

City of Bayfield

Protecting Lake Superior and its Shores Now it's Easier to Install Green Infrastructure in Bayfield

Bayfield's 2019 Comprehensive Plan identified the need to encourage green infrastructure in the City in order to reduce polluted runoff into Lake Superior. The City began this effort with assistance from a Wisconsin Coastal Management Program grant by revising existing codes and increasing public outreach.

In May 2021, the City Council adopted **Ordinance #401** <https://ecode360.com/BA2193/laws/LF1348269.pdf> allowing residents to develop Natural Planting Areas. A Natural Planting is a lawn or previously unaltered vegetation (e.g. forested woodlot or open field) that has been planted with native or other non-invasive species that may exceed eight (8) inches in height. The purpose of a Natural Planting Area is to capture runoff generated by impermeable surfaces on or adjacent to the property, reduce erosion, and increase species diversity.

This new guidance now makes it easier to install rain gardens or convert traditional turf lawns to Natural Planting Areas.

The key to success will be developing and implementing a well-thought-out plan that is supported by guidance from credible practitioners and organizations.



It will also be essential to control **noxious weeds and invasive species** <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives>

This new guidance **does not allow residents to leave lawns unattended**. Lawn, grass or weeds which exceed eight inches in length are considered a public nuisance and will be prohibited. The only exceptions are in designated floodplain and wetland areas or planned and managed natural planting areas.

Become a part of the Voluntary Registry! Property owners are encouraged to participate in the City's Voluntary Green Infrastructure Registry by submitting an **online application (insert link)**

that describes the location, purpose, and scope of the Natural Planting Area plan. This will help the City to share success stories and to quantify the progress of stormwater reduction efforts through the installation of Green Infrastructure projects.

