4. Read and Sign the Property Owner Agreement



## Gaithersburg RainScapes Rewards Property Owner Agreement

This Agreement is between City of Gaithersburg, Maryland (the "City"), a municipal corporation of the State of Maryland, and \_\_\_\_\_ ("Participants" or "Property Owners"), owners of the property located at \_\_\_\_\_ (the "Property") in Gaithersburg, Maryland. This Agreement becomes effective once the designated representatives of both the Participant(s) and the City (collectively, the "Parties") have signed it.

The purpose of the Agreement is to specify the general terms and conditions of the Property Owner's participation in the City of Gaithersburg's RainScapes Rewards Program (the "Program").

### Definitions

**Rain barrel** means a container that holds at least 50 gallons or more of precipitation for landscape irrigation or other non-potable uses.

**Cistern** means a container that holds at least 250 gallons or more of precipitation for landscape irrigation or other non-potable uses.

**Rain Garden** is a planted shallow depression that uses water-tolerant native plants and landscaping to treat stormwater flowing from downspouts or hard (impervious) surfaces.

**Conservation Landscaping** is the removal of turf grass, impervious surface, and/or non-native invasive species and replacement with plant species that have more extensive, deeper root systems.

**Tree Canopy** is the installation of native trees.

**Pavement Removal** means the removal of hard (impervious) surfaces and replacement with pervious and/or native surfaces.

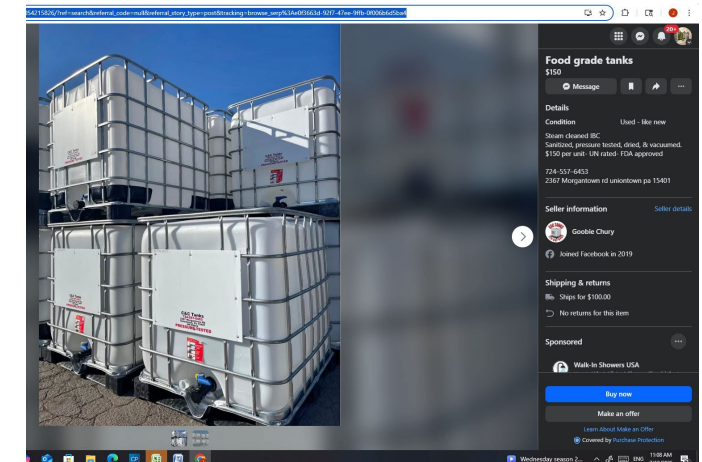
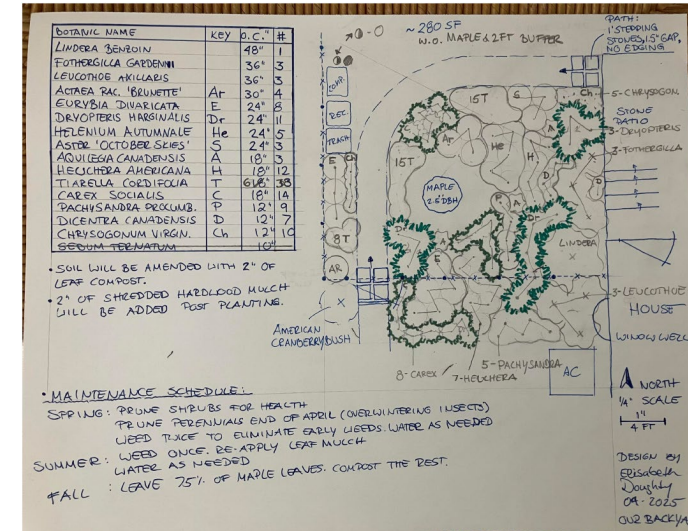
**Permeable Pavers** refers to a system of interlocking concrete pavers, installed in such a way that allows water to filter through the gaps between the pavers to the specially prepared gravel layers and infiltrate into the ground.



# Application Form



1. Create an account
2. Take eligibility quiz
3. Fill out pages 1-3
4. Read and Sign the Property Owner Agreement
5. Upload additional documentation needed



# Application Form



1. Create an account
2. Take eligibility quiz
3. Fill out pages 1-3
4. Read and Sign the Property Owner Agreement
5. Upload any additional documentation needed
6. Fill out the tab related to your rebate practice

## FORM QUESTIONS

[Download](#)

Complete the required fields below.  
Program is accepting applications

[1. Applicant and Property I...](#)[2. Project Information](#)[3. Supporting Documents](#)[4. Rain Barrel/Cistern](#)[5. Tree Canopy](#)[6. Rain Garden/Conservation...](#)[More](#)

### Steps to Complete the Online Application

All applicants must complete the following sections of the online application:

1. Applicant and Property Information
2. Project Information
3. Supporting Documents

After completing tabs 1 through 3, complete the remaining tabs (tabs 4 through 8) according to the practices/project types that you are interested in installing (rain barrel/cistern, rain garden/conservation landscaping, urban tree canopy, pavement removal/permeable pavers, soil tests). The data you enter in tabs 4 through 8 are not final project details and can be changed throughout the rebate process with the assistance of the RainScapes Reward Coordinator.

Note: If you are unsure what practice(s) might be suitable for your property, contact us to discuss or use estimates in your application to give the RainScapes Reward Coordinator an idea of the practices you are interested in for your property.

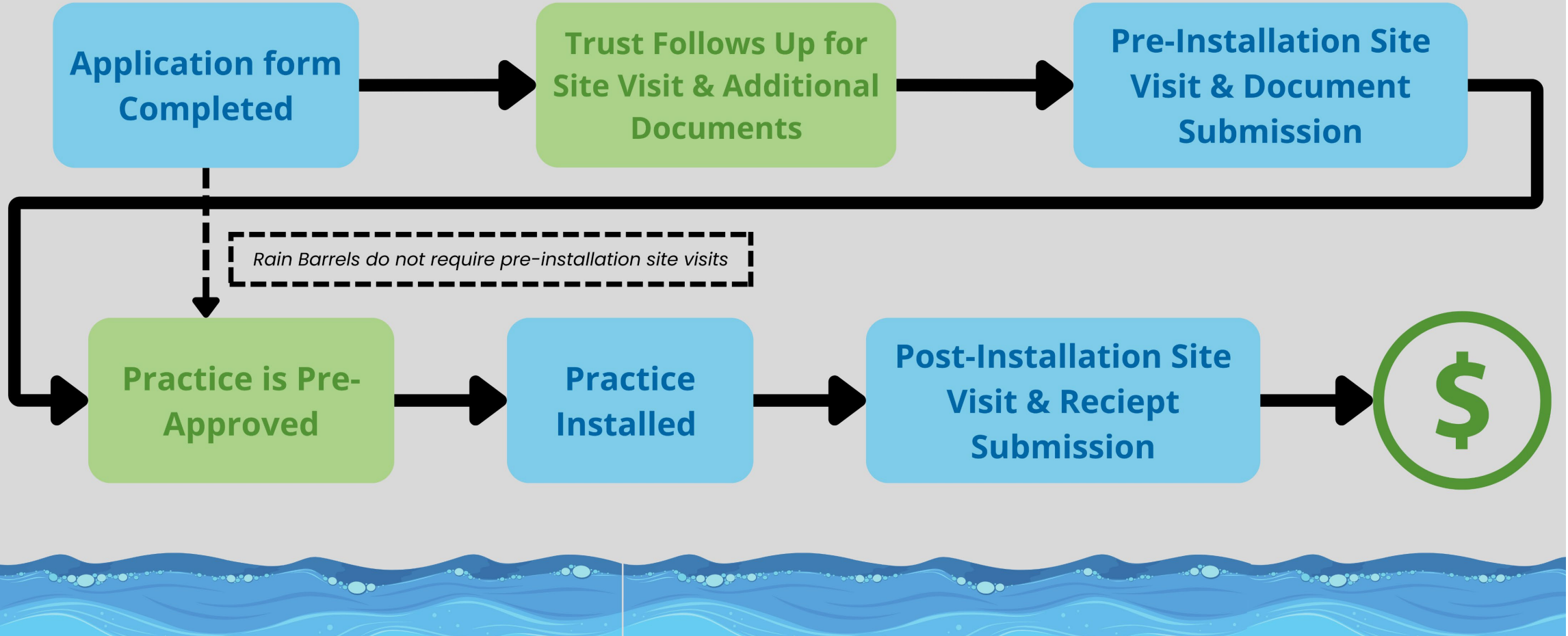
### What to Expect After You Submit Your Application

Applications are processed on a first come, first served basis, and are typically reviewed by the RainScapes Reward Coordinator within two weeks of submitting the application. Upon completion of the review, the applicant will receive an email from the RainScapes Reward Coordinator with next steps. This email will normally include the request of additional project information, if necessary, which must be completed in order to provide pre-approval. All projects, except for soil tests, must be pre-approved prior to implementation. Applicants should not begin work on their project until they receive pre-approval.

If you have questions regarding the application process or are experiencing any technical difficulties, please contact the Trust at 410-974-2941

7. Pavement Removal/Permeable Pavers
8. Soil Test
6. Demographics & Survey

# RainScapes Reward Workflow







Thank you!

[gaithersburgrebate@cbtrust.org](mailto:gaithersburgrebate@cbtrust.org)  
410-974-2941 x145

Thank You!

For more information visit  
**[cbtrust.org](http://cbtrust.org)**