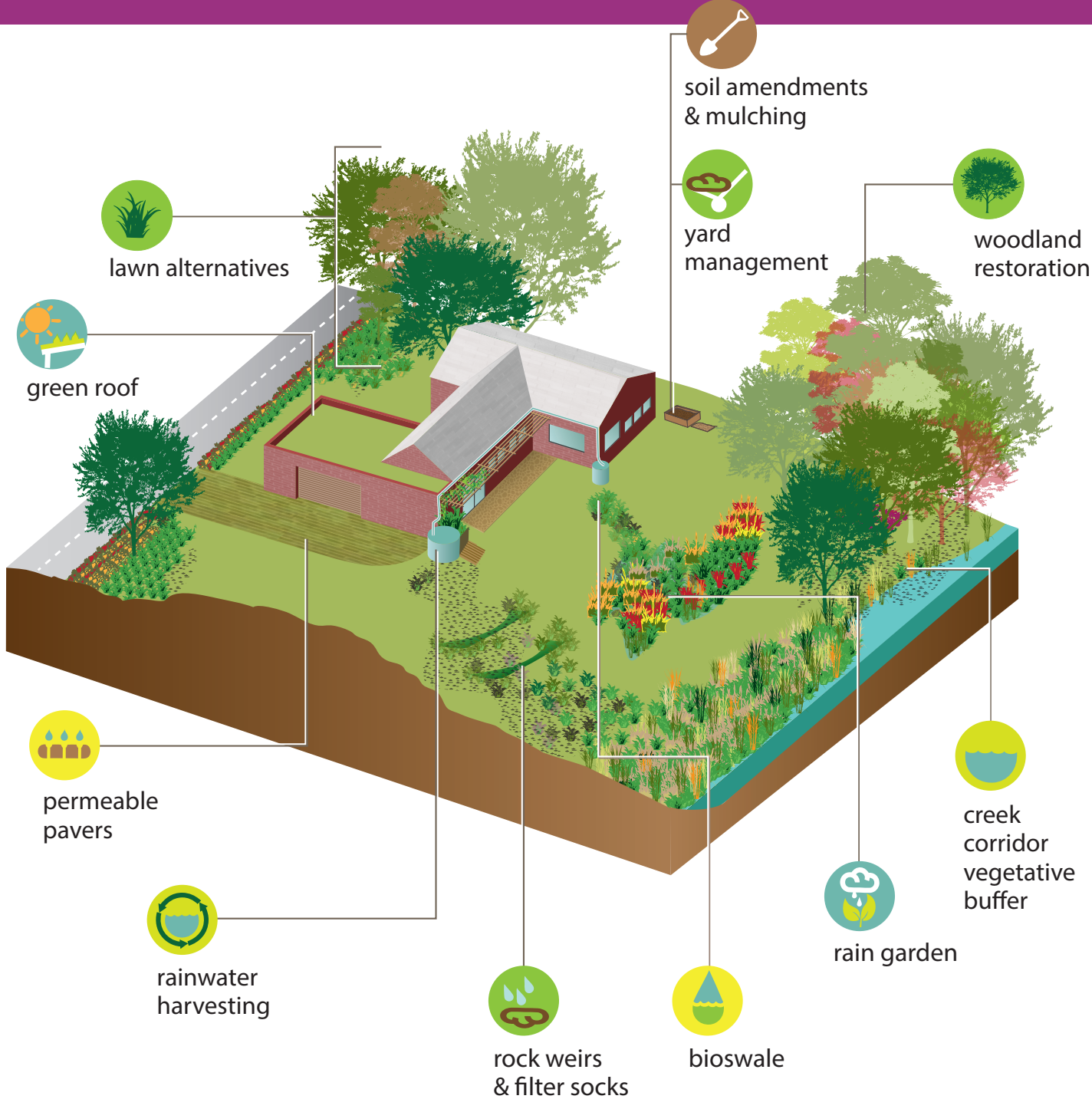


# Rainscaping Cost-Share Program

A joint program of the Missouri Botanical Garden, Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and project partners



Deer Creek Watershed Alliance

a project of  MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN  
deercreekalliance.org



# Rainscaping Cost-Share Program

## Background

This **Rainscaping Cost-Share Program** is a program of the Missouri Botanical Garden's Deer Creek Watershed Alliance (DCWA). The purpose of this program is to improve water quality and benefit aquatic life in Deer Creek and its tributaries by installing landscaping that helps manage stormwater by capturing rain where it falls, instead of allowing water to run off-site.

Rainscaping is any combination of plantings, water features, catch basins, permeable pavement, and other strategies that manage stormwater as close as possible to where it falls, rather than moving it someplace else.

Rainscaping can also solve a drainage problem, increase aesthetic appeal, improve property values, attract birds and butterflies, and more. Rainscaping strategies include features such as rain gardens, bioswales, trees and shrubs, green roofs, etc. to slow down, soak up and reuse rainwater before it carries pollutants to a local stream.

## Program Guidelines

### PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- Site must be located within one of the Program Focus Areas (see maps at [deercreekalliance.org/cost-share](http://deercreekalliance.org/cost-share)). Residential, institutional, and commercial landowners are eligible to participate.
- Projects must be installed after an application is approved for an award.
- Application must include a plant-based solution that removes and replaces a minimum of 100 square feet of established lawn, invasive species, impervious surface, or bare ground. No re-landscaping of previously landscaped areas will be accepted. For more details, download the *Eligible Improvements List* at [deercreekalliance.org/cost-share](http://deercreekalliance.org/cost-share).
- A 1–3" mulch layer is expected where appropriate to inhibit weed growth, prevent soil loss and retain moisture.
- Include a plant list. Competitive applications include 70% native plants and/or their cultivars. Planting invasive species is prohibited. See [deercreekalliance.org/cost-share](http://deercreekalliance.org/cost-share) for plant suggestions and for a list of prohibited invasive species. If including any non-native plants in your design, describe why in a project narrative.
- Landowner agrees to maintain the design feature for a minimum of five years, including watering plants during the establishment phase, weeding, pruning, annual mulching, and plant replacement as needed.
- Application must be submitted and signed by the **landowner**.

### FUNDING SELECTION CRITERIA

Only completed applications will be considered. Only appropriately designed eligible improvements will be reviewed.

Priority will be given to projects that meet one or more of the following criteria: large amount of stormwater managed, high percentage of native plants, cost effective project, appropriate design, and appropriate and detailed maintenance plan.

### REIMBURSEMENT GUIDELINES

Each landowner with property located in one of the Program Focus Areas may apply for a rebate of 75% of approved and documented costs up to a maximum of \$4,500 for project design, implementation, and/or maintenance costs incurred for Rainscaping Cost-Share funded feature(s). Institutional applicants may apply for a rebate of 60% of project costs up to a maximum of \$6,000.

All reimbursable labor costs must be completed by a qualified professional and/or contractor formed and operating as a duly registered business in the State of Missouri.

Save all itemized receipts and/or invoices to submit to Deer Creek Watershed Alliance. Site visits will be scheduled to verify that projects have been appropriately installed prior to reimbursement.



See [mobot.org/rainscaping](http://mobot.org/rainscaping) for rainscaping solutions and details.

# 2026 Rainscaping Cost-Share Program Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Municipality \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

1. Is your property located in one of the Rainscaping Cost-Share Program Focus Areas?  Yes  No  
(Go to [deercreekalliance.org/cost-share](http://deercreekalliance.org/cost-share) to view detailed Focus Area maps.)
2. Would you like to receive the Deer Creek Watershed Alliance quarterly newsletter?  Yes  No
3. Did you attend a required landowner orientation?  Yes  No Date of orientation: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Project is (check one):
  - Residential/Commercial
  - Institutional (includes schools, governments, churches, etc.)
5. Are any of your neighbors also submitting applications?  Yes  No  
If yes, what are their names and addresses? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Type(s) of rainscaping to be installed; check all that apply and indicate size of each. (Go to [mobot.org/rainscaping](http://mobot.org/rainscaping) for step-by-step rainscape planning guidance.) NOTE: choose only one box for each rainscaping feature you are implementing; multiple checked boxes mean multiple features are being proposed.

## Plant-based solutions

- Native soil rain garden: \_\_\_\_\_ sq. ft. × \_\_\_\_\_ inches ponding depth
- Engineered bioretention (MSD permit required\*): \_\_\_\_\_ sq. ft. × \_\_\_\_\_ inches deep
- Bioswale(s): \_\_\_\_\_ sq. ft. × \_\_\_\_\_ inches deep
- Lawn alternative: \_\_\_\_\_ sq. ft.
- Upland woodland restoration: \_\_\_\_\_ sq. ft.
- Lowland woodland restoration (creek corridor vegetative buffer): \_\_\_\_\_ sq. ft.
- Green roof: \_\_\_\_\_ sq. ft.

## The following improvements **must** be paired with a plant-based solution:

- Permeable pavers: \_\_\_\_\_ sq. ft. × \_\_\_\_\_ inches gravel layer depth
- Soil amendments
- Filter socks
- Rock weirs
- Rainwater harvesting: cistern(s) or rain barrel(s): \_\_\_\_\_ gallons
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Other solutions (Note: do not need to be paired with a plant-based solution):

- Septic System Maintenance (check all that apply)\*\*
  - Inspection  Removal  Replacement  Cleaning  Repair

\* To obtain an over the counter MSD permit, contact Engineer of the Day at (314) 768-2705.

\*\*If checked, attach septic form, available at [deercreekalliance.org/cost-share](http://deercreekalliance.org/cost-share).

Septic system official inspection report required with application submission.



12. Summarize your total costs and enter in the table below. **Your application must also include an itemized budget** (attach a separate page) showing **every** anticipated design, installation, and maintenance (material and labor) cost.

	Materials Cost	Labor Cost	TOTAL COSTS	Rebate Requested
Design				
Installation				
Maintainance				
<b>TOTALS</b>				

Please note that design and labor costs can only be reimbursed for a qualified registered professional and/or contractor. If do-it-yourself (DIY) design, installation, and/or maintenance is employed, labor costs cannot be reimbursed. Equipment rental for DIY projects and an itemized material list including cost per item per feature must be attached.

**Which rebate are you requesting? (check one):**     **75% up to maximum of \$4,500**  
 **60% up to maximum of \$6,000 (institutions only)**

- Who designed the landscaping? (check one):     Do-it-yourself     Contractor
- Who will install the landscaping? (check one):     Do-it-yourself     Contractor
- Who will maintain the landscaping? (check one):     Do-it-yourself     Contractor
- If seeking reimbursement for labor by a qualified registered professional and/or contractor, please provide name and contact information for each. **Attach additional paper as needed.**

---



---



---



---



---



---

- When will your project be installed? (check one):     Fall 2026     Spring 2027

13. Include a landscape design drawing with planting plan. (Download graph paper and review a sample design drawing at [deercreekalliance.org/cost-share](http://deercreekalliance.org/cost-share)). **Drawings must meet all of the following requirements:**

- Indicate scale. Landscape design drawing should be scaled to 1" = 8' or a similar scale. (For example, a ¼" graph paper square can equal 2'. **Do not resize drawings as this will affect the true scale.**)
- Show existing utility lines (call 1-800-DIG-RITE) and buildings.
- Indicate positions of existing trees and vegetation.
- Show location, shape, and dimensions of the rainscaping feature(s) you intend to install.
- Write the square footage of each feature adjacent to each of these areas on your drawing.
- Show location(s) of rainwater harvesting feature(s), i.e. cisterns or rain barrels, and the size of each if included.
- Show slope by drawing arrows that point downhill or note when there is no slope.
- Show where plants are to be installed and how many of each plant species is to be planted with names specified.
- Show and label streets bordering the property.

**See next page for requirements for rain garden and permeable paver project landscape drawings.**

- If installing rain garden(s), please include/show the following on your landscape drawing:
  - percolation test location(s) and results
  - planned ponding depth
  - location(s) of rain garden inflow and overflow

If installing permeable pavers, please include/show the following on your landscape drawing:

- percolation test location(s) and results
- planned gravel layer depth

**Recommended:** attach additional plan(s) showing cross sections with elevations.

**If there are multiple features that cannot be included in one drawing, an overall site map is required.**

14. Take photographs of your current site. Loose photos must be attached to an 8½" × 11" piece of paper. You must:

- Show exact future location(s) of your rainscaping feature(s). We must be able to see current conditions in the location where you intend to add a rainscaping feature.
- Show proximity of the feature(s) to the street.
- Include descriptive labels on all photos.
- Clearly label all pages with your name and address.

15. SIGNATURE/AGREEMENT

- I have read and agree with all Rainscaping Cost-Share Program requirements.
- I agree to maintain the rainscaping feature(s) for a minimum of five years, including watering plants, weeding, pruning, annual mulching, and plant replacement as needed.
- I understand that this program is partially funded with public money, therefore names, addresses, and project data may be shared with partners as requested.
- I understand that the Rainscaping Cost-Share Program parameters and the Rainscaping Guide are provided as guidelines only. Landowners are solely responsible for ensuring the success of their own rainscaping feature designs and implementations. Grant application review and acceptance for funding does not imply program, funder, or partner endorsement or responsibility for proper design, installation, or maintenance.
- I will allow Deer Creek Watershed Alliance representatives to come onto my property to assess and photo-document installed features. I will also allow them to use pictures of this project for outreach efforts or publications. I understand that photographs will not reveal street location or property ownership details without my express permission.

---

Landowner Signature (signature required)

# Rainscaping Cost-Share Program



a project of



## Timeline

	ROUND 2025	ROUND 2026
<b>Cost-Share Applications Due</b>	6.6.25	6.5.26
<b>Project Notifications Out</b>	7.18.25	7.17.26
<b>Planting Time</b>	Fall 2025 or Spring 2026	Fall 2026 or Spring 2027
<b>Project Receipts and Completion Forms Due</b>	10.10.25 for Fall 2025 installs 6.12.26 for Spring 2026 installs	10.9.26 for Fall 2026 installs 6.11.27 for Spring 2027 installs
<b>Quality Control/Ground Truthing/ Completion Forms Processed</b>	Within 6 weeks of receipt of Project Completion Forms	
<b>Cost-Share Funds Dispersed to Landowners</b>	Within 12 weeks of receipt of Project Completion Forms	
<b>Maintenance Reimbursement Forms and Receipts Due</b>	5.15.26 for Fall 2025 installs 11.20.26 for Spring 2026 installs	5.14.27 for Fall 2026 installs 11.29.27 for Spring 2027 installs

## Application Checklist

### Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

To be eligible, please include the following:

- One fully completed application**
  - Have you answered all application questions?
  - Did you remember to sign the form?
- Maintenance plan
- Budget detail—itemized materials list including cost per item
- Detailed plant list
- Landscape drawing(s) with all required components included (do not resize original design)
- Photo(s) as previously specified
- Bonus points—additional project details and description of installation process

## Submission

**Applications must be postmarked by 5 p.m. on the due date.** Electronic submittals will not be accepted. Please make a copy of your **FULL** application for your records. We cannot take responsibility for applications lost in the mail. If you submit your application by mail, keep your receipt as proof of mailing.

Submit applications to:

**Deer Creek Watershed Alliance  
c/o Missouri Botanical Garden – Sustainability Division  
4651 Shaw Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63110**

Questions? Contact (314) 577-0202 or  
[rainscaping@mobot.org](mailto:rainscaping@mobot.org).

Deer Creek Watershed Alliance, a project of Missouri Botanical Garden, is funded by Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, Mabel Dorn Reeder Foundation, the Holton family, Great Rivers Greenway, Open Space STL, Missouri Department of Conservation, and US EPA Region 7 through the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (G22-NPS-09), under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.