



PRESS RELEASE
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Grants for Homeowners for Projects to Manage Stormwater in Falls Church City

The Falls Church Village Preservation and Improvement Society (VPIS) announces 2021 grants to City of Falls Church residents for projects to reduce stormwater runoff. Grants are available for projects to install rain gardens or conservation landscapes and for purchase of rain barrels to store rain water.

The grants are part of the *RainSmart* Program implemented by VPIS with support from the City of Falls Church. The Program is intended to help City of Falls Church residents implement practices, such as rain barrels and rain gardens, that help rainwater soak into the ground on-site to prevent flooding and protect water quality locally and in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The Program also includes public information and outreach programs to promote stormwater management.

Rain Barrel Grants

An easy way to manage stormwater is to install rain barrels to catch runoff from roofs. Under the *RainSmart* Program, City residents can apply for grant funds for up to two rain barrels with a limit of \$50 for each barrel. Residents may apply for rain barrel grants throughout the year and can purchase rain barrels from a commercial source, such as Brown's Hardware in Falls Church. Another option is to use this grant at rain barrel workshops in the region sponsored by the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District this spring (see: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/rain-barrel>). Residents are responsible for installing and maintaining rain barrels.

Rain Garden Grants

Another opportunity to improve local stormwater management is to install a rain garden that is designed to help rainwater soak into the ground and help reduce high volumes of runoff that carry sediment, nutrients, and other pollutants into local streams. Under the *RainSmart* Program, City

residents can apply for grant funds to cover up to 50% of the cost of a project or \$1,500, whichever is less. Grants are also available for landscape conservation projects that have stormwater benefits. These projects need to be designed and installed by contractors approved by the *RainSmart* Program.

Funds for both rain barrel and rain garden grants are limited. Applications for rain barrels will be considered on a continuing basis until available funds for the year are committed. Applications for rain gardens and conservation landscapes require some initial design and are due by April 9th. Applications will be considered and funded giving priority to projects with the greatest stormwater benefits to the community. Applications received after the due date will be considered if funds are available.

For more information about the *RainSmart* Program and for rain barrel and rain garden applications, go to: <http://www.vpis.org/environment/rainsmart-program/>.

If you have questions about the *RainSmart* Program, send an email to RainSmartFallsChurch@gmail.com.

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