Green Infrastructure Maintenance Costs

Green Infrastructure Type	Upfront Costs	Ongoing Annual Maintenance	
Turf to Native Prairie Landscape For existing grass areas not needed for active uses.	**$0.23 per sq. ft.** • Site topography • Accessibility of equipment • Seed mix type • Native plants	**$0.16 per sq. ft.** • Mowing up to 3 times • Invasive plant control • Supplemental planting & seeding • Optional prescribed burns	$
Naturalized Swale For low density settings with large footprints and little vertical separation.	**$2.41 per sq. ft.** • Grading • Site topography • Accessibility of equipment • Seed mix type • Native plants	**$0.16 per sq. ft.** • Mowing up to 3 times • Invasive plant control • Supplemental planting & seeding • Optional prescribed burns	$
Bioretention For parking lots, street planters, landscape beds near buildings.	**$18.00 per sq. ft.** • Depth of engineered soil • Depth of aggregate for storage • Grading • Underdrain • Native seeds and plants	**$0.16 per sq. ft.** • Mowing up to 3 times • Invasive plant control • Supplemental planting & seeding • Optional prescribed burns	$
Permeable Pavement For parking lots of varying sizes, typically small to medium lots.	**$18.25 per sq. ft.** • Type of permeable pavement • Depth of engineered soil • Depth of aggregate for storage • Grading • Underdrain	**$0.15 per sq. ft.** • Annual inspection • Sweeping or vacuuming • Replenish joint aggregate • Invasive plant control	$
Grassland restoration For large footprints or lots next to existing natural areas.	**$0.17 per sq. ft.** • Baseline plant species inventory • Stewardship plan development • Invasive plant control • Native plants	**$0.21 per sq. ft.** • Invasive plant control • Supplemental seeding • Optional prescribed burn • Aesthetic expectations	$$
Woodland restoration For large footprints or lots next to existing natural areas.	**$0.17 per sq. ft.** • Baseline plant species inventory • Stewardship plan development • Invasive plant control • Native plants	**$0.21 per sq. ft.** • Invasive plant control • Supplemental seeding • Optional prescribed burn • Aesthetic expectations	$$
Naturalized Detention Basin For urban areas where storm sewer discharges and run-off can be intercepted.	**$3.62 per sq. ft.** • Grading • Control structure • Native seeds and plants	**$0.41 per sq. ft.** • Control structure inspection • Mowing up to 3 times • Sediment removal • Invasive plant control • Supplemental planting & seeding	$$$
Rain garden For landscape beds near homes, typically residential scale and where the drainage area is small relative to the feature size.	**$14.40 per sq. ft.** • Depth of engineered soil • Depth of aggregate for storage • Grading • Underdrain • Native seeds and plants	**$1.55 per sq. ft.** • Remove litter and debris • Invasive plant control • Supplemental planting & seeding • Aesthetic expectations	$$$

Data sources: Costs are derived from RSMeans Building Construction Costs (2020 edition), which is an industry standard compilation of unit costs for various construction activities.