

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**How much does a rain barrel cost?** The prices of rain barrels vary from \$40 re-purposed 55 gallon drums (available from the Cannon River Watershed Partnership) to upwards of \$75 or even \$200 for manufactured rain barrels, located at local hardware and home improvement stores.

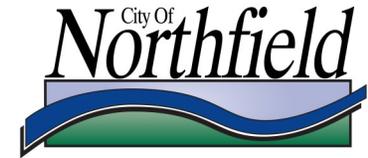
**What are other benefits of rain barrels besides water conservation and reducing stormwater runoff?** Naturally soft rainwater is better for plants than municipal water.

**Do rain barrels breed mosquitos?** No. A properly installed rain barrel will have a screen or another method to prevent mosquitos from entering and breeding.

**Do rain barrels require maintenance?** Yes. Rain barrels must be emptied every fall to prevent ice damage. Leaves and other debris that enter from roof downspouts must be removed to prevent clogging.



City of Northfield  
Engineering Department  
801 Washington St.  
Northfield, MN 55057



## RAIN BARREL REBATE



More information:  
[bitly.com/stormwater\\_incentives](https://bitly.com/stormwater_incentives)

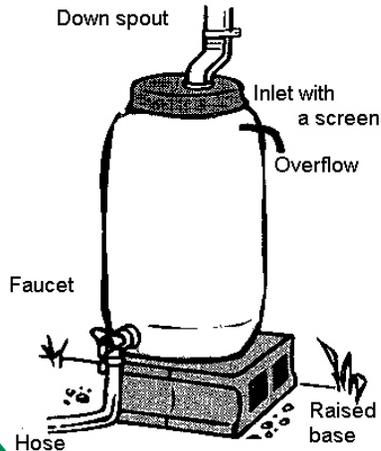
# Northfield Rain Barrel Rebate

## WHAT IS A RAIN BARREL?

A **RAIN BARREL** is an easy way for residents and businesses to conserve water and reduce the amount of stormwater leaving their property. Usually around 55 gallons, rain barrels collect and store water from roof downspouts and allow it to be reused to water gardens.

Rain barrels have many benefits such as conserving our groundwater resources by using rain-water instead of municipal water to water plants. Rainwater is also better for garden plants than tap water. Rain barrels also reduce the amount of stormwater runoff that goes directly into our storm sewers and into the Canon River, reducing flood risks and streambank erosion.

## HOW DO RAIN BARRELS WORK?



**Capture:** A rain barrel captures water from roof downspouts. Even small roofs and rainfalls can easily fill a 55 gallon rain barrel. When the rain barrel is full, water overflows through an overflow pipe.

**Store:** Water remains in the rain barrel until needed. Screens prevent mosquitos from breeding.

**Use:** Attach a hose or soaker hose to the rain barrel to water plants and fill water buckets. Elevate the rain barrel on blocks for more water pressure.

## RAIN BARREL REBATE

**THE CITY OF NORTHFIELD** is encouraging property owners within the city to capture and reuse stormwater by installing rain barrels. Property owners who buy and install a rain barrel receive a \$20 credit on their utility bill after sending in a completed rebate form along with a receipt of purchase and picture of finished installation. This program is available to all property owners in Northfield city limits. This program is funded through Stormwater Utility Fees.

# How it works:

1. **Read** the Rain Barrel Rebate form, available at City hall and also on the City website:



[bitly.com/stormwater\\_incentives](https://bitly.com/stormwater_incentives)

2. **Buy** a qualified rain barrel (over 40 gallons). Keep your receipt.
3. **Install** your rain barrel on a roof downspout. Take a picture when finished.
4. **Send** your receipt, a picture of the installed rain barrel, and the rebate form to:

**City of Northfield**  
**Engineering Department**  
801 Washington St.  
Fax: (507)-645-3055  
Email: [engineering@ci.northfield.mn.us](mailto:engineering@ci.northfield.mn.us)

4. **Receive** a \$20 rebate on your utility account if all requirements have been met.

**\*\*Rebates are given on a first-come, first-serve basis until funding for the fiscal year is exhausted \*\***