

About Rainscapes




ABOUT RAINSCAPES

A **RainScape** is a landscape or design technique that helps reduce stormwater runoff from individual properties.

RainScape projects capture the rainwater that runs off hard surfaces (like driveways and roofs) and compacted lawns.

Anywhere you have flowing water off hard surfaces can be evaluated for a RainScape!

Types of RainScapes that are possible in Three Oaks Association

	<p>Conservation Landscaping A garden designed to slow down and soak up rain using native plants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Photos of Conservation Landscapes• Requirements (.pdf, 155KB)• Project Manual (.pdf, 676KB) <p>Cost: Moderate Cost Average Project Cost Covered by Rebate: 30%-50%</p>
<p>Dry Well A hole in the ground filled with rocks designed to intercept, infiltrate and store rain water.</p> <p>Cost: High Cost Average Project Cost Covered by Rebate: 30%-50%</p>	
	<p>Permeable Pavement/ Pavers Pavement that is designed to intercept and store rain water.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Photos of Permeable Pavement• Requirements (.pdf, 137KB)• Project Manual (.pdf, 382KB) <p>Cost: Very High Cost Average Project Cost Covered by Rebate: 15 %-25%</p>

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Rain Garden

A garden designed to intercept, store and soak in rain water. The surface is depressed 6" and allows water to create temporary shallow pond that soaks in and away within 24-48 hours.

- [Photos of Rain Gardens](#)
- [Requirements](#) (.pdf, 315KB)
- [Project Manual](#) (.pdf, 382KB)

Cost: Moderate Cost

Average Project Cost Covered by Rebate: 30%-40%



Rain Barrels

A barrel connected to a downspout for the purpose of temporarily capturing and storing rain water.

- [Photos of Rain Barrels](#)
- [Requirements](#) (.pdf, 77KB)
- [Project Manual](#) (.pdf, 661KB)

Cost: Low Cost

Average Project Cost Covered by Rebate: 30%-50%

Cisterns

A larger version of a rain barrel, typically 250 gallons or larger.

- [Photos of Cisterns](#)
- [Requirements](#) (.pdf, 77KB)
- [Project Manual](#) (.pdf, 661KB)

Cost: Low Cost

Average Project Cost Covered by Rebate: 50%



Why Install a RainScape?

Most rainfall on urban surfaces such as roofs, driveways, roads, parking lots and patios ends up as stormwater runoff, causing erosion to streams, pollution and flooding.

RainScapes techniques help counteract the impacts of stormwater runoff by:

- Reducing runoff from individual properties
- Reducing drainage problems on properties
- Preventing stormwater pollution from entering our streams
- Reducing water consumption during dry spells
- Reducing the need for mowing, fertilizer and pesticide applications

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- Enhancing the beauty of yards
- Enhancing wildlife habitat
- Reducing energy costs to heat and cool your home
- Increasing property values

The RainScapes Program promotes the use of innovative techniques which soak up or store rainwater, reduce runoff, and keep pollutants from entering our streams. Many RainScapes are planted and are attractive gardens.

RainScapes also provide community benefits in addition to the many individual property owners' benefits. They beautify neighborhoods, reduce local flooding and increase desirable wildlife habitat, which can increase property values.

How Do I Choose Which RainScape is Right for Me?

When planning for a RainScape, the first thing you should do is learn how water flows across your property and where it originates. Visualizing how water flows can be tough, so the best time to do this assessment is during a rain storm. Pictures/videos of your property can also help DEP staff better advise you on which projects would work best for your property.



General Considerations for Installing RainScapes

1. Your budget should help narrow down the choices of RainScapes techniques.
2. Are you interested in better soil drainage and have you identified problem spots?
3. Do you have a large lot or a small lot to work with and are there any setback requirements on your lot?
4. Underground utilities might be a factor and before any digging you must consult **MISS UTILITY**.
5. Do you want to capture rainfall to re-use it?
6. Evaluate how much time you have for maintenance of your yard.
7. Consider if you want to change the look of your landscaping or achieve stormwater control without too much change.
8. Do you have the equipment required to install some RainScapes projects?
9. Do you want a do-it-yourself project, or would you prefer to hire a contractor?

An umbrella and a camera will go a long way in helping you plan for the proper RainScapes Rewards Rebate project!

Remember that you can install multiple RainScapes techniques on your property to increase the benefits! By implementing these techniques community-wide, cumulative benefits can be achieved.

[Download Resources & Guides](#)

If you're still having trouble deciding, feel free to email us at

rainscapes@montgomerycountymd.gov with your pictures (reduced file size please), address, and description of what your problem is and what it is you're trying to accomplish. We would be more than happy to offer some pre-application advice!

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Who Can Participate?



RainScape at a Sherwood High School

RainScapes are the perfect project for property owners who wish to reduce stormwater runoff on their property and help protect local waterways. Groups that have successfully installed RainScapes projects include:

- Private Homeowners
- Businesses
- Non-profit Organizations
- Homeowners Associations
- Schools
- Private Institutions
- Nature Centers
- Public and Community Spaces

The County offers technical and financial assistance (in the form of rebates) to encourage property owners to implement eligible RainScapes techniques on their property.

RainScapes Communities

In addition to being rebate eligible, communities may request analysis and planning for identifying RainScapes opportunities.

- [Neighborhoods Program](#)
- [Congregations](#)
- [RainScapes for Schools](#)
- [Community Pools](#)
- [HOAs](#)
- [Landscapers and Contractors](#)



HOW TO APPLY FOR A RAINSCAPES PROJECT:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/water/rainscapes/apply.html>

Email rainscapes@montgomerycountymd.gov for assistance.

