



Borough of Mount Pleasant

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February 2010

Dear resident:

You may be eligible for a free rain garden.

A rain garden is a special kind of landscaping with perennial flowers, shrubs, and/or small trees.

It is attractive. And it has an important purpose: to help reduce the flooding that has been a problem in and around Ramsay Terrace for many years.

How it works

Some of the water from outside your home that's now going into the storm system will go instead to the rain garden. One easy way to do this is to redirect one of the downspouts from your roof.

Even though it is called a rain garden, the ground in the garden does not stay wet. It is not a pond. It does not breed mosquitoes.

In a rain garden, water slowly sinks into the ground and collects in a shallow, unseen trough underneath the plants. The plants use this water to grow, and any water left over slowly sinks into the ground.

Money available

Federal money* is available to install up to 40 of these gardens in Ramsay Terrace and nearby streets. These neighborhoods have been selected because they historically have had flooding problems.



The money will pay for the design, installation, and landscaping of the gardens. This work is being coordinated through the Westmoreland Conservation District.

There is no cost to eligible homeowners.

Eligible residents who elect to have a rain garden installed will be responsible for giving it the same kind of routine, normal maintenance – weeding, watering, and pruning – they conduct on other parts of their yard and landscape.

How to participate

Homeowners in and around Ramsay Terrace will be selected for the program on a first-come, first-served basis from among those who (1) indicate their interest in writing and (2) have their property evaluated as suitable by the Westmoreland Conservation District.

Forms to indicate interest in the program will be mailed to eligible homeowners in late February/early March. They also will be available before that mailing at a

FREE INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Thursday, February 25

6:30 p.m.

VFW Post 3368

416 West Main Street, Mount Pleasant

ALL INTERESTED RESIDENTS ARE URGED TO ATTEND THE FEBRUARY 25 MEETING.

Borough officials and Westmoreland Conservation District staff members will be on hand to explain more about the project.

Residents who complete and return an interest form will be contacted by the Westmoreland Conservation District to arrange for an evaluation of their property.

Sincerely,

Gerald Lucia
Mayor

Joe Bauer
Council President



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*Funding for the rain gardens is being provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection through Section 319 of the Federal Clean Water Act administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Richard King Mellon Foundation is providing funding for the public information meetings.