



# Lawn Soil Quality Improvement Cost Share Program

SMART  
WATERSHEDS

CITY OF  
Ames™

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. Applying compost and Aeration to yards helps reduce compaction and increases infiltration resulting in less runoff.

## Why Soils Need to be Improved.

Iowa soils have been significantly altered by tillage for farming and grading practices associated with urban development. Years of tillage and soil erosion has caused the loss of more than half of Iowa's topsoil. The organic matter content has been reduced from a healthy, sponge-like 10% to less than 2%. Often remaining topsoil is completely removed during development for urban growth. Little to no organic matter remains and the graded soils are compacted. Compacted soils with no organic matter causes nearly all the water to runoff during rainfall. Stormwater runoff flows untreated to storm sewers, and washes associated pollutants directly into nearby streams, rivers, lakes and watershed.

## Direct Benefits of Soil Quality Improvements

A compacted, nutrient poor soil with low organic matter content also requires more time and money to stay green! Doing soil quality improvements will help you create a beautiful, healthy lawn that requires less water and reduced fertilizer and pesticide applications.

## Can I Make Soil Quality Improvements to my Yard?

Anyone can make soil quality improvements to their yard. The City of Ames is now offering a cost share program. In order to qualify for this program you must meet some simple criteria. The participant must be a City of Ames utility customer. The owner of the property needs to approve of the improvements and sign the application form. This program requires all three improvements be done which include aeration, adding ½" compost, and seeding. Physical activity is involved if you do the work yourself. You are allowed to hire the aeration or topdressing to be done by a contractor however the overall cost of the project will increase greatly. By having a contractor aerate the property and spreading the compost and seed yourself, you are able to will greatly reduce overall costs. You must agree to improve the soil on a minimum 650 square feet to qualify.

## Want to Learn More About the Soil Quality Improvement Program?

**T**he City of Ames is offering a rebate of up to \$350 for the improvements to green spaces 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:



## Soil Quality Improvement Steps

1. Identify which areas in your yard you would like aerate, compost and seed.
  - Minimum size allowed for the cost share is 650 square feet.
  - No maximum size limits but the maximum rebate is \$350
  - Must do all three improvements
    - Aeration
    - Cover area with ½" Compost
    - Seed with grass seed
2. Fill out a City of Ames Lawn Soil Quality Improvement Application.
  - Measurements and drawing of your yard shall be submitted with the application form.
  - After receiving and reviewing the application, the City of Ames will 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. You must complete your project within 30 days of approval. This program will begin July 1<sup>st</sup> 2013.
4. If approved the next step is to Contact Iowa One Call 1-800-292-8989 to have your yard flagged to identify the location of utilities. Some phone lines are extremely shallow in the ground and should be avoided when aerating.
5. **The Ames Lawn Soil Quality cost share program can be used towards the purchase of the following:**
  - a. Paying Contractors to do some of the work or all of the work for you.
  - b. Rental of a aerator
  - c. Compost
  - d. Seed
  - e. Delivery of the Compost
6. To get your rebate, provide a picture of the completed project along with receipts for materials such as compost, and seed. After final project approval a check will then be mailed to you.



# SOIL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT 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				
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 LAWN SOIL QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS		
Type of Aeration: Plug ____ Deep Tyne ____ (~3") (>3")	Who will perform aeration? Company List _____ Owner List (DIY) _____	List recommended source of compost: (see attached list)
Area of lawn to be treated: (Minimum 650 ft <sup>2</sup> ) _____ ft <sup>2</sup>	Amount of compost to be applied (1/2" application rate) (see guidance table) _____ yd <sup>3</sup>	Proposed completion date:
Submit to City for Approval	Approved by Public Works _____	Date Approved

REBATE REQUIRED RECEIPTS ATTACHED?		
Aerator Rental or Service: Yes ____ No ____	Compost: Yes ____ No ____	Rebate Amount: \$ (Maximum \$350) Rebate cover: aeration service or rental, compost and application by company, seed, delivery fee)

CUSTOMER AGREEMENT	
I certify that I am a customer of the City of Ames utilities, and that this lawn soil quality improvement was completed after March 31, 2013 on the lawn at the address specified above. I <b>acknowledge that I aerated, and applied compost to my lawn and that these measures will help improve my lawn soil quality resulting in less runoff of stormwater generated from my lawn. Additional benefits include minimizing fertilizer use and lawn irrigation.</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 lawn soil quality improvement before issuing a rebate.	
Customer Signature	Date
Include copy of sales receipt, 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, 515 Clark Ave., Ames, IA 50010.</u>	

**IMPORTANT:** Please read the attached "Terms and Conditions" before completing this form.

For City of Ames Use Only			
Amount \$ _____	Date Verified _____	Verified By _____	Approved _____
Account No. Public Works _____			

**Lawn Soil Quality Improvement Rebate Program**

Amount of Compost Needed for 1/2" Application Rate

<b>Amount of Compost</b>	<b>Coverage Area at 1/2" Depth</b>
<b>1 Cubic Yard</b>	<b>650 Square Feet</b>
<b>2 Cubic Yards</b>	<b>1300 Square Feet</b>
<b>3 Cubic Yards</b>	<b>1950 Square Feet</b>
<b>4 Cubic Yards</b>	<b>2600 Square Feet</b>
<b>5 Cubic Yards</b>	<b>3250 Square Feet</b>
<b>6 Cubic Yards</b>	<b>3900 Square Feet</b>
<b>7 Cubic Yards</b>	<b>4550 Square Feet</b>

**Bulk Compost Suppliers**

Steenhoek Environmental  
 Chad Steenhoek  
 3892 N. 500<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
 Ames, IA 50014  
 Ph: 515-203-0072  
 Will deliver for a fee

Boulder Creations  
 407 Freel Drive  
 Ames, IA 50010  
 Phone: 515-233-3181

**Landscape Companies Offering Aeration Services**

All American Turf 515-232-7614  
 Central Iowa Lawn and Landscape 515-233-1201  
 Hawcott lawn Services 515-382-8830  
 Spring Green 800-230-4190

- Participant must be a City of Ames utilities customer.
- Lawn soil quality improvements for individuals who have previously received this rebate are NOT eligible.
- Applicant is solely responsible for making arrangements for aeration and purchase and application of compost.
- Applications must be completed and approved by the Public Works Department prior to completing lawn soil quality improvements.
- Lawn soil quality improvements can be completed after approval of the application.
- Once the lawn soil quality improvements have 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.
- Lawn soil quality improvements 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 of the aeration and compost 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 aeration and compost application. 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  
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.