

RainReady Oak Park

Frequently Asked Questions



WHAT IS RAINREADY OAK PARK?

RainReady Oak Park helps residents better manage rain on their property with landscaping improvements. The 10 properties selected for the pilot phase will benefit from a free assessment of their property and a cost-share grant for landscaping. The pilot is being funded by the Village of Oak Park and administered by RainReady (RainReady.org), an initiative of the non-profit Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT).

WHY IS THE VILLAGE OF OAK PARK DOING THIS PILOT?

The goals of the pilot project are to:

- Reduce the burden on Oak Park's sewer system by capturing rain where it falls
- Reduce the risk of basement seepage problems by directing rain away from homes
- Provide public health and environmental benefits through nature-based solutions
- Collect data to inform the expansion of the program

IF I AM ELIGIBLE, WHAT ASSISTANCE WILL I RECEIVE?

As one of the 10 selected homeowners, you will benefit from:

- A professional home assessment to identify the best landscaping improvements to manage rain at your home
- A construction scope of work that you can use to get quotes from landscaping contractors
- A 50% reimbursement (up to a maximum grant of \$1,300) for eligible landscaping improvements that you install at your home

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

To be eligible for the pilot program, you will need to meet the following criteria:

- Be a resident of the Village of Oak Park
- Own and live in a single-family home with a yard and disconnected downspouts (or can be disconnected)
- Have a functioning sewer backup protection system already installed at your home
- Have no outstanding Village obligations or Code violations
- Be able to maintain the landscaping improvements for at least three years
- Be willing to participate in post-construction monitoring and evaluation. This will be a short online survey after construction and after storms. This information will be kept confidential and used to inform the project's expansion.

WHAT KIND OF LANDSCAPING IMPROVEMENTS CAN BE FUNDED?

- Rain garden
- Bioswale
- Permeable pavement
- Cistern
- Dry well
- Other landscaping improvements, as approved by RainReady and the Village of Oak Park

WHAT CONSTRUCTION COSTS CAN BE REIMBURSED?

Eligible costs related to the approved landscaping scope of work include:

- Design and Engineering Services
- Labor and Equipment Rental

- Materials and Construction
 - Debris removal
 - Site restoration
 - Soil placement
 - Waste disposal
- Village Construction Permit Fees

Ineligible costs include:

- Tree removal
- Watering and maintenance of landscaping
- Private construction inspection services hired by the homeowner
- Costs associated with utility staking
- Any landscaping and other services not within the approved scope of work

The homeowner will be responsible for paying the contractor in full before receiving a program grant. The program will reimburse up to 50% of eligible approved costs for landscaping improvements. The maximum grant amount is \$1,300. Project costs above maximum cost share percentage and/or maximum grant amount will be paid by the homeowner.

HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

If you are selected, you will receive a RainReady Home assessment for your yard. Before receiving the home assessment, you will be asked to sign a grant agreement and pay a refundable deposit towards the cost of the home assessment. The deposit is refunded when construction is complete at your home and any Village permit inspections are passed.

Based on the assessment, RainReady will provide you with a recommended landscaping scope of work. You can move forward with the recommended work, or suggest an alternative scope of work (subject to program approval). You will choose your preferred landscaping contractor to do the approved work. Once the work is done, RainReady will document the completed project, and you will request a reimbursement from the Village. The work should be completed by the end of Spring 2017.

I'D LIKE TO APPLY. WHAT DO I DO?

Fill out the online application and grant agreement at (<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/3105407/RainReady-Oak-Park>) by November 1, 2016. You can also pick up a paper application at Village Hall (room 201), or at our RainReady Oak Park event on October 27, 2016. The RainReady team will review the applications to identify 10 homeowners to participate in the pilot. We will let you know if you have been selected. Eligible applicants who aren't selected will be placed on a waiting list for a future program. If you are selected, we will be in touch with you to complete the grant agreement process and schedule a date for your RainReady Home assessment.

WHAT HAPPENS ONCE THE PILOT IS FINISHED?

Your participation in the post-construction monitoring and evaluation will be critical to our next steps. CNT will analyze your responses to our short surveys and produce one or more case studies. With your permission, we will document the construction work with professional photography. The photos will be incorporated into an online photo essay and other social media that communicates the impacts of the pilot.

WHAT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PILOT?

Please contact the RainReady team if you have questions. Call us at 773-269-2231 or email us at home@rainready.org.