

Rain Gardens:

Rain gardens are gardens filled with native plants and absorbent soil that are shaped to collect and filter water when it rains. Rain gardens are not only beautiful and attractive to local wildlife, but can also help solve drainage and pooling problems in your yard.



Your rain garden must meet the requirements at the bottom of the page to be eligible for reimbursement and/or credit against the annual Watershed Protection Fee.

Note that “volume (ft³)” refers to the maximum volume of stormwater runoff which can be contained in the ponding area. Volume can be measured by multiplying the ponding depth, by the ponding area. See Appendix B for help calculating this figure.

The drainage area must be impervious surface which is directed to the rain garden for treatment. Rain gardens must drain within a reasonable time (24-48 hours) to be considered for credit and reimbursement.

Rain gardens are eligible for reimbursement of 50% of the cost incurred up to \$1,200. Your rain garden must meet the following criteria to be considered for credit and reimbursement:

Rain Garden Minimum Requirements:

Best Management Practice (BMP)	Lot size/type	Drainage Area (ft ²)	Volume (ft ³)	Other Conditions	Eligible for Credit and Reimbursement?	Reimbursement Cap
Rain Garden	Condominium or Townhouse	250	14.84	Rain garden must not contain design flaws, fail to treat water quality, or create drainage problems.	Yes	50% of project, up to \$1,200
	Single Family Home on ¼ acre or less	500	29.96			
	Single Family Home on Greater Than ¼ Acre	1000	59.37			

What does this mean for me?

Let's say you live in a single family home on 0.20 acres (less than $\frac{1}{4}$ acre). The landscaper that you found using the list in Appendix D has directed 500 square feet of roof top (this is your drainage area) into your rain garden. The garden's ponding area, or the bowl-shaped area of your garden, is 6 inches deep and 10 feet by 6 feet. This would put you at 30 ft³ of volume in the ponding area, which is just above our minimum of 29.96 ft³. So, your rain garden would be eligible for reimbursement and credit. You saved receipts, took pictures before, during, and after your project. See appendix B for more help with sizing and calculations.

Appendix B: Drainage Area and Capacity Calculations:

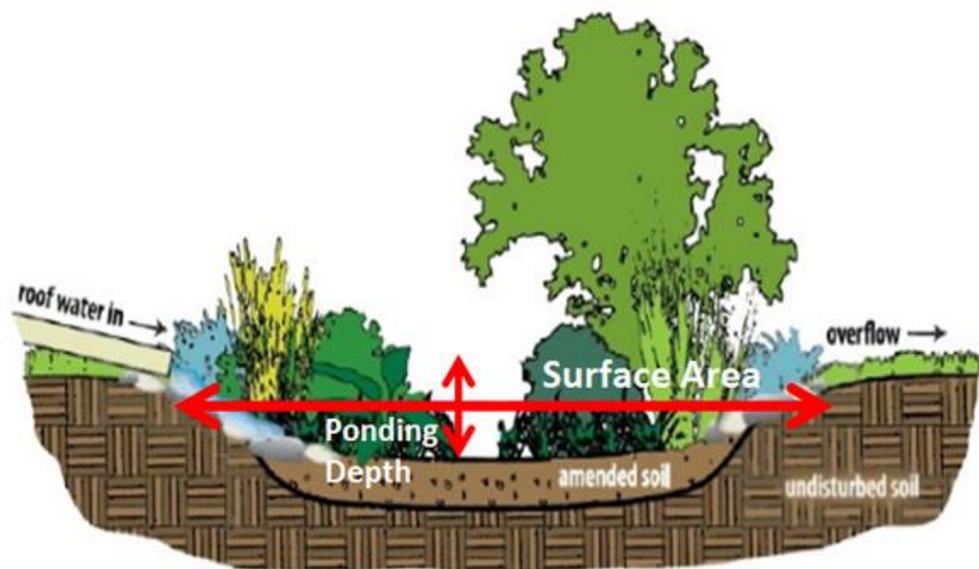
What does this mean?
Impervious drainage area



We aim to manage the first 1 inch of rain fall with storm water practices. The first inch of rain, or “first flush,” is where the majority of pollutants come off of a hard surface. During the first inch of rainfall, 500 square feet will generate 29.96 cubic feet of water. The drainage area requirements that you see throughout this guide refer to the minimum square footage from an impervious surface, like the roof in the picture above, that must be directed to a practice, like the rain garden pictured. The rain garden or other practice must be sized to treat the impervious drainage area directed to it. The

impervious drainage area that you treat using your practice can be any hard surface on your property, including: rooftop, driveway, sidewalk, patio, or deck.

How to calculate volume for your practice: rain gardens



Graphic: EMSWCD

- Surface area: 125 square feet
- Ponding depth: 4 inches
- Capacity: $125 \text{ square feet} \times 4 \text{ inches} = 41.66 \text{ CF}$ ☑

To calculate the volume of water that a rain garden can temporarily hold, multiply the ponding depth (the average distance from the mulch at the bottom of the rain garden to

the top of the berm) by the surface area (the approximate length times width). The rain garden must be able to drain this amount of water within 24-48 hours.

How to calculate volume for your practice, in hours and