



City of Alexandria, Virginia  
Transportation & Environmental Services, Stormwater Management Division  
**Self-Certification Guide for Residential Conservation Landscape**

## Introduction

Residential stormwater practices, such as permeable pavement and rain gardens, help to reduce stormwater pollution that runs off impervious areas.

Functioning stormwater or landscaping practices may be eligible for a partial stormwater utility fee reduction under the City's Stormwater Fee Credit Policy. For more information regarding the credit policy, please refer to the [Stormwater Utility Fee Credit Manual](#).

## The Purpose of This Guide

This guide is intended to be used to inspect a residential stormwater practice that has already been installed on a single-family or townhouse lot. Inspecting your stormwater management practice identifies maintenance, repairs, or replacement as needed. Performing routine inspection and maintenance is required for practices to continue to function.

This guide does not replace any existing inspection requirements for stormwater management BMPs installed as a mandatory condition of development and covered by a maintenance agreement with the property owner.

## About Self-Certification

For residential townhome and single family property owners applying for stormwater utility fee credits, a self-certification stating that you have inspected your stormwater practice and observe it to be in fully functioning condition is required at the time of application. During the City's review of your application, you may be asked to complete this guide and provide it to the City.

## Instructions

**Step 1.** Complete this guide during your annual inspection.

**Step 2.** If asked to provide this form, it may be sent via email to [stormwater@alexandriava.gov](mailto:stormwater@alexandriava.gov) or mailed to:

Transportation and Environmental Services  
Stormwater Division  
2900-B Business Center Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22314



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## Conservation Landscaping

Conservation landscaping is the conversion of lawn and impervious areas into mulched beds planted with native perennial plants, shrubs and/or small trees. It benefits stormwater quality and quantity by retaining rainfall and absorbing runoff from adjacent turf or impervious surfaces.

### Certification Checklist

Check the box to confirm that each item was inspected and that the practice is in functioning condition and eligible for Stormwater Utility Fee Credits:

**The conservation landscape is free of dead plants**

Remove and replant dead plants. Refer to the [Digital Atlas of the Virginia Flora](#) identify plants native to the region. Prune dead branches from trees and shrubs and deadhead perennials if needed to encourage blooming.

**The conservation landscape consists of native plant species and is free of invasive plants**

Native plants are adapted to local soils and climate conditions and help preserve natural ecosystems. Refer to the [Digital Atlas of the Virginia Flora](#) identify plants native to the region.

**The plant bed is free of litter, leaves or other debris buildup**

Litter, leaves and debris in the conservation landscape can impede or otherwise harm plant growth in the conservation landscape.

### Owner Information

Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner Name: \_\_\_\_\_