

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 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 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?

There are three options for native landscaping in yards: (1) plant native prairie or woodland plants in gardens for a manicured look, (2) plant an "Urban Prairie Strip" for a natural look, or (3) plant native turf for a low maintenance lawn.

Planting design shall consider mature plant heights and shall minimize overhang along sidewalks and streets. During the first few years, native plants develop roots. Annual weeds often dominate new plantings. Competing vegetation mowed to a height of six to eight inches allows sunlight to reach the smaller natives. By the third year the natives should start to flourish and out compete weedy plants and 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 like horticultural gardens! Weeds must be removed from the area.

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. Non-single family residential properties >20,000 sf (businesses, no-profits, HOA's) are eligible for up to \$ 1,200 rebate.

Program Steps

1. Identify area (s) where gardens can be installed.
 - Minimum size allowed for the cost share is 100 Square feet.
 - Provide a design for approval that considers mature plant heights and **maintains driveway and street intersection sight distance.**
 - Provide a design that considers mature plant heights and **minimizes overhang over sidewalks and streets.**
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 concentrated vinegar (20-30%) or 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 an "Urban Prairie Strip" 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:
 - Native seed, plugs, container plants or a combination.
 - Rental of a rototiller and/or sod cutter
 - Straw or wood mulch.
 - Weed/grass killing herbicides
8. Provide a picture of the completed project, seed and plant tags (if applicable) along with the receipts for purchase materials and equipment rental to the City Smartwatersheds program.
9. After final project approval a check will be mailed to you.
10. Larger properties (greater than 20,000 sf are eligible for up to 3x the rebate amount.). Minimum area for larger parcels is 300 square feet and maximum eligible rebate amount is \$ 1,200.00. Eligible properties include businesses, churches, and other non-profits and homeowner's associations.

Terms and Conditions

- Participant must be a City of Ames utilities customer. Property owners including homeowners, homeowner associations, non-profits and businesses are eligible. (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.
- Unless otherwise approved native plant landscaping must be completed within 30 days of the approved application.
- Design shall consider mature plant height and shall minimize overhang along sidewalks and streets. Plant height must be limited in areas of limited visibility for safety purposes. Submit design for approval showing appropriate plants within sightlines of driveways and street intersections.
- A minimum of 100 square foot area of native landscaping is required to be eligible for this program.
- **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.**
- 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.
- 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.

Questions about the Smart Watershed Program? Call 239-5160

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

Native Plant/Seed Suppliers

Allendan Seed Company

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

Blooming Prairie Nursery

Plants are ordered and delivered
or stop by the nursery in Carlisle, Iowa
ph: (515) 720-8842
info@bloomingprairieiowa.com
bloomingprairieiowa.com

Carl Kurtz

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

Country Landscapes

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

Ion Exchange

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

Prairie Moon Nursery

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

Steenhoek Environmental

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

Contractors

Attema Stump Grinding and Landscaping

Paul Attema
Paul@amesstumpgrinding.com
(515)357-3305

Compass Ecological

Josh Rossel
Compassecological.com
josh@compassecological.com
(515)720-5964

Lewis Lawn & Labor

Lewislawnlabor.com
Justyn Lewis
lewislawnlabor@gmail.com
515-996-5296

Country Landscapes

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

Prairie Fire Restoration

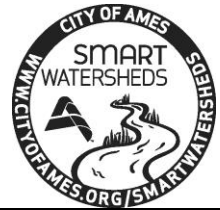
Prairiefirerestorationllc.com
Andy James
Prairiefire.restoration@gmail.com
515-509-4981

S & A Outdoor Services

Scott Gustofson
ScottGustofson@gmail.com
(515)230-6948
FB page: S&A Outdoor Service's, Nevada, Iowa



NATIVE LANDSCAPING Rebate Application Form



CUSTOMER INFORMATION			
Person Receiving Rebate		Mailing Address (if different than installation address)	
Installation Address		City	State
City	State	Zip	Name on Utilities Account
Ames Utilities Account Number	Contact Person (if different)		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. Drawing of Proposed Area Attached? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Size of Planned Native Landscaping Area Size: _____ Sq Ft. How will you prepare area? _____	Percent of Native Plant Area in Yard : _____%
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: _____
Submit to City for Approval Prior to Planting	Approved by Public Works _____	Date Approved _____

REQUIRED RECEIPTS ATTACHED? (For City of Ames Use Only)		
Tiller Rental or Service: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Seed: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Plugs: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Mulch: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Plants: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

CUSTOMER AGREEMENT	
<p>I certify that I am a customer of the City of Ames utilities, and that this Native Planting was completed at the address specified above. 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. I agree to maintain this area according to the guidelines provided by the City. I have read and agree to the Terms and Conditions. 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.</p>	

Customer Signature	Date
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Submit this form for approval. After approval and planting, mail receipts within 30 days to City of Ames Native Landscaping Program, 515 Clark Ave., Ames, IA 50010 or email to Liz.calhoun@cityofames.org or Jacob.moore@cityofames.org

For City of Ames Use Only			
Amount \$ _____	Date Verified _____	Verified By _____	Approved _____
Account No. Public Works <u>560-8073-483-8033</u>			