

YARD SMART

Conserve Natural Resources

Most municipal water comes from overstressed underground aquifers that are being drawn at a rate greater than what is needed to recharge them. By pledging to be Yard Smart you are making a commitment to reducing your use of natural resources like water and fossil fuels.



"I pledge to use ecologically-smart practices in my yard." I believe these sustainable yard practices will help keep our community healthy, naturally beautiful, and safe from harmful chemicals, unnecessary pollution, and waste. I will also try to educate others in my community about the benefits of these practices.



Waste Reduction

- Composting
- Vermicomposting
- Reusing/recycling product and nursery packaging
- Using recycled content materials in landscaping or garden amenities
- Borrowing or renting rarely-used equipment

Water Conservation

- Capturing water from roof in a Rain Barrel for watering
- Watering during cool times of day
- Using drip irrigation or soaker hose
- Using porous paving materials
- Mulching gardens and around trees
- Reducing lawn grass area
- Planting a native prairie area
- Xeriscaping with plants adapted to low water conditions



A reel mower or push mower has the least impact. This assumes that your physical condition and lawn size are a good match. Some people convert most of their lawn to native landscaping, and leave a smaller part as an organic lawn to make this option work.

Energy Conservation

- Minimal or no mowing
- Using electric or reel mowers
- Using other electric or human powered tools
- Minimal or no use fertilizers or pesticides
- Encouraging pest predators with integrated pest management techniques
- Manually removing invasive plant species
- Planting trees for shade or wind break to lower home energy needs