

Homeowner Guide For a More Bay-Friendly Property



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Introduction

In the Chesapeake Bay watershed, one of the greatest threats to the health of the Bay comes from increased development of the land. Increased development and transformation of the landscape leads to less rainwater soaking into the ground where it is naturally filtered before returning to our streams and rivers. Instead, more water “runs off” our properties and travels along our impervious corridors of driveways and streets picking up pollutants along the way which are then delivered to our streams and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay.

So what can YOU do? Every parcel of land in the watershed impacts the quality of the Bay including your individual property. You can decrease the impact that your property has on the Bay by reducing the amount of pollutants and stormwater generated from your lot.



This guide presents a step by step approach for analyzing your property to find out whether it makes sense to install a rain garden or other residential stewardship practices. We then take you through the design and installation of several of the homeowner practices, so that you can install them on your own. Many Bay communities offer technical and financial assistance to help you install stewardship practices on your lot. Check out Appendix D for a list of links to these programs.

Practices for a “Bay-Friendly” Property

The goal is to reduce the volume of stormwater that runs off your individual property so as to remove pollutants, such as nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment, before they are delivered to local streams and eventually reach the Chesapeake Bay. There are multiple practices that a homeowner can do to accomplish this. The following homeowner practices can be employed to reduce runoff and pollutants coming off of their property.

Rain Gardens

Rain gardens accept runoff from a roof, driveway, or parking lot that would otherwise go to the street or storm drain. The garden has a shallow depression that allows stormwater to collect and pool. Natural soils are replaced with sandier ones to allow the water to soak into the ground instead of running “off” into the storm sewer system or stream. The garden is planted with a mix of native plants that filter out pollutants and attract wildlife.



Conservation Landscaping



Conservation landscaping is the creation of mulched beds that are planted with perennial plants, shrubs and/or small trees that retain rainfall and absorb runoff from adjacent turf or paved surfaces. Native plants are preferred, but ornamental plants are acceptable if they are adapted to regional climates and are not invasive spreaders.

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Tree Planting

Tree planting is the practice of planting deciduous or evergreen trees in grassy areas that will grow and create a leafy canopy that intercepts rainfall and reduces runoff. Native tree species are preferred. Trees can be planted by the owner or a contractor, but species should be selected that will grow best given a variety of conditions, including the soil conditions and solar exposure at your planting site.



Cisterns and Rain Barrels



Cisterns and rain barrels are used to capture roof runoff in a barrel or tank which can then slowly empty into the lawn or landscape or be reused for outdoor irrigation/watering and/or for selected indoor uses. While rain barrels can be installed by a homeowner, larger tanks and cisterns require a qualified design and installation professional. If stored runoff is used for indoor purposes, special measures may need to be taken to improve water quality.

Permeable Hardscapes

Permeable hard-scapes refers to the installation of pavers on driveways and sidewalks that allow rainfall to rapidly pass through the paver and into a shallow stone reservoir that allows the water to soak into the ground. The practice applies to both residential and non-residential paved areas, and may be a great option to replace deteriorating pavement. Most permeable pavers require the assistance of an experienced designer and pavement installation contractor.

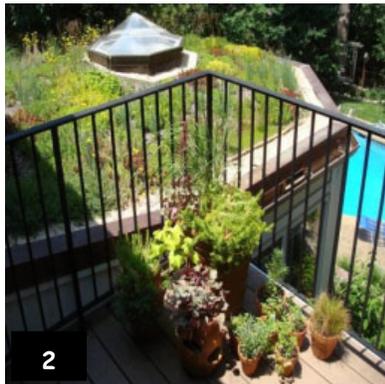


Impervious Cover Removal

Impervious cover removal consists of the breaking up of existing hard surfaces and proper disposal or recycling of the asphalt or concrete, followed by roto-tilling of the underlying soils to relieve compaction, and planting them with grass or other vegetation. Pavement removal can occur on residential or non-residential properties. Some owners may be able to remove pavement, but it is often a good idea to hire a contractor to do the job.



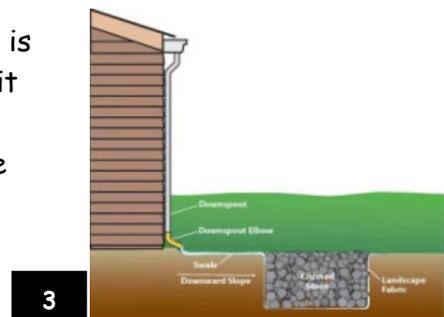
Green Roof



Green roofs are systems that store and filter rainfall that lands on the roof through a thin layer of soil media and specialized vegetation. These practices can sometimes be applied on residential rooftops, but must be designed and installed by a qualified designer/contractor. A fun fact is that Washington, D.C. now has more green roofs than any other city in our nation!

Dry Wells

Dry wells are created by excavating a shallow trench that is filled with stone and used to temporarily store runoff so it can soak into the ground. Dry wells can be designed and installed by the owner, although some technical assistance may be needed if they are located close to a basement



Several other environmental site design practices may be used to treat runoff from some properties, such as bioswales, landscape infiltration, submerged gravel wetlands, rooftop disconnection and stormwater planters. In addition, property owners can reduce their impact on local streams and the Bay by using Bay-friendly lawn care.

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Bay-Friendly Lawn Care

Lawns make up a significant portion of individual properties and have been shown to produce more runoff than their forested counterparts. A recent research report by the Chesapeake Bay Program recommends ten practices that can make your lawn more Bay-friendly (USWG, 2013: <http://chesapeakestormwater.net/training-library/urban-restoration-techniques/urban-nutrient-management/>).

1. Maintain a dense cover of grass or conservation landscaping to reduce runoff, prevent erosion, and retain nutrients

Dense grass or plant cover helps to reduce surface runoff. Regardless of whether it is fertilized or not, lawns with poor turf cover have a high risk for nutrient loss, especially if soils are compacted or slopes are steep. Any bare spots or eroding areas should be re-seeded, and may require some soil amendments, spot fertilization and, in extreme cases, stabilization with a biodegradable erosion control cover.



2. Reduce or Eliminate Fertilizer:

- ***Choose not to fertilize, OR***
- ***Adopt a Reduce Rate/Monitor Strategy, OR***
- ***Apply less than a pound of Nitrogen per 1000 square feet per each individual application.***

You have three fertilization options to reduce the risk that fertilizer from your lawn will reach the Bay, depending on the conditions of your lawn and your aesthetic preferences.



The easiest strategy is to not fertilize at all, which make sense for lawns that are relatively flat and mature, and have a dense grass cover. This strategy relies on soil mineralization, lawn clippings and atmospheric deposition to supply the nutrients needed for growth, but should NOT be used on lawns that have poor turf cover or exposed soils.

The second strategy relies on a "reduced rate and monitor" fertilization approach. In this strategy, you only apply one-third to one-half of the recommended application rate on the fertilizer bag label, and then monitor how your lawn responds over the next couple of

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months. If you are unsatisfied with the look of your lawn at that point, you can always re-apply fertilizer at the smaller dose. More is not always better; your lawn may look just as healthy as it does at the full application rate.

The third strategy is to fertilize at the recommended nitrogen fertilization rate but split it into 3 or 4 small doses during the growing season. Individual application rates should be no more than 0.9 pound of nitrogen per 1000 square feet of lawn in most parts of the Bay watershed

When assessing your property, we recommend that you measure your lawn area which will help you to figure out how much fertilizer you will need to apply.

If you choose to fertilize, the following practices can further reduce the risk that fertilizer you do apply ever reaches the Chesapeake Bay.

3. Do not apply fertilizers before spring green up or after the grass becomes dormant

Researchers have concluded that the highest fertilizer loss occurs in the winter when grass is dormant. In the northern part of the Bay watershed, dormancy usually begins around Halloween, whereas it begins around Thanksgiving in the southern part of the watershed.

4. Maximize use of slow release N fertilizer

The risk of nutrient loss during the growing season can be further reduced if you buy slow release fertilizer products. Check the bag label when you shop to see how much water insoluble nitrogen or WIN it contains -- at least 20 to 50% of WIN is generally desirable.

5. Immediately sweep off any fertilizer that lands on a paved surface

Rotary spreaders are the most common method to apply fertilizers and can broadcast fertilizer granules beyond the lawn and onto the street or driveway where they can be washed away in the next storm. Some experts think as much as 2 to 4% of applied fertilizer can be washed away in this manner. If you are buying a new spreader, consider models that have side broadcast deflectors that can sharply reduce off-target fertilization.



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6. Never apply fertilizer within 15 to 20 feet of any water feature and manage this zone as a grass, meadow, or forest buffer.

The risk of nutrient loss is also high when fertilizer is applied close to water features such as swales, drainage ditches, streams, shorelines, sinkholes and wetlands. So it is a real good idea to create a "fertilizer-free" buffer zone around these water features, and manage this area as a conservation landscape.

Even if you don't fertilize your lawn, there are still other good practices to make your yard more Bay-friendly.

7. Keep clippings and mulched leaves on the lawn and keep them out of streets and storm drains



Lawn clippings are an important nutrient and organic matter source which can enhance the health of your soils and your lawn. Using a composting lawn mower to keep the clippings on your lawn adds about one pound of N per 1000 square feet of natural (and free) fertilizer to your lawn each year.

You should treat lawn clippings and tree leaves as if they were a bag of fertilizer, and strive to keep them on your lawn, and out of the gutter, street or storm drain system and never, ever dispose of yard waste in a ravine or near a stream.

When you rake your leaves in the Fall, it is good practice to run over them with your composting mower to mulch them into small fragments and add them to your compost pile in the backyard. Come late Spring, they will decompose into a fine organic mulch that you can add to your rain garden or conservation landscape as a top dressing (assuming that you turn over the pile every couple of months).



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8. Set mower height at 3 inches or taller



Maintaining taller grass produces a deeper and more extensive root system which allows for increased nutrient uptake and reduced lawn runoff volume. The deeper roots also reduce the need for supplemental irrigation during times of drought, suppress weeds and increase turf density.

9. Use other practices to increase the porosity and infiltration capability of your lawn to treat stormwater.

Disconnecting your rooftop downspouts and installing practices like rain gardens have been shown to increase your lawn's ability to retain and manage stormwater on-site.

10. Consult with your local extension service office or lawn care company to get the best advice on how to have a Bay-friendly lawn, which might involve a soil test analysis.

Many lawn care professionals can help you achieve an attractive and Bay-friendly lawn, given your type of grass, soil conditions, shading, and your landscape preferences. Some good links to for expert help to reach your lawn goals can be found in Appendix E.

Finally, if grass doesn't grow well in portions of your yard, then consider mulching or conservation landscaping. Check to see if you have invasive ground covers such as English ivy and periwinkle that can quickly spread into natural areas and are so shallow-rooted that they can't prevent soil erosion. If possible, try to remove these invasive spreaders and replace them with turf or conservation landscaping.



Conservation landscaping provides colors throughout the year

Assessing Your Property

A good first step to helping the Chesapeake Bay is to walk around your lot and assess the site conditions. This simple and fast assessment of your site will help you determine which stewardship practices are best for your property.



Image of a typical suburban lot in Maryland with the planned stewardship practices plotted out (CL= Conservation Landscaping, BR = Rain Garden, PP = Permeable Hard-scapes, Green Dots = Trees).

Step 1. Map your Lot

Begin by obtaining a recent aerial photo of your property. You can do this by using Google Earth or <http://landserver.org/> also, many localities have great online resources for mapping your property. In some cases, you may want to simply pace off the boundaries of your property.

You can take the roof dimensions directly off your property deed. Most homes have a roof area around 1500 to 2500 square feet.

Next, draw the boundary dimensions of your property from above on a piece of graph paper (Appendix A), and then sketch in the roof, any decks, sheds or pools, the driveway and sidewalks, major trees, and any landscaping beds. The rest is usually turf.

You don't need to be a Rembrandt, but try to draw it to scale, using five or ten feet per square on the graph paper, depending on the size of your lot. Next, pace off (or measure) the approximate dimensions of all your hard surfaces and landscaping areas, and enter them into the table provided in Box A to determine how much hard surface you have.

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| Box A. Basic Data on Lot Cover for My Home and Impressive Sketch | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| LOT COVERAGE | Area: Square Feet | % of Lot | Sketch of Property |
| Hard Surfaces | | 28% | |
| Roof-tops | 3360 | | |
| Driveway/Sidewalk | 2790 | | |
| Pervious Cover | | 72% | |
| Trees/Landscaping | 5500 | | |
| Lawn | 10,130 | | |
| TOTAL | 21,780 | | |
| Note: 43,560 square feet = one acre | | | |

Step 2. Figure Out Your Natural Plumbing

It's pretty simple, water flows downhill. Most lots are graded to move rainwater away from the home and down to the street, or in some cases, the back yard. So your job is to define the flow path of runoff in your lot.



Start at the downspout to find its flow pathway across your property

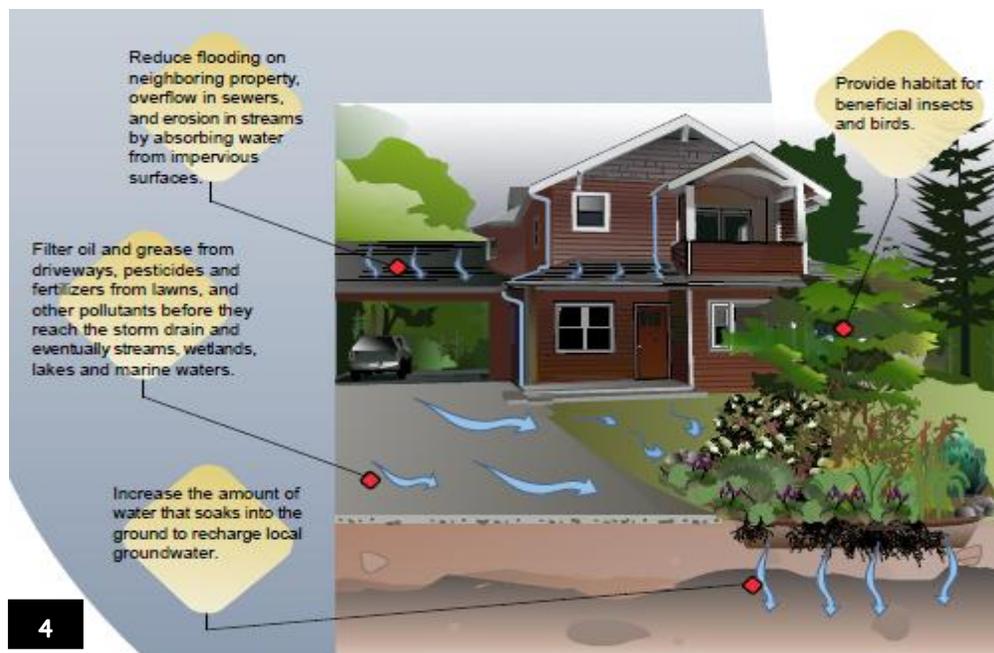
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Most lots have multiple flow paths, so start out by finding each of your downspouts, and look down slope to see where the water goes. Pay special attention to see if the flow path extends to your driveway and from there to your street. These areas are usually great candidates for stewardship practices because you can divert the runoff to them to soak up runoff and remove pollutants.

Some downspouts already flow over lawn, landscaping or trees and infiltrate into the ground. These downspouts are good, as the runoff is disconnected and never reaches the street or stream.

In other cases, the flow path from the downspout runs over a few feet of grass before reaching the street or driveway. These are often excellent locations for stewardship practices, such as rain gardens.

Lastly, there are a few cases where the downspout is plumbed directly to the street via an underground pipe (see Box B). With a bit of ingenuity, the underground pipe can be partially dug out, and replaced with a rain garden.



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Box B. Be a Downspout Detective



Downspouts discharging near driveways are usually connected to the street, and are prime candidates for locating a rain garden



This downspout is plumbed directly to the street, and would be quite easy to retrofit with a rain garden

This downspout is too far away from any pervious areas for a rain garden, but a rain barrel might work



Runoff from both of these downspouts travels at least 40 feet over grass which will usually disconnects them unless your lawn is very steep, These disconnected downspouts are often a poor candidate for a rain garden

Step 3. Figure Out Your Other Plumbing

Underground utilities are definitely one of the great inventions of the 20th century, but they can complicate the design of your residential stewardship practices.

| Things to locate on your lawn and avoid (and add to your sketch) | | |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Natural gas feeder line | Underground electric lines | Street right of way |
| Sewer lateral and cleanout | Cable and fiber optic lines | Septic field (if present) |
| Water lines and wells | Sump pump discharges | Overhead forest canopy |

After all, you probably wouldn't want to blow up your house, create a gusher, back up sewage into your basement, electrocute yourself, or cutoff cable access to your entire neighborhood. I bet you didn't think a little digging could be so dangerous!

| State | Resource | Contact Information |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| MD | Miss Utility of Maryland* | 811 or 1-800-257-7777** |
| DE | Miss Utility of Delmarva | 811 or 1-800-282-8555 |
| DC | District One Call | 811 or 1-800-257-7777 |
| PA | Pennsylvania One Call System, Inc. | 811 or 1-800-242-1776 |
| VA | Virginia 811 | 811 or 1-800-552-7001 |
| WV | WV811 | 811 or 1-800-245-4848 |
| * For the Eastern Shore of MD call Miss Utility of Delmarva ** or use website link http://www.missutility.net/homeowners/ | | |

Most states have "call before you dig" rules and provide a hotline to help you locate your underground utilities. The following table provides the contact information for individual Chesapeake Bay states however, in any state you can call "811" and you will be directed to your local call center.

In many cases you will need to call several days in advance so you should check with your specific state. More information about this free resource can be found:
<http://www.call811.com/state-specific.aspx>

Please note that Miss Utility and similar hotlines do not mark private utilities. You will need to scout your lawn to locate where utilities leave the street or right of way, and cross your yard to enter or leave your home. Box C provides some examples of "visual indicators" for locating underground utilities. You should try to mark these on your property sketch and work around them when locating the best area for your stewardship practices. In general, it is not advisable to install practices in your street right of way,

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since your local government and utilities have the right to dig it up for street improvements and utility repairs.

| Box C. Visual Indicators for Areas to Avoid When Assessing Your Yard for Stewardship Practices | | |
|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |
| Water Lines | Natural Gas Lines | Sewer Lines |
|  |  |  |
| Underground Cable | Storm Drain Manhole | Sewage Pipe Cleanout |
|  |  |  |
| Basement | Sump Pump Discharge | Street Right of Way |

Step 4. Assess Soil Quality in Your Yard

Healthy soils are the foundation for any vigorous lawn, conservation landscape, or rain garden, so it is a good idea to do some simple tests to assess your soil quality.

Take a soil test in the areas of your lawn where grass doesn't grow very well. Take a trowel and dig 8 or 10 thin slices from the top 2 or 3 inches of soil in your lawn "problem areas". Mix the slices together so that you have a total sample of between 1 and 2 cups. Remove any rocks, debris or grass thatch, and put them into the sample bag provided by the testing lab.



A list of testing labs in the Bay watershed can be found at the end of the following link.

<http://www.hgic.umd.edu/content/documents/SelectingandUsingaSoilTestLabwithchart209.pdf>.

The cost for most soil tests is about \$10 to \$12, and most labs can e-mail you the results in less than a week and recommend any needed soil amendments (such as lime) to improve growing conditions.

Additional soil information may be necessary for implementing specific stewardship practices and can be found in those sections of the document.

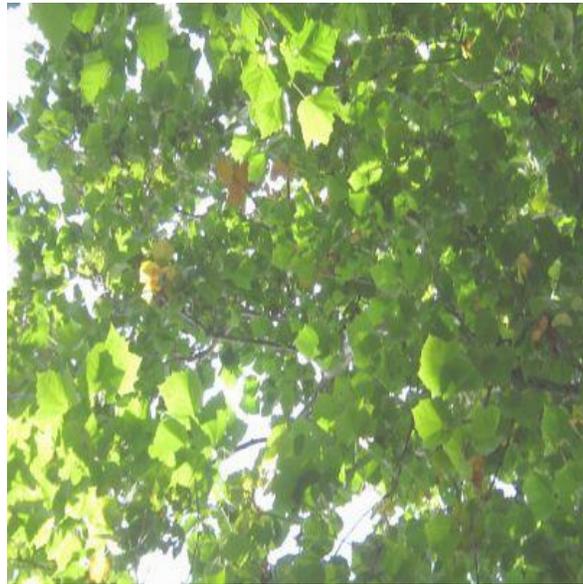
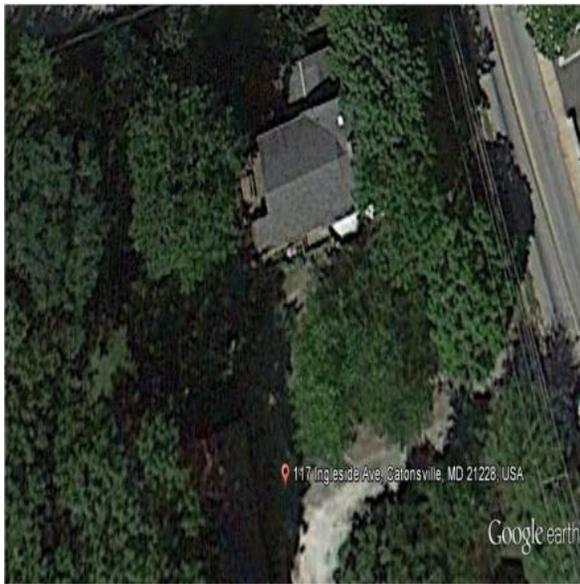
Step 5. Check Your Solar Exposure and Tree Canopy

Go back to your aerial photo of your yard that you retrieved in Step 1, and check to see how much tree canopy exists over your yard. If you have less than 25% tree canopy, you may want to consider planting more trees, since they add to the market value of your home and can help reduce your heating and cooling costs. Some localities and states have tree planting programs that will pay you to plant more trees. More information can be found in the Tree Planting section of this document.

There are a few tips to locate the best spots to plant a tree and figure out which tree species will grow best under your yard conditions and landscaping preferences. Not to worry, the Center for Watershed Protection has a handy reference called *Part 3 Urban Tree Planting Guide* which can help you quickly figure out which tree species you want and where to plant them. The guide can be accessed at:

http://www.na.fs.fed.us/pubs/uf/watershed3/urban_watershed_forestry_manual_part3.pdf

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The next task is to determine the solar exposure of your property to see if the plants will receive full sun or will be partially shaded. Your solar exposure is determined by three factors: the orientation of your property in relation to the east-west path of the sun, shading by the existing tree canopy in your yard (and often your neighbors), and the shading effect of your home.

Often, North or West-facing areas of your yard will be shadier, but you can do a quick shade analysis and add it your property sketch by clicking: <http://www.thegardencontinuum.com/blog/bid/28513/How-much-sun-does-your-garden-have>. The shade analysis will help you decide to buy sun or shade tolerant plants for your yard.

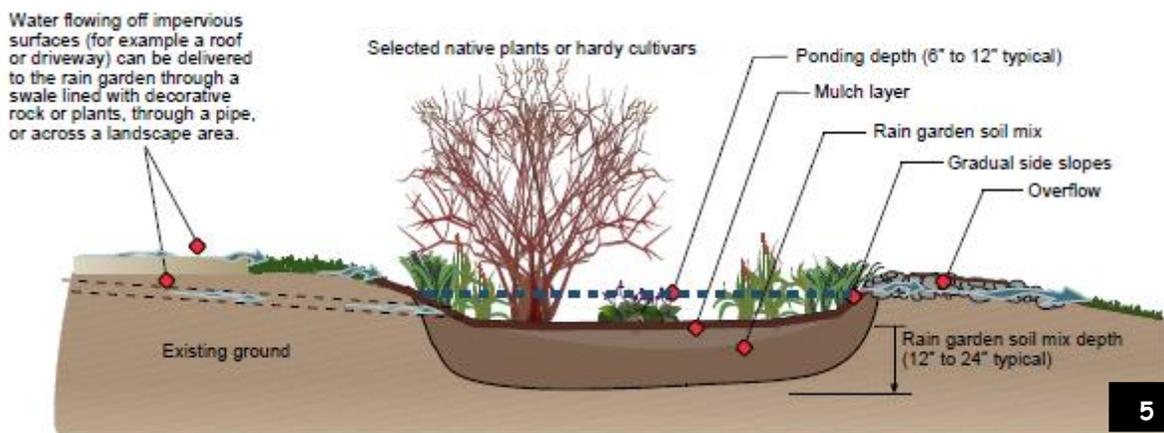
Step 6. Pulling it all Together in a Plan

Now you have all the basic data needed to make your property more Bay friendly, and to choose the right stewardship practices that meet your environmental objectives and your lawn and landscaping preferences. The next several sections describe how to design and install the different options for residential stewardship practices.

Rain Gardens

Rain gardens treat stormwater runoff generated by your property by acting like a native landscape and filtering runoff and pollutants through the soils and plants.

A rain garden works by collecting stormwater runoff from a roof, driveway, or parking lot that would otherwise go to the street or storm drain. The water temporarily ponds on the surface of the garden and then slowly filters through the soil media and/or is taken up and used by the plants. The garden is planted with a mix of native plants that filter out pollutants and attract wildlife.



Cross Section of a Rain Garden

Test Your Soils to See if a Rain Garden Will Work

You will need to run some additional soil "tests" in order to design and build your rain garden.

Step 1: Figure out your maximum digging depth and get a better sense of the actual soil properties where you intend to dig your rain garden. Using a post hole digger, do a penetration test to see how deep into the soil profile you can physically dig. The goal is to see if you can make a hole that is at least two feet deep, although sometimes tree roots, clay layers or even bedrock can prevent you from reaching that far.



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If you do encounter bedrock or the hole fills up with water, then it may not be feasible to install a rain garden in that location. In general, you need a digging depth of at least 18 to 24 inches to make a rain garden work.

Step 2: Examine your soil properties. Next, look at the profile of soils that you have excavated to see the break between your topsoil layer and the underlying sub soils which you will need to remove during construction (Box D).

Box D. Use Your Hole Digging to Check Out Soil Quality



The first six inches or so of soil are usually dark, loamy and rich in organic matter and nutrients



As you go farther down into the sub soils, soil quality gets poorer, and often has more clay. The soils in the bottom 6 to 12 inches of soil are always removed from the rain garden and disposed of somewhere on your yard. This can be a lot of dirt -- 4 to 6 cubic yards -- for a typical rain garden, so have a plan where you can fill depressions, holes or create berms somewhere on your property

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Box D. Use Your Hole Digging to Check Out Soil Quality



Otherwise, you end up like I did, and have a pile of dirt that is extremely hard to grow anything on. I intend to mix the fill soil with a lot of leaf compost and eventually spread it over a conservation landscaping area

Step 3: Do a simple infiltration test in your hole to see how quickly water will soak into the bottom of your planned rain garden. Simply follow the procedures shown in Box E and you can calculate the soil infiltration rate (in inches per hour). Once again, you should jot this number down, as you will need it later in the design stage.

Box E. The Post Hole Digger Method to Measure Your Soil Infiltration Rate



Using the post hole digger, make a hole about two feet deep



Fill bucket of water and fill hole to brim



Note the time that you started



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| Box E. The Post Hole Digger Method to Measure Your Soil Infiltration Rate | |
|---|--|
|  | <p>Note the number of hours it takes for the hole to completely drain</p> <p>Divide the depth of the hole (inches) by the number of hours to drain</p> <p>In this case, 24 inches/12 hours = 2 inches/hour, which is a good infiltration rate</p> <p>If your infiltration rate is less than 0.5 inches/hr, you will need to increase the surface area of the rain garden by 50%.</p> |

You now have all of the information you need to design your rain garden, so grab a calculator and tape measure, and get cracking.

Designing Your Rain Garden

Step 1: Estimate rooftop area draining to each of your most promising downspout(s). Simply, take the total rooftop area you entered in Box A of the property assessment section, and divide by the total number of downspouts at your home:

| Total Roof Area | No. of Downspouts | Area Draining to Rain Garden |
|---|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 2650 sf | 5 | 530 sf |
| | | |
| Note: For the most accurate estimate, you can measure the actual roof area draining to each downspout | | |

Step 2: Determine minimum surface area for rain garden. Assume that the ponding area of your garden will be at least 6 inches deep, and will capture the first inch of rainfall that lands on your roof. The minimum surface area for your rain garden is computed using the following equation:

| Surface Area Draining to the Rain Garden | "Engineering Factor" (multiply by 0.12) | Minimum Surface Area For Rain Garden |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| 530 | 0.12 | 64 square feet |
| | | |
| <i>Note that one 4 by 8 tarp would be 32 square feet, so you would need an area equivalent to two tarps to locate a rain garden at this downspout</i> | | |
| <i>The engineering factor computes how much surface area is needed in your rain garden to capture one inch of rainfall that falls on your roof.</i> | | |

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Step 3. Go outside to your downspout with some tent stakes and mark out the potential surface area available for your rain garden. Place the first stake at least 5 feet away from the downspout (if you don't have a basement) or 10 feet (if you do).

Check your property sketch to see if there are any underground utilities in the vicinity of your planned rain garden and then stake out a line at least two feet away from them. Contact Miss Utility to request an on-site utility check: they will usually come to your home within a few business days to confirm that your proposed digging area is utility free (see page 15 for hotline numbers).

Walk in a downhill direction until you reach the bottom of the hill or your property boundary (whichever comes first) and place a stake there. The line from your downspout to this stake is called the plumb line. Tie a string to the stake and then run it back to the bottom of the downspout so that the string is level. The vertical distance between the level of the string at your stake and the lawn surface is where you measure how many inches of drop you have.

If you have more than six inches of drop, you will be able to construct a soil berm on the downstream end of the rain garden to increase the ponding area.

Walk in a perpendicular direction on each side of the plumb line until you reach a major tree (think roots), hard surface, or start going seriously uphill. Stake out the lateral boundaries, and you have now defined the maximum envelope that is available for digging your rain garden.

Go out to your garage and get a small tarp and multiply its length and width to see how many square feet it covers. I use a 4' by 8' tarp that is 32 square feet in area. If I can get the equivalent of two tarps within the envelope defined by the stakes, then I am good to go (e.g. minimum area needed = available area).

You can still make a rain garden work with only half of the recommended minimum surface area, but you should expect that your rain garden will be wet-footed (see planting guide).

If you still can't make it work, consider another practice, such as a rain barrel with the overflow directed to a conservation landscape...especially if you have an infiltration rate of less than a quarter inch per hour. Some tips for installing rain barrels can be found in the Rain Barrel Design Section.

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Step 4: The last step is to figure out how much excess fill needs to be disposed of, and how much sand and mulch to order. So we go back to our earlier measurements of the maximum digging and topsoil depth, and use the calculator provided below (also provided in Appendix B).

| Calculator to Estimate Excess Fill and Materials to Buy | | |
|--|--|------------------|
| Design Factor | Example | Your Calculation |
| EXCESS FILL | | |
| Max Digging Depth | 24 inches | |
| Ponding Depth | 6 inches | |
| Top Soil Depth | 6 inches | |
| Subsoil Depth | 12 inches | |
| Divide Subsoil Depth by 2, and then divide this by 12 | [12 inches/2] /12 X = 0.5 feet | |
| Garden Surface Area | 64 square feet = Y | |
| Z = Multiply X and Y and divide the product by 27 | [(64)(0.5)] / 27 = 1.2 cubic yards | |
| Note: About 6 Wheelbarrow loads per cubic yard | About 7 loads of subsoil to dispose of elsewhere on your lawn | |
| MULCH CALCULATOR | | |
| Garden Surface Area | 64 square feet | |
| 1 cubic yard for each 64 square feet of garden area | 1 cubic yard of mulch to order ¹ | |
| SAND CALCULATOR | | |
| Take Z and multiply by 1.4 | = 1.7 tons of sand to order (round up to 2 tons) | |
| RIVER STONE CALCULATOR | | |
| Assume 0.2 tons per inlet | 0.2 tons (400 pounds) ¹ | |
| ¹ Most bulk orders must be done in one cubic yard or ton increments. Last time I checked, the delivered price of sand is about \$45, double shredded hardwood mulch costs around \$35 a cubic yard and river stone runs \$100/ton. You may want to budget about \$250 for plants, the connector pipe and other stuff. | | |

Some Cool Rain Garden Design Solutions

Not every rain garden design is the same; Box F demonstrates some creative ways to fit in a rain garden in a specific design situation.

| Box F. Some Cool Rain Garden Design Solutions | |
|---|--|
|  |  |
| Two downspouts, one rain garden and a large area of conservation landscaping | Stone walkway over rain garden |
|  |  |
| Narrow stone trench across driveway leads to rain garden on the other side | Under drain pipe collects runoff from the bottom of the rain garden and discharges it down-gradient (which may be a good option if you have poor infiltration rates) |

Constructing Your Rain Garden

Now it's time to order your bulk supplies for your rain garden, after a brief break to partake of a cold beverage. You will need a series of hand tools, tarps and wheelbarrows to install your rain garden, as shown in Box G.

| Box G. The Tools of the Rain Garden Trade | |
|---|--|
|  |  |
| Post Hole Digger for Soil Test | The axe helps to whack pesky tree roots |
|  |  |
| Two tarp method: one for topsoil and one for subsoil. May need a third for your sand/mulch | You will be moving a few tons of soil and other materials, so make sure to get a sturdy wheel barrow |
| <i>You need more than just a shovel to install a rain garden. In addition to what is shown above, make sure to get a can of spray paint, some 2 ml black plastic, and a flexible downspout connector.</i> | |

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Step 1: Use a hose, heavy rope or can of spray paint to delineate where you plan to dig, keeping at least 3 feet from any known utilities and out of the street right of way. If you have not yet called Miss Utility, get on the phone now.

Step 2: Connect a flexible connector pipe to your downspout and use it to move the rainwater where you won't be digging. Dig a shallow trench at least a foot wide and six inches deep that extends at least ten feet from the foundation of your house to the head of the rain garden. Make sure that you have enough slope to move runoff away from the house...3 to 6 inches of drop from the downspout to the head of the rain garden is usually enough.

| Box H. Options for Your Rain Garden Inlet | |
|---|--|
|  |  |
| Attach Flexible Connector Pipe to Downspout | Make Sure it Extends 10 feet if you have a basement |
|  |  |
| Black plastic to line the bottom of inlet trench | Example of River Stone Inlet |

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Step 3: Line the trench with plastic sheeting that can be purchased at any home and garden store. The impermeable black plastic (3 to 5 ml thick) is used to wrap the bottom and sides of the inlet channel to make sure runoff gets to your rain garden and not in your basement. You can test how water-tight your inlet is by running a garden hose to make sure water quickly reaches the downstream end of your inlet trench.

Step 4: You have two options at this point (Box H). You can either bury the connector pipe in the shallow trench and cover it with soil up to the existing lawn grade, or you can create a river stone channel, which is my preference.

Step 5: Now is the time for some serious digging. The first part is pretty tedious...separating the turf from your topsoil and throwing each onto Tarp 1. You may need to use the root axe to get around underground tree roots, but keep going until you dig down about 9 to 12 inches, where you will reach your poorer sub-soils or clay layer (see Box D).

Step 6: At this point you will need to use a pick or adze to break up these compacted soils. Make sure to separate these lousy soils from the good ones by throwing them onto Tarp 2. Keep on digging until you reach your maximum possible digging depth, which is usually around 18 to 24 inches.

Step 7: The bottom of the bed should generally be flat, although it is OK to have a few inches of drop going in a downhill direction. At this point, you want to take a pick or a hoe and loosen up the subsoil at the bottom of your rain garden to improve infiltration.

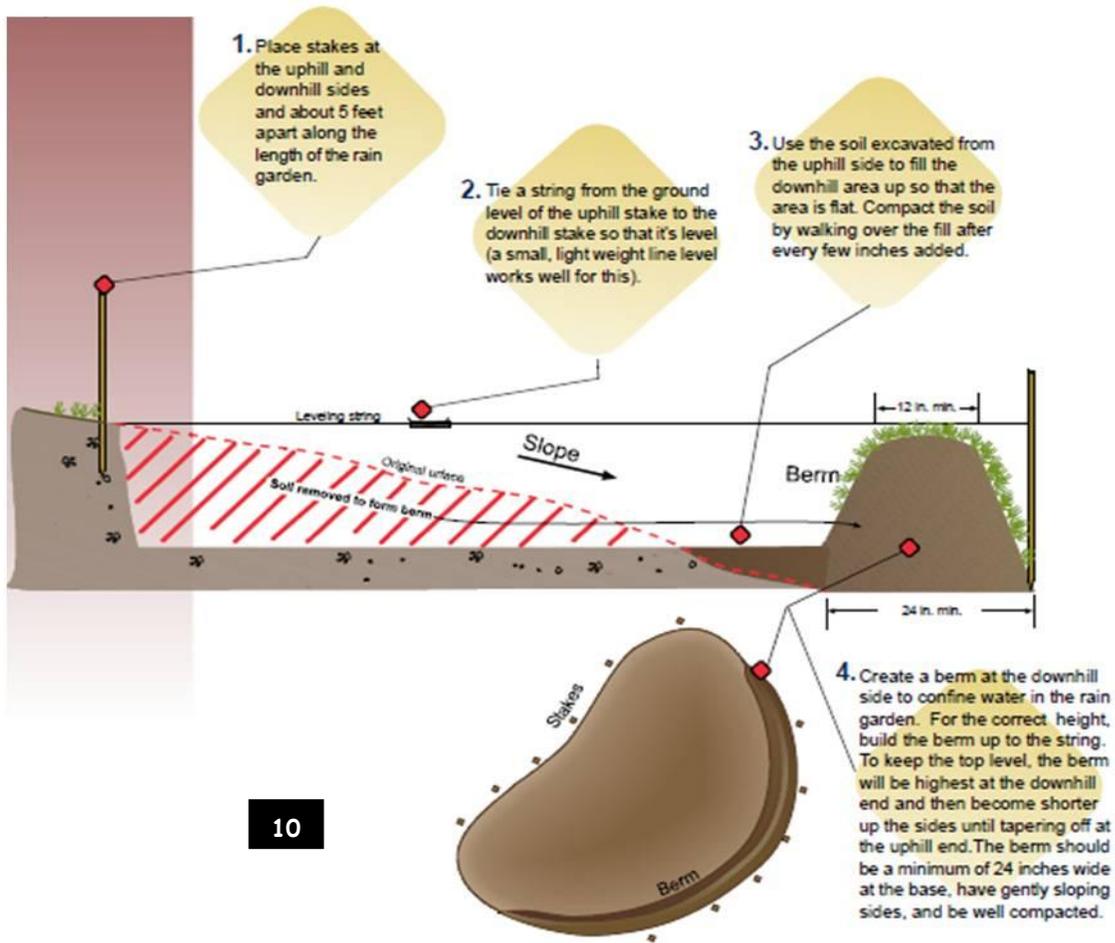
Step 8: Install a ponding berm (optional). If you measured more than six inches of drop from your original plumb-line, you can take some of your lousy dirt from Tarp 2 and form a soil berm nine inches wide and six inches high (or level with the bottom of the downspout) around the perimeter of your rain garden. Make sure to tamp the berm down so it can hold water during a storm. More details on ponding berm are provided in the graphic on the next page.

Step 9: Install a surface overflow channel. Remember that your rain garden is only designed to capture one inch of rain, so larger storms must be able to find an easy downhill exit out of the rain garden. I usually dig a small overflow channel at the down-gradient end of the rain garden that is about three inches below the grade of the bottom of the garden.. The overflow channel should connect the bottom of the garden, extend through the berm (if present), and discharge directly to the street or right of way.

The channel can be back-filled with river stone prevent erosion and make it more attractive.

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Installing a Ponding Berm



10



Example of an River Stone Overflow Channel From a Rain Garden

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Step 10: You can backfill now by alternating a shovelful of sand with a shovelful of your good Tarp 1 topsoil until you are about six inches below the grade of your lawn. The goal is to have at least a 50:50 mix of good topsoil and sand (it's OK to have more sand than soil). Over the next month or so, it will settle a few more inches, but don't worry about that. You can also add leaf mulch or compost in the areas you plan to dig planting holes.

Step 11: Spread no more than 2 or 3 inches of double shredded hardwood mulch on the bed.

Step 12: You can then dispose of your fill soils elsewhere on your yard to fill holes, depressions or gullies. It is a good idea to amend the soils with compost, and re-seed them with a grass or conservation landscaping seed mix. You may also need to reseed the turf underneath your tarps if they were on the ground long enough to kill the grass. You can now retire to your deck, partake of another cold beverage and admire your work.

Planting Your Rain Garden

It is easiest to design a successful and flourishing rain garden if you think about the anatomy of a rain garden, how they retain water, and how plants are selected and planted in three types of zones. Rain Gardens are planted with various types of plants because some plants tolerate sitting in water for an extended time (Zone 1), some tolerate sitting in water for a shorter time (Zone 2), and other plants do not like sitting in water at all (Zone 3).

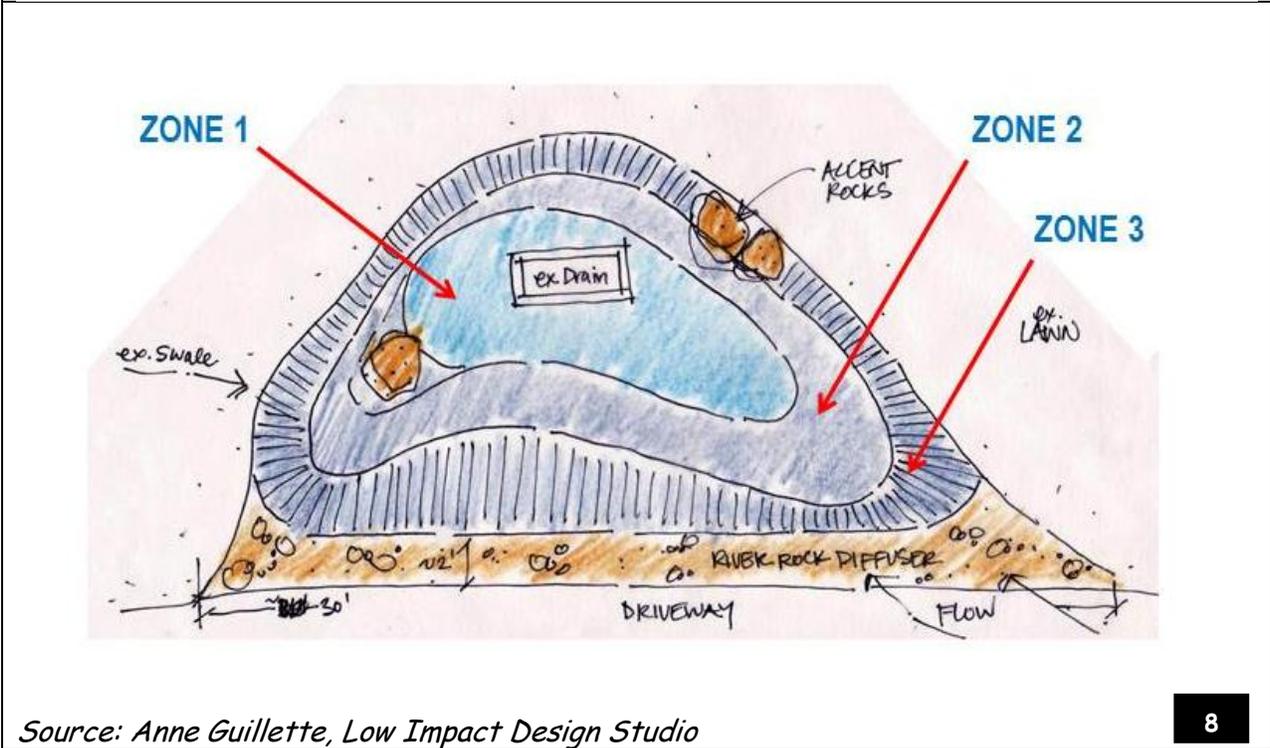
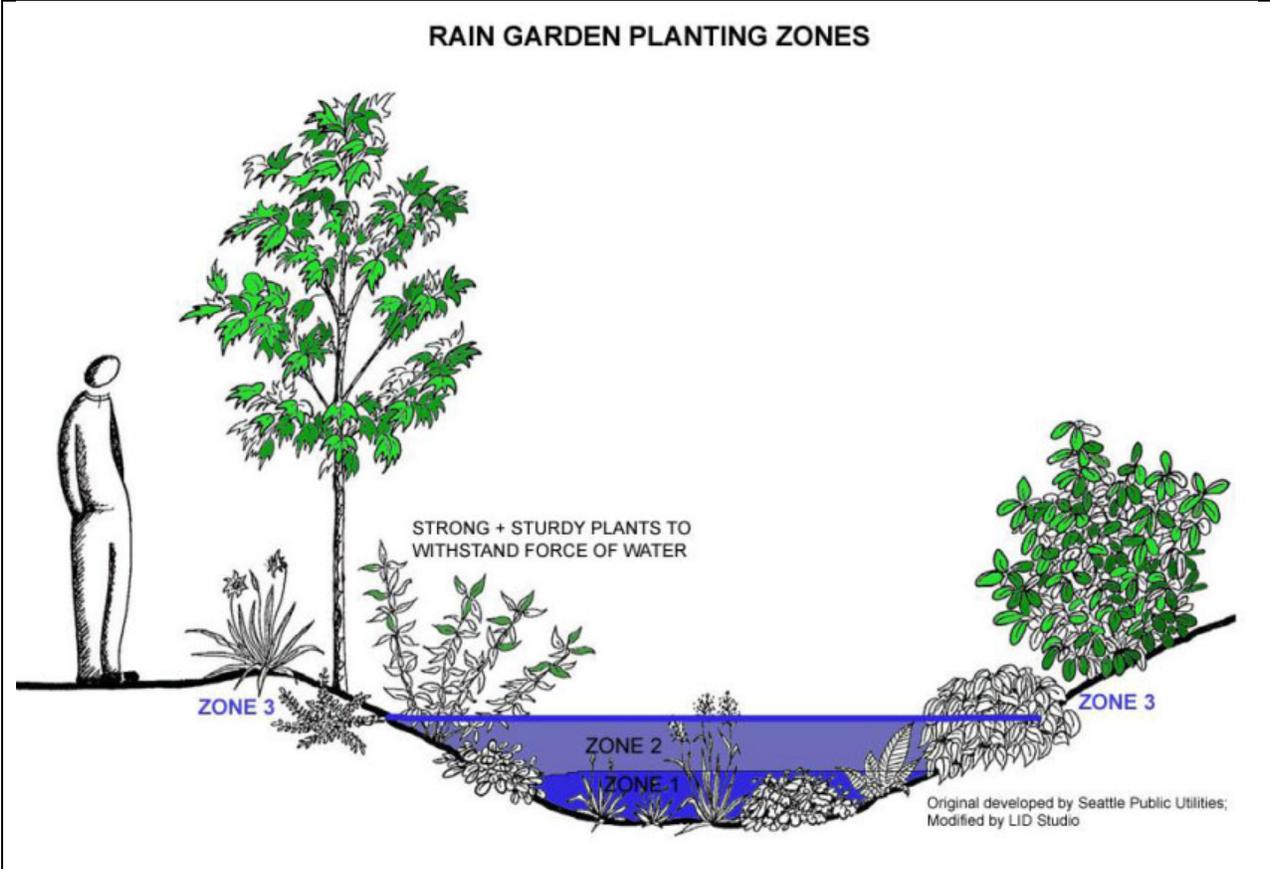
In the plant world, scientists determine plants tolerance for 'wet feet' which means how much they like their roots to be wet. The plants in Zones 1 and 2 are more 'wet footed' and Zone 3 plants are edge plants. Edge plants are essentially plants which can be used everywhere in your landscape. Interestingly enough many 'wet footed' Zone 1 plants also thrive during times of drought and heat. The wonders and resilience of nature!



Some homeowners may choose to wait a few weeks after construction before developing a planting plan in order to see where the water settles (literally) and more importantly, observe the water zones that are created in the rain garden. Water seeks its own level, and there will be some areas of the rain garden which hold water and are more saturated than others. Understanding these planting zones is critical to picking the native plants which will thrive best in your rain garden. Box I shows the water zones that can be found in a rain garden.

Homeowner Guide for a More Bay- Friendly Property

Box I. The Water Zones in a Rain Garden and What they Mean (profile and plan)



Source: Anne Guillette, Low Impact Design Studio

Planting Design

Now that you have assessed your property and you understand the soils, the amount of sun, the amount of rainwater coming to your rain garden, etc. you are now ready to prepare your planting design. When preparing your planting plan consider a few design principles...



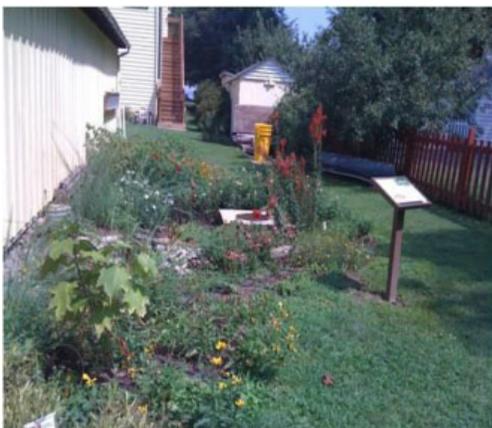
Group plants together in a series as they will have more visual impact.

Your design is a "composition" - like a painting or a group of objects on a shelf.

Use the 'Rule of Thirds' to make it more dynamic. This means placing an odd number of plants together in a grouping (1, 3, 5, etc.) rather than even numbers. The odd numbers lead your eyes to move through your composition (your rain garden!) because the brain can't "pair them." This principle creates visual interest and harmony.



Vary plants heights, textures, colors, shapes, and sizes throughout the garden



If you seek a garden which is more random, consider a variation on this theme: place seven cardinal flowers in one location of the garden and then spot one additional cardinal flower in another part of the garden. This 'breaks' the rules, so to speak, and creates a more lively composition.

Try creating a garden which is not symmetric, especially if you are used to a lot of order in your life...random organization can be interesting!

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Now for the practical steps:

1) Considering the planting zones: Make sure you locate Zone 1 plants in the basin, Zone 2 plants in the sides, and Zone 3 plants on the edge. Separate them out accordingly.

2) Think about the "structural" components of the garden first:

- What will it look like in the winter when all of the perennials have died back?
- Do you have any evergreen plants?
- Are there any grasses, rushes or sedges that have winter interest (something that looks good in winter)?



This will help you locate plants with winter interest first. As a note, sometimes people place accent stones and/or river rock through the middle of the rain garden so that there is more visual interest in the winter. A focal element such as a sculpture or garden ornament is also an option.

3) Locate the taller plants along the back or the edges, such as shrubs, hibiscus, or ironweed.

4) Place sturdy plants near where the water flows into the rain garden. Blue flag iris, soft rush, and white turtlehead are good candidates as they will withstand some velocity of water.

5) Think about the visual characteristics of the plants you would like to use to include their leaf structure (whether rounded or grass-like), bloom color, height and width. ***The most important aspect here is that you place taller growing plants behind shorter plants.*** Other than that there are no rules. Place them in an arrangement which pleases you.



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- 6) Consider the bloom time of the plants as it is rewarding to have a garden with spring, summer and fall blooms spotted throughout the garden.

In summary, have fun designing the plants where you want! Aside from placing them in the right zones there is no right way or wrong way. Besides, you can always move them around! Enjoy!



Sample Planting Plans

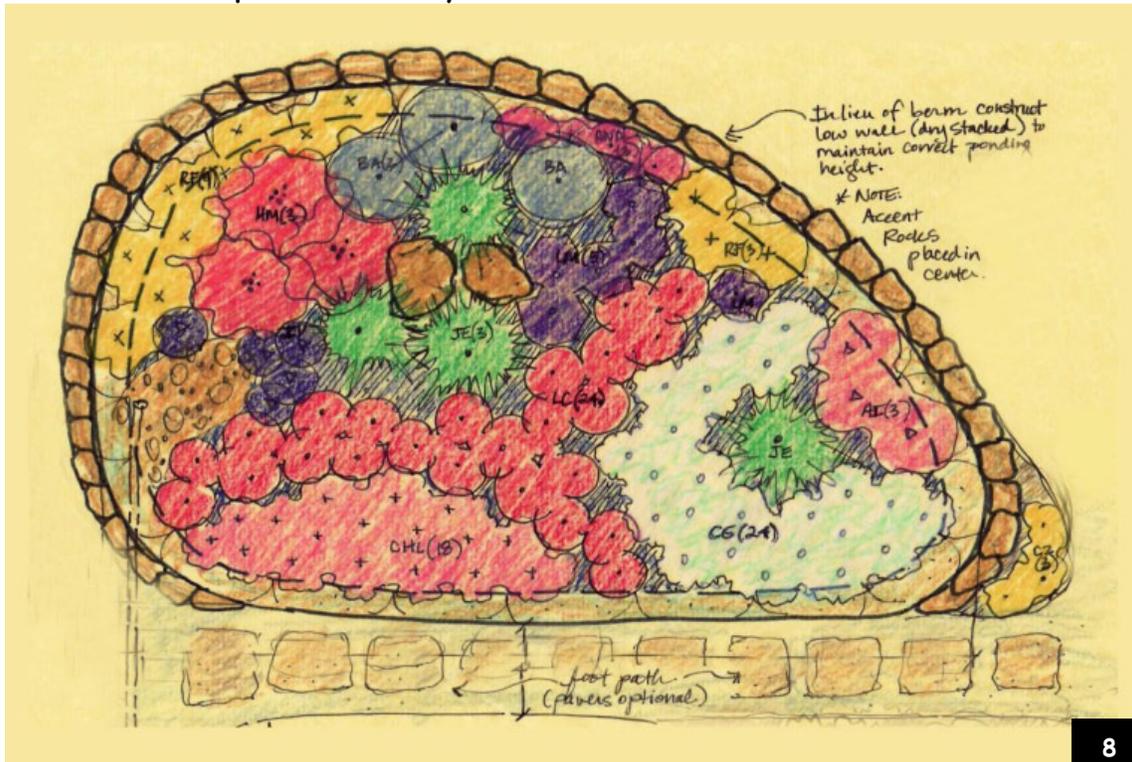
This section offers some sample planting plans for rain gardens based on the amount of sun they receive. Each planting plan includes an overhead view of the design followed by a table providing the plant list complete with common names, the number of plants needed for the sample design and the zones where the plants can best thrive. Planting plans are provided for rain gardens that:

- Receive full sun
- Are partially shaded, or
- Are in full shade

The planting plans can give you some good ideas of perennials, shrubs and tree species that work well in rain gardens across the Bay watershed

Homeowner Guide for a More Bay- Friendly Property

Option 1 Sunny Rain Gardens w/ Perennials

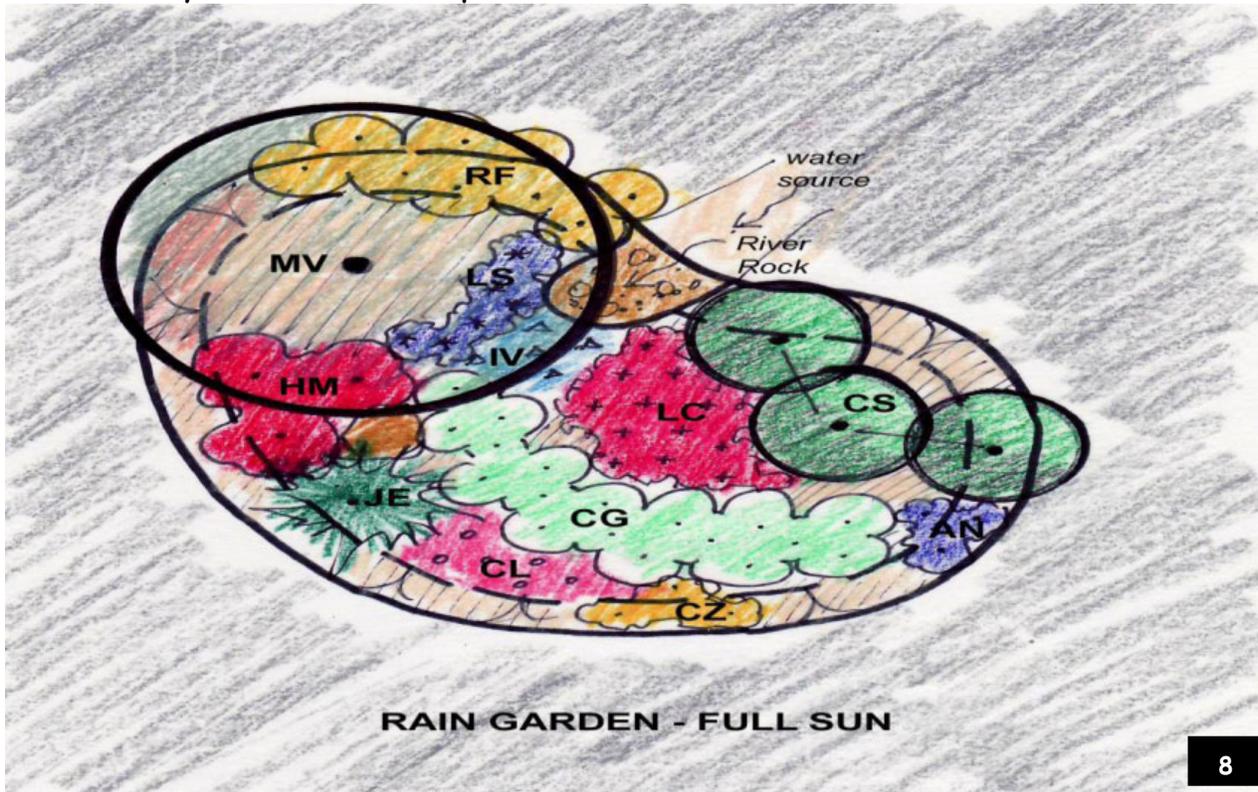


Plant List for a Sunny Rain Garden with Perennials

| LABEL | LATIN NAME | COMMON NAME | SIZE ¹ | QTY | PLANTING ZONE | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----|---------------|---|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| PERENNIALS, SEDGES + GRASSES | | | | | | | |
| ANA | Anemone Canadensis | Windflower | #1 | 3 | | | ◆ |
| AT | Asclepias incarnata | Swamp Milkweed | #1 | 3 | ◆ | ◆ | |
| BA | Baptisia australis | False Indigo | #1 | 3 | ◆ | ◆ | |
| CG | Chelone glabra | White Turtlehead | QT | 24 | ◆ | ◆ | |
| CHL | Chelone 'Hot Lips' | Pink Turtlehead | QT | 18 | ◆ | ◆ | |
| CZ | Coreopsis 'Zagreb' | Tickseed Coreopsis | #1 | 3 | | | ◆ |
| EP | Echinacea purpurea 'Magnus' | Coneflower | #1 | 12 | | ◆ | ◆ |
| HM | Hibiscus coccineus 'Blaze Star' | Rose Mallow | #1 | 3 | ◆ | ◆ | |
| IC | Iris cristata | Crested Iris | QT | 6 | ◆ | ◆ | |
| IV | Iris versicolor | Blue Flag Iris | #1 | 5 | ◆ | ◆ | |
| JE | Juncus effuses | Soft Rush | #1 | 4 | ◆ | ◆ | |
| LM | Liatris microcephala | Gayfeather | #1 | 6 | | ◆ | |
| LC | Lobelia cardinalis | Cardinal Flower | QT | 24 | ◆ | ◆ | |
| RF | Rudbeckia fulgida | Black Eyed Susan | #1 | 12 | | ◆ | ◆ |
| SL | Sisyrinchium ang. 'Lucerne' | Blue Eyed Grass | QT | 6 | ◆ | ◆ | |

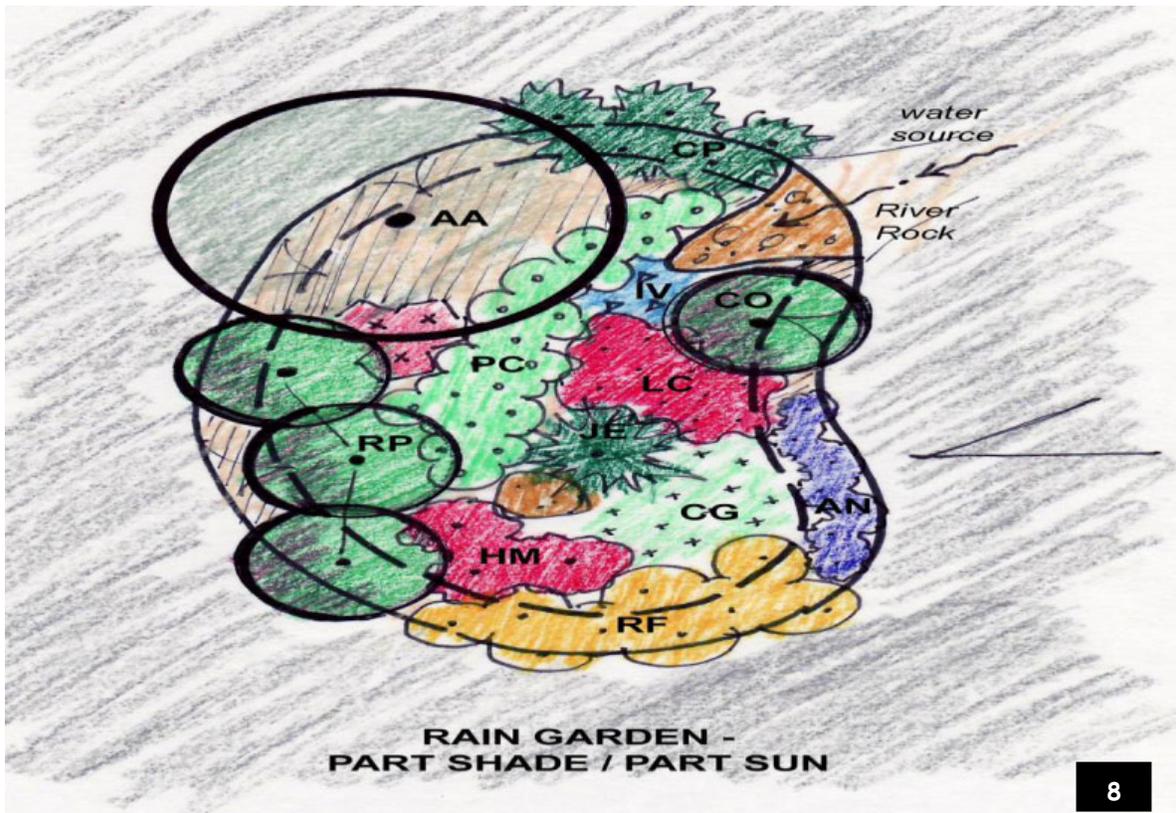
¹ Refers to the size of the container: gallon (#1) or quart

Sunny Rain Garden Option with Perennials/Shrubs and Trees



| Plant List for a Sunny Rain Garden with Perennials, Shrubs and Trees | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----|---------------|---|---|
| LABEL | LATIN NAME | COMMON NAME | SIZE ¹ | QTY | PLANTING ZONE | | |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| TREE and SHRUB | | | | | | | |
| MV | Magnolia virginiana | Sweetbay Magnolia | 8-10' | 1 | ◆ | ◆ | ◆ |
| CS | Cornus sericea | Red Osier Dogwood | 5 gal | 3 | ◆ | ◆ | ◆ |
| PERENNIALS, SEDGES + GRASSES | | | | | | | |
| AN | Aster novae-angliae | New England Aster | QT | 3 | | | ◆ |
| CG | Chelone glabra | White Turtlehead | QT | 18 | ◆ | ◆ | |
| CL | Chelone llyoni | Pink Turtlehead | QT | 9 | ◆ | ◆ | |
| CZ | Coreopsis 'Zagreb' | Tickseed Coreopsis | QT | 3 | | | ◆ |
| HM | Hibiscus coccineus | Rose Mallow | #1 | 3 | ◆ | ◆ | |
| IV | Iris versicolor | Blue Flag Iris | #1 | 5 | ◆ | ◆ | |
| JE | Juncus effusus | Soft Rush | #1 | 1 | ◆ | ◆ | |
| LC | Lobelia cardinalis | Cardinal Flower | QT | 12 | ◆ | ◆ | |
| LS | Liatris spicata | Gayfeather | #1 | 6 | ◆ | ◆ | |
| RF | Rudbeckia fulgida | Black Eyed Susan | #1 | 9 | ◆ | ◆ | ◆ |
| ¹ Refers to the size of the container: gallon (#1) or quart | | | | | | | |

Partial Shade Rain Garden

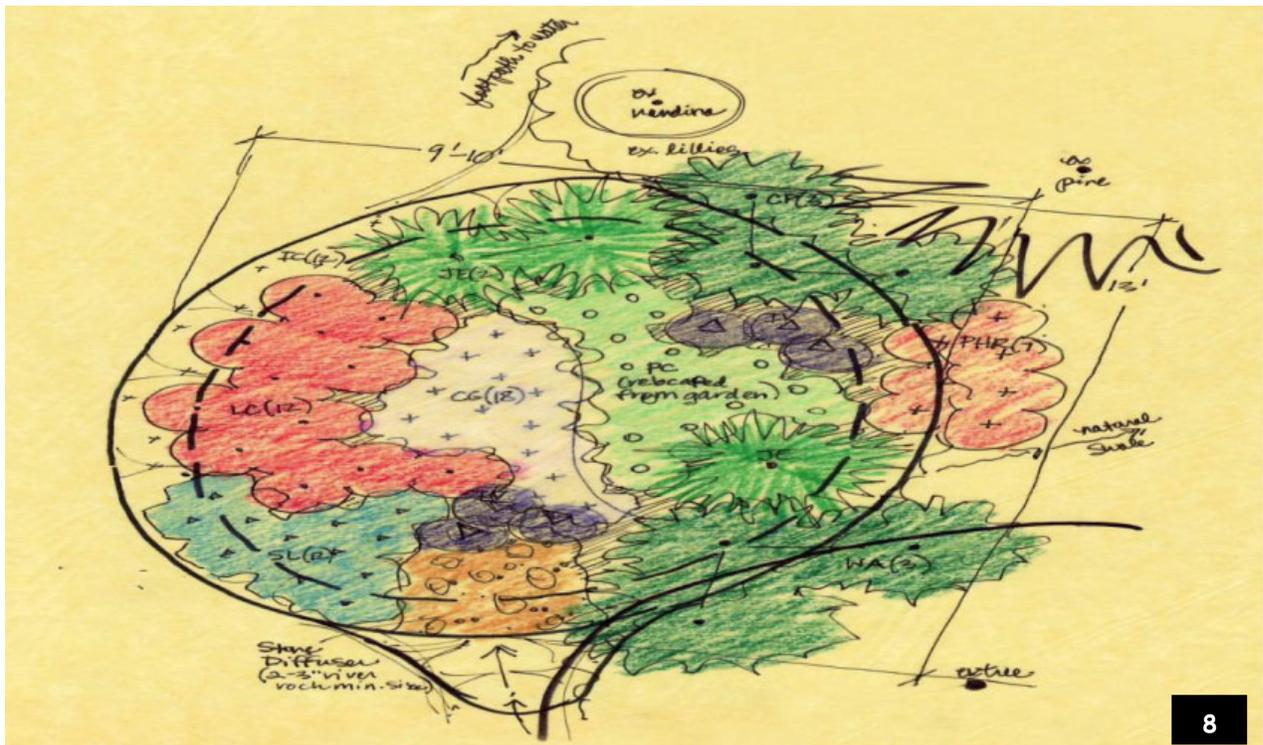


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| Plant List for a Partially Shaded Rain Garden with Perennials, Shrubs and Trees | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----|---------------|---|---|
| LABEL | LATIN NAME | COMMON NAME | SIZE ¹ | QTY | PLANTING ZONE | | |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| TREE and SHRUBS | | | | | | | |
| AA | <i>Amelanchier arborea</i> | Downy Serviceberry | 8-10' | 1 | ◆ | ◆ | ◆ |
| CO | <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i> | Buttonbush | 5 gal | 1 | ◆ | ◆ | ◆ |
| RP | <i>Rhododendron periclymenoides</i> | Pinxterbloom Azalea | 5 gal | 3 | ◆ | ◆ | ◆ |
| PERENNIALS, SEDGES + GRASSES | | | | | | | |
| AC | <i>Aquilegia Canadensis</i> | Columbine | QT | 3 | ◆ | ◆ | ◆ |
| AN | <i>Aster novae-angliae</i> | New England Aster | QT | 7 | | | ◆ |
| CG | <i>Chelone glabra</i> | White Turtlehead | QT | 12 | ◆ | ◆ | |
| CP | <i>Comptonia peregrina</i> | Sweet Fern | #1 | 5 | | ◆ | |
| HM | <i>Hibiscus coccineus</i> | Rose Mallow | #1 | 3 | ◆ | ◆ | |
| IV | <i>Iris versicolor</i> | Blue Flag Iris | #1 | 3 | ◆ | ◆ | |
| JE | <i>Juncus effuses</i> | Soft Rush | #1 | 1 | ◆ | ◆ | |
| LC | <i>Lobelia cardinalis</i> | Cardinal Flower | QT | 12 | ◆ | ◆ | |
| PC | <i>Polygonatum commutum</i> | Solomon's Seal | #1 | 18 | ◆ | ◆ | |
| RF | <i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i> | Black Eyed Susan | #1 | 9 | ◆ | ◆ | ◆ |

¹ Refers to the size of the container: gallon (#1) or quart

Full Shade Rain Gardens



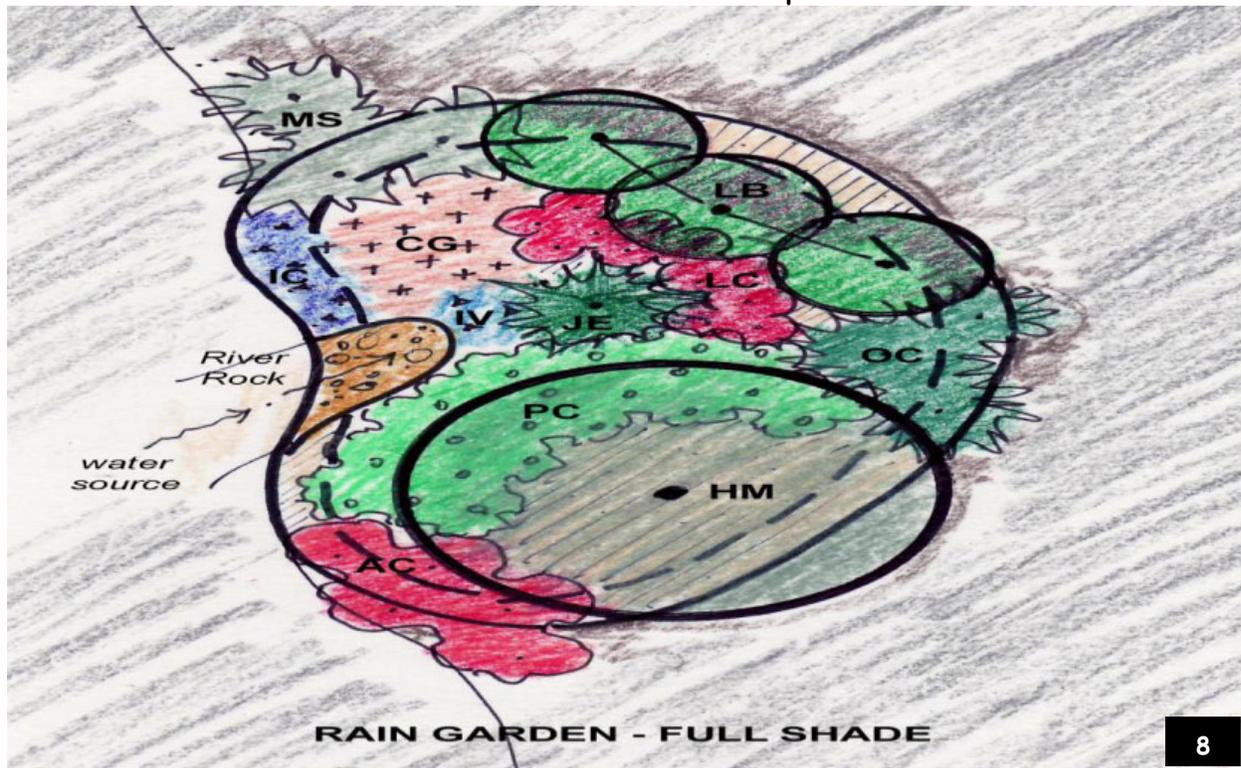
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Option 1: Plant List for a Shaded Rain Garden with Perennials

| LABEL | LATIN NAME | COMMON NAME | SIZE ¹ | QTY | PLANTING ZONE | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----|---------------|---|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| PERENNIALS, SEDGES + GRASSES | | | | | | | |
| CG | <i>Chelone glabra</i> | White Turtlehead | QT | 18 | ◆ | ◆ | |
| CP | <i>Comptonia peregrina</i> | Sweet Fern | #1 | 3 | | ◆ | |
| IC | <i>Iris cristata</i> | Crested Iris | QT | 12 | ◆ | ◆ | |
| IV | <i>Iris versicolor</i> | Blue Flag Iris | #1 | 6 | ◆ | ◆ | |
| JE | <i>Juncus effuses</i> | Soft Rush | #1 | 3 | ◆ | ◆ | |
| LC | <i>Lobelia cardinalis</i> | Cardinal Flower | QT | 12 | ◆ | ◆ | |
| PHR | <i>Penstemon 'Husker Red'</i> | Beardtongue | #1 | 7 | | | ◆ |
| PC | <i>Polygonatum commutatum</i> | Solomon's Seal | #1 | 18* | ◆ | ◆ | |
| SL | <i>Sisyrinchium ang. 'Lucerne'</i> | Blue Eyed Grass | QT | 12 | ◆ | ◆ | |
| WA | <i>Woodwardia areolata</i> | Netted Chain Fern | #1 | 3 | | ◆ | ◆ |

¹ Refers to the size of the container: gallon (#1) or quart

Full Shade Rain Garden Option 2



8

| Option 2: Plant List for a Shaded Rain Garden with Perennials, Shrubs and Trees | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----|---------------|---|---|--|
| LABEL | LATIN NAME | COMMON NAME | SIZE ¹ | QTY | PLANTING ZONE | | | |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | |
| TREES and SHRUBS | | | | | | | | |
| HM | <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> | Witchhazel | 7 gal | 1 | ◆ | ◆ | ◆ | |
| LB | <i>Lindera benzoin</i> | Spicebush | 5 gal | 3 | ◆ | ◆ | ◆ | |
| PERENNIALS, SEDGES + GRASSES | | | | | | | | |
| AC | <i>Aquilegia Canadensis</i> | Columbine | QT | 5 | ◆ | ◆ | ◆ | |
| CG | <i>Chelone glabra</i> | White Turtlehead | QT | 12 | ◆ | ◆ | | |
| MS | <i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i> | Ostrich Fern | #1 | 3 | ◆ | ◆ | ◆ | |
| IC | <i>Iris cristata</i> | Crested Iris | QT | 7 | ◆ | ◆ | | |
| IV | <i>Iris versicolor</i> | Blue Flag Iris | #1 | 3 | ◆ | ◆ | | |
| JE | <i>Juncus effuses</i> | Soft Rush | #1 | 1 | ◆ | ◆ | | |
| LC | <i>Lobelia cardinalis</i> | Cardinal Flower | QT | 12 | ◆ | ◆ | | |
| OS | <i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i> | Cinnamon Fern | #1 | 3 | | ◆ | ◆ | |
| PC | <i>Polygonatum commutum</i> | Solomon's Seal | #1 | 18 | ◆ | ◆ | | |
| SL | <i>Sisyrinchium ang. 'Lucerne'</i> | Blue Eyed Grass | QT | 6 | ◆ | ◆ | ◆ | |
| ¹ Refers to the size of the container: gallon (#1) or quart | | | | | | | | |

Rain Garden Upkeep Over Time

Right now, you have a fine mulch pit with a few puny plants. That's OK, as it takes a few years before your rain garden fills in and becomes the envy of your neighborhood. The following tips are offered to keep your rain garden healthy and functional as the years go by.

First Growing Season

You will need to water your rain garden after it has been planted if it has been more than a week since it last rained or after very hot conditions. Give your rain garden a good soaking from your sprinkler in the early morning or late afternoon if possible. Try to avoid watering in the heat of the day or watering too late at night. You want the plants to have enough time for their leaves to dry before the temperature drops - wet leaves overnight can lead to the development of molds and fungi.

Although the mulch should suppress most weeds, expect to have to do a bit of spot weeding in the first year.

Otherwise you can pretty much leave it alone.



First Winter and Start of Second Growing Season



You may want to cut back your perennials, although some folks choose to wait until later in the winter so that birds can eat the seeds.

In early Spring, you may want to rake the existing mulch evenly over the bed, and make sure any mulch or debris is removed from the inlet and outlet of the rain garden.

Once you see which plants have survived, you may want to think about adding some more plants to fill out the rain garden.

Another planting strategy is to divide your perennials and replant them to get more surface cover.

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Your mulch will be decomposing a bit, and should be good for the year, but you may have to do a bit more weeding.



Also, remember to check your gutters and downspouts at least twice a year to make sure they are not clogged by sticks, decomposing organic matter or bird nests. Clogged gutters may prevent runoff from getting into your rain garden, and are common if you have tree canopy over your roof.

Check inlet and overflow for sediment deposits. Use a Shop-Vac to suck up debris or dig it out. This needs to be repeatedly on annual basis.

Start of Third Growing Season

By now your rain garden should be looking fine, although your mulch layer will be getting thin, and may need to be replaced (although you will have a lot more plant cover and will therefore need to buy less mulch). You will still need to do the normal rain garden upkeep during the spring and the rest of the growing season.

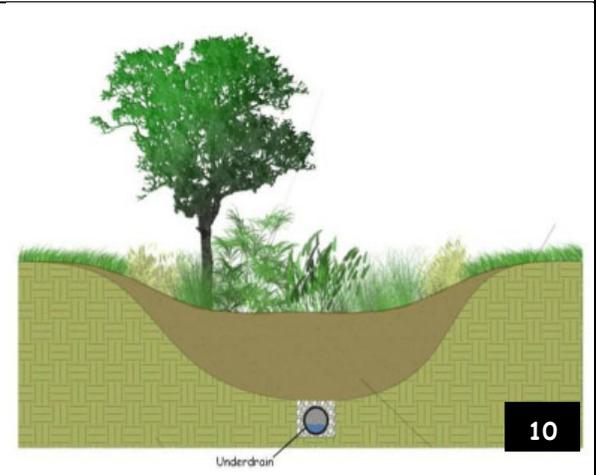
Thereafter

As the years go by, many rain gardens get a bit bushy, so expect to add more weeding, thinning and pruning to your upkeep list.



Troubleshooting for Rain Gardens

Most rain gardens work well, as long as you keep up with the plant maintenance. Most of the common problems encountered with rain gardens are easy to remedy, as shown in Box J.

| Box J. Troubleshooting for Rain Gardens | |
|--|--|
| <p>Problem: Too bushy or overgrown</p> <p>Solution: Trim and prune the trees and shrubs or learn to love it as a privacy barrier and source of habitat.</p> |  |
| <p>Problem: Wetter conditions than anticipated so plants don't grow</p> <p>Solution: Re-plant with more wet-footed plants like ferns, sedges and rushes (Zone 1 plants). If surface ponding persists for more than a day, you should construct a surface overflow so the rain garden can drain faster.</p> |  |
| <p>Problem: Standing water or really soggy soils present several days after a storm</p> <p>Solution: Dig a test hole with your post hole digger to see if soils are saturated all the way to the bottom of the rain garden. If so, install a perforated underdrain on the bottom and daylight the pipe so it drains better</p> |  |

Homeowner Guide for a More Bay- Friendly Property

Box J. Troubleshooting for Rain Gardens

Problem: Plants die: drier conditions than anticipated

Solution: First, check rain gutters and downspout to make sure water is getting to the rain garden. Re-plant with more drought tolerant plant species.



Problem: Over-mulching in the rain garden

Solution: Remove excess mulch so that the rain garden has a mulch layer no deeper than 2 inches. Spread excess mulch elsewhere on your yard.



Problem: Mulch shifts or floats away after a big storm

Solution: Simply rake the mulch back to the original depth of two inches. Place more river-stone near the inlet to reduce flow velocity into the rain garden.



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Box J. Troubleshooting for Rain Gardens

Problem: Sediment caking or erosion within the rain garden (usually near the inflow)

Solution: Rake or shovel out the surface sediment layer and dispose of in a planting bed. Back-fill any gullies with top-soil, re-mulch and provide some stone protection near the downspout to reduce flows.



Problem: Deer and wildlife eating your rain garden plants

Solution: Buy deer repellent or install guard flamingos.



Problem: Overflow channel is plugged or obstructed

Solution: Clean out the sediment, debris and mulch that are blocking the overflow channel.



Resources

- Rain Gardens Across Maryland (University of Maryland)
http://extension.umd.edu/sites/default/files/_docs/articles/Rain_Gardens_Across_MD.pdf
- Rain Garden Design Templates (Low Impact Development Center)
http://www.lowimpactdevelopment.org/raingarden_design/templates.htm
- Rain Garden Manual, RainScapes Program (Montgomery County, MD)
<http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/dep/downloads/Rainscapes/MocoRainGardens.pdf>
- Rainscaping.org <http://www.rainscaping.org/>

Conservation Landscaping

Most yards have beds that contain plantings of perennial herbaceous plants, shrubs and small trees to provide landscape interest. With a little shovel work, you can transform them into conservation landscapes that retain rainfall and adsorb runoff generated from adjacent turf or hard surfaces.



Conservation Landscaping is the replacement of turf grass with vegetation which is native to the Chesapeake Bay region. It so happens that while you are improving the aesthetics of your yard by creating a dynamic and changing seasonal landscape, you are also improving the quality of water in your closest stream and the Bay by increasing rainwater infiltration on your property. This practice is sometimes referred to as Bayscaping.

Once again, you will want to look at the flow paths to your bed, and make sure the bed is a few inches lower than the rest of the lawn, and use any extra soil to form a small berm on the opposite side to make sure water is retained during a storm.



Conservation Landscaping also plays an important role in ensuring the region's biological diversity and the viability of native plant and animal communities.

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Many of the plants you could select have the ability to host wildlife and support valuable beneficial insects and pollinators. Did you know that there are a lot of endangered native plants? Interestingly enough native plant growers have been working to ensure that some endangered species continue to survive. Pink Muhly Grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*) is still on the endangered list however, it has become more readily available in local nurseries.

Where should I put my conservation landscaping?

Before you can install your conservation landscape there are few things to consider such as what are your objectives for the landscape which will help you decide where to locate it.

Choose Your Landscape Objectives

You have a lot of choices as to the planting objective for your new conservation landscape. For example, you may want to choose plants that:

- Attract pollinators such as butterflies and bees, and the occasional hummingbird
- Provide berries and seeds and nesting habitat for song birds
- Create seasonal color throughout the year by selecting different wildflowers, grasses and shrubs
- Create ideal growing conditions for some tasty heirloom tomatoes, melons, squash or that monster pumpkin you have been dreaming about
- Provide wetland habitat or a fern garden
- Screen your yard from your prying neighbors



Conservation landscapes are an especially good idea for:

- "Fertilizer-free" buffers around water features or shoreline on your property
- Lawn areas that can capture runoff from small areas of hard surfaces (e.g., sidewalks)
- Areas next to roof downspouts that are not treatable by a rain garden

In general, native plant species are preferred, but ornamental or garden plants are acceptable if they are adapted to regional climates. More resources on choosing the right plants for you and your conservation landscape can be found in Appendix C.

It is important to decide how much care you want to give this new landscape bed. Some people believe that Conservation Landscaping requires less maintenance than turf grass. Turf grass does require weekly/bi-weekly cutting, but conservation landscapes require

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more weeding. A more maintenance-free approach may be to plant primarily with trees, shrubs and grasses.

NOTE: If you already have a landscape contractor, make sure your contractor understands the new planting plan. Many contractors are still unfamiliar with native plant material and you don't want them to pull your new plants out thinking they are weeds.

Locate Your Conservation Landscaping

There are several things to consider when deciding where to locate your conservation landscaping.

- Is it an extension of your "structural planting" around the house?
- Is it an extension of the neighbor's landscape? If so, very cool - by linking together landscapes that support nature you are creating a "Habitat Corridor"! You get extra eco-points for that!

It is recommended that your practice "connects" to a bed or a tree already planted in the landscape rather than be arbitrarily located on the site.

Select a location which does not conflict with another use of your property, such as play and pet roaming areas.

You should go back to your property assessment and determine your solar exposure. How many hours of sun/part shade/shade in the particular area to choose the right plants?

Make note of windy areas as some plants are less tolerant of exposure to wind. Also, if you are interested in a 'Wind Break' or a 'Sound Break', your conservation landscape can be designed as a vegetative screen to block wind and absorb noise.

Also look for the view-sheds on your property. You may drink coffee every morning from a particular room, and look for the views you are fond of or would like to screen.

Do deer, rabbits, voles, moles frequent your site? This will affect the type of vegetation you plant. Many people do not think of their property as a wildlife habitat, however many animals have adapted to living in your realm, whether urban or rural. Do cats frequently roam your property? If so, you may want to reconsider drawing birds and/or hummingbirds.

Do not locate over infrastructure (light poles, pipes, cables, FIOS, etc.) and do not hinder access to fuel tanks, well heads, septic tanks or septic fields. If you site a bed in the Right of Way, be aware that the County/City may own that property and can tear it up for

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maintenance without prior permission. And of course, always be aware of planting near power lines.

Make sure there is an accessible water source. Your plants will need to be watered until they are established in the first several months after installation. That is the case for native plants as well. Once established they should do fine with what nature supplies, except in case of extreme drought. Conservation landscaping can be used in concert with other practices such rain barrels that can water your conservation landscaping bed.

If you are working under any existing trees be sure to protect root zones. Many trees have shallow root systems which extend out to their canopy or beyond. It is best to stay out of the "drip line" of the tree.

How do I install my conservation landscape?

Creating a Design Plan

In this step you need to choose whether you want to handle the design or hire a professional landscape designer or landscape architect. A professional will have the expertise to consider all of the factors mentioned above and will be able to develop a design plan which has seasonal variety and dimension and most importantly meets your objectives. In some areas of the Bay, a Watershed Steward or Master Gardener may be available who also possesses this expertise.

Some owners may want to have the project designed and constructed, while others may want to do the job themselves.

If you plan to do the job yourself, start out by retrieving the basemap of your property you developed earlier.

Sketch out a design plan. Remember that in addition to trees and shrubs consider perennials to provide ground cover (ferns, forbs, grasses, sedges, rushes).

- Perennial: a plant that comes back every year
- Annual: a plant that lives only one year and so will have to be replanted every year
- Deciduous: a shrub or tree that loses its leaves
- Evergreen: a tree or shrub that holds its leaves all year

Research plant materials by visiting your local nursery to see what vegetation is available to purchase. As a note, nurseries sometimes do not have an extensive native plant selection; however a lot of native material is available. Refer to the Resource List in Appendix C for nurseries in your area. A designer and contractor will have access to more varieties of native plant material. In addition, many native plant societies have annual sales.

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Avoid "invasive plants" which can spread and crowd out turf or native vegetation. Examples of invasive plants include English ivy, bamboo, and lesser celandine. For a good guide on how to identify and remove these invasive spreaders, consult the link to *Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas* <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/toc.htm>

If you hire a designer and contractor, make sure they utilize eco-practices. Not all designers and contractors are skilled in this area of work although many claim to have the expertise. Get recommendations. Call your local watershed organization as they have a list of professionals with extensive experience.

Some things you will want from your designers and contractors: a) understand the need for the use of organic soil amendments in lieu of fertilizer; b) have a knowledge of native plants to include for wildlife benefits; c) be able to purchase native plant material; and d) the ability to assess whether you can add a cistern/rain barrel to reuse rainwater from your roof in your conservation landscape.

How do I care for my conservation landscape?

Once your Conservation Landscape has been installed, you will need to maintain it over the year. Some common tasks are:

Weeding

Your new planting will need to be weeded from time to time. In a few years you will find the plants will spread, filling in the spaces and you will have less weeding to do.

Use of Herbicides and Pesticides

Assess if you can transfer over to natural pesticides and herbicides (praying mantus, lady bugs, bat houses, homemade chemical free pesticides). If you need to use pesticides, use them wisely as pesticides can harm beneficial organisms in your landscape. One of the side benefits of creating wildlife habitat is that you create and introduce more species resulting in a more balanced ecosystem on your property.

Mulch

Mulch helps to retain moisture and prevent weeds and erosion, however, too much can rob plants of water. Be sure to use three inches or less. Always use aged leaf compost and aged wood mulch. Mulch around trees should be flush with the landscape and not piled high in "tree volcanoes" because that encourages a shallow root structure and can smother the roots of the tree.

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Fall Maintenance

Ground up leaves are a great fertilizer. Rather than bagging up leaves, mow over them two times and let the leaves sit on the lawn over the winter. Excess leaves can be put into your compost pile to be used later in your gardens.

Resources

- BayScapes program (Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay)
<http://allianceforthebay.org/resources/publications/bayscapes/>
- Bay-Wise Certification Program (University of Maryland Extension)
<http://extension.umd.edu/baywise>
- "Eight Essential Elements of Conservation Landscaping" (Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council) <http://chesapeakelandscape.org/eight-essential-elements>
- "Gardener for the Bay" program (Chesapeake Bay Foundation) <http://www.cbf.org/join-us/more-things-you-can-do/gardeners-for-the-bay>
- The Green Book for the Buffer (Maryland Department of Natural Resources)
http://www.dnr.state.md.us/criticalarea/pdfs/GreenBook_Buffer_sm.pdf
- "Habitat At Home" Guide (Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries)
<http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/habitat/wild-in-the-woods/habitat-at-home.pdf>
- Home and Garden Information Center (University of Maryland)
<http://extension.umd.edu/hgic>
- "Landscapes for Life" Workbook (American Society of Landscape Architects)
http://www.landscapeforlife.org/publications/LFL_Workbooks_Print_downloadable.pdf



Tree Planting

Planting native trees and shrubs to restore a portion of your property to forested conditions is good for your property values, good for native wildlife, good for your local watershed and good for the Bay.

- Landscaping can add 10 to 20 percent more value to a property - especially landscaping that incorporates mature trees¹.
- Using native plant material is ideal because they tend to thrive when planted in our home gardens.
- Plants are not optional — we can't live without them. By gardening with native plants — no matter where you live or how small or large your space is — you can help sustain wildlife.²
- Trees and shrubs increase infiltration and evapotranspiration of stormwater and remove pollutants, which improves water quality.



Small bare root trees and shrubs are relatively inexpensive and can be installed by the home-owner by hand. Large ones, such as the 2 inch caliper oak being planted in the picture, may cost \$150 - \$200 and may require some heavy equipment and the help of experts.

Where should I plant my tree?

- a. Choose an area with adequate space for the tree to grow.
- b. Consider the soil conditions. Is it wet or dry? Consider the soil pH and texture.
- c. Choose native plant material whenever possible
- d. Select your tree size.
- e. Determine sun and wind conditions on your property.
- f. Avoid planting above underground utilities (Step 3 in "Assessing Your Property") and below transmission lines (large trees only).

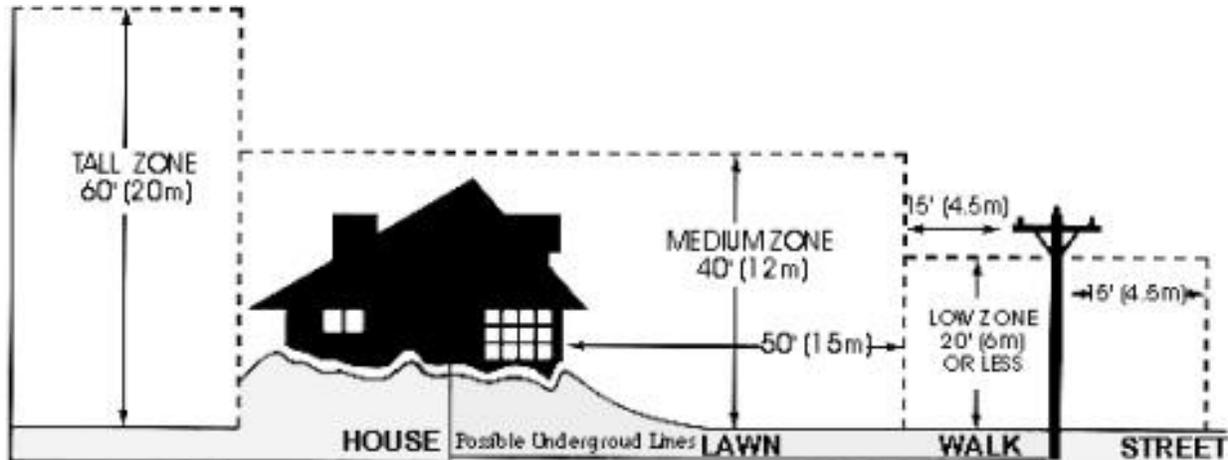
Proper Places for Trees around Homes

¹ www.realty101.com/value-of-a-tree-in-your-yard; www.arborday.org/trees/benefits.cfm

² Doug Tallamy, Bringing Nature Home www.plantanative.com/

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Not everywhere in your yard is appropriate for planting a tree. Save yourself time and money by planting your tree in the right location. The following illustration indicates approximately what types of trees should be planted in relation to your home and utility lines.



12

Tree selection is one of the most important investment decisions a home owner makes when landscaping a home or replacing a tree lost to damage or disease. Considering that most trees have the potential to outlive the people who plant them, the impact of this decision is one that can influence a lifetime. Match the tree to the site, and both lives will benefit.

When choosing the type of tree you are going to plant, think about the following questions:

- Why is the tree being planted?
- What is the size and location of the planting site?
- What is the ultimate size of the tree (i.e., is there enough room for the tree to grow?)
- Which type of soil conditions exist? Some trees are better suited for particular soils. Consult with your nursery before purchasing your tree.
- Which type of maintenance are you willing to provide?

Asking and answering these and other questions before selecting a tree will help you choose the "right tree for the right place." Local nurseries or garden centers can provide some insight into which tree is best suited for your site.

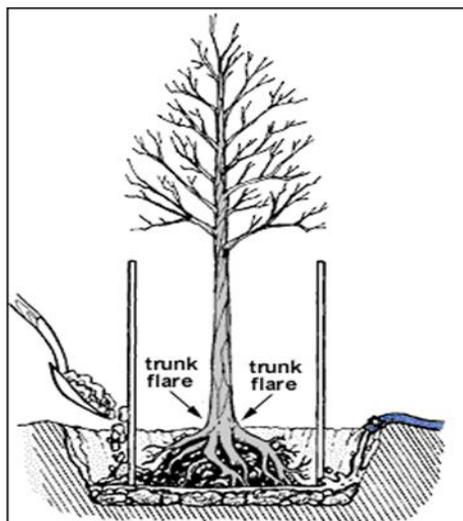
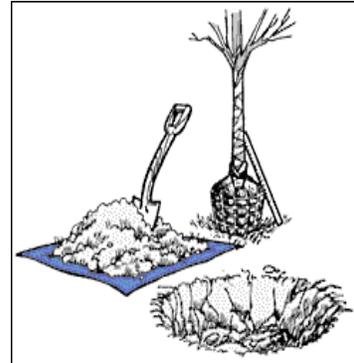
How do I plant my tree?

Step 1: Mark the space(s) where trees will be planted

Mark each location where a tree will be planted ahead of time. This certainly makes the planting easier if multiple people are working together on getting the trees in the ground.

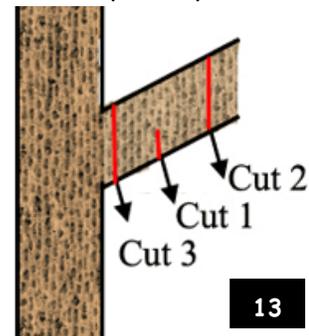
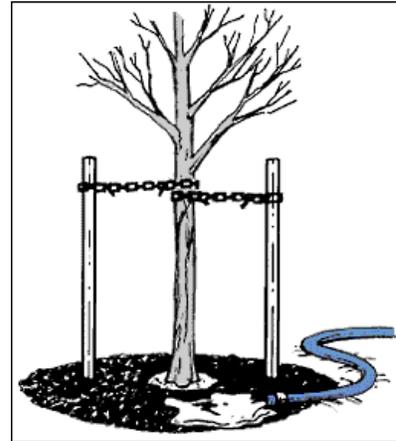
Step 2: Planting

- Size the hole according to the dimensions of the root ball and the type of container (bare root, containerized or balled & burlapped). The hole should be twice the size of the diameter and the same depth as the root ball so that when you place the tree in the hole, the basal trunk flare is flush with the ground level.
- Backfill with native soil, adding small amounts of mulch or shredded mulch if desired.
- Apply 2-3 inches of mulch, keeping away from the trunk. A common practice for applying mulch is 3"x3"x3" which means: 3" from the base of the tree, 3" deep and 3" around the tree
- Do not stomp on soil to pack it down. Watering the tree will remove the air packets.
- If necessary, stake for support, using breakaway tree ties or a piece of rubber hose to minimize chaffing and scaring of the tree trunk.
- Protect young trees from being nibbled on by using tree shelters (tubes) or fencing (as seen in the picture below).
- Water deep and generously.



How do I care for my tree?

- Water is the critical factor for tree survival after planting. Deep water regularly throughout the first growing season. Allow water to run slowly, soaking the soil, once or twice a week. You can use tree watering bags or 5 gallon buckets with small holes drilled in the bottom. Water at the perimeter or edge of planting site. Deep watering will encourage the development of deep tree roots.
- Newly planted trees should be watered from May to October. At least 15 gallons is needed each time you water. As a general rule, at least 1" of rain will provide sufficient rain for a newly planted tree. Water young trees weekly when the ground is dry. Do not over water.
- Keep lawn mowers and string trimmers away from tree to avoid wounding trunk. Reduce herbicide use near tree and in surrounding lawn.
- Never fertilize stressed trees. Fertilizer is not tree food. It should be applied (if absolutely necessary) only after first year. Consider applying a layer of compost or leaf mulch first. When used, fertilizer should be applied at the perimeter edge of the planting site.
- Start an annual tree inspection program while tree is young to head off problems early.
- Replace mulch as needed, as mulch will help retain moisture for the tree. Keep grass and weeds out of mulched area. They compete for the same water and elements as tree.
- Remove stakes and strapping after one year unless site is extremely windy. Do not stake longer than two years. Remove tree tubes when trees reach about 3 inches in diameter at the base.
- Prune while young to maintain size and shape beginning in the second growing season. Prune dead or injured branches immediately. The picture to the right demonstrates the proper way to prune a tree



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- Do not top trees to reduce height (remove large branches from a tree's canopy).
- Call a licensed arborist for advice on large pruning jobs, hazard trees, and insect or disease problems. Nonprofessionals should never prune near utility wires.
- Do not plant flowers under a tree. Do not cultivate soil under the tree.
- Continue deep watering for five years after planting.
- Finally, if you plant a tree - register it!!

Resources

There are a lot of on-line resources available which provide a lot of detail about planting trees. For this overview, we have drawn upon the following websites:

- For Design, Installation and Maintenance:
<http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/freepubs/pdfs/uh143.pdf>
- For Selection, Purchasing and Avoiding Tree & Utility Conflicts:
www.treesaregood.com/treecare/treecareinfo.aspx
- Aftercare, plus great set of checklists:
http://na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/uf/plant_trees/planting_trees.htm

There are a number of local urban forestry programs that promote tree planting and provide assistance and incentives to homeowners planting trees. Check with your local government or watershed group for more information.

- "Marylanders Plant Trees" program <http://www.trees.maryland.gov/register.asp>
- Richmond Tree Stewards <http://richmondtreestewards.org/>



Rainwater Harvesting Devices (Rain Barrels, Cisterns, Tanks)



A rain barrel/cistern is a water holding device which is placed at the base of a roof downspout with the purpose of collecting rainwater for a specific use. The reuse of rainwater can be either active or passive.

Active Reuse: This is the reuse of rain barrel water for either non-potable (cannot drink) or potable (for drinking) uses.

Non-Potable Uses include:

- Irrigating your landscape (typically using a filter and pump system);
- Car washing;
- Cleaning off a deck or patio;
- Flushing toilets (filtration, pump and secondary plumbing required).

Potable reuse or the use of the rain barrel water for drinking requires filtration, disinfection and permits.

If rainwater is stored for reuse, the barrel will not be empty for the next storm. Long-term storage of rainwater should be avoided.



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Passive Reuse: Watering plants in the landscape utilizing natural slope and/or gravity. This system is typically designed to release rainwater slowly into a landscape bed or the landscape via a soaker hose.

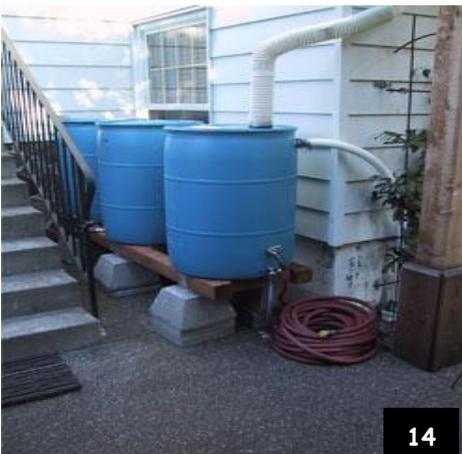
Contact a Rainwater Harvesting professional, Landscape Architect, Civil Engineer, Low Impact Development (LID) specialist, Watershed Steward, or Master Gardener for information.

Sizing Your Rain Water Harvesting Device

A rain barrel should be sized according to the drainage area of the roof.

During a 1-inch rain a house which is 1,000 sf will yield approximately 600 gallons of runoff. The average storm in Maryland is $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Typically a 1,000 square foot house has four (4) downspouts where each downspout serves roughly 250 square feet of roof area. Thus one downspout yields approximately 75 gallons of rainfall in a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch rain.

So if you desire to reduce your stormwater utility fee it is imperative to size your device to handle at least the 1/2 -inch storm in order to get credit, and preferably capture the one-inch storm (Make sure to check with your locality to see if a stormwater utility fee credit is available).



The 55 gallon rain barrels fill up fast! However you can "daisy chain" barrels together or purchase a larger rain barrel or cistern.

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Design Considerations

The following are some things to consider before settling on your rain barrel or cistern.

- Tanks or cisterns should not be installed over utilities, easements, or other infrastructure. Also do not install them over septic systems, sand filters or other underground structures. Rain barrels can be installed in any location as they are more temporary devices.
- Ensure that location is level (flat).
- Stabilize the base with pavers, flagstone or gravel.
- The device must be 12-18 inches above the ground if utilizing gravity to drain the water.

Design Variations

Not all rain barrels and cisterns are created equal. There are design variations depending on the type of practice you want to use and the look you are going for.

Above Ground

- A rain barrel/cistern placed at the base of the downspout (gutter cut off and overflow pipe to safe location);
- A rain barrel/cistern placed around the corner (gutter cut off, an elbow attached; overflow pipe to safe location);
- A rain barrel/cistern placed under a deck;



Below Ground

A cistern/tank buried below the ground. Be sure to purchase a device which is designed to not heave out of the ground (a very natural occurrence) or is able to be strapped down. These systems typically require a filtration and pump system. Typically you will want to engage a Rainwater Harvesting professional if you are burying a cistern or tank. You can find certified designers and installers at the American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association (ARCSA.org).

How do I install my above ground rainwater harvesting device?

Follow the rain barrel or cistern manufacturer's installation guidelines. A typical installation requires that you:

- 1) Shorten the downspout and direct into opening of the barrel.
- 2) Make sure the device is level.
- 3) Make sure the screen is in place.
- 4) Secure the downspout to the device with screws, if appropriate.
- 5) Attach overflow pipes and be sure that the overflow can drain safely away from your house or downhill to a landscape bed. Be sure not to direct the overflow towards a neighbor's house or to a sidewalk.
- 6) Connect the hoses to your device and you are ready to go!

Materials to Have On Hand during Installation

- Extra gutter (Straight, Elbows)
- Wire mesh screen for keeping debris out
- A lid for safety if the mesh screen is attached to the gutter directly
- Overflow hose
- Handsaw
- Screws
- Level
- Soaker hose - if you are going to do a slow drawdown of the barrel over time

How do I care for my above ground rainwater harvesting device?

Empty your device during the winter by disconnecting the hose or opening all of the spigots to let water run freely through the barrel. There is no need to detach it from the downspout. This will prevent water freezing in the device over the winter.

Other Tips

- Sometimes there is not an opportunity to reuse rainwater. It is recommended to capture water only if you intend to reuse it! Keeping the faucet open or using a soaker hose to slowly drawdown the rain barrel and irrigate your surrounding landscape is a good option.
 - If you are connecting a soaker hose, drill $\frac{1}{4}$ " holes every 6-8 inches in the rain barrel to help the water drain.
- Raise the height of the barrel so that there is sufficient water pressure to use a hose.

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- Unsightly cinder blocks can be camouflaged with flagstone or rocks.
- Always have the overflow going to a safe place in the event that the barrel/cistern fills up - make sure it will not deliver water too close to the house.
 - Always use some kind of screen to prevent organic debris from entering the barrel. The debris will settle at the bottom of your barrel and eventually clog the outflow. A removable wire mesh screen is all you really need, either mounted on top of the rain barrel or attached to the end of your downspout. A well-fitting lid is also important to protect children and prevent mosquitoes from breeding in the water.
 - Put a brick or a large rock in the bottom of the rain barrel so that it does not blow around on a windy day.
 - One gallon of water weighs approximately 8.35 lbs, so make sure your device is level and stable. A 55 gallon barrel can weigh upwards of 459 lbs when it is full!
 - It is recommended to purchase brass fittings at the outset of installation as they will last longer.

Resources

- American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association (ARCSA) www.arcsa.org
- A fun calculator that will help you estimate the amount of rainwater you can collect in your barrel: <http://www.gardeners.com/Rain-Barrel-How-To/5497,default.pg.html>

Permeable Hard-scapes

Permeable Hard-scapes are alternative paving surfaces that capture and temporarily store stormwater by filtering runoff through holes in the pavement surface into an underlying stone reservoir. Filtered runoff may be collected and returned to the stormwater system, or allowed to partially soak into the soil. "Permeable Hard-scapes" refers to Pervious Concrete, Porous Asphalt, Concrete Grid Pavers, Permeable Interlocking Concrete Pavers and other products and configurations that are designed to infiltrate water.



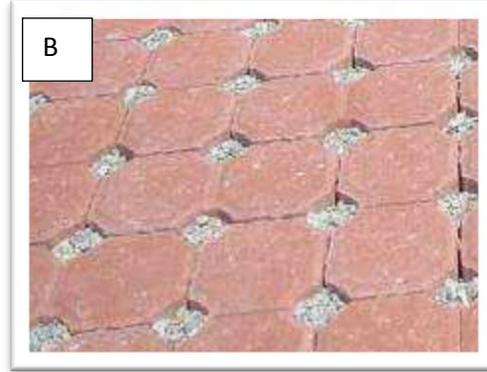
- Permeable hard-scapes will reduce the amount of runoff when they replace existing hard surfaces. (i.e. an existing patio or driveway).
- If the permeable hard-scape is a NEW hard surface, it will help prevent the site from increasing stormwater runoff but does not reduce stormwater runoff from the prior condition.
- Permeable hard-scapes allow homeowners to reduce overall imperviousness and stormwater runoff while continuing to maintain hardened areas such as driveways, sidewalks, and patios.

| Practice Considerations | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Cost | High |
| Installation Difficulty | High |
| Effectiveness for reducing runoff | Medium |

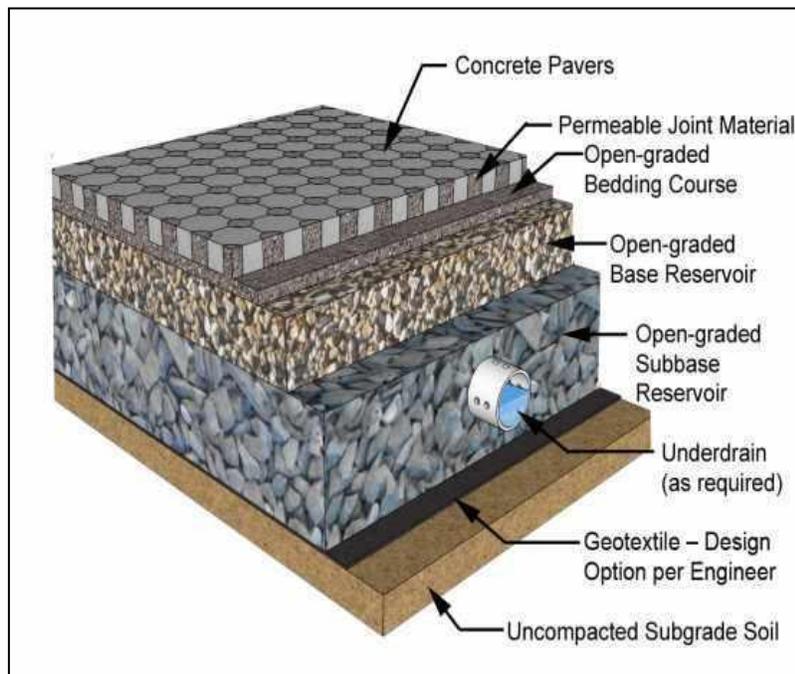
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Concrete Grid Pavers



Permeable Interlocking Concrete Pavers



Schematic Profile for Typical Permeable Pavement Section

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Where should I put my permeable hard-scape?

The following table discusses several site conditions that need to be considered prior to determining whether a particular location is suitable for a permeable hard-scape.

| Site Considerations | | |
|--|-----------------|--|
| Site Condition | Feasible | Notes |
| Steep Slopes | No | Steep pavement surface slopes may cause shifting of the pavement surface and base materials. In general, slopes greater than 5% do not make good candidates for permeable hard-scapes. |
| External Drainage | Yes | The area of pavement or rooftop draining onto ("run-on") should be no more than 2 times the area of permeable hard-scape. * |
| High Water Table | No | The bottom of the permeable hard-scape installation (i.e., the bottom of the excavated area) must be at least 2 ft. above the seasonal high water table. |
| Poor Soil Condition | Yes | Soil conditions do not typically constrain the use of permeable hard-scape although they do determine whether an underdrain is needed. This practice is best if the soil has good drainage. |
| Floodplain | No | Permeable hard-scape should not be constructed within the 100-year floodplain |
| Adjacent Structures | Yes | To avoid the risk of seepage, permeable hard-scapes should not be connected to structures so that water cannot seep into basements or damage foundations. |
| Utilities | Yes/No | Interference with underground utilities should be avoided whenever possible. Approval from the applicable utility company or agency is required if utility lines will run below or immediately adjacent to a permeable hard-scape. |
| <p><i>*Only paved or stable impervious surfaces should be allowed to drain onto ("run-on") pervious hard-scape. Turf, mulch, and other non-paved areas contribute large amounts of sediment to the pervious hard-scape which can increase the likelihood of clogging and the need for vacuum maintenance. Look at the existing surface, if it is covered in organic material (from overhead trees or similar) it may not be a good candidate for a permeable hard-scape.</i></p> | | |

How do I install (or use) my permeable hard-scape?

Due to the increased complexity of permeable hard-scapes and the need for some specialty equipment it is **strongly recommended that homeowners work with a trained and certified contractor** (Pervious Concrete Contractor Certification Program or PCCP Installer Technician training program, etc.) to implement this type of project.

Step 1: Construction of the permeable hard-scape shall only begin after the area surrounding the pervious hard-scape has been stabilized. The proposed site should be checked for existing utilities prior to any excavation. Do not install the system in rain or snow, and do not install frozen aggregate materials.

Step 2: Temporary erosion and sediment controls are needed during installation to divert stormwater away from the permeable hard-scape until it is completed. The proposed permeable hard-scape must be kept free from sediment during the entire construction process. Construction materials contaminated by sediments must be removed and replaced with clean materials.

Step 3: Compaction of the bottom of the permeable hard-scape should be avoided to the extent possible. Excavators or backhoes should work from the sides to excavate to the appropriate design depth and dimensions.

Step 4: The native soils along the bottom of the permeable hard-scape should be scarified or tilled to a depth of 3 to 4 inches prior to the placement of stone.

Step 5: Filter fabric should be placed only as required by the design.

Step 6: Moisten and spread the appropriate clean, washed stone aggregate (usually No. 2 or No. 57 stone) 6-inches at a time to the desired depth. Place at least 2 inches of additional aggregate above the underdrain, and then compact it.

Step 7: Paving materials shall be installed in accordance with manufacturer or industry specifications for the particular type of pavement.

- Pavers may be placed by hand or with mechanical installers.
- Fill gaps at the edge of the paved areas with cut pavers or edge units.
- Fill the joints and openings with stone. Joint openings must be filled per the paver manufacturer's recommendation.
- Compact and seat the pavers into the bedding course.
- Thoroughly sweep the surface after construction to remove all excess aggregate.

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Step 8: Inspect the area for settlement. Any pavers that settle or are not level must be inspected and reinstalled.

Step 9: Within 6 months, top up the paver joints with stones.

How do I care for my permeable hard-scape?

Maintenance is a crucial element to ensure the long-term performance of permeable hard-scape. The most frequently cited maintenance problem is surface clogging caused by organic matter (leaves, grass clippings, etc.) and sediment. Periodic sweeping will remove accumulated sediment and help prevent clogging; however, it is also critical to ensure that surrounding land areas remain stabilized.

The following tasks must be avoided on ALL permeable hard-scapes:

- Sanding
- Re-sealing
- Re-surfacing
- Power washing
- Storage of snow piles containing sand
- Storage of mulch or soil materials

| Maintenance Frequency of Permeable Hard-scapes Based on Type of Application and Maintenance Method | | |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Maintenance Task | Type of Application | Frequency |
| Dry Sweeping | Patio | Seasonally (4 X per year) |
| Dry Sweeping | Driveway | Monthly |
| Vacuum | Patio | Every 2 years |
| Vacuum | Driveway | Once per year |
| <i>*This table is intended as guidance only; the frequency should be adjusted based on conditions and the surrounding land cover (e.g. pavement, turf, trees) and level of detritus and sediment on the pavement surface.</i> | | |

The frequency of maintenance will depend largely on the pavement use (patio vs. driveway) and traffic loads (foot vs. vehicle). Dry-weather sweeping in the spring and fall months is important. For peak performance, every few years sweep with a dry vacuum sweeper. Do not use a pressure washer or high pressure water spray, since spraying may lead to subsurface clogging.

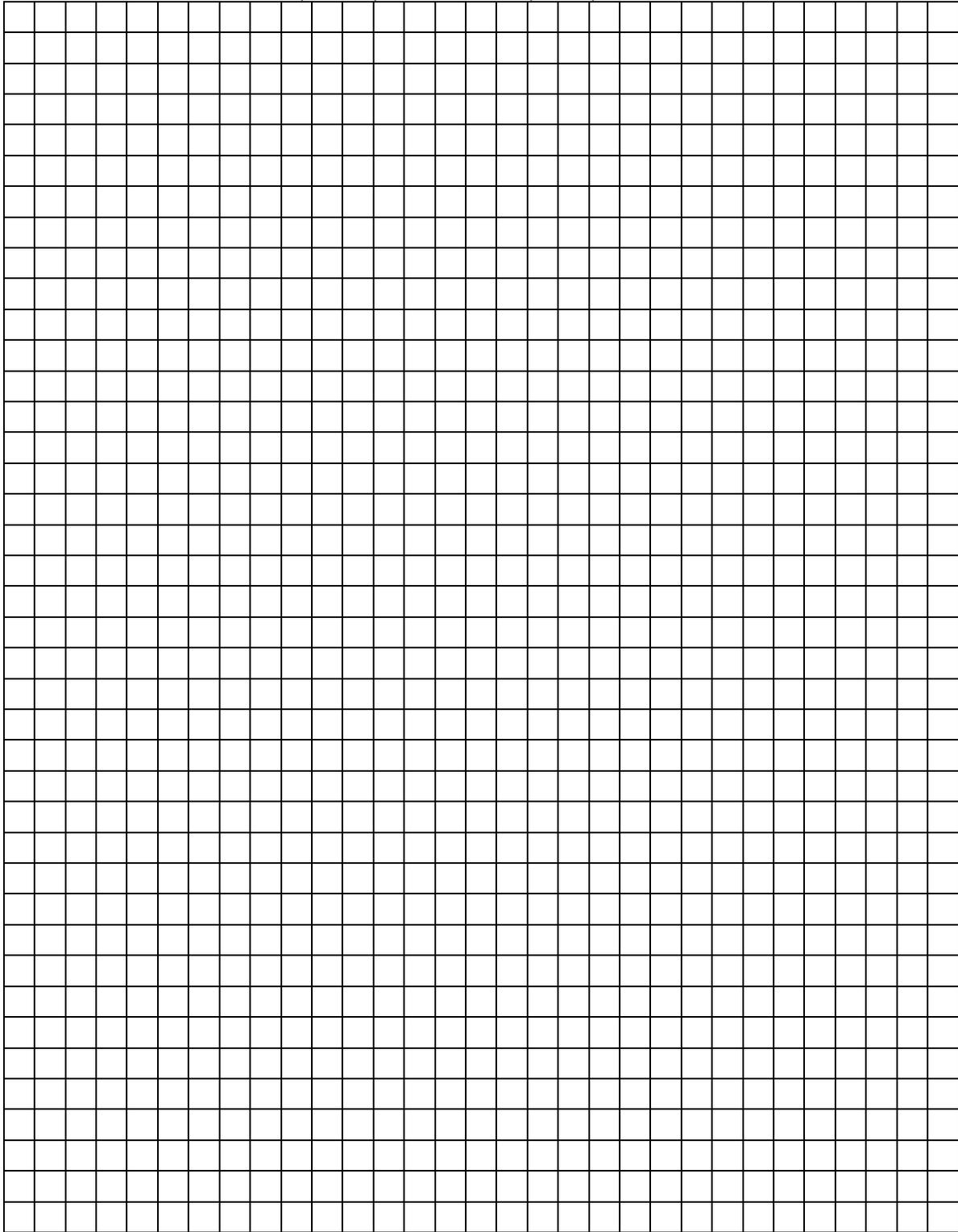
Resources

The following are several permeable hard-scape resources for homeowners.

- NRMCA Certified Professional Pervious Concrete Contractor Database:
http://nrmca.org/Education/Certifications/Certs_DB_Disclaimer.htm
- Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute Certified Contractor Member Search:
<http://www.icpi.org/directory-search?search=contractor>
- Permeable Pavers Factsheet Montgomery County, MD:
<http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/dep/downloads/Rainscapes/MocoPermeablePavers.pdf>
- Previous Surfaces Factsheet Arlington County, VA:
<http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/Sustainability/PDF/files/file84390.pdf>

Appendix A

Graph Paper for Property Sketch



Appendix B

Quantity Calculator Worksheet for Rain Garden Bulk Materials

| Calculator to Estimate Excess Fill and Materials to Buy | | |
|--|--|------------------|
| Design Factor | Example | Your Calculation |
| EXCESS FILL | | |
| Max Digging Depth | 24 inches | |
| Ponding Depth | 6 inches | |
| Top Soil Depth | 6 inches | |
| Subsoil Depth | 12 inches | |
| Divide Subsoil Depth by 2, and then divide this by 12 | $[12\text{inches}/2]/12$ $X = 0.5 \text{ feet}$ | |
| Garden Surface Area | 64 square feet = Y | |
| Z = Multiply X and Y and divide the product by 27 | $[(64)(0.5)]/27 =$ 1.2 cubic yards | |
| Note: About 6 Wheelbarrow loads per cubic yard | About 7 loads of subsoil to dispose of elsewhere on your lawn | |
| MULCH CALCULATOR | | |
| Garden Surface Area | 64 square feet | |
| 1 cubic yard for each 64 square feet of garden area | 1 cubic yard of mulch to order ¹ | |
| SAND CALCULATOR | | |
| Take Z and multiply by 1.4 | = 1.7 tons of sand to order (round up to 2 tons) | |
| RIVER STONE CALCULATOR | | |
| Assume 0.2 tons per inlet | 0.2 tons (400 pounds) ¹ | |
| ¹ Most bulk orders must be done in one cubic yard or ton increments. Last time I checked, the delivered price of sand is about \$45, double shredded hardwood mulch costs around \$35 a cubic yard and river stone runs \$100/ton. You may want to budget about \$250 for plants, the connector pipe and other stuff. | | |

Appendix C

List of Plant Resources

Here we have compiled a list of helpful resources within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed for planting your tree, rain garden or conservation landscape. You will find that the resources have been listed by type of resource and jurisdiction.

NATIVE PLANT VENDORS (RETAIL AND WHOLESALE)

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife, list of native plant suppliers in the Chesapeake Bay Region, www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay/bayscapes.htm

Maryland

- American Natives Plants (Maryland Natives Nursery, Inc.), (Perry Hall, MD) www.americannativeplants.net
- Ayton State Tree Nursery (Maryland) www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/nursery
- Babikow Greenhouses (Baltimore, MD) www.babikow.com/ Wholesale
- Bay Ridge Nursery (Annapolis, MD) www.BayRidgeNursery.com
- Cavano's Perennials, Inc., (Kingsville, MD) www.cavanos.com Primarily wholesale, open to the public on Saturdays during the planting season
- Chesapeake Natives (Silver Spring, MD) www.chesapeakenatives.org Limited supply of native plants propagated from indigenous seed sources. Seeds, bare root plants, plugs, and pots available
- Classic Groundcovers www.classic-groundcovers.com (Wholesale only)
- Clear Ridge Nursery (Union Bridge, MD) www.gonative.us native trees and shrubs for conservation
- Davidsonville Nursery (Davidsonville, MD) www.davidsonvillennursery.com
- Environmental Concern (St. Michaels, MD) www.wetland.org Retail nursery (open by appointment) for riparian trees and wetland shrubs, education and research facility
- Greenstreet Gardens (Lothian, MD) www.greenstreetgardens.com/
- Herring Run Nursery (Baltimore, MD) www.bluewaterbaltimore.org/herring-run-nursery/
- Homestead Gardens (Davidsonville, MD) www.homesteadgardens.com Limited natives available
- Lower Marlboro Nursery (Owings, MD) www.lowermarlboronursery.com Native perennials, wildflowers, shrubs. The nursery is open to visitors by appointment during the spring and fall planting seasons.
- Patuxent Nursery (Bowie, MD) www.patuxentnursery.com/

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- Signature Horticultural Services (Freeland, MD) www.signaturehort.com/
Specializes in Northeastern native herbaceous plants for wetland mitigation, landscape design, restoration, and wildlife habitat enhancement
- Tidewater Growers: wholesale suppliers of trees and shrubs, 757-787-4079, TidewaterGrowers@comcast.net, <http://www.tidewatergrowers.com/>
- Treessentials (Roseville, MN) www.tubexusa.com/ Tree tubes and deer repellent for tree seedlings,

New Jersey

- New Moon Nursery (Bridgeton, NJ) www.newmoonnursery.com Native perennials (deep plugs), (Wholesale only)
- Pinelands Nursery, Inc. (Columbus, NJ) www.pinelandsnursery.com (wholesale only)
Wetland trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants

New York

- Fort Pond Native Plants (Montauk, New York) <http://nativeplants.net/>

Pennsylvania

- Appalachian Nursery (Chambersberg, PA) www.appnursery.com
- Keystone Wildflowers (Robesonia, PA) www.keystonewildflowers.com/ Native herbaceous perennial flowers and grasses for wildlife, habitat, naturalistic landscaping and restoration work
- North Creek Nurseries (Landenberg, PA) www.northcreeknurseries.com Native perennials (deep plugs) (Wholesale only)
- Octoraro Native Plant Nursery (Kirkwood, PA) www.octoraro.com Native trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants for reforestation and streambank restoration (Wholesale only)
- Redbud Native Plant Nursery (Glen Mills, PA) www.redbudnativeplantnursery.com
- Sylva Native Nursery and Seed Co., (Glen Rock, PA) www.sylvanative.com Native trees and shrubs

Virginia

- Colesville Nursery (Ashland, VA) <http://www.colesvillenursery.com/>
- Earth Sangha (Fairfax, VA) <http://www.earthsangha.org/>
- Forest Lane Botanicals (Williamsburg, VA) <http://www.forestlanebotanicals.com/>
- Go Native Grow Native, Northern Neck Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society http://www.nnnps.org/Go_Native_Grow_Native.html
- James River Association (Richmond, VA) <http://www.jamesriverassociation.org/what-we-do/watershed-restoration/Native%20Plants.pdf>
- Lancaster Farms, Inc. (Suffolk, VA) www.lancasterfarms.com
- Nature by Design (Alexandria, VA) www.nature-by-design.com

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- Piedmont Nursery (The Plains, VA) <http://www.piedmontnursery.com/>
- Sandy's Plants, Inc. Rare and Unusual Perennials (Mechanicsville, VA) <http://www.sandysplants.com/>
- Sassafras Farm (Hayes, VA) sassafrasfarm@verizon.net
- Southern Branch Nursery (Chesapeake, VA) <http://www.southernbranchnursery.com>
- Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program Plant Eastern Shore Natives Campaign <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/CoastalZoneManagement/CZMIssuesInitiatives/NativePlants/PlantsESNativesCampaignPartners.aspx>

West Virginia

- Enchanter's Garden (Hinton, WV) www.enchantersgarden.com
- Sunshine Farm and Gardens (Renick, WV) www.sunfarm.com

OTHER PLANT PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES

Anne Arundel County Planning and Zoning (Annapolis, MD) Will provide free marsh grasses (*Spartina alterniflora*) to AACO residents 410-222-7441.

SEEDS

- Ernst Conservation Seeds, 800-873-3321. 9006 Mercer Pike, Meadville, PA 16335, seeds of native grasses, wildflowers, wetland plants and shrubs; live stakes for streambank restoration, www.ernstseed.com
- Sylva Native Nursery and Seed Co., (Glen Rock, PA) www.sylvanative.com Native trees and shrubs

REGIONAL PLANT GUIDES

- National Wildlife Federation, searchable database by plant types and by state, with photos and detailed plant descriptions: http://enature.com/native_invasive/natives.asp
- Chesapeake Ecology Center, *Ecoscaping Back to the Future: Restoring Chesapeake Landscapes* (with examples of native plant gardens, rain gardens, xeriscapes), found under "EcoScaping:" www.chesapeakeecologycenter.org.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Maryland native plant lists to download: www.nps.gov/plants/pubs/nativesMD/
- "Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping: Chesapeake Bay Watershed". On-line PDF <http://www.nps.gov/plants/pubs/chesapeake/>
- Society for Ecological Restoration (Mid Atlantic Chapter) <http://chapter.ser.org/midatlantic/>

Homeowner Guide for a More Bay- Friendly Property

- Native Plant Center, Here you can find native plants of the same type, shape, color, size, and other desirable plant characteristics for creating attractive and more natural landscapes in your yard <http://www.nativeplantcenter.net/>
- Plant Native: a regional plant list for Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia. <http://www.plantnative.org/rpl-mdvawv.htm>

NATIONAL PLANT GUIDES

- Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center <http://www.wildflower.org/ladybird/>
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, <http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov>
- USDA PLANTS Database, (searchable), <http://plants.usda.gov/index.html>
- Society for Ecological Restoration <http://www.ser.org/home>
- Plant Native (searchable) <http://www.plantnative.org/>

STATE AND COUNTY GUIDES

District of Columbia

- The Botanical Society of Washington <http://www.wvnps.org/>
- Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Department of Botany <http://apsdev.org/welcome.html>
- National Arboretum, 3501 New York Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20002, (202) 245-2726
- *Native Plants*: www.usna.usda.gov/Gardens/faqs/nativefaq2.html

Delaware

- Delaware Native Plant Society www.delawarenativeplants.org
- University of Delaware, "Plants for a Livable Delaware" <http://ag.udel.edu/extension/horticulture/pdf/PLD.pdf>

Maryland

- Maryland Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 4877, Silver Spring, MD 20914, www.mdflora.org
- *Native Plant Sources*: <http://www.mdflora.org/publications/nurseries.html>
- Anne Arundel County Native Plant Guide: <http://www.aacounty.org/IP/Resources/AANativePlants.pdf>
- *Native Plants of Maryland: What, When, and Where*: http://hgic.umd.edu/_media/documents/NativePlantsofMD.pdf
- Calvert County (Maryland) Native Plant Guide: www.co.cal.md.us/assets/Planning_Zoning/Environmental/NativePlantGuideOct07.pdf

Homeowner Guide for a More Bay- Friendly Property

- Maryland Department of National Resources, State Forest Tree Nursery, 1-800-TREESMD www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/nursery
- Home and Garden Information Center, University of Maryland Extension, 800-342-2507, Available online, <http://www.hgic.umd.edu/>

New York

- New York Flora Association <http://www.nyflora.org/>
- Torrey Botanical Society <http://www.torreybotanical.org/>
- The Finger Lakes Native Plant Society of Ithaca <http://flnps.org/>
- The Native Plant Center at Westchester Community College
www.naiveplantcenter.org

Pennsylvania

- Pennsylvania Native Plant Society (State College, PA) www.pawildflower.org
- Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania <http://www.botsocwpa.org/>
- Delaware Valley Fern & Wildflower Society <http://www.dvfws.org/>

Virginia

- Virginia Native Plant Society (Boyce, VA) www.vnps.org/
- Virginia Native Plants for Conservation, Restoration, and Landscaping
http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/nativeplants.shtml
- Piedmont Virginia Native Plant Database (Albemarle County, VA)
<http://www.albemarle.org/nativeplants/>
- Virginia Eastern Shore Native Plant List
<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/CoastalZoneManagement/CZMIssuesInitiatives/NativePlants/NativePlantList.aspx>

West Virginia

- West Virginia Native Plant Society www.wvnps.org

NON-NATIVE / INVASIVE PLANT RESOURCES

- National Park Service, "Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas:"
<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/toc.htm>
- Ecology and Management of Invasive Plants Program, Cornell University, website with information on invasive plants, their impact on native species, and their control (particularly biological control) www.invasiveplants.net
- "*Invasive Species of Concern in Maryland:*" (Home and Garden Information Center, University of Maryland Extension)
www.hgic.umd.edu/_media/documents/publications/invasive_species_list.pdf

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- Maryland Native Plant Society - Information on controlling non-natives, with lists of native plant alternatives,
<http://www.mdflora.org/publications/invasiveshandbook.html>
- The Nature Conservancy (Maryland Chapter) Information on the removal of specific non-native invasive plants,
<http://www.imapinvasives.org/GIST/ESA/index.html>

Appendix D

Directory of Local Programs in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed that Provide Technical and Financial Assistance to Homeowners

The following is a list of programs in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed that provide technical (T), financial (F) or other (O) types of assistance to homeowners installing stewardship practices on their residential property. Since several of the programs provide assistance on a watershed basis, multiple communities may benefit from a particular program and so the programs have been grouped geographically rather than alphabetically.

| Organization | Name of Program | Website | Type of Assistance | | |
|--|--|---|--------------------|---|---|
| | | | F | T | O |
| Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay | Chesapeake Riverwise Communities | https://allianceforthebay.org/category/our-work/riverwise/ | x | x | x |
| MARYLAND | | | | | |
| Blue Water Baltimore | Blue Water Audit | http://www.bluewaterbaltimore.org/programs/clean-waterways/waterauditprogram/ | | x | x |
| Baltimore County Environmental Protection and Sustainability | Stormwater Retrofit Management Program | http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/environment/watershedrestoration/retrofits.html | | | |
| Gunpowder Conservancy | Clear Creeks Project | http://www.gunpowderfalls.org/bay-wise-practices.html | | | x |
| Pretty Boy Watershed Alliance | | http://www.prettyboywatershed.org/educational-materials | | | x |
| Frederick County Sustainability Office | Green Homes Challenge , Green Leader | https://www.frederickgreenchallenge.org/ | | x | x |
| Monocacy and Catocin Watershed Alliance | | http://www.watershed-alliance.com/mcwa_restore.html | | | x |
| City of Gaithersburg | RainScapes Rewards | http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/poi/default.asp?POI_ID=1758&TOC=107;81;388;1758; | x | x | x |

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| Organization | Name of Program | Website | Type of Assistance | | |
|--|--------------------|---|--------------------|---|---|
| | | | F | T | O |
| City of Rockville | RainScapes Rewards | http://www.rockvillemd.gov/environment/watersheds/rainscapes.html | x | x | x |
| Montgomery County DEP | RainScapes Rewards | http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/dectmpl.asp?url=/content/dep/water/rainscapes.asp | x | x | x |
| Anacostia Watershed Society | | http://www.anacostiaws.org/ | | | x |
| National Capital Region Watershed Stewards Academy | | http://www.anacostiaws.org/programs/education/watershed-stewards-academy | | x | x |
| Prince George's County DER | | http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/Government/AgencyIndex/DER/index.asp | x | | x |
| Howard County Government | Clean Water Howard | www.cleanwaterhoward.com | x | x | |
| Howard County Watershed Stewards Academy | | http://wsahoco.weebly.com/ | | x | x |
| Midshore RiverKeeper Conservancy | | http://midshoreriverkeeper.org/ | | x | |
| Chester River Association | | http://www.chesterriverassociation.org/ | | | |
| Corsica River Conservancy | | http://www.corsicariverconservancy.org/activities | | x | x |
| Sassafras River Association | | http://www.sassafrasriver.org/ | | | x |
| Anne Arundel Watershed Stewards Academy | | http://www.aawsa.org/ | | x | x |
| Anne Arundel County WERS | | www.aacounty.org/DPW/Highways/RainGarden.cfm | x | | x |
| South River Federation | | www.southernriverfederation.net | x | | x |

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| Organization | Name of Program | Website | Type of Assistance | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------|---|---|
| | | | F | T | O |
| Severn River Association | | www.severnriver.org/ | x | | x |
| West Rhode RiverKeeper | | www.westrhoderiverkeeper.org/ | | | x |
| RainScaping Campaign | | http://www.rainscaping.org/ | | | x |
| University of Maryland SeaGrant Extension | Watershed Restoration Specialists | http://www.mdsg.umd.edu/programs/extension/communities/watershed/specialists/ | | x | x |
| University of Maryland Extension | Bay-Wise Certification Program | http://extension.umd.edu/baywise | | x | |
| Bay-wise Master Gardeners | Bay-wise Yard Visits | http://extension.umd.edu/baywise/program-certification | | x | x |
| Local Watershed Groups | | http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/dectmpl.asp?url=/Content/dep/water/localgroups.asp | | | x |
| DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA | | | | | |
| National Capital Region Watershed Stewards Academy | | http://www.anacostiaaws.org/programs/education/watershed-stewards-academy | | x | x |
| District DDOE | RiverSmart Homes | http://green.dc.gov/riversmarthomes | x | x | |
| PENNSYLVANIA | | | | | |
| Conewago Creek Watershed | Conewago Creek Initiative | http://www.conewagoinitiative.net/ | | x | x |
| Little Conestoga Partnership | | http://www.littleconestoga.org/ | x | x | x |
| Blair Conservation District | | http://www.blairconservationdistrict.org | | x | x |
| Altoona, PA | | http://www.altoonapa.gov/Pages/StormwaterInformation.aspx | | x | x |

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| Organization | Name of Program | Website | Type of Assistance | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|---|--------------------|---|---|
| | | | F | T | O |
| VIRGINIA | | | | | |
| Lynchburg, VA | Residential Credit Program | http://www.lynchburgva.gov/stormwater-credit-program | x | x | |
| James River Association | River Hero Homes | http://www.jrava.org/what-we-do/river-hero/ | | x | |
| Elizabeth River Project | River Star Homes | http://www.elizabethriver.org/RiverStars/default.aspx | x | x | |
| Richmond, VA | Residential Credit | http://www.richmondgov.com/PublicUtilities/documents/SWcreditmanual.pdf | x | | |
| Arlington, VA | StormwaterWi se | http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/Sustainability/page87833.aspx | x | x | |
| Lynnhaven River Now | Pearl Homes | http://www.lynnhavenriversnow.org/gardening.aspx | | x | |
| Friends of the Rappahannock | Rainscape Retrofits | http://www.riverfriends.org/OurPrograms/MiddleandUpperWatershed/tabid/607/Default.aspx#LiveTabsContent171922-It | | | |
| James City County | PRIDE | http://www.jamescitycountyva.gov/jccpride/ | x | x | |
| Reedy Creek Coalition | | http://reedycreekcoalition.org/financial-incentive-program/ | x | x | |
| City of Fredericksburg | | http://www.riverfriendlyyard.com/ | | | x |
| Chesterfield County | | http://www.chesterfield.gov/content2.aspx?id=8589944309 | | | x |
| Hanover-Caroline SWCD | | http://www.co.hanover.va.us/soilandwater/urban.htm | | | x |
| Colonial SWCD | | http://colonialswcd.net/about/ | x | x | x |
| Master Gardeners of Virginia | | http://vmga.net/Links.htm | | | |

Appendix E

List of Bay-Friendly Lawn Care Experts

The following is a list places within the watershed where you can get a soil test analysis to see what if any fertilizer is required for your lawn.

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Delaware | http://ag.udel.edu/dstp/index.html |
| Maryland | http://extension.umd.edu/hgic |
| Pennsylvania | http://www.aasl.psu.edu/ssft.htm |
| Virginia | http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/452/452-129/452-129.html http://www.soiltest.vt.edu/ http://www.al-labs-eastern.com/ Lynnhaven River NOW and Elizabeth River Project have developed a form for A&L Eastern Labs to provide Bay-friendly recommendations (i.e., low Nitrogen): http://www.lynnhavenrivernow.org/files/pages/Soil_sample_April_2010.pdf |
| West Virginia | http://www.caf.wvu.edu/~forage/Sampling_Soils.htm |