CleanScapes:

Keep the rain,
not the runoff!

Residential Best Management Practice (BMP) Incentive Program Criteria:

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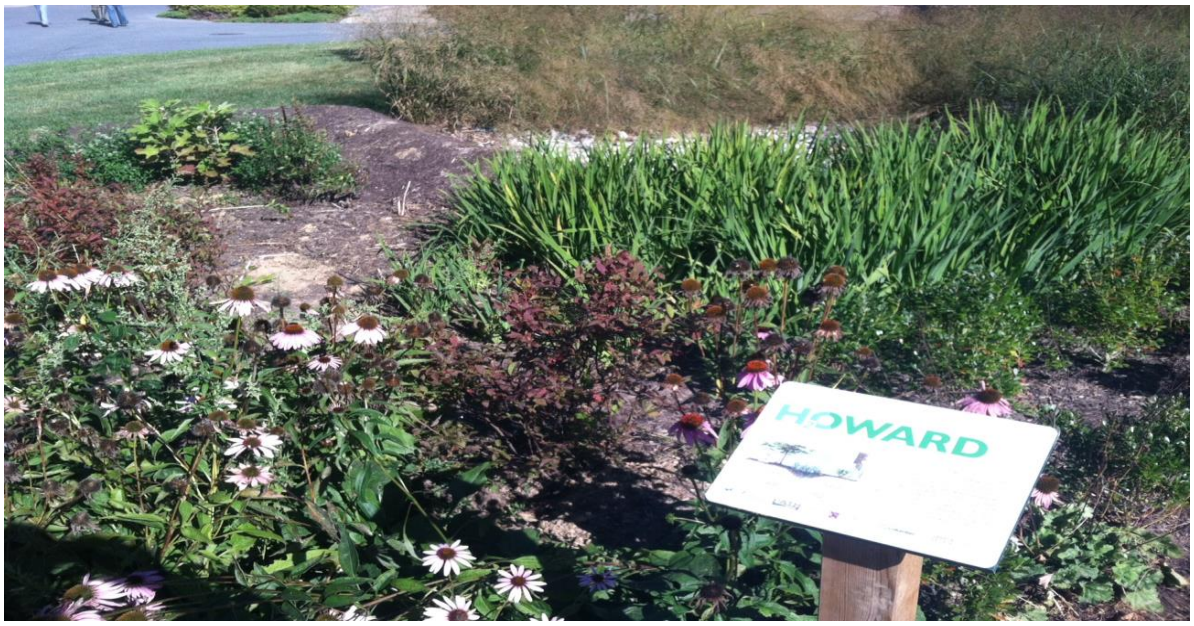
Introduction:

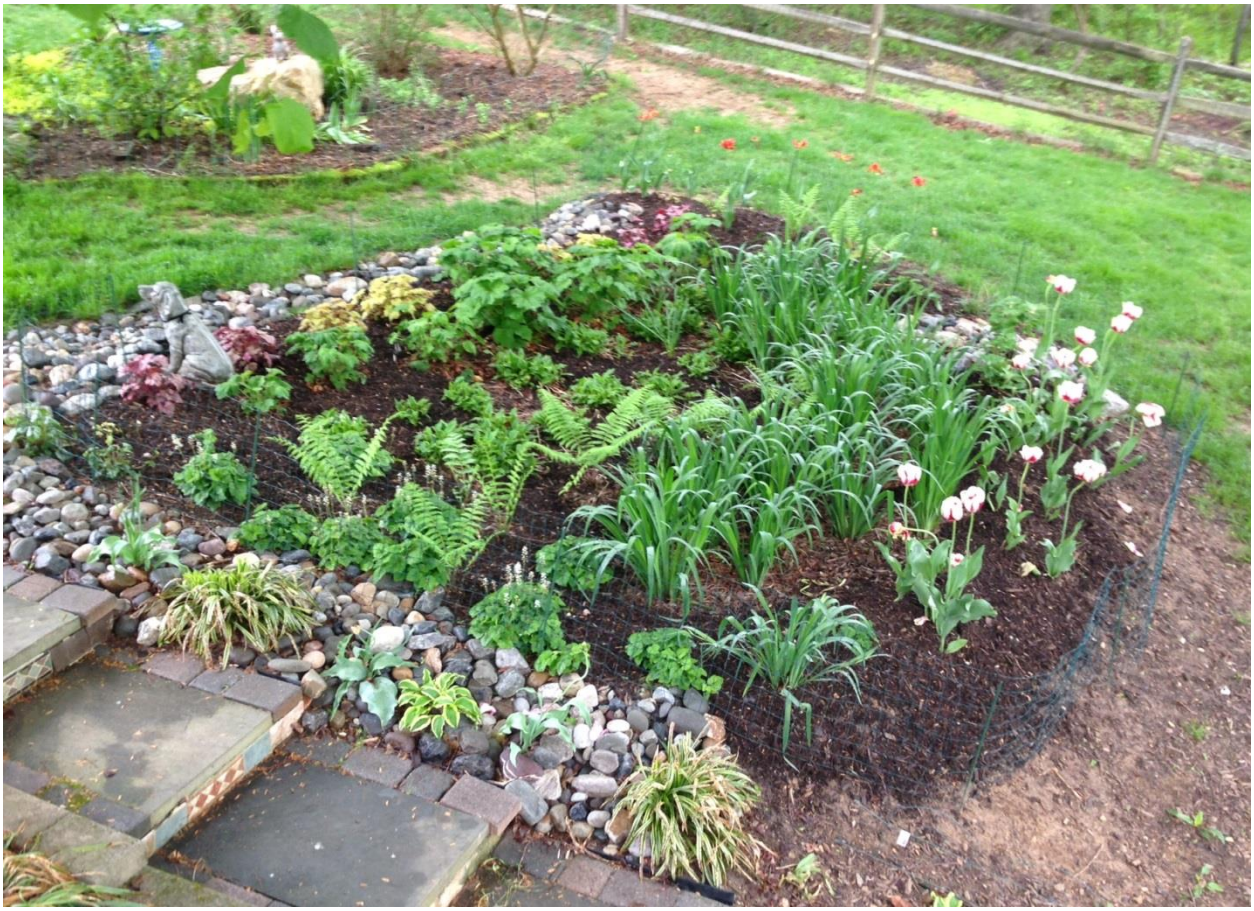
Thank you for your interest in protecting our local water by installing a stormwater best management practice (BMP). We issue financial incentives in the forms of credits toward the annual Watershed Protection Fee and reimbursements to show our gratitude for your efforts. If you are thinking of installing a BMP, we recommend that you familiarize yourself with these requirements before proceeding. Underlined words in this guide are defined in the "definition of terms" section.



Rain garden at Franciscan Friars

Rain Gardens:

Rain gardens are gardens filled with native plants and absorbent soil and shaped to collect and filter water when it rains. Rain gardens are not only beautiful and attractive to local wildlife, but can help solve drainage and pooling problems in your yard.



To be eligible for a 20% credit and reimbursement for up to 50% of that you paid, your rain garden must meet the requirements at the bottom of the page.

Note that "capacity" refers to the maximum volume of stormwater runoff which can be contained in the ponding area, which can be measured by multiplying the ponding depth, by the ponding area.

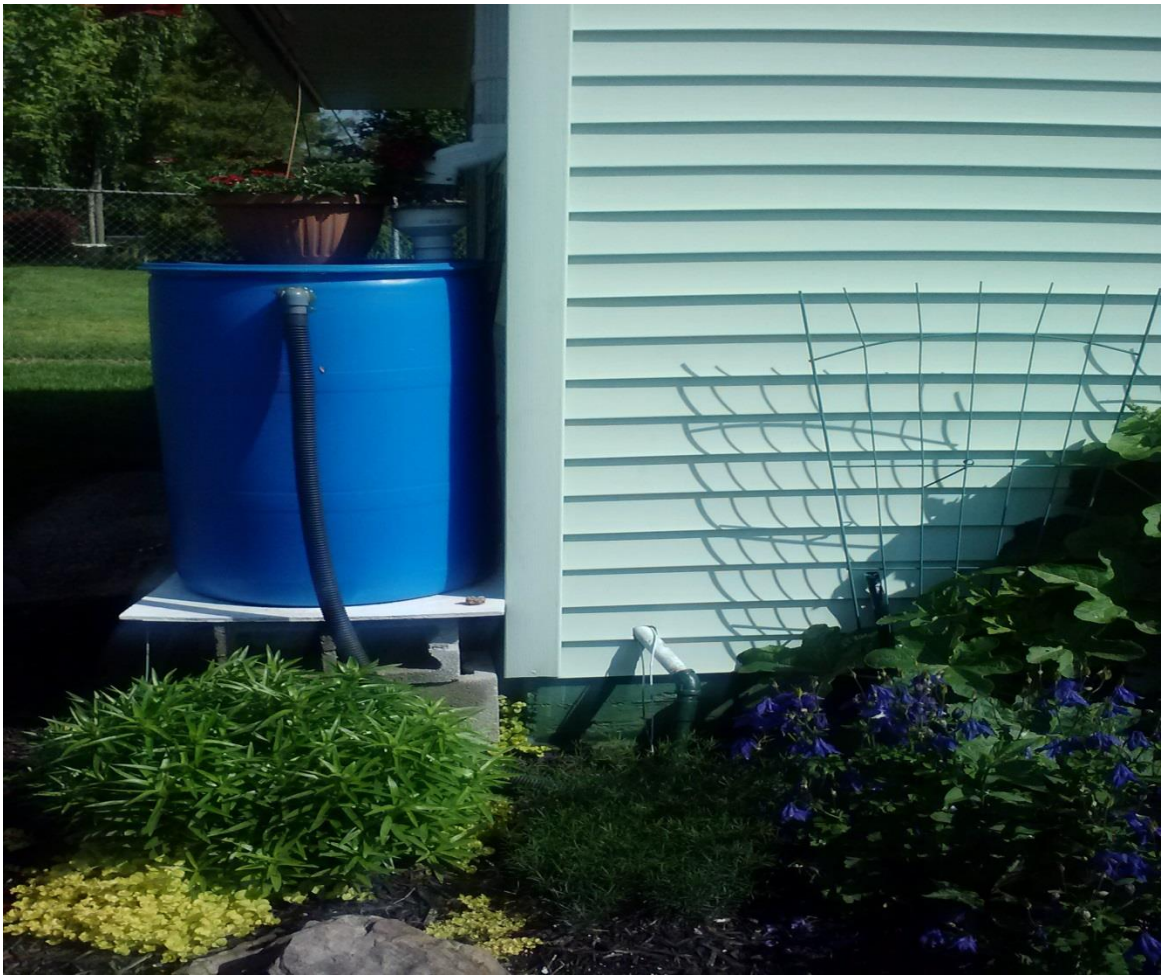
The drainage area must be impervious surface which is directed to the rain garden for treatment. Rain gardens must drain within a reasonable time (24-48 hours) to be considered for credit and reimbursement.

Rain Garden Minimum Requirements:

Best Management Practice (BMP	Lot size/type	Drainage Area (ft^2)	Capacity (ft^3)	Other Conditions	Eligible for Credit and Reimbursen	Reimbursement Cap
Rain Garden	Condominium or Townhouse	250	14.84	Rain garden must not contain design flaws, fail to treat water quality, or create drainage problems	Y	$1,200
Rain Garden	Single Family Home on 1/4 acre or Less	500	29.96	Rain garden must not contain design flaws, fail to treat water quality, or create drainage problems	Y	$1,200
Rain Garden	Single Family Home on Greater than 1/4 Acre	1000	59.37	Rain garden must not contain design flaws, fail to treat water quality, or create drainage problems	Y	$1,200

Rain Barrels/Cisterns:

Rain barrels and cisterns are large storage containers, often attached to downspouts, which collect precipitation during storm events. This water can be used for watering lawns and gardens.



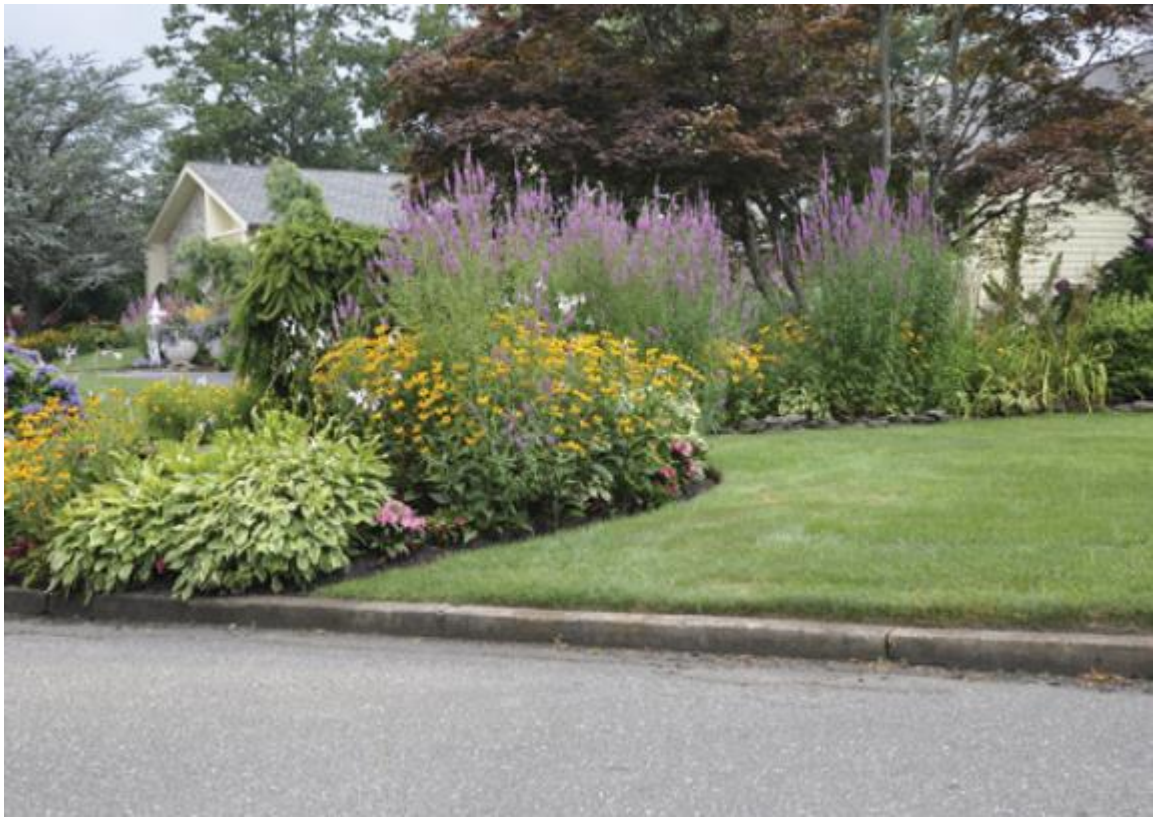
Your rain barrel must meet the following criteria to be considered for credit and reimbursement:

Rain barrel/cistern minimum requirements:

Best Management Practice (BMP	Lot size/type	Drainage Area (ft^2)	Capacity (gallons)	Other Conditions	Eligible for Credit and Reimburser	Reimbursement Cap
Rain Barrels/Cisterns	Condominium or Townhouse	250	250		Y	$500-maximum reimbursement is $1/gallon stored
Rain Barrels/Cisterns	Single Family Home on 1/4 acre or Less	500	296		Y	$500-maximum reimbursement is $1/gallon stored
Rain Barrels/Cisterns	Single Family Home on Greater than 1/4 Acre	1000	592		Y	$500-maximum reimbursement is $1/gallon stored

Conservation Landscaping:

Conservation landscapes are gardens full of native plants soil amendment and de-compaction. These gardens allow for stormwater infiltration and treatment, but are not as intensive in design or construction as rain gardens.

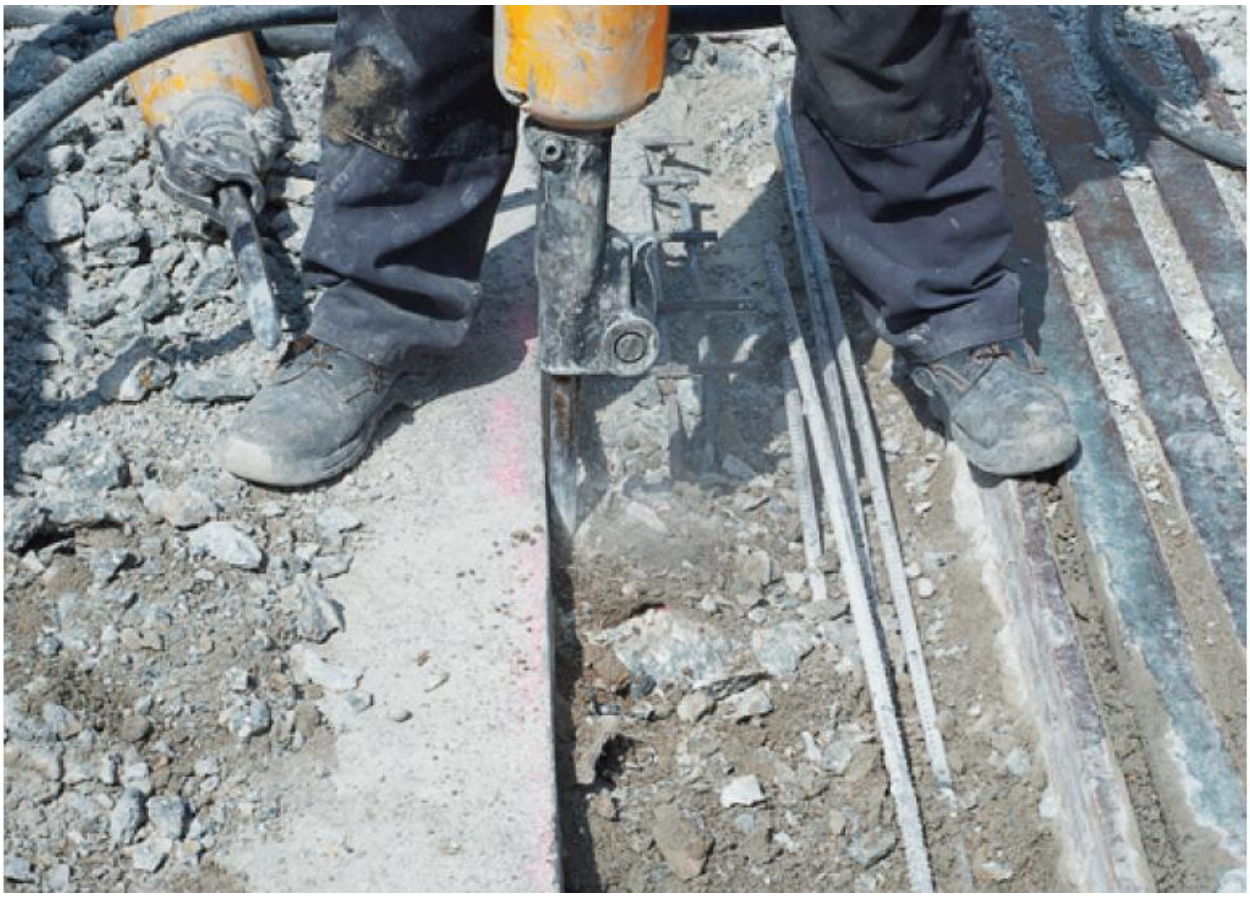


Conservation landscapes are eligible for ***reimbursement only***. Your conservation landscape must meet the requirements below to be eligible for reimbursement of up to 50% of the cost incurred up to $750.

Best Management Practice (BMP	Lot size/type	Drainage Area (ft^2)	Capacity (ft^3)	Other Conditions	Eligible for Credit and Reimbursen	Reimbursement Cap
Conservation Landscape	Condominium or Townhouse	250	n/a	75% (# of plants, not coverage area, size of each, or costs), replacement of turf, invasive species, or impervious surface only, no plants invasive to Maryland, 9" soil de-compaction, 2" soil amendment tilled into the 9" of soil de-compaction, Minimum 2" of mulch at initial planting (maintain mulch coverage in future only in areas where there is no ground cover), Minimum 250 SF of conservation landscaping, Planting density to assume full coverage of landscaped area after a maximum of 5 years. Minimum planting area is 250 ft^2	N; Reimbursement only	$250-750-maximum reimbursement is $1/ft^2$
Conservation Landscape	Single Family Home on 1/4 acre or Less	500	n/a	75% (# of plants, not coverage area, size of each, or costs), replacement of turf, invasive species, or impervious surface only, no plants invasive to Maryland, 9" soil de-compaction, 2" soil amendment tilled into the 9" of soil de-compaction, Minimum 2" of mulch at initial planting (maintain mulch coverage in future only in areas where there is no ground cover), Minimum 250 SF of conservation landscaping, Planting density to assume full coverage of landscaped area after a maximum of 5 years. Minimum planting area is 250 ft^2	N; Reimbursement only	$250-750-maximum reimbursement is $1/ft^2$
Conservation Landscape	Single Family Home on Greater than 1/4 Acre	1000	n/a	75% (# of plants, not coverage area, size of each, or costs), replacement of turf, invasive species, or impervious surface only, no plants invasive to Maryland, 9" soil de-compaction, 2" soil amendment tilled into the 9" of soil de-compaction, Minimum 2" of mulch at initial planting (maintain mulch coverage in future only in areas where there is no ground cover), Minimum 250 SF of conservation landscaping, Planting density to assume full coverage of landscaped area after a maximum of 5 years. Minimum planting area is 250 ft^2	N; Reimbursement only	$250-750-maximum reimbursement is $1/ft^2$

Pavement Removal:

Pavement removal is direct removal of impervious surface, which will help to slow down and spread out runoff, if replaced with an appropriate alternative, like a conservation landscape or a rain garden.

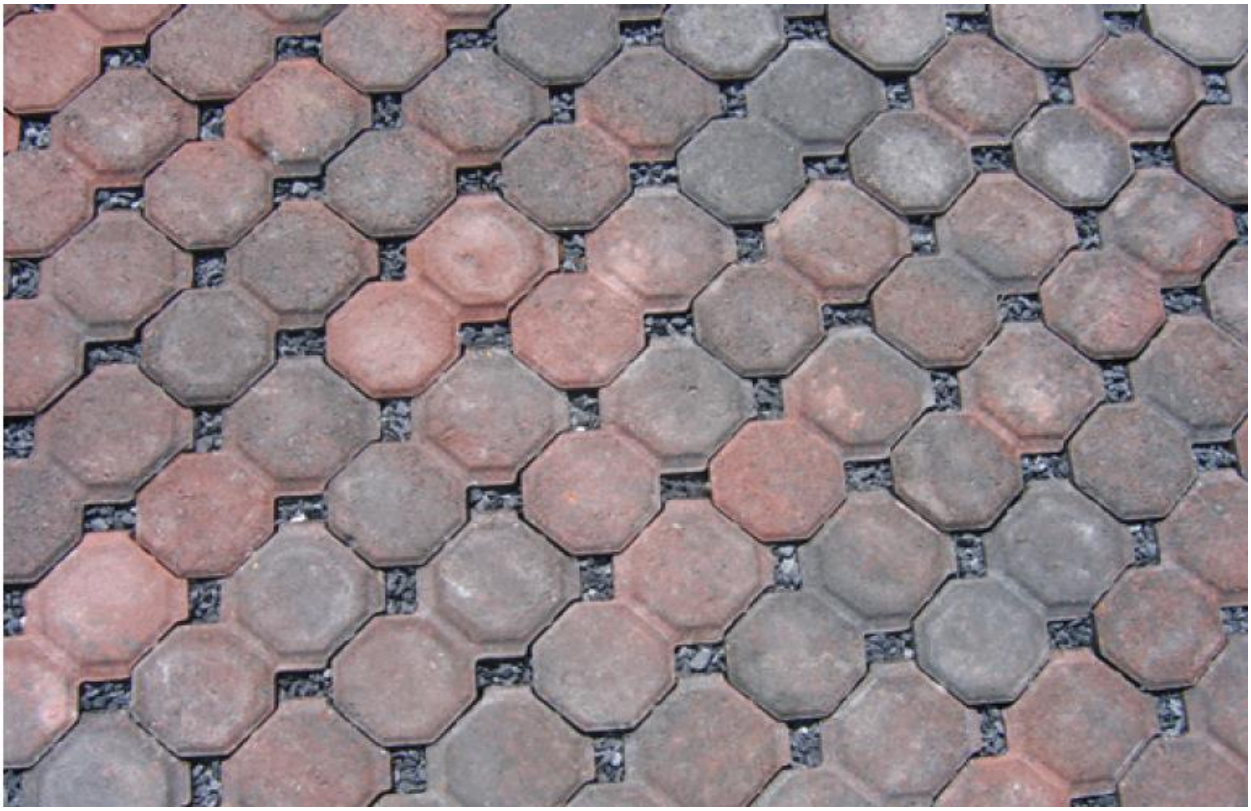


Pavement removal is eligible for reimbursement of 50% of the cost incurred up to $1200. The pavement removal must meet the criteria below to be eligible for credit or reimbursement.

Best Management Practice (BMP	Lot size/type	Drainage Area (ft^2)	Capacity (ft^3)	Other Conditions	Eligible for Credit and Reimburseme	Reimbursement Cap
Pavement Removal	Condominium or Townhouse	250	n/a	Must return area to a natural planted state, or cover with permeable pavers; minimum removal of 100 ft^2	Y	$600-$1200
Pavement Removal	Single Family Home on 1/4 acre or Less	500	n/a	Must return area to a natural planted state, or cover with permeable pavers; minimum removal of 100 ft^2	Y	$600-$1200
Pavement Removal	Single Family Home on Greater than 1/4 Acre	1000	n/a	Must return area to a natural planted state, or cover with permeable pavers; minimum removal of 100 ft^2	Y	$600-$1200

Permeable Pavers:

Permeable pavers are a more environmentally-friendly way to hardscape your yard or driveway when compared to traditional pavement options, such as asphalt or concrete. Permeable pavers help runoff to gradually re-enter the water table through several inches of gravel, carefully designed to prevent compaction. We do not recommend installing this practice on your own; please contact a certified professional if you are interested in this practice.



Permeable pavers are eligible for reimbursement of 50% of the cost incurred up to $1200. The installation of pavers must meet criteria defined in the Maryland Stormwater Design Manual, chapter 5. Permeable pavers must also meet the criteria below to be considered for reimbursement or credit.

Best Management Practice (BMP	Lot size/type	Drainage Area (ft^2)	Capacity (ft^3)	Other Conditions	Eligible for Credit and Reimburseme	Reimbursement Cap
Permeable Pavement	Condominium or Townhouse	250	14.84	Must be installed by certified contractor; must have underground storage system and significant layer of gravel; minimum paved area of 100 SF	Y	$1,200
Permeable Pavement	Single Family Home on 1/4 acre or Less	500	29.96	Must be installed by certified contractor; must have underground storage system and significant layer of gravel; minimum paved area of 100 SF	Y	$1,200
Permeable Pavement	Single Family Home on Greater than 1/4 Acre	1000	59.37	Must be installed by certified contractor; must have underground storage system and significant layer of gravel; minimum paved area of 100 SF	Y	$1,200

Dry Wells:

Dry wells are underground cavities, often surrounded by gravel, that capture stormwater runoff from gutters and then gradually allow it to infiltrate into the ground water table.

Dry wells are eligible for reimbursement for 50% of the cost incurred up to $600. Only internal, open capacity of the dry well will be considered toward the overall capacity. Please see the credit and reimbursement eligibility below.

Best Management Practice (BMP	Lot size/type	Drainage Area (ft^2)	Capacity (ft^3)	Other Conditions	Eligible for Credit and Reimburseme	Reimbursement Cap
Dry Wells	Condominium or Townhouse	250	14.84	Demonstrate A or B Hydrologic Soil Groups or 0.52-inch per hour or greater within 50-feet of the proposed drywell	Y	$600
Dry Wells	Single Family Home on 1/4 acre or Less	500	29.96	Demonstrate A or B Hydrologic Soil Groups or 0.52-inch per hour or greater within 50-feet of the proposed drywell	Y	$600
Dry Wells	Single Family Home on Greater than 1/4 Acre	1000	59.37	Demonstrate A or B Hydrologic Soil Groups or 0.52-inch per hour or greater within 50-feet of the proposed drywell	Y	$600

Tree Canopy:

Trees are a beautiful and habitat-building way to help improve water quality.

Tree canopy is eligible for ***reimbursement only***. Your tree canopy must meet the requirements below to be eligible for reimbursement of up to 50% of the cost incurred up to $600.

Best Management Practice (BMP	Lot size/type	Drainage Area (ft^2)	Capacity (ft^3)	Other Conditions	Eligible for Credit and Reimburseme	Reimbursement Cap
Urban Tree Canopy	Condominium or Townhouse	250	n/a	Deciduous: minimum 2 inch caliper, Evergreen: minimum 6 ft tall	N; Reimbursement only	$600 total; $150 per tree
Urban Tree Canopy	Single Family Home on 1/4 acre or Less	500	n/a	Deciduous: minimum 2 inch caliper, Evergreen: minimum 6 ft tall	N; Reimbursement only	$600 total; $150 per tree
Urban Tree Canopy	Single Family Home on Greater than 1/4 Acre	1000	n/a	Deciduous: minimum 2 inch caliper, Evergreen: minimum 6 ft tall	N; Reimbursement only	$600 total; $150 per tree

Green Roofs:

Green roofs are vegetated roofs with soil amendment that help to treat runoff at its source. Green roofs also help to improve air quality.

If you are interested in installing a green roof, please speak with a professional. Green roofs must follow all guidelines offered in the Maryland Stormwater Design Manual, chapter 5. The maximum reimbursement for this practice is $1200, with a minimum roof area.

Best Management Practice (BMP	Lot size/type	Drainage Area (ft^2)	Capacity (ft^3)	Other Conditions	Eligible for Credit and Reimburseme	Reimbursement Cap
Green Roof	Condominium or Townhouse	300 or 1/4 of roof	n/a	Must be installed by certified contractor	Y	$600 total; $150 per tree
Green Roof	Single Family Home on 1/4 acre or Less	300 or 1/4 of roof	n/a	Must be installed by certified contractor	Y	$600 total; $150 per tree
Green Roof	Single Family Home on Greater than 1/4 Acre	300 or 1/4 of roof	n/a	Must be installed by certified contractor	Y	$600 total; $150 per tree

Definition of Terms:

Berm: A mound at the edge of a rain garden which detains rain water within the ponding area for infiltration.

Impervious Surface: A hard or compacted surface which stormwater runoff cannot percolate into. Some examples of impervious surfaces include: traditional rooftops, driveways, and sidewalks.

Ponding Area: The concave temporary storage area located interior to the pre-treatment area and berm of the rain garden

Ponding Depth: The depth of the ponding area, measured from the lowest point of the ponding area to the top of the berm.

Stormwater Best Management Practice (BMP): A practice, such as a rain garden, which improves water quality, often by removing sediment and excess nutrients.

Other Considerations:

- Best Management Practices installed at development are not eligible for credit or reimbursement.
- Best Management Practices installed before November of 2011 are not eligible for reimbursement
- Current homeowner must have installed practice to be considered for reimbursement
- The Howard County Office of Community Sustainability retains the right to reject any BMP for credit, if it does not provide a water quality treatment benefit.

Please contact Rachel Beebe, rbeebe@howardcountymd.gov with any questions related to this material.