



Bryn Mawr Raingarden Program

Participant Guidelines

Program Overview: The Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association (BMNA) wishes to collaborate with Metro Blooms, the Neighborhood Revitalization Program and our property owners to implement a program aimed at installing 30 raingardens in Bryn Mawr from fall, 2010 through fall, 2012.

Metro Blooms is a local, private nonprofit volunteer-based educational organization which seeks to partner with other organizations, businesses, professional associations, local governments and watershed districts to promote environmentally sound gardening and landscaping practices to improve the health of our land and water resources. Raingardens have a very positive effect on neighborhoods and the environment. They can substantially improve local watersheds by capturing rain water and preventing surface runoff. Property owners may increase property value through improved aesthetics and have the potential to lower water bills if they use less water as a result of installing such a feature. This reduction in demand for fresh water helps sustain our community's freshwater source.

This program provides discounted coupons for consultation and design services to property owners as an incentive to install a raingarden. In addition, property owners will have an additional incentive in the form of installation grants to cover such items as excavation, landscaping, rain barrels, plantings, etc.

Expanded Definition of Raingarden: In this document the word 'raingarden' is used broadly to include storm water management systems. Property owners may elect to focus the design of their project on the more mechanical basics of a stormwater management project.

Eligible Applicants: Anyone owning a residential or commercial property within the Bryn Mawr neighborhood is eligible to receive these incentives. More than one coupon and grant can be received if an owner owns more than one residential or commercial property, but only one coupon and grant will be provided for each property. Grants will only be made available to the first 30 homeowners who have purchased the \$25 coupon. Additional coupons will be made available to those who wish to be on a waiting list in the event a previous coupon holder is dropped from the program.

Multiple Participation: Properties that receive or have received assistance through any Bryn Mawr NRP Home Improvement Program or Commercial Improvement Matching Grant program may participate in this program.

Eligible Properties: Properties must be located in the Bryn Mawr neighborhood. The properties can be either owner-occupied or absentee-owned. Condominium or town home associations shall be eligible to participate in this program.

Eligible Projects: To be eligible for an installation grant, projects must meet certain criteria. This criteria is in place to insure that these types of projects meet environmental standards set forth for raingardens. Grant payments will not be made on any specific project until certification by the BMNA Raingarden Committee.

The following 6 criteria will be used to certify a rain garden:

1. Location of the Raingarden: If capturing roof runoff, the raingarden should be at least 10 feet away, 20 feet away if possible, from the building to prevent potential water seepage into the basement.
2. Sizing the Raingarden: The depth of the raingarden should be between four and 12 inches. The depth of the garden is measured from the lowest point of the garden bed to the bottom of the outlet, (the place where the water spills out of the garden). The total area should be a minimum of 100 square feet.
3. Drainage: The raingarden should be filled with loose soil that should contain a blend of organic matter. Soil mix is difficult to measure without a soil test. Soil amelioration may be required as part of the installation process. The plant selection in the raingarden should be plants that are known to have long roots.
4. Design: There should be an inlet and outlet for the raingarden. The water should be able to enter and exit the raingarden.
5. Maintenance: There should be no presence of invasive species.
6. Visual Appeal: There should be a diverse mix of perennial plant types, including some or all native plants.

City Permits: All applicable permits must be obtained by the contractor.

Incentive Amounts: After purchasing a \$25 coupon property owners will receive consultation and design services worth \$100 from Metro Blooms. A property owner may elect to receive these services from another organization, in which case the amount of reimbursement to this organization will be limited to the lesser of \$100 or the actual cost of such services. Grants will be the lesser amount of \$500 or 50% of eligible installation costs. These may include labor and/or material costs related to the installation of the raingarden.

Property Owner Requirements regarding installation: Property owners will be required to have onsite for installation all landscaping supplies, including compost, mulch and plant materials. Property owners agree to maintain the raingarden according to an agreed upon maintenance plan for a minimum of five years.

Special Information for Metro Blooms' Installations: Participants in this project may be eligible for a neighborhood-wide installation event in 2011 and 2012. Metro Blooms will work with Bassett Creek Watershed District to seek support for excavations services from the Conservation Corps of Minnesota. If approved, an installation event will be planned for one week in 2011, during which raingarden excavation services will be scheduled throughout the neighborhood. Metro Blooms has also agreed to provide installation oversight services at a cost of \$110 for raingardens less than 150 square feet. This fee will be paid by the BMNA and deducted from the grant awarded to the property owner. Larger installations may require additional charges.

Coupon Purchase Process: The Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association (BMNA) will host workshops to introduce this program. Specifically, an expert in the field from Metro Blooms will explain what makes up a watershed, how pollution affects a watershed, and how residents can improve water quality. They will cover healthier lawn care practices including less-toxic lawn care, using rain barrels, and using native plants, trees and shrubs. The basics of raingarden design, installation, and maintenance, including where to install a raingarden, how to measure infiltration, how to size a raingarden, how to prepare soil, how to redirect downspouts, and how to choose suitable native plants will also be highlighted. Participants will receive a packet of supporting materials including a homework assignment to guide the planning of their own raingarden. Interested Bryn Mawr property owners will have the opportunity to purchase these coupons on a first-come first-serve basis beginning the night of the workshop. Attendance at a workshop is not required to purchase a coupon. After the workshop coupons will be available for purchase from the BMNA by sending in a check for \$25 to:

BMNA Raingarden Program
P.O. Box 16437
Minneapolis, MN 55416

Please include a self-stamped envelope indicating the name of the person purchasing the coupon and the mailing address where you wish to have the coupon sent. Coupons are non-refundable.

Grant Application Process: All applications for grants must be submitted to BMNA which will serve as the Program Administrator. The postmark deadline for grant applications is December 31, 2012.

Applications should be sent to: BMNA Raingarden Program
P.O. Box 16437
Minneapolis, MN 55416

Applications must include the following:

1. A letter indicating the location of the rain garden, property owners name and contact information.
2. Copies of all invoices related to the installation of the raingarden.
3. Digital photographs of before and after shots of your rain garden sent to nrprep@bmna.org.

Proposed Timeline:

BMNA Board approves program guidelines and budget:	October, 2010
BMNA begins program marketing:	October, 2010
BMNA hosts raingarden workshops:	Fall 2010 and Spring 2011
Property owners request consultation/design services:	Fall 2010-Summer 2012
Installation of raingardens:	Fall 2010-Fall 2012