

Judging Criteria

The following categories can be submitted for the Sustainability Symposium:

- Rain Garden
 - Rain gardens collect stormwater runoff from hard surfaces like roofs and driveways. They store runoff in a 6" deep puddle that drains quickly. They contain spongy soil and at least 75% native plants that clean and absorb the water and provide valuable habitat for pollinators.
- Conservation Landscape
 - Conservation landscapes replace areas of lawn, invasive plants, or erosion with native plants and improved soil. They are simplified rain gardens that slow down and soak up stormwater runoff. They provide valuable habitat for pollinators.
- Water Harvesting
 - Above-ground containers (rain barrels and cisterns) attach to roof downspouts. They store rainwater, allowing it to be reused.
- Green Roof Installation
 - Green roofs are designed to hold special soil and plants. They treat the first inch of rainfall before it can reach the ground.

NOTE:

As you go through the application process you will come across the following new conditions/features:

- Snag
 - A standing dead or dying tree. Snags are important for wildlife and can be found in natural and landscaped areas.
- Meadows and Pollinator Habitats
 - An open habitat or field, vegetated by grasses, herbs, and other non-woody plants. Trees or shrubs may sparsely populate meadows, as long as these areas maintain an open character.
- Living Shoreline
 - A living shoreline is a coastal edge that's stabilized and protected using natural materials like plants, sand, or rock. Living shorelines are a green infrastructure technique that can be used to stabilize bays, rivers, and estuaries.

These conditions/features fall under the Conservation Landscape category.

Rain Garden

- Downhill from buildings and at least 10' away from foundations
- Not over utilities (water, gas, electric) - Offset a minimum of 36" for gas and 18" for everything else
- Overflows onto a pervious surface (grass, garden, etc.) for at least 10' before reaching impervious surface (driveway, sidewalk, etc.)
- Receives stormwater runoff from an impervious surface
- Does not back up water onto a neighboring property
- Does not redirect the existing flow of water to a paved surface or a neighboring property
- Soil passed a perc test

Rain Gardens will be judged on the following criteria:

Degree of difficulty	10
Overall appearance	10
Design and execution of construction details	5
Quality of plant material	5
Quality of plant installation	10
Attention to drainage and finish grade	10
Design program (does it work?)	20
Selection and location of plant material	10
Harmony of design with surroundings	10
Working Knowledge of environmental construction	10

Conservation Landscape

- Use a minimum of 75% native plants (cultivars are accepted). 25% of plants used can be non-native, but they must be non-invasive. Include groundcovers.
- Apply 2"-3" of natural, undyed mulch to the finished garden.
- Don't use artificial weed fabric (burlap, recycled cardboard rolls, and newspapers are OK).
- Buried downspout extension pipes are discouraged. - If necessary, they need to be installed with a downspout overflow (PVC Y Connection).- If pop-ups are used, they should follow RainScapes pop-up specifications.

Conservation Landscapes be judged on the following criteria:

Degree of difficulty	10
Native Plant Threshold (min. 70%, cultivars are fine)	10
Plant species/type diversity	5
Overall appearance	10
Design and execution of construction details	5
Quality of plant installation	10
Attention to drainage and finish grade	10
Design program (does it work?)	15
Pollinator support (Use of keystone and pollinator specialist plants that	5
Harmony of design with surroundings	10
Working Knowledge of environmental construction	10

Water Harvesting Criteria

Rain Barrel/Cistern (Location)

- Installed on a solid, level support base
- Overflow must drain onto a pervious surface (grass, garden, etc.) or back into the downspout
- Overflow drainage outlet must be directed a minimum of 4' away from the building's foundation
- Positive overflow drainage away from the foundation
- Overflow must not change the pre-existing flow path of stormwater

Rain Barrel/Cistern (Design/Installation)

- If re-purposing a barrel, it needs to be food-grade
- Should have a secure lid and/or screen
- Should have a water spigot at the bottom of the barrel for release water
- Should be made of hard plastic, metal, or wood, no bags
- Overflow with a pipe that releases water onto the ground
- Clear access for cleaning the inlets when necessary

Degree of difficulty	10
Overall appearance	10
Design and execution of construction details	5
Attention to drainage and finish grade	25
Design program (does it work?)	20
Selection and location	10
Harmony of design with surroundings	10
Working Knowledge of environmental construction	10

Green Roof Installation

- An extension of the existing roof involving a high-quality waterproofing and root repellant system, drainage system, filter cloth, lightweight growing medium, and plants.
- Involves creating “contained” green space on top of a human-made structure. This green space could be below, at, or above grade, but in all cases, the plants are not planted in the ground.
- Components may be modular (prepared in movable, interlocking grids) or installed separately.
- Does not include rooftops utilizing free-standing containers or planters.

Green Roof Installation will be judged on the following criteria:

Degree of difficulty • Were there access issues associated with street closures or restricted work times? Was the crane height or reach challenging? Are the roof panels flat, sloped, or multi-terraced, or were there several individual green roofs? Was the volume of soil or the size of the green roof a challenge?	10
Overall appearance	10
Design and execution of construction details • How were design or environmental challenges such as wind, reflective light, or heat addressed? • Was special equipment used or fabricated specifically for this green roof?	5
Quality of plant material	5
Quality of plant installation	10
Quality of Construction • Is the grade consistent? Are trays aligned? Are seams evident? Is unsightly fabric or plastic evident? Are plants installed in rows and at the right planting height?	10
Design program (does it work?) • How is the excess runoff addressed? Is the runoff recycled? Is the green roof an outside living area? Is it easily accessible?	20
Selection and location of plant material	10