ROUND ROCK TEXAS
UTILITIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Water Conservation Pilot Program
SLOW THE FLOW: RAIN GARDEN REBATE **GUIDELINES**

This rebate helps offset the cost of installing rain gardens, berms, swales, and terraces to reduce stormwater runoff and support a healthy landscape. These features absorb and filter rainwater, reduce flooding and pollution in nearby waterways, and provide deep watering that promotes healthier plant growth and stronger root systems.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY:

- Applicant must be a direct City of Round Rock water customer, in good standing.
- All property types are eligible: residential, commercial, and multifamily.
- Pre-approval is required. Reach out to City staff at waterconservation@roundrocktexas.gov to schedule.
- Application and itemized receipt(s) must be submitted within 90-days of purchase.

PROGRAM DETAILS:

Choose the approach that best fits your yard's space and slope. The goal is to slow stormwater and allow it to soak into the yard within 24 hours.

Step 1: Identify the water source. Determine where run-off originates, how it flows through the yard, and the direction it flows. Common sources are roofs, gutter downspouts, neighboring properties, and driveways.

Step 2: Slow and capture the water. Choose a strategy that works for your landscape. Options include creating a shallow basin to temporarily hold water or installing barriers to redirect run-off from curbs and driveways into your yard, where it can soak into the soil.

Design the Rain Garden

- Create hills and valleys (berms and swales) to slow water down and keep it from flowing off your yard.
- This is accomplished by digging out areas at least 6-inches deep to make shallow holding areas.
- Add plants in groups or use landscape bricks or large river rocks to stop water from flowing off.
- **A *minimum* area of 50 sqft of yard must be dedicated to rain catchment**.
- This area must have turf removed and planted with native or adapted plants to Central Texas and rain gardens.
- Use these resources to plan and build your rain garden.
  - Austin's Grow Green Program: Create a Rain Garden in Six Steps
  - Texas A&M AgriLife Extension: Rainwater Harvesting: Raingardens
  - Texas A&M AgriLife Extension: Stormwater Management: Rain Gardens
  - Texas A&M AgriLife Extension: Rainwater Harvesting: Simple Systems

Step 3: Install tough plants that can withstand wet and dry periods.

- Install plants in Spring (March 1 – May 31) or Fall (October 1 - December 1); avoiding the summer heat.
- Plant lists:
  - Page 4 of Austin's Grow Green Program: Create a Rain Garden in Six Steps
  - Rain Garden Collection on WilcoScape.org
  - Texas A&M AgriLife Extension: Stormwater Management: Rain Gardens
  - Page 2 of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension: Rainwater Harvesting: Simple Systems

- Check with your HOA's landscaping rules, if necessary.
- Automatic irrigation in the rain garden should be adjusted; heads converted or capped.

ITEMS NOT PERMITTED OR REBATED*:

- No crushed, decomposed, granite gravel, or rocks smaller than 2-inch diameter are allowed. It will wash away in heavy rain.
- No artificial turf or weed barriers; they prevent water from soaking in and cause more runoff, the opposite of what the program intent is.
- This program is not for the creation of a *permanent* pond or water-holding feature.
- Costs of tools purchased are not eligible for rebate; examples include shovels, wagons, wheelbarrows.
- Simply replacing a downspout with a rain chain or just diverting water to flow over the surface of the landscape without creating a designated rain garden will not qualify for a rebate.
- Seeds are not recommended or rebated. The new plants should have an established root system, something in a container, such as 4-to-6-inch pots, or 1-to-3-gallon sized pots

REBATE DETAILS:

- New plants specific to the rain garden or berm areas will be rebated at 75% of the cost.
- Sand, mulch, large stone, rock, or other materials will be rebated at 50% of cost.
- Items not eligible for rebate are listed in the "Items Not Permitted" section.
- For rainwater holding containers (barrels or tanks) use the Rainwater Collection rebate application.
- Delivery costs, shipping costs, and sales tax are not included in the rebate amount.
- A rebate check will be mailed 2-4 weeks after the final inspection completed.
- The maximum total rebate amount is $800 per water account per fiscal year (Oct 1 – Sept 30). Multiple applications can be submitted over the year if the size of the rain garden is being increased, until the maximum annual amount is reached.

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SLOW THE FLOW: RAIN GARDEN REBATE
APPLICATION

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

1. Read the Program Guidelines to ensure eligibility.
2. Pre-approval is required. Contact waterconservation@roundrocktexas.gov to schedule.
3. Submit application, pictures, and receipts within 90 days of project completion.
4. A final inspection will be conducted.
5. A rebate check will be mailed 2-4 weeks after final inspection and application has been processed.

APPLICANT INFORMATION:

Name on water utility bill: _____ Water CID-Account #: _____

Property Address: _____ Zip: _____

Name for Rebate Check (if different than name on account): _____

Rebate Mailing Address (if different than property address):_____

_____

Email Address:_____ Phone: _____ Are texts accepted at this number? Yes | No

Total Plant Costs *(grasses, perennials planted in rain garden*)*	**Plant Rebate Amount**	**Other Material Cost** *(This may include soil & large rock*)*	**Other Materials Rebate Amount**	**Total Rebate**
	75% of cost *(not including sales tax or delivery/shipping)*		**50% of cost** *(not including sales tax or delivery/shipping)*	

Was an automatic irrigation zone capped or altered? *(choose one)*	**What is the area of your rain garden?** *(square feet)*	**What is the approximate area of the roof that water will be collected from?** *(square feet)*
Yes – whole zone no longer used **Yes –** a few heads were adjusted **No** – no adjustments were needed **No** – there is no irrigation system		

*See Page 1 for rebate details.

Total Rebate _____
(not to exceed $800)

Please sign to confirm you have read and agree to the Program Guidelines listed on Page 1 of this application.

Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____ Date: _____

SUBMIT APPLICATION AND ITEMIZED RECEIPT(S) TO:

Email: jwoods@roundrocktexas.gov
Fax: 512-255-6911
Mail: Water Conservation, 3400 Sunrise Road, Round Rock, TX 78665

QUESTIONS? Contact us at 512-671-2872 or email waterconservation@roundrocktexas.gov

CITY USE ONLY

Date received _____ Rebate Amount _____ Acct# 20040000-5422
Application # _____ Date Rebate Issued _____ Finance Approval _____