

Deer Creek Watershed Alliance

a project of  MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

RainScape Rebates Eligible Improvements List

RainScaping Features Design	
RainScape Rebates Participating Contractors help you identify the best opportunities for rainscaping features on your land and can also assist with installation of the features. The costs of the design and installation are eligible for consideration (up to program limits) for RainScape Rebates.	
Review all program requirements for the RainScape Rebates Program. There are limits to location, features, and costs. Municipal ordinances and/or MSD requirements must be followed where applicable. Further details can be found at deercreekalliance.org and mobot.org/rainscaping .	
Landscaping Features	
Landscaping plan must include a plant-based solution that removes and replaces a minimum of 100 square feet of established lawn or invasive species. Re-landscaping of previously landscaped areas is not allowed.	
Native Soil Rain Gardens	A properly performed percolation test must be conducted prior to rain garden installation. Minimum test results: .25in/hr. An appropriately installed rain garden includes plants with robust root structures, mulch, optional soil amendments, a berm with an overflow structure, and a temporary ponding area. No sand or "Rain Garden Mix" may be used.
Engineered Bioretention Rain Gardens	Existing soil should be completely removed and replaced with high sand content "Rain Garden Mix." Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District bioretention design specifications must be followed. Residential landowners should contact MSD's Engineer of the Day at 314-768-2705 prior to submittal. Non-residential landowners should contact MSD Plan Review.
Lawn Alternatives	Lawn alternatives, including trees, shrubs, perennials, and/or groundcover replacing existing turf grass may be installed instead of a rain garden where a percolation test shows poor drainage. Lawn alternatives must include plants with robust root structures, approved soil amendments, and mulching.
Soil Amendments	Mulches are spread on top of the soil and are a required component of the application. Approved mulches are shredded bark, shredded hardwood bark, wood chips, shredded leaves, or a compost layer on top of the soil. Gravel or stone may be substituted for organic mulch in high velocity flow areas of rain gardens or bioswales. Soil amendments are turned into the soil and are optional. Approved soil amendments include silt loam topsoil, well-aged compost, calcined clay, expanded gypsum or shale, and/or mycorrhizal inoculants. Soil aeration is also an optional, eligible soil improvement. Mulches, soil amendments, and soil aeration are considered eligible improvements only when paired with another plant-based eligible improvement on this list. Sandy loam topsoil or sand are not eligible soil amendments. "Rain Garden Mix" may only be used within a bioretention system.
Bioswales	A bioswale should be designed to slow down the velocity of the water as well as use plant-based material to increase infiltration of the water into the soil and also guide the water to another location such as a rain garden or other rainscaping feature.

Rock Weirs	Rock weirs must be paired with a plant-based solution, and they may be included in a bioswale or other rainscaping feature and used to slow down the velocity of the water on a hillside.
Compost Filter Socks	Compost filter socks may be used to slow down the velocity of the water on a hillside, be seeded or planted, be stacked to form a living wall, be backfilled with soil and plantings to form mini-terraces on difficult-to-plant hillsides, be used as a rain garden berm, or be employed in sensitive areas (such as a woodland) instead of a rain garden, where digging might damage tree roots. Compost filter socks must be paired with a plant-based solution.
Creek Corridor Vegetative Buffers	Establishing creek corridor vegetative buffers that were formerly lawns or overrun by invasive species are eligible for RainScape Rebates.
Woodland Restoration	Woodland restoration projects must include both invasive species removal and appropriate tree and groundcover replacements to be eligible.
Rainwater Harvesting Features	
Rainwater Harvesting captures rainwater and stores it for reuse. Rainwater Harvesting qualifies for rebates, but must be paired with a plant-based solution.	
Rain Barrels	Larger rain barrels are viewed more favorably than smaller ones, but all sizes are accepted.
Cisterns	Care should be taken to install cisterns appropriately.
Other Features	
Green Roofs	Green roofs are eligible for RainScape Rebates.
Permeable Pavers	Permeable pavers are eligible for RainScape Rebates, but must be paired with a plant-based solution.
Additional RainScaping Strategies	The Deer Creek Watershed Alliance is willing to evaluate alternative rainscaping features that are not already covered within this list of eligible measures, provided they include best management practices that are proven and tested to be reliable.
Ineligible Features	
Stream Bank Stabilization	Stream bank stabilization projects are not eligible for reimbursement.
Yard Management	The purchase of materials such as de-icing alternatives to salt is not eligible for rebates.
Lawn Care	Lawn care actions such as aeration are not eligible for rebates.
Annual Plants and Vegetable Gardens	Annual plants, including vegetable gardens, are not eligible for rebates.
Compost Bins/Piles	Although amendment with compost is encouraged within rainscaping features, the compost bins themselves do not retain rain water, and are therefore not eligible for reimbursement.
Maintenance of Existing Features	All funding is for rainscaping features installed after the "notice to proceed" has been received by an applicant.
Retaining Walls	Retaining walls are not eligible for rebates.

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