

It's time to get your company off grass

Conventional turfgrass lawn is not native to Ontario. It can be expensive to maintain, requires frequent mowing and watering and can attract unwanted wildlife, like grubs and geese, to corporate properties. Unlike conventional turfgrass, low-maintenance lawns, such as ecological lawns and tapestry lawns, require little maintenance and provide benefits to your property and the environment.

What is it?

Ecological lawns are typically a blend of fescue grasses that grow about 15 centimetres tall with fine bluish blades. They look like turfgrass but require less frequent mowing, and they're drought tolerant. Tapestry lawns are a patchwork of low growing species, like native Silver Cinquefoil and Wild Strawberry, that thrive when kept short (four centimetres). They create a colourful tapestry as the flowers bloom throughout the season.

What about synthetics?

Synthetic lawn is made from petrochemicals and crumb rubber that break down over time leaving residue on footwear and skin. On hot days, it can melt shoes, and it does not provide benefits to the environment, such as water infiltration or wildlife habitat. While you don't have to mow it, you do have to vacuum it to remove debris.

Why make the switch?

- Reduce conventional lawn care costs associated with watering, mowing and fertilizing
- Create aesthetically-pleasing and vibrant landscapes
- Increase infiltration of stormwater and reduce flood risk
- Create habitat that supports local plants, pollinators and birds
- Create pleasing spaces for staff and members to enjoy

Get your company off grass

Start now. Create no-mow zones you can enhance with native trees, shrubs and wildflowers. Mow a path to provide staff or members access to nature.

You can find fescue lawns sold as seed at most nurseries and hardware stores and as sod from sod farms. Or connect with us and we'll help you create a no-mow plan for your property. Send us an email at gcg@cvc.ca.

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Comparative Cost: \$\$ \$\$\$



What is it?

Downspout disconnection prevents rainwater from entering the stormwater sewer system. It diverts flow from roof downspouts to a pervious area that drains away from the building. This pervious area may temporarily store some rainwater and will also allow it to naturally infiltrate into the ground. This area can be planted with several species of plants that adapt to the varied conditions.

Best suited for...

A variety of sites and building types can benefit from downspout disconnection - from small residential properties to large commercial and industrial sites.

Benefits...

- Improves groundwater infiltration
- Reduces/eliminates water use for irrigation
- Reduces/eliminates pesticides and fertilizers
- Improves your public image
- Improves site aesthetics
- Contributes to your company or organization's sustainability goals and reporting

Implementation & Maintenance...

Downspout disconnection in itself requires very little work. The connection that takes the rainwater into the underground sewer system needs to be diverted into an alternate area of storage. Typically this area is above-ground (rain garden, trench, bioretention or swale) but the downspout could also be diverted below ground (soakaway, cistern, chamber). What is most important is that the area to which the water is being diverted is suitable to receive the anticipated volume, and that there is a safe means of overflow in the event of a heavy storm event.

The required maintenance will depend on the method used to divert the water. Refer to the corresponding fact sheets for more information on the maintenance level for each strategy.