Soil Test Reward Instructions
City of Gaithersburg RainScapes Rewards Program

General Information
To be eligible for a rebate, projects must be installed at a single-family residential property, homeowners association, private education facility, nonprofits, and multifamily dwelling located in the City of Gaithersburg. To verify the property is within the city boundary you may review the city map here: gburg.md/StormwaterProgramFee.

Eligible properties can receive up to a total of $5,000 per property owner in rebates. If an existing property owner received $2,500 of rebates and sells the property, the new property owner is eligible for $5,000 in rebates.

Property owners are encouraged to schedule a pre-application meeting with Chesapeake Bay Trust (Trust) staff. This will ensure that all aspects of the project and application process are fully considered. Contact the Trust at gaithersburgrebate@cbtrust.org to schedule a meeting.

Soil testing is used to determine the fertility, health, and quality of soil. Program participants who follow the application guidelines are eligible to receive a rebate of up to **$20 per soil test, with a maximum of two rebates per year for up to $40 per property.** Program participants will be required to provide documentation showing the completion of their soil test before receiving a rebate.

Eligibility

- ✓ To participate, the subject property must be located within the jurisdictional boundaries of the City of Gaithersburg. *If you are unsure about the location of your property, please confirm at gburg.md/StormwaterProgramFee.*
- ✓ Projects are **not** eligible if they are associated with permit approval requirements for new building construction, additions, or renovations.
- ✓ All requirements as outlined below, in the application, and in the Design Guidelines for project eligibility (attached) must be met. All decisions are final and at the sole discretion of the City of Gaithersburg.
- ✓ *This program does not supersede any zoning requirements.*

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/city-of-gaithersburg-rainscapes-reward-program/. 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. **Purchase soil test kit and complete the soil test.** You must retain and submit itemized receipts and/or invoices for all project costs. Documented costs must equal or exceed the rebate amount requested. The project must adhere to the most recent Design Guidelines for Project Eligibility.

3. **Submit your reimbursement form, receipts, and/or invoices.** Send your reimbursement form, itemized receipts, and/or final invoices. Scanned copies or photocopies are acceptable. Once the project is complete, upload all related receipts, final invoices, and photos of the completed project your online portal (https://bbgm-apply.yourcausegrants.com/apply/applications).

4. **Receive reimbursement check.** Once all requirements are met, the rebate will be approved, and a check will be issued by the Chesapeake Bay Trust within four (4) to six (6) weeks.

Soil Test 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.

Documentation Requirements:

To complete the application, you will need the following documents ready to upload:

Pre-submittal of soil test:

- ☐ Photos of site(s)
- ☐ Detailed description of the soil test you will be submitting (lab, nutrients measured, etc.)
- ☐ Sign and submit the Property Owner Agreement.

Post-submittal of soil test:

- ☐ Submit itemized receipts (tax will be subtracted)
- ☐ Submit soil test results

Additional Resources:

•Montgomery County Soil Testing:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/lawns/homeowner/tips/soil-tests.html

•University of Maryland Extension Soil Testing Information & Soil Testing Labs:

https://extension.umd.edu/resource/soil-testing-and-soil-testing-labs/