



BAYSCAPING



BEFORE



AFTER

BayScaping Defined

BayScaping is simply planting vegetation that is native to the Chesapeake Bay region, in which the District of Columbia is located. Native plants are indigenous species that were present here prior to the settlement of Europeans.

A BayScape is an aesthetic landscape, planted and maintained to benefit people, the local environment, and the Chesapeake Bay. BayScaping is a low-cost alternative to traditional landscaping that utilizes turf grass and ornamental plantings.

BayScaping co-pay is \$100. All RiverSmart Homes practices require co-payments, which permit \$1200 in landscaping that reduces stormwater runoff to help the District's streams and rivers.

Stormwater Runoff and the District of Columbia

Stormwater runoff is rainwater that flows off impervious surfaces such as rooftops, driveways, roads, sidewalks and sometimes even lawns. Stormwater runoff travels from these surfaces to our streams, picking up pollutants such as oil and grease from our roadways and driveways as it goes. Nutrients from lawn fertilizers and bacteria from pet waste may also be picked up by stormwater and carried to our streams.



RiverSmart Homes

clean water starts here



Benefits of BayScaping

To the Homeowner....

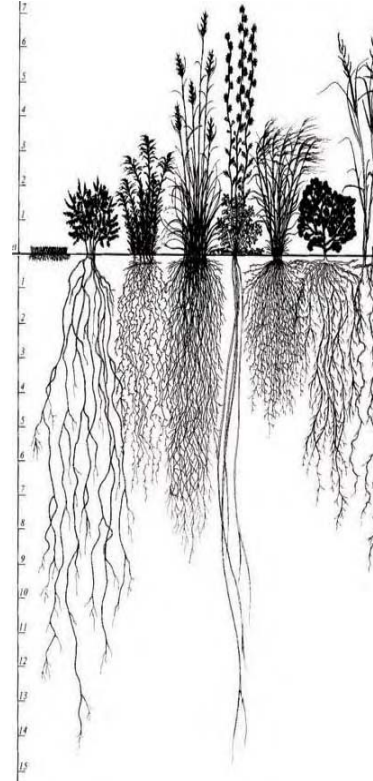
BayScaping requires less maintenance and money than a grass lawn, and each BayScape can be unique in its aesthetic beauty. Specifically, BayScaping:

- Minimizes the need for mowing, pruning, irrigation and fertilization
- Costs typically half or as little as one-fifth the cost of conventional landscapes
- Can be creative and fun, designed with plants to meet your need.

To the District...

The District is promoting BayScaping because it improves the health of local streams and waterways by absorbing more stormwater than a conventional landscape. Native plants used for BayScaping:

- Are more adapted to local climate conditions than exotic non-native species, resulting in less need (and cost) for herbicides, fertilizers, pesticides, or soil conditioning
- Help to remove suspended solids and heavy metals (i.e. cadmium and lead) from ground water
- Stabilize soils and prevent erosion



Cross-section of root zone. Native plants have deeper roots and more complex above ground structures than turf grass (pictured far left) and therefore capture more rainwater.

How to BayScape

BayScaping is practical nearly anywhere in your yard. It can be designed to individual site characteristics, factoring in topography, soils, drainage patterns and sun exposure. Existing beds that have plant material cannot be recommended for BayScaping; 120 square feet of turf, grass, or lawn must be replaced with native plants.

A BayScape will require maintenance; the area will need to be weeded and mulched seasonally and watered regularly during the first two years and during periods of draught thereafter.

Did you know?

Air pollution from cutting grass for an hour with a gasoline powered lawn mower is about the same as driving 100-miles.

Want to BayScape your yard? RiverSmart Homes can help.

The District Department of the Environment (DDOE) RiverSmart Homes District-wide program offers incentives to homeowners interested in reducing stormwater pollution from their properties.

Find more information about RiverSmart Homes at:
ddoe.dc.gov/riversmarthomes or call 202-535-2240

