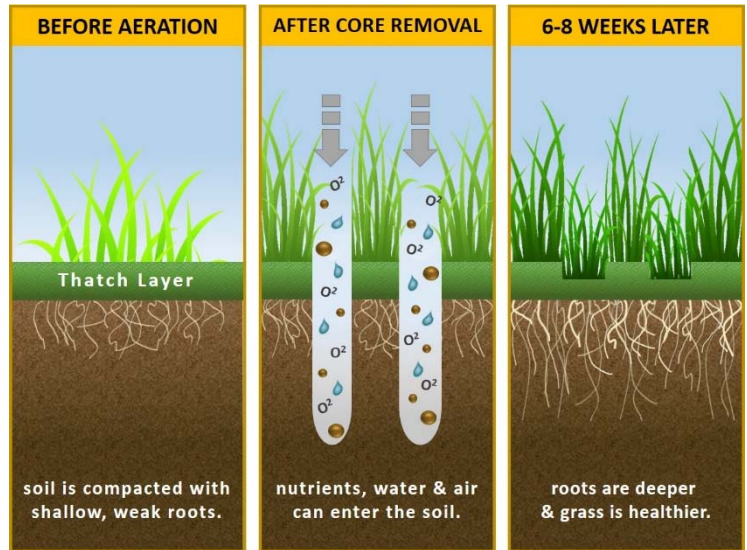


City of San Marcos Soil Saver Rebate Program Information



Program Overview

The City of San Marcos Soil Saver Rebate Program encourages development of healthy soils, because healthy soils mean healthy plants. Healthy soils and plants require less water and are better able to withstand stressors such as drought. One of the best ways to build healthy soil on existing lawn areas is to aerate and top-dress with compost. Core aeration removes plugs of compacted soil and thatch to allow air, water and nutrients to penetrate deep into the soil. Compost is decomposed, nutrient-rich material that functions as a natural lawn and landscape fertilizer. Mulch is undecomposed or partially decomposed plant material, typically wood chips or shavings, that is used around trees and in landscape beds to insulate soil and roots, reduce water losses from evaporation, and add nutrients as it decomposes.



Qualifying Products/Services

Core aeration: Rebate applies to core or plug aeration only, not applicable for spike aeration.

Compost: Rebate applicable to lawn top-dressing (¼ to ½ inch) or landscape beds (1- 2 inches). Compost should be finely screened. Mixes or blends must contain at least 50% compost.

Mulch: Rebate applies to plant-based mulches, not applicable to stone, landscape fabric or rubber mulches. Recommend 2 to 4 inches around trees and in landscape beds.

Rebate Amounts

Single-family residential:

- Core aeration - 50% of the cost of service or equipment rental, up to \$50
- Compost application – 50% of the cost of service or material purchase price, up to \$75
- Mulch application – 50% of the cost of service or material purchase price, up to \$75

Commercial and institutional:

- Core aeration - 50% of the cost of service or equipment rental, up to \$200
- Compost application – 50% of the cost of service or material purchase price, up to \$200
- Mulch application – 50% of the cost of service or material purchase price, up to \$200

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How It Works

1. **Before aerating**, make sure you or your contractor mark all irrigation heads and valves, meter boxes, shallow electric or communication wires, exposed tree roots, etc.
2. Hire a contractor to do the work, or do the work yourself. Core aerators can be rented at many equipment rental stores.
3. Submit completed rebate application along with itemized invoices and/or receipts, and photos of completed work. Make sure invoices contain specific information such as type and quantity of materials used, and labor costs if any. Application and invoices must be submitted within 30 days after purchase or work completion.
4. City staff may schedule a site inspection to verify work.
5. Rebate will appear as a credit on your next utility bill.



Program Guidelines

- Applicants must be City of San Marcos water utility customers with an account in good standing.
- Rebated products/services must be installed/performed within the San Marcos water utility service area.
- Rebates are offered on a first come/first serve basis and are subject to availability of funds. The City of San Marcos reserves the right to alter the program at any time.
- Rebate amount is pre-tax and is for specified landscaping services and products only. Rebate is not applicable to maintenance agreements, warranties or any other items.
- Applicant is responsible for obtaining any necessary permits and inspections, and for compliance with HOA, local, state and federal regulations.
- The City of San Marcos may inspect the properties as needed.
- The City of San Marcos does not endorse specific brands, products, or dealers; nor does it guarantee materials, workmanship, performance, safety or durability of rebated products or services.