



FAQs

City of Naples Certification of Lawn and Landscape Professionals

Pursuant to City of Naples Ordinance Sec. 52-186

What is the City Landscape Certification?

The City of Naples recognizes the important role water resources play in sustaining the economic, environmental and human health of our community. To that end, the City requires all lawn and landscape companies working within City Limits to have at least one supervisor plus 10% of field operations staff certified knowledgeable of the Best Management Practices (BMP) for the protection of water resources in Florida. At least one certified lawn and landscape maintenance professional must be present at each location where lawn or landscape maintenance is taking place.

The City has partnered with Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve to provide educational training to local landscape businesses in order to meet certification requirements.

What is the Landscape Certification Course all about?

An educational course entitled, *Florida Friendly Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources by the Green Industries* was developed by Florida Green Industries, a group comprised of state agencies, universities, and private industry partners. This statewide program for landscape professionals focuses on BMP relating to lawn fertilization, pesticide use, irrigation practices, and plant selection. Since all of these topics can have an effect on the surrounding environment, it is the City's goal that those who undergo the BMP training implement the ideas and concepts they have learned in their daily business practices.

What are the steps a landscape company must take to become City-certified?

- 1) Contact the Rookery Bay Coastal Training Department at 239-417-6310 ext. 231 to sign up for a scheduled BMP course. Course schedules can be found at <http://www.rookerybay.org/CTP-BMP.html>. The course lasts about 7 hours (lunch provided). The registration form and \$25 fee (per person) are due 5 work days prior to the class day (Visa, MasterCard or checks made payable to the Friends of Rookery Bay will be accepted). No registrations taken over the phone. No walk-ins allowed the day of class.

Mail registration(s) to: Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Attn: Isabel Way
300 Tower Road
Naples, FL 34113

or Fax to (239) 417-6315

If you cannot attend the classes held at Rookery Bay, the University of Florida IFAS Extension offices offer the BMP training course. Course schedules and locations can be found at http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/professionals/bmp_training_schedule.htm.

- 2) After attending the course and passing the test, the State will mail each person a certificate of completion.
- 3) A supervisor or business owner needs to fill out an application for the City of Naples certification. The application can be picked up at the Best Management Practices training at Rookery Bay, at the Natural Resources Division located at 270 Riverside Circle, Naples, or call Monique Barnhart at (239) 213-7119 and she will email or fax the application.

- 4) Mail the completed City application along with a list of BMP certified field staff, copies of the BMP state certificate(s) for each field staff, and the initial application fee of \$175.00 per company plus payment for additional decals, if needed (Note: **All** state licensed company vehicles must display the City decals; the first two decals are free, and each additional decal is available for \$5.00.

Please make checks payable to "The City of Naples".

Mailing address: Natural Resources Division
 Attn: Monique Barnhart
 280 Riverside Circle
 Naples, FL 34102

- 5) If the application is deemed complete by city staff, decals indicating City certification will be sent to the business. These decals must be displayed on the left rear bumper of all state-licensed vehicles. If your vehicle does not have a bumper, place the decal in close proximity to the left rear of the vehicle, making sure the decal is visible. Field staff who have completed and passed the BMP course received a Florida Department of Environment Protection Green Industries BMP wallet card recognizing them as responsible lawn and landscape professionals. Please note said employees must carry their wallet card while performing lawn and landscape services within the City's boundaries.
- 6) Renewal of City certification is required annually. The company must maintain at least one supervisor plus a minimum of 10% certified field operations staff and have at least one BMP certified field staff at each work location. Those employees already BMP certified must take a 3-hour refresher course. Course schedules can be found at <http://www.rookerybay.org/CTP-BMP.html>. *A renewal application must be submitted to the City's Natural Resources Division along with a \$50.00 renewal fee and copies of all field staff's refresher course certificates of attendance.*

Can I obtain CEU's by taking the Best Management Practices course at Rookery Bay?

Yes. Up to 5 CEU's can be obtained through course completion.

Can lawn and landscape businesses not providing services within the City limits take this course?

Absolutely! This course is open to any landscape professional wanting to gain valuable knowledge regarding their profession. Up to five CEUs are available.

How many supervisors plus field staff have to take the course for my company to fulfill the City requirement of 10%?

If your company has between 1 to 4 field staff, you only need to send a supervisor, who works on-site, to take the BMP course. All other companies, with 5 or more field staff, must round up to the nearest whole number when calculating the number of field staff required to take the BMP course to satisfy the 10% requirement.

*****Please remember – ALL companies need to send at least one (1) supervisor to get BMP certified.**

Number of Supervisors + Field staff	Number of Field staff that need to take course (10%)	Total to take course
1-4	0	1 supervisor
5-10	1	1 field staff + 1 supervisor
11-20	2	2 field staff + 1 supervisor
21-30	3	3 field staff + 1 supervisor
31-40	4	4 field staff + 1 supervisor
41-50	5	5 field staff + 1 supervisor