

Rain Ready Ottawa - Overview of Incentives and Application Process

Financial incentives

Practice	Description	Funding	Cost basis and claims process	Requirements
Downspout disconnection	Redirection of downspouts away from impervious areas connected to a storm or combined sewer drain. Downspout must be redirected to a pervious area, ideally one designed for water infiltration (rain garden, soakaway pit, and in limited circumstances a permeable pavement).	75% up to \$1,000. Additional first year bonus of 25% (\$1,000 cap still applies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on receipts of relevant materials and contracted services Receipts and proof of work required to complete a claim 	Downspouts must drain at least 1.5m from the home foundation and not drain onto adjacent private property. Complementary practices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rain gardens Soakaway pits Permeable pavements
Rain gardens	A shallow depression with loose soils and non-invasive, native vegetation that reduces run-off while also creating pollinator habitat and other co-benefits. Includes bioswales, rain gardens with plantings and/or stones at the surface, and 'bioplanters' (rain gardens in a box).	Fixed incentive of \$75/m ² of garden area not to exceed 20% of the DCIA (m ²). Rain gardens and soakaway pits are subject to a combined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on garden size recommended in Home Assessment or Fusion Landscape design Proof of work required to complete a claim Non-FLP-installed 	Garden must be sized and built according to STEP guidance. Residents must agree to maintain rain gardens for at least 2 years. Complementary practices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Downspout redirection

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		incentive maximum of \$2,500	rain gardens will be subject to an inspection after construction	
Soakaway pits	A below-ground pit of permeable material that allows water to infiltrate into the ground in order to reduce run-off. Includes residential-scale infiltration galleries and trenches.	Fixed incentive related to directly connected impervious area. DCIA (m ²) * \$10/m ² . Rain gardens and soakaway pits are subjects to a combined incentive maximum of \$2,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on size recommended in Home Assessment or Fusion Landscape design • Proof of work required to complete a claim • Non-FLP-installed soakaway pit will be subject to an inspection after construction 	Soakaway pit must be sized and built according to STEP guidance. Complementary practices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downspout redirection
Permeable pavements	Permeable interlocking concrete pavers, gravel stabilizing grid, pervious concrete, porous asphalt.	Fixed incentive related to the permeable installation size. Area (m ²) * \$50/m ² to a maximum of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on recommendation from a certified Fusion Landscape or Interlocking Concrete Paving Institute professional 	Must be installed by a certified FLP or other certified professional (ICPI). Complementary practices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downspout redirection • Rain gardens • Soakaway pits

Practice	Description	Funding	Cost basis and claims process	Requirements
		\$5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proof of work required to complete a claim 	
Certified Landscape Design Support	Design services provided by certified Fusion Landscape Professionals.	\$500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape designs completed by a certified Fusion Landscape Professional • Proof of work required to complete a claim 	Fusion Landscape design must include at least one rainwater management element and cover at least 40m ² of landscaped area or manage a DCIA greater than 30m ² . Design must be completed by a certified FLP and installed before the incentive is paid.

Application and approval process

Residents must apply to the City of Ottawa before undertaking the project using an online form. Applications will identify the requested rebates and attach either a completed Home Assessment Report or a quote from a certified Fusion Landscape Professional. City of Ottawa staff will review eligibility and notify residents electronically. Approvals will be subject to available funds.

Once approved, residents have 12 months to complete the project and submit a claim (unless otherwise notified in the approval).

Claim procedure

All residents must complete a claim form and attach required supporting materials as follows:

Downspout redirection - Where rebates cover the direct costs of materials and professional services related to installation of practices, residents must submit receipts in addition to photographic proof of work and a completed claim form.

Rain gardens, soakaway pits, and permeable pavements - Where rebates are related to the size of the installation and the directly connected impervious area (DCIA), residents must attest to completion of the project, provide photographic proof of work and a completed rain claim form.

Installations of rain gardens, soakaway pits, and permeable pavements that are not completed by an FLP and with a claim greater than \$1,000 will be subject to a follow up visit by a Home Assessment contractor to ensure claim accuracy and installation compliance with the STEP LID guide.

For all other applications, residents must be willing to submit to inspections of the installation to ensure quality of work and claim accuracy. This will be part of standard terms and conditions for all projects. Spot checks will be completed for about 20% of project where no mandatory inspection was required.

Directly connected impervious area (DCIA) definition

Residents wishing to install a rain garden, soakaway pit, or permeable pavement surface must have a source of run-off that is well-defined and measurable. Most-often this will be a roof area connected to a downspout, but it could also be a hardscaped ground-level area and even a softscaped area if it is well-defined, measurable and draining to an eligible practice guided by the Sustainability Technologies Evaluation Program (STEP) [Low Impact Development manual](#).

Eligibility

In order to direct resources toward areas where they are most-needed, eligibility for incentives are targeted to priority retrofit areas. Home visits through either the home assessment program or Fusion Consultation are targeted to all stormwater retrofit areas (see Table 1 and Figure 1 below).

Table 1. Program eligibility

Resident type	Education and Outreach	Home Assessment Program*	Fusion Landscape Consultation*	Installation Incentives*
Residents in Pinecrest Creek / Westboro and Eastern Subwatersheds Priority Stormwater Retrofit Areas (green below)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Residents in remaining stormwater retrofit areas (pink below)	✓	✓	✓	✗

Residents in all of Ottawa and surrounding areas	✓	✗	✗	✗
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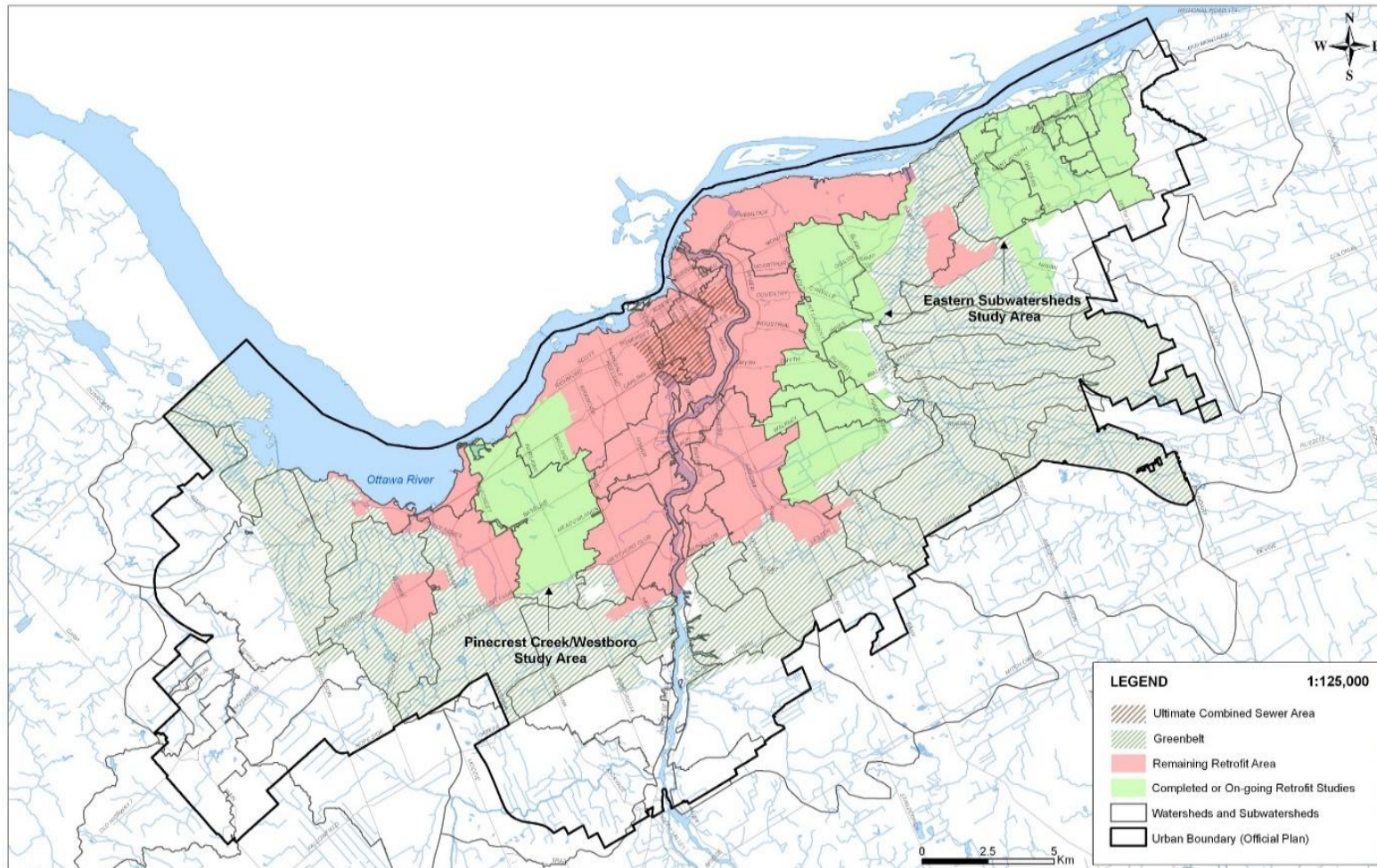


Figure 1. Map of Ottawa's urban area indicating priority retrofit areas (bright green) and non-priority retrofit areas (pink). Source: Infrastructure Master Plan).