

City Council Agenda Item Memo

From: Sean Doremus, Engineering Technician

Council Meeting: March 25, 2025

Subject: 2025 Stormwater Incentive Program

Presenter: Sean Doremus, Engineering Technician

Summary and Recommended Action:

In 2024, the City of Brookings implemented a pilot Stormwater Incentive Program, offering incentives for purchasing rain barrels and native plants. Since the program was successful, staff will continue and expand it in 2025 to include incentives for rain gardens.

Item Details:

The 2024 Stormwater Incentive Program was a success, with 40 native plant vouchers issued and 20 redeemed for reimbursement. In total, 439 native plants were purchased, amounting to \$2,052 in reimbursements. Additionally, 93 subsidized rain barrels were purchased at a total cost of \$2,280 to the City.

In 2025, the program will be expanded to include a subsidy for adding rain gardens to single-family residences or businesses, further advancing the City's efforts to improve stormwater management.

2025 Program Details:

1. Rain Barrels:
 - Available to City of Brookings residents.
 - Any style of rain barrel may be purchased.
 - Residents will receive up to \$50 reimbursement with proof of purchase (purchased on or after April 22, 2025).
 - Maximum total reimbursement available: \$2,000 (40 rain barrels).
2. Native Plants:
 - Available to City of Brookings residents.
 - 40 vouchers available for eligible native plant purchases from a local nursery.
 - Each voucher provides up to 50% reimbursement on purchases between \$250 and \$500 (minimum purchase of \$250).
 - A list of eligible native plants will be posted on the City's website before the program launch.
 - Vouchers will be available starting April 22, 2025 (must be requested before purchasing native plants).
3. Rain Gardens:

- Available to City of Brookings residents and businesses.
- Four (4) vouchers available starting April 22, 2025.
- South Dakota State University's Landscape Architecture program will conduct site surveys and assist with design.
- Participants will receive up to \$1,000 reimbursement.

Legal Consideration:

None.

Strategic Plan Consideration:

Sustainability – The City of Brookings will meet environmental, community and economic desires and needs without compromising future generations' quality of life by strategically planning, implementing and maintaining infrastructure and facilities.

Financial Consideration:

Sufficient appropriations of \$12,000 is included in the 2025 Fiscal Year budget in Fund 282 – Storm Drainage.

Supporting Documentation:

Presentation