



# Native Landscaping Rebate Program



The City of Ames has implemented a Smart Watershed Program to increase local awareness of the importance of protecting our local streams and lakes. It is promoting methods to capture, infiltrate, and reduce storm water runoff in residential areas. Native landscaping can be used in residential yards to restore soil quality and therefore reduce the amount of runoff.

## The Benefits of Native Landscaping

The use of native plants in modern landscapes provides a connection to our prairie heritage. Once established, native plants are aesthetically pleasing and require little watering, fertilizing, and mowing. The reduced maintenance can lead to significant cost savings when compared to labor-intensive turf grass. Native landscaping attracts songbirds, dragon flies, butterflies and other desirable species and also helps reduce the problems associated with geese around urban ponds. Most important, it helps restore soil quality over time and helps landscapes absorb more rainfall, reducing the amount of runoff from urban spaces.

## Can I put Native landscaping in My Yard?

Almost anyone can have native landscaping if they have the space available and are City of Ames utility customers. There are three options for native landscaping in yards: plant native prairie or woodland plants in gardens for a manicured look, plant a "Patch-of-Prairie" for a natural look, or plant native turf for a low maintenance lawn.

Native landscaping requires a 4 ft border where it approaches homes sidewalks and neighboring parcels. A 50 foot setback is required on corner lots where streets meet. Certain listed species are only allowed for this program. A minimum 100 square foot area and a maximum of 50% of the green space in your yard can be planted with native plants. Native turf mowed regularly such as Buffalo Grass or Blue Grama has no size limit. The first couple years the native plants develop roots. Annual weeds often dominate new plantings. Keep competing vegetation mowed to a height of six to eight inches, allowing sunlight to reach the smaller natives. By the third year the natives should start to flourish and out compete other weedy plants. Mowing for weed control should only need to be done every fall mowing at a 6" height.

It is recommended that homeowners check with neighborhood associations to clarify covenants addressing vegetation. **Native plant landscaped areas MUST be maintained similar to horticultural gardens! Owner must agree to maintain the native plant landscaped area by pruning back all vegetation in the fall or spring. Weeds must be removed from the area. Refer to the following for weed identification:**  
[www.weeds.iowastate.edu](http://www.weeds.iowastate.edu)

## Want to Learn More About The Native Landscaping Program?

The City of Ames is offering a rebate of up to \$400 for the installation of native landscaping within city limits. The program will cost share materials cost. Preapproval is necessary to ensure reimbursement will be available. To qualify one must complete the following steps:



# SMART WATERSHEDS

FOR CLEAN RIVERS AND STREAMS

## Native Landscaping Program Steps

1. Identify areas of your yard where gardens can be installed.
  - Minimum size allowed for the cost share is 100 Square feet.
  - Maximum size allowed for cost share is 50% of total green space in your yard.
  - Must have and maintain a minimum of 4 feet of mowed border around native landscaping next to bordering parcels, home and sidewalks.
  - Native turf mowed regularly such as Buffalo Grass or Blue Grama has no size limitation.
  - Only native turf can be planted in the right-of-way
2. Fill out a City of Ames Native Landscaping Application.
  - Measurements and drawing of your yard shall be submitted with the application form.
  - Species being planted must meet the list provided by the City of Ames.
  - After receiving and reviewing the application, you will be contacted by the City of Ames to notify you of your eligibility for this program.
  - Funding is limited and preapproval is necessary to ensure reimbursement will be available.
3. The Public Works Department will review the application and notify you when the application has been approved and you can proceed with construction of your Native Plantings. You must complete your project within 30 days of approval.
4. If approved the next step is to Contact Iowa One Call 1-800-292-8989 to have your yard flagged for utilities prior to tilling or digging in your yard.
5. Spray your yard with round up type spray to kill off vegetation in area to be planted with natives. You can also cover with plastic or other materials to kill vegetation.
  - Do not spray on windy days. Be careful of overspray onto neighboring properties.
6. Wait ten to fifteen days until vegetation has died off and then Rototill and broadcast/hand seed or plant plugs and/or plants.
  - If planted as a garden use wood mulch for weed control and moisture retention.
  - If planted as a "Patch-of-Prairie" or native turf add shredded straw mulch to help prevent erosion and help natives become established.
  - Recommended spacing for most native plants/plugs is 12-18 Inches, depending on species.
7. **The Ames Native Landscaping cost share program can be used towards the purchase of the following:**
  - a. Native seed, plugs, container plants or a combination.
  - b. Rental of a rototiller and/or sod cutter
  - c. Straw or wood mulch.
  - d. Weed/grass killing herbicides
8. To get your rebate, provide a picture of the completed project, seed and plant tags along with the receipts for purchase materials and equipment rental to the Public Works Department.
9. After final project approval a check will then be mailed to you.

## Ames Native Landscaping Program

### **Native Plant/Seed Suppliers:**

#### **Country Landscapes**

56985 Lincoln Highway  
Ames, IA 50010  
(515) 232-6864

#### **Allendan Seed Company**

1966 175<sup>th</sup> Lane  
Winterset, IA 50273  
(515)462-1241  
allendan@allendanseed.com

#### **Carl Kurtz**

1562 Binford Ave.  
St. Anthony, IA 50239  
cpkurtz@netins.net  
carlkurtz.com

#### **Blooming Prairie Nursery**

Plants are ordered and delivered or stop by  
the nursery in Carlisle, Iowa  
ph: (515) 720-8842  
alt: (515) 271-9187  
Brodie@BloomingPrairieNursery.com  
bloomingprairienursery.com

#### **Ion Exchange**

Plants must be ordered and are delivered via  
mail or carrier.  
800-291-2143  
Hbright@acegroup.cc  
ionxchange.com

#### **Steenhoek Environmental**

Chad Steenhoek  
3892 N. 500th Ave. Ames  
(515) 599-0503  
Secompost.com

#### **Prairie Moon Nursery**

32115 Prairie Lane  
Winona, MN  
(866)417-8156  
Prairiemoon.com



# NATIVE LANDSCAPING REBATE APPLICATION FORM



*All information must be completed to avoid claim denial or processing delays.*

CUSTOMER INFORMATION				
Person Receiving Rebate		Mailing Address (If different than installation address)		
Installation Address		City	State	Zip
City	State	Zip	Name on Utilities Account	
Ames Utilities Account Number	Contact Person (if different)		Contact Person Phone No.	Rebate Recipient Phone No.
Building Type <input type="checkbox"/> Single-Family <input type="checkbox"/> Manufactured Home <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Family <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial			Email Address	
How did you find out about the Smart Watershed Rebate Program? <input type="checkbox"/> Bill Insert <input type="checkbox"/> Direct Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Ames Utilities <input type="checkbox"/> Internet <input type="checkbox"/> Word-of-Mouth <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Vendor <input type="checkbox"/> Other				

PROPOSED NATIVE LANDSCAPING PLANTING AREA		
Total Size of Green Space in Yard (Length X Width = Area) Green Space: _____ Sq Ft.	Size of Planned Native Landscaping Area Size: _____ Sq Ft. How will you prepare area? _____	Percent of Native Plant Area in Yard : _____ % (50% Maximum)
Drawing of Proposed Area Attached? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Are you planting seed, plugs, plants or a combination? _____ _____ _____	Species Being Planted (See Approved Species List) _____ _____ _____	Proposed completion date(must be completed within 30 Days):  Date: _____
<b>Submit to City for Approval</b>	Approved by Public Works _____	Date Approved _____

REQUIRED RECEIPTS ATTACHED?	
Tiller Rental or Service: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Seed: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Mulch: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Plugs: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Plants: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

CUSTOMER AGREEMENT	
I certify that I am a customer of the City of Ames utilities, and that this Native Planting was completed after July 1, 2013 in the yard at the address specified above. <b>I acknowledge that I planted native Iowa prairie and/or woodland plants using approved methods and that these measures will help improve the infiltration capacity of my yard resulting in less runoff of stormwater generated from my lawn. Additional benefits include minimizing fertilizer use and lawn irrigation. I agree to maintain this area according to the guidelines provided by the City.</b> I have read and agree to the Terms and Conditions on the back of this form. All statements made in this application are correct. I understand that City of Ames reserves the right to inspect and verify this native plant landscaping improvement before issuing a rebate.	
Customer Signature	Date
Include model number(s) and, if available, serial number(s), copy of sales receipt, along with completed claim form (if required), and mail within 30 days of installation to <u>City of Ames Rain Barrel Program, 515 Clark Ave., Ames, IA 50010.</u>	

**IMPORTANT:** Please read "Terms and Conditions" on the reverse side before completing this form.

### For City of Ames Use Only

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date Verified \_\_\_\_\_ Verified By \_\_\_\_\_ Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Account No. Public Works 560-8073-483-8033

## Terms and Conditions

- Participant must be a City of Ames utilities customer. Homeowners and businesses are eligible upon application by owner. (This excludes contractors)
- The Maximum rebate allowed is \$400
- Native Landscaping improvements for individuals who have previously received a rebate are NOT eligible.
- Applicant is solely responsible for making arrangements to purchase materials.
- Applications must be completed and approved by the Public Works Department prior to completing native planting improvements.
- Native planting can be completed after approval of the application.
- Once the native planting has been completed, the approved application and itemized and dated receipts must be submitted for rebate payment within 30 days of completion of the improvement and are subject to verification.
- Native plant landscaping must be completed within 30 days of the approved application.
- Native landscaping requires a 4 ft border around sidewalks, homes and neighboring parcels.
- Plant height must be limited in areas of limited visibility for safety purposes.
- A 50 ft setback is required on corner lots where streets meet.
- Only certain listed prairie and woodland species are allowed for this program.
- A minimum of 100 square foot area of native landscaping is required to be eligible for this program.
- A maximum of 50% of the total green space in your yard can be in native landscaping.
- Only native turf is allowed to be planted in the right of way (area between road and sidewalk).
- **Native plant landscaped areas MUST be maintained similar to horticultural gardens! Owner must agree to maintain the native plant landscaped area by pruning back all vegetation in the fall or spring. Weeds must be removed from the area. Refer to the following for weed identification: [www.weeds.iowastate.edu](http://www.weeds.iowastate.edu)**
- Homeowners should check with neighborhood associations to clarify covenants addressing vegetation.
- It is recommended that you inform your neighbors of your landscaping plans.
- It is recommended that downspouts be directed to the areas to reduce rainfall runoff and improve infiltration of stormwater.
- Rebate checks will be issued to account-holder in existing buildings unless otherwise established prior to submission of application.
- Rebates may be subject to income tax. Consult your tax advisor for more information.
- Rebates are subject to the availability of funds which is why rebates must be approved prior to work being performed.
- This program is subject to change or cancellation without notice.

**Disclaimer.** City of Ames makes no warranties, expressed or implied, with respect to any of the plants and other materials applications purchased or installed, including, but not limited to, any warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. In no event shall City of Ames be held liable for any incidental or consequential damages or injuries resulting from defective materials or installation. City of Ames reserves the right to cancel or change programs at any time. City of Ames acceptance of an application does not guarantee payment of rebate or acceptance of financing.

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**Drop off, or mail, your completed Rebate Claim Form and sales receipts to:**

Smart Watersheds  
City of Ames Public Works Department  
515 Clark Avenue  
Ames, IA 50010

Questions about the *Smart Watershed Program*? Call 239-5160