

Benefits of Native Plants

Native plants provide numerous benefits not found with traditional turf grass lawns. These landscape areas require careful planning, precise species selection, plus time and money to become properly established. Typically they take about three years to become established but once complete, little maintenance is required.

Once established, native plants require less maintenance, less water, less fertilizer/pesticides and provide habitat to pollinators including bees, butterflies and more. The use of native plants can be a great option for residents looking for something different in their yards while providing numerous environmental benefits. By selecting the correct plants, your yard can thrive in our climate and create a unique lawn that requires minimal maintenance once established.

City Code outlines specifications for establishing and caring for these native planting areas. The code also includes provisions for gardens, rain gardens and more. Read specifics at www.coonrapidsmn.gov. Be sure to follow the code carefully to ensure your yard meets all requirements.

Additional Resources

Coon Rapids City Code Section 8-500
Maintenance of Vegetation & Landscaping:
www.coonrapidsmn.gov

Minnesota Department of Agriculture:
Noxious weed information
www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/weedcontrol/noxiouslist

Anoka County Soil & Water Conservation
District: resources, information and
assistance
www.anokaswcd.org

University of Minnesota Extension: plant
lists, landscape plans and maintenance
www.extension.umn.edu/garden/yard-garden/landscaping/native-plants-for-sustainable-landscapes/

Contact Us

Neighborhood Reinvestment Division
763-767-6470

www.coonrapidsmn.gov

Native Plant Landscape Areas



Landscaping alternative options in Coon Rapids beyond traditional turf grass



Code Requirements

City Code Chapter 8-500 outlines requirements for grass, landscaping and planted areas. Traditional turf grass must be under eight inches in height, however, native plantings can be taller than eight inches. Native plantings may not be within a public right of way (unless a permit is obtained) or within a Sight Triangle (intersection formed by two roads that must be clear of obstructions), and may not include weeds. By using native plantings, residents may be able to reduce the amount of water used for irrigation as the plants are very environmentally friendly.

Native Planting Landscape Areas

- Must be in well-defined areas with borders, no overgrown yards
- May include higher-growing plantings
- Setbacks include: 20 feet from front lot line and 5 feet from side and rear lot lines
- Soil erosion must be controlled during and after plantings are established
- Must be maintained to industry standards

What to Expect in Your Neighborhood

Native plantings can look similar to an overgrown, unmaintained yard to those who are unfamiliar with them. Grasses can be very tall and plants can look unmanaged, especially in the first few years. However, native plant areas may not include turf grass including overgrown or unmanaged turf grass. Properly grown and established native plants must be well-maintained and provide a unique option/addition for yards.



How are Native Plants Beneficial?

Be aware—deciding to turn your yard into a native planting landscape area is not an easy task! Establishing successful native plantings takes time and money, but once established, maintenance is minimal. The plants require little water, fertilizer and care which is beneficial to both you and the environment. The plants also help to absorb rainwater into the ground, rather than simply letting the water run into storm drains. Properly planted native plants will thrive, create pollinator habitats and a unique aesthetic landscape alternative.

Talk to your neighbors!
Let your neighbors know about native plants, the process for establishing new plants and how native plants differ from overgrown turf grass and noxious weeds.

What's Going on with Pollinators

In recent years there has been a decline in bee and pollinator populations, which has caused environmental concerns. Native plants provide a great habitat for pollinators in Coon Rapids! Select native species that produce flowers for pollinators to benefit these species.



Native planting landscape areas may include a variety of plant types. Research which plants will thrive in your yard, provide the desired environmental benefit and fit the look you want. All plants require different maintenance and care to become established.