

Deer Creek Watershed Alliance

a project of  MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

Rainscaping Cost-Share Program Eligible Improvements List

Rainscaping Features Design	
Rainscaping Cost-Share Program 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, installation, and maintenance are eligible for consideration (up to program limits) for rebates.	
Review all program requirements for the Rainscaping Cost-Share 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/cost-share 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, invasive species, bare soil, or pavement. Re-landscaping of previously landscaped areas is not allowed. Non plant-based improvements listed below must be paired with a plant-based solution.	
Rain Garden – Native Soil Type	A properly performed percolation test must be conducted prior to rain garden installation. Minimum test results: 0.25in/hr. An appropriately installed rain garden includes plants with robust root structures, mulch, optional soil amendments, a way to pond water, and consideration for how and where water will flow out of the rain garden. No sand or "Rain Garden Mix" may be used in a Native Soil Rain Garden. A seeded rain garden proposal that is visible from the street will also need to be reviewed and approved by the municipality and must include professional maintenance as part of the proposal.
Rain Garden – Engineered Bioretention Type	In bioretention rain gardens, existing soil is completely removed and replaced with high sand content "Rain Garden Mix" and usually includes an underdrain. Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District bioretention design specifications must be followed, and an over the counter MSD permit is required. Landowners should contact MSD's Engineer of the Day at 314-768-2705 prior to submittal.
Lawn Alternatives	Lawn alternatives, including trees, shrubs, perennials, and groundcover, replacing existing turf grass can 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.
Mulching/Soil Amendments	Mulches are spread on top of the soil and are an expected component of the Rainscaping Cost-Share Program application. Approved mulches are hardwood or hardwood bark mulch, wood chips, shredded leaves, or a compost layer on top of the soil. Gravel or stone may be substituted for organic mulch where water flows rapidly into or out of rain gardens or bioswales. Soil amendments are turned into the soil. Approved soil amendments include silt loam topsoil, well-aged compost, biochar, calcined clay, expanded gypsum or shale, and/or mycorrhizal inoculants. Soil aeration is also an eligible soil improvement. Sandy loam topsoil, sand, and "Rain Garden Mix" are not eligible soil amendments.
Bioswales	A bioswale is designed to slow down the speed of the water, use plants to increase absorption of the water into the soil, and must guide the water to a rain garden or other rainscaping feature.

Rock Weirs	Rock weirs may be included in a bioswale or other rainscaping feature and are 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 speed 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.
Woodland Restoration	Woodland restoration projects must include appropriate tree and groundcover planting.
Maintenance	Reimbursable maintenance expenses may include weeding, watering, mulching, pruning, and/or replacement plants for Rainscaping Cost-Share funded features. Maintenance costs must accompany new plant installations.
Rainwater Harvesting Features	
Rainwater Harvesting captures rainwater and stores it for reuse. The maintenance plan must include use of the water.	
Rain Barrels	Larger rain barrels are viewed more favorably than smaller ones, but all sizes are accepted.
Cisterns	Care should be taken to design and install cisterns appropriately.
Other Features	
Green Roofs	Green roofs are eligible for the Rainscaping Cost-Share Program.
Permeable Pavers	Permeable pavers allow rain water and stormwater to permeate through the cracks and gravel spaces into the soil, reducing the amount of runoff from a particular surface such as a walkway, driveway, or patio. To be eligible, surrounding soil needs to be tested to ensure that there is a minimum .25/hour infiltration rate (unless there will be an underdrain), the gravel layer needs to be a minimum of 6 inches deep, and the rock needs to be washed to prevent fines from clogging soil pores.
Additional Rainscaping Strategies	The Rainscaping Cost-Share Program 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	
Lawn Care	Lawn care actions such as aeration are not eligible for rebates, except as described under Mulching/Soil Amendments.
Annual Plants and Gardens	Annual plants, including vegetables 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.
Retaining Walls	Retaining walls are not eligible for grants unless built for the sole purpose of creating an eligible feature. Municipal ordinances must be followed.
Herbicide Use	Herbicide or pesticide use is not eligible for reimbursement.
Streambank Restoration	Invasive species removal and replacement occurring in the streambank between the top of the bank and the center of the stream is not eligible for reimbursement.

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