

RiverSmart Homes

clean water starts here



2016 BLOOMINGDALE REBATE PROGRAM

Homeowner Guide

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Overview

The RiverSmart Bloomingdale Rebate Program provides District homeowners with funding to retain stormwater on their properties. As rainwater moves from our rooftops and yards to our local streams, it picks up pollutants such as oil, fertilizers, and pet wastes along the way, becoming what's known as *stormwater*. Through the reduction of impervious surface, homeowners are able to contribute to improving their city and the Chesapeake Bay by decreasing the stormwater and sewage overflow that runs into surrounding streams and rivers when it rains. Additional rebate programs are available in Bloomingdale. See doee.dc.gov/bloomingdalerebates for more information.

Program Eligibility

Any single family homeowner inside the Bloomingdale Sewershed is eligible (check this map for parameters: goo.gl/q6FtvI), 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 pervious 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 a contractor with a certificate of PICP Specialist Course completion 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.** The minimum square footage for replacement with pavers is 120 s.f. and for replacement with vegetation is 200 s.f. Additionally, free pavers (valued at \$5/s.f.) are available to participating 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. Rebates will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. All projects must be completed by September 21, 2016.

Selecting a Contractor

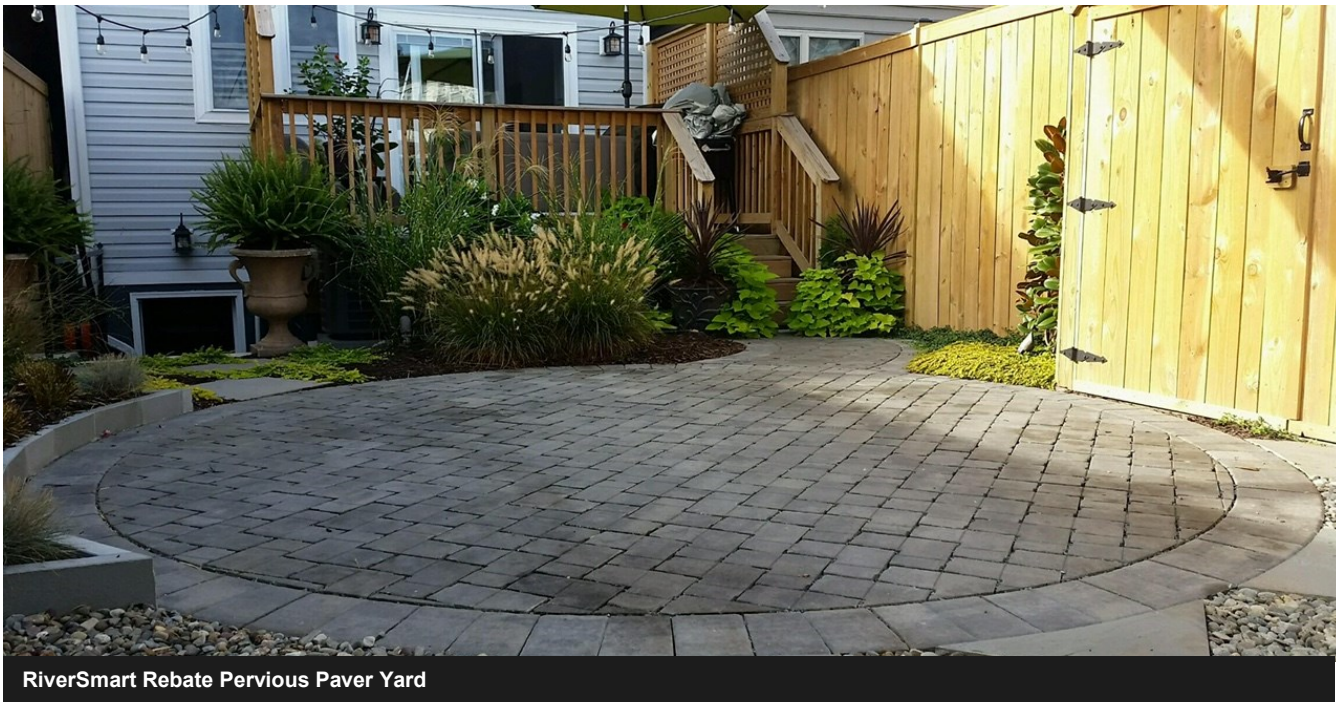
The services provided and materials available vary greatly from one contractor to another. We recommend seeking estimates from at least 3 different contractors before making a final decision. You may also want to research which materials you'd like to use ahead of time so you can have an informed conversation 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 has a certificate of completion for the PICP Specialist Course. To find pervious paver contractors in the area, please visit www.icpi.org/resource-library/find-contractor.

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



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 DOEE and helpful resources available online (doee.dc.gov/bloomingdalerebates).
2. Perform a perc test, using the worksheet provided in the application packet, 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, RiverSmart Rewards sign-up sheet, and before photo to Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay via email or post (see contact information on page 6).
5. Schedule a pre-construction inspection with Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.

After Construction is Complete

1. Notify Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay that construction is complete.
2. Submit After Photos of project site, final invoice, and a project completion form.
3. Schedule a post-construction inspection with Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.
4. Expect to receive a rebate check in the mail 4-6 weeks after post-construction approval.

The project must be completed within four 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 required specifications, listed below, 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 pavers should be 20% of 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 400 s.f.

Impervious Surface to Vegetation Specifications

- **Size:** The 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) and vegetated (with native plants, sod, and/or seed/straw) shortly after surface removal in order to avoid erosion.
- **Downspout Extension:** This is not required, but highly encouraged when the converted pervious area can accommodate the volume of stormwater directed to it.

Impervious Surface to Pervious Paver Specifications

- **Size:** The 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 for the joint, bedding, base, and sub-base layers.
- **Edging:** Concrete edging must be used (no plastic edging). For visual aesthetics, a concrete bond beam with overlying pavers is preferred.
- **Downspout Extension:** PVC piping must be firmly attached to downspout or rain barrel and buried at a 1-2 degree slope away from house. Piping may not be perforated within 10 ft. of foundation.
- **Filter:** A filter must be attached to any downspout, rain barrel, or area drain that is directed into the project. It is important that the filter selected can accommodate the amount of water coming through it. See page 6 for filter resources.

Free Bloomingdale Pavers

A limited number of free L-shaped pervious pavers from Eagle Bay are available for use in Bloomingdale rebate projects. These pavers are valued at \$5 per square foot. Please see the Bloomingdale rebate application packet for additional information and an order form. Paver orders must be received along with rebate applications to be considered. Act now, before they're gone!



L-shaped Pervious 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 . . .

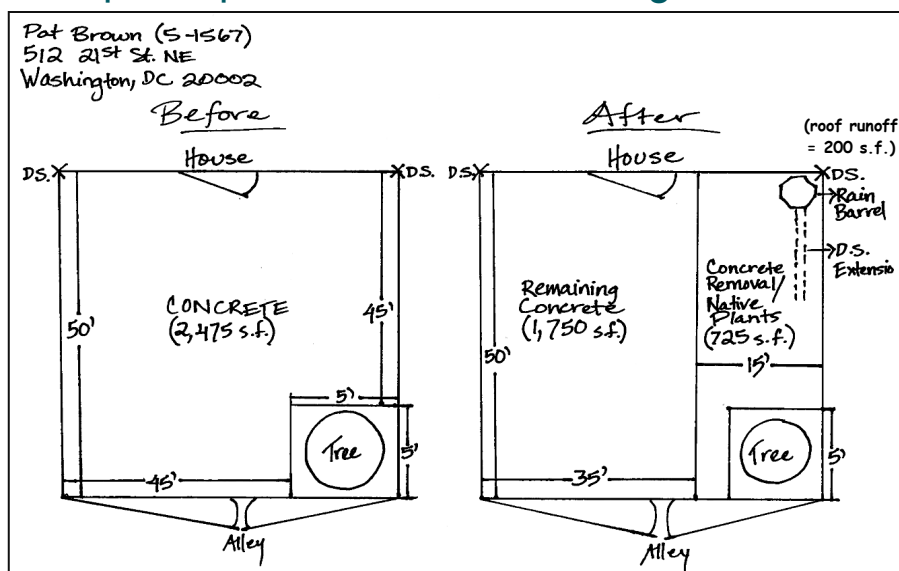
- ⇒ 1-2 weeks for your Rebate Application to be reviewed and approved for construction
- ⇒ 1-2 weeks for post-construction inspection and project approval
- ⇒ 2-6 weeks to receive your rebate check once the project has been approved

Design Sketch Requirements

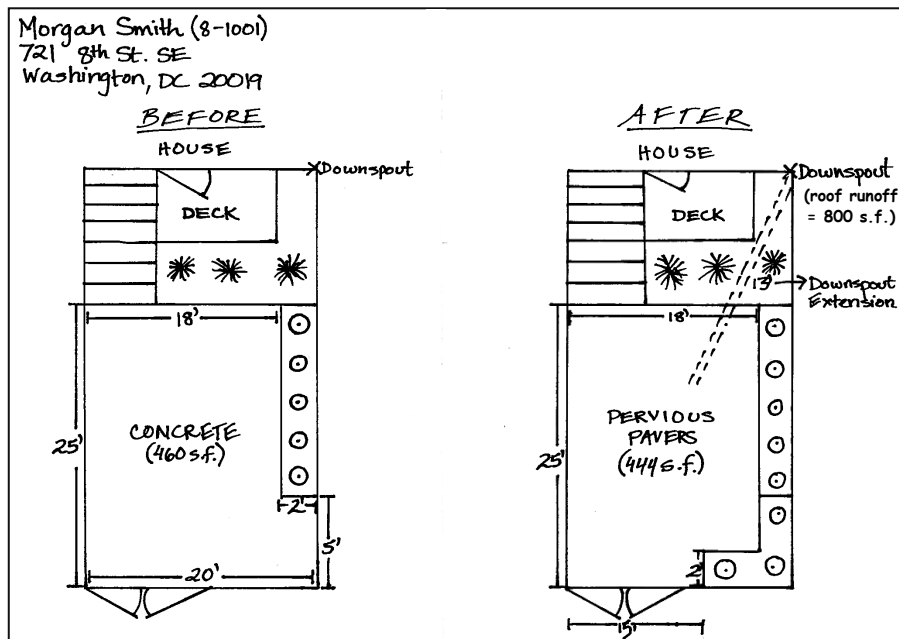
The design sketch for your project can be hand-drawn or computer-generated. It must illustrate all of the project specific requirements outlined on page 4 to be considered complete (see example design sketches below). Additionally, it must include:

- 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.); and
- 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 assistance with 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
- **Ernest Maier:** www.emcoblock.com

General information about pervious pavers and photo gallery:

- **Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute:** www.icpi.org/permeable

Filters

Make sure the filter you use can accommodate the amount of water moving through it. Filter options include but are not limited to:

- **Downspout filter for 400 s.f. or less from roof:** www.aquabarrel.com
- **Downspout filter for more than 400 s.f. from roof:** www.aquabarrel.com
- **Area drain filter:** www.ndspro.com/square-catch-basin-filter

"My wife and I are absolutely delighted with our pervious paver patio. We used to have an ugly concrete slab backyard. We now have a beautiful and environmentally friendly patio, thanks to the RiverSmart Homes program!"

*- Claudio & Nicole,
RiverSmart Homeowners*

Get in Touch!

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

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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Frequently Asked Questions

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. 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.

Q: Do I need any permits for my RiverSmart Homes project?

A: Homeowners are ultimately responsible for getting any permits that are required. In order to find out which permits are required for your specific project, you will need to go to the DCRA office and speak to someone at the Homeowner's Center. There are three types of permits you should be aware of and may need to get for your green infrastructure project:

1. Erosion and Sediment Control,
2. Historic Preservation, and
3. Public Space.

