



## **Pavement Removal Rebate Instructions and Design Guidelines**

### **Rockville RainScapes Rebate Program**

The City of Rockville offers a rebate for the removal of pavement (concrete, asphalt etc.) in the amount of \$4 per square foot for when replaced with conservation landscaping (native plants) or \$3 per square foot when replaced with turf (sod). Minimum area required is 100 square feet. The rebate amount cannot exceed documented costs. Eligible properties can receive a lifetime total of \$2,500 in RainScapes rebates. You must apply prior to installation and retain and submit itemized receipts and/or final invoices for all project costs.

#### **Eligibility**

- ✓ Projects must be installed at a private single-family residence, homeowners' association, condominium association, housing cooperative or other non-profit property located in the City of Rockville.
- ✓ Projects will **not** qualify for rebates if they are partially or completely finished before approval.
- ✓ Projects are **not** eligible if they are associated with permit approval requirements for new building construction, additions, or renovations.
- ✓ Applicants are responsible for obtaining any required HOA approvals, permits or other permissions related to their project.
- ✓ All requirements must be met as outlined in this document and in the approved application. All decisions are final and are at the sole discretion of the City of Rockville.

#### **Application Process and Requirements**

- 1. Review requirements and submit your application.**  
Review all requirements and *Design Guidelines* below. Then, complete the online application found at [www.rockvillemd.gov/rainscapes](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rainscapes). Have photos of the project area(s), approval letters, and other documentation ready to upload. *Please allow at least 14 business days for application processing.*
- 2. Receive application approval and sign Property Owner Agreement.**  
Wait to receive approval from the RainScapes Coordinator before purchasing or installing the project. After application approval, a Property Owner Agreement will be sent to you for signature.
- 3. Begin and complete your project.**  
Projects must be completed within 6 months of approval. Make sure the project meets the *Design Guidelines* and that all HOA approvals, permits, or other permissions are obtained. You must retain and submit itemized receipts and/or final paid invoices (showing a zero balance) for all project costs.
- 4. Final inspection/approval.**  
Once the project is complete, email all related receipts, final invoices, and photos of the completed project to [rainscapes@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:rainscapes@rockvillemd.gov). A site visit will then be scheduled within 14 business days. At the final inspection, installation of the project will be verified, and the project area will be photographed.
- 5. Receive reimbursement check.**  
If all requirements are met, the rebate will be approved, and a check will be issued by the City of Rockville's Department of Finance within three to six weeks.



## Pavement Removal Design Guidelines Issue Date 6/2022

*\*\* These guidelines and criteria will be periodically updated to ensure currency with the latest technical information and best practices – please verify that you have the latest version. \*\**

Written approval from the RainScapes Coordinator is required before you begin installation or construction. Projects installed before approval will not qualify for rebates.

### Pavement Removal Requirements

- Must be existing impervious surface (walkway, patio, excess driveway etc.)
- Must be on private property. Public sidewalks or other impervious surface found in a right-of-way or easement area cannot be removed.
- Does not divert water from the existing flow path or back up water onto a neighbor's property.
- Minimum size: 100 square feet.
- Required Design/Installation Elements
  - Removal of pavement and compacted sub gravel base
  - Soil Improvement
    1. Loosen the soil to a depth of 9-12 inches with a tiller, rake, or shovel. If tree roots are present in the project area, loosening soil with a tiller is not recommended.
    2. Add 2 inches of compost to the soil.
    3. Mix compost into the soil using the tiller, rake, or shovel.
  - Replacement Option 1: Conservation Landscaping (\$4/sq. ft.)
    - ⅓ of the plants must be [native plants](#) or cultivars to the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
    - Plan must **not** include any [non-native invasive species](#).
    - Mulch layer of 3 to 4 inches to inhibit weed growth, prevent soil loss, and retain moisture. No plastic sheeting (impermeable weed barrier) permitted in converted area.
  - Replacement Option 2: Sod (\$3/sq. ft.)
    - Replace with sod only. Seed is not permitted.
    - Follow the guidelines for sod installation found at <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/sod>.
    - Important Reminders:
      - Do not leave soil uncovered for more than 7 days.
      - Water sod immediately after installation and keep moist during the rooting process (2-3 weeks).
      - Do not allow sod to dry out either during storage or after installation.
- Call 1-800-MISS-UTILITY (1-800-257-7777) before you dig!

### Documentation Requirements

To complete the application, you will need the following documents read to upload:

- A plant list that includes plant species, sizes, and quantities.
- A diagram of the planting area showing plant spacing and density.
- Photos of the project site (up to 5).
- If applying as an HOA, condominium association, or non-profit, you will need to upload a project approval letter from your organization's board.
- If applying as a renter, you will need to upload a project approval letter from the property owner.



## **Pavement Removal, Conservation Landscaping and Sod Resources**

- [Pavement Removal Manual \(Montgomery County\)](#)
- [How to Depave \(Depave.org\)](#)
- [Sod Installation and Tips \(UMD Extension\)](#)
- [Conservation Landscape Design Manual \(Montgomery County\)](#)
- [Landscaping with Native Plants \(Maryland Native Plant Society\)](#)
- [Deer Resistant Native Plants \(UMD Extension\)](#)
- [RainScapes Landscape Professionals List \(Montgomery County\)](#)
- [Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professionals List](#)