

GET TO KNOW YOUR NATIVE GRASSES!



What are the benefits of native grasses*? They...

- » Clean stormwater
- » Sequester carbon
- » Provide habitat for birds and pollinators
- » Are drought tolerant
- » Reduce flooding and erosion
- » Are pretty all year long!
- » Do not need mowing:
 - » Saves money for decades
 - » Keeps grass clippings out of landfills (< methane)
 - » Protects maintenance people from steep slopes

Maintenance Needs

- » Native Grasses* take 3 to 5 years to fully establish.
- » Downtown Superior native grasses are irrigated during establishment.
- » After establishment, transition off of supplemental watering to encourage deep roots and healthy grasses.
- » Maintenance crews should control noxious weeds by spot treatment, using mechanical methods or appropriate targeted herbicides.
- » Maintenance crews should not spray or mow during nesting season. (See also - "What About Mowing?")
- » **Residents** should not add water, turn off water, or adjust irrigation on Town and Metro District landscape areas near their homes. The irrigation is finely tuned and **over-watering can kill plants** (most of the plants are low-water species).

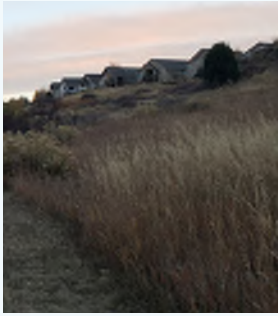
What About Mowing?

Wait until seed heads have been produced (late June to July) and the grasses have begun to dry up, this will help keep the grasses healthy.

Not mowing at all is better for longterm grass health, except for areas that have become filled with dead or too much material. If you can easily spot exposed soil, there is not enough litter material to justify mowing.

** Native and adapted dryland grass species. Superior has both!*

BALANCING LAWN AND NATIVE GRASSES



Traditional lawns have recreational benefits. Soon, Downtown Superior residents will be able to **visit Parks One and Two and Central Park** to lounge, kick a ball around, or throw a frisbee.

Downtown Superior has **native grasses** in key locations. Reasons for designing this way:

- » Topography: **Steep slopes** should be planted with native grasses whenever possible.
- » Sustainability: Financial (for the Metro District) and environmental **resilience for decades** to come.
- » Natural beauty: When traditional lawns turn brown in the fall and winter, native grasses provide **brilliant colors and textures**.
- » For **Our Future:**
 - Colorado is dry and water is precious.
 - One hour of mowing is the equivalent of driving 350 miles in terms of volatile organic compounds.
 - 17 million gallons of gas are spilled each year refueling lawn and garden equipment, which is more oil than was spilled by the Exxon Valdez.
 - The average person in Colorado uses 150 gallons of water a day, 60% of that goes to landscape irrigation, which is the equivalent 90 gallons per person per day.

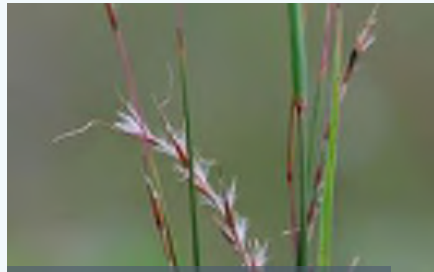
Thanks for your patience while the grasses grow in -- it takes a few years. Like trees, native grasses **will keep on giving** for years to come!

PLANT SPECIES IN SUPERIOR

Have you seen me? Species can you find in the neighborhood!



Western Wheatgrass



Little Bluestem



Little Bluestem



Switchgrass



Blue Grama



Side Oats Grama



Sandberg Bluegrass



Indiangrass



Smooth Brome



Blanket Flower



Purple Coneflower



Plains Coreopsis

Two great resources for more information: <https://suburbitat.org/>
<https://landscapingwithcoloradonativeplants.wordpress.com/>