**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Tips:**

* Most fertilizers can be reduced or are unnecessary for plant growth and health
* A safe window washing alternative is a simple vinegar and water mixture
* Planting native prairie plants reduces the need for watering and provides habits for native pollinators and other species

**Examples in Smart Businesses:**

* Duck Worth Wearing uses an environmentally friendly sidewalk ice melt called Safe-Walk (corn-based melt)
* Chevron REG possesses a 3 acre native wildflower field on site. No outdoor water use necessary on landscaping.
* Pure Bridal’s front landscaping is all organic and no chemicals are used.

**Ames Resources**

**Liz Calhoun - Smart Watersheds - resource to speak with for ideas and feedback**

Email: [Liz.Calhoun@cityofames.org](mailto:Liz.Calhoun@cityofames.org)

Phone: 515-239-5575

**Iowa Native Plant Society Landscape Resources**

The [Iowa Native Plant Society](http://iowanativeplants.org/links.php) is a guidance tool filled with tremendous amounts of information on native plants and trees that your business can incorporate into the local landscape. Supporting the landscape with local plants can assist local wildlife while providing other benefits like shade.

**The Iowa Forest Nursery**

[Iowa Forest Nursery](https://nursery.iowadnr.gov/) offers a sale of a large variety of trees at an affordable price for any business that is looking to add to their landscape. For businesses, trees can be important for creating natural shade throughout sunny summer days that bring high temperatures. Moreover, the introduction of trees can simultaneously add value to your property as well.

**Bird Friendly Iowa**

Ames is a [Bird Friendly Iowa community](https://birdcity.org/iowa/ames?tab=3). There are several [requirements](https://birdcity.org/resources) that the City fulfills, giving it status as a High Flyer. To learn about helping in the city’s mission, reach out to Liz Calhoun (above) or community contact Pat Schlarbaum from KHOI radio.

**Other Resources**

**Alternative Products for Salt Use**

Regular salt deicers can have long-term negative effects on your outdoor environment like corrosion. The following [What Are Your Best Eco-Friendly De-icing Options?](https://modernize.com/homeowner-resources/30345/what-are-your-best-eco-friendly-deicing-options) article can assist you to find alternative solutions to getting rid of ice during winters. The benefits to Eco-friendly deicers range from protecting local water sources from getting contaminated, traction control, and providing a safe surface for pets that walk on it.

A couple of current Smart Business Challenge participants have also suggested the use of an eco-friendly deicer called “Safe-Walk” which is a corn-based melt. This product is produced in the state of Iowa so you have the opportunity to support the Iowa economy while buying green products at the sametime!

**AquaTech Water Sustainability Guide**

[AquaTech Water Sustainability Practices Guide](https://www.aquatechtrade.com/news/water-treatment/sustainable-water-essential-guide/) can be a beneficial resource to assist your business in improving or implementing water practices to be more efficient. It also gives you in-depth information if you are new to water sustainability and want to learn more first before you implement new practices.