

Rain Check – A Year in Review



Stormwater Incentive Rebate Program



Topics

- Our Team
- Flood Mitigation Credits vs Rain Check
- Mission
- Challenges
- Accomplishments
- Lessons Learned
- Going Forward





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NEST Program
Coordinator





Flood Mitigation Credits vs Rain Check Rebates

Challenges of Flood Mitigation Credit Programs

- Equity Disparity
- Staffing and Funding Limitations
- Subjective Evaluation Criteria
- Credits based on minimum effort to meet state requirements

Flood Mitigation Credits vs Rain Check Rebates

Benefits of the Rain Check Incentive Rebate Program

- Financial rebate to property owners
- Reduction of burden on stormwater system
- Environmental benefits to both the property owner and the community
- Community involvement
- Participants go above and beyond the minimum state requirements



RainCheck Applicant's Downspout Planter



Mission



Mission Statement

Encourage communities to take action to:

- Increase stormwater absorption
- Decrease stormwater runoff
- Improve water quality



Stormwater Incentive Rebate Program





Rain Check Program

- Incentive rebate program that encourages property owners to install small-scale BMPs that improve water quality and increase stormwater infiltration
- Sarasota County will pay property owners up to a set rebate amount for eligible items for the installation of select BMPs

RainCheck Application

6 steps starting with
agreement to read handbook
and applicant information



Stormwater Incentive Rebate Program

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.](#)

2. Proposed BMP Installation

Indicate the BMP practices and their respective costs.

Maximum Rebate Amount (from Section III of Handbook):

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 *

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

Second BMP (if applicable)

- 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.

Step 2

Description(s) of the Best Management Practices property owner would like to apply for



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Steps 3 through 6

Budgets, Quotes, Forms
and Photos and then
Submit



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3. Itemized Project Budget

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).

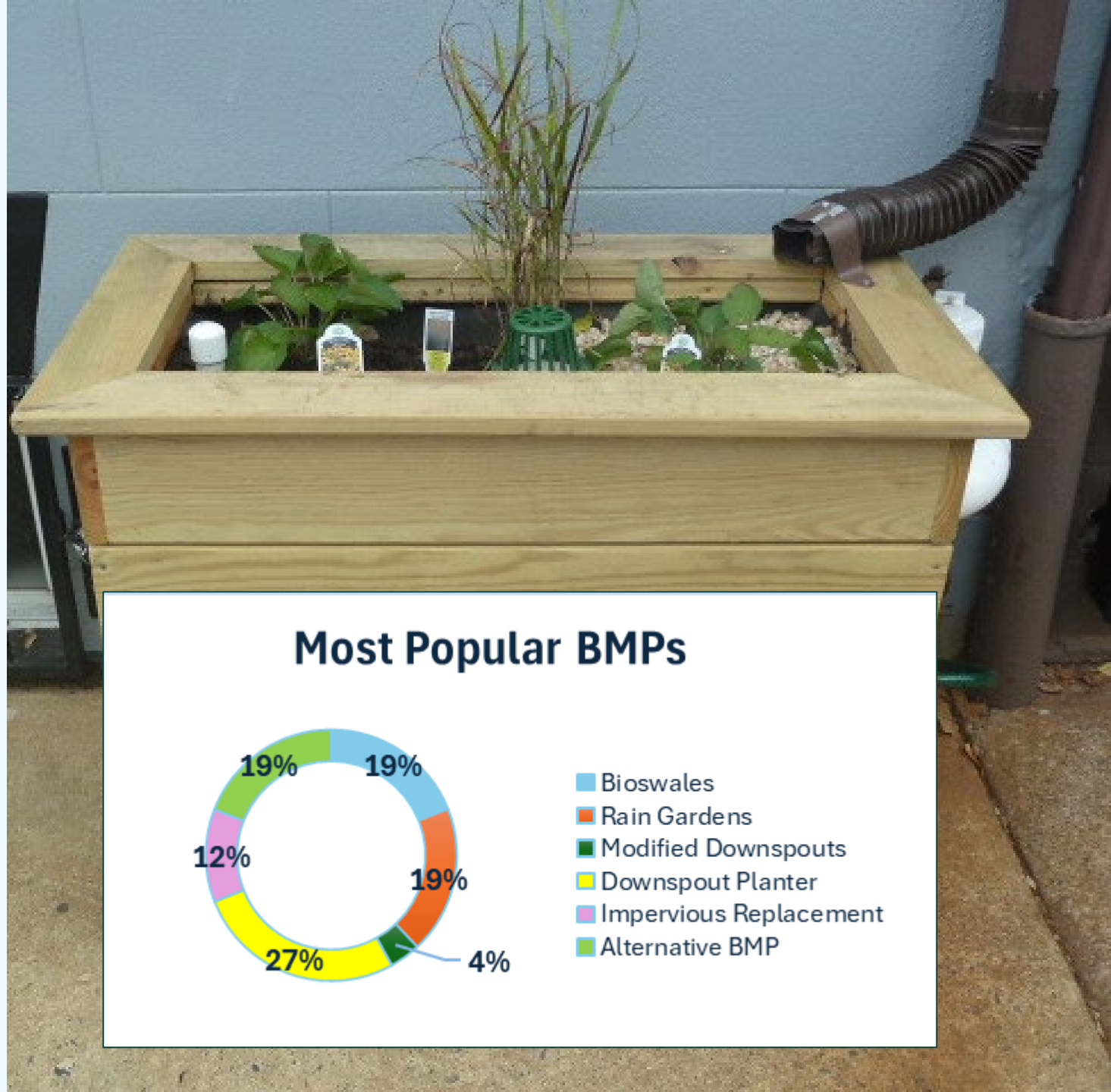


Challenges

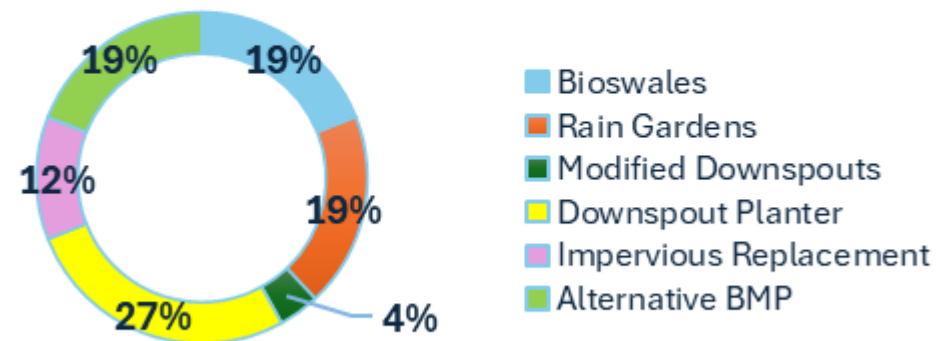


Policy and Program

- Number of Applicants
- Workload – 1 Staff Member
- Lack of Public Knowledge
- Property Owners requesting project design
- Pervious Maintenance concerns
- “Non” Property Owners



Most Popular BMPs





Program Funding

- Original Budget
 - \$20,000
- Budget Amendment
 - An additional \$20,000 (\$40,000)



Technical Aspects

- Tracking applicant status within the workflow
- Smartsheet – Notice-to-Proceed (NTP) emails/auto emails, etc.
- Geographic Information System (GIS) map for eligibility





Accomplishments





FY25 Stats

- 36 Applicants
- 21 Approved Property Owners/Rebate Recipients
- 26 BMPs installed
- \$33,346.00 rebated to Property Owners
- Creativity of the Alt BMPs
- 8 HOAs plus 8 communities without an HOA presence

Environmental Benefits

- Number of Watersheds Improved – 4
- Number of Basins Improved – 8
- Impervious Area Replaced – 1,476 square feet
- Pollutants removed, such as phosphorous, nitrogen, and heavy metals





Lessons Learned





New Opportunities for Outreach

- County call center, parks, libraries
- UF IFAS
- Local neighborhood HOAs
- Local county schools
- Environmental Non-profit Organizations
- Local native plant nurseries

Permeable vs Pervious Pavers

- Review quotes & speaking with contractors
- Contractors can increase clientele if they add this skill



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RainCheck Applicant's Driveway before
Installing Pervious Pavers

Pervious Surfaces

- Installation and maintenance
- Lack of contractors who know how to install pervious surfaces correctly



RainCheck Applicant's Pervious Driveway



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Increase/Decrease Rebate Amounts

- Pros vs Cons
 - Applicants have expressed the \$500 rebates for rain gardens and bioswales is not enough to encourage them to install
- Decision Justification
 - Rebates are based on the percentage of pollutant removal for average-sized BMPs (25 square feet)





Going Forward



Strategic Planning Goals

Install demonstration
BMPs at county owned
parks and libraries



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Siesta Key Beach



Commercial and Business Outreach

- Focus on highly developed areas that have a high density of impervious area
- Work with local chamber(s) of commerce

Elementary School Outreach

- Establish and build relationships with local schools
- Install demonstration BMPs at schools that can be maintained by the students

Oak Park Elementary School
Students Installing a Bioswale





Innovative Alternative Best Management Practices

- Living Shorelines
- Green Rooftops
- Create Your Own

Living Shoreline at the Bay Park, Sarasota



Stormwater Incentive Rebate Program

Protecting our Natural Resources

- Build healthier and stronger ecosystems, create and restore habitat, protect all water resources, increase recreation and tourism opportunities
- For the present
- For the future

Pervious Pathway at The Bay Park, Sarasota



By integrating the Rain Check philosophy across Sarasota County, we aim to promote environmental stewardship, foster community engagement, and build a community that is more resilient to stormwater challenges.

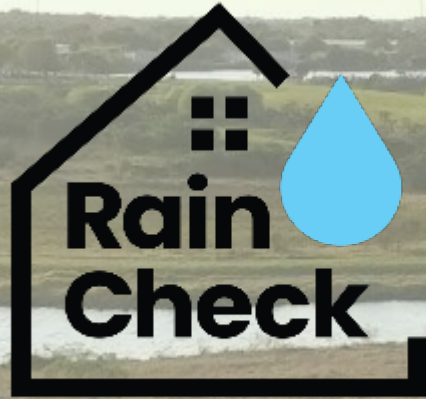
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Thank you!
Any Questions?



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