

The Park Commission is a member of the Regional Center Partnership, which is also comprised of the Somerset County Planning Board; the townships of Bridgewater, Somerville, and Raritan; and the Somerset County Business Partnership. The Regional Center Partnership is partnering with the New Jersey Water Supply Authority to offer homeowners rain barrel rebates of up to \$100 for residents of Somerville, Bridgewater, and Raritan.

A Rain Barrel collects and stores rainwater from a roof. It prevents the rainwater from becoming stormwater runoff that picks up pollutants and carries them into storm drains, streets, or streams. Rain Barrels allow you to store and conserve water, while at the same time, help to keep our rivers and reservoirs clean.

Because there are so many rooftops, driveways, and roads in Somerville, Bridgewater, and Raritan, this area is a concern for water quality. Rain Barrels can make a difference in reducing pollution and easing stream erosion caused by heavy stormwater.

If you live in one of these three towns (or have friends and family who do), please consider this program (or sharing it with them). The details on how it works are below.



Somerset County
Park Commission



BRIDGEWATER • RARITAN • SOMERVILLE

A partnership for a better tomorrow

IN SOMERSET COUNTY, NJ

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A partnership for a better tomorrow

Township of Bridgewater • Borough of Raritan • Borough of Somerville * Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders Somerset County Planning Board • Somerset County Business Partnership • Somerset County Park Commission
Private Sector Businesses in the Regional Center



2019 RAIN BARREL REBATES AVAILABLE
Regional Center Rain Barrel Rebates for Bridgewater, Raritan & Somerville Homeowners

SOMERVILLE, NJ – The Somerset County Regional Center Partnership, utilizing a grant from the New Jersey Water Supply Authority (NJWSA), has announced that the 2019 Raritan River Rain Barrel Rebate Program for homeowners in Bridgewater, Raritan, and Somerville is accepting applications for the 8th year of the program.

Rebates are available in the amount of \$50 for new 40- to 70-gallon rain barrels and \$100 for those that hold more than 70 gallons. Rebates are available for up to two (2) rain barrels at a single residence.

Residential homeowners in the three communities who have previously purchased rain barrels are also eligible for rebates. Those specifically within the Peters Brook Watershed who purchased and installed after July 1, 2011, and all Bridgewater, Raritan, and Somerville residents who purchased and installed after January 1, 2014 are eligible. All require proof of purchase and installation.

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Rain barrels provide homeowners with financial and ecological advantages by conserving water, easing stream erosion by reducing the volume of runoff entering to streams and rivers during storms, and reducing pollutants accumulated from impervious surfaces, particularly roofs. In established urban areas like the Regional Center, rainwater runoff from hard surfaces flows directly into streams, depositing these pollutants.

Rain barrels must have a closed design or screen top; have a system to direct excess water away from the home's foundation; have a spigot not higher than 3" from the bottom of the barrel; and must be made of a sturdy material and installed on a solid level base. Homeowners must pledge to maintain the rain barrel for at least two years to be eligible for the rebate.

"A rain barrel is a simple and effective way of practicing environmental responsibility," commented Troy Fischer, Chair of the Somerset County Regional Center Partnership. "Homeowners in the Regional Center communities have a unique opportunity to recoup their investment twice, once through the rebate and multiple times through re-use of rain water." Rebates will be awarded on a first come, first served basis, and funding is limited. Detailed information can be found on the Regional Center Partnership's website at www.regionalcenterpartnership.org, by calling 908-730-0270 x233 or sending an email to rainbarrel@rارانbasin.org.

BACKGROUND

The Somerset County Regional Center is the strategic center of the County consisting of 12.6 square miles encompassing Raritan Borough, Somerville Borough, and a portion of Bridgewater Township. The Center is bisected by U.S. Route 206, U.S. Route 202, U.S. Route 22, NJ State Route 28, and I-287 with public transit options and serves as the focal point of County government and the regional economy.

The Regional Center designation illustrates the State Planning Commission's support for:

- achievement of policy objectives in priority areas for economic growth and investment
- encourages development and redevelopment by reclaiming brownfields, and a broad range of planning and implementation initiatives
- makes available priority funding for economic and community programs that provide for assistance with redevelopment in existing downtown business districts, new infill development opportunities, and residential and non-residential development along major highway and mass transit corridors
- will foster more effective mass transportation linkages and may provide priority funding for key intersections, corridor improvements and improved pedestrian accessibility
- makes available priority support for open space concepts by planning and designing new and existing active recreation facilities, for passive open space acquisitions, and for new and existing historic preservation and revitalization programs.

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