

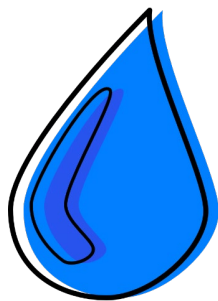


Rain Ready Ottawa
Applicant Guide
June 2023



Rain Ready Ottawa Applicant Guide

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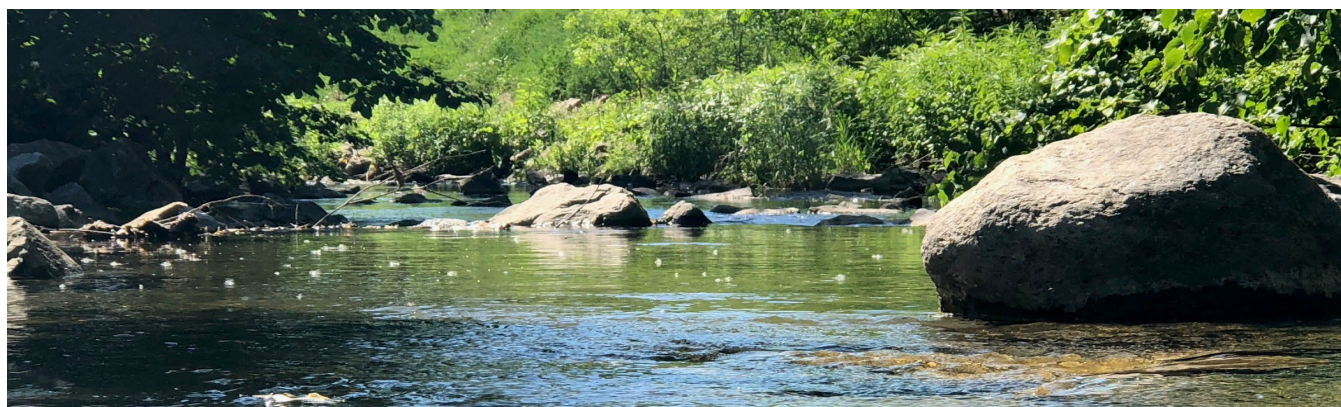


Rain Ready Ottawa is a City of Ottawa program that helps homeowners manage rainwater on their properties.

Rain Ready Ottawa offers:

- Information and resources on how you can manage rainwater and protect your property
- Customized home assessments to help you deal with rain - eligibility requirements apply
- Rebates of up to \$5,000 to help you install proven rainwater management practices – eligibility requirements apply

This applicant guide will help you apply to Rain Ready Ottawa for rebates related to the installation of rainwater management practices. For information and resources on rainwater management, see ottawa.ca/rain. For more information on customized home assessments contact our partners at EnviroCentre at envirocentre.ca/rain-ready



Top: Pinecrest creek. Left: Flowers. Right: A house with rain garden.

1. Why Rain Ready Ottawa?

We created Rain Ready Ottawa to help you manage rainwater on your property.

The problem with rain

Many of Ottawa's older urban areas were developed without thinking about managing rainwater. Buildings, streets and parking lots don't absorb rain like natural areas do. When rain falls on these surfaces, it moves quickly into storm sewers that drain straight into our streams and rivers, picking up pollutants along the way. This can cause problems like:

- Poor water quality in creeks and rivers
- Increased risks of flooding and erosion
- Habitat degradation
- Beach closures

We all play a part in reducing the harmful effects of stormwater on our streams and rivers.

What are the solutions?

Soaking up rain where it lands! Before rain flows to our storm sewers and into creeks and rivers, it can be managed effectively right where it lands.

Most properties in Ottawa have both permeable areas like lawns and gardens, and impermeable areas like roofs and driveways. Unfortunately, impermeable areas are growing, and the city is losing the natural permeability that helps protect our streams and rivers.

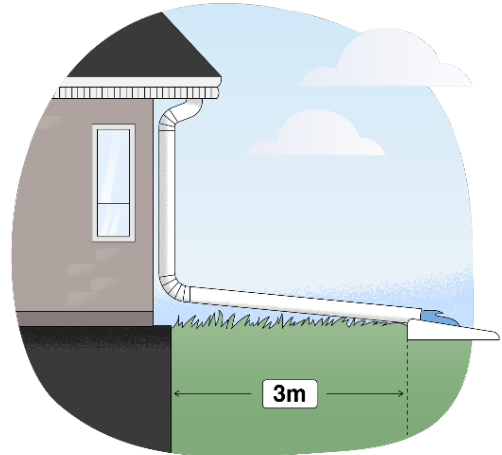
Simple projects to increase permeability and promote infiltration of rainwater can reduce run-off from your property. They can also help solve problems like standing water in the spring and soggy lawns after a big rain.

Rain Ready Ottawa recommends four simple solutions, some of which you can do yourself at home.

1. Downspout redirection

At many homes, downspouts are directed straight on to driveways. Rainwater runs quickly towards the street and into the sewer. This has advantages, but it can also cause problems like icing in the winter, and it degrades the quality of local creeks and eventually, the Ottawa River.

Adjusting your downspout to flow on to a permeable area slows the water down and gives it a chance to soak into the ground. This is closer to what happens in naturalized areas like parks or forests. Redirecting your downspouts to permeable areas is the easiest and cheapest action that you can take to manage rainwater at your home.



A Redirected Downspout

2. Rain barrels

Rain barrels are a great way to collect water to use on your lawn and garden. You will save on your water bill and keep water in the ground instead of the storm sewers. They are simple to install and easy to find. Use your rain barrel properly for maximum benefit and maximum impact.

Always empty your rain barrel before a big rain to make room for rain. Ottawa's cold winters will break your rain barrel if it is left full; so always empty your rain barrel and store in a garage or place it upside down and cover for the winter months.

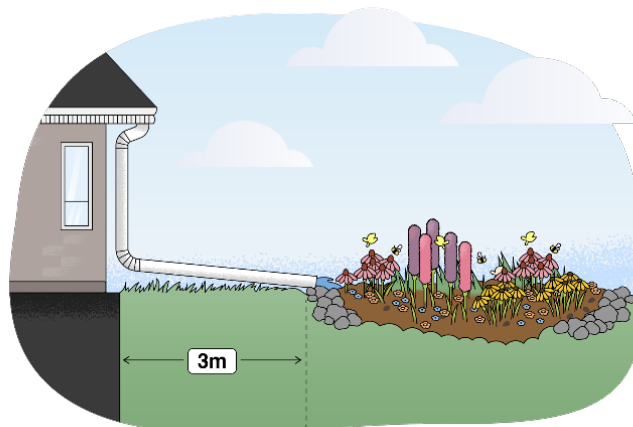


A Rain Barrel

3. Rain Gardens

Rain gardens are shallow depressed areas that promote infiltration of rainwater into the ground. They are planted with attractive hardy plants - ideally native perennials - and have loose soils that help rainwater seep down into the ground.

Because rain gardens are functional and attractive, they are the perfect addition to front or backyards and can help manage rainwater from a roof, a rain barrel overflow, or even a surface like a driveway. Rain gardens can even provide habitat for pollinators like bees.



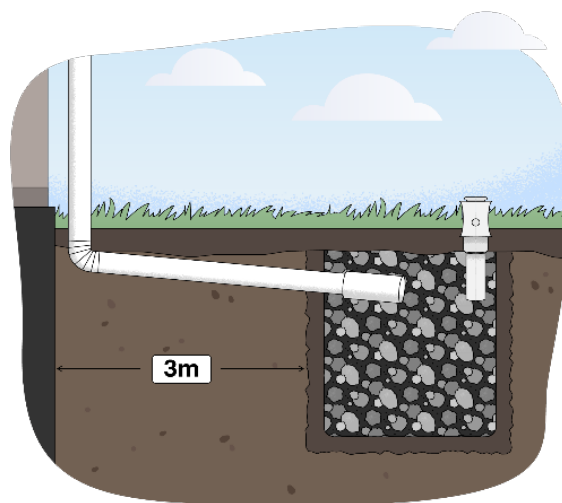
A Rain Garden

4. Soakaway Pits

Soakaway pits are below-ground reservoirs of permeable material. They collect rainwater and allow it to slowly infiltrate into the ground in order to reduce run-off.

Soakaways can receive rainwater from surface sources or buried sources (e.g. a buried downspout connection) and may be covered with garden, lawn, or decorative stone.

Soakaway pits and rain gardens can both help infiltrate rainwater leading to reduced run-off from your property. Soakaways are particularly helpful when space is limited or when you want to maintain grassed areas while also infiltrating rainwater.



A Soakaway Pit

5. Permeable pavement

Permeable pavement can take many different forms. From gravel stabilized with structural plastic, to permeable interlocking concrete pavers, to pervious asphalts, they all serve the same purpose; to infiltrate rainwater where it lands.

Along with your roof, your driveway is probably the biggest impermeable surface on your property. Reducing this area and making it permeable can reduce the amount of rainwater that runs off your property.



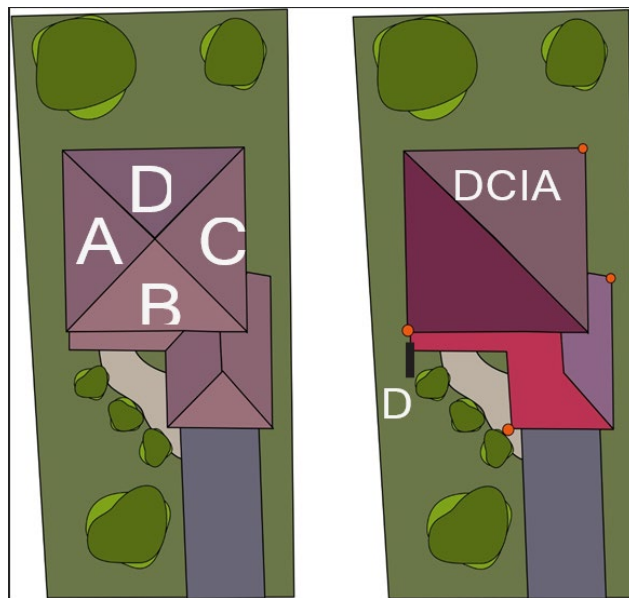
Permeable Pavement

Managing impervious areas

For most homes, roofs and driveways are the largest impervious areas on the property. But more often than not, your roof is not a single impervious area.

Different pieces of your roof drain to different areas through separate downspouts. The roof area draining to a single downspout can be classified as a single 'directly connected impervious area'. If you think like a raindrop, you can better understand how impervious areas behave and how they can be managed.

To the right is an example home showing each roof surface separately. Whether it lands on section A or B (left), it still runs towards the same downspout at D1 (right). That is why A and B (left) can be combined into DCIA 1 (right) and managed together. When estimating the size of a rain garden or soakaway pit to manage rainwater, it is important to know the directly connected impervious area.



A diagram of a house showing how roof areas connect to downspouts.

2. Rain Ready Ottawa rebates

Rebates are available to eligible residents to help them implement landscaping projects that will manage rainwater where it lands. Your address must be located in a priority stormwater retrofit area to be eligible for rebates. See the key steps below to learn how you can apply for rebates.

Key steps

Get ready to apply:

- To apply, your address must be located in a priority eligibility area of Ottawa.
- To check your eligibility, visit ottawa.ca/rain.

You must complete one of three things to become eligible for Rain Ready Ottawa rebates:

1. Successfully complete the Rain Ready Ottawa eLearning program's Introduction course and one or more of the other eLearning courses related to the project(s) you are applying for,
2. Complete a Rain Ready Ottawa Home Assessment, or
3. Have a quote from a Fusion Landscape Professional who will complete the design and installation of your project.

To enroll in our eLearning program and register for courses, visit <https://rainreadyottawa.talentlms.com/>

To book a Rain Ready Ottawa home assessment, visit our delivery partners EnviroCentre, an Ottawa-based environmental non-profit at envirocentre.ca/rain-ready

To find a certified Fusion Landscape Professional visit <https://www.fusionlandscapeprofessional.ca/find-a-professional-by-location/>

Apply:

- Once you have successfully completed the Rain Ready Ottawa eLearning program, completed a Rain Ready Ottawa Home Assessment or have a quote from a certified Fusion Landscape Professional, fill out the online application available at the [Rain Ready Ottawa service page](#).

After you apply:

- Once you have been approved, you can complete the work yourself, or have your Fusion Landscape Professional complete the work for you. You must complete the project within 12 months to remain eligible for the rebate outlined in your approval.
- Once the work is complete, you can make a claim for Rain Ready Ottawa rebates (see below for guidance on making a Rain Ready Ottawa claim)

Please be advised your application requires approval prior to installing your project. Given the limited funding available, approvals will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis.

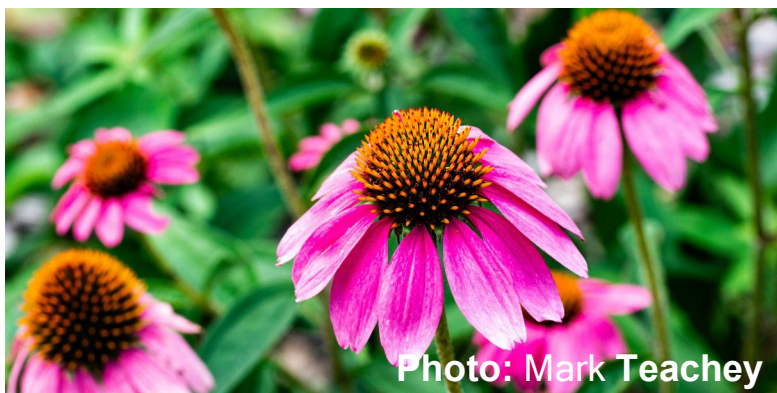
Contact information

Program inquiries should be directed to the Rain Ready Ottawa program coordinator:

Email: rain@ottawa.ca



Canada anemone.



Purple cone flower.

3. What you need to apply

Ensuring you have everything required can help you apply quickly and avoid rejection based on missing information.

- Confirmation of your eligibility. You can check your eligibility at ottawa.ca/rain
- One of:
 - A certificate confirming completion of the Rain Ready Ottawa eLearning program's Introduction course and one or more of the other eLearning courses related to the project(s) you are applying for
 - A completed Rain Ready Ottawa Home Assessment, or
 - A quote from a certified Fusion Landscape Professional

Note: If you don't have one of the above requirements, you need to get one before you can continue (see below)

- 'Before photos' of the proposed site (see below for the guidance)
- Project description (see below for guidance)

- Project drawing (see below for guidance)
- Directly connected impervious areas managed (see helpful definitions for more information on DCIAs)
- Project information:
 - For downspout disconnection: estimated expenses
 - For rain gardens: estimated rain garden size
 - For soakaway pits: size of the directly connected impervious area
 - For permeable pavement: estimated size of paved area, quote from a certified Fusion Landscape Professional or Interlocking Concrete Paver Institute certified professional
- Supporting documentation
 - Copy of the property tax bill
 - Letter of permission from the property owner (if the applicant is not the property owner)
- Relevant permits and approvals
 - It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the project meets all legal requirements, including City by-laws, provincial and federal acts and regulations. Applicants should pay special attention to:
 - [Site Alteration By-law](#)
 - [Tree protection By-law](#)
 - [Low-rise infill regulations](#)
 - Call before you dig! 1-800-400-2255. Ontario law requires that you have your utilities located before you dig to avoid hitting a gas or other utility line. Contact [Ontario One Call](#)



Getting a Rain Ready Ottawa Home Assessment

Home assessments are done by our partners at [EnviroCentre](http://envirocentre.ca), an Ottawa-based non-profit organization dedicated to providing practical solutions for people and communities to lighten environmental impact in lasting ways. Visit envirocentre.ca/rain-ready to book a home assessment.



Photo: EnviroCentre
EnviroCentre staff performing a home assessment.

Finding a certified Fusion Landscape Professional



If you think you need professional help undertaking your project, trained and certified Fusion Landscape Professionals can help. They have the training and experience to design, install and maintain beautiful, functional landscapes that effectively manage rainwater. Find a pro near you at the [Fusion Landscape Professional website](http://fusionlandscape.ca).

Enroll in Rain Ready Ottawa's eLearning program

Our eLearning courses will provide a self-guided learning opportunity about rainwater management techniques that can be put into practice around the home.

The completion of the courses will allow residents in priority areas to become eligible for Rain Ready Ottawa rebates without the need for a home assessment or use of a Fusion Landscape Professional.

Four courses will be offered:

1. Stormwater introduction and program overview
2. Downspout redirection
3. Rain garden installation
4. Soakaway pits and trenches

Course enrollment is free for all residents with an Ottawa address. To enroll in our eLearning program and register for courses, visit: <https://rainreadyottawa.talentlms.com/>



Accessing your property tax bill

Property tax bills are available through [My ServiceOttawa](#). If you don't have a My ServiceOttawa account you can create one, but you will require a past paper tax bill. You can also scan your paper tax bill and upload it to the application form.

Letter of permission from the property owner

If you are not the owner of the property where the project will take place, you need to have the express permission of the property owner to apply for Rain Ready Ottawa rebates. A letter is required to prove that you have the permission of the property owner. The letter should include an understanding of the project being undertaken, permission to undertake the project, a date and contact information from the property owner. The property owner will also have to provide a copy of the property tax bill in order to prove ownership. City of Ottawa staff may contact the property owner to confirm an understanding of project details and Rain Ready Ottawa processes.

Capturing before photos of the proposed site

Before photos should capture the state of the site before any work has begun. Including a standard sized object or a tape measure can help convey the scale of the photos. Take pictures from multiple angles and ensure you have a picture that captures the entire project site if possible. Cell phone pictures are acceptable.

Completing a project description

Project descriptions should be short and include the following:

- Which project elements you are pursuing
- Where the project elements will be located (distances from foundations and property lines)
- Directly connected impervious areas that will be managed
- Whether you are completing the project yourself or hiring a contractor

Example:

The project involves redirecting the downspout that handles run-off from the western half of the roof of my house (area 1) towards a back-yard rain garden 3m from my foundation. The rain garden will have amended soil of 50% compost and 50% sand and will be planted with native perennials and topped with shredded mulch. I plan to do the work myself. I will also put in a soakaway pit (4m from foundation) to manage the rainwater from the eastern half of my roof (area 2) and will redirect downspouts so that water drains to the soakaway via a buried pipe.

Completing a project drawing

This sketch will help you to envision what the project might look like, what materials (including plants) you would like to include and will help in estimating potential project costs and rebates available through Rain Ready Ottawa.

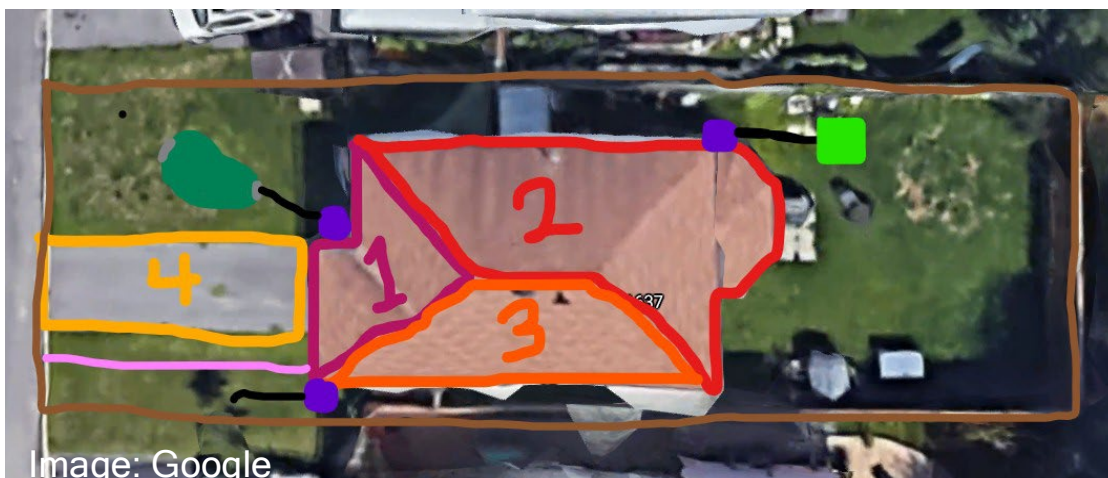
In conjunction with your project description, your design sketch must include the following minimum details.

- Property boundaries
- The location of your home
- Locations of utilities (from [ON1Call](#))
- Location of redirected downspout drainage areas and their distance from your house and the nearest property line
- Location of in-ground projects like rain gardens and soakaway pits and their distance from your house and the nearest property line
- Identify the directly connected impervious areas that will be managed
- For rain gardens, identify the overall size as well as an inlet and an outlet for rainwater
- Indicate the slope (and direction) of the property

You may wish to use the Project Drawing Template (available at the [Rain Ready Ottawa Service Page](#)) to create a sketch of your planned project(s).

You can also draw on top of a satellite image of your property. You can find satellite images of your property using mapping services like Google Maps and clicking to enable the satellite layer. Draw project elements right on top of this image to indicate your plans.

Design sketches can be simple (see below), but we encourage you to add as much detail about your plans as possible.



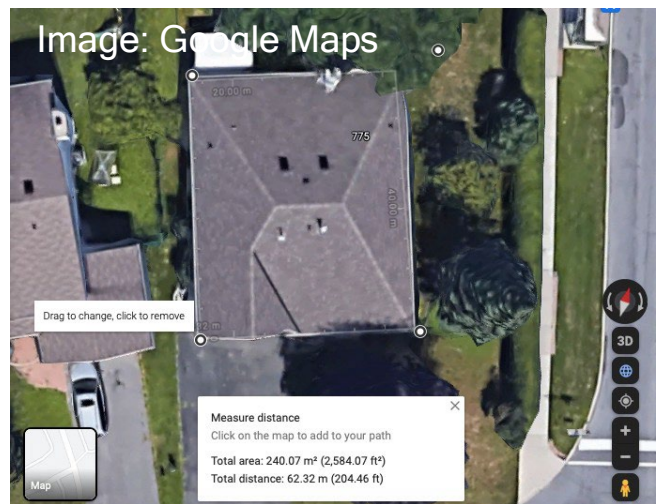
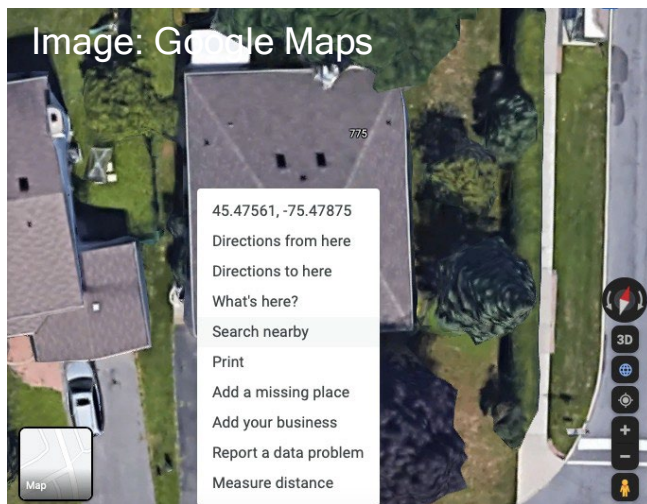
Basic site sketch.

Determining 'project information'

Project information such as the relevant 'directly connected impervious area', rain garden areas, downspout redirection expenses, and permeable pavement areas can be found within your Rain Ready Ottawa Home Assessment report or on the quote provided to you by a Fusion Landscape Professional.

Directly connected impervious areas:

The easiest way to measure roof and driveway areas is through Google Maps. Zoom in on your address so that your entire property is visible and takes up as much of the screen as possible. Right click at the corner of a section of your roof area (or driveway) that all drains to a single spot like a downspout. Select "measure distance". This will place a circle where you initially 'right-clicked'. Click the next corner of the area you are trying to measure. This should provide a measurement of the straight line between the two dots. Continue clicking around the relevant section of roof until you close the shape. The measurement at the bottom of the screen will then display an area measurement (m^2) as well as the perimeter. Use the area measurement as your directly connected impervious area and give the area a name (e.g. garage roof, 14.4m^2).



Google maps measure distance tool.

Downspout expenses:

Find items you might need at an online store of your choosing and provide an item description, the number required and the price.

Rain garden area:

Rain gardens should be 10-20% as large as the directly connected impervious area that is feeding into the rain garden. If your soil infiltration rates are lower, build a larger garden (20%). If the infiltration rate of your soil is good, you can use a smaller garden (10%).

Soakaway pits:

For soakaway pits, you will just need the area of the directly connected impervious area (see above for the process to determine areas online).

Permeable pavements:

For permeable pavements, you can use the process described above (Measuring DCIAs) to determine your driveway area, or simply use a tape measure.



A house and garden with native perennials.



Community planting event.

4. How to apply

Applications are completed through a simple online form. We've created a service page dedicated to Rain Ready Ottawa that reiterates the application requirements and includes a link to the application form.

Find the Rain Ready Ottawa service page at ottawa.ca.

5. What's next?

How is my application reviewed?

Applications are considered on a first come first serve basis and are screened for:

- Geographic eligibility
- Completeness
- Adherence to local By-laws
- Adherence to project requirements

The size of your project does not affect the way your project is considered.

Available program funds are divided between ‘do-it-yourself’ projects and projects that involve a Fusion Landscape Professional. A waiting list will be created for applications that are submitted after program funds are fully committed.

How long until I hear about my approval?

You should hear about your application in two weeks or less. If approved, you will be sent a link to the claim form where you can claim your rebate once your project is complete.

Denial of Funding

If you are not satisfied with the decision of the reviewer, you may appeal the decision by submitting a letter of appeal to rain@ottawa.ca within three months of the original decision by the reviewer.

Your appeal will be escalated to a panel of reviewers. The decision of the review panel will be issued within one month and the decision is final.

Assurance checks

Visits to look at your completed project may be conducted by City of Ottawa staff or the Rain Ready Ottawa Home Assessment team. We will not enter your property without your consent. For projects that are not clearly visible from public right of ways, we will schedule a time that works for you to visit the site. This is also an opportunity to have any questions about operations and on-going maintenance answered.

6. Project requirements

Rain Ready Ottawa supports projects that can boost infiltration of water into landscapes. Modelling has shown that if these projects are adopted at a large scale, they will contribute to improving rainwater management conditions at a neighbourhood scale in the priority stormwater retrofit areas.

Rain Ready Ottawa supports:

- Downspout redirection
- Rain gardens
- Soakaway pits
- Permeable pavement, and
- Certified Landscape Design

See the project descriptions and requirements below for more information.

NOTE: Each applicant is responsible for ensuring that the project meets all legal requirements, including City by-laws, provincial and federal acts/regulations, and Conservation Authority permits/approvals.

Downspout Redirection

Funding:

100% of eligible costs up to a maximum of \$1,000 for projects approved in 2021

75% of eligible costs up to a maximum of \$1,000 for projects approved after December 31st, 2021

Description:

Downspout redirection is the modification of the existing orientation of an existing downspout so that it drains to a permeable surface especially one designed to infiltrate rainwater such as a rain garden or soakaway pit.

Project Requirements:

- Redirected downspouts must drain to an area that is:
 - permeable
 - set back at least 3m from the foundation of a building
 - sloped away from the foundation of a building
 - not going to cause water to flow onto an adjacent property
- Downspout redirection must not contradict the [Site Alteration By-law](#)

Eligible costs:

- Materials related to redirection of existing downspouts including additional downspout materials, downspout extenders, and hardware required to complete the redirection
- Materials related to preventing erosion at the end of the downspout such as a splash pad or rocks
- Materials related to the disconnection and redirection of downspouts that drain directly to storm or combined sewer systems
- Materials and labour related to the alteration of ground level surfacing (paths, walkways, driveways) in order to facilitate the redirection of a downspout

Ineligible costs:

- Materials related to the application of new eavestroughs to a residence
- Materials that are solely decorative in nature

Claim requirements:

- Completed claim form

- Receipts for all relevant materials and labour
- Photo proof of work

Rain Gardens

Funding:

\$75/m² of rain garden, not to exceed 20% of the directly connected impervious area, up to \$2,500. Rain gardens and soakaway pits are subject to a combined maximum rebate of \$2,500.

Description:

Rain gardens are shallow depressed gardens that promote the infiltration of rainwater and are planted with native perennial plants. Soil amendments are often made to increase infiltration rates and provide improved growing conditions for plants.

Project requirements:

Applicant must contact [Ontario One Call](#) to locate buried cables, pipes and wires so you can dig safely

- Rain gardens must have an identifiable and measurable directly connected impermeable area (DCIA) (i.e. the garden must receive runoff from a roof or other impermeable surface)
- Rain gardens must be sized to manage the runoff generated by the directly connected impervious area (generally 10-20% of the DCIA)
- Rain gardens must be located at least 3m away from any building foundation
- Rain gardens must have an erosion-resistant outlet that is lower in elevation than the inlet and that will not direct overflows to neighbouring properties
- Where infiltration rates are low (<15mm/hour), soil amendments using sand and compost (50:50) should be used to improve infiltration rates
- Rain gardens must be planted to cover at least 80% of the garden area once the plants are mature
- Native perennials should be used because they are drought tolerant, climate appropriate, and provide habitat to pollinators like bees and butterflies
- Shredded mulch (ideally shredded hardwood) should be used to cover soil

Eligible Costs:

- Rain garden rebates are calculated based on the final installed rain garden area and not based on receipts for materials and labour.

Ineligible costs:

- Portions of the garden that are not depressed relative to adjacent areas and therefore not promoting infiltration.

Claim requirements:

- Completed claim form
- Photo proof of work including base preparation and finished garden

Soakaway Pits**Funding:**

\$10/m² of directly connected impervious area managed to a maximum of \$2,500. Rain gardens and soakaway pits are subject to a combined maximum rebate of \$2,500.

Description:

Soakaway pits are below-ground reservoirs of permeable material. They collect rainwater and allow it to slowly infiltrate into the ground in order to reduce run-off. Soakaways can receive rainwater from surface sources or buried sources (e.g. a buried downspout connection) and may be covered with garden, lawn, or decorative stone.

Project details:

Applicant must contact [Ontario One Call](#) to locate buried cables, pipes and wires so you can dig safely

- Soakaway pits must have an identifiable and measurable directly connected impermeable area (DCIA) (i.e. the soakaway must receive runoff from a roof or other impermeable surface)
- Soakaway pits must be sized to manage the runoff generated by the directly connected impervious area (for sizing information see the [STEP LID guidance](#) for sizing infiltration galleries)
- Soakaway pits must use a fill material with a minimum void space of 40% (e.g. ¾ in. clear stone or plastic soakaway crate)
- Filter fabric must be placed on all sides and top (or choker course of 5-10cm of 5mm clear stone for top) of the stone reservoir to prevent sediment entering the void space
- Soakaway pits must be equipped with run-off pre-treatment such as screens and sedimentation chambers to avoid debris and sediments entering the infiltration chamber
- Soakaway pits must be at least 3m from any residential foundation and overflow must release to an area graded away from the foundation and away from neighbouring properties

Eligible Costs:

Soakaway pit rebates are calculated based on the directly connected impervious

area and not based on receipts for materials and labour.

Claim requirements:

- Completed claim form
- Photo proof of work including base preparation and completed soakaway pit

Permeable Pavements

Funding:

\$50/m² of installed surface area, up to a maximum rebate of \$5,000

Description:

Permeable surfaces are hard durable surfaces that allow rainwater to infiltrate through the top surfacing into a subsurface that promotes infiltration into the ground. Common types include permeable interlocking concrete pavers, porous asphalt, pervious concrete, stabilized gravel, and other polymer-bound aggregate mixes. They can be used on driveways, patios, walkways or other hardscaped surfaces.

Project requirements:

- Applicants must contact [Ontario One Call](#) to locate cables, pipes and wires so you can dig safely
- Driveways, walkways and patios must be compliant with the soft landscaping requirements established in City of Ottawa By-law 2020-289
- Permeable pavement projects must be installed by a certified Fusion Landscape Professional or a contractor certified by the Interlocking Concrete Pavers Institute
- Permeable pavement projects must slope away from residential foundation
- Adjacent soft landscaping must not drain towards the permeable surface
- Permeable pavement installation must be sized according to [Sustainable Technologies Evaluation Program \(STEP\) Low Impact Development Guidelines](#)
- All aggregates must meet the following specifications
 - Porosity of 0.4
 - Maximum wash loss of 0.5%
 - Minimum durability index of 35
 - Maximum abrasion of 10% for 100 revolutions and maximum 50% for 500 revolutions

Note: Most [Ontario Provincial Standard Specification \(OPSS\)](#) aggregates are not recommended for use in permeable pavements, with the exception of 'Granular O'

type.

- Base preparation must meet the following specifications:
 - The soils below the installation must be sloped away from foundations and should be free of channels and depressions that may concentrate water
 - The granular base must be clear, crushed 20 mm diameter stone conforming to ASTM C33 No 57
 - If required, the granular subbase should be clear, crushed 50 mm diameter stone, graded in accordance with ASTM D2940. 'Rain ballast' aggregate (63 mm) would also be suitable
 - If required, bedding should be clear, crushed 5 mm diameter stone, graded in accordance with ASTM C33 No 8, High Performance Bedding (1-9 mm diameter), or equivalent. Typical bedding thickness is between 40 mm and 75 mm
- The surfacing should be permeable and allow the entry of water into the base and the soils below
- Where geotextiles are used, they must be needle-punched or woven monofilament and should facilitate flow through the textile
- Paver surfaces should have appropriate edge restraints: metal or plastic stripping is acceptable in some cases, but concrete curbs are preferred

Eligible costs:

Permeable paving rebates are calculated based on the installed permeable pavement area and not based on specific costs for materials and labour).

Ineligible costs:

Non-permeable pavement areas.

Claim requirements:

- Completed claim form
- Itemized invoice from a certified Fusion Landscape Professional or Interlocking Concrete Pavers Institute certified professional
- Photo proof of work including based preparation and finished surface

Certified Fusion Landscape Design

Funding: \$500

Description:

A Certified Fusion Landscape Design is a landscape that is designed and implemented by a certified [Fusion Landscape Professional](#).

Project requirements:

- Landscape design and installation must have been completed by a certified Fusion Landscape Professional, and;
- The designed and installed landscape must cover an area of at least 40m² or at least 30% of the front yard (the portion of the yard between the address street and the residence) or the backyard (the portion of the yard on the opposite side of the residence as the address street) where side yards can be included in either the front or back yard and;
- The landscape design must contain at least two of the following rainwater management practices:
 - Downspout redirection to a permeable surface
 - Rain garden
 - Soakaway pit
 - Permeable driveway, walkway, or other surface



Eligible costs:

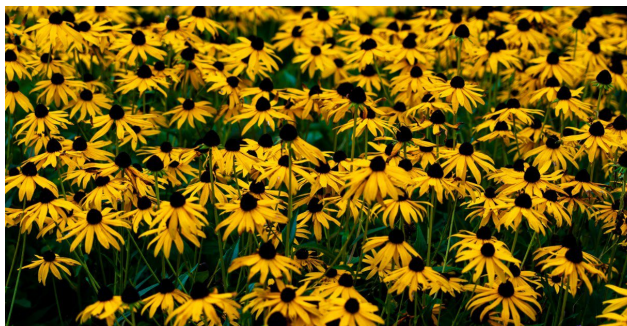
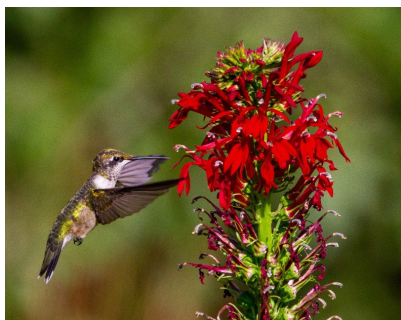
Design services provided by a Fusion Landscape Professional

Ineligible costs:

Design services provided by a non-certified landscape professional. Any services or materials not related to the design of a Fusion Landscape.

Claim requirements:

- Completed claim form
- Itemized invoice from a certified Fusion Landscape Professional



Left: A hummingbird and a cardinal flower. Right: Black-eyed Susans in bloom.

7. Resources

Helpful definitions to know

Directly connected impervious area (DCIA)

This is an area of your roof or driveway that collects rainwater and drains to a specific spot; often a downspout or the road. The size of this area lets us know the average volume of run-off generated in each rainfall event. Your home might have several different DCIAs (garage roof, driveway, front of house, back of house etc.) all of which can be managed to reduce run-off.

Permeability

Permeability is the measure of how well water infiltrates into the ground. Natural areas like fields and forests are highly permeable, whereas hard spaces like parking lots and roads are impermeable and generate run-off.

Priority Stormwater Retrofit Area

This refers to the specific areas identified in the Pinecrest Creek / Westboro Stormwater Retrofit Study and the Eastern Subwatersheds Stormwater Retrofit Study. Both of these areas were identified as important to the health of the Ottawa River in the [Ottawa River Action Plan](#). In Priority Areas, residents are eligible for Rain Ready Ottawa Home Assessments as well as Rebates for eligible rainwater management projects.

Secondary Stormwater Retrofit Areas

These are areas which have been identified in the Stormwater Master Plan for future study which will evaluate the most suitable and cost-effective solutions for managing rainwater. Within these areas, Rain Ready Ottawa Home Assessments are available in limited numbers, free of charge.

Run-off

Run-off is the water that falls on your property and drains off your property. Most properties see some amount of run-off, but managing and minimizing this amount can help keep our creeks and rivers healthy.

Storm sewer

The system of catch basins, pipes, and ditches used to carry surface water from surrounding lands to streams, lakes and rivers. Stormwater in many older neighbourhoods is returned to the environment without treatment.

Sanitary sewer

The system of underground pipes used to carry waste from sinks, toilets, and showers to wastewater treatment facilities where it is treated and returned to the environment.

Completing required calculations:

Imperial to Metric conversions

1 foot $\approx$ 0.30 metres

1 metre $\approx$ 3.281 feet

Helpful calculations and conversions

Area = length X width

Volume = length X width X depth

1 m² = 10.8 sqft

1 sqft = 0.093 m²

1 cubic yard = 27 cubic feet

1 cubic foot = 0.037 cubic yards

1 cubic yard = 0.76 m³

1 m³ = 1.31 cubic yards