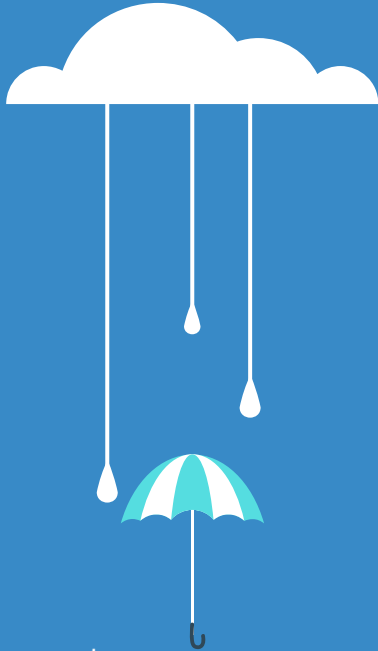




# Rain Check – Please!



# Topics



01

**Evolution**

02

**What is a Rain Check?**

03

**Goals & Objectives**



Sarasota County

# Our Team



**Jen Rudolph**

NEST Program  
Coordinator



**Holly Mathis**

Supervisor,  
Billing and Assessments

# Evolution

1995



**Initial  
Stormwater Assessment  
Resolution**

2022



**Amended  
Stormwater Assessment  
Resolution**



2024



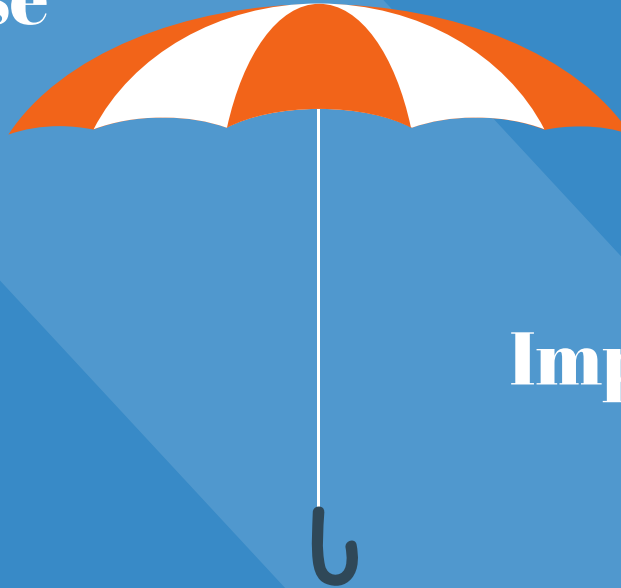
**Board approved the  
Rain Check  
Program**

# Need for Change



**3.56%**

**Population Increase**



**13.51%**

**Impervious Area  
Increase**



  
Sarasota County

# Need for Change

This resulted in a  
significant **increase**  
in **operating costs**



Stormwater Assessment rates  
had not changed since **2015**



# Need for Change



The Flood Mitigation Credit  
Program gave property owners up  
to an **82%** credit to the  
Stormwater Assessment



# How do we change?



**Outside consultant suggestions:**

**Change**

**Replace**







# Significant Outcomes



September **2022**  
Sarasota County Board of Commissioners  
approved the **Amended and Restated Resolution**



Sarasota County



# Significant Outcomes



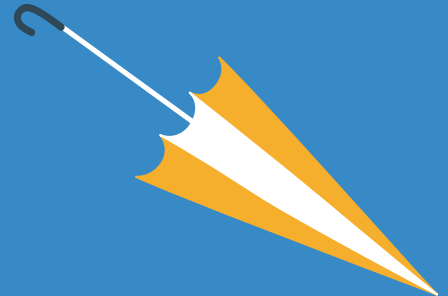
The Resolution stated the **intent** to replace the Flood Mitigation Credit Program with an **Incentive Rebate Program**



Stormwater Incentive Rebate Program

# Conversion Process

The Flood Mitigation Credit  
Program has been phased out by  
decreasing the credit  
by **1/3** each year  
over a **three - year period**



# Creation Process

## Administration

- **Resolution**
- **Ordinance**

## Program Documents

- **Rain Check Application**
- **Program Handbook**

## Marketing

- **Logo**
- **Web Content**



Stormwater Incentive Rebate Program

# Collaborative Process

## Stormwater

Stormwater, NEST,  
Business Administration

S

C

## Communications

Creative Services, Public  
Information and Community  
Outreach

## Office of Financial Management

Budget Management, Grant  
Administration, Policy and  
Compliance Unit

O

C

## Clerk of Court and County Comptroller

Treasury Management,  
Accounts Payable

## Office of the County Attorney

Administrative Law, Finance  
Law

A

F

## University of Florida

Partnered with the Institute  
of Food and Agricultural  
Sciences Extension Office



# The Rain Check program officially launched on **January 1, 2025**



Stormwater Incentive Rebate Program

# Benefits of the Rain Check Program



**Sarasota Audubon Society  
Celery Fields Nature Center**



The background is a solid blue color with a diagonal line running from the top left to the bottom right. There are several white raindrops of different sizes scattered across the top and bottom. In the top right corner, there is a white cloud with three raindrops falling from it. On the left side, there is a large, stylized umbrella with a yellow and white striped canopy and a black handle.

## Economic Benefits

\$4,000,000



# Environmental Benefits

---

**Flood Mitigation**

---

**Improved Water Quality**

**Pollutant Prevention**

**Erosion Control**

---

**Habitat Protection**



**Siesta Key Beach, Sarasota County, Florida**

# Social Benefits



**Public Education**



**Environmental Stewardship**



**Sense of Community**



Sarasota County



# What is a "Rain Check"?



Rain Check is a program that provides property owners a **one-time incentive rebate** to install approved stormwater Best Management Practices (**BMPs**) on their property. Each property owner can receive a rebate for up to **2 BMPs**.



Sarasota County



# What is a BMP?

**Best Management Practices are studied, proven, and effective techniques of **reducing pollutants** in stormwater runoff.**





<b>BMP</b>	<b>Maximum Rebate Amount</b>
<b>Modified Downspout</b>	<b>Up to \$50</b>
<b>Bioswale</b>	<b>Up to \$500</b>
<b>Rain Garden</b>	<b>Up to \$500</b>
<b>Downspout Planter</b>	<b>Up to \$1,000</b>
<b>Impervious Replacement</b>	<b>Up to \$5,000</b> \$5 per square foot
<b>Proposed Alternative BMP</b>	<b>Up to \$5,000</b>

# The Process



# Unsure Where to Start?

## What is RainCheck?

The “RainCheck ideology” is a nationwide movement to help communities take action to increase stormwater infiltration into the ground. The more the rain can soak in, the more we can improve water quality in creeks, rivers and ultimately the oceans. Improved water quality supports more healthy and diverse plants and wildlife, improved recreational areas, and many drivers of the local economy.

RainCheck is an incentive rebate program designed to encourage homeowners to install specialized small-scale Best Management Practices (BMPs) that improve water quality and increase stormwater infiltration, thus protecting our valuable water resources. Through the RainCheck program, Sarasota County will pay property owners up to a certain amount for eligible (tangible) items in the installation of select BMPs proven to have water quality and quantity benefits:

- Rain gardens and bioswales
- Downspout planter boxes
- Impervious Replacement
- Modified Downspouts

To learn more about the program and these approved BMPs, check out our [Green Infrastructure](#) home page!

Unsure where to start? Contact the NEST Program Coordinator at [raincheck@scgov.net](mailto:raincheck@scgov.net)

Ready to apply? [Submit your application here!](#)

\*previously installed BMPs are not eligible

# Apply



A-Z

Government

Community

ADDRESS FINDER

SEARCH

PUBLIC WORKS

Buchan Airport

Flood Maps

Flood Protection

Program for Public Information

Stormwater Environmental Utility

Stormwater Virtual Public Meetings

Assessment and Rates

Stormwater Non-Ad Valorem

Assessment Online Inquiry Form

RainCheck

SEU Frequently Asked Questions

SEU Glossary

Stormwater History

Stormwater Quarterly Updates

Survey Mapping Data

Traffic Engineering & Operations

Transportation Planning

Water Quality for Bays Estuaries

Watersheds

Alligator Creek Stream Restoration Project

Casey Key Stabilization Project

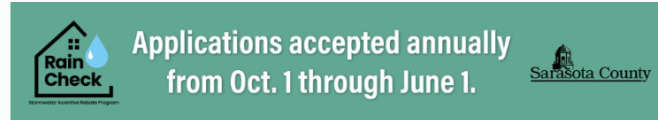
Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan Update

Professional Engineer Development Program

Government > Public Works > Stormwater Environmental Utility >

## RainCheck

Font Size: [A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [Share & Bookmark](#) [Print](#)



### What is RainCheck?

The "RainCheck ideology" is a nationwide movement to help communities take action to increase stormwater infiltration into the ground. The more the rain can soak in, the more we can improve water quality in creeks, rivers and ultimately the oceans. Improved water quality supports more healthy and diverse plants and wildlife, improved recreational areas, and many drivers of the local economy.

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Ready to apply? Submit your application here!



## Stormwater Incentive Rebate Application

### Important Disclaimer

#### PLEASE NOTE - \*

Work completed prior to receiving a Notice to Proceed form will not be eligible for a rebate.



Before applying, please read the [Stormwater Incentive Rebate Program Handbook](#).

☒ I confirm that I've read the Stormwater Incentive Rebate Program Handbook. \*

### 1. Applicant Information

#### Parcel Identification Number (PID) / Account Number \*

This number is on the top right of your Truth in Millage (TRIM) notice, or can be found using the [Sarasota County Property Appraiser's Quick Search](#).

Is this property located within the Sarasota County Stormwater Service Assessment Areas? \*

[Please verify here.](#)

Select

Submit

[Privacy Notice](#) | [Report Abuse](#)



# Apply

## 2. Proposed BMP Installation

Indicate the BMP practices and their respective costs.

Maximum Rebate Amount (from Section III of Handbook):

Treatment Swales (Bioswales) - **Up to \$500.00**  
Rain Gardens - **Up to \$500.00**  
Modified Downspout - **Up to \$50.00**  
Downspout Planter - **Up to \$1000.00**  
Impervious Replacement (driveways, sidewalks, etc.) - **\$5.00/sf up to \$5,000.00**  
Other BMPs - **Up to \$5,000.00**

### First BMP \*

- ☐ Treatment Swales (Bioswales)    ☐ Rain Gardens  
☐ Modified Downspout    ☐ Downspout Planter  
☐ Impervious Replacement (driveways, sidewalks, etc.)    ☐ Other BMPs

### Second BMP (if applicable)

- ☐ Treatment Swales (Bioswales)    ☐ Rain Gardens  
☐ Modified Downspout    ☐ Downspout Planter  
☐ Impervious Replacement (driveways, sidewalks, etc.)    ☐ Other BMPs

### First BMP Description \*

Briefly describe the first project you're planning to implement on your property.

Please attach photos of the project site(s) at the bottom of this application form.

## 3. Itemized Project Budget

Please use the [RainCheck Project Budget Template](#) to fill out a detailed, itemized budget for the proposed BMP(s).

Items should include, but not be limited to the following:

- a) [Rain Garden/Bioswale:](#)
- Square feet of proposed area and location on the property
  - Container size, number, and species of native or Florida Friendly plants. A planting diagram is preferred but not necessary
  - Amount and type of soil amendments
- b) [Impervious Replacement:](#)
- Square feet of proposed replacement
  - Technical specifications for project such as amount and type of aggregate for reservoirs & compacted areas
  - Length of gutters and downspouts to be installed
- c) [Modified Downspouts:](#)
- Length of gutters
  - Gutter attachments
- d) [Downspout Planter:](#)
- Planter specifications
  - Amount and type of soil
  - Container size, number, and species of native plants for installation
  - Directive gutters and downspout attachment

Attach files at the bottom of this application form.

## 4. Vendor Quotes (if applicable)

A proposed project expense of **\$3,000 or greater** will require three (3) vendor, merchant, or retailer quotes for like goods and services.

Include a copy of the vendor quotes for the project with this submittal.

**Attach files at the bottom of this application form.**

## 5. Rebate and Maintenance Commitment

By submitting this application, you acknowledge that you have read and agree to our [Rebate and Maintenance Commitment](#).

## 6. Attachments

**Please attach the following to your application form: \***

1. Photos of the project site(s).
2. Itemized budget for the proposed BMP(s).
3. Vendor quotes (if applicable).

Drag and drop files here or [browse files](#)

Submit

# Inspect



Date:

Participant Name:

Participant Address:

Subject **Notice to Proceed**

Project Name:

Project Number:

Dear,

In accordance with the above referenced project number, this is your Notice to Proceed on the installation on the proposed BMP's on the property.

Important information and timelines are as follows:

- Commencement date: 01/21/25
- Estimated 50% completion date: 02/20/25
- Estimated 100% completion date: 03/22/25
- Rebate request submittal deadline: 04/21/25

Please contact NEST Program Coordinator (info below) to schedule both a 50% completion site visit (if requesting a rebate amount of \$3,000 or greater) and a 100% completion final inspection site visit.

Program will pay 100% of the cost of eligible items up to the maximum amount for each BMP. For a breakdown of rebate amounts reference handbook.

The County looks forward to working with you on this project. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

NEST Program Coordinator  
Jen Rudolph  
jrudolph@scgov.net  
941-861-6378

Billing and Assessments Supervisor  
Holly Mathis  
hmathis@scgov.net  
941-702-3126



# Install



Bog test SUCCESS



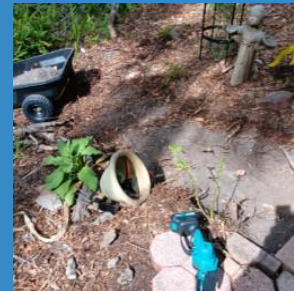
Irrigation water divert into basin to limit refill need



Build bottom shore up wall for support of basin



Bog Second test SUCCESS & Diverter Hose



# Request



Stormwater Incentive Rebate Program

## Stormwater Incentive Rebate Program Rebate Request Form



Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Participant Address: \_\_\_\_\_

BMP Installed	Total Cost for Eligible Items*
1. _____	\$ _____
2. _____	\$ _____

\*Eligible items for rebate are components of the BMP which are tangible and directly associated with the project. This rebate does not extend to intangible items, such as labor costs, nor does it include tools that are commonly used for general purposes, such as cutting shears, shovels, and similar equipment.

\*For Impervious Replacement, rebate amount is determined by square footage of impervious material replaced with a permeable alternative at \$5/square foot.

Please include the following items for a complete Rebate Request Packet:

- ☐ Invoice(s) and/or receipt(s) for materials or from vendor indicating work has been paid in full
- ☐ Proof of payment (copy of cancelled check or statement indicating amount spent on the project)
- ☐ Pictures taken during construction and of completed project

Email Rebate Request Form with required documentation to [raincheck@scgov.net](mailto:raincheck@scgov.net) or mail to SEU Incentive Rebate Program 1001 Sarasota Center Blvd. Sarasota, FL 34240. Please allow up to 90 days for processing.

Rebate request packet will be reviewed for completion and accuracy. Applicant will receive Notice of Rebate Request form with actual requested rebate amount.

Participant  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For office use only:

Final site inspection completed by NEST staff ☐

Check if the following items are included:

- ☐ Invoice(s) and/or receipt(s)
- ☐ Proof of payment
- ☐ Pictures of completed project

Staff  
Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Stormwater Incentive Rebate Program



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Participant Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject **Notice of Rebate Request**

PID: \_\_\_\_\_  
BMP(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Requested Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

In accordance with the above referenced project number, this is your Notice of Rebate Request and the amount requested on your behalf.

We appreciate your participation and contribution to our community. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Holly Mathis  
Billing and Assessments  
Supervisor [hmathis@scgov.net](mailto:hmathis@scgov.net)  
941-867-2581

Jen Rudolph  
NEST Program Coordinator  
[raincheck@scgov.net](mailto:raincheck@scgov.net)  
941-861-0940



# Rain Check Dashboard



## Stormwater Incentive Rebate Program Applications

Total Amount Rebated

**\$13,444**

Average Length of Project

**74 Days**

from application to rebate

Total Number of Applicants

**33**

Completed

**7**

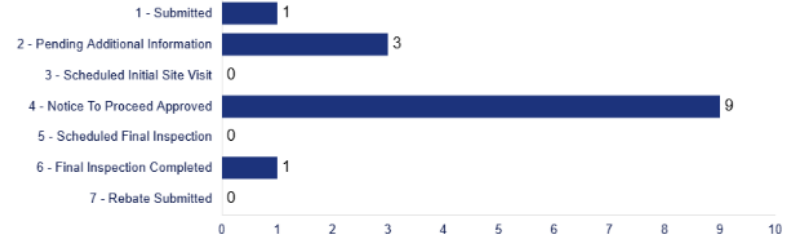
Open

**13**

Declined

**13**

Open Application Count by Status



Average Invoice Amount

**\$2,336**

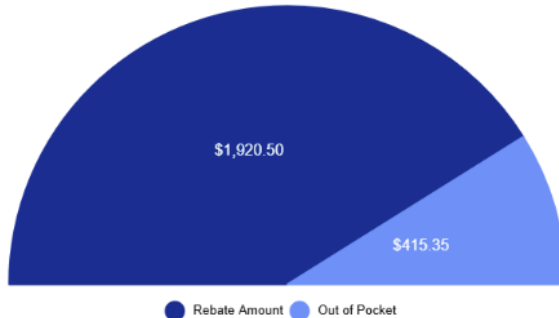
Average Cost Recovery

Average Rebate Amount

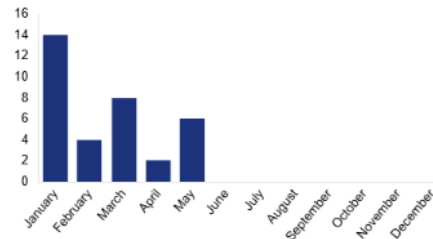
**\$1,921**

Average Cost Recovery

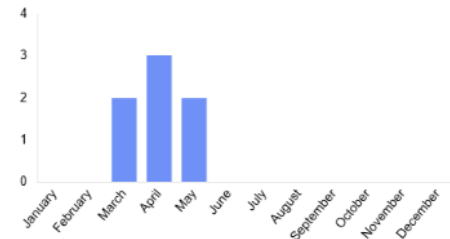
**82%**



Monthly Application Count



Monthly Rebate Count



# Applicants

36

Total Applicants

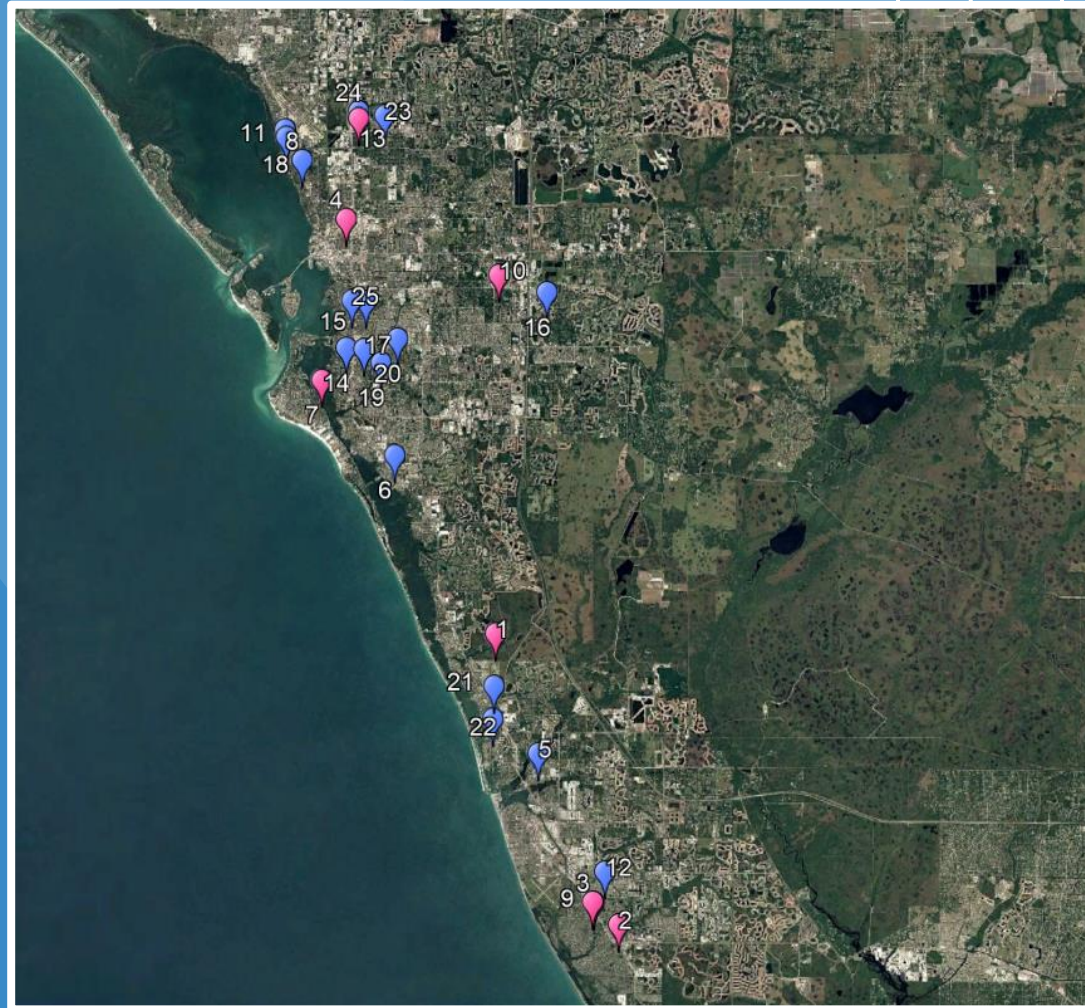
# BMP Breakdown







# Current Spread of Applicants throughout Sarasota County





# Modified Downspout





# Bioswale



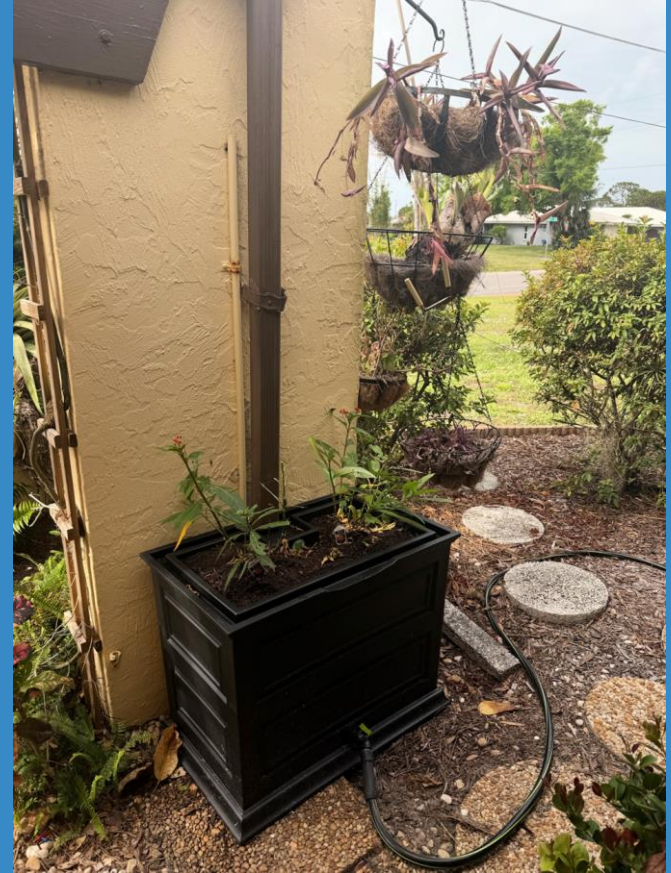


# Rain Garden



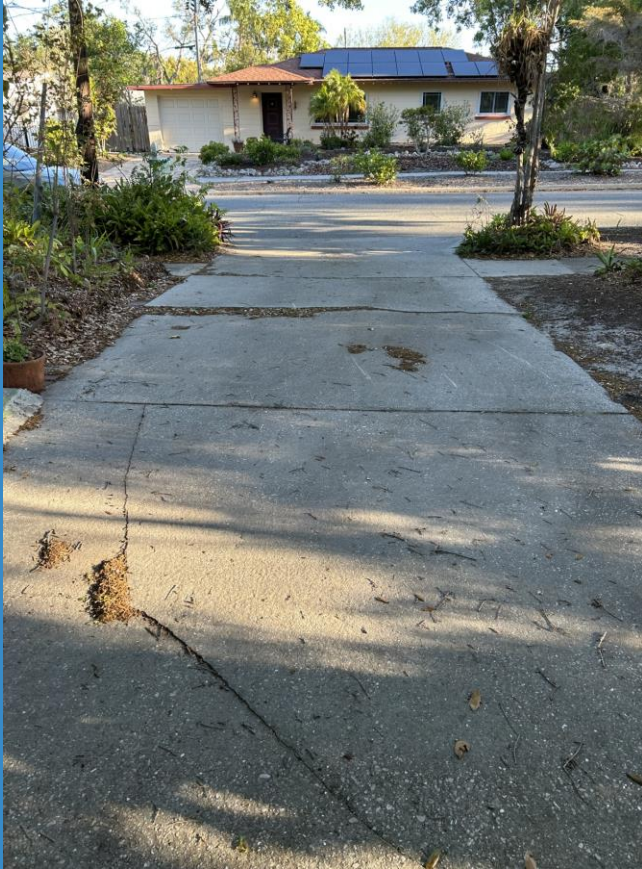


# Downspout Planter





# Impervious Replacement



# Alternative BMP





# Future Goals & Objectives

## Goals

**Public Education  
and Community  
Outreach**

**Strategic  
Initiatives**



To learn more, visit:  
[scgov.net/raincheck](https://scgov.net/raincheck)





# Contact Information



**Jen Rudolph**

NEST Program Coordinator  
[jrudolph@scgov.net](mailto:jrudolph@scgov.net)  
[nest@scgov.net](mailto:nest@scgov.net)

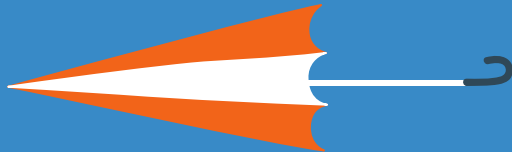


Stormwater Incentive Rebate Program



**Holly Mathis**

Supervisor, Billing & Assessments  
[hmathis@scgov.net](mailto:hmathis@scgov.net)



# Thanks!

## Any Questions?

**Special thank you to**  
**Mollie Holland and**  
**Kayla Quinn**

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