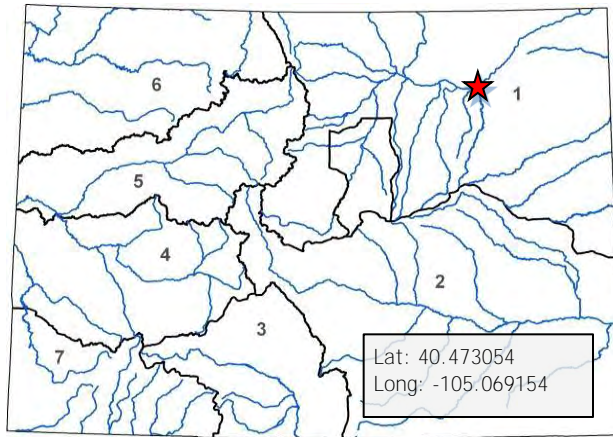




# Cottonwood Plains Elementary School Low Water Landscaping Upgrade Thompson School District March 2023 Board Meeting

## Water Plan Grant Application



### L O C A T I O N

<b>County/Countries:</b>	Larimer
<b>Drainage Basin:</b>	South Platte

### D E T A I L S

Total Project Cost:	\$83,200
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$41,500
Recommended amount:	\$41,500
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$8,500
Applicant Match:	\$33,200
Project Type:	Construction
Project Category:	Engagement and Innovation
Measurable Result: 2,000 Coloradans impacted by engagement and 17,000 impacted by water savings; \$350/year in efficiency savings	

The Thompson School District District has requested Water Plan Grant funding to replace approximately 3,000 square feet of irrigated Kentucky Blue Grass turf at the front entrance of Cottonwood Plains Elementary School school with native, low-water landscaping. The goals of

this project are to reduce the outdoor water demand of the school and to provide a showcase to the community of the potential natural beauty available through native, low-water landscaping. While contractors will be needed for most of the site preparation, students, parents, and staff will be involved in the planting to establish a sense of ownership and hands-on learning. The design was developed through the partnership of Northern Water and Denver Botanic Gardens and promotes plant diversity, all-seasons color, and low maintenance landscaping. The design offers pathways and sitting areas through the garden.

Objectives of this program are: 1) Remove unnecessary irrigated turf in front of the school to reduce water use, 2) Increase knowledge and awareness of native, low-water use landscaping in the school community through hands-on learning during the planting process, 3) Provide a demonstration garden for the school district and surrounding community to learn about the natural beauty of native, low-water landscaping.

The Cottonwood Plains Elementary School landscape project is in alignment with the Colorado Water Plan and the South Platte River Basin Roundtable goals for long-term water reduction through the permanent replacement of high water-using turf with low water-using native landscaping. By providing funding to the Thompson School District for this project, the basin is fulfilling its first goal of encouraging **implementation of projects**. This project also supports the basin's **third goal of maintaining and promoting municipal and industrial conservation and efficiency**, since CPES uses municipal water for irrigation and would be conserving water with the updated landscaping. Additionally, this project is intended to promote and demonstrate the natural beauty available through low water use landscaping. Overall, this project educates the community about the benefits, importance, and possibilities of low water use landscaping for long-term water conservation and efficiency.

Thompson School District is requesting Water Plan Grant funds for 50% of the total project cost. The applicant will provide 50% match funding with a combination of cash match, in-kind match and secured funds from Northern Water.

Funding Recommendation: Staff recommends Board approval of \$41,500 for full funding to Thompson School District for the Cottonwood Plains Elementary School Low Water Landscaping Upgrade Project.