

RiverSmart Homes

clean water starts here



2015 BLOOMINGDALE REBATE PROGRAM

Homeowner Guide

In This Guide

- Overview
- Program Eligibility
- Project Type
- Rebate Structure
- Selecting a Contractor
- Rebate Process
- Project Guidelines
- Typical Timeline
- Design Sketch Requirements
- Know Your Options
- FAQs
- Program Contact

Overview

The RiverSmart Bloomingdale Rebate Program provides District homeowners with funding to help retain stormwater on their properties. Through the reduction of impervious surface, homeowners are able to contribute to improving their city and the Chesapeake Bay by decreasing stormwater and sewage overflow from running into surrounding streams and rivers. At the same time, property values are likely to increase and risk of flooding will likely decrease. Additional rebate programs are available in Bloomingdale. See ddoe.dc.gov/bloomingdalerebates for more information.

Program Eligibility

Any single family homeowner inside the Bloomingdale Sewershed is eligible (check this [map](#) for parameters), including those who have already received a RiverSmart Homes grant. There is a limit of one rebate per property.

Project Type

There are two types of Bloomingdale Rebate projects, each designed to capture and filter stormwater. When determining which is most suitable for your home, it is helpful to consider the characteristics of your property and how you plan to use the space available.

- **Replacement of impervious surface with vegetation:** impervious surface is removed, ground is tilled and planted with vegetation (native plants strongly recommended)
- **Replacement of impervious surface with pervious pavers:** impervious surface is removed and replaced with permeable pavers, often a patio or parking area

The replacement of impervious surface with vegetation can either be performed yourself (DIY) or by a hired contractor. Please note that the pervious paver installation must be completed by an ICPI certified contractor and cannot be DIY.



RiverSmart Rebate Pervious Paver Patio

Rebate Structure

The rebate amount is calculated from the total square footage of the project area. **Rebates will be issued as a direct reimbursement to homeowners at a rate of \$10 per square foot (s.f.) of impervious surface replaced by pervious pavers and \$5 per s.f. of impervious surface replaced by vegetation.** Additionally, free pavers (valued at \$5/s.f.) are available to Bloomingdale homeowners only!

Example: If a 350 s.f. concrete parking pad is being replaced with 350 s.f. of pervious pavers, the homeowner would receive a rebate of \$3,500. If the free Bloomingdale pavers are used, additional savings on material costs would be passed on to the homeowner.

Funds and free pavers are limited, so rebates will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Selecting a Contractor

The services provided and materials available vary greatly from one contractor to another. We recommend seeking estimates from at least 3 different contractors before making a final decision. You may also want to research which materials you'd like to use ahead of time so you can have an informed conversation with contractors when receiving quotes. See page 6 for useful web resources.

Considerations when selecting a contractor:

- Price
- Materials
- Experience
- Rapport
- Scheduling

Important note: All pervious paver projects must be installed by a contractor who has previous experience with pervious pavers and ICPI certification. To find an ICPI certified contractor, please visit www.icpi.org/certification.

If you would like recommendations for contractors, please contact the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.



RiverSmart Rebate Pervious Paver Project in Progress

Rebate Process

Complete the steps outlined below to obtain project approval. Failure to do so may result in disqualification for rebate funds.

Before Construction Begins

1. Determine project type and location based on recommendations from DDOE and helpful resources available online (ddoe.dc.gov/bloomingdalerebates)
2. Perform a Perc Test using the provided worksheet to ensure project location and soil type are suitable (not necessary when replacing impervious surface with vegetation)
3. Select a contractor (that meets the requirements described on page 2) or determine the equipment you will need if DIY
4. Submit your *Rebate Application Packet*, including a Design Sketch, Itemized Invoice, Perc Test Worksheet, Rebate Maintenance Agreement, and Before Photo to Sarah Davidson via email or mail (see contact information on page 6)
5. Schedule a pre-construction inspection with DDOE or Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

After Construction is Complete

1. Notify Sarah Davidson (sdavidson@allianceforthebay.org) that construction is complete
2. Submit After Photos of project site, Final Invoice, and a Project Alteration Form if any changes to the original design occurred
3. Schedule a post-construction inspection with DDOE or Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
4. Expect to receive a rebate reimbursement check in the mail 4-6 weeks after post-construction approval

The project must be completed within 4 months of the date of pre-construction approval notification.

Project Guidelines

The *Rebate Application Packet* includes all the paperwork needed to review and approve a project. Refer to the below specifications when designing your project. Any application materials that do not meet these requirements will need to be adjusted before the project can be approved for construction.

Note: When calculating project size, a good rule-of-thumb is that the area of the pavers should be 1/10 the roof area draining into it. For example, if 2000 s.f. are redirected from the roof, then the paver project should measure at least 200 s.f.

Impervious Surface to Vegetation Specifications

- **Size:** Minimum project area is 200 s.f. and must be large enough to capture the total amount of stormwater directed to it
- **Fill Material:** Existing soil must be tilled and mixed (so that it's no longer compacted), as well as vegetated (garden, sod, or seed/straw) shortly after surface removal in order to avoid erosion
- **Downspout Extension:** Not required, but highly encouraged

Impervious Surface to Pervious Paver Specifications

- **Size:** Minimum project area is 120 s.f. and must be large enough to capture total amount of stormwater directed to it
- **Depth:** Contractors must comply with the manufacturer's design specifications and the total depth of sub-base and stone layer combined must be no less than 10 inches (in.)
- **Fill Material:** Contractors must comply with the manufacturer's design specifications for quantity and size of gravel used to fill the sub-base
- **Downspout Extension:** At least 10 feet (ft.) of PVC piping must be firmly attached to downspout or rain barrel, and buried at 2 degree slope away from house. Piping may not be perforated within 10 ft. of foundation

Free Bloomingdale Pavers

A limited number of free permeable pavers from Eagle Bay are included in Bloomingdale rebate projects only. These pavers are valued at \$5 per square foot, so you would be saving a significant amount on material costs by using them. They are available in 4 different colors. Be sure to ask your contractor about them if you are interested. Act now, before they're gone!



L-shaped pavers from Eagle Bay

Typical Timeline

The Rebate Program timeline is designed to move at the homeowner's pace and is dependent on how quickly homeowners move through the steps outlined on page 2.

Typically, the parts of the process that take the longest are selecting a contractor and project installation.

The timing of all projects will be affected by season, weather, and the availability of contractors and RiverSmart staff at any given time.

On average, you can expect it to take . . .

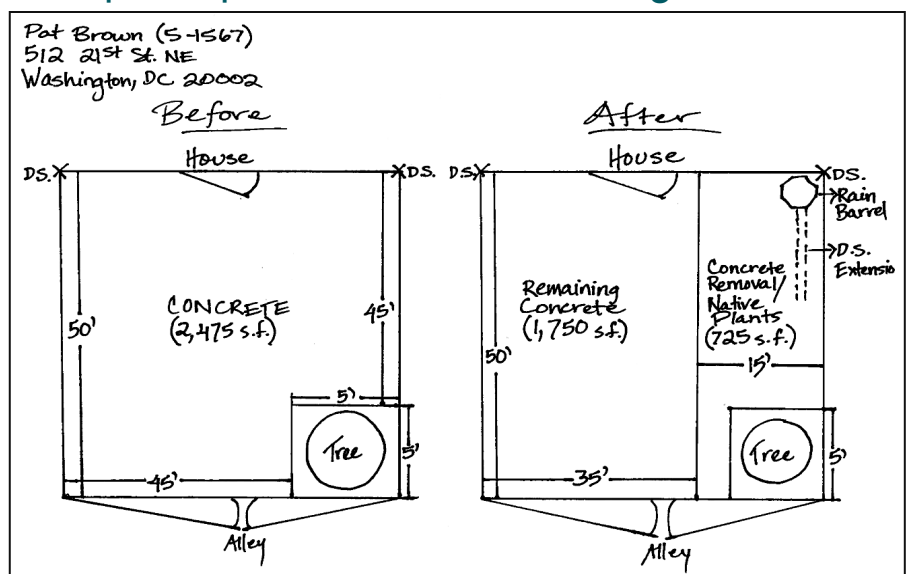
- ⇒ 1-2 weeks for your Rebate Application to be reviewed and approved for construction
- ⇒ 1-2 weeks for post-construction inspection and project approval
- ⇒ 4-6 weeks to receive your rebate check once the project has been approved

Design Sketch Requirements

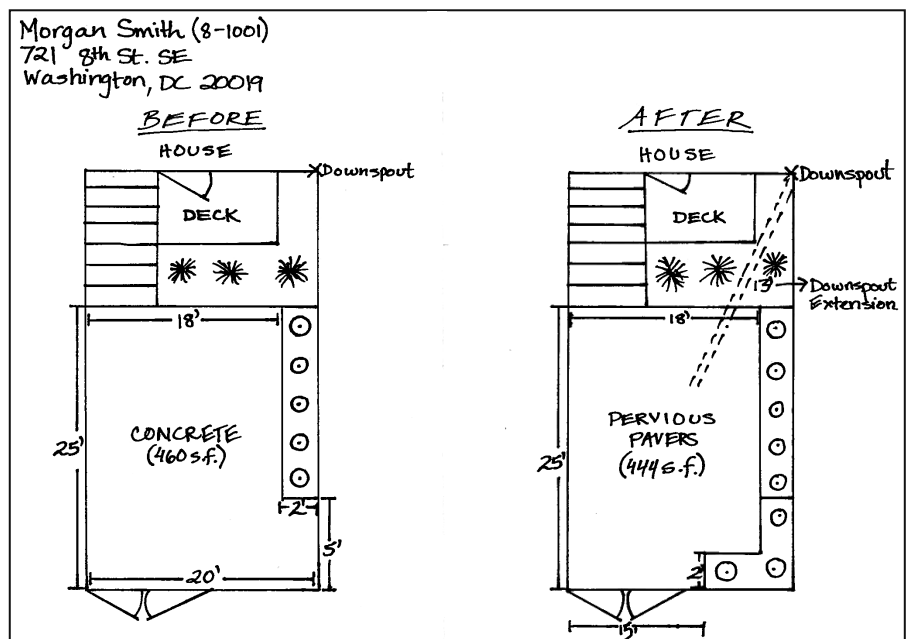
The design sketch for your project can be hand-drawn or computer-rendered. It must illustrate all of the project specific requirements outlined on page 4 to be considered complete. An example design sketch for each protect type follows. Additionally, it must include:

- Homeowner name, address, and audit number (if a Stormwater Audit has been conducted)
- Dimensions and total project area
- Distance from structures, property lines, and public space
- Location of downspout and downspout extension
- Location descriptors (front yard, back yard, fence, alley, etc.)
- Before and after design sketches, side by side, for comparison

Sample Impervious Surface to Vegetation



Sample Impervious Surface to Pervious Pavers



Know Your Options

Helpful web resources are listed below. For additional resources or guidance in selecting, designing, and implementing your rebate project, please contact the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.

Native Plants

- **Native Plant Center:** www.nativeplantcenter.net

Pervious Pavers

Local manufacturers and suppliers include but are not limited to:

- **EP Henry:** www.ephenry.com
- **Eagle Bay:** www.eaglebaypavers.com
- **Nico-lock:** www.nicolock.com
- **Ernest Maier:** www.emcoblock.com

General information about pervious pavers and photo gallery:

- **Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute:** www.icpi.org/permeable
- **Guide Book:** www.icpi.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/icpi_picp_2009_final_green.pdf

“We are very happy with the outcome of the project. Not only is it environmentally friendly, but it’s also much more pleasant looking in the backyard and we end up spending more time on the patio now too!”

- RiverSmart Homeowner

Get in Touch!

Please don’t hesitate to contact us with additional questions or concerns.

We are here to make this process go as smoothly as possible. We welcome your feedback and would appreciate hearing about your experience as a participant in the RiverSmart Rebate Program.

Program Contact

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Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

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Annapolis, MD 21403
443-949-0575

Web
www.allianceforthebay.org/riversmartrebates

FAQs

Q: Are walkways eligible?

A: No. Walkways are not funded by the Rebate Program because they do not capture a significant amount of stormwater. However, if you would like to re-pave your walkway, we recommend doing so at the same time as other paver projects in order to bring down the cost per s.f.

Q: Can I install pervious pavers where I currently have vegetation?

A: No. Rebate funds only apply to areas that are currently impermeable.

Q: Can I use my own contractor?

A: Yes. You may use your own contractor, but pervious paver project contractors must have ICPI certification.

Q: Can grant and rebate projects be combined?

A: No. There is no additional benefit to homeowners by doing this because the monetary amount per s.f. is the same—\$10.

Q: I already installed a project on my property. Can I get rebate funding retroactively?

A: Yes, provided that you have proof your project was installed within the current fiscal year (Oct. 1st—Sept. 30) and your project meets all program requirements.

