UNDERSTANDING YOUR SITE

LAYOUT
Take a good look at your site. Note the placement of existing plants and trees, paved areas, buildings and power lines. Take a few days to monitor which areas get full or partial sunlight and take note of low spots that tend to collect water during rain storms.

SOIL
Determine your soil type before you purchase new plants or trees and check with your local garden center for species adapted to your soil type. If you are planning to grow vegetables, build a raised bed or have your soil tested to ensure it is safe for growing vegetables.

SUN
Before you buy new plants or trees, be sure to note the sunny and shady areas of your yard. Each species has its own sunlight requirement and should be planted accordingly. Look for opportunities to use trees for shading a seating area or the windows of your home.

CONVENTIONAL LANDSCAPING
- Generates stormwater runoff and puts stress on our sewers while wasting treated water.
- Can be expensive to maintain, requires new planting annually.
- Sometimes includes exotic and invasive species.
- Can require the use of fertilizers and pesticides.
- Yearly planting, fertilizing and pesticides.
- Can be expensive to maintain, requires new planting annually.
- Does not promote energy efficiency.
- Often promotes materials shipped from far away at great cost.

SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING
- Minimizes stormwater runoff and utilizes valuable rainwater for irrigation.
- Minimizes maintenance costs by utilizing perennials & long-term landscape planning.
- Designed with native species that have adapted to survive in our climate and do not require fertilizers or pesticides.
- Native plants maintain 4-season appeal by attracting and sustaining our native birds and other wildlife year-round.
- Low-maintenance means low-waste.
- Native plants can be quite beautiful and lend your yard a sense of place rooted in natural history, while helping the environment.
- Native and other deep-rooted plants help direct rainwater into the soil and plant in a rain garden or be used in conjunction with a disconnected downspout, native plants are especially effective for managing stormwater.

SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING TIPS
- Use locally-sourced and recycled materials where possible.
- Avoid impermeable surfaces. Utilize permeable materials where possible.
- Use homemade compost instead of store-bought fertilizers. See www.chicagohomecomposting.org for more information.
- Practice Integrated Pest Management instead of applying pesticides.*
- If you choose to keep a lawn, utilize natural lawncare practices. *See www.spcweb.org/yards for more information.
- To maximize energy savings, strategically plant trees to serve as wind-blocks in the winter and shade your home in the summer. See www.landscapelifeforlife.org for more information.

Why Plant Native Plants at Home?
- Native prairie, woodland and wetland plants have evolved to thrive in our natural conditions and, after the first season or two of establishment in your yard, typically require less maintenance than a conventional lawn or garden.
- Native plants do not require chemical fertilizer or pesticides and can save you money in the long-term, while helping the environment.
- Native plants can be quite beautiful and lend your backyard a sense of place rooted in natural history, while providing food and shelter for birds and beneficial insects (e.g. dragonflies that eat mosquitoes).
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DID YOU KNOW?
Lawn irrigation can account for as much as 30% of a typical resident’s water use. Native plants require less irrigation and actually help reduce stormwater runoff.

We can help!
Rebates
We want to give you 50% off (up to $60 rebate) any locally-purchased native plants! All you have to do is fill out the attached rebate form and send it in with your original purchase receipt. See rebate form (attached) for more details.

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- Rain Garden Network: www.raingardennetwork.com

To promote the many ways residents can create more environmentally-friendly landscapes in their yards, the City is offering rebates to Chicago residents for up to 50% off their next local purchase of

**TREES** (up to $100 back)
**NATIVE PLANTS** (up to $60 back)
**COMPOST BIN** (up to $50 back)
**RAIN BARREL** (up to $40 back)

City of Chicago’s Sustainable Backyards Program: NATIVE PLANTS

Also available: Rebates for Trees, Rain Barrels, and Compost Bins

A monarch butterfly rests on a milkweed flower.
What to do Before You Plant

There are many varieties of native plants available through Chicago’s local garden centers and nurseries. Much like planning any other type of landscaping, you should take stock of your backyard resources before deciding which plants to buy:

- How much sun do you get in your backyard?
- What is the soil like?
- Are there any low areas that tend to collect water during rains?
- How much space is available for adding new plants?
- Can you remove some of your turf grass to make more room?

How to Care for Your Native Plants

Every species and variety of native plant has a different set of needs, so be sure to speak with the experts at your local garden center when you make your purchase. In general, deep-rooted perennials will need some time to establish themselves. You should be ready to provide extra care through watering and weeding during the first season or two, depending on the variety you have selected.

Local Examples of Native Plant Landscaping

- Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum Prairie - 2430 N Cannon Drive
- The Chicago Center for Green Technology - 445 N Sacramento Blvd
- McCormick Center Butterfly Garden - 2301 S Lake Shore Drive
- North Park Village Nature Center - 5801 N Pulaski Road
- The Lurie Garden at Millennium Park - 201 E Randolph Street
- Lincoln Park Zoo - 2001 N Clark Street

City of Chicago Rebate Form: NATIVE PLANTS

Thank you for purchasing native plants and taking part in Chicago’s effort to manage stormwater, increase biodiversity and reduce the urban heat island effect. Please provide the following information and original itemized receipt to receive your rebate. Illegible or incomplete forms will not be accepted.

Personal Information

(please print clearly to receive your rebate):

Name:
Address: City: Chicago Zip: 606
Phone: Email Address: Native plants planted at: same address as above
Address: City: Chicago Zip: 606
Where did you hear about this program?

Where did you get this rebate form?

Recommended Native Plants for Chicago

With these things in mind, ask your local garden center experts which kinds of plants will work best for you. Here are a few common native plant species:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Soil Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meadowfoam</td>
<td>Spirodea alba</td>
<td>Shrub</td>
<td>White flower clusters bloom early in summer</td>
<td>Moist and well-drained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriott's invasive</td>
<td>Galium triflorum</td>
<td>Shrub</td>
<td>Beautiful sand heads for cut and dried arrangements</td>
<td>Moist and well-drained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switch Grass</td>
<td>Panicum virgatum</td>
<td>Grass</td>
<td>Lacy sprays, grass turns yellow in fall</td>
<td>Moist and well-drained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Bluets</td>
<td>Scabiosa pellata</td>
<td>Grass</td>
<td>Ornamental grass forms very dense mounds</td>
<td>Moist and well-drained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nodding Wild Onion</td>
<td>Allium cernuum</td>
<td>Flower</td>
<td>Pink flower clusters to ground, bulbs can be used raw boiled, pickled or as seasoning</td>
<td>Moist and well-drained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Milkweed</td>
<td>Asclepias tuberosa</td>
<td>Flower</td>
<td>Bright orange flowers are loved by butterflies</td>
<td>Moist and well-drained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New England Aster</td>
<td>Astra novae-anglia</td>
<td>Flower</td>
<td>Showy, bright purple or white flowers have orange centers</td>
<td>Moist and well-drained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pale Purple Coneflower</td>
<td>Rattlesnake Master</td>
<td>Flower</td>
<td>Pale petals drop from large cone-shaped center</td>
<td>Moist and well-drained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pale Coneflower</td>
<td>Rattlesnake Master</td>
<td>Flower</td>
<td>Popular native, long-lasting lavender flowers</td>
<td>Moist and well-drained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potted Lavender</td>
<td>Lavandula angustifolia</td>
<td>Flower</td>
<td>Fragrant, purple, white or pink, blooms all summer</td>
<td>Moist and well-drained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Flag Iris</td>
<td>Iris virginica</td>
<td>Flower</td>
<td>Fragrant blue-violet flowers</td>
<td>Moist and well-drained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blazingstar</td>
<td>Eryngium yuccifolium</td>
<td>Flower</td>
<td>Striking, long purple flower head</td>
<td>Tolerant of most soils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Blue Bells</td>
<td>Menziesia virginica</td>
<td>Flower</td>
<td>Lovely blue bells, great for under trees</td>
<td>Moist and well-drained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginiana Common</td>
<td>Schizachyrium scoparium</td>
<td>Shrub</td>
<td>Beautiful in bouquets, flowers attract butterflies and bees</td>
<td>Moist and well-drained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Bergamot</td>
<td>Monarda pikei</td>
<td>Shrub</td>
<td>Spring bloom of apple-blossom-like flowers</td>
<td>Moist and well-drained</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wild Bergamot

I pledge the information I have provided is accurate and that I have read and understand the attached information.

Signature:

[Sign here]
With these things in mind, ask your local garden center experts which kinds of plants will work best for you. Here are a few common local examples of native plant landscaping:

- **Lincoln Park Zoo** - 2001 N Clark Street
- **Northerly Island** - 1400 S Lynn White Drive

### How to Care for Your Native Plants

Every species and variety of native plant has a different set of needs, so be sure to speak with the experts at your local garden center when you make your purchase. In general, deep-rooted perennials will need some time to establish themselves. You should be ready to provide extra care through watering and weeding during the first season or two, depending on the variety you have selected.

### Local Examples of Native Plant Landscaping

These plants are listed in alphabetical order by their common name. Some plants are known by multiple common names. Consult the scientific name when identifying your plants. In the future, Chicago’s native plant database may be accessible through the City of Chicago’s website.

#### Native Plant Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meadowfoam</td>
<td>Spiranthes alba</td>
<td>Flower</td>
<td></td>
<td>Wet and moist-drained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milkweed</td>
<td>Asclepias speciosa</td>
<td>Flower</td>
<td></td>
<td>Moist and well-drained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switch Grass</td>
<td>Panicum virgatum</td>
<td>Grass</td>
<td></td>
<td>Wet and moist-drained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Blue Stem</td>
<td>Scutellaria scoparia</td>
<td>Grass</td>
<td></td>
<td>Moist and well-drained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Bergamot</td>
<td>Monarda fistulosa</td>
<td>Flower</td>
<td></td>
<td>Wet and moist-drained</td>
</tr>
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<td>Butterfly Milkweed</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Pale Purple Coneflower</td>
<td>Penstemon</td>
<td>Flower</td>
<td>Pale petals drop from large cone-shaped center</td>
<td>Moist and well-drained to dry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple Coneflower</td>
<td>Penstemon</td>
<td>Flower</td>
<td>Orange centers</td>
<td>Moist and well-drained to dry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kafiresnake Master</td>
<td>Eryngium virginicum</td>
<td>Flower</td>
<td>Toothed stems support tall of white flowers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Purple Prairie Clover</td>
<td>Lobelia</td>
<td>Flower</td>
<td>Beautiful in bouquets, flowers attract butterflies and bees</td>
<td>Moist and well-drained to dry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mayapple</td>
<td>Pachynema pellucidum</td>
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### Rebate Information

- Original receipt (be sure receipt clearly indicates purchase) and completed Rebate Form must be postmarked by December 31, 2012. The City of Chicago reserves the right to deny rebate forms with unclear receipts.
- Rebate checks may take up to 3 months to process.
- Rebate amount: 50% off original purchase price, up to $60 rebate, per household, per year.
- If you have any questions on the rebate process, please call 312.743.9283 or email rainbarrel@cityofchicago.org.
- Maximum rebates: Rain Barrels $40, Compost Bins $50, Native Plants $60, Trees $100.

To receive your rebate, please complete the top of this form and submit it along with the original receipt by December 31, 2012, to:

Chicago Sustainable Backyards Program
Chicago Department of Transportation
30 N. LaSalle, 11th Floor
Chicago, IL 60602
Sustainable Backyards Program: LANDSCAPING

UNDERSTANDING YOUR SITE

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• Supports our local businesses.

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1. Black-eyed Susan
2. Purple Cone Flower
3. Jacob’s Ladder
4. Cardinal Flower
5. Golden Alexander

A monarch butterfly rests on a milkweed flower.