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RainSmart Rebates Pilot Helps Manage 1.4 Million Gallons of Stormwater Annually
Homeowner-Led Projects Deliver Lasting Stormwater Solutions

WATERFORD, Mich., Jan. 27, 2026 — More than 680 homeowner-installed green infrastructure projects capable of managing 1.4 million gallons of stormwater annually were completed through Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner Jim Nash's RainSmart Rebates pilot program. The program, which recently wrapped up after two successful years in the George W. Kuhn Drain Drainage District, was launched in 2024, to help homeowners in 14 municipalities manage stormwater runoff on their property by installing rain gardens, planting trees, and using rain barrels. Financial support for homeowners was provided through rebates and grants.

"RainSmart Rebates delivered exactly what we set out to do," said Commissioner Nash. "By supporting homeowners with practical solutions at the neighborhood level, we've demonstrated how residential projects can become part of a broader stormwater management solution with lasting benefits. The program is now helping divert millions of gallons of stormwater each year — strengthening neighborhoods across the district. We are always looking for innovative ways to reduce stormwater and these projects help divert stormwater from our sewer system while providing benefits to homeowners."

Since 2024 nearly 300 residents have completed projects, with participation rising 22% in the program's second year. Efforts included 379 rain barrels, 199 native trees, and 105 rain gardens. Participants received an average of \$500 in rebates and more than \$176,000 has been invested in local stormwater improvements.

Homeowners commended the program, calling it fun, well-organized, and inspiring. Many said it provided the direction and resources to create more sustainable yards in ways they might not have tried on their own. They also felt empowered to advocate for more green infrastructure in their communities.

The results and feedback from the program will help us guide future efforts to address stormwater challenges and expand sustainable solutions across Oakland County.

The George W. Kuhn Drain Drainage District serves all or part of the following municipalities: Berkley, Beverly Hills, Birmingham, Clawson, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Madison Heights, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak, Royal Oak Township, Southfield and Troy.

Visit oakgov.com/rainsmart for more information, including a map of the drainage district and photos of completed projects.

About Oakland County Water Resources

The Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner's office prioritizes public health, environmental preservation, and the delivery of dependable water and sewer services. We are dedicated to maintaining high-quality standards, protecting natural resources, and ensuring the community's economic well-being. Our office strives to meet and exceed all local, state and federal water quality and environmental regulations. Learn more about our efforts and services at oakgov.com/water.

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