

Planter Cisterns – The Planter Cistern elements in front of the new Town Hall building in Ashland are multi-functional components in the new facility design which provide environmental, aesthetic, pedestrian and security benefits. Their primary purpose is to catch rain water off of the front of the building. Most of the volume of these elements is devoted to a stone filled chamber that breaks the splash of the water coming off the roof and slows it down. The bottom of the chamber is sloped so that as the chamber fills it will drain into the stormwater system at a reduced velocity. These cisterns were conceived in order to avoid unsightly gutters and downspouts on the front of the building where stone-like columns are the primary architectural feature. The Cisterns form ground gutters which minimize splash back on the building.

The Cisterns are designed to feature a planter section or a bench section. These features are intended to add to the pedestrian environment along the front of the building. Another benefit of the planters is that they form low barriers to enhance the security of the facility. The use of weathering steel, which is a special steel alloy that forms a rust oxide coating that then stops rusting and protects the inner steel core, provides a warm rich red color that further relates to the building brick and will last many years with no maintenance.

