

**Estimated Costs Comparing Irrigated Turf to Native Prairie**  
**Applied Ecological Services**  
**July 2007**

**INSTALLATION WITH IRRIGATED TURF, YEARS 1-5**  
**Estimated Annual Cost Per Acre; for a Five-Acre Planting Project**

**Turf Grass Lawn**

	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five
Installing Seed, Mulch and Fertilizer	\$ 2,770.00				
Mowing	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 2,750.00	\$ 2,900.00
Fertilizer Application		\$ 750.00	\$ 765.00	\$ 770.00	\$ 780.00
Irrigation System	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 600.00
Municipal Water	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00
Aerating/De-thatching		\$ 850.00		\$ 875.00	
Annual Expense	\$ 10,670.00	\$ 5,300.00	\$ 4,665.00	\$ 5,695.00	\$ 5,080.00

**Total Cost After Five Years**                      **\$ 31,410.00**

**Native Prairie**

	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five
Installing Seed and 2-1/2" Plugs	\$ 4,300.00				
Mulching	\$ 675.00				
Mowing	\$ 800.00	\$ 400.00			
Spot Herbicide Treatment	\$ 200.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 330.00	\$ 200.00
Prescribed Burn		\$ 2,125.00	\$ 2,150.00		\$ 2,200.00
Annual Expense	\$ 5,975.00	\$ 3,025.00	\$ 2,650.00	\$ 330.00	\$ 2,400.00

**Total Cost After Five Years**                      **\$14,380.00**

**ANNUAL MAINTENANCE AFTER YEAR 5**

**Turf Grass Lawn**

	Annual Cost
Installing Seed, Mulch and Fertilizer	
Mowing	\$ 3,000.00
Fertilizer Application	\$ 790.00
Irrigation System	\$ 750.00
Municipal Water	\$ 800.00
Aerating/De-thatching	\$ 1,115.00
Annual Expense	\$ 6,455.00

**Native Prairie**

	Annual Cost
Spot Herbicide Treatment	\$ 150.00
Prescribed Burn	\$ 550.00
Annual Expense	\$ 700.00