

## Detention Basin Naturalization

The goals of a naturalization project are to improve water quality, decrease stream temperature, increase groundwater infiltration and decrease maintenance cost for the Village.

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### The Naturalization Process follows these steps:

1. Educate the community about the benefits of naturalization.
2. Prevent installation of concrete low flow channels in the basin bottom.



3. Apply a systemic, non-selective, and non-residual herbicide to eliminate the turf grass.
4. Plant plugs and seeding meadow and prairies areas by an ecological consulting company.
5. Yearly monitoring and maintenance of the site.

The turf grass basin was cut bi-weekly by Village crews.

Today, the basin is mowed once per year resulting in less gas usage from driving vehicles to the site and using a gas powered mower twice per week. Employee time can now be used for other maintenance needs.



### Additional benefits of naturalized basins

**Infiltration:** Unlike mowed turf grass, the native species have deeper root systems and encourage runoff to seep into the soil, replenish groundwater supplies, and maintain base flows in nearby streams.

**Water Quality:** The abundance of plant material slows the flow of stormwater which cools water temperature and reduces sediment and other pollutants before they enter streams.

**Aesthetics:** A naturally planted basin is a beautiful addition to residential or commercial areas.

**Habitat Enhancement:** Native vegetation provides habitat for a rich diversity of birds, insects and other wildlife.

### Naturalized Stormwater Detention include some of the following plants:

Big Blue Stem  
Prairie Cord Grass  
Black Eyed Susan  
Gray Headed Cone  
Flower  
Menarda  
Mountain Mint  
Purple Cone Flower  
Wild Quinine



Swamp Milkweed  
Shooting Star  
Rattlesnake Master  
Compass Plant  
Little Blue Stem  
Nodding Wild Onion  
New England Aster