



Rain Garden Cost Share Program

SMART
WATERSHEDS

CITY OF
Ames

The city of Ames is implementing a Smart Watershed Program to increase local awareness of the importance of protecting our local streams and lakes. It is promoting methods to capture and infiltrate storm water in residential areas. Rain Gardens can be used in residential yards to capture and infiltrate stormwater if the soils drain properly. These gardens reduce the amount of nutrients and other pollutants entering local streams.

What is a Rain Garden?

A rain garden is a garden that captures rain from roofs, driveways and yards and is planted to native and/or horticultural flowers, it is a depression or shallow bowl made in the landscape that is level from side to side and end to end, filled with amended soil and plants. Runoff that travels to a rain garden is temporarily ponded, but it doesn't stay for long. Capturing runoff in a rain garden allows water to infiltrate into the soil rather than run into streets and storm drains. Dirty runoff that enters storm drains is sent directly to your neighborhood streams, lakes or wetlands.

Can I put a Rain Garden in My Yard?

Almost anyone that has adequate drainage in the soils in their yard could have a rain garden if the area is available along with other factors. A simple soil test must first be performed in the area being considered for a rain garden. If the soil has adequate percolation rates then a rain garden can be installed. If the soils are too clayey they may not have good percolation and therefore you would not want to install a rain garden but rather consider other stormwater best management practices such as doing soil quality restoration in your yard and/or install a rain barrel. Soil quality restoration can be done in any yard. The lawn is aerated and a thin (1/4-1/2") layer of compost is applied with seed. This can be done annually and helps to reduce compaction, increase organic matter content of the soil and therefore increase the ability of the soil to soak up stormwater.

Want to Learn More About The Rain Garden Rebate Program?

The City of Ames is offering a rebate of up to \$400 for the installation of residential rain gardens within city limits. The program is limited to the first 12 residential applicants per year. To qualify one must attend city rain garden training, either a workshop or rain garden party, and then complete the following steps:

Ames Rain Garden Rebate Program Steps

1. Attend City of Ames rain garden training.
2. Identify flat areas of your yard down slope of roof drain downspouts where gardens can be installed.
3. Contact Iowa One Call 1-800-292-8989 to have your yard flagged for utilities in these flat areas.
4. Conduct a simple soil test: percolation test and ribbon test according to the Iowa Rain Garden Design and Installation Manual
5. **If the soils don't adequately drain** then don't install a rain garden in your yard. Consider soil quality restoration and/or planting native plants in your flower gardens.
6. **If the soils adequately drain** for a rain garden then proceed with the application process.
7. Complete an application and return to the Public Works Department.
8. 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 rain garden.
9. Install a rain garden according to the Iowa Rain Garden Design and Installation Manual
10. **The Ames Rain Garden Rebate can be used towards the purchase of the following:**
 - a. Plants (at least 50% of the plants need to be native to Iowa)
 - b. Amended soil (50% sand, 30% compost, 20% yard topsoil-low clay content or purchase topsoil). This can be mixed by yourself onsite or delivered to your site by a local supplier. It is required to use a minimum of 6 inches of amended soil in the rain garden.
 - c. Downspout extension to rain garden and/or non-perforated plastic drainage pipe that would be attached to the downspout and directed to the rain garden
 - d. Edging (such as pavers, plastic, metal, or rocks)
 - e. Rental of a rototiller and/or sod cutter
11. To get your rebate, provide a picture of the completed rain garden and receipts for the purchase materials and equipment rental to the Public Works Department.
12. A check will then be mailed to you.



RAIN GARDEN REBATE APPLICATION FORM



*All information must be completed to avoid claim denial or processing delays.
IMPORTANT: Please read the attached "Terms and Conditions" before completing this form.*

CUSTOMER INFORMATION					
Person Receiving Rebate			Mailing Address <i>(If different than installation address)</i>		
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					
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 RAIN GARDEN		
Soil Test Performed? Ribbon _____ Percolation _____	Select percolation rate based on your soils: .5 in/hr _____ 1 in/hr _____	Amount of yard, driveway, and/or rooftop runoff contributing to proposed rain garden: _____ sq. ft.
Distance from foundation: _____ ft Upslope or downslope from home?	Based on desired depth of 6", 8" or 9" determine the rain garden surface area: _____ ft ²	Rain Garden Area: Length: _____ ft ² Width _____ ft ^w Attached map showing rain garden location and configuration.
Submit to City for Approval	Approved by Public Works _____	Date Approved

REBATE REQUIRED RECEIPTS ATTACHED?		
Attached photo of completed rain garden?	Attached copies of all receipts?	Rebate Amount: \$ (Maximum \$400) Rebate covers: compost, rental of tiller, rental of sod cutter, plants (50% must be native Iowa prairie or woodland plants, edging, downspout extender)

CUSTOMER AGREEMENT		
I certify that I am a customer of the City of Ames utilities, and that this rain garden was completed after the application was approved on the property at the address specified above. I acknowledge that I installed a rain garden in my yard to reduce stormwater runoff generated from my yard I have read and agree to the Terms and Conditions on the attached document. All statements made in this application are correct. I understand that City of Ames reserves the right to inspect and verify this rain garden before issuing a rebate.		
Customer Signature	Date	
Include copy of sales receipts, picture of project along with completed rebate form, and mail within 30 days of installation to <u>City of Ames Smart Watersheds Lawn Soil Quality Improvement Program</u> , PO Box 811 or 515 Clark Ave., Ames, IA 50010.		

For City of Ames Use Only

Amount \$ _____ Date Verified _____ Verified By _____ Approved _____ Account No. Public Works _____



Terms and Conditions

- Participant must be a City of Ames utilities customer.
- Rain gardens for individuals who have previously received this rebate are NOT eligible.
- Applicant is solely responsible for making arrangements for the installation of the rain garden.
- Applications must be completed and approved by the Public Works Department prior to installing the rain garden.
- The rain garden can be installed after approval of the application.
- Once the rain garden has been installed and 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.
- The rain garden must be completed within 30 days of the approved application.
- 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.
- This program is subject to change or could be cancelled without notice.

***Disclaimer.** City of Ames makes no warranties, expressed or implied, with respect to any rain gardens 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 the installation and function of the rain garden. 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.*

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

Smart Watersheds
Lawn Care Improvement Program
City of Ames Public Works Department
PO Box 811
515 Clark Avenue
Ames, IA 50010

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



Ames Rain Garden Program **Local Plant and Soil Mix Suppliers**

Native Plant Suppliers:

Country Landscapes

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

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
<http://bloomingprairienursery.com/home>

Ion Exchange

Plants must be ordered and are delivered via mail or carrier.
800-291-2143
Hbright@acegroup.cc
<http://www.ionxchange.com/>

Amended Soil Mix Suppliers:

Local gardening stores carry compost, sand and topsoil that you can mix yourself

Steenhoek Environmental

Chad Steenhoek
3892 N. 500th Ave.
Ames, IA 50014
Ph: 515-203-0072
Hours: 8-5, Monday-Saturday
\$50/cubic yard, delivers in Ames area