



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Am I eligible for the RiverSmart Homes program?**

If you own a home with a yard in the District, either as a resident or as a landlord, you are eligible for having a RiverSmart Home. If you rent a home in the District, you must have your landlord's consent to participate in the program.

*Please note that large property complexes such as apartments, condos, and offices are currently not eligible for the RiverSmart Homes program.*

### **Is becoming a RiverSmart Homes going to cost me money?**

The RiverSmart Homes program provides you with a cost-savings of up to \$1,200, but is not free-of-charge. So that you have some ownership of the landscaping work, the District Department of the Environment (DDOE) is asking for homeowners to pay a small percentage of their installation cost (usually around 10 percent of the potential total cost). Your break-down of co-payments include:

- ◆ **Shade Trees = \$50.** The cost of the shade tree installation is estimated to be \$300.
- ◆ **Rain Barrels = \$30.** The cost of the rain barrel installation is estimated to be \$300.
- ◆ **Rain Gardens = \$75.** The cost of a rain garden varies depending on the size of the area landscaped. It can be up to \$1,200.
- ◆ **BayScaping (native plants) = \$100.** The cost of the BayScaping varies depending on the size of the area landscaped. It can be up to \$1,200.
- ◆ **Pervious Pavers = DDOE will pay the difference (up to \$1,200) between conventional pavement (concrete) and pervious pavers.**

### **How does payment work for becoming a RiverSmart Home?**

You will pay your appropriate co-payment directly to the contractor(s) installing your RiverSmart Home landscape enhancements – i.e. shade trees, rain barrels, BayScaping, rain gardens or pervious pavers. Co-payment happens at the time of installation (see below for installation details).

### **Does becoming a RiverSmart Home impact my property tax assessment?**

No.

### **How long does it take to become a RiverSmart Home?**

After an audit of your property (see below for audit details) is completed, contractors should complete work on your property within 6-8 months.

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## What is the process of becoming a RiverSmart Homes?

### 1) You Schedule an Audit

You may schedule an audit by calling the District Department of the Environment (DDOE) at: 202-535-2240. You may also visit our website, [ddoe.dc.gov/riversmarthomes](http://ddoe.dc.gov/riversmarthomes), to learn more about the program and for additional contact information.

### 2) Have a Site Audit Conducted

DDOE inspectors conduct audits to assess what landscape enhancement(s) – shade trees, rain barrels, BayScaping, rain gardens or pervious pavers – will be appropriate for your property.

A DDOE inspector will come to your home at an appointed time, present an informational packet on the RiverSmart Homes program to you, and ask for a brief tour of your yard. The inspector will then walk your property on their own, taking down measurements and notes. You must be present at the property during the audit, which takes approximately one hour to complete.

One to two weeks following the audit, you will receive the Inspector's audit report of your property.

### 3) Let DDOE Know What Items from the Audit You Want Installed

Audit reports identify stormwater run-off points on your property, and recommend which RiverSmart Homes landscaping enhancement(s) you can choose to have installed in effort to reduce the stormwater run-off. After reviewing the audit, contact your inspector to let them know what landscaping you would like to have installed on your property. Again, DDOE will cover up to \$1,200 per household for the total cost of an installation(s).

### 4) Have Landscaping Enhancements Installed

DDOE has partnered with local contractors to work directly with you to have your landscape enhancement(s) installed. The contractor will contact you to arrange the installation, and will collect the appropriate co-payment at the time of installation.

*Please note, you may choose to use a contractor not partnered with DDOE. In this situation, you must tell DDOE in advance so that DDOE can work with the contractor to make sure the installations are done properly. It will be between you and the contractor to work out payment arrangements. Only once the work is properly complete will DDOE provide a rebate to the contractor to offset the cost of installation.*

### 5) Have a Final Site Visit

Once the RiverSmart Homes landscaping enhancements are completely installed, a DDOE Inspector will come back to meet with you, assess the installations, and discuss your RiverSmart Homes experience.