



Climate Ready Homes: Rain Garden Installation Program

Participant Guide and Application Form

May 15, 2026

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PROGRAM INFORMATION

Overview

Thank you for your interest in participating in the Climate Ready Homes: Rain Garden Installation Program (“the Program”). The Program is being delivered as part of Climate Ready Homes, which is run by Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). Launched in 2025, [Climate Ready Homes](#) is a program focused on empowering residents to create sustainable homes through several key action areas including stormwater management and sustainable gardening.

The intent of the Program is to assist homeowners with installing sustainability retrofits at no-cost to help spread knowledge and awareness of home retrofits, create accessible pathways for home retrofits, and improve residential stormwater management within [TRCA’s jurisdiction](#). The Program is designed specifically to assist a select few homeowners in TRCA’s jurisdiction by providing a free rain garden installation by [Landcare Inc.](#) (Landcare), a professional Fusion Garden certified Landscaper that has extensive experience with rain garden design and installation.

Lastly, findings from the Program may be used to inform future program refinements, scaling-up, and to assess return on program investment.

Participant Eligibility

Applicants for the Climate Ready Homes: Rain Garden Installation Program must meet the following basic eligibility criteria:

- **General Requirements:**
 - Must be 18 years of age or older.
 - Must own a single-family home (detached, semi-detached or townhome) within [TRCA’s jurisdiction](#) (addresses will be verified). Note: tenants may participate provided landlord is engaged in the process (e.g., signs Participant Agreement, approves rain garden design, etc.).
 - Must be willing to sign a Participant Agreement with TRCA and abide by the Terms and Conditions (see Appendix D)
 - Must be willing to participate in a Climate Ready Homes home consultation consisting of an educational conversation with TRCA staff members that goes through recommendations and resources related to the following topics: (1) water, stormwater management and flood prevention, (2) energy and greenhouse gas reduction, (3) waste management, (4) sustainable gardening, (5) climate and emergency preparedness, and (6) health and well-being. Consultations are up to an hour long and can be delivered in several ways, including an in-person meeting at the participants’ home, virtual (over

Zoom or Teams), over the phone, or through a self-guided survey. You can request a consultation through this [link](#).

- Must be willing to have the rain garden installed by October 31, 2026.
- Must be willing to complete a short, initial satisfaction survey right after garden installation and a follow-up survey in summer 2027.
- Employees of TRCA are not eligible to participate.
- **Yard/Home Requirements:**
 - Proposed garden location within the front or backyard, however front yards are preferred
 - Proposed garden location that is at least 10m² and is at least 3m away from home's foundation
 - Yard that contains the proposed garden location must be at least 1.5x bigger than the proposed garden location to provide adequate drainage area
 - Proposed garden location must have a minimum of 2% slope away from home's foundation, however 5% or higher is preferred
 - Soil must not be predominantly clay and soil infiltration rate must be a minimum of 10mm/hr, however 20-25mm/hr is preferred
 - Proposed garden location has minimal obstructions including minimal stump removal and no tree removals
 - Proposed rainwater catchment area must be between 1,100 sq ft to 1,650 ft. Rainwater catchment area is the total roof area that sheds stormwater runoff into the downspout(s) that will be connected to the proposed rain garden. The catchment area will be to be estimated by TRCA staff based off roof size and number of downspouts during the application evaluation process and confirmed through site visit by Landcare (if selected for a site visit).
- **Marketing Requirements:**
 - Homeowners must be willing to share their experiences with the community and media through the following requirements that will be completed within a year after their rain garden is installed:
 - One public open garden tour (scheduled on a mutually agreeable date)
 - A profile on the TRCA website
 - TRCA marketing campaigns
 - Willing to put a lawn sign up for 1-year after garden installation (excluding November to March)

Rain Garden Criteria

For the Program, a rain garden is defined as a shallow, sunken garden, designed to collect rainwater that runs off your roof. Rain gardens can be planted with a combination of shrubs, grasses and flowers and has loose, deep soil that absorbs and filters rainwater. Rain gardens installed through the Program must meet the following criteria:

- Minimum garden area: 10m²
- Maximum garden area: 15m²
- Ponding depth: 25cm
- Mulch depth: 8-10cm
- Located at least 3m away from home's foundation
- Garden receiving runoff from at least one downspout connected to the home's roof or other water source (e.g., sump pump)
- Native plants only, with a mix of flowering herbaceous plants, grasses, and small shrubs
- Must have an erosion-resistant inlet (area for water to enter the garden) and outlet (area for water to exit the garden in case of overflowing).
 - Small stones will be placed around the inlet and outlet to reduce erosion.
 - The outlet must be lower in elevation than the inlet, will not direct overflow onto adjacent properties, and will have stones to reduce erosion.
- Garden design must be approved by TRCA and garden quotes exceeding TRCA's allocated Program funds will not be approved. Please see Homeowner Step-by-Step Process below for more information.

Selection Process

TRCA will be the lead agency responsible for participant selection and management of the program. The participant selection process has the following stages:

Stage 1: Applicants will complete a [pre-screening online application form](#) which will be open from **May 18, 2026, to June 11, 2026**. Applicants who meet the minimum eligibility requirements will be sent the full application form through email. All pre-screening form applications will be screened against the following criteria:

- Participant meets eligibility criteria as outlined above
- Application form is fully completed

All applications must be received through [this link](#), but Appendix A includes the pre-screening form questions for reference.

Stage 2: If applicants meet the minimum eligibility requirements through the pre-screening form, they will be sent an online application form through email that is due **Sunday, June 14, 2026**. Applicants

must complete the form sent to them via email; however, Appendix B includes the form questions for reference.

All applications will be screened against the following criteria:

- Participant meets eligibility criteria as outlined above
- Application form is fully completed
- Evaluation of content within the completed application form will be evaluated based off the criteria described below in **Table 1**
- TRCA values equity, diversity and inclusion. We encourage members of equity-seeking groups to apply and are committed to working with all participants in an equitable manner
- The applications with the highest scores will move forward within the program process

Table 1. Participant evaluation criteria

Criteria	Criteria Details	Weight
Proposed Rain Garden Location		
Optimal Rain Garden Location	Preference for garden areas that have optimal infiltration rates (20-25 mm/hr), yards sloping away from the foundation at 5% or greater, rain garden catchment area of 1,100 sq ft to 1,650 ft (estimated by TRCA), presence of loamy soil, and no obstructions.	20%
Environmental Impact		
Home within TRCA’s Regulated Area	Preference for homes within TRCA’s regulated area as a sign of potential for flood prevention.	15%
Proof of outdoor water pooling in proposed garden area	Preference for homes with significant pooling issues as a sign for potential flood prevention.	15%
Commitment to maintaining garden	Preference for homeowners that show significant commitment to maintaining garden.	15%
Champion Potential		
Home within SNAP neighbourhood	Preference for homes within one of the following SNAP neighbourhoods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rexdale SNAP (Toronto) • Pocket SNAP (Toronto) • Thornhill SNAP (Vaughan) • Malton SNAP (Mississauga) • Bramalea SNAP (Brampton) 	10%

Location and visibility (car & foot traffic)	Preferences for homes on front yards and busy streets to increase visibility of garden.	10%
Reason for participating	Preference for homeowners that are interested in participating reasons that align with the Climate Ready Homes program goals.	5%
Attitude towards marketing opportunities	Preference for homeowners that have a positive attitude towards marketing opportunities.	5%
Length of occupancy and future intentions	Preference towards participants who intend to stay in their home long-term.	5%
Total Score		100%

Stage 3: High-scoring applicants may be asked to undergo a short screening call with representatives of the selection committee to confirm:

- Ability to complete the rain garden installation program process
- Homeowners’ commitment to and understanding of the program’s Terms and Conditions, requirement to sign a waiver to have TRCA’s selected landscaper to conduct a site visit (see Appendix C), and the requirement to sign a Participant Agreement if they are selected for the program (see Appendix D)

Stage 4: For the highest scoring applicants, TRCA’s selected landscaper will complete a site visit of the proposed garden location to ensure that the yard and home meet the program requirements and collect information to create a draft design. The site visit will confirm the following criteria:

- Proposed garden location within the front or backyard at least 10m² that is at least 3m away from home’s foundation
- Proposed garden location is moderately sloping away from home’s foundation (minimum 2% slope away from foundation)
- Proposed garden area’s soil condition including soil type (loamy soil is preferred)
- Proposed garden location has minimal obstructions, including stump removal and no tree removals
- Inspection of downspouts that would be connected to the rain garden design and estimation of the proposed catchment area (i.e., area of roof connected to downspout(s) that will lead to the rain garden)

Stage 4: Final program participants will be selected based on Stage 1, 2, and 3 reviews.

The decisions made by the selection committee are at the committee’s sole discretion. Decisions made by the selection committee are final and binding.

Program participants will be contacted via telephone or e-mail following the selection decision.

Homeowner Process Step by Step

1. TRCA will evaluate applications for eligibility based on answers from the [pre-screening form](#).
2. If the Participant meets the eligibility criteria, they will be asked to complete the full program application form. Applications will be evaluated based off the criteria outlined in **Table 1**
3. Participant will be required to sign a Site Visit and Participation waiver with TRCA which outlines roles and responsibilities and terms of and conditions of the initial site visit (See Appendix C). The content of the waiver will be discussed with each participant prior to signing.
4. Landcare contacts Participant to set up initial site visit to assess the homeowner's property for program eligibility criteria and collect information about the yard and homeowner preferences to create a garden design. If Landcare assesses that the homeowner's property is eligible for the program, the Participant will be officially enrolled into the program.
5. Participant will be required to provide proof of home insurance through a Certificate of Insurance satisfactory to TRCA. Note - Certificate of Insurance can easily be obtained by calling your home insurance provider.
6. Participant will be required to sign a Participant Agreement with TRCA which outlines roles and responsibilities and terms and conditions of the program (see Appendix D). The content of the agreement will be discussed with each participant prior to signing.
7. Landcare creates garden design draft and quotation which is initially sent to TRCA for initial approval (1st round of edits). After TRCA approves initial design and draft, the design is sent to the Participant for review and approval (2nd round of edits). Landcare will then send the final design draft and quote to TRCA for final approval. A maximum of two rounds of edits per design are permitted.
8. Participant and Landcare takes photos of existing conditions before any installation work commences.
9. Landcare contacts Participant to set up schedule for garden installation and then moves forward with garden installation and creating a garden maintenance plan for the homeowner. TRCA is responsible for paying Landcare for all services provided.
10. Participant and Landcare take photos during construction and once the garden is installed to document the process.
11. Homeowner completes Landcare's warranty waiver.
12. Homeowners share their experiences with the community and media within a year after their rain garden is installed through a minimum of one open garden tour (scheduled on a mutually agreeable date), a profile on the TRCA website and program marketing campaigns. In addition, the Participant will have lawn sign up for 1-year (not including November to March) showing that the garden was installed by the program.
13. Participant completes a short, initial satisfaction survey right after garden installation and a follow-up survey in the summer of 2027. Follow-up surveys require approximately 15 - 30 minutes each. Surveys will evaluate the overall experience of the Participant in the program. The survey results will be reported in aggregate (i.e., statements like "5 of 6 homeowners reported a high-level of satisfaction with their gardens") in a final report and no identifying information for individual participant will be made public.

Table 2. General Program Workflow.

Step Number	Details	Responsible Parties	Timeline*
1	<u>Pre-Screening Form</u>	TRCA, Homeowner	Open May 18, 2026, to June 11, 2026
2	Application Form (sent via email after pre-screening form if eligible)	TRCA, Homeowner	Deadline June 14, 2026
3	Screening Call (If needed) & Site Visit and Participation Waiver (if selected)	TRCA, Homeowner	June-July 2026
4	Landcare Site Visit & Eligibility Confirmed	Landcare	July 2026
5 & 6	Participant Agreement & Home Insurance	TRCA, Homeowner	August 2026
7	Garden Design Draft, Review and Edits Maximum two rounds of edits TRCA reviews initial draft before sent to homeowner	TRCA, Homeowner, Landcare	August 2026
8-11	Garden Installed & Garden Maintenance Plan Developed Photos taken throughout process, warranty waiver signed	Landcare	September-October 2026
12	Marketing Requirements Lawn Sign Open Garden Tour Marketing Profile	TRCA, Homeowner	1-Year
13	Follow-Up Surveys	TRCA, Homeowner	November 2026 & Summer 2027

**Timeline for all program steps are estimates and are subject to change.*

Contact Us

If you have any questions about this program or the application process, please review the list of Frequently Asked Questions found in **Appendix E**, or contact:

Sarah MacKell
Program Manager, Sustainable Neighbourhoods
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
Tel: (437) 553-9965
Email: Sarah.MacKell@trca.ca

APPENDIX A – PRE-SCREENING FORM

Climate Ready Homes: Rain Garden Installation Program - Pre-Screening Form

Thank you for your interest in the [Climate Ready Homes](#): Rain Garden Installation Program. This program offers a free rain garden for a select few homeowners within the [TRCA's jurisdiction](#). **For full details about this program, please download the Participant Guide.**

The Program is being delivered as part of Climate Ready Homes, which is run by Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). Launched in 2025, with support from Peter Gilgan Foundation and Royal Bank of Canada Foundation, Climate Ready Homes is a program focused on empowering residents to create sustainable homes through several key action areas including stormwater management and sustainable gardening.

This pre-screening form is the first step in the application process and will identify your eligibility for the program.

Once you submit this form, TRCA Staff will assess and identify your eligibility. If you are eligible for the program, we will follow up with you via email with the application form and details about the next steps.

If you have any questions about the Climate Ready Homes: Rain Garden Installation Program or the application process, please reach out to Sarah MacKell, Program Manager, at sarah.mackell@trca.ca

Personal Information and Protection of Privacy

Personal information on this form is collected under the authority of the Conservation Authorities Act and is managed in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Persons will only be contacted using this information if specifically requested to do so. For more about our collection and use of personal information, please contact Supervisor, Records at 416-661-6600.

Section I: Contact Information (all Short Answer – Mandatory)

1. Full Name(s) of Applicant(s) – Must be the homeowner(s)

Note: This application form must be submitted by the homeowner. Tenants may participate provided landlord is engaged in the process (e.g., signs Participant Agreement, approves rain garden design, etc.).

2. Street Address associated with this application:

3. City:

- 4. **Postal Code:**
- 5. **Email Address:**
- 6. **Primary (and secondary, if applicable) phone number(s):**
- 7. **Preferred Method of Communication:**
 - Email
 - Phone

Section II: General Eligibility

- 8. **You must be 18 years of age or older to participate in the Rain Garden Installation Program. Please confirm that you are 18 years of age or older.**
 - I confirm that I am 18 years of age or older.
 - I am not 18 years of age or older.

- 9. **You must own a single-family home (detached, semi-detached or townhome) within TRCA's jurisdiction (addresses will be verified) to participate in the Rain Garden Installation Program.**
Note: tenants may participate provided landlord is engaged in the process (e.g., signs Participant Agreement, approves rain garden design, etc.). This application form must be submitted by the homeowner.
 - I confirm that I own a single-family home (detached, semi-detached or townhome) within TRCA's jurisdiction.
 - I do not own a single-family home within TRCA's jurisdiction.

- 10. **Employees of Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) are not eligible to participate in the Rain Garden Installation Program.**
 - I confirm that I am not a TRCA employee.
 - I am a TRCA employee.

- 11. **I confirm that I am willing to sign a Participant Agreement with TRCA and abide by the Terms and Conditions listed within the Participant Agreement (Participant Guide - Appendix D)**
 - Yes
 - No

- 12. **I confirm that I am willing to share all required documentation as noted in the Participant Agreement (Participant Guide - Appendix D).**
 - Yes
 - No

- 13. **I confirm that I am willing to participate in a Climate Ready Homes home consultation.**

- Yes - willing to participate in a home consultation
- Have already participated in a home consultation
- No – not willing to participate in a home consultation

14. (CONDITIONAL) **When did you complete your home consultation?**

[DATE]

15. **I confirm that I am willing to have a rain garden installed on my property by October 31, 2026.**

- Yes
- No

16. **I confirm that I am willing to complete a short, initial satisfaction survey shortly after garden installation and a follow-up survey in Summer 2027.**

- Yes
- No

17. **I confirm that I am willing to share participant experience with the community and media through the following marketing methods, which would be completed within a year after the rain garden is installed?**

- One open garden tour (scheduled on a mutually agreeable date)
- A profile on the TRCA website
- TRCA marketing campaigns

- Yes
- No

18. **I confirm that I am willing to install a lawn sign indicating that the garden was part of TRCA's Climate Ready Homes: Rain Garden Installation Program for 1-year after garden installation (not including November-March)?**

- Yes
- No

Section III: Proposed Garden Area Requirements

Note that this section requires you to have a proposed garden location in mind. Before completing this section of the pre-screening form please assess your front and backyard for a suitable location that is at least 10m² and at least 3m away from your home's foundation.

19. **Do you intend to install the Rain Garden on the front or back of your property?**

- Back
- Front
- Unsure

20. What is the size of the yard that you would like to install the rain garden within?

Note - Yard that contains the proposed garden location must be at least 1.5x bigger than the proposed garden location to provide adequate drainage area.

[insert number]

21. What is the size of your proposed garden location in m²?

Note – a requirement of the program is that this area must be at least 10m². This location should have full or partial sun and should have minimal obstructions (e.g., trees, stumps, utilities, etc.). If selected for the program, the final rain garden size is subject to change based on site evaluation and the garden design process.

[number]

22. Do you have at least 3 meters (roughly 10 feet) of space between your home's foundation and the proposed garden location?

- Yes
- No

23. Is your proposed rain garden location clear of all obstructions, including trees or underground services such as sprinkler systems, cable lines, etc?

- No obstructions present
- Some obstructions present
- Unsure

24. (CONDITIONAL) Please describe the nature of the obstructions, including the size of any stumps that would need to be removed.

Note – no tree removals will be completed through this program. If there is a tree within the proposed garden area, it is the homeowner's responsibility to remove it prior to rain garden installation.

[Open text answer – maximum 250 words]

25. Is the proposed location of your Rain Garden relatively moderately sloping away from your home's foundation?

- Yes – proposed garden area is moderately sloping away from foundation (2% or higher slope away from the foundation)

- No - proposed garden area is not relatively flat or sloping towards foundation (less than 2% slope away from foundation or sloping towards foundation)

26. Do you have a downspout that discharges to the proposed garden location or are you willing to modify your downspouts to discharge to the proposed garden location?

- Yes – I have at least one downspout that flows to the proposed garden area
- No – I do not have at least one downspout that flows to the proposed garden area, but I am willing to modify downspout(s) to connect to the garden area

27. How many downspouts do you have?

[Number]

28. Soil drainage is important for installing effective rain gardens. Please confirm that the proposed garden location is NOT predominantly clay soil. Note – if you are eligible to complete the full application form, you will be required to conduct simple DIY soil testing to confirm soil type and infiltration rate.

- I confirm that the proposed garden area is NOT mostly clay soil.
- The soil within the proposed garden area IS mostly clay soil.
- Unsure what type of soil is within the proposed garden area.

Thank You Message After Submission

Thank you for submitting the Rain Garden Installation Program pre-screening form. Our staff will review and get back to you about your eligibility within 2 business days. If you are eligible for the program, you will be asked to complete an application form (to be included in the follow-up email) as the next step.

If you have any questions about the program or the application process, please contact Sarah MacKell, Program Manager, at sarah.mackell@trca.ca

APPENDIX B – APPLICATION FORM

The deadline for submitting applications for the Climate Ready Homes: Rain Garden Installation Program is on June 14, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. Applications received after this deadline may not be considered.

Application Method:

- Complete the application form (see below) and send by email to ClimateReadyHomes@trca.ca with the subject line: “Rain Garden Installation Program Application - [Your Name]”.
- If you have any questions about this program or the application process, please review the list of Frequently Asked Questions found in Appendix E, or contact:

Sarah MacKell
 Program Manager, Sustainable Neighbourhoods
 Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
 Tel: (437) 553-9965
 Email: Sarah.MacKell@trca.ca

Personal Information and Protection of Privacy:

Personal information on this form is collected under the authority of the Conservation Authorities Act and is managed in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Persons will only be contacted using this information if specifically requested to do so. For more about our collection and use of personal information, please contact Supervisor, Records at 416-661-6600.

Name of Applicant (note applicant must be the homeowner):		
Address:		
City:	Province:	Postal Code:
Phone # (Primary):	Phone # (Secondary):	
Email Address:		
Preferred Method of Communication:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone		

Section 1 - General Eligibility Criteria

- 1. You must be 18 years of age or older to participate in the Rain Garden Installation Program. Please confirm that you are 18 years of age or older.**

I confirm that I am 18 years of age or older.

- 2. You must own a single-family home (detached, semi-detached or townhome) within TRCA's jurisdiction (addresses will be verified) to participate in the Rain Garden Installation Program.**

Note: tenants may participate provided landlord is engaged in the process (e.g., signs Participant Agreement, approves rain garden design, etc.). This application form must be submitted by the homeowner.

I confirm that I own a single-family home (detached, semi-detached or townhome) within TRCA's jurisdiction.

- 3. Employees of Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) are not eligible to participate in the Rain Garden Installation Program.**

I confirm that I am not a TRCA employee.

The following are all requirements for participation in the Rain Garden Installation Program. Please indicate your willingness to:

- 4. Sign a Participant Agreement with TRCA and abide by the Terms and Conditions listed within the Participant Agreement (Appendix D)**

Yes

- 5. Share all required documentation as noted in the Participant Agreement (Appendix D).**

Yes

- 6. Participate in a Climate Ready Homes home consultation, if you have not already done so?**

Yes - willing to participate in a home consultation

Have already participated in a home consultation

- 7. Have a rain garden installed on my property by October 31, 2026.**

Yes

- 8. Complete a short, initial satisfaction survey shortly after garden installation and a follow-up survey in Summer 2027.**

Yes

9. Share your experiences with the community and media through the following marketing methods, which would be completed within a year after the rain garden is installed?

- One open garden tour (scheduled on a mutually agreeable date)
- A profile on the TRCA website
- TRCA marketing campaigns

Yes

10. Install a lawn sign indicating that the garden was part of TRCA's Climate Ready Homes: Rain Garden Installation Program for 1-year after garden installation (not including November-March)?

Yes

Section 2 - Introductory Questions

11. Why are you interested in participating in the Rain Garden Installation Program? (250 words or less)

12. Please describe how willing you are to participate in outreach and marketing activities regarding the Climate Ready Homes Program (outlined in question #9) and whether you have any experience with community or media outreach (e.g., interviews, social media, community groups, etc.)

[Open text answer]

13. Are you willing to follow the provided rain garden maintenance plan that will be provided, which will include instructions on watering, mulching, erosion and debris management, fertilizing and weeding? Please describe your overall commitment to maintaining the garden and how much effort you are willing to put in to maintain the garden.

[Open text answer]

14. How many years do you plan on remaining in your home?

- 1-3 years
- 5-10 years
- 10+ years

15. What is the approximate distance between your house and the nearest main intersection? How would you describe the car and foot traffic around your house?

[Open text answer]

16. Is your home within the TRCA's Regulated Area?

In accordance with the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 41/24, TRCA regulates areas where development could be subject to flooding, erosion or dynamic beaches, and where interference with wetlands and alterations to shorelines and watercourses might adversely affect those environmental features. Any of these activities within the Regulated Area may require a permit from TRCA.

To determine if your home within the TRCA's Regulated Area, enter your address into the [TRCA's Flood Plain Map Viewer](#).

- Yes
- No

Section 3 - Proposed Garden Area

17. Do you intend to install the Rain Garden on the front or back of your property?

Note: Front yard gardens are preferred. Backyard rain gardens may be approved on a case-by-case basis.

- Back
- Front

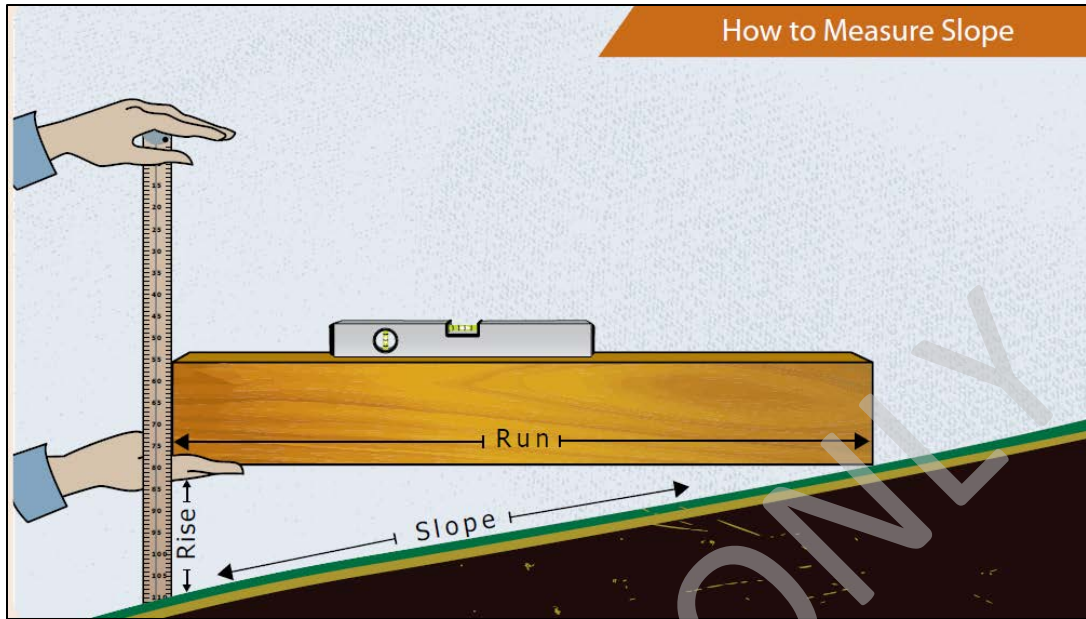
18. Please calculate the slope of your yard that you would like the rain garden installed by following the steps below.

Tools Required:

- Carpenter's level
- Meter stick
- Straight wooden board (a piece of 2x4, approximately 1.5m long works best)

Steps:

- 1) Place the wood board along the slope you want to measure.
- 2) Place the level on top of the wooden board, and lift the lower end of the board until it is level.
- 3) Measure the distance from the ground to the bottom edge of the wooden board. This is your "Rise".
- 4) Measure the length of the wooden board you used. This is your "Run".



Slope Calculations:

Distance from bottom edge of wooden board to the ground (Rise) = (A1) _____ cm

Convert rise into m: (A1) _____ cm / 100 = (A) _____ m

Length of board = (B) _____ m

Slope = (A) _____ m / (B) _____ m = (C) _____

Percentage Slope: (C) _____ x 100 = _____ %

19. What is the size of your yard that you would like to install the rain garden within?

Note - Yard that contains the proposed garden location must be at least 1.5x bigger than the proposed garden location to provide adequate drainage area.

[insert number]

20. What is the size of your proposed garden location in m²?

Note – a requirement of the program is that this area must be at least 10m². This location should have full or partial sun and should have minimal obstructions (e.g., trees, stumps, utilities, etc.). If selected for the program, the final rain garden size is subject to change based on site evaluation and the garden design process.

[number]

21. Do you have at least 3 meters (roughly 10 feet) of space between your home's foundation and the proposed garden location?

- Yes
- No

22. Is your proposed rain garden location clear of all obstructions, including trees or underground services such as sprinkler systems, cable lines, etc?

- No obstructions present
- Some obstructions present
- Unsure

23. If obstructions are present, please describe the nature of the obstructions, including the size of any stumps that would need to be removed. Note – no tree removals will be completed through this program. If there is a tree within the proposed garden area, it is the homeowner's responsibility to remove it prior to rain garden installation.

[Open text answer – maximum 250 words]

24. Do you have a downspout that discharges to the proposed garden location or are you willing to modify your downspouts to discharge to the proposed garden location?

- Yes – I have at least one downspout that flows to the proposed garden area
- No – I do not have at least one downspout that flows to the propose garden area but I am willing to modify downspout(s) to connect to the garden area

25. How many downspouts do you have?

[number]

26. Soil infiltration rate is crucial for rain garden installation because it determines how quickly the soil absorbs water, ensuring the garden drains within 24 hours to prevent mosquito breeding, plant root rot, and other standing water issues. Please calculate your soil infiltration rate based on the following instructions.

Tools Required:

- Shovel
- Bucket or water hose
- Metre stick or ruler or tape measure at least 30cm long

Steps:

- 1) **CLICK BEFORE YOU DIG!** <https://www.ontarioonecall.ca/>. Ontario law requires that you have your utilities located before you dig, to avoid hitting a gas or other utility line. Before putting a shovel in the ground, ensure you have located all underground utilities. It can take one to two weeks before you receive the utility locates, so factor in this time before conducting your drainage test.
- 2) Measure at least 3 metres out from your home’s foundation, within your proposed garden area, and dig a hole that is approximately 30 centimetres wide and 50 centimetres deep.
- 3) Keep soil for the soil jar test as outlined in **Question 27** below.
- 4) Fill the hole with water to the top and allow to drain completely. This saturates the soil so that you will get a better drainage reading.
- 5) Once the water has drained, fill the hole with water again.
- 6) Using your ruler, measure the depth of the water. This is your initial height of water.
- 7) Return to the hole one hour later and measure how much water has gone down.
- 8) Fill in the soil infiltration rate calculation below.

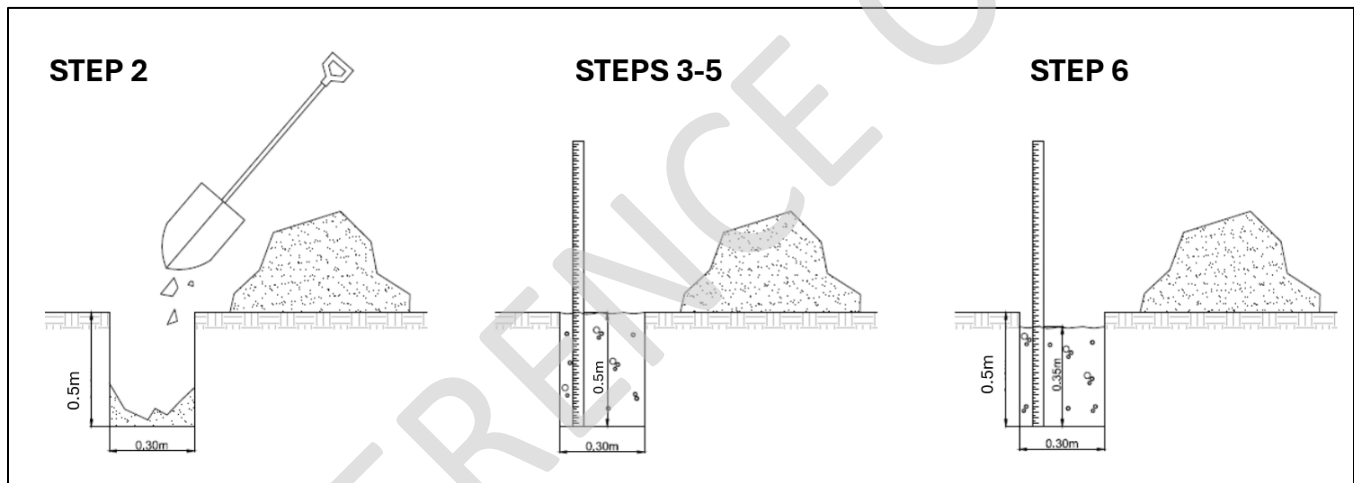


Figure 1. Drainage test diagram. *Source: Modified from City of Peterborough, 2025.*

Soil Infiltration Rate Calculation:

Initial height of water = (A) ____ cm

Height of water 1 hour later = (B) ____ cm

Soil infiltration rate: (A) ____ cm – (B) ____ cm = (C) ____ cm

Convert to millimetres: (C) ____ cm x 10 = (D) ____ mm

Now when you multiple by 1 hr, this gives you your soil infiltration rate:

(D) ____ mm x 1 hour = ____ mm/hour

Table 3. Soil type drainage chart.

Soil Type	Basic Infiltration Rate (mm/hour)	Type of Soils	Drainage Time (hrs)
Sand	30+	Excellent draining soils	Less than 2
Sandy loam	20-30	Very good draining soils	2 – 6
Loam	10-20	Good draining soils	6 – 10
Clay loam	5-10	Satisfactory draining soils	10 – 16
Clay	1-5	Poor draining soils	16 - 24

27. **Please complete a soil jar test to determine the soil texture by following the following steps and take a picture of the final result with a ruler parallel to the jar. Please describe the approximate percentages of your soil that are clay, silt, and sand.**

[Open text answer]

Steps:

- 1) Spread soil sample collected through the soil infiltration rate test (outlined above in **Question 26**) on a tray to dry for 1-2 days.
- 2) Break up any clumps of soil and remove debris (e.g., rocks, sticks, etc.) with a colander.
- 3) Fill a tall, slender jar with the soil sample until it is one-quarter to one-third full of soil.
- 4) Add water until the jar is three-quarters full.
- 5) Add about a teaspoon of dishwasher soap.
- 6) Shake very well – at least 5 minutes and let sit for 48 hours or longer, until you see defined layers.
- 7) Take picture of jar with a ruler parallel to the jar.

Example of Soil Jar Test Photo:



28. Have you experienced water pooling in your yard within the proposed garden area?

- Yes
- No

29. If yes, please submit at least one (1) picture via email showing water pooling in your yard within the proposed garden location and provide a brief description of the nature and level of impact of this pooling. If you cannot attach a picture of the water pooling, please indicate this within your answer below.

[Open text answer]

Section 4 - Photo Attachments

Please provide 2 –3 clear photos of your proposed garden area with your application form with this application form via email.

They must meet the following requirements:

- One photo facing the proposed garden location (front view)
- One photo taken from the house looking toward the proposed location (to show distance from the foundation)
- One side-angle photo showing the ground slope
- Photos must clearly show any trees, stumps, or major obstacles in and around the area.

In addition,

- Submit 1 photo of your soil test jar (see question 27).
- If you indicated that you have experienced water pooling within your proposed garden area, please attach at least 1 photo of water pooling within this area (see questions 28 and 29).

Participant Certification

- I confirm that the information included in this application is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and I confirm that I am the homeowner at the above-noted address located in TRCA's Jurisdiction and that I am not an employee of TRCA and that I have read, understand and agree to the Program Terms and Conditions as outlined in the Participant Agreement (Appendix D).

Thank you for your interest in the Climate Ready Homes: Rain Garden Installation Program!

REFERENCE ONLY

APPENDIX C – SITE VISIT AND PARTICIPATION WAIVER

Waiver of Liability and Release

Participant Name:

Full Mailing Address:

E-Mail Address:

Phone:

Emergency Contact Person:

Emergency Contact Phone:

Relationship to Participant:

The Undersigned has agreed to participate in the Program and as part of that participation agrees to allow a site visit to their property to assess suitability for participation in the program. The Undersigned agrees and represents that Undersigned is aware that if selected that their participation will result in ongoing construction activities at the property and further agrees and represents that the site may pose a dangerous environment, despite the precautions for safety undertaken by TRCA and its contractors performing work at the site.

Therefore, the Undersigned for themselves and their personal representatives, heirs, next of kin and assigns acknowledges and agrees:

1. The Undersigned acknowledges that they fully understand that construction sites are dangerous and involved risks of serious injury, death and/or property damage;
2. To the fullest extent possible and permitted by law, the Undersigned (and on behalf of the Undersigned personal representatives, heirs, next of kin and assigns), RELEASES, WAIVES AND DISCHARGES AND COVENANTS NOT TO SUE, TRCA and/or its contractors for any work done at the site (the "Releasees") from any and all damages, losses, penalties, liabilities, costs, lawyers' fees and expenses or any nature, and any demands, claims, suits and causes of action thereto, arising out of or resulting from the participation of the Undersigned in the Program.
3. The Undersigned ASSUMES FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR, AND RISK OF INJURY TO THEMSELVES OR THEIR DEATH or damage to their property, whether caused by the negligence of the Releasees or otherwise, occurring during, or as a result of the Undersigned's participation in the Program.

4. To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Undersigned shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless TRCA and its contractors (the "Indemnitees") from and against any and all demands, claims, suits, causes of action, damages, losses, penalties, liabilities, costs, lawyers' fees and expenses of any nature arising out of or resulting from the Undersigned's participation in the Program. This indemnity shall not be construed to negate or abridge, or otherwise reduce any other right or obligation of indemnity which would otherwise exist under law except to the extent that it is caused by the sole negligence of any party indemnified hereunder in which case the obligation shall not apply relation to such indemnified party.
5. The Undersigned acknowledges that they have sole responsibility to evaluate carefully the risk inherent in their participation in the Program and that they have fully considered those risks, including without limitation, damages posed by willful or negligent conducts of themselves or others.
6. The Undersigned acknowledges and voluntarily assumes full responsibility for, and full risk of property damages or loss or bodily mental or personal injury, including death, elation to their participation in the Program;
7. The Undersigned agrees that if any portion of this release is held invalid, the remaining portions shall be binding and continue to be of full force and effect.

I have read this Waiver of Liability and Release carefully, understand its significance and voluntarily agree to all of its terms.

Signed Participant Name: _____ **Date:** _____

APPENDIX D – PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT

This Agreement between

_____ (“Participant”)

and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (“TRCA”)

dated _____.

Background

The Participant made an application to the Rain Garden Installation Program, an initiative of Climate Ready Homes which is a program being delivered by TRCA and funded by the Peter Gilgan Foundation and the RBC Foundation. The Participant has been selected to participate in the program, and as a result will be eligible to receive a free rain garden installation on their property by Landcare Inc. (“Landcare”) subject to the terms and conditions of the Rain Garden Installation Program initiative and required documentation. .

Objective

The objective of the Program is to assist homeowners with installing sustainability retrofits at no-cost to help spread knowledge and awareness of home retrofits, create accessible pathways for home retrofits, and improve residential stormwater management within TRCA’s jurisdiction. The Program is designed specifically to provide free rain garden installations by Landcare for select homeowners across TRCA’s jurisdiction.

General

This Agreement and any attached Schedules constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes all prior agreements, negotiations and discussions, whether oral or written as at the Effective Date. No supplement, modification or waiver of this Agreement shall be binding unless executed in writing by all parties.

To the extent that either Party is prevented, hindered or delayed in the fulfillment of any obligation, other than payment obligations, under this Agreement by reason of force majeure, the fulfillment of such obligation or the doing of such work or making of such repairs or replacements shall be postponed. The Party shall be relieved from any liability in damages or otherwise for breach of this Agreement, for so long as and to the extent such event of force majeure continues to exist.

Term and Termination

This Agreement shall commence on the date it is signed by both parties (the “Effective Date”) and remain in full force and effect until December 31, 2026.

TRCA reserves the right to cancel, modify, terminate or suspend (in part or entirely) the Project for any reason at its sole discretion. TRCA will provide sufficient notice of thirty (30) days to the Participant in case TRCA wishes to cancel or terminate the Program. In a case where the Program needs to be modified, TRCA will do so in consultation with the Participant.

If the Participant wishes to cancel or terminate their participation in the Program, they must notify TRCA at least two (2) weeks prior to garden installation in order to appropriately wind down any design and landscaping actions.

Participant Responsibilities

1. The Participant agrees to have Landcare design and install a rain garden within their front or backyard.
2. The Participant agrees to complete two post-garden installation surveys, one administered shortly after garden installation months and another in summer 2027.
3. The Participant agrees to participate in a Climate Ready Homes home consultation.
4. The Participant agrees to share their experiences with the community and media through one open garden tour (scheduled on a mutually agreeable date), a profile on the TRCA website and shared through marketing campaigns run by TRCA which will be completed within a year of their rain garden being installed.
5. The Participant agrees to put a lawn sign up for 1-year after garden installation (excluding November to March)

TRCA Responsibilities

1. TRCA is responsible for hiring and paying all contracted service providers for the design and installation of the rain garden.
2. TRCA is responsible for coordinating all marketing requirements with the Participant, including a community and media open house, a profile on the TRCA website, lawn sign delivery, and marketing campaigns.
3. TRCA is responsible for administering post garden installation surveys to the Participant shortly after garden installation and in summer 2027.

Warranty and Maintenance

Rain gardens installed will be subject to the warranties, if any, of Landcare. TRCA will not warrant or otherwise offer any guarantees related to the products, services, implementations, or technologies made to the property of the Participant. The Participant will be required to acknowledge that TRCA and partners accepts no responsibility for the products, services or implementations installed. Maintenance of any products installed on the property will be the Participant's sole responsibility.

Insurance

Before the work begins, the Participant shall provide TRCA with evidence of homeowner liability insurance.

Disclosure of Personal Information

As a Participant you understand and agree that TRCA may utilize details about the rain garden installation undertaken to develop case studies, web content, general promotional materials and for reporting purposes. Any publicly available materials will not include personal identifying information (e.g. address, name, telephone number, etc.).

Limitation of Liability and Indemnification

TRCA shall not be responsible and shall not bear any liability for (i) any injury, death, damage or cost incurred by the Participant in any way connected with the Program or due to any failure of work completed as part of the Program; (ii) any damage to the Participant's property resulting in any way from the Program; and (iii) any failure or default by Landcare, any Supplier, or any warranties or guarantees associated with the products supplied. The Participant releases TRCA from all actions, suits, and claims related to construction, maintenance or repair of the work.

TRCA do not warrant, guarantee or in any way assure or vouch for the work done by Landcare performing work at the Participant's property nor the performance of the garden installed.

The Participant shall indemnify and hold harmless TRCA, and their respective employees, members, partners and agents, from and against any and all claims, demands, costs (including reasonable legal fees), damages, actions or causes of actions whatsoever which may arise directly or indirectly from or relate to the Program unless such claims, demands, costs (including reasonable legal fees), damages, actions or causes of actions arise from the negligence or willful act of TRCA, and their respective employees, members, partners or agents.

The Participant agrees and acknowledges that: (i) TRCA does not make any representation or warranty as to the fitness for use of any such advice, products, or services for their intended purpose or otherwise provided under the Program and (ii) TRCA does not provide any warranty over the work performed by the Contractor, relating to the advice and services provided under the Program.

Terms and Conditions

1. The Program is only available to residents who reside in a single-family home (detached, semi-detached and townhome) within TRCA's jurisdiction.
2. The Participant represents and warrants that such party has due authority and right over the address in TRCA's jurisdiction to authorise enrollment in the program and receive a free rain garden design and installation and other benefits that the Participant may be eligible for under the Program.

3. The Participant agrees and acknowledges that TRCA will pay for all project costs, including design and installation, that are approved by TRCA and are within TRCA's allocated program funds.
4. The Participant agrees and acknowledges that if they would like Landcare to complete work that is over TRCA's agreed upon amount, they will be required to pay the rest of the costs incurred.
5. The Program benefits and services are subject to availability of funds, and the Program may be terminated or discontinued at any time by TRCA, in its sole discretion, and without further notice. TRCA shall not be responsible for any costs, losses, or damages incurred by the Participant arising out of, related to, or resulting from the termination or discontinuation of the Program.
6. If during the preparation for and completion of the rain garden, any unforeseen home problems (i.e. hazardous yard) or deficiencies are discovered, the cost of rectifying the fault(s) or deficiency shall be the sole responsibility of the Participant. The presence of hazardous items or unsafe working conditions for Landcare may lead to termination of participation in the Program.
7. Participants will be responsible for rectifying any issues related to their rain garden through communicating with Landcare.
8. The rain garden installed will be subject to the warranties of Landcare. TRCA will not warrant or otherwise offer any guarantees related to the products, services, implementations or technologies made to the home of the Program participant. Program participants will be required to acknowledge that TRCA accepts no responsibility for the products or services installed or received as part of this Program.
9. TRCA reserves the right to require proof of eligibility, in a form satisfactory to it, to verify the eligibility of the Participant. Failure to provide proof of eligibility to the satisfaction of TRCA may result in the disqualification of the Participant, at the sole discretion of TRCA.
10. If a rain garden is not installed on the Participant's property by the October 31, 2026 deadline due to not completing the necessary steps in time (including design approval and communicating with Landcare regarding installation dates), the Participant will be disqualified from the Program. If the garden installation has been delayed for reasons out of the Participant's control, the Participant may apply for a one-time extension. Extension requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and will be at the sole discretion of TRCA.
11. The Participant acknowledges and agrees that there is no guarantee of approval for an extension request.
12. Installation of the rain garden on the Participant's property by Landcare is subject to the Participant complying with all terms and conditions listed herein, including but not limited to the eligibility requirements.
13. The TRCA shall have the right in its absolute discretion to decide whether or not the Participant is eligible for the Program. The Participant may be disqualified and no longer eligible for the program if the Participant does not comply with the terms and conditions herein or if any information provided by the Participant is untrue, incomplete or inaccurate.
14. Decisions of the TRCA will be final and binding on all Participants without right of appeal.

Release and Waiver

By signing this form, I understand and acknowledge that I am voluntarily participating in the Program and undertaking any risks related to the Program and I am agreeing that participation in the Program may result in changes to my property and the use of certain of my private information. Further, I acknowledge and agree that my likeness/image has been digitally recorded ("Digital Image") by or on behalf of Toronto and Region Conservation Authority ("TRCA"), for use by TRCA or an authorized third party in promotional and other activities as described below. "Digital Image" includes video recording, photographs, testimonials, quotations and any image technology.

I hereby authorize and give my full consent to TRCA and its assigns, successors, officers, directors, employees, agents, officials, servants, and representatives, the right to use, reproduce, distribute and display my name and likeness/image and the Digital Image in all forms and media by TRCA and/or an authorized third party for purposes of publicity, advertising, sale and promotion including but not limited to use in flyers, brochures, web site, digital media, videos, displays and general TRCA promotion throughout the world. I hereby assign all rights in the Digital Image to TRCA and hereby waive all rights in and to the Digital Image including any moral rights I may have in my likeness/image and/or the Digital Image.

I expressly release TRCA and its, assigns, successors, officers, directors, employees, agents, officials, servants, and representatives, from any and all claims and demands arising out of or in connection with any such use of the Digital Image, including, without limitation, any and all claims for invasion of privacy, infringement of my right of publicity, defamation (including libel and slander), or any other cause of action arising out of the production, distribution, broadcast, exhibition or other exploitation of the Digital Image.

I give this release voluntarily, with full understanding of its contents and with the knowledge that the TRCA is relying on the foregoing. If the Digital Image is of a minor for whom I have responsibility as parent/guardian, I hereby acknowledge and confirm that I have authority to execute this release on behalf of the minor.

Accepted and agreed to this _____ day of _____, 2026

By: _____
Participant Signature

By: _____
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

REFERENCE ONLY

APPENDIX E – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Climate Ready Homes: Rain Garden Installation Program - Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is the Rain Garden Installation Program completely free?

Answer: Yes, the Rain Garden Installation Program is completely free. Participants do not need to pay any costs for the design and installation of a rain garden through the Program. Please note that garden design must be approved by TRCA and garden quotes exceeding TRCA's allocated Program funds will not be approved. If homeowners would like additional work completed by Landcare, outside of the rain garden area, they are permitted to do so outside of the Rain Garden Installation Program.

2. I do not live within TRCA's jurisdiction, can I still apply to participate in the Rain Garden Installation Program?

Answer: No, the program is only open to residents within TRCA's jurisdiction. Please review TRCA's jurisdiction [here](#).

3. How do I know whether the space I have chosen is appropriate for a rain garden (for example, away from utility lines or positioned with appropriate sunlight)?

Answer: If a participant is selected through the application process, Landcare will complete a property site visit with the Participant present to assess the proposed garden area for all appropriate criteria prior to confirming your enrollment into the Rain Garden Installation Program. TRCA will follow up after receiving information from the Contactor to confirm enrollment and provide the Participant Agreement for review and signature.

4. Neither my front nor backyard have a 10m² space to install a rain garden at least 3m away from my foundation. Can I still apply to participate in the Rain Garden Installation Program?

Answer: It is recommended that the interested program candidate reach out to TRCA to discuss the particular situation. Exceptions to garden area size criteria will be made on a case-by-case basis and in collaboration with expert advice from Landcare.

5. I have a tree located in the area where I would like a rain garden installed. Can I still apply to participate in the Rain Garden Installation Program?

Answer: The program will not cover the costs of tree removal within the proposed garden area. Interested program candidates may apply for the program but applications with minimal obstructions are preferred. If selected for the program, homeowners are responsible for

ensuring that the proposed garden area meets all criteria prior to rain garden installation, including removing trees within the proposed garden area.

6. My downspout doesn't currently lead to my proposed rain garden area. Will Landcare modify my downspout to direct it to the installed rain garden?

Answer: Yes, as part of the Program, Landcare will modify downspout(s) as necessary to ensure that the runoff from the Participant's roof flows into the rain garden. Downspout modifications will be included within the draft rain garden design and will require approval from the Participant.

7. Will I be able to review the garden design and provide final approval?

Answer: Yes, Participants will be able to review the garden design after TRCA has reviewed and approved it. Participants will be able to provide feedback for one round of design edits and will be required to confirm consent to move forward with rain garden installation on their property.

8. How long will it take to install the rain garden once the design has been finalized?

Answer: The installation process should take a maximum of four days to complete. However, it will depend on the size and complexity of the finalized rain garden design, weather, and Landcare's availability.

9. Do I need to be present during the scheduled rain garden installation?

Answer: No, Participants do not need to be present during rain garden installation, but they are required to ensure that Landcare has adequate access to the proposed garden area and any other areas they may require access to during the rain garden installation process. Landcare will require a functional hose bib for water, and a functional electric outlet for power.

10. Can I participate in the Program if I am a tenant?

Answer: Tenants may participate provided the landlord agrees to sign the Site Visit and Participation Waiver and the Participant Agreement and be actively involved in the process (e.g., be present for the site visit and review and approve the final design).

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