City of Ankeny

410 West First Street
Ankeny, Iowa 50023
515-965-6407 phone
515-965-6412 fax
www.ankenyiowa.gov internet

Urbanism Terms & Definitions

Bioretention cells – shallow depressions comprised of a drain tile bedded in gravel, a soil and compost mix above the gravel, and native shrubs and trees planted on the surface.

Bioswales – create subsurface and plant filtration systems in a neighborhood setting. An alternative to storm sewers.

Brownstones – A building faced with a reddish-brown sandstone.

Charrette – used to describe all manner of events where a group of people gathers to talk about a design or development issue.

Conservation Design – a new approach to storm water management that addresses the negative impacts of storm water runoff and turns them into a positive attribute. Also referred to as low impact development.

Infill – buildings constructed to occupy the space between existing ones.

Neotraditional Perspective – a new movement in urban growth that involves a return to early planning principles to avoid too much growth too fast.

New Urbanism – a development strategy that encourages smart managed growth; sustainable green development; and reduced traffic.

Rain Gardens – small perennial gardens that use native vegetation to filter runoff from roofs, driveways, and patios.

"Third places" – a series of places where people connect with their community.

Topography – the arrangement of the natural and artificial physical features of an area.

Walkable Neighborhoods – a place where people live within walking distance to most places they want or need to go or be including work, school, retail and parks. Safe, accessible areas with a sense of place.