

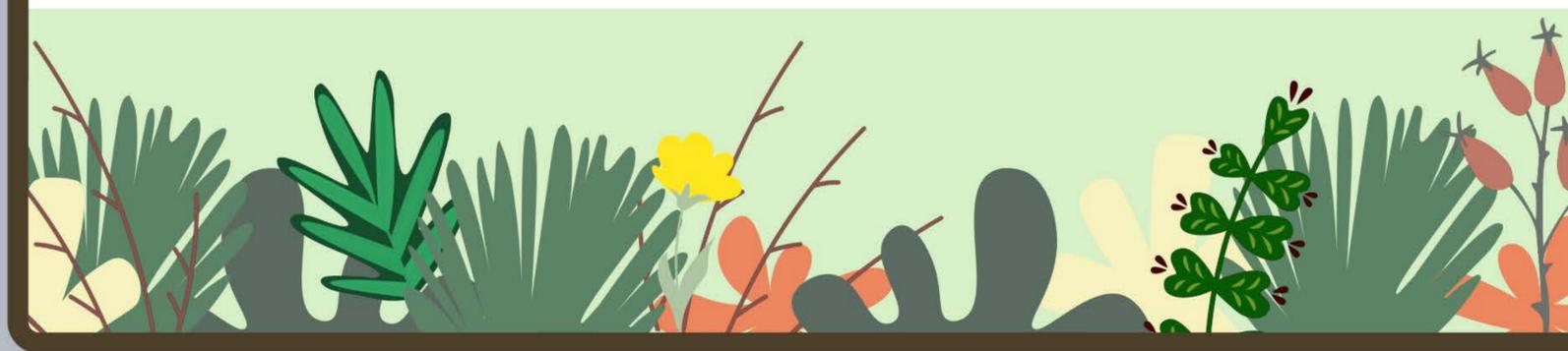
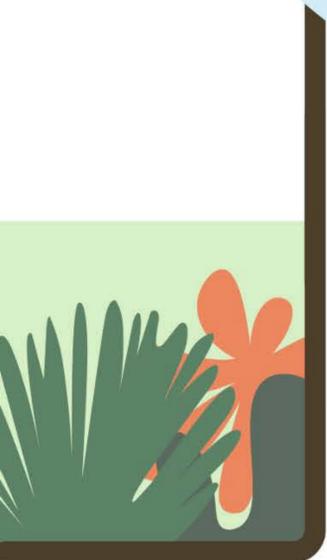
NATIVE TERRACE PLANTING GUIDE



Not vibing with the turf grass and ready for a change?

Want to provide gorgeous habitat to make the pollinators flock?

Opt to have your terrace - the strip of land in between the sidewalk and the street - sowed with a native seed mix rather than the usual turf grass after your street is reconstructed. This document will walk you through all the steps for success and best practices.



Reconstruction Process

Reach out to the Project Manager to express your interest in a Native Terrace Planting.

They will coordinate getting a signed waiver from you agreeing to the new care responsibilities. During construction, six inches of planting mix topsoil consisting of pulverized topsoil, sand, and compost will be installed in the terrace seeding zone. When the dust settles on construction, Engineering Department staff will sow native seed in the terrace. Residents will have the choice between a selection of native seed mixes. To ensure the best results, seeding will be delayed until fall or winter as the majority of native seeds require overwintering in order to germinate.

Once the seed is installed, maintenance is the responsibility of the resident. This guide will walk you through the steps for success and best practices. **Read this document thoroughly before deciding if a native terrace planting is right for you.**



Seed Mix Options

Consider what kind of light your terrace receives and choose from these native seed mixes!



Features a diverse mix of native grasses, sedges, and flower species typical of a shortgrass prairie.



Boasts grasses, sedges, and flowers that one might typically find in an oak savanna.



Want to keep it simple? These sedges can handle all conditions and create a simple, grassy look.

***See species components on last page**

Why Native?

Stores carbon

High drought tolerance

Provides habitat in urban spaces

Attracts specialist pollinators and other insects

Relatively low-maintenance once established

Beautiful to look at all year long

Did you know?

Wisconsin hosts hundreds of native pollinator species, including bees (over 400 separate species), hummingbirds, butterflies, moths, wasps, flies, and beetles. Many of them rely on specific native plant species or families in order to complete their life cycle!

Establishment Phase

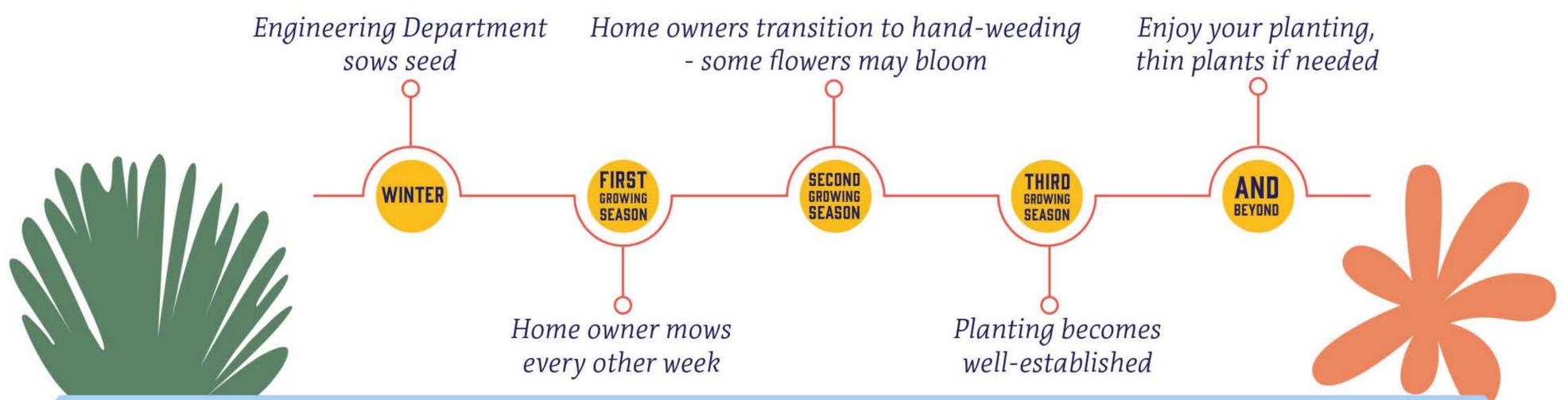
Establishment of native seedlings usually spans 1-2 years - the wait is truly worth it. Maintenance is typically more involved during the establishment phase. As the native plants fill in the space and ecological niches, those maintenance demands reduce significantly.

During the first year, residents should mow the planting with the mower deck set on the highest setting (typically 3") every other week of the growing season. In the event of a drought, residents may also lightly water the overseeded area.

Now, we know what you're thinking. Mow my native perennials? Are these Engineers trying to pull one over on me? Actually, no! This is common practice in prairie restoration; it helps to give native seedlings the advantage against faster-growing, taller weeds. Check out the resources page for in-depth material from the Tallgrass Prairie Center.



The second growing season, plan on transitioning to hand weeding. If there is still a large presence of weeds, residents should continue to mow every three weeks for the second growing season. It can be tricky to know what stage your terrace is at. Engineering conservation staff encourage questions about your terrace. They can be reached at ejorgensen@cityofmadison.com for support.



Long-Term Maintenance

Removing weeds and monitoring for invasive plant species will likely be the most prominent long-term activities. Find a list of common weeds on the resources page. If you are unsure whether a plant is a weed, using a plant identification app is encouraged. Engineering staff will also be available through e-mail to answer any questions you may have.

Native terrace plantings do not require yearly clean-up, however it is recommended to wait until spring to remove dead vegetation. Hollow, pithy stems provide nesting habitat for various native insects. Fallen leaves are often the shelter-of-choice for the majority of butterfly and moth species that overwinter in this region. Seeds left in standing plant stalks are a winter food source for birds. Explore official guidance and tips from the Xerces Society Nesting and Overwintering Guide on the resources page!



Thinning plants may become necessary or desirable if you find that one species is successfully taking over to the exclusion of the other species. This can be done by transplanting, repeated pruning or simply removing seeds before they can fall.

Maintenance for Safety

Certain sections of the terrace have height restrictions for vegetation. This helps maintain accessibility and prevent vision hazards for pedestrians and vehicles. The seed mixes offered are comprised of shorter-stature species, however extra maintenance for height may be necessary in some areas.

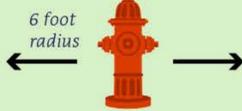
Adhering to these policies is part of the vegetation maintenance agreement when opting for a native terrace planting.



If you live on a corner lot, vegetation should not exceed 30 inches in height within 40 feet of the intersection.

This is to maintain visibility of vehicles and safety of pedestrians crossing the street.

If there is a fire hydrant on your terrace, a six foot radius must be maintained for visibility and accessibility to emergency services.



A four foot buffer where vegetation does not exceed 30 inches must be maintained adjacent to driveways.

This ensures safety of pedestrians utilizing the sidewalk.

A two foot buffer (in red) where vegetation does not exceed 8 inches must be maintained adjacent to the street.

This ensures accessibility for residents parking on the street. If the street in front of your terrace doesn't allow parking at any time, this rule does not apply.

Height Management Tips & Tricks

Option One

Mow height restricted zones. Repeated mowing of these areas will result in plant self-selection for species that can tolerate repeated mowing.

Option Two

Plant low-growing native groundcovers in height restricted zones. Native species such as wild strawberry (*Fragaria virginica*) or Canada anemone (*Anemone canadensis*) are desirable options that competitively fill in space. These can be sourced at most native plant nurseries and are occasionally available at a discounted rate through Plant Dane.

Always call Digger's Hotline prior to disturbing any soil.

Option Three

Selectively trim plants in height restricted zones. Pruning back certain plants in early summer can not only prevent vision hazards but extend blooming time. This method may involve some observation and experimentation.

Did you know?

The average songbird nestling requires hundreds, sometimes thousands, of caterpillars to survive. Native plantings support large quantities of this vital food source!

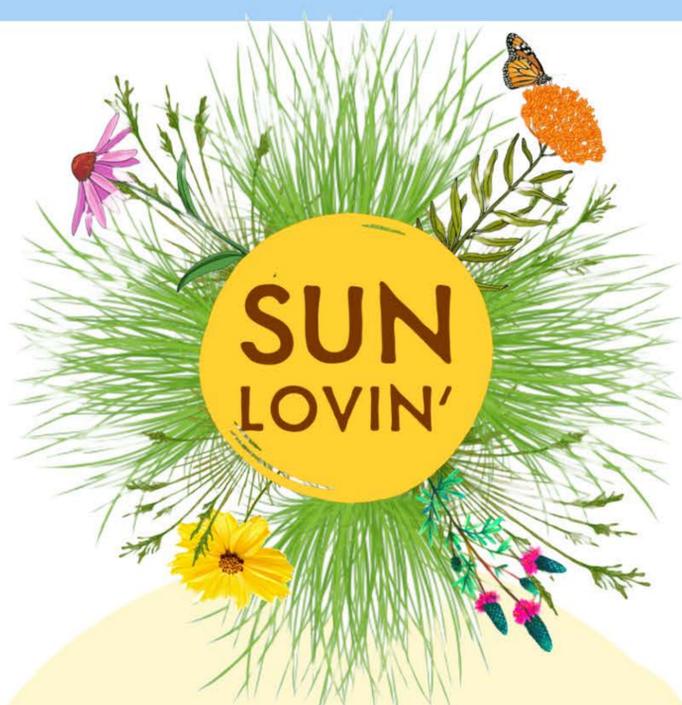
Moving?

Notify the Engineering Department so that support and resources can be made available to the new residents.

Questions?

Reach out to Engineering at ejorgensen@cityofmadison.com

Seed Mix Components



FORBES (FLOWERS)

Agastache foeniculum (Anise Hyssop)
Allium stellatum (Prairie Onion)
Anemone patens (Pasque Flower)
Antennaria plantaginifolia (Pussytoes)
Asclepias tuberosa (Butterfly Weed)
Asclepias verticillata (Whorled Milkweed)
Asclepias viridis (Spider Milkweed)
Callirhoe bushii (Bush's Poppy Mallow)
Camassia scilloides (Wild Hyacinth)
Chamaecrista fasciculata (Partridge Pea)
Coreopsis lanceolata (Lance-leaf Coreopsis)
Dalea candida (White Prairie Clover)
Dalea purpurea (Purple Prairie Clover)
Dodecatheon meadia (Midland Shooting Star)
Echinacea pallida (pale purple Coneflower)
Gentiana flavida (Cream Gentian)
Heuchera richardsonii (Prairie Alumroot)
Liatris scariosa (Northern Blazing Star)
Lupinus perennis (Blue Lupine)
Monarda punctata (Spotted Bee Balm)
Pedicularis canadensis (Wood Betony)
Penstemon grandiflorus (Large-flowered Beardtongue)
Penstemon hirsutus (Hairy Beardtongue)
Phlox pilosa (Prairie Phlox)
Rudbeckia hirta (Black-eyed Susan)
Solidago nemoralis (Old Field Goldenrod)
Symphyotrichum oblongifolium (Aromatic Aster)
Symphyotrichum turbinellum (Prairie Aster)
Verbena stricta (Hoary Vervain)
Zizia aptera (Heart-leaf Golden Alexanders)

GRASSES & SEDGES

Bouteloua curtipendula (Side-oats Grama)
Bouteloua gracilis (Blue Grama)
Bromus kalmii (Prairie Brome)
Carex brevior (Plains Oval Sedge)
Eragrostis spectabilis (Purple Love Grass)
Juncus dudleyi (Dudley's Rush)
Koeleria macrantha (June Grass)
Schizachyrium scoparium (Little Bluestem)
Sporobolus heterolepis (Prairie Dropseed)



FORBES (FLOWERS)

Anemone virginiana (Tall Thimbleweed)
Aquilegia canadensis (Columbine)
Blephilia hirsuta (Hairy Wood Mint)
Camassia scilloides (Wild Hyacinth)
Desmodium glutinosum (Pointed-leaved Tick Trefoil)
Dodecatheon meadia (Midland Shooting Star)
Echinacea purpurea (Purple Coneflower)
Eurybia macrophylla (Big-leaved Aster)
Gentiana flavida (Cream Gentian)
Maianthemum racemosum (Solomon's Plume)
Penstemon hirsutus (Hairy Beardtongue)
Phlox pilosa (Prairie Phlox)
Polemonium reptans (Jacob's Ladder)
Polygonatum biflorum (Solomon's Seal)
Rudbeckia hirta (Black-eyed Susan)
Silene stellata (Starry Campion)
Symphyotrichum drummondii (Drummond's Aster)
Symphyotrichum shortii (Short's Aster)
Taenidia integerrima (Yellow Pimpernel)
Zizia aurea (Golden Alexanders)

GRASSES & SEDGES

Bromus kalmii (Prairie Brome)
Carex blanda (Common Wood Sedge)
Carex molesta (Field Oval Sedge)
Carex sprengei (Long-beaked Sedge)
Diarrhena obovata (Beak Grass)
Elymus hystrix (Bottlebrush Grass)
Elymus villosus (Silky Wild Rye)
Festuca subverticillata (Nodding Fescue)
Schizachyrium scoparium (Little Bluestem)



Carex vulpinoidea (Brown Fox Sedge)
Carex cephalophora (Short-headed Bracted Sedge)
Carex brevior (Plains Oval Sedge)
Juncus tenuis (Path Rush)

Resources

[City of Madison Terrace Treatment Guide](#)

[Tallgrass Prairie Center Post-Seeding Establishment Technical Guide](#)

[Xerces Society Nesting Overwintering Habitat Guide](#)

[Wisconsin DNR Terrestrial Invasive Plant Species](#)

[Digger's Hotline](#)

Supplemental Reading for Urban Habitat:

Bringing Nature Home by Douglas Tallamy

Pollinators of Native Plants by Heather Holm

Community Science Opportunities:

Want to show off how well your terrace is doing? Send pictures of your planting's progress to ejorgensen@cityofmadison.com

Become a community scientist by uploading bumble bee observations on your terrace to [Wisconsin DNR's Bumble Bee Brigade](#).

Add photo observations to your own [iNaturalist](#) account. This can also be a super useful tool to identify unknown plants and other creatures. We have our own account for our ecological restoration work on stormwater land, check us out [@stormwater_species_of_madison](#)

QUICK GUIDE TO COMMON TERRACE WEEDS



Curly Doc (*Rumex crispus*)



Queen Anne's Lace (*Daucus carota*)



Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)



Reed Canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*)



All wood-stemmed species such as maple, green ash, black walnut, buckthorn should be removed.



Deadly Nighshade (*Atropa belladonna*)



Lambsquarters (*Chenopodium album*)



Quack grass (*Elymus repens*)



Goatsbeard (*Tragopogon dubius*)



Common Plantain (*Plantago major*)



Foxtail grass



Annual Ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisifolia*)