How Catch the Rain can help...

HOMEOWNER BENEFITS

- Beautiful landscaping
- Low maintenance
- More butterflies, pollinators, and songbirds
- Fewer drainage problems
- Eliminates pollutants

WATERSHED BENEFITS

- Cleaner waterways
- Less erosion
- Increased groundwater recharge
- Reduced flooding
- Native wildlife habitat connections
- Lower air and water temperatures
- Aquatic life benefits

POSSIBLE PROJECTS

- Rain gardens
- Native plant landscaping
- Shade or canopy tree plantings
- Rain barrels
- Reduction of impervious surfaces
- Permeable paver retrofits

CATCH THE RAIN IN THE WHITE CLAY CREEK WATERSHED

Photo by North Creek Nurseries

LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT YOU CAN DO ON YOUR PROPERTY

Online resources for more information

White Clay Creek National Wild & Scenic River
Catch the Rain Program
whiteclay.org/catchtherain

Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC)
https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/climate-coastal-energy/sustainable-communities/green-infrastructure/

Rutgers Water Resources Program
http://water.rutgers.edu/Rain_Gardens/RGWebsite/raingardens.html

Penn State Extension Program
extension.psu.edu/rain-gardens-the-plants

The EPA's Soak Up the Rain page
www.epa.gov/soakuptherain/soak-rain-benefits-green-infrastructure

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WILLIAM PENN FOUNDATION

BRANDYWINE CONSERVANCY

Natural Lands

Brandywine Red Clay Alliance
Watershed Conservation | Environmental Education

Catch the Rain

A PROGRAM FOR SUBURBAN HOMEOWNERS

What is Catch the Rain?

Catch the Rain is a voluntary program for suburban homeowners in the White Clay, Plum Run and Red Clay watersheds. Participation can involve small projects that reduce runoff from rain or snowmelt. Your project could be as simple as planting native shade trees over your driveway, installing an eye-catching bed of native wildflowers, or catching the rain from your roof to reuse on your lawn or garden. These small projects capture water at the source and are relatively inexpensive, with a large effect on runoff. Catch the Rain projects can 'green' your neighborhood, boost your property values, save you money, and help streams flow clear.

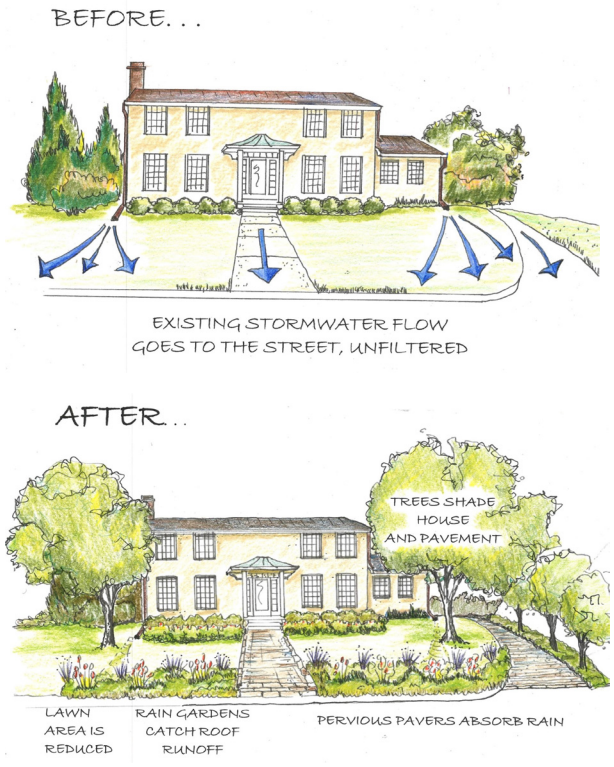
One of the largest sources of water pollution is runoff from residential streets and properties. Runoff occurs when rainwater is not able to absorb into the ground where it falls. If this water does not soak directly into the ground, it will run across the surface until it is absorbed into the ground or flows into a body of water. Anytime rainwater is not absorbed directly into the ground, it is considered stormwater runoff. Almost all the rain falling on paved surfaces and mowed lawns becomes stormwater runoff. Unlike these surfaces, forests and meadows allow rainwater to gradually soak into the sponge-like soil. As a result, pollutants are filtered out, ground water (which refills well-water and maintains continual flow of streams and rivers) is replenished, flash flooding is reduced and the impacts of droughts on stream levels is decreased.

Before Conservation Landscaping

After Conservation Landscaping

Residential Runoff

Obvious sources of residential runoff include driveways, streets, parking lots, roofs and gutters, patios, and sidewalks; however, mowed lawns shed almost as much rain (~90%) as paved surfaces (100%). Anything left on these surfaces is also washed off along with the rain; including, yard debris, pet waste, fertilizers, pesticides, road salt and car oils. Without proper filtration, these pollutants wash directly into nearby streams leading to diminished water quality.



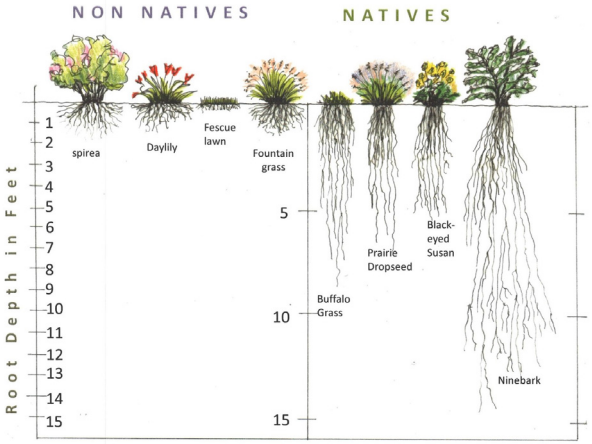
Why Catch the Rain?

- Catching more rain on-site can help reduce drought effects and lower your water bill.
- Planting trees help shade your house for cooler summertime temperatures and lower utility bills.
- Growing native plants feeds pollinators and songbirds
- By reducing the size of your lawn, you'll spend less time mowing and reduce chemical and fertilizer use.

Why Native Plants?

Use of native plants is preferred over non-native plants.

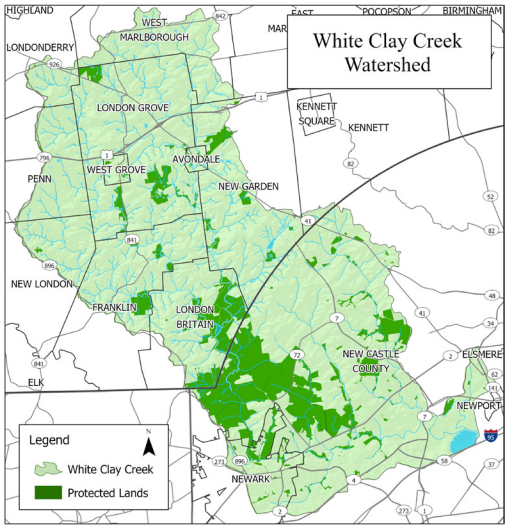
- They are adapted to our climate and soils, with deeper roots that absorb rainwater more affectively.
- Native plants attract and support butterflies, bees, birds and bring life to your yard.



Catch the Rain

White Clay Creek Watershed

The White Clay Wild & Scenic River Program and the Brandywine Conservancy have developed a voluntary rebate program for homeowners that promotes clean water. The Catch the Rain Program invites White Clay watershed residents to learn about green stormwater projects through on-site property visits. During your site visit we will explain different practices you can install on your property to improve water quality and habitat.



How to get started

1. APPLY
2. SET UP A SITE VISIT
3. LET US KNOW WHAT YOU WANT INSTALLED
4. SCHEDULE YOUR PROJECT INSTALLATION
5. HAVE A FINAL SITE VISIT
6. APPLY FOR YOUR REBATE

To get started or learn more, contact:

Shane Morgan
Watershed Coordinator
White Clay Wild & Scenic River Program

484-716-6836
mpc@whiteclay.org

Practices, Rebate Amounts & Requirements

Residential properties are eligible to receive **reimbursement of 50% total project costs up to a lifetime total of $2,500 per property in rebates**. Details can be found at CatchTheRain.org

Practice	Residential Rebate	Practice Recommendations
Rain Gardens	**Typical cost:** $4-25/sq. ft.	**Recommended size:** > 100 sq. ft. Location must pass percolation test
Conservation Landscapes	**Typical cost:** $4-10/ sq. ft.	**Recommended size:** > 100 sq. ft.
Permeable Paving Retrofit	**Typical cost:** $35-65/sq. ft.	**Recommended size:** >100 sq. ft. of existing impervious surface (i.e. asphalt, cement).
Pavement Removal	**Typical cost:** $3-5/sq. ft.	**Recommended size:** >100 sq. ft.
Rain Barrels	**Typical retail cost:** $100 - $150 **Instant Rebate:** Each barrel will be sold for $50 each. One person can purchase up to 5 barrels max.	**Minimum size:** 55 gallon barrel
Canopy Trees	**Typical installed cost:** $25-250/tree *(depending on size)* **Rebate:** (trees must be #10 size container or smaller to be eligible for rebate)	**Recommended planting time:** between Sept. 15 and April 30. *Tree must be mulched and have protection from deer.*

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