

City of Rockville Rain Barrel Workshops

Rockville, Maryland

Why use a rain barrel?

A rain barrel collects water to use for garden irrigation or other non-potable purposes. By preventing stormwater from flowing directly into a storm drain, rain barrels also help to improve the health of local rivers and streams.

Typical Rain Barrel

1. Summer rain falls off hard surface and picks up pollutants, causing flooding and polluted streams.

2. Potable water is readily used for irrigating landscapes.

1. Rainwater is captured in a rain barrel, where it is stored for later use.

2. Rainwater is used for irrigating landscapes, saving hundreds of gallons of potable water per year.

A single rain barrel can save over 1,000 gallons of water during peak summer months!



The City of Rockville's RainScapes Rewards Program aims to incentivize and empower City homeowners to implement on-lot practices such as rain barrels and conservation landscaping in order to reduce stormwater impacts on City waterways

and encourage water conservation and re-use.

Biohabitats provided a variety of technical services during the spring and summer of 2009 to assist the City in its rain barrel outreach efforts. These services included developing public outreach materials, planning and installing four rain barrel demonstration projects at City community centers, conducting four public workshops for City residents, and developing educational signage.

Community rain barrel workshops and rain barrel demonstration projects fostered greater adoption of rain barrels by Rockville homeowners.

Working with City staff, Biohabitats designed and delivered presentations on the benefits, selection, installation, and maintenance of rain barrels at the Rockville Senior Center, Lincoln Park Community Center, Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, and the Croydon Creek Nature Center, as well as the Activity Center at Bohrer Park in Gaithersburg. Audience sizes ranged as high as 50 participants per workshop, and audience evaluations indicated a high level of satisfaction with the content and quality of delivery. Outreach materials developed under this contract are currently available on the City's RainScapes website.

The rain barrel installations were designed to serve as permanent demonstration projects in publicly-accessible locations. The designs placed a priority on safety, efficient operation, and aesthetic appeal. Biohabitats also designed interpretive signage that was subsequently installed at each site. The signs provide basic information about the benefits of rain barrels and serve as a permanent educational amenity. Responding to a request by City staff, Biohabitats also developed three interpretive signs that explain the purpose and benefits of City stormwater ponds.

SERVICES

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