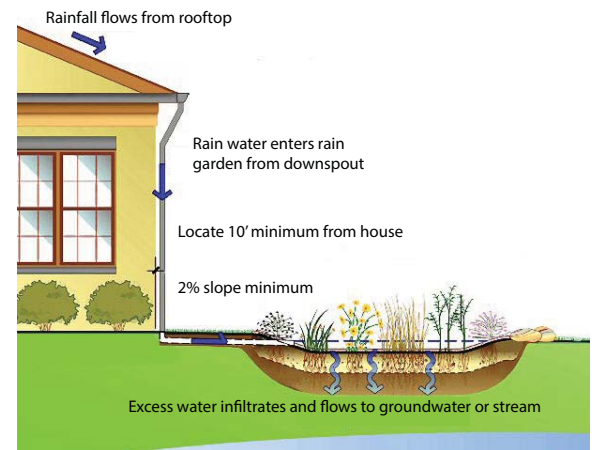


# RAIN GARDENS

A rain garden is a landscaped area strategically placed and connected to a downspout to collect and absorb stormwater from your rooftop. Connecting the downspout to the rain garden directs stormwater away your home's foundation and holds it there until it can naturally infiltrate into the ground. The rain garden dips slightly into the ground and has soil engineered to increase infiltration. In addition to improving drainage, rain gardens also help keep polluted runoff out of local streams.

Rain gardens are designed to be site specific. They are customized to meet individual site characteristics, factoring in topography, soils, drainage patterns, and sun exposure. The standard rain garden size is approximately 50 square feet.



**The co-payment is \$75 for a 50 sq. ft. rain garden. Each property is eligible for two \$1,200 grants towards two landscaping projects (rain gardens and/or BayScaping), pending audit recommendation.**

## Maintaining Your Rain Garden

Rain gardens require watering, weeding, and mulching, especially during the first two years. The downspout connection should be regularly cleaned to prevent from clogging. Homeowners are responsible for replacing dead or dying plants.

# RAIN GARDENS

## Next Steps

If you are interested in a rain garden, please do the following:

1. Become eligible for a rain garden through a RiverSmart Homes audit
2. If you are eligible, let your auditor know you want a rain garden installed
3. Make your copayment and have your rain garden installed
4. Maintain your rain garden



Mature rain garden



Downspout inlet to rain garden



Newly-planted rain garden

## Interested in additional projects and funding?

Rebates are available for homeowners treating runoff from additional impervious surfaces with a rain garden. Rebates can be used in combination with RiverSmart Homes funding.

Rebates are issued as a direct reimbursement at a rate of \$3 per square foot of treatment area. The minimum square footage that must be treated is 400 square feet, which would provide a \$1200 rebate.

The maximum rebate is \$2,200. The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay administers the landscaping rebate on behalf of DOEE.

Visit [doee.dc.gov/landscapingrebates](https://doee.dc.gov/landscapingrebates) to review the Homeowner Guide and Rebate Application.