



Harvesting Resilience: Integrating Native Edible Plants into Conservation Landscapes

Rooting DC 2024

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AGENDA



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Riversmart Homes Overview

2

Conservation Landscaping and Native Edible plants

3

Landscape Design Activity

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Questions



GET RIVERSMART!
doee.dc.gov/riversmart
*** DEPARTMENT
OF ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENT

WHAT IS RIVERSMART HOMES?



**BEST
URBAN BMP**
in the Bay Award 

Best residential BMP 2015, 2017, 2019,
2021



ECOS

2012 State
Innovation
Award



2017

@DOEE_DC



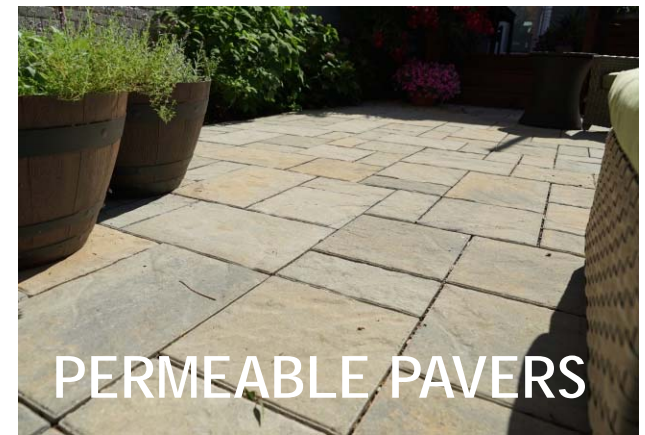


RIVERSMART HOMES PROGRAM GOALS

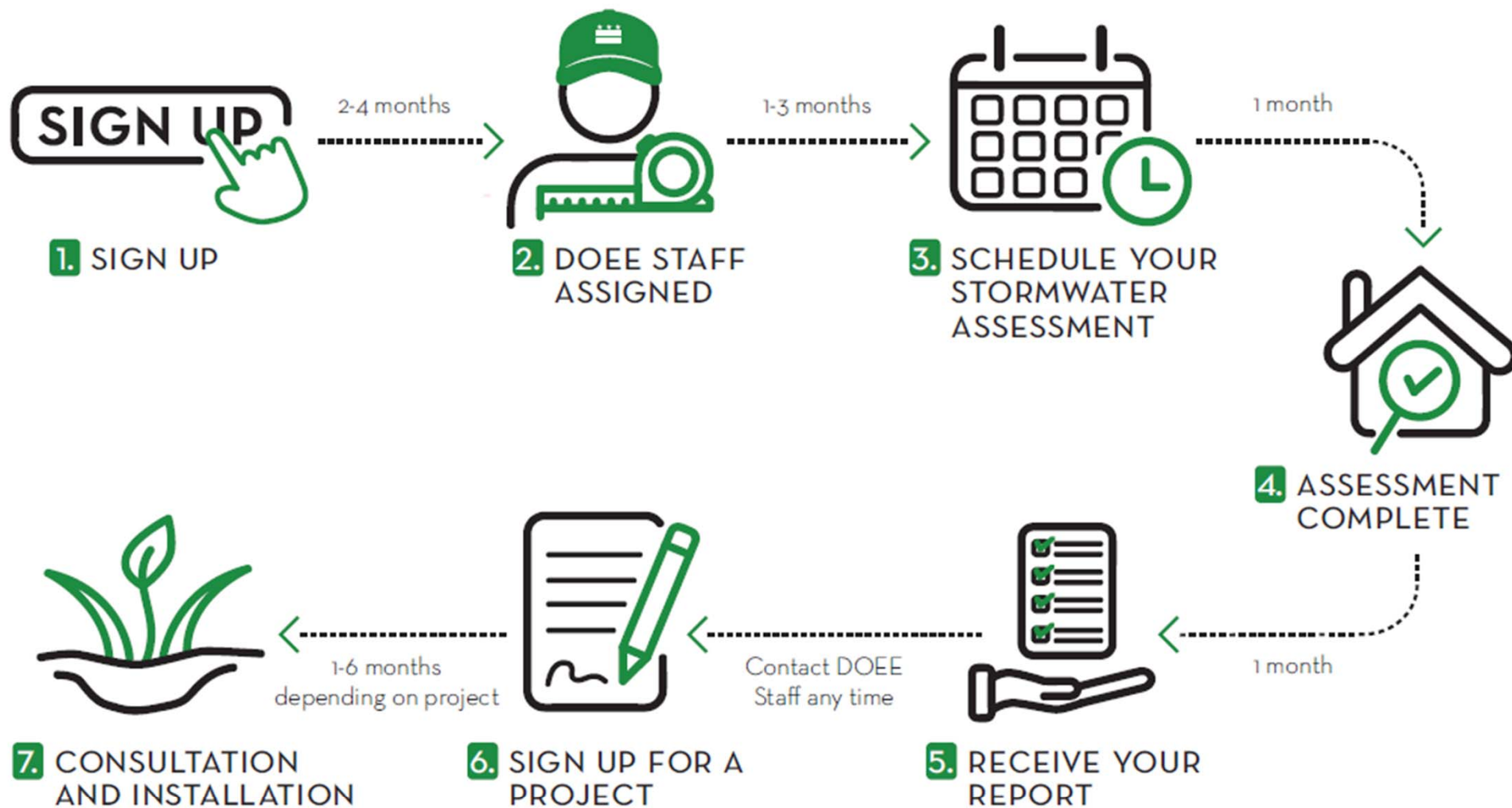
- Reduce volume of stormwater runoff
- Prevent erosion
- Recharge groundwater
- Increase habitat diversity
- Promote conservation



RIVERSMART HOMES BMPS



STEPS TO BECOMING A RIVERSMART HOMEOWNER



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GSO
PROGRAM OUTPUTS: Fall
2023

PARTICIPATION:

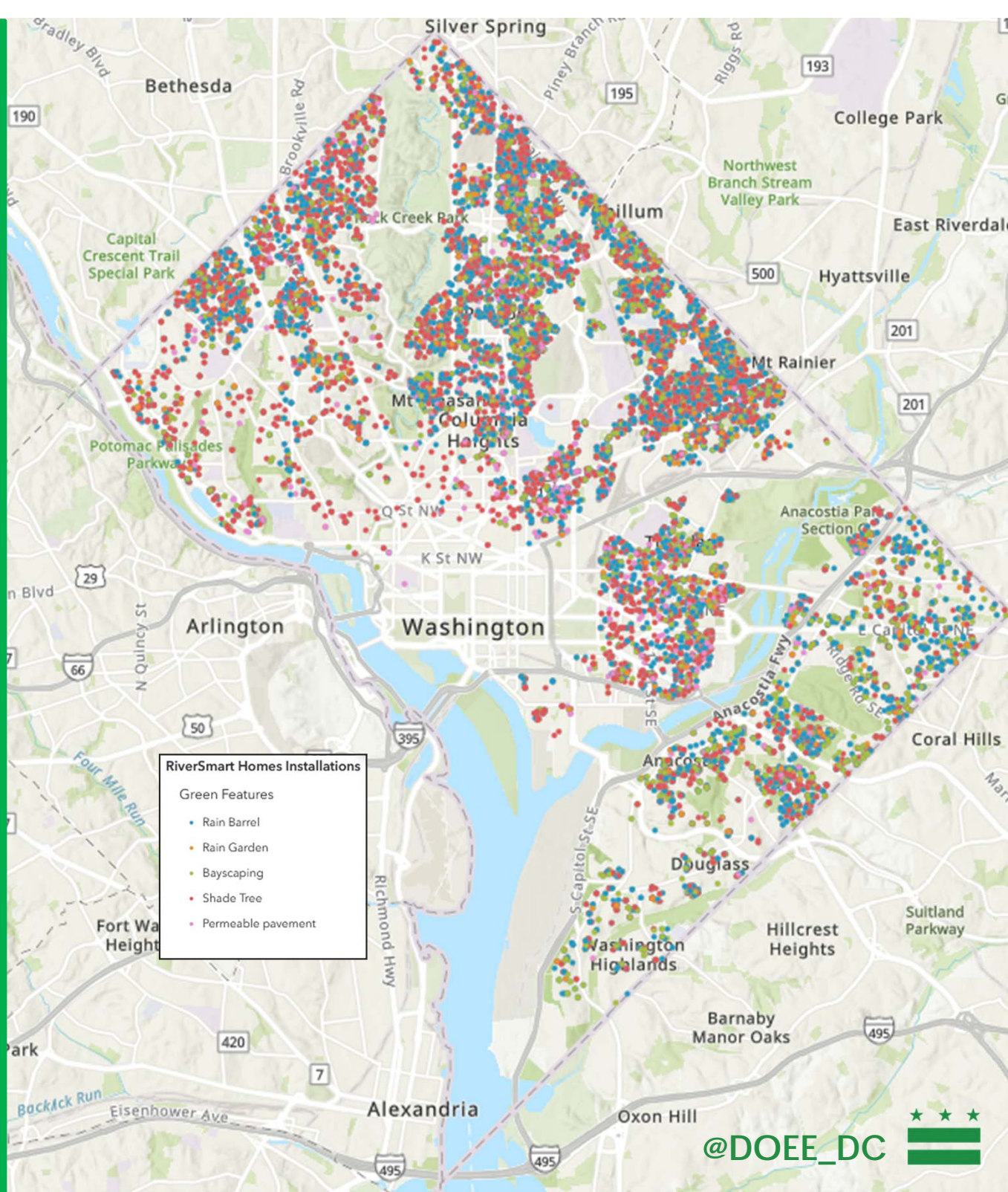
- Over 12,000 applications
- Over 7800 Audits Performed

INSTALLATIONS:

- 6,500+ rain barrels installed
- 8,000+ trees planted
- 2,700+ BayScapes installed
- 1,350+ rain gardens installed
- 550+ impervious surfaces projects

STORY MAP:

- Interactive Story Map:
<https://arcg.is/vbSq>



Slide 7

GSO

Need new Data for 2023

Stewart, Garrett (DOEE), 2023-10-19T14:22:14.306

RIVERSMART HOMES

AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

The RiverSmart Homes (RSH) Ambassador Program seeks to train interested residents throughout Wards 7 and 8 to be extensions of the RiverSmart Homes program. Ambassadors will provide unique outreach and engagement by supporting the following goals:

GOALS OF THE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

- Providing Stormwater Education to local communities
- Increasing Participation in RiverSmart Homes program
- Serving as Community Liaisons between District residents and the RiverSmart Program

STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE GOALS

- Prioritizing outreach in overburdened communities
- Educating District residents about the issue of stormwater pollution and actions they can take to help keep our waterways clean
- Speaking with neighbors, friends, and family about the RiverSmart Homes program rebates and incentives
- Increasing the number of residential property stormwater assessments and green feature installation
- Tabling at outreach events
- Sharing information at local ANC or Civic Association meetings
- Flyering and canvassing neighborhoods
- Strengthening the line of communication between District residents and the RiverSmart Program
- Relaying community needs back to program staff and District Government

EXPECTATIONS OF AMBASSADORS

- Complete the Ambassador application and sign the Ambassador agreement
- Attend the Ambassador training
- Prepare to assume the role of Ambassador including general knowledge of stormwater and RiverSmart Homes processes
- Engage with the community and track outreach
- Participate in at least 10 hours per term of service to include:
 - attending one listening session
 - participation in 2 or more additional events or activities

RESOURCES PROVIDED TO AMBASSADORS

- Stormwater education resources
- Information on the RiverSmart Homes Program
- Brochures/flyers to distribute to community members
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- Support from RiverSmart staff

INCENTIVES FOR AMBASSADORS*

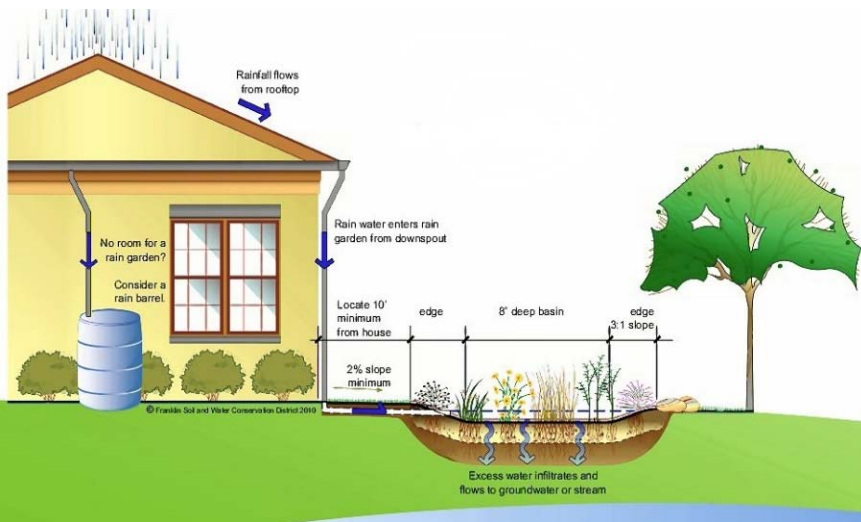
- Stipend at \$250/term of service (minimum service requirements apply)
- Annual maintenance service provided for installed RiverSmart practices
- Swag items, including apparel

*Subject to change based on resources available and community needs

Riversmart Conservation Landscapes

Rain Garden

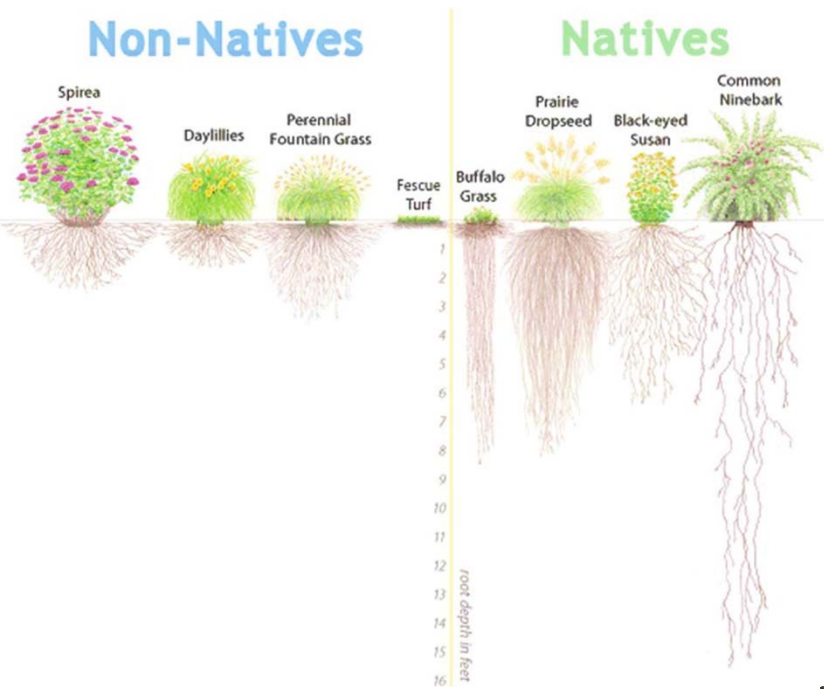
- Landscaped area strategically placed and connected to a downspout to collect and absorb stormwater from your rooftop.
- Connecting the downspout to the rain garden directs stormwater away your home's foundation and holds it there until it can naturally infiltrate into the ground.
- The rain garden dips slightly into the ground and has soil engineered to increase infiltration. It also helps keep polluted runoff out of local streams.



Riversmart Conservation Landscapes

BayScape Garden

- Landscapes that replace lawns with plants native to the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
- Native plants have deeper root systems that absorb more stormwater, reduce erosion, increase infiltration, and are more drought tolerant than turf grass or ornamental grass species.
- Provide beneficial habitat for pollinators like butterflies and honeybees.



Benefits of Incorporating Native Edible Plants/Trees into Conservation Landscapes

- Combat climate change by absorbing air pollutants, retaining rainwater and reducing soil erosion.
- Creates vital habitat for native wildlife
- Requires no shipping and little refrigeration.
- You know what chemicals have been used on the produce
- Reduce your monthly grocery bill
- Provides more nutrients and vitamins
- Decreases the demand for processed food and factory farming



Native Edible Plants Used in RiverSmart Conservation Landscapes

FiddleHead/Ostrich Fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*)



Low Bush Blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*)



Hibiscus (*Hibiscus Moscheutos*)



Spice Bush (*Lindera benzoin*)



Jerusalem Artichoke (*Helianthus tuberosus*)



Native Edible Trees Used in RiverSmart Conservation Landscapes

Common Persimmons (*Diospyros virginiana*)



Common Service Berry (*Amelanchier arborea*)



Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*)



Activity: DESIGN YOUR OWN GARDEN

Description: participants will delve into the fascinating world of native plants while designing an edible landscape. This hands-on experience combines the principles of landscape design with the practicality of growing food, focusing on utilizing native plant species to create a sustainable and bountiful garden space.

Instructions

1. Choose Native Plant design template. Use Edible Native plant guide to select native plants/trees to incorporate into you garden.
2. Use coloring pencils to fill in boxes

•Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay Yard Design

Tool: <https://stormwater.allianceforthebay.org/yard-design>

•ACB BayScape Template: <https://www.riversmarthomes.org/bayscaping/>

Activity: Create Maintenance Plan

Description: We will discuss the maintenance tasks typically required for a conservation landscape

Create a Maintenance Schedule

Common Task

- Watering, weeding and mulching
- Pruning, fertilizing and pest control
- Harvesting

Season	Monitor	Water	Mulch	Cut Back	Weed	Harvest
SPRING						
SUMMER						
FALL						
WINTER						

RiverSmart Maintenance Assistance Program: www.allianceforthebay.org/maintenance

Q & A

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