**Wild Ones Louisville: Lawns-to-Natives Reimbursement Program: Description and Instructions**

Wild Ones Louisville (the Louisville Chapter of the national organization Wild Ones) is offering a cost-share reimbursement program designed for replacing lawn with Kentucky native plants in residential yards. Homeowners **in Jefferson County** are encouraged to apply. The goal of the program is to encourage lawn replacement in residential yards with Kentucky native plants by reducing financial barriers.

A reimbursement check will be mailed to your address once the reimbursement form, proof of payment, and photo documentation of your project are received. Photos must include a ‘before’ photo of the lawn area to be replaced, a photo of the bed in process of preparation showing dead/dying grass, and a photo of the planted bed. The minimum area of lawn that will be considered is 100 square feet. There is no maximum area, but we will only cover the costs for plants up to $200 as described below.

**LAWN AREA REMOVAL CATEGORIES**

Wild Ones Louisville (WOL) will reimburse 80% of total plant costs in two categories of former lawn area, as follows:

1. A maximum of $100 for **at least** 100 square feet (sq. ft.) of lawn removed (10x10 ft or other equivalent dimensions totaling 100 sq. ft.)
2. A maximum of $200 for **at least** a total of 200 sq. ft. of lawn removed (20 x10 ft or other equivalent dimensions totaling 200 sq. ft.) This can be two separate lawn areas totaling at least 200 sq. ft.

**AMOUNT REIMBURSED**

If you spend $125 or more on plants for the 100 sq. ft. bed, for example, you would get a maximum reimbursement of $100. If you spend $250 or more in the 200 sq ft category, you will get the maximum reimbursement of $200.

**METHODS FOR KILLING GRASS**

You can search online for different methods. The most common methods include: digging, solarization, smothering, and herbicide applications. We encourage you to use the non-herbicidal methods.

Here are two weblinks that show you these methods: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4abxjpmrjI>

<https://www.bobvila.com/articles/how-to-kill-grass/>

**WHICH PLANTS QUALIFY?**

Plants may include only Kentucky native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous (non-woody) plants, and must be straight native species rather than named cultivars of native species. You can check if your plant species is native to Kentucky by going to this website: <https://www.kynativeplants.com/native-plant-finder> Or you may find other websites you like better.

***Purchase of cultivars of native plants (sometimes called Nativars) will not be reimbursed.*** Cultivars (Nativars) are essentially clones bred and reproduced from the original native plant by the horticulture industry. You can recognize cultivars because the plant’s Latin name is followed by a cultivar name in single apostrophes and is written on the pot label. For example, the straight species of Purple Coneflower is *Echinacea purpurea*. But a cultivar would be labeled *Echinacea purpurea* ‘Bravado’ or simply *Echinacea* ‘Bravado’. Bravado is the cultivar name. There are many different cultivars of Purple coneflower, such as ‘Magnus’, ‘Hot Papaya’, etc.

We will be encouraging you to purchase Kentucky Native plants from local vendors who sell and some who even grow them. They should be prepared to tell you whether the plant you want is a straight Kentucky native species or not.

If you would like to know the reasons why we are restricting reimbursement to straight Kentucky species, please read the explanation that our Wild Ones National Organization provides: <https://wildones.org/resources/guidelines-for-selecting-native-plants/>

**PHOTO DOCUMENTATION**

For photo documentation of the amount of lawn removed, take a “before” photo of the lawn and then an “after” photo of the same spot with the lawn removed.Then take a photo of the planted bed**. Include tape measures or yardsticks in these photos so we can judge the size.**

You will save and submit these 3 photos as jpg or jpeg files with the completed reimbursement form.

**Name these files as follows:**

First Name-Last Name-Before

First Name-Last Name-After

First Name-Last Name-Planted

**PROOF OF PAYMENT**

Proof of payment is authorized in two parts.

1. An ***itemized*** invoice or itemized receipt(s) from the vendor. The items are the plant species names and number of plants for each species.
2. You will have to take a photo(s) of the invoice or itemized receipts and submit as jpg or jpeg files. Please be sure they are legible.

Label file as follows: First Name-Last Name-Receipt 1 (Receipt 2 etc. if there were more)

2. a cancelled check or credit/debit card statement. **Cash payments will not be accepted.** Proof of payment documents must be in the name of the individual that was submitted on the reimbursement form.

**Proof of payment for plants should be dated from September 15, 2025 to May 31, 2026.**

**SUBMISSION OF FORMS, PHOTOS AND RECEIPTS**

**We will be having a ROLLING DEADLINE.**

People may submit documentation and reimbursement application starting on October 1, 2025. This start date would reflect people having had time to kill lawn in August and September and plant in early fall, if people desire. But the absolute deadline to submit documentation will be **June 1, 2026**. This should allow people time to kill lawn in either late summer-early fall OR early in spring with time to plant by May.

**HOWEVER, reimbursements will be approved as they are received until funding is exhausted.**

Wild Ones Louisville will be setting aside $2,000 for this program.This means that we could be reimbursing a maximum of 20 applicants if all were 100 sq ft lawn replacements.So, if obtaining plant reimbursement is very important to you, before starting, PLEASE EMAIL US TO DETERMINE IF OUR FUNDS ARE EXHAUSTED FOR THE PERIOD. Our email is [wild.ones.louisville@gmail.com](mailto:wild.ones.louisville@gmail.com)

**THE REIMBURSEMENT APPLICATION FORM IS A GOOGLE FORM, WHICH WE CAN ACCESS UPON YOUR COMPLETING IT.**

**HOWEVER, SEND THE 3 PHOTOS OF THE YARD AND ALL YOUR RECEIPTS TO** [**wild.ones.louisville@gmail.com**](mailto:wild.ones.louisville@gmail.com)In the email subject header, please enter YOUR LAST NAME and Native Plant Reimbursement

**HERE IS THE LINK TO THE GOOGLE FORM**: <https://forms.gle/J2jxKDHwgzAfwwrh9>

**FOLLOW-UP.** Wild Ones Louisville Board Members will want to visit your yard and take photos of the area you planted in later months to share and celebrate your success! By participating in this cost-share program, you agree to allow us to take these photos IN YOUR PRESENCE.

**NATIVE PLANT VENDORS LIST**

**Vendors in the Louisville area include but are not limited to:**  (Let them know you want to purchase straight species that are Kentucky natives)

Above the Dirt Garden Shop <https://www.abovethedirtgardenshop.com/>

Dropseed Nursery <https://www.dropseednursery.com/>

Idlewild Butterfly Farm <https://idlewildbutterflyfarm.com/>

Ironweed Native Plant Nursery <https://www.ironweednursery.com/aboutus.asp>

Peacock Valley Nursery and Farm <https://www.peacockvalleynursery.com/>

Verdant Gardens <https://www.verdant-gardens.com/>

Roundstone Native Seeds: <https://roundstoneseed.com/> (you will want small packets). Make sure the final photo shows these seedlings in the planted bed.

**LINK TO REIMBURSEMENT APPLICATION AS A GOOGLE FORM**

<https://forms.gle/jsy8o3f1zbrJa27i8>