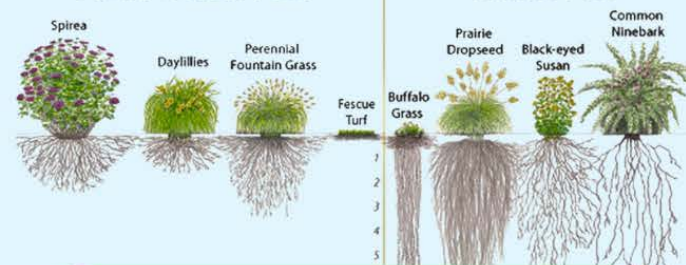


## Native plants can help

### Non-Natives

### Natives



Native plants have extensive root systems that help absorb excess stormwater & pollution like heavy metals. Plus, they create wildlife habitat and attract local pollinators.

## Little actions, BIG changes



Creek-friendly yards provide all kinds of benefits & individuals can lessen impacts on the ecosystem by reducing stormwater runoff.

Keep reading to learn how YOU can make a difference in your watershed!

## How does it work?

- 1 Fill out the RainSmart Yards self-survey online
- 2 Schedule a visit to have your yard evaluated
- 3 Have yard assessment completed by a RSY technician
- 4 Follow technician's advice and use the City's companion programs to make your yard RainSmart

### Companion programs

Rain Barrel reimbursement >>> 

Native Plant reimbursement >>> 

Rain Garden reimbursement >>> 

## Learn more

[chattanooga.gov/stormwater-resources](http://chattanooga.gov/stormwater-resources)  
OR  
[mywaterways.org/rainsmartyards](http://mywaterways.org/rainsmartyards)



## What is RSY?

An award program recognizing yards that capture and retain stormwater while creating native plant and pollinator habitat.

City residents that qualify can receive up to a 75% reduction on their annual water quality fee.

## Let's talk stormwater

Water that falls to Earth when it rains or snows is called stormwater and it is a normal part of the water cycle.

However, the addition of human infrastructure like roads, buildings, lawns, and parking lots disrupts this cycle leading to increased pollution, flooding, and erosion

# RSY Criteria

Yes No N/A

Yes No N/A

## Recommendations

Located within City limits?

All toxic substances recycled or disposed of properly?

All downspouts exit on property/garden?

Swimming pool backwash & drainage buffered?

Invasive species present?

Pet waste disposed of or buffered 30 ft?

Are they being actively controlled?

Septic system working properly/not leaking?

Are they being actively eradicated?

## Additional Comments

Native plants incorporated?

Yards on a waterway, is there a buffer of native plants?

Spring pollinator species

Buffer zone at least 5 ft?

Rain garden or other green infrastructure?

Fall pollinator species

Rain barrels/rain collection systems?

## Award Status

★ Bronze ★

25% off Water Quality Fee!

★ ★ Silver ★ ★

50% off Water Quality Fee!

★ ★ ★ Gold ★ ★ ★ ★

75% off Water Quality Fee!

💧 Honorable Mention 💧

follow our recommendations and re-survey!

Summer pollinator species

Environmentally safe sealers used on paved surfaces?

Best management practices implemented for erosion?

Pesticides or herbicides?

Fertilizers used?

Sprinklers used responsibly?

if yes, is soil pH tested?

Lawn mowed no shorter than 3 inches?

Native trees planted?

Natural/organic fertilizers only?

Grass clippings/leaves left in place or composted?

Extra green infrastructure?

Mulch without added dyes?

100% of stormwater contained?

Surveyor:

Date: