


SFPUC Stormwater Charge: Stormwater Credit Program

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Presentation Outline

- Overview of Stormwater Charge Rate Structure
- Recommended Stormwater Credit Program
- SFPUC Resources Available
- Next Steps

An aerial photograph of a city grid, showing a dense pattern of streets and buildings. A semi-transparent dark grey rectangular box is overlaid in the center of the image, containing the title text. The background shows a mix of urban development and green spaces, including a large park area on the left and a baseball field in the lower-left quadrant.

Stormwater Rate Structure

Stormwater Charge Components

- The Stormwater Charge reallocates the stormwater portion of the bill from drinking water volume to area
- Each customer pays their fair share for the combined sewer system
- Customers will fall into one of two categories for the stormwater charge:

Simplified Residential Rate

Most residential parcels

Tier 1 flat rate

Tier 2 flat rate

Tier 3 flat rate

“Standard” Rate

All other parcels

Cost per area

Recommended Stormwater Credit Program



Stormwater Credit Program Goals – All Customers

Goal #1: Provide a viable way for customers to reduce stormwater runoff charges

Goal #2: Ensure complexity and level of effort for credit process is appropriate to the scale of green infrastructure projects and the customer type

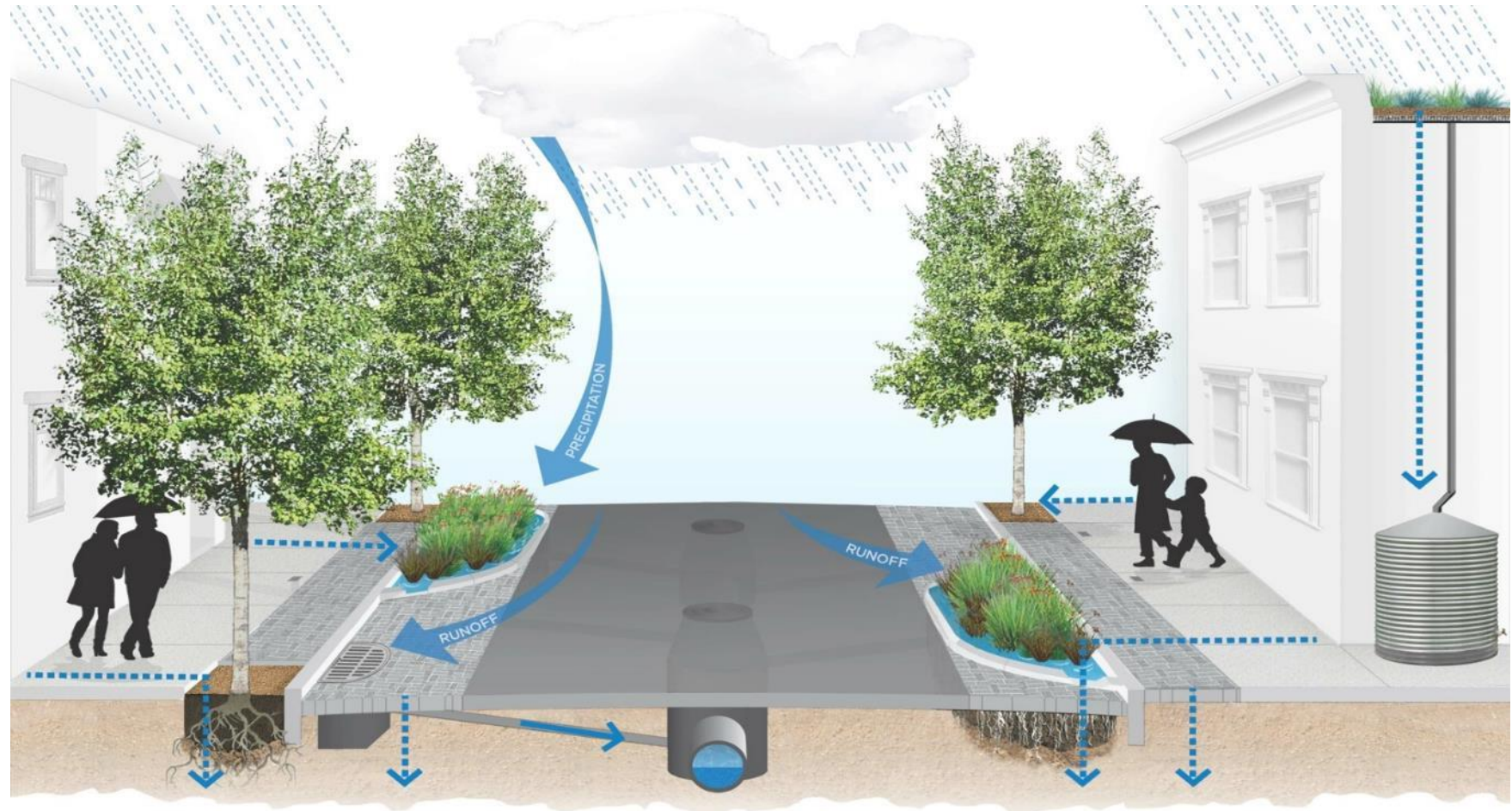
Goal #3: Align rate structure to cost of service (together with appeals process)

Goal #4: Incentivize stormwater management through performance-based green infrastructure that maximizes impervious area managed

Goal #5: Provide “meaningful credit for meaningful performance” for green infrastructure features based on an internally consistent approach to modeling and valuing performance

Green Infrastructure = Bill Credits

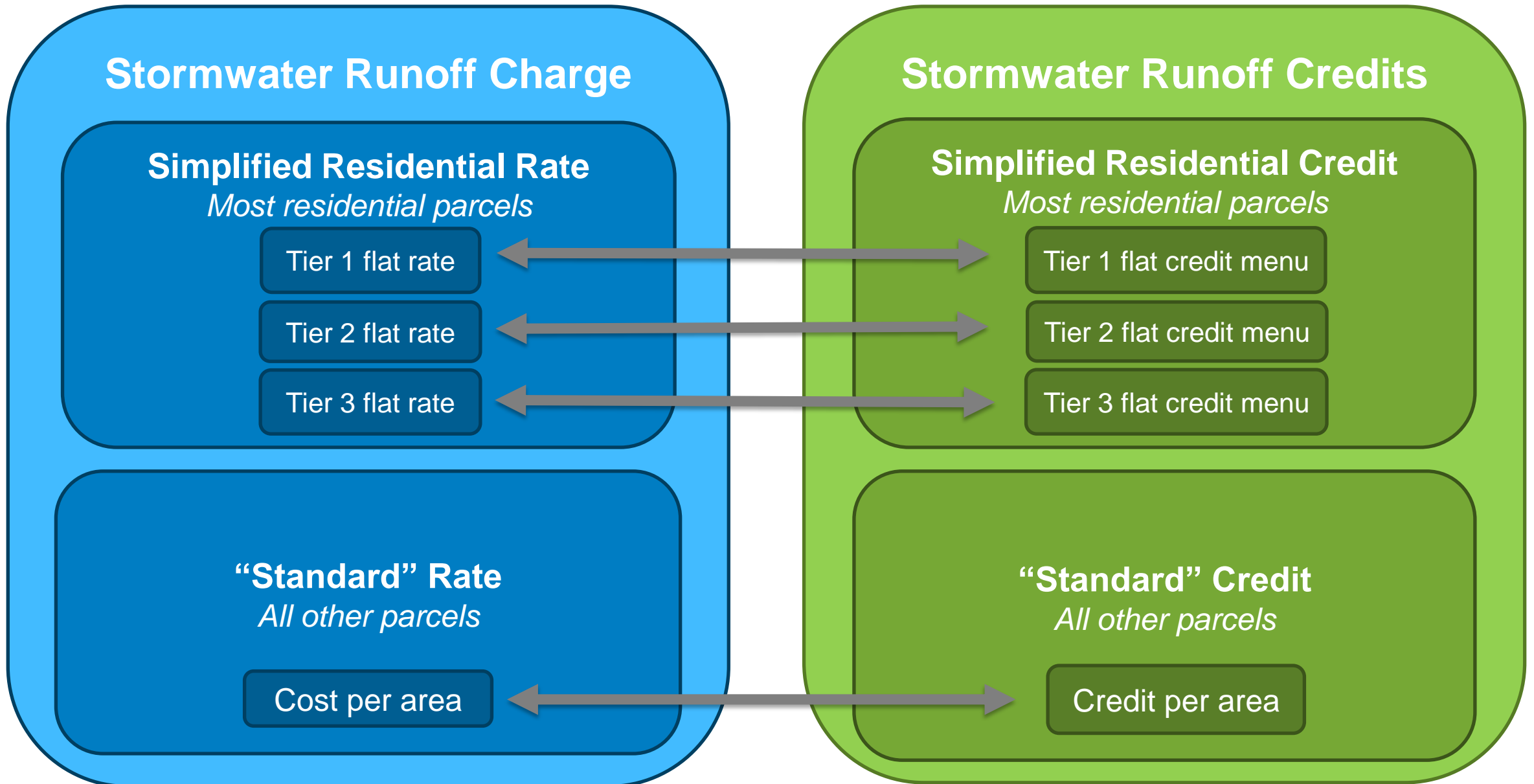
Green Infrastructure is a set of engineered, sustainable stormwater management tools that slow down, clean, and route stormwater to keep it from overwhelming the City's sewer system.



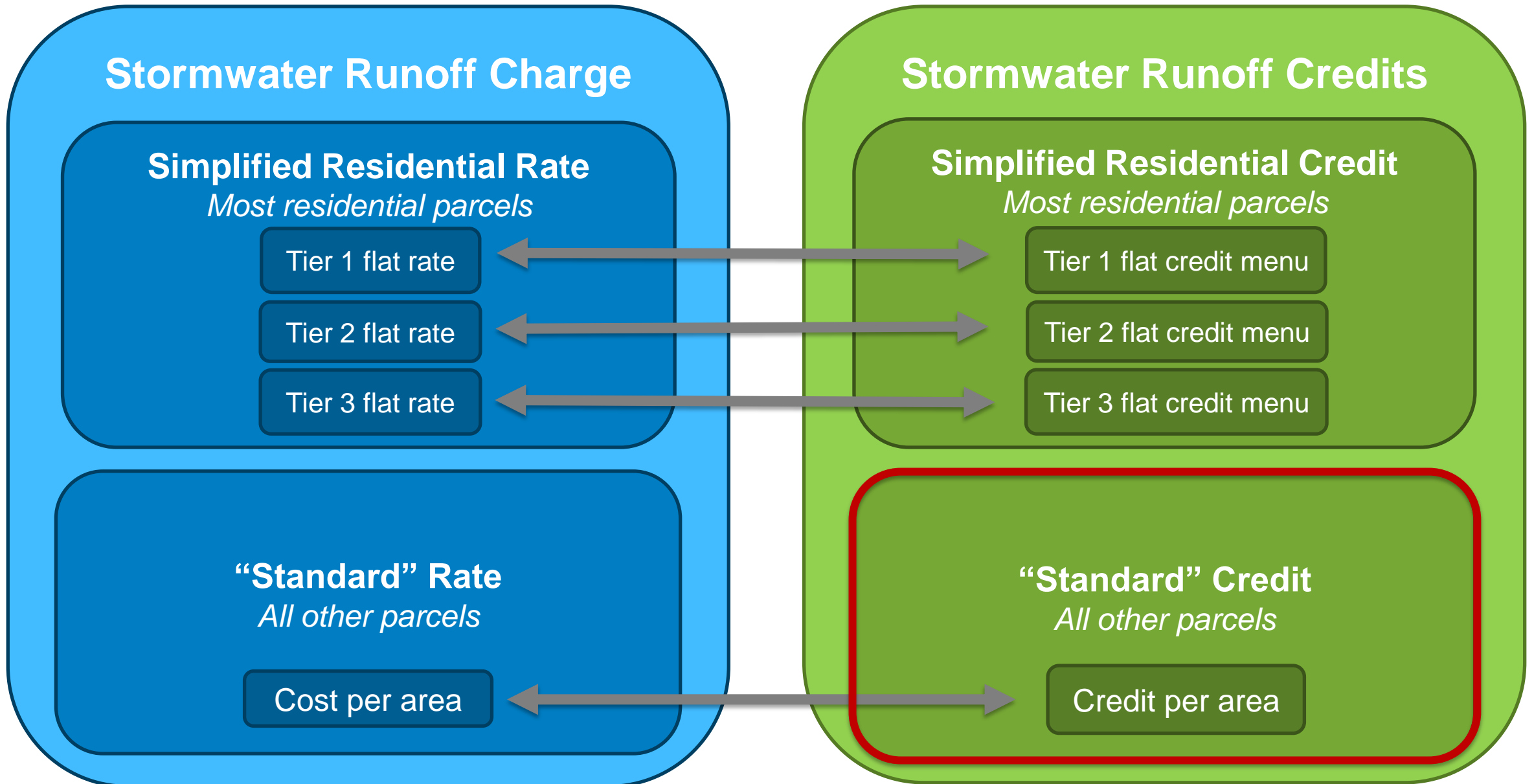
Example Standard Credit Project Types



Stormwater Charge Components

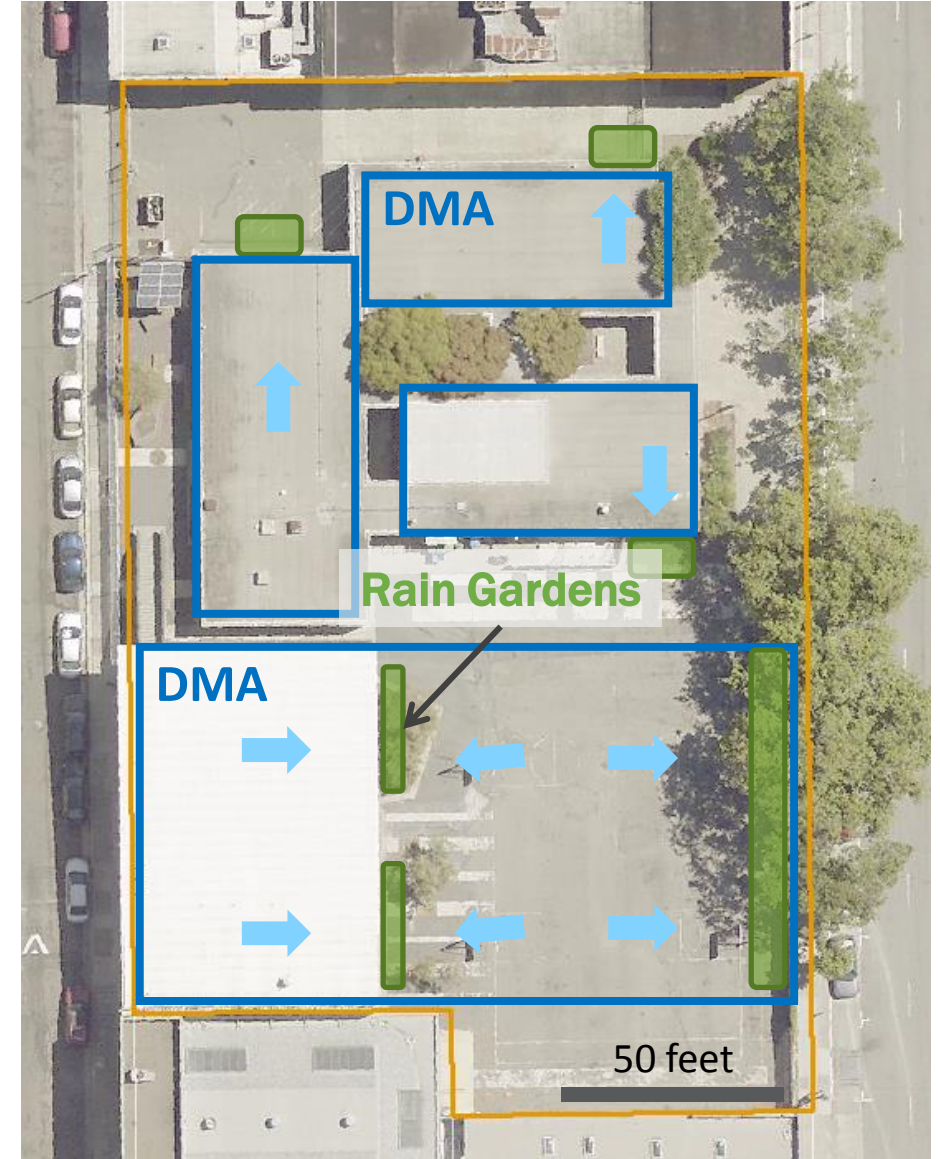


Stormwater Charge Components

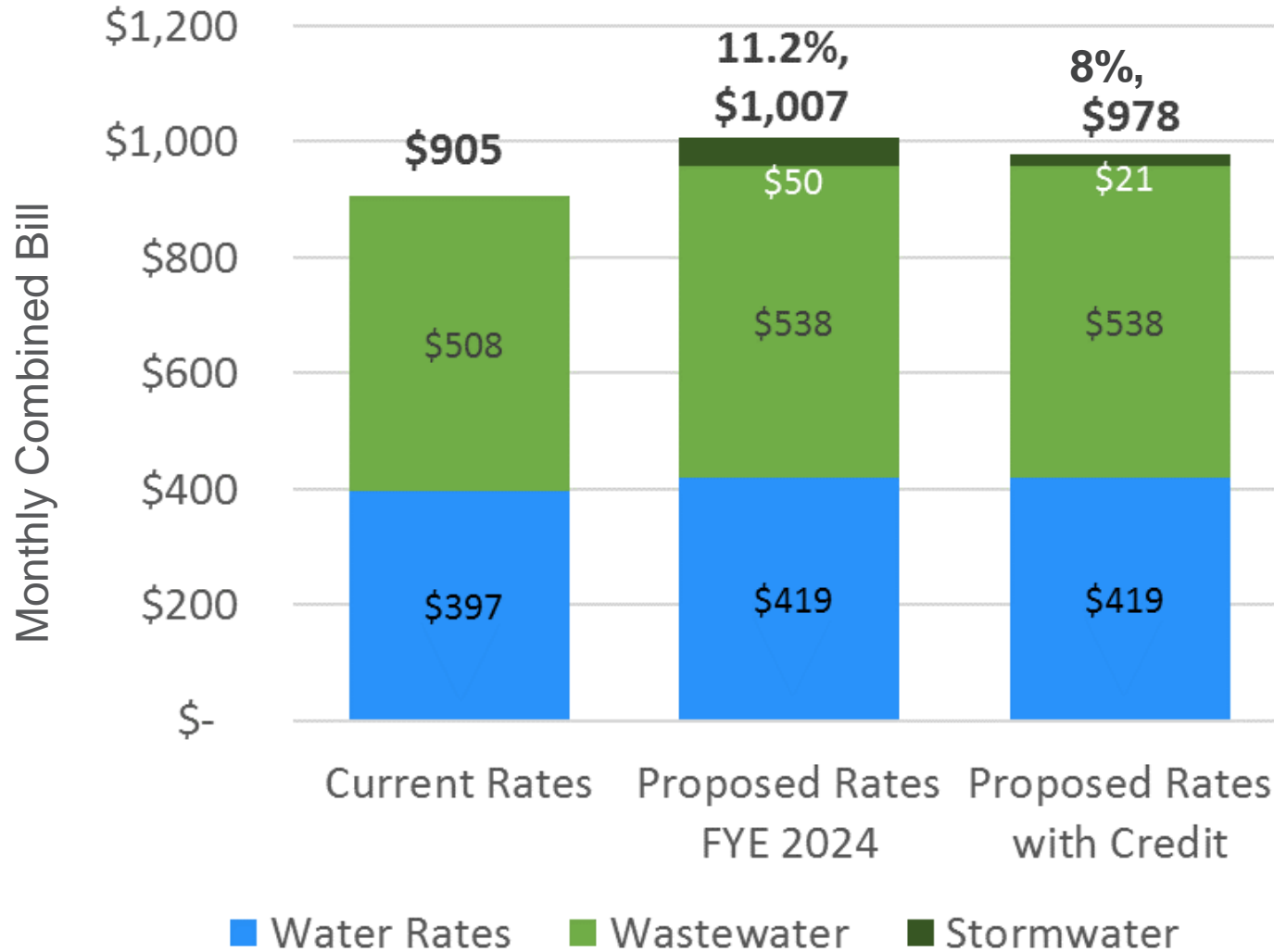


Recommended Standard Credit Structure

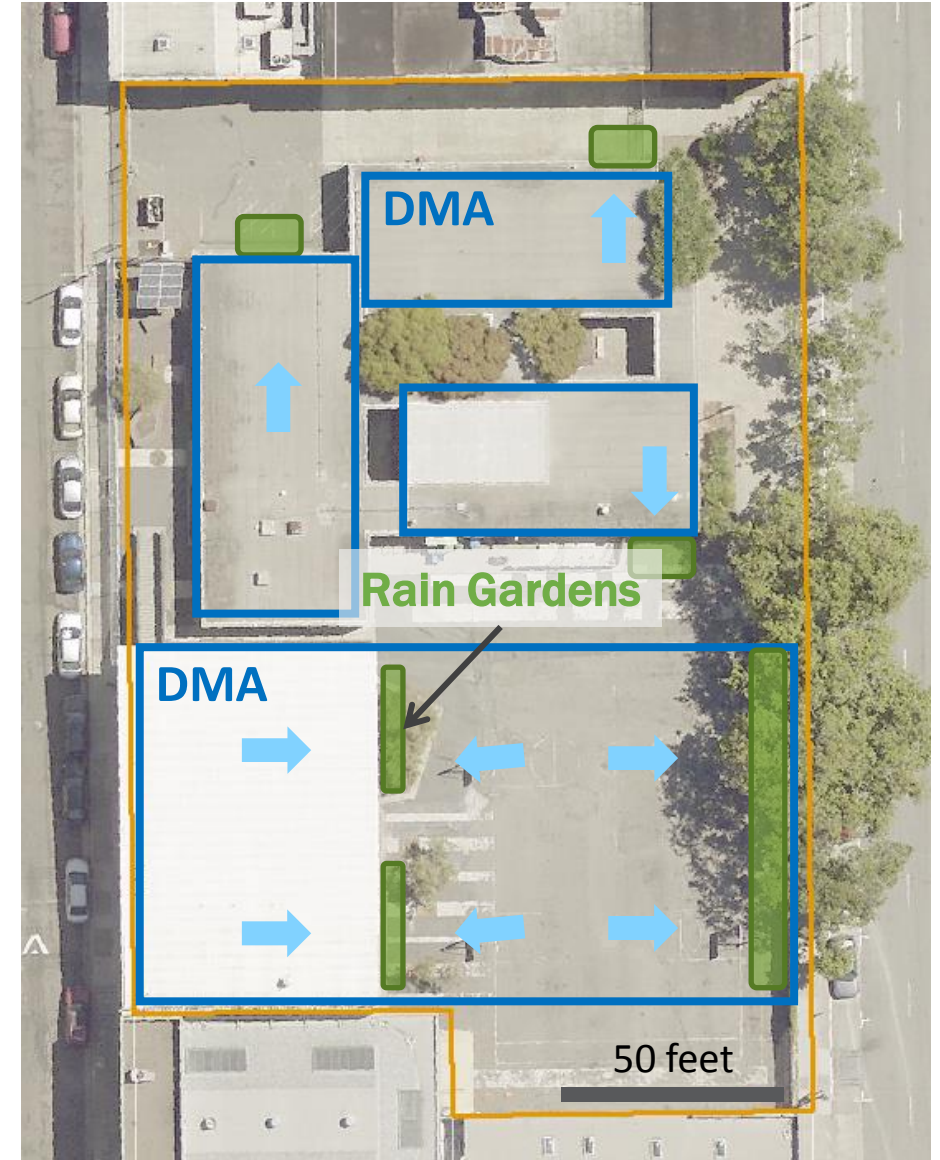
- **Green Infrastructure** collects stormwater runoff from an impervious surface, or **Drainage Management Area**
- Standard Credits will be **based on the total area** draining to the green infrastructure in relation to the total parcel area
- Maximum credit of 90%



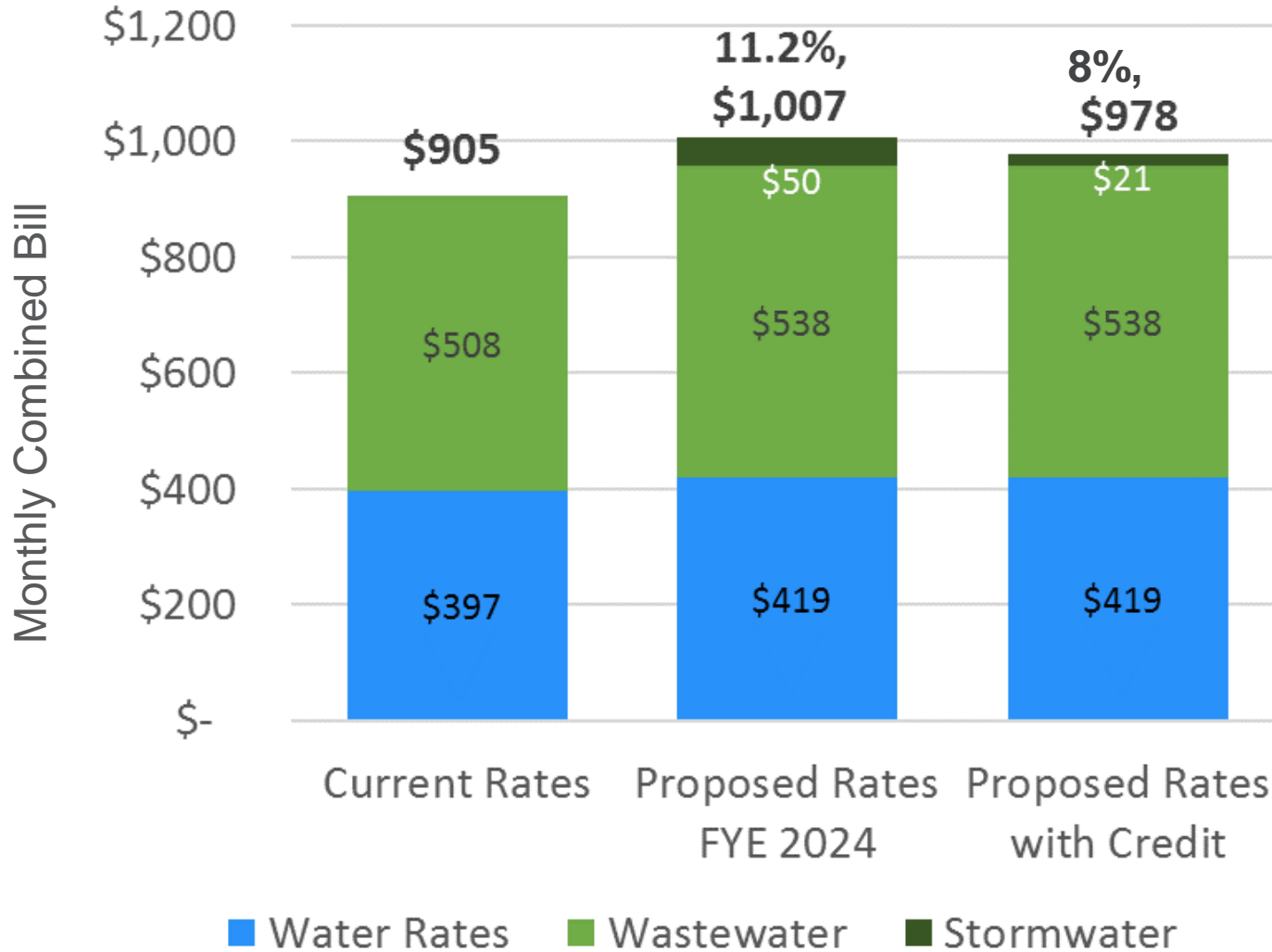
Example Standard Bill with Stormwater Credit



Credit Assumptions: 25,300 sq ft DMA, 60% off Stormwater Charge



Example Standard Bill with Stormwater Credit



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Who is Eligible for Stormwater Credits?

All customers subject to the Stormwater Charge that capture stormwater on their property using green infrastructure.

Examples include:

- New and redevelopment projects that have complied with the Stormwater Management Ordinance
- Properties that have completed green infrastructure projects through the SFPUC Green Infrastructure Grant Program
- Other properties that have built green infrastructure that is designed to capture and slow down stormwater

Stormwater Management Ordinance

Projects that have complied with the Stormwater Management Ordinance are eligible to receive bill credits.



Lowell HS

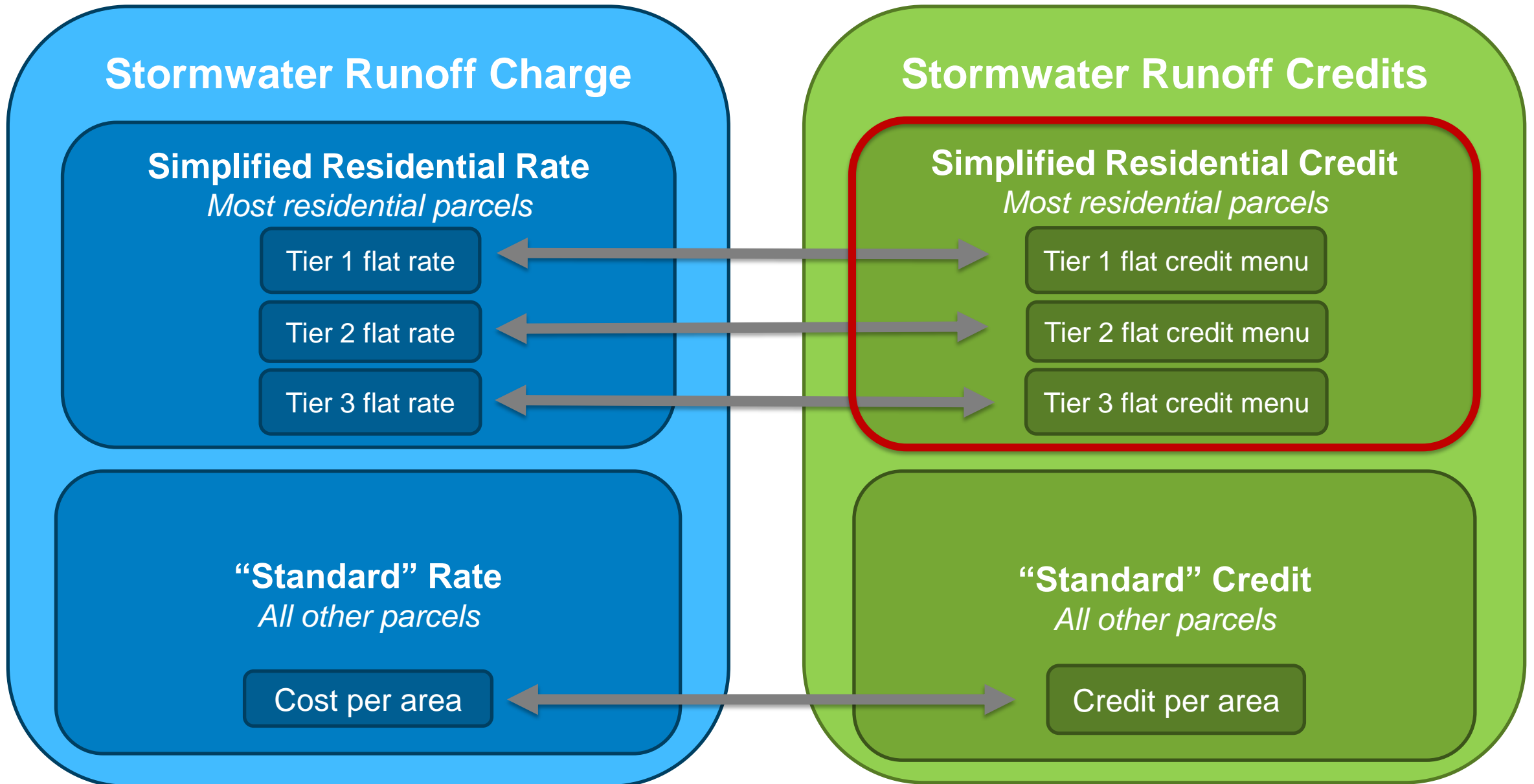


Willie Brown MS

Green Infrastructure Grant Program



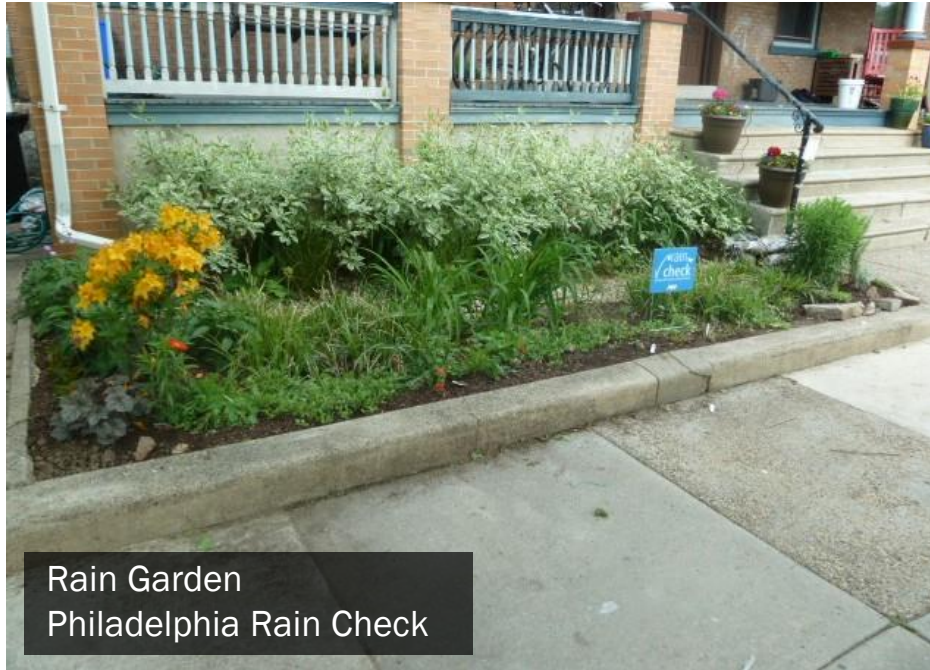
Stormwater Charge Components



Example Residential Credit Project Types



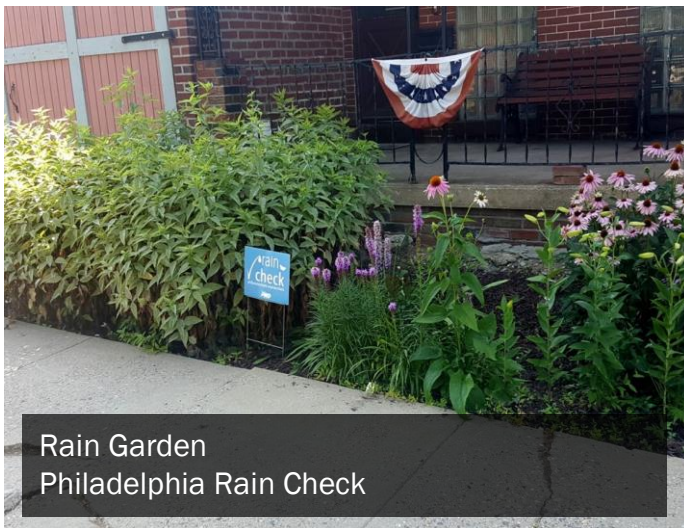
Rain Barrel
Seattle RainWise



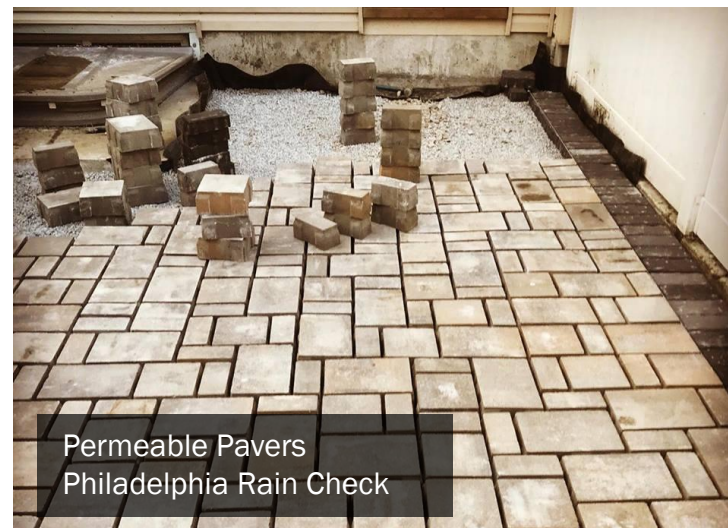
Rain Garden
Philadelphia Rain Check



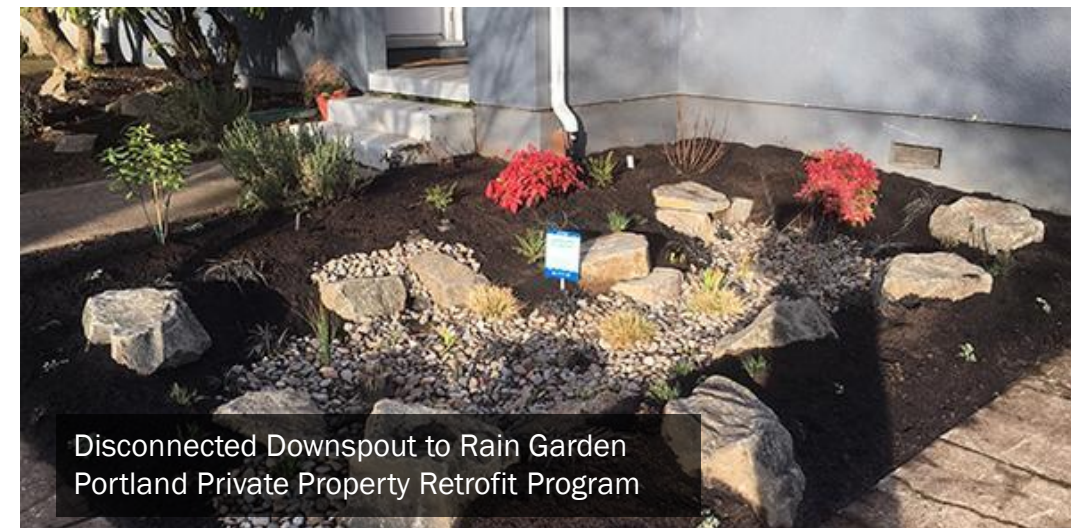
Cistern
Seattle RainWise



Rain Garden
Philadelphia Rain Check



Permeable Pavers
Philadelphia Rain Check



Disconnected Downspout to Rain Garden
Portland Private Property Retrofit Program

Recommended Residential Credit Structure

- Residential Credits will be **based on a flat rate menu** of green infrastructure options that are based on average parcel characteristics
- Project drainage areas include:
 - Roof area
 - Ground-level surfaces (patio or driveway)
- Projects eligible for credits include:
 - Rain gardens
 - Rainwater harvesting cisterns
 - Permeable pavement



Recommended Residential Stormwater Credit Menu

Drainage Management Area	Simplified Residential Stormwater Rate Tiers			Monthly Credit (% of Stormwater Charge)
	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	
	0 - 1,700 sq ft	1,700 – 3,300 sq ft	3,300 – 6,000 sq ft	
	Impermeable DMA (sq ft)			
Ground Level	100-200	200-400	400-700	15%
	>200	>400	>700	25%
Roof	400-600	600-900	800-1,200	40%
	>600	>900	>1,200	60%

- Thresholds vary between residential tiers to account for differences in property size and characteristics
- Credits based on average parcel within each tier
- Maximum credit of 85% (combining two credit options)

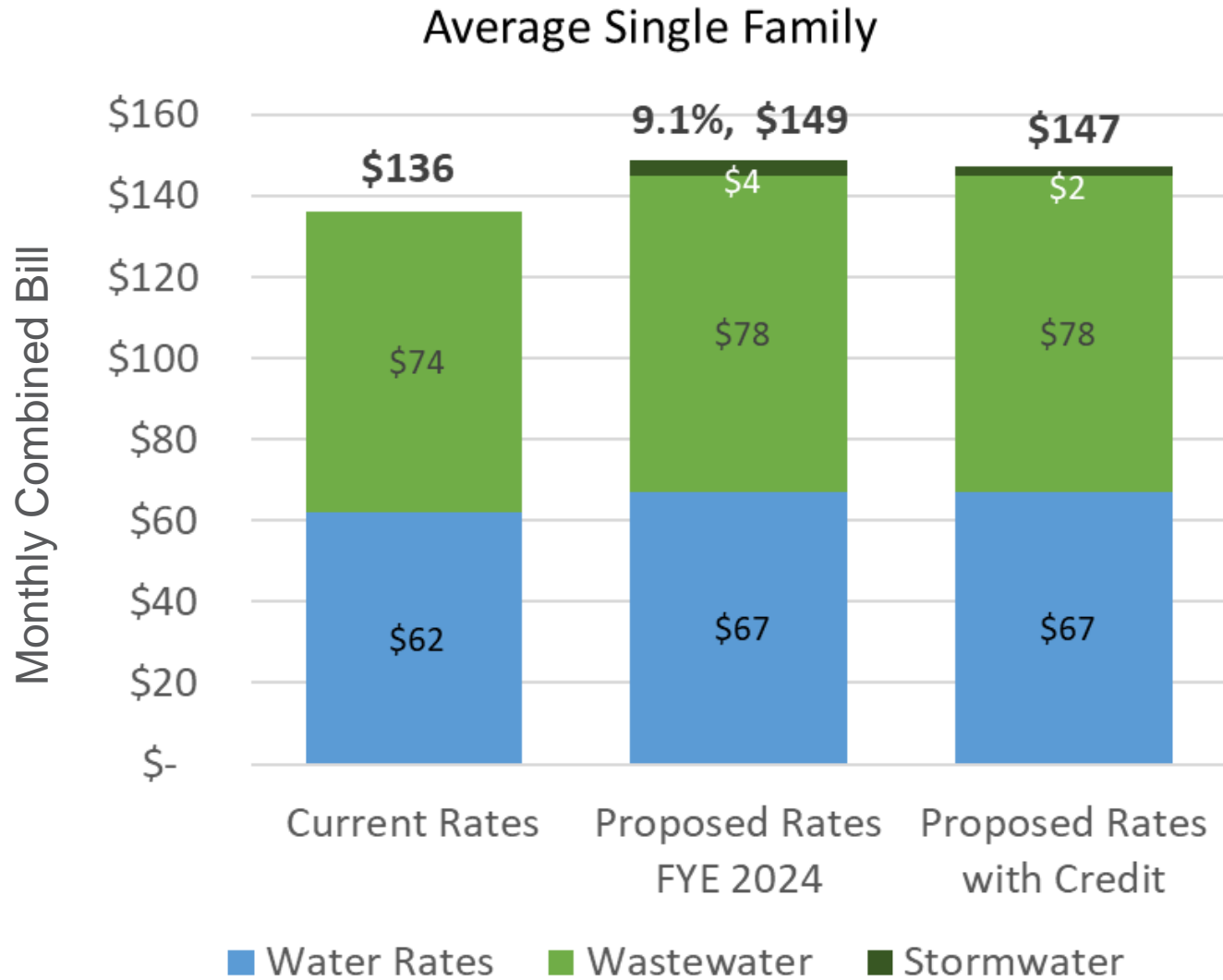
Recommended Tier 2 Customer-Facing Credit Menu



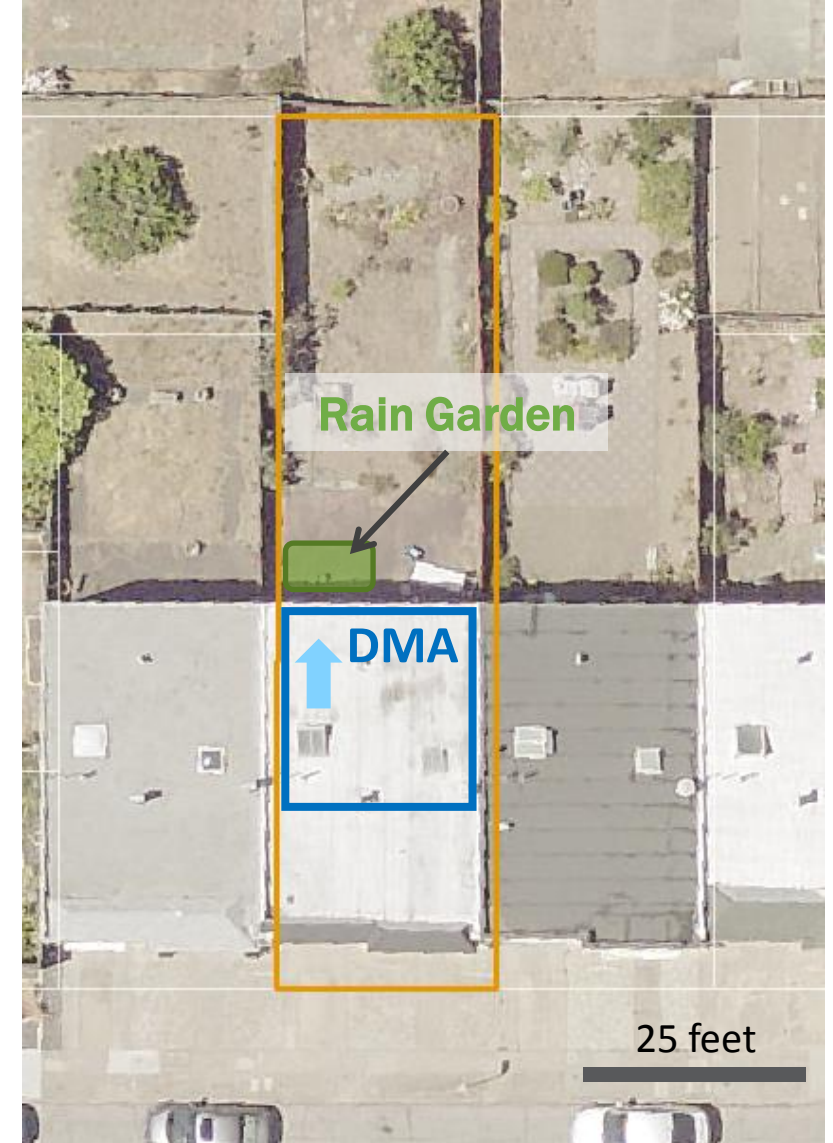
Source of Stormwater	Tier 2	
	Impermeable DMA (sq ft)	Monthly Credit (% of SRC)
Ground Level	200-400	15%
	>400	25%
Roof	600-900	40%
	>900	60%

Total Credit = 85% off Stormwater Charge

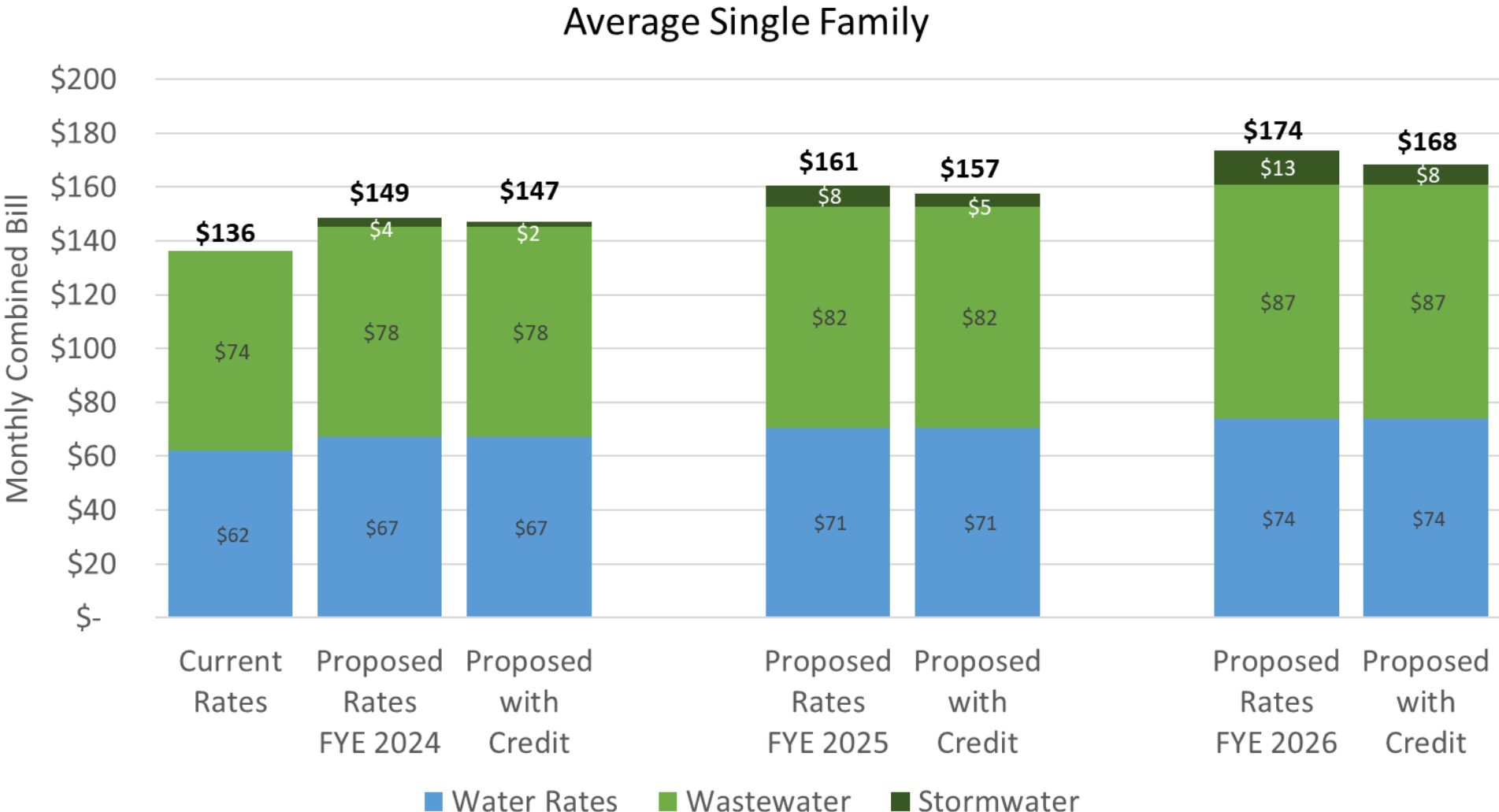
Example Tier 2 Residential Bill with Stormwater Credit



Credit Assumptions: 700 sq ft DMA, 40% off Stormwater Charge



Example Tier 2 Residential Bill with Stormwater Credit



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Application Process

- Applicants may apply online or using paper applications.
- Required Documentation
 - Site photos
 - Project plans
 - Credit allocation agreement – if seeking different allocation than an even split between multiple accounts
- After approval the credit will show up on the next customer's next bill

Verification and Credit Removal Process

Verification and Inspections:

- Self-certification required annually on October 15th, starting October 2024
 - Following existing program timelines/processes
- Customers subject to inspection at any time

Expiration and Removal of Credits:

- Credits expire if:
 - No annual self-certification after October 15th, 2024
 - During inspection GI found to be not functioning, corrective actions not taken
- Customers subject to inspection at any time
- Credit can be reinstated at any time a customer comes into compliance

Summary of Recommendations

- Standard Credits:
 - Based on Drainage Management Area
- Simplified Residential Credits:
 - Flat credit aligned with residential tiers
- Maximum credit at the parcel level for all customers



A photograph of a park area. In the foreground, there is a blue bench on the left and a stone-lined drainage path leading towards the center. The path is filled with smooth, rounded stones of various colors (brown, grey, tan) and is surrounded by dark mulch and some green grasses. In the background, there is a wet basketball court with blue and white markings. A blue building is visible behind the court. The sky is overcast, and the ground is wet, suggesting it has recently rained.

SFPUC Resources

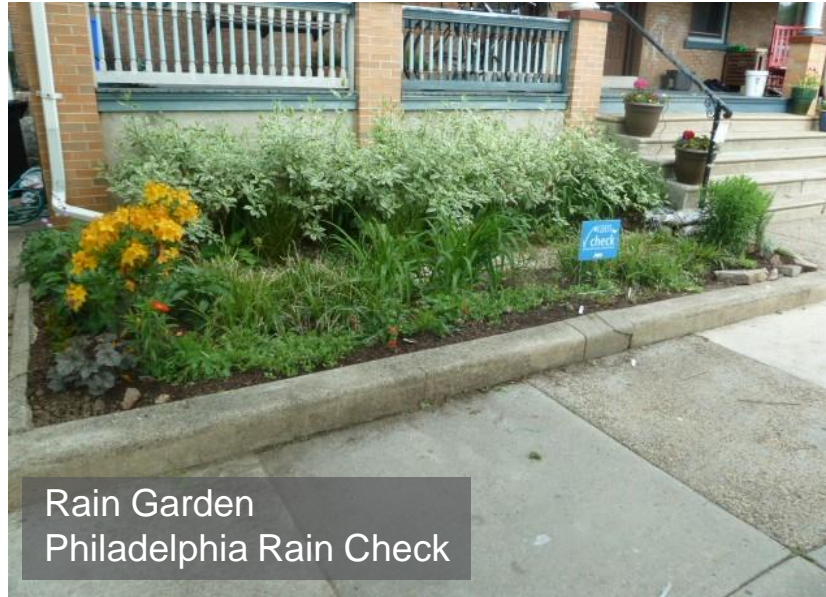
Large-Property Green Infrastructure Grant Program

- Funds the design and construction of green infrastructure facilities
- 17 projects awarded a total of \$17.8M since program launch in 2019
- Targeted towards large, highly impervious parcels
- Property owner is responsible for ongoing maintenance



Pilot Residential Green Infrastructure Grant Program

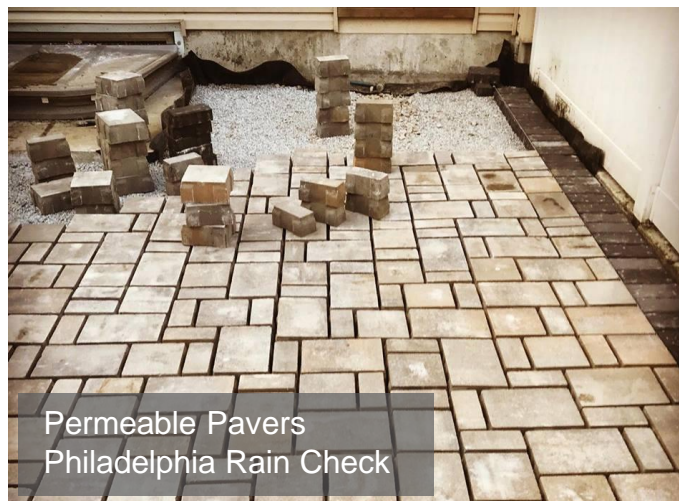
- Limited, pilot-scale grant program for San Francisco homeowners and renters
- Grant funds will cover full cost green infrastructure for 8-10 projects on homes in SF
- Participating homeowners will be eligible for Stormwater Credits
- City-wide, full-scale program to be evaluated following pilot program



Rain Garden
Philadelphia Rain Check



Cistern
Seattle RainWise



Permeable Pavers
Philadelphia Rain Check



Disconnected Downspout to Rain Garden
Portland Private Property Retrofit Program

A photograph of a concrete drainage pipe with water flowing out, overlaid with a semi-transparent box containing the text 'Next Steps'. The pipe is set into a concrete curb, and the water is cascading over its edge. The background shows a blurred street scene with buildings and foliage.

Next Steps

Next Steps

- Seek Commission approval of Stormwater Credits on May 9th
- Launch Residential Grant Program pilot
- Continue targeted outreach for Green Infrastructure Grant Program

Thank You!

