

# Clean Scapes:

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*Keep the rain,  
not the runoff!*

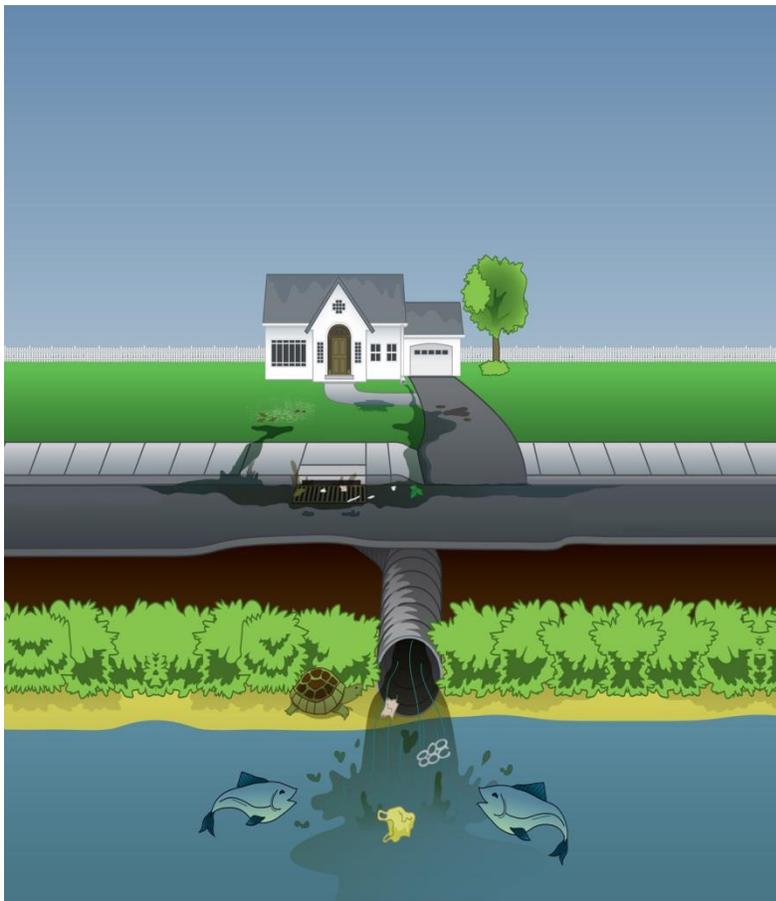
## **Residential Stormwater Solutions: Program Criteria**

## **Introduction:**

The information in this manual will help you connect with resources in Howard County, financial and otherwise, that can help you implement the best stormwater management practice on your property. As a Howard County resident, you can make a big impact on reducing stormwater pollution by increasing the number of surfaces on your property that absorb stormwater runoff. In addition to protecting the environment by reducing runoff, you can also reduce your Watershed Protection Fee and/or be reimbursed for your practice.

### *Why Should I Install?*

Think about your car before and after a rain storm. It looks



cleaner, doesn't it? All of the dirt, oil, and road pollution that used to be on your car washed down the street and likely went down a storm drain without treatment. Now all of the things that you didn't want on your car are in

local water bodies. The same process happens with your house and driveway, although you might not have noticed it. Stormwater runoff is responsible for 20% of water pollution to the Chesapeake Bay. As you might guess, this has reduced the health of our local waterways including the Patuxent River and the Patapsco South Branch. You can stop runoff in its tracks by installing a stormwater Best Management Practice (BMP). If you choose to install a BMP, we will thank you for your efforts by issuing you financial incentives: credits toward the annual Watershed Protection Fee and reimbursements. We recommend that you familiarize yourself with these requirements before installing a BMP. Underlined words in this guide are defined in the “definition of terms” section.

### *Why are the requirements so specific?*

The first inch of rainfall or “first flush” washes most of the pollutants off of impervious (hard) surfaces; we hope that your practices will capture this first inch and filter out the pollutants before they can negatively impact local water.

Specific equations are used to calculate the amount of runoff that comes off of an impervious surface during the first inch of rainfall. This is where we get the number in the “volume (ft<sup>3</sup>)” column—it is the amount of water that your practice must be able to hold to capture and treat that very important first inch

of rainfall. We will show you examples of how to calculate the volume yourself and how to make sure that your practice has the right measurements to hold that volume in Appendix B.

Don't worry, if you have questions about calculations in this guide or figuring out your drainage area, you can always email [jcostantino@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:jcostantino@howardcountymd.gov) for help! Read on for the types of practices that are eligible for incentives and how to meet the requirements.



*Rain garden at Franciscan Friars*