



2026 Rain Garden Applicant Resource Guide

DISCLAIMER

IN OFFERING THIS PROGRAM:

The London Environmental Network and the City of London are not responsible for the operation, alterations, repairs, replacements or maintenance of any rain garden or related components during or after the program has ended. Participation in this program sets The London Environmental Network and the City of London free from any blame, liability, or consequence related to the installed rain garden.

The London Environmental Network and The City of London do not guarantee or warrant any rain garden or related components, or contractors for their installation, performance, utility savings, freedom from defects, quality of workmanship or suitability for any purpose, or the suitability of the property for installation.

PRIVACY STATEMENT

Information collected throughout this program is to assist with the selection process as well as to report metrics. Personal information including email addresses,

phone numbers, and addresses will not be shared publicly.

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WHAT IS THE RESIDENTIAL RAIN GARDEN PROGRAM?

OVERVIEW

The London Environmental Network, in partnership with The City of London, is offering eight eligible London residents a reimbursement of a maximum of \$1,000.00 for installing a rain garden by September of this year (2026).



Photo of a rain garden. Source: City of London

<https://twitter.com/CityofLdnOnt/status/1223732705726087168>

PROCESS

1. Applicants submit the Pre-Approval Application form and any supporting documentation (photographs of site and utility locate report) on or before the specified deadline.
2. Applicants will be selected based on the responses received in the Pre-Approval Application and through a selection process between The London Environmental Network and The City of London.
3. Those selected to participate will be notified after the deadline to apply has passed. As there are a limited number of reimbursements available, an applicant

may only apply once and a property may only be proposed once.

4. Applicants that are chosen to participate will be required to attend a Rain Garden Information Session Workshop (**May 30th, 2026**). This workshop will provide participants with additional information and support to assist them with creating a site design plan for their rain gardens. Site design plans will be reviewed at the workshop if desired. If you are unable to attend, please contact the program coordinator to arrange for alternative arrangements.
5. Participants must complete their rain gardens and submit the Final Application form along with any supporting documentation (photographs of the completed rain garden and receipts of expenses) on or before the specified deadline in order to receive reimbursement.

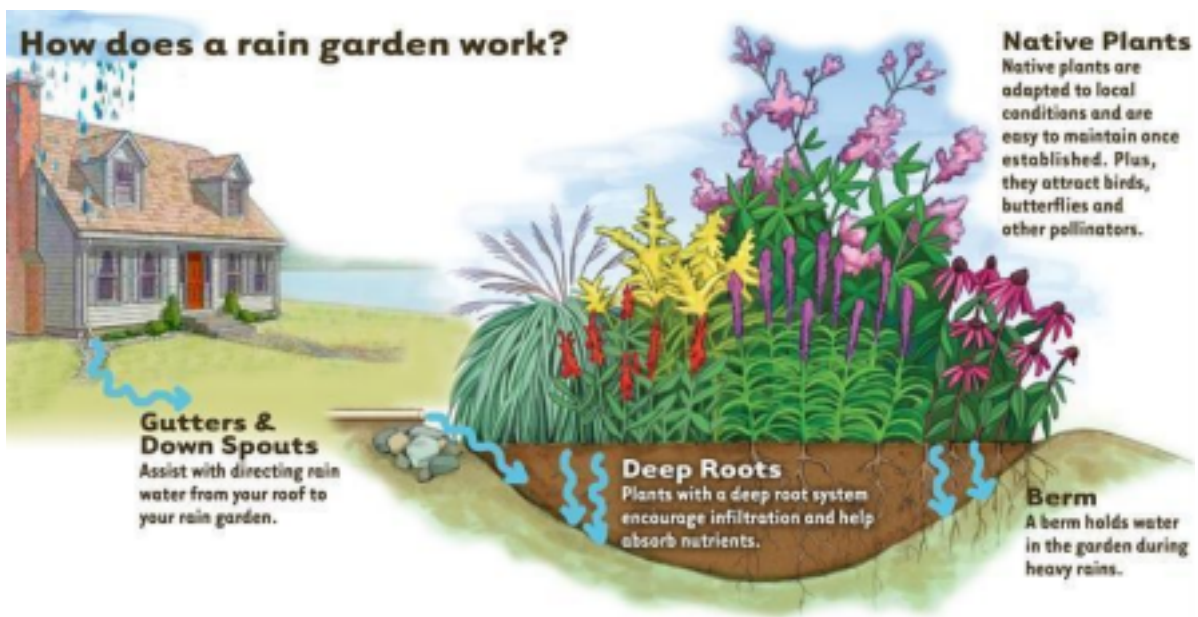


Diagram of a rain garden. Source: London Middlesex Master Gardeners.

<https://londonmiddlesexmastergardeners.com/rain-gardens/>

HOW TO APPLY AND WHAT TO EXPECT

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Each applicant must meet the following requirements before submitting the Pre Approval Application for review.

APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must own a home or property located within the geographic boundaries of the City of London. Tenants, renters, and other non-owner inhabitants are not eligible. An applicant cannot be affiliated with either the London Environmental Network or the City of London.

SITE REQUIREMENTS

1. Review and complete the site location criteria

- ❖ Is your potential garden going to be located in a relatively flat area?
- ❖ Is your potential garden space at least 4 meters away from any building foundation on the property but no more than 9 meters from the downspout?
- ❖ Will your potential garden receive full or partial sun?
- ❖ Will your potential garden be placed away from a septic tank and/or where water pools in the yard?
- ❖ Will there be a source of water to feed your potential garden space, such as a downspout or rain barrel?

If you have answered **YES** to these questions, your proposed site has passed the initial screening questionnaire. If you have answered **NO** to any of these questions, please contact us.

2. Request a utility locate with Ontario One Call prior to digging.

For your safety and the safety of other individuals, all applicants must request a private utility locate which will mark the location of gas, hydro, cable and other underground utilities. By knowing the approximate locations of your utility lines, you will be in a position to dig and landscape safely.

Complete the free form online found here [Ontario One Call](#) to request a utility locate. It generally takes between 1-2 weeks to review your location so be sure to submit your request as soon as possible. Once your locate request has been completed, you will be sent a report via email about what is underground at your location. You will be asked to provide a copy of the report to go with your Pre-Approval Application.

3. Ensure willingness to maintain.

While rain gardens are known for being relatively low maintenance, they do require proper upkeep in order for them to thrive. Participants will be responsible for every component related to their rain garden including continuing to care for it after the program has ended. Please ensure that you will be in a position to continue with the required maintenance of the rain garden before submitting the Pre-Approval Application.

QUALIFYING MATERIALS AND COSTS

Participants are responsible for the upfront costs associated with the installation of the rain garden. Participants are required to submit receipts of expenses related to the installation of the rain garden by **September 14th 2026**.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES EXAMPLES

Mulch	Sand, Soil, Compost	Small rocks, Stones, Gravel
Native plants	Edging	Landscape Fabric
Downspout extensions	Contractor/Landscaper Fees	Other pre-approved expenses or materials

If an expense is incurred that is not listed above, please contact us for assistance.

Please note that if a participant submits receipts for ineligible expenses that they may not be reimbursed.

Please also note that a site visit will be done before payment is received.

NEXT STEPS

- ❖ Review the Homeowner Educational Guide document
- ❖ Confirm eligibility
- ❖ Submit a Pre-Approval Application form
- ❖ Those selected to participate in the program will be contacted after the selection process has been completed. Must confirm participation to the program by the provided deadline
- ❖ Attend the Rain Garden Information Workshop at the Watershed Conservation Centre, May 30th (details to come)
- ❖ Install a rain garden on your property
- ❖ Participants submit a completed Final Application form including final photos and all receipts by September 14th, 2026
- ❖ Site visit is conducted
- ❖ Reimbursement

PROJECT TIMELINE

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	DEADLINE
Launch Program	The London Environmental Network	February 11th, 2026
Submit the Pre-Approval Application form and supporting documentation	Applicants	March 27th, 2026
Selection of 8 participants	The London Environmental Network & The City of London	April 13th, 2026
Confirm participation	Participants	April 24th, 2026
Attend Rain Garden Information Session Workshop	Participants	May 30th, 2026 Watershed Conservation Centre
Mid-way checkup: A staff member will be in touch with participants to see how their rain gardens are going	The London Environmental Network	Summer 2026 To be Arranged
Site visit: A staff member will visit your site after the rain garden has been installed	The London Environmental Network	Once the rain garden is completed or by the first week of September, 2026. <i>(Please note: participants can request a site visit at any time during the rain garden building process)</i>

Submit Final Report form and supporting documentation including final photos and receipts	Participants	September 14th, 2026
Participants receive reimbursement	The London Environmental Network	Fall 2026

CONTACT INFORMATION

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If you have any questions or concerns, or would like assistance with your application, we would be happy to assist you.

In Partnership With The City of London

