

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Lauren's Garden Service & Native Nursery <laurengardens@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 14, 2020 10:20 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Testimony for CR 35

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To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Lauren Turner and I have been running Lauren's Garden Service and Native Plant Nursery in Howard County for 16 years. We are an eco friendly company that is knowledgeable about native plants, supporting pollinators and helping to keep local waterways cleaner by designing and installing stormwater BMPs. We've been installing rain gardens since before Cleanscapes started and have had 30-40 rain gardens approved by the Cleanscapes program. We've worked closely with Julie Constantino and Rachel Beebe over the years to make sure what we are doing with our stormwater BMP design and installs lines up with the needs of the Cleanscapes program and clients needs.

The new changes being proposed to the Cleanscapes program will make projects we do like rain gardens, conservation landscapes and tree plantings more affordable to clients. We find that many clients are interested in projects like these and that the cost share aspect helps the clients to commit to these projects. Rain gardens require a lot of work to install with making sure there is attention to the right location, the grading, the 24 inch excavation and adding the soil back in. Because of all this work they are considerably more time consuming and costly to install then a regular garden. There is often follow up maintenance required at the first rain after the garden is installed to trouble shoot where the water flows. We build this into the upfront pricing for our gardens which drives the cost up a bit. The inclusion of a maintenance requirement is a good idea so that clients commit to the ongoing maintenance the rain garden will require before the install happens.

Many clients have been interested in planting conservation landscapes but the current reimbursement is too low to motivate them to do the project. The removal of the ponding depth for the conservation landscape is helpful to make the project more affordable for the landscape companies to install. The increased amount available per property is a big help.

So an increase in the amount of reimbursement would motivate more homeowners to install rain gardens, conservation landscapes and trees and make sure that the companies installing them are fully compensated for the extra detail and planning that goes in to a stormwater maintenance project like these.

Thanks,

Lauren Turner  
Owner Operator

Landscape Designer  
CBLP Level 1 & 2 Design, Install, Maintain  
BS Horticulture Pennsylvania State University

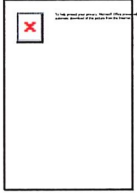
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**Subject: Testimony on Council Resolution No CR 35-2020: Reimbursement rates for the installation of stormwater best management practices on private property.**

**To: The Honorable Liz Walsh, Opel Jones, Deb Jung, David Yungmann, Christiana Rigby**

**From: Terry R. Matthews, Program Coordinator, Howard County Watershed Stewards Academy**

**Date: May 13, 2020**

The Howard County Watershed Stewards Academy (HoCoWSA) is an affiliate program of the University of Maryland Extension (UME) that seeks to increase the number and diversity of trained volunteers who have the knowledge and skill required to enhance the health of our local lakes, streams, and rivers through actions to eliminate polluted stormwater runoff from our watersheds. The Chesapeake Bay Program's development of the Watershed Stewards Academy concept was the direct result of attempting to address how local jurisdictions target private property owners' regarding stormwater management and treatment of impervious cover as a vital part of compliance with the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) and Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP).

HoCoWSA's mission is to work directly with the citizens of Howard County in helping them better manage the stormwater that is generated on their property. Through such interactions, we've learned that most people want to do what is right concerning their role in controlling any stormwater pollutants that they create. Once they are made aware of ways to reduce pollutants they willingly change their behaviors, such as reducing fertilizers and picking up pet waste. The previously mentioned behaviors don't require much of a sacrifice from the homeowner.

However, it is somewhat of a tougher sell to ask someone that has been in their home for three decades to sacrifice a portion of their property to install a Rain Garden, Conservation Landscape, or Urban Tree Canopy. Hopefully, there still may be those who are solely intrinsically motivated to make such sacrifices but based on the conversations that I have had over the past few years, extrinsic motivators in conjunction with intrinsic are what will be required to move people to action. The proposed increases to reimbursement rates in CR35-2020 can provide that extrinsic motivator, and makes it more likely that the projects and recommendations made through HoCoWSA's Homeowner Interview and Site Assessments (HISAs) are implemented.

As a program that works with the Office of Community Sustainability's residential stormwater incentive program, HoCoWSA strongly supports Council Resolution No. 35-2020.



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