

A CITY WITH A
RICH PAST
AND A
PROMISING
FUTURE

Turf and/or Xeriscaping Rebate Program

IMPORTANT: Read all information on page 2 of this application.

Name: _____ Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Address of turf or xeriscaping conversion: _____

(if different than mailing address)

City of Ellis Water Account Number: _____ Irrigate with: City water _____ Well water _____

(for address of turf or xeriscaping project)

I have read, understand, and agree to the terms and conditions as stated on the 2nd page of this application.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

For more information, contact Public Works Department at (785) 726-1741.

This program provides financial assistance to customers who wish to convert their cool-season lawns to more water-efficient, drought-tolerant, warm-season turfgrass or landscaping, or to establish new warm-season turfgrass or landscaping. While the City of Ellis does not endorse or recommend specific products or dealers, eligible turfgrass varieties for this program include Buffalo, Bermuda, and Zoysia. Turf and plant selection, as well as installation, are the sole responsibility of the applicant. The City assumes no responsibility for any damage to the applicant's property resulting from participation in this rebate program. Additionally, due to factors beyond its control, the City cannot guarantee that participation in the turf or xeriscaping conversion program will lead to lower utility costs.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY:

PERMIT FEES:

Application # T20 _____ - _____

Turf/Xeriscaping Application Fee: \$ _____

Inspection Fees:

(NO. _____ X _____) = \$ _____

Total Fees: \$ _____ Date Paid: _____ Receipt #: _____

Pre-Inspection Date: _____ Inspected By: _____

Post-Inspection Date: _____ Inspected By: _____

Water Permit Requested: Yes _____ No _____ Sq. Ft.: _____

Comments:

Application: Approved _____ Denied _____

Rebate Approved By: _____ Date: _____ Rebate Amount: \$ _____



Turf and/or Xeriscaping Rebate Program

The City of Ellis offers a \$1.00/square foot rebate for the conversion of maintained, irrigated, cool-season turfgrass to a more water-efficient, drought-tolerant turfgrass or landscaping, as well as for the establishment of new qualifying warm-season turfgrass or landscaping. Rebate-eligible conversions include the following:

- ◆ Establishing or replacing maintained, irrigated cool-season turfgrass(i.e., Tall Fescue, Kentucky Bluegrass) with a warm-season qualifying turfgrass variety(Buffalo, Bermuda, or Zoysia). Water Permit available to help start new lawns.
- ◆ Establishing or replacing sections of maintained, irrigated cool-season turfgrass with mulched planting beds, etc.

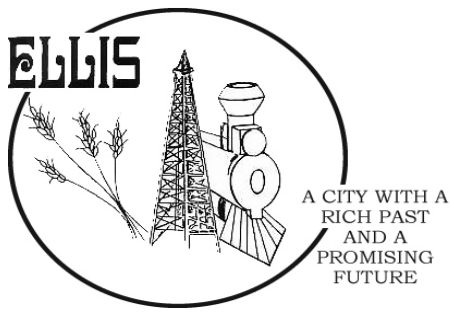
Once established, the qualifying warm-season turfgrass varieties and drought-tolerant plants (mulched with organic mulch) require very little (if any) supplemental irrigation as compared to cool-season turfgrass. Native species like Buffalograss have a deep root system that allows the turf to withstand extended periods of drought.

Rebate Eligibility Requirements:

- ◆ All properties with maintained, irrigated cool-season turfgrass or are establishing new qualifying turfgrass, within the City of Ellis, may qualify for this rebate program on a first-come, first-served basis. Rebates are available primarily for lawns watered with City water, but a small percentage of rebates are available for private well users as well.
- ◆ **A pre-inspection must be completed prior to any turf or xeriscaping work being done.** Work completed prior to pre-inspection will NOT qualify for a rebate. Calling for a pre-inspection as the work is being done (i.e., turf is being removed, etc.) is NOT acceptable. Pre-inspections must be scheduled in advance with City of Ellis staff.
- ◆ A minimum of 100 square feet of turf or xeriscaping landscape may qualify for a rebate. \$500.00 is the maximum rebate allowed per property. **NOTE: All receipts must be submitted to be considered for a rebate.**
- ◆ This rebate is available only until the year-end of your pre-inspection date. (Subject to change based on availability of program funds from year to year.)

Procedure:

- ◆ To apply: Please submit your application along with any required fees.
- ◆ Contact (785) 726-1741 to schedule a pre-inspection. City staff will meet with you to see if you qualify for the program, discuss your plans, and measure the lawn area you propose removing, replacing, or establishing. If you qualify, you will then be given authorization to proceed with the project.
- ◆ Complete the project (either personally or via a qualified contractor).
- ◆ Once the project has been completed, contact (785) 726-1741 to schedule a post-inspection.
- ◆ After a successful post-inspection, allow 2+ weeks for your rebate to be processed. Payment will be made to the property owner. **Remember, Pre- and Post-inspections are required for eligibility prior to issuance of the rebate.**



Turf and/or Xeriscaping Rebate Program

Frequently Asked Questions:

Does extending a concrete patio or extending my driveway qualify for a rebate?

No. You can certainly include concrete patios and other impervious surfaces in your landscape, but those areas will not be measured for a potential turf or xeriscaping rebate.

Does converting to artificial turf qualify for a rebate?

Yes, however, the longevity of artificial turf in our area is questionable. It is not "maintenance-free" as often thought. Artificial turf does not foster healthy soils (which increase moisture holding capacity, support healthy microbes and insects, filter pollutants, and improve water quality). In addition, artificial turf adds to the "heat island" effect in urban settings (similar to rock mulch).

Does replacing turf with "rock" or using other non-organic mulch (including landscape fabric) qualify for a rebate?

Yes, however, the goal of the program is to promote water conservation and maintain the benefits of a healthy landscape while following recommended practices. Landscape fabric (or plastic) with rock mulch on top creates a harsh environment for plant growth, adds to the "heat island" effect, and is not a recommended practice. Inorganic mulch (i.e., rock, gravel, landscape fabric, rubber) is not maintenance-free. Over time, weeds will become an issue, and maintenance can be difficult. Inorganic mulch does not contribute to soil health as organic mulch does, as it breaks down...actually, it is quite the opposite and can be detrimental to soil health. (Healthy soil = Healthy plant roots = Water efficient plants).

What kinds of plants can I use in mulched planting beds?

The choice is yours, however, it is highly recommended that drought-tolerant, low-water-use plants be used. K-State Research and Extension is an excellent source of information regarding what types of plants are suitable for this part of the state, as well as planting/care advice. Check out what information they have to offer at www.cottonwood.ksu.edu or by calling (785) 628-9430.