



The City of Davenport, like many cities across the nation, has for many years recognized the values associated with using native plant materials in its landscapes. Recognizing that value, the City has used native plants in many areas throughout the City, including rain gardens, bioretention cells and prairies.

Native plants play a significant role in helping the City reduce its impact on the environment by: reducing water run-off, stabilizing soils and by reducing emissions and labor costs necessary to maintain more traditional plant materials such as grass.

Native plants can be used in a variety of settings, and their natural, low maintenance beauty provides habitat for a variety of animals and aquatic species.

Native plant materials have been used at the following locations for very specific and meaningful purposes, that not only benefit the environment but the citizen's of Davenport.

- 46th Street Bio-Cells between Eastern and Jersey Ridge
- Blackhawk Garden Park
- Centennial Park Prairie
- City Hall Parking Lot
- Davenport Public Works parking lot bio-cells
- Duck Creek Streambank Stabilization: Various along Duck Creek
- Eastern Avenue Library
- Fairmount Wetlands
- Fairmount Library
- Lakehurst Bioswale
- Littig Detention Basin
- North High School Rain Gardens on 53rd Street
- Redhawk Golf Course
- Sunderbruch Park Prairie
- 20 private native planting areas throughout the City

*With the installation of Native Plant materials, comes the need for conducting Controlled, or Prescribed, Burns. These burns are designed to help promote the health of established native plant materials by controlling the spread of invasive non-native vegetation.*

*See Reverse for Details.*



*Above, Duck Creek @ Junge Park Streambank Stabilization Before & After*



*Above, Lakehurst Bioswale Drainage Issue Resolution, Before & After*



### Maintenance of Native Plants

*Native plants require fire.* If you want to encourage native plants, you must reestablish the ecological conditions under which they evolved in the ecosystem. The key to re-establishing those conditions is a pattern of regular burning.

As native plant communities evolved, they were subjected to regular fires from the lightning that occurred during dry periods. Later, native Americans deliberately set fires in prairies and savannas to help them hunt, to increase their visibility, to see those approaching their camps and to encourage plant growth of herbs and medicinal plants. Over thousands of years, these native plant communities have adapted to this periodic fire.



*Picture of Controlled Burn of Native Prairie at Centennial Park*

It is now in the genetic programming of these native plants to respond to regular burning with vigorous reproduction and growth. Without fire, native plants get shaded out by invasive brush species, but with regular burns their genetic memory gives them a competitive advantage over exotic weeds. For this reason, burns are needed to establish and maintain natural landscaping.

Of course, you must do it safely, and in the right manner.

### Controlled, or Prescribed, Burns and Safety

The City of Davenport follows industry standards for prescribed burn planning and safety. Only staff trained in conducting controlled burns perform this type of maintenance and burns are only conducted when weather conditions permit a burn to be conducted safely. Generally conditions to conduct controlled burns are between the middle of March to the middle of May and the middle of October to the middle of November.

The City attempts to burn only on those days when wind conditions are predicted to be low or when wind conditions will conduct smoke away from occupied buildings. Closeness of some buildings to burn areas may mean that smoke will be present and may enter buildings despite best efforts to prevent it. It is recommended that persons with smoke allergies or asthma keep their windows closed during the burn period and afterwards for several hours. These persons may also wish to leave their homes, if they are able, during the burn to avoid smoke inhalation. To help inform the public when burns are being conducted, signs will be placed on roads adjacent to areas to be burned on the afternoon before a burn is scheduled to be conducted. Residents may also receive notice of burns by following the City on Facebook or Twitter.

*You can find more information on native plant maintenance and Controlled, or Prescribed, Burns at the following EPA links <http://www.epa.gov/agriculture/tburn.html#Prescribed>, <http://www.epa.gov/greatlakes/greenacres/tips.html>. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Natural Resources at 563.326.7923.*