



RainScapes Rewards Rebates

RainScapes Rewards projects are designed to reduce stormwater runoff and enhance the local environment. These voluntary projects are funded by the Water Quality Protection Charge (WQPC). RainScapes Rewards projects cannot be used to fulfill a county-required stormwater permit, and only new projects will be considered for a rebate. In order to qualify for a rebate, properties must be located within Montgomery County but outside of the municipalities of Rockville, Gaithersburg, and Takoma Park. (These jurisdictions collect their WQPC separately.)

Project Timeline and Requirements	
1	Read the website and design manual for the specific Rainscapes projects. Please also read our Application Process document.
2	Go to the online application, and fill it out.
3	Submit your RainScapes rebate application. If you don't get an email from RainScapes@montgomerycountymd.gov , then you did not finish your application. If you need help, please contact us through that email.
4	If your application contains all the necessary information, you will be contacted by the Department of Environmental Protection to schedule a mandatory preliminary inspection. These inspections are required before project installation can begin. <i>Note: No preliminary inspection is required for rain barrels</i>
5	Supporting documents specific to each rebate type will need to be submitted. This can happen before or after the preliminary inspection. Please see the project requirements for a supporting documents list.
6	Once you've passed the preliminary inspection and all your supporting documents have been approved, you will receive an application response letter. This letter gives approval details and rebate funding level. A property owner agreement will also be sent at this time. Once you receive the approval letter, installation of the project can begin.
7	Projects must be installed within six months of the date of the approval letter. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have.
8	Once the project is installed, contact the Department of Environmental Protection to schedule a final inspection.
9	At the final inspection, you may receive a list of necessary changes/adjustments to make before a rebate can be issued. Completion of any adjustments will need to be photo-documented and emailed to RainScapes@montgomerycountymd.gov . Depending on the number of adjustments, a second final inspection may be necessary.
10	Submit at the end: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Copies of the receipts, itemized and with sales tax subtracted• Electronically-signed property owner agreement
11	Your rebate will be processed for payment after your project passes final inspection and you have submitted your receipts and property owner agreement. The rebate check will be issued by the Montgomery County Department of Finance.



RainScapes Rewards Rebates Design Criteria & Requirements for Project Eligibility

Rain Garden

Rebate Amounts

\$10 per square foot of total garden area

Maximum rebate: Residential - **\$7,500** • Commercial/Institutional - **\$20,000**

Required Supporting Documents

- Planting plan (with graphic scale) showing plant quantities and locations
- HOA approval letter, if applicable

Minimum size

- **Residential** – 75 square feet of total garden area
- **Commercial/Institutional** - 100 square feet of total garden area

Location

- On private property. No projects are permitted in the County's right-of-way (area between sidewalk and street)
- Downhill from buildings and at least 10' away from foundations
- Not over utilities (water, gas, electric)
 - Offset a minimum 36" for gas and 18" for everything else
- Overflows onto pervious surface (grass, garden, etc.) for at least 10' 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" (below the 6" ponding depth).
 - Perc rates over 36 hours indicate an unsuitable location for a rain garden. In this case, a conservation landscape with 3" 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.

(Continued on next page)



Rain Garden page 2

- Soil must be decompacted at least 18" and amended with 2" 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.
- 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 OK).
- 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.

Final Steps

- Submit itemized receipts (tax will be subtracted).
- Electronically sign and submit the Property Owner Agreement.
- Schedule and pass final inspection.

Sizing table for 1 ft planting media. Inches of

rain stored ↓	Drainage area (square feet)						
	100	200	300	400	500	600	
Media footprint (square feet)	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	