

Attachment 4: Per-hectare Cost Comparison for Pilot Project vs Conventional Methods of Landscaping

Landscaping Construction costs, by method	Conventional Landscaping (Hydroseed and hand-broadcast)	Naturalization landscaping (Drill seeding)
Equipment & labour	(Unit pricing)	4,000
Seed	"	7,000
Sub-total*	13,000	11,000
Landscape Maintenance activity and costs	Mowing 4x annually, selective weed control	One mow and biomass removal (Year 2), selective weed control
Initial establishment (Years 1 - 2)	1,000	3,200
Subsequent annual cost (Years 3 - 20)	1,000	600
20-year period ongoing maintenance	20,000	14,000
Total of Construction plus 20 years of Maintenance	\$33,000 per hectare	\$25,000 per hectare

Notes and assumptions:

1. *Costs for landscaping design and site preparation are additional and will vary by location, scale of project, landscaping method, and project specifics.
2. Naturalized landscaping construction and maintenance costs are calculated from actual costs tracked on the 16th Ave NE pilot project.
3. Conventional landscaping construction costs are based on typical market rates (2023) for smaller scale urban projects involving hand seeding or hydroseeding (excluding sod installation).
4. Sod installation is substantially more expensive than other conventional methods.
5. Maintenance cost values for conventional landscaping are based on actual averaged contracted mowing costs (previously calculated in 2019) and they represent absolute minimum costs; targeted control of regulated weeds is likely to be required (in addition to mowing) but those variable costs are not readily quantifiable from City IPM records, and there is anecdotal knowledge that sodded and hydroseeded sites often require repeat applications (at contractor cost during contract period, and at City cost after handover from the contractor).
6. Weed control costs will vary by location, existing plant communities in the vicinity, weed seed bank in the soil, and other factors.
7. Mowing and biomass removal was undertaken in Year 2 on the pilot project site to facilitate the establishment of native plants.