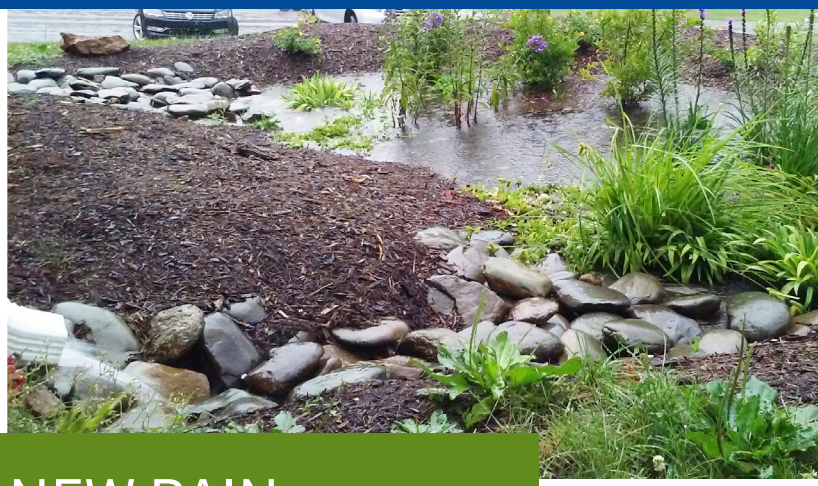
LAWN BE GONE! REBATE PROGRAM

Now with NEW Rain Garden Rebate Option



$300 NEW RAIN GARDEN REBATE

IN ADDITION TO THE LAWN BE GONE! REBATE

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025

RAIN GARDENS BENEFIT YOUR PROPERTY AND THE COMMUNITY!

A rain garden is a shallow landscaped depression that captures, cleans, and absorbs rainwater from a roof, driveway or street. This practice mimics natural hydrology by infiltrating and evapotranspiring stormwater runoff as it collects and moves through a rain garden.

By positioning a rain garden at least 10 feet from your property and directing rainwater runoff into the rain garden you **redirect moisture away from your building's foundation**. Rain gardens are a great way to **reduce localized flooding, standing water issues, and stormwater runnoff leaving your property**. Planted with deep-rooted native plants, rain gardens help **filter out pollutants in runoff** and **provide food and shelter for pollinators, butterflies, and birds.**

Please note: Although the application lists June 30, 2025 as the deadline, applications submitted or processed shortly after this date will still be honored by participating agencies. The rebate program is ongoing. While rebate amounts or availability may vary slightly from year to year, most agencies participate consistently. If you have any questions, contact BAWSCA via email (bawsca@bawsca.org) or phone (650-349-3000).

For the fastest rebate, apply online at BAWSCA.DropletPortal.com

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SAN MATEO COUNTYWIDE
WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PROGRAM
Clean Water. Healthy Community.

BAWSCA
Bay Area Water Supply & Conservation Agency
and participating water agencies
BAWSCA.org

BAWSCA Lawn Be Gone! Rebate Program Applicant Checklist

GET PAID TO TRANSFORM YOUR LANDSCAPING!

Be part of an innovative trend in landscaping and garden design. Replace your traditional lawn with a modern landscape that includes different plants, flowers, and landscape elements. The result will be an exciting and stylish landscape that is easy to maintain, conserves water, and provides long-term benefits to you and the community.

The Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) Lawn Be Gone! Program provides rebates to approved customers that convert water-thirsty lawns to water-efficient landscapes. To be eligible for this program an applicant must be a customer of one of the participating BAWSCA Member Agencies listed on page 3. **In addition to these terms and conditions, applicants for the Rain Garden Rebate Program must also adhere to the Rain Garden Rebate Criteria Checklist** (on page 6 of this document).

The BAWSCA Lawn Be Gone! Program will run until June 30, 2025, or until funds last. However, take note of what's discussed on the first page regarding applications submitted or processed shortly after this date.

The following Terms and Conditions apply to the BAWSCA Lawn Be Gone! and Rain Barrel Rebate Programs. **Please read the Terms and Conditions on pages 3 and 4 carefully prior to submitting your application.**

Follow this checklist to make sure you're on track to get your rebate:

PRE-APPLICATION SUBMITTAL

- ☐ I reviewed the Terms & Conditions (on pages 3 and 4).
- ☐ I am a water customer of a participating BAWSCA Agency
- ☐ I am converting a minimum of 200 square-feet of lawn.
- ☐ The lawn area to be converted is currently irrigated.
- ☐ My plant list is consistent with the BAWSCA Approved Plant List

POST-APPLICATION SUBMITTAL

- ☐ I submitted my application to BAWSCA and scheduled a pre-conversion inspection with a participating BAWSCA agency.
- ☐ I received a Notice to Proceed from a participating BAWSCA agency.
- ☐ I removed or capped the existing sprinkler irrigation in the converted area or converted it it to a drip irrigation system.
- ☐ I installed live plants in at least 50% of the converted area, with the remainder completed as permeable hardscape.
- ☐ The new irrigation system I installed is equipped with a pressure regulator, filter, and pressure compensating emitters.
- ☐ This is a 3 inch layer of mulch on exposed soil surfaces within the converted area.
- ☐ The converted area does not have high water-use plants, artificial turf, bono-biodegrable weed block materials, overhead sprinkler systems, exposed soil surfaces, or non-permeable hardscape.
- ☐ I completed my lawn conversion project within 4 months of receiving a **Notice to Proceed.**

BAWSCA Lawn Be Gone! Rebate Program

Lawn Be Gone! Program Participating Member Agencies & Rebate Amounts

- Brisbane/Guadalupe Valley Municipal Improvement District
  Lawn Be Gone! Rebate: $1/sq. ft.
- Foster City/Estero Municipal Improvement District[1,4]
  Lawn Be Gone! Rebate: $4/sq. ft.
- Hillsborough[1,2]
  Lawn Be Gone! Rebate: $1/sq. ft.
- Menlo Park
  Lawn Be Gone! Rebate: $3/sq. ft.
- Mid-Peninsula Water District
  Lawn Be Gone! Rebate: $4/sq. ft.
- Burlingame
  Lawn Be Gone! Rebate: $2/sq. ft.
- North Coast County Water District[3]
  Lawn Be Gone! Rebate: $4/sq. ft.
- Redwood City
  Lawn Be Gone! Rebate: $2/sq. ft.
- San Bruno
  Lawn Be Gone! Rebate: $2/sq. ft.

BAWSCA
Bay Area Water Supply & Conservation Agency

650-349-3000

BAWSCA.DropletPortal.com

Residents from participating agencies qualify for an additional $300 Rain Garden Rebate. See page 5 for details.

[1] Does not participate in Rain Garden Rebate Program
[2] Maximum rebate is $1,500 per site
[3] Maximum rebate is $2,500 per site and $25,000 per site for HOA. Front yards only, Pacifica, optional $300 rain garden rebate.
[4] Maximum rebate is $2,500 per site for residential and $5,000 per site for commercial

Terms & Conditions: BAWSCA Lawn Be Gone! and Rain Garden Rebate Programs

I. Program Eligibility

1. **Eligible Applicants:** The Program is available to customers (Applicants) who (1) purchase water from a participating BAWSCA Member Agency, (2) have a distinct meter to allow for evaluation of water savings, and (3) have an account in good standing.
2. **Current Lawn Condition:** Lawn areas to be converted must be maintained and in healthy condition, and be irrigated by a sprinkler system in good working condition. The lawn area must be irrigated with water from the potable water system (i.e., not with private wells or recycled water).
3. **Current Lawn Size:** A minimum of 200 square-feet of lawn must be converted. Smaller projects will be considered if they eliminate 100% of the front, or publicly-visible lawn, on the Applicant's property.
4. **Pre-Conversion Site Inspection Requirement:** The Program Rebate Application must be submitted to BAWSCA and the Applicant must participate in a Pre-Conversion Site Inspection conducted by, or on behalf of, the participating BAWSCA Member Agency. Lawn removals or conversions that are initiated prior to a Pre-Conversion Site Inspection and the receipt of a Notice to Proceed from a participating BAWSCA Member Agency will not be eligible for this Program.

II. Landscaping Requirements for Converted Areas

1. **Fifty Percent (50%) Plant Cover Rule:** The converted area must include a sufficient number of plants to ensure at least 50% of the converted area is covered with plants, when f ully grown. Plants outside the converted area are not considered in the plant coverage calculation even if they are adjacent to, or overhanging into, the converted area.
2. **Plant Type Restrictions:** Plants installed in the converted area must be listed on the BAWSCA-Approved Plant List, or otherwise demonstrated to be low-water use. Applicants are encouraged to use native, non-invasive plants. For a copy of the BAWSCA-Approved Plant List please visit www.BAWSCA.com.
3. **Impermeable Surfaces:** Impermeable surfaces, such as concrete, that do not allow water to penetrate into the ground, are not allowed in the converted area. Permeable hardscape is allowed, however, the 50% Plant Cover Rule still applies to the entire converted area. For clarification as to what qualifies as permeable hardscape, please visit www.BAWSCA.com.
4. **Artificial Turf:** Rebates will not be provided for artificial turf that is installed within the converted area.
5. **Mulch Requirements:** All planting areas within the converted area must have a minimum of three (3) inches of mulch. Please note that if a weed barrier is used below the mulch, it must be permeable to air and water.

Terms & Conditions: BAWSCA Lawn Be Gone! and Rain Garden Rebate Programs

6. **Efficient Irrigation System Requirements:** An irrigation system is not required in the converted area. An existing sprinkler irrigation system in the converted area must be removed, capped in place, or converted to a low volume drip. A new irrigation system installed in the converted area must be low volume drip, equipped with proper backflow prevention, a rainfall shutoff valve, a pressure regulator, filter and pressure compensating emitters. The irrigation system in the converted area must be in good working order, and free of leaks and malfunctions. If only part of a lawn area is converted, the converted area must be irrigated on a separate valve from the remaining lawn. The sprinkler system for the remaining lawn must be modified to only irrigate the remaining lawn area and may not spray onto the converted area.

III. Terms of the Rebate

1. **Rebate Term:** Lawn Conversion Projects must be completed within four (4) months following receipt of the "Notice to Proceed" from the participating BAWSCA Member Agency. Because the goal of this program is to achieve significant and lasting water savings, the converted area must remain converted for at least three (3) years following receipt of the rebate. An Applicant may be charged for some, or all, of the rebate amount at the discretion of the participating BAWSCA Member Agency if the Applicant does not maintain the converted area in conversion. Notwithstanding the foregoing, this requirement is void upon transfer of ownership.
2. **Rebate Amount:** The rebate amount is one dollar ($1.00) to four dollars ($4.00) per square-foot of lawn converted plus $300 for the rain garden (see page 3 for all rebate amounts). The rebate amount is limited to actual costs incurred in completing the Lawn Conversion Project for plants, irrigation equipment, and other direct costs. There is no maximum rebate; however, each application is subject to participating agency preapproval and availability of funds. Once a Lawn Conversion Project has been completed and approved, rebates will be issued to the Applicant. Rebates may be issued in the form of a check or a credit on the Applicant's water account.
3. **Pre-Conversion Site Inspection:** Customers interested in participating in the Program must first submit an application to BAWSCA, including their proposed plant list for the converted area. The participating BAWSCA Member Agency will then, at the agency's discretion, accept that application and conduct a Pre-Conversion Site Inspection of the Applicant's site to measure the proposed conversion area and verify that the Applicant's proposed Lawn Conversion Project meets the Terms and Conditions. If the Applicant is approved, the participating BAWSCA Member Agency will issue a Notice to Proceed.
4. **Post-Conversion Site Inspection:** The Applicant is responsible for notifying the participating BAWSCA Member Agency that the Lawn Conversion Project is complete and for scheduling a Post-Conversion Site Inspection. The participating BAWSCA Member Agency will then conduct the Post-Conversion Site Inspection to verify Program compliance. During the Post-Conversion Site Inspection Applicants are required to provide the following documents:
   - Final list of plants used in the Lawn Conversion Project.
   - Copy of receipts for plants, irrigation equipment, and other direct costs for the Lawn Conversion Project including costs for the Rain Garden Rebate portion of the project, if applicable. Note that the rebate will not cover costs associated with labor and equipment rental.

   If the Lawn Conversion Project fails the Post-Conversion Site Inspection, the Applicant will be given thirty (30) days, or the remainder of the four (4) month period, whichever is greater, to make the Lawn Conversion Project consistent with the Program Terms and Conditions. Once the Lawn Conversion Project has passed the Post-Conversion Site Inspection, the rebate will be issued to the Applicant. Rebates may be issued in the form of a check or a credit on the Applicant's water account.
5. **Photography:** Photographs and/or video recordings may be taken of the Lawn Conversion Projects by BAWSCA and/or participating BAWCSA Member Agency staff as part of both the Pre- and Post-Conversion Site Inspections. Photographs and/or video recordings will only be taken of areas already visible from a public walkway. By accepting the rebate, the Applicant shall release to BAWSCA, its participating member agencies, the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG) its agents, and employees all rights to exhibit those media in print and electronic form for any purpose in the normal course of business without compensation. The Applicant waives any rights, claims, or interests to control the likeness or identification used in whatever media used. The Applicant's personal identity shall not be published in any form other than the Applicant's address.
6. **Additional Responsibilities of the Applicant:** BAWSCA, the participating Member Agencies, and C/CAG enforce only the Terms and Conditions of this agreement. The Applicant is solely responsible for complying with any and all laws, regulations, policies, conditions, covenants and restrictions that may apply, and for any and all liabilities arising out of a Lawn Conversion Project. Applicants must comply with all local permitting requirements, and with all state and local laws relating to landscape maintenance and compliance with stormwater regulations.
7. **Additional Requirements:**
   - Rebates for landscapes in new construction do not qualify.
   - Agency may require that an Applicant also have an Indoor Water Audit as part of preconversion site inspection.
   - All rebates are subject to availability of funds.
   - Rebates may take up to ten weeks to process.
   - If you need your original receipt(s) returned, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your application.

   Applicant certifies, per the signature of the property owner, that necessary permissions have been obtained from the property owner, if applicant is not the owner.

Rain Garden Rebate Program

All rain garden projects that meet minimum requirements will be rebated $300.

The rain garden rebate program is an optional program for water customers of the below BAWSCA participating agencies. **In order to qualify for the rain garden rebate, applicants must apply to the Lawn Be Gone! Rebate Program**. The $300 rebate amount is in addition to Lawn Be Gone! rebate amount shown below. This rain garden rebate is effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 and is funded by Flows To Bay, the San Mateo Countywide Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program, a program of the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County, or C/CAG. Although the application lists June 30, 2025 as the deadline, applications submitted or processed shortly after this date will still be honored by participating agencies. The rebate program is ongoing. While rebate amounts or availability may vary slightly from year to year, most agencies participate consistently. If you have any questions, contact BAWSCA via email (bawsca@bawsca.org) or phone (650-349-3000).

Participating Member Agencies for the $300 Rain Garden Rebate Program

- Brisbane/Guadalupe Valley Municipal Improvement District
- Burlingame
- Menlo Park
- Mid-Peninsula Water District
- North Coast County Water District (only Pacifica and in front yards)
- Redwood City
- San Bruno

Rain garden projects will be rebated $300 in addition to the above Lawn Be Gone! rebate amount.

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WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PROGRAM
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Anatomy Of A Rain Garden

(A) Rain gardens **are located downslope** from a downspout and should be a **minimum of 10 feet from a home's foundation**.

(B) Erosion protection at the inlet of a rain garden (e.g., river rock and/or concrete splash pad) helps moderate the flow of water into the garden.

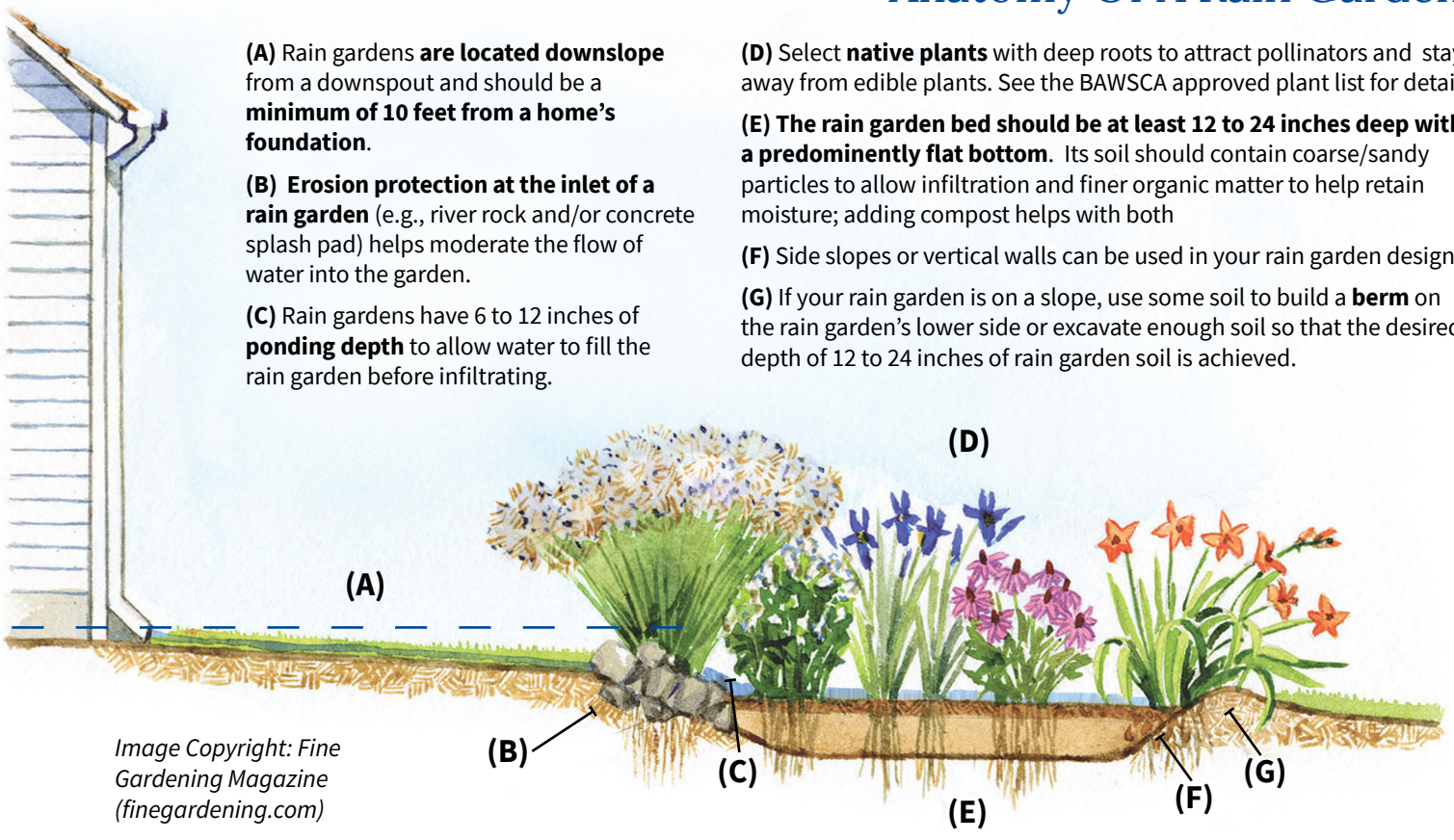
(C) Rain gardens have 6 to 12 inches of **ponding depth** to allow water to fill the rain garden before infiltrating.

(D) Select **native plants** with deep roots to attract pollinators and stay away from edible plants. See the BAWSCA approved plant list for details.

(E) The rain garden bed should be at least 12 to 24 inches deep with a predominently flat bottom. Its soil should contain coarse/sandy particles to allow infiltration and finer organic matter to help retain moisture; adding compost helps with both

(F) Side slopes or vertical walls can be used in your rain garden design.

(G) If your rain garden is on a slope, use some soil to build a **berm** on the rain garden's lower side or excavate enough soil so that the desired depth of 12 to 24 inches of rain garden soil is achieved.



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Rain Garden Rebate Program Applicant Checklist

If you are planning to integrate a rain garden as part of your Lawn Be Gone! lawn replacement project, use the below criteria and guidance information to ensure your project will be eligible for the Rain Garden Rebate. **Approval of rain garden design plans is required as part of the overall Lawn Be Gone! rebate application process for all projects that include application for the Rain Garden Rebate.** Failure to meet any of the following criteria could result in ineligibility for the Rain Garden Rebate when the post-conversion inspection is conducted.

RAIN GARDEN LOCATION/SIZE

- ☐ The planned rain garden is **located downslope** from a downspout or other impervious area draining to the rain garden.
- ☐ The planned rain garden is **located at minimum approximately 10 feet from home foundation**, **3 feet from public sidewalks, and 5 feet from private property lines.** Applicants should refer to local municipality planning departments for specific setback requirements.
- ☐ The planned rain garden is **at least 12 square-feet in total area**.
- ☐ The base area (flat bottom area of the rain garden) to total rain garden has a minimum 3:4 ratio (only 25% of the total area should be side slope).
- ☐ **The total area of the planned rain garden is at least 4% of the square-footage of contributing drainage area** (i.e., the contributing roof area). For example, a rain garden collecting rainwater from a 500 square-foot roof should be at least 20 square-feet. **The minimum roof area should be 300 square-feet.**
- ☐ **The rain garden does not conflict with underground utilities**, such as existing irrigation lines, water service lines, gas service lines, or sewer laterals, and precautions will be taken when excavating the rain garden to avoid hitting underground utilities, including calling 811 (PG&E "Call Before You Dig") before doing any excavation.

WATER FLOW: INLETS, PONDING DEPTH AND OVERFLOWS

- ☐ **The plan includes a clearly defined inlet to the rain garden** via a downspout, swale or underground pipe attached to a downspout.
- ☐ **The plan includes erosion protection at the inlet** (e.g., river rock and/or concrete splash pad).
- ☐ The plan shows a **proposed ponding depth** (from top of mulch layer to bank-full water level) o**f 6 to 12 inches** to allow water to fill the rain garden before infiltrating.
- ☐ **The plan includes an overflow area lined with rock** to move water that does not infiltrate to another pervious area and away from the home's foundation or neighboring property.
- ☐ **The overflow rock extends 2-4 feet outside the rain garden to prevent erosion**.

SOIL CONDITIONS, MULCH AND BERMS

- ☐ The plan indicates the rain garden **soil depth to be** excavated (or amended) **is 12-24 inches** which is recommended to allow proper drainage and plant health.
- ☐ **The planned rain garden specifies one of the following:** 1) the native soil is fully replaced (for low quality/high clay soils), 2) the native soil is excavated and amended for reuse in the rain garden (for moderately well-draining/medium clay soils) or 3) the native soil is amended in place (for high quality/low clay soils).
- ☐ **If native soil is planned to be fully replaced or amended**, the proposed rain garden soil should contain approximately 60% screened sand and 40% compost by volume. The Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association (BASMAA) regional biotreatment soil media specification is a good guide for meeting stormwater biotreatment soil media requirements for stormwater projects in the Bay Area. **The soil for the finished rain garden will drain completely within 48-72 hours** to ensure plant health and prevent mosquito breeding.
- ☐ The rain garden design **includes a 3-inch layer of mulch** and specifies the type of mulch planned for use. To avoid erosion in the rain garden, the preferred mulch should be made from stable and organic materials, such as yard debris (except grass clippings), wood waste/bark mulch/composted arbor mulch, or pea gravel (1/8 inch to 3/8 inch).
- ☐ **If the planned rain garden is excavated on a slope steeper than 5%**, the plan shows either 1) the downhill side will be dug to desired depth to create a flat bottom with proper rain garden soil depth, or 2) the uphill soil will be excavated to the desired depth and the excavated soils will be used to create a berm (a compacted mound of soil) on the downhill side of the rain garden to help retain water.
- ☐ **If a berm is planned**, the plan shows the location of the berm, and the berm will be a minimum of 6 inches high rising above the ponding level.
- ☐ **If an underdrain is planned**, the plan shows the planned placement of the underdrain and the planned location for proper clean-out and overflow pipes.

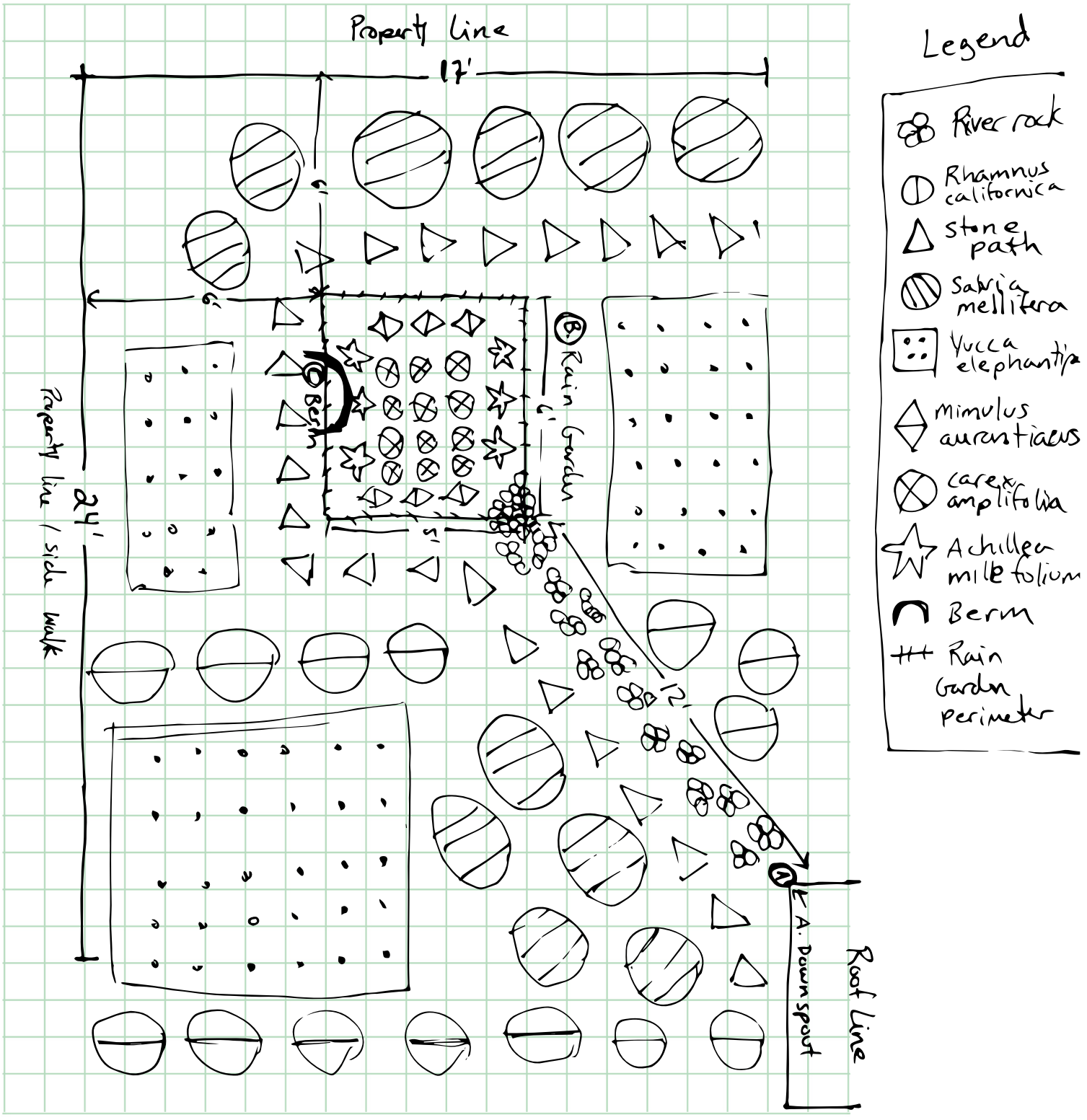
PLANTING

- ☐ The planting palette for the rain garden is specified in the Rain Garden Rebate Plan (in addition to the plant palette selected for the rest of the Lawn Be Gone! lawn replacement project). **Only plants from BAWSCA's Lawn Be Gone! approved plant list may be included** in the rain garden design.
- ☐ The plan shows **at least 50% plant coverage** in the rain garden.
- ☐ Though plants from the Lawn Be Gone! approved plant list include edible plants, **edible plants may NOT be included** in the rain garden design.

FOR A SAMPLE PLAN AND ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE, PLEASE SEE PAGE 7.

Example Lawn Conversion/Rain Garden Plan

- Total converted area: Approx. 408 ft²
- Roof area: 500 ft²
- Rain garden area: Approx. 30 ft²
- Ponding depth: 6 in. of ponding depth from top of mulch layer
- Soil: excavated/amended 12 inches deep (medium clay content); add 3 inches composted arbor mulch
- Berm: excavated soil used for berm on downhill side



Lawn Be Gone! Rebate Application

Complete application, detach, and mail with original receipt(s) to:
BAWSCA 155 Bovet Road, Suite 650, San Mateo, CA
For the fastest rebate, apply online at BAWSCA.DropletPortal.com

Applicant First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Installation Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Yellow-highlighted information above must match the name and address on required W-9 form. Rebate check will only be sent to the W-9 contact.

Email Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Name of Water Agency: _____ Agency Water Service Account Number: _____

What is the best time to reach you M - F between 8:00am - 4:30 pm: _____

Account Type: ☐ Family Residential ☐ Multi-unit Residential ☐ Commercial Is the applicant the property owner: ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "NO" property owner's signature signifies permission for applicant to participate in the program: _____

Owner's Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

How did you hear about this program?_____

☐ I would like to Would subscribe to the Flows To Bay quarterly e-newsletter to learn about events or information to help prevent water pollution.

LAWN CONVERSION INFORMATION

Total area of lawn conversion project: *(lenght x width)* _____Sq. Ft.

Are you also installing a rain garden? ☐ Yes ☐ No (If "Yes" answer below)

- What is the area of the rain garden: *(lenght x width)* _____Sq. Ft.
- What is the total impervious area draining to the rain garden: _____Sq. Ft. *(lenght x width)*
  (i.e. roof area size)

AGENCY USE ONLY

Pre-Insp. Date _____ Check date _____

Post-Insp. Date _____ Check Amt. _____

Conv. Sq. Ft. _____ Water Savings _____

Rebate Status _____

Agency Rep. _____

AGREEMENT:

I, the undersigned, understand that the Lawn Be Gone! Rebate Program (Program) is a limited, first-come/first-served, one-time program, and that rebates are given only for projects for which applications are approved in advance of installation. I have read, understand, and will comply with all Program requirements, and understand that BAWSCA and its participating member agencies will deny any application that does not meet Program requirements. I understand that I may forfeit any rebate I may receive if I do not maintain the area to be converted in accordance with the Program requirements for at least three years after receipt of any rebate. I have independently selected materials, supplies and labor for the purpose of performing the installation. I agree that all work performed will comply with applicable state and local laws, ordinances and regulations. I agree that BAWSCA and its participating member agencies may visit the premises to inspect existing conditions and to verify that the work has been performed in accordance with all Program requirements. I understand that BAWSCA's and its participating member agencies' only purpose in making such inspections is to verify compliance with Program requirements and that neither BAWSCA nor its participating member agencies make any determination with respect to whether materials and equipment are free of defects, the quality of the workmanship, or the suitability of the premises or the materials or equipment for the installation. I also understand that the installation of irrigation equipment and landscape materials may not result in lower water bills. I agree to defend, indemnify and hold harmless BAWSCA and its participating member agencies, their directors, officers, agents and employees against any and all loss, liability, expense, claims, suits and damages, including attorneys' fees, arising out of or resulting from participation in the Program, including without limitation the installation of irrigation equipment and landscape materials.

I have read, understand, and agree to the terms and conditions of this rebate program

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date _____

Complete application, detach, and mail with original receipt(s) to: BAWSCA 155 Bovet Road, Suite 650, San Mateo, CA 94402

BAWSCA
Bay Area Water Supply & Conservation Agency

650-349-3000 | **BAWSCA.DropletPortal.com**

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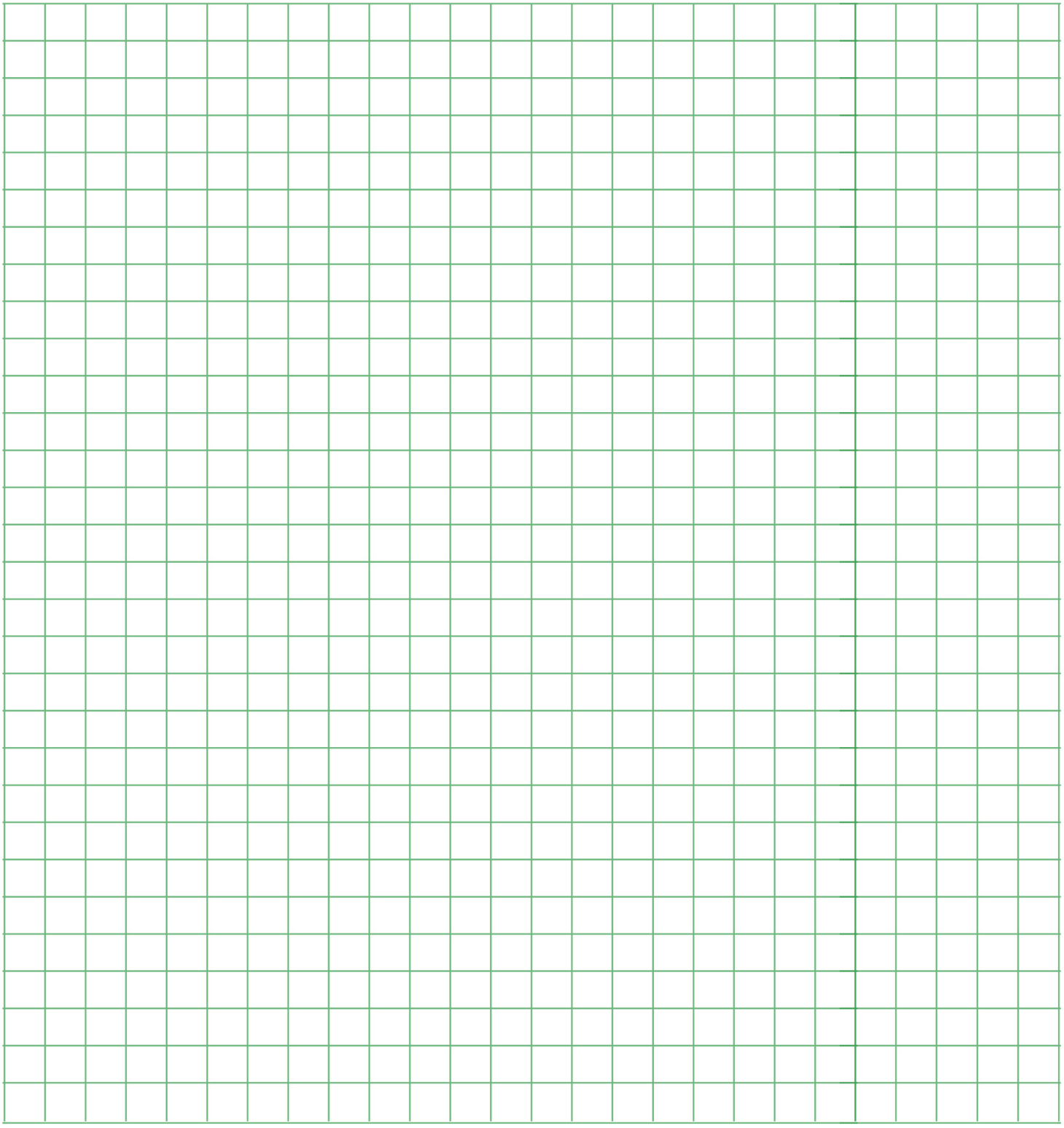
Please draw an aerial view of your proposed Lawn Conversion Project. Include measurements to explain the total area of lawn to be converted (for projects including rain gardens, include measurements and specifications per the Rain Garden Rebate Applicant Checklist on Page 6). Please attach your proposed plant list.