



COLORADO

Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	City and County of Denver	
Name of Water Project	Denver Resilient Landscape Code	
Grant Request Amount		\$100,000.00
Primary Category		\$100,000.00
<i>Conservation & Land Use Planning</i>		
Total Applicant Match		\$200,000.00
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>		\$200,000.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>		\$0.00
Total Other Sources of Funding		\$0.00
Total Project Cost		\$300,000.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: City and County of Denver
Mailing Address: 201 W Colfax Ave Denver CO 80202

Organization Contact: Michelle Teller
Position/Title: Principal City Planner Email: michelle.teller@denvergov.org
Phone: 321-987-2370

Grant Management Contact: Michelle Teller
Position/Title: Principal City Planner Email: michelle.teller@denvergov.org
Phone: 321-987-2370

Description of Grantee/Applicant

Community Planning and Development

Type of Eligible Entity

- ☐ Public (Government)
- ☐ Public (District)
- ☒ Public (Municipality)
- ☐ Ditch Company
- ☐ Private Incorporated
- ☐ Private Individual, Partnership, or Sole Proprietor
- ☐ Non-governmental Organization
- ☐ Covered Entity
- ☐ Other

Category of Water Project

☐

- ☐ Agricultural Projects
Developing communications materials that specifically work with and educate the agricultural community on headwater restoration, identifying the state of the science of this type of work to assist agricultural users among others.
- ☒ Conservation & Land Use Planning
Activities and projects that implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning.
- ☐ Engagement & Innovation Activities
Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts. Please fill out the Supplemental Application on the website.
- ☐ Watershed Restoration & Recreation
Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation.
- ☐ Water Storage & Supply
Projects that facilitate the development of additional storage, artificial aquifer recharge, and dredging existing reservoirs to restore the reservoirs' full decreed capacity and Multi-beneficial projects and those projects identified in basin implementation plans to address the water supply and demand gap.

Location of Water Project

Latitude	39.740982
Longitude	-104.990883
Lat Long Flag	Municipal centroid: Coordinates based on centroid of municipal boundary
Water Source	N/A
Basins	South Platte; Metro
Counties	Denver
Districts	

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	Municipal
Type of Water Project	Planning
Scheduled Start Date - Design	1/1/2025
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	1/1/2026
Description	<p>The City and County of Denver is working toward an overhaul of citywide landscape code, rules, regulations, and policies to create a more climate resilient city. The goal of this work is to create requirements for our landscape which address the effects of our changing climate, including limited water resources, drought, increased intensity rainfall and flood events, extreme heat, wildfire, and decreasing biodiversity. This project is in line with approved Denver plan guidance including Comprehensive Plan 2040, Blueprint Denver, the Denver Game Plan, the Climate Action Plan, and will work to implement the Denver One Water Plan, which was previously funded by the Colorado Water Plan Grant.</p> <p>Currently, Denver does not have a robust set of landscape guidelines for new development or redevelopment which leads to minimal landscape plantings or typical turf lawns in residential areas. Although the recent state bill 24-005 requires no new turf grass in civic, industrial, and institutional areas, it does not currently address other uses such as residential, nor what landscape should be replacing those areas. This regulatory project will address a holistic approach for all new development, redevelopment, and city projects to ensure that we are collectively creating a more climate resilient landscape palette that is attractive and functional for the community and the environment.</p>

Measurable Results

New Storage Created (acre-feet)
 New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive
 Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)
 New Storage Created (acre-feet)
 Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
 Length of Pipe, Canal Built or Improved (linear feet)
 Efficiency Savings (dollars/year)
 Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year)
 Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)
 Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms or water sharing agreement (acre-feet)
 Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
 713,000 Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity

Other

It is recognized that long term water savings and cost savings will occur to residents who transform their landscapes over a period of time. It is also recognized that this is a city and countywide effort which will benefit all residents through the engagement and education process of the project.

Water Project Justification

This plan aligns with the South Platte Metro Basin Implementation Plan Strategies 3.D "Identify and evaluate the range of benefits provided by urban landscapes and green spaces to make informed decisions on the most appropriate conservation and efficiency measures." and 3.E "Promote and encourage implementation of wise land use planning strategies that provide a desirable quality of life while minimizing the demand for water for existing and new development" as we have identified the range of benefits of urban landscapes and will be working toward implementation of land use strategies through creation of a new landscape code. This code is aimed to require new development, redevelopment and city projects to be more water efficient in their landscape design with a more climate resilient plant palette.

This project also aligns with the Colorado Water Plan's goal of Vibrant Communities, specifically the 'partner actions' which state the goal of healthy lands, wise water use and the action to do this through zoning regulations and land use codes.

Related Studies

Denver One Water
 Denver Comprehensive Plan 2040
 Blueprint Denver
 Denver Game Plan
 Denver Turfgrass Study (2024)
 State Bill 24-005

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

There are no conflicts or issues.