Georgia Conservation Assistance Program (GCAP)

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be eligible for the GCAP program? How do I know which BMP best fits my site need?

A: Rain Gardens, Cisterns, Dry Well, Downspouts Disconnects, and Impervious Surface Removal are all eligible BMPs. More information on each of these practices can be found in our webinar presentation. If chosen for the program, Trees Atlanta will do a site assessment of the property, and make professional recommendations on which BMP fits homeowner needs the best.

Q: What is the funding timeline?

A: The application period opens September 10th to the 30th. From there, the GACD and the Conservation Districts will score the applications by early October.

The second phase of the application procedure will then begin, with Trees Atlanta visiting and assessing the sites to determine the Best Management Practices (BMPs) needed to best fit the property and homeowner need.

Once the site assessment is complete, the GACD and the Conservation Districts will notify the funding recipients. The installations can then be scheduled anything between Fall 2020 and Spring 2021.

Q: How will applicants be chosen to participate in this program?

A: The applications will be reviewed and ranked based on factors including financial need, need for services, and the property being located in an impaired watershed.

Q: Is there a website where homeowners can see if their property is in an impaired watershed area?

A: Link to Impaired Streams in GA:
https://hub.arcgis.com/datasets/9572968209da4c719b27844f4f2c5fbf_1
Q: How many projects does GCAP install?

A: This is our first pilot program for this project so we do not have a certain number of projects to install. We have a limited pot of funding however so projects will be limited based on that.

Q: Approximately how many projects do you expect to fund?

A: At least 16.

Q: Is there a minimum and maximum cost that the project must meet?

A: No, there is no set minimum or maximum amount for each practice.

Q: Do some projects have higher priority than others (e.g. impervious surface removal is more points than a rain garden)?

A: This is a needs based program so the projects themselves are not ranked higher priority - rather the applicants are ranked according to need.

Q: Can I apply on behalf of someone?

A: No. Only the homeowners or renters of the property may apply.

Q: Can renters apply for this program?

A: Yes, but homeowner signature and approval are needed to participate.

Q: Do all project sites considered for GCAP have to be zoned as residential?

A: We are currently only offering this program for single family residential properties.
Q: Will the program also be available to property owned by the Home Owners Associations (HOA)?

A: If you live in a neighborhood with an HOA, you are still eligible to apply. However, the GCAP program does not currently fund projects on land owned by the HOA, nor projects that are applied for by the HOA. Only individual properties are being considered.

At the moment we are only working on single family owned residential properties, however the program has potential to expand in future funding rounds and we will keep this in mind.

Q: What happens if I am not chosen?

A: After the initial funding period closes, stone applications that could not be funded in the first round will enter a waitlist. You will be notified you are on the waitlist for the second round of funding, which begins Spring 2021.

Q: If we are not selected to participate in the program, will we get the site assessment completed so we can complete the work on our own?

A: We are currently only funding the assessments and evaluations for our installations that are accepted into the program.

Q: If we are not chosen, but still want to complete a project on our own, what are the next steps?

A: Each site is different, and will benefit from BMPs differently. Site assessments can best help determine what BMP will work the best on individual properties.

It is suggested homeowners call their local UGA Extension Office or the Soil and Water Conservation District to see if they have recommendations. The best phone number for both Fulton and Cobb resident to call is (706) 613-3640.
Q: What will not be financially covered in this program?

A: Although GCAP fully funds the site assessments and installation process of Best Management Practices, it will not cover the maintenance of the BMPs after installations.

Q: Will this program be expanded - offered in more areas / other districts?

A: Based on the positive public reception, we hope to expand this program to other counties in the future. However, currently only Cobb and Fulton County residents may apply.

Q: Where can I watch the GCAP webinar?

A: The webinar can be viewed at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h9Mg6rRgZ1E&feature=youtu.be. Additionally, more information regarding the program can be found on the GCAP webpage here: https://www.gacd.us/gcap.