

RiverSmart Homes

Clean Water Starts in Your Yard

Stormwater Runoff and the District of Columbia

Stormwater runoff is rainwater that flows off impervious surfaces such as rooftops, driveways, roads, sidewalks and sometimes even lawns. Stormwater runoff travels from these surfaces to our streams, picking up pollutants such as oil and grease from our roadways and driveways as it goes. Nutrients from lawn fertilizers and bacteria from pet waste may also be picked up by stormwater and carried to our streams.

RiverSmart Homes will help reduce stormwater runoff, which will help the District's streams and rivers

RiverSmart Homes Defined

The District Department of the Environment (DDOE) has launched a new program for District residents called RiverSmart Homes. This program offers incentives to homeowners interested in reducing stormwater pollution from their properties.

Homeowners receive up to \$1,200 to adopt one or more of the following landscape enhancements:

- Shade Trees
- Above Ground Cisterns/Rain Barrels
- Permeable/Porous Pavers
- Rain Gardens
- BayScaping

Benefits of RiverSmart Homes to the Homeowner

RiverSmart Homes landscaping enhancements can provide numerous benefits to homeowners, such as:

- Beautifully landscaped properties;
- Cost savings on water, electricity and lawn-mower fuel and oil;
- Reduced heating and cooling bills;
- Less time devoted to lawn-care, resulting in extra time to relax;
- Reduced stress and better health; and
- Higher property values.

Benefits of RiverSmart Homes to the District

New development and large renovations of properties in the District are required to have items that reduce stormwater pollution. Unfortunately, most of the District was built before modern methods for controlling and treating stormwater were developed. Chances are you do not have any stormwater control measures on your property.

RiverSmart Homes provides incentives to beautify your property and benefit the District's environment by:

- Minimizing the use of herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers used in conventional landscaping;
- Stabilizing soils, helping to prevent erosion;
- Providing increased habitat for native wildlife;
- Reducing air pollution and the *urban heat island effect*;
- Treating and infiltrating stormwater on site helping to recharge groundwater levels; and
- Diminishing the impact on aquatic life from polluted stormwater rushing to local streams during storm events.

Did you know?

Every year in the District 25 billion gallons of stormwater flows off impervious surfaces and into our local waterways.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW





***Install
Above Ground
Cisterns,***

commonly called rain barrels, and use the water from your roof to water your gardens or wash your car and save money on your water bills.



***Replace
Impervious
Surfaces with
Pervious Pavers***

to allow water to infiltrate naturally into the soil. Pervious pavers are also more attractive than traditional concrete or asphalt.

How to Make Your Home a Riversmart Home

***Construct
Rain Gardens***
to infiltrate and treat stormwater naturally, and because they allow you to plant interesting and beautiful plants that can tolerate very wet conditions.

***AND
BayScape Your Yard***
with plants native to the Chesapeake Bay region, which will invite songbirds, butterflies and overall beauty into your yard.



***Plant
Shade Trees***
to reduce air pollution and heating and cooling bills, while increasing your property value at the same time.



*Want to Reduce Stormwater Runoff From Your Yard?
Riversmart Homes Can Help.*

To schedule the DDOE to come out to your property to perform an analysis of what changes you can make to reduce stormwater runoff, go to ddoe.dc.gov/riversmarthomes and fill out an on-line application.

Or, to simply learn more about the RiverSmart Homes Program, visit: ddoe.dc.gov/riversmarthomes