



## Turf Replacement Program

# Application TRA-000070

## Colorado Eligible Entity

Which of the following Colorado eligible entities are you submitting an application on behalf of?

District

## Verification of Matching Funds & Funding Use

Do you have matching funds described in the Turf Replacement Grant Program Guidelines relevant to your organization's program or project type?

Yes

Can your organization commit to tracking funds, invoicing, and providing reports for work completed (including any estimates of water savings, before and after pictures, and projected and/or actual water savings)?

Yes

Can you ensure requested funds will not be spent to replace turf with artificial turf, impermeable concrete, water features, invasive species, or high-water-use turf varieties?

Yes

Can your organization commit to incorporating any necessary irrigation adjustments or updates to ensure installed vegetation is efficiently irrigated?

Yes

## Applicant Information

Organization Name	Highlands Ranch Metro District
Organization Mailing Address	62 Plaza Drive, Highlands Ranch 80129
Title	Parks and Parkways Manager
Full Name	Dirk Ambrose
Email Address	dambrose@highlandsranch.org
Phone	7202405907
Please specify the total dollar (\$) amount your organization is requesting for the current funding cycle?	\$75000.0
Are you a water provider who bills customers for treated water or a water district who supplies raw water?	No

## Proposed Focus & Applicant Characteristics

Have you conducted any analysis to know where turf replacement may be most effective?

Yes

Which sector do you intended to focus your funding on?

Municipal/Community Spaces

Which of the following best describes the goal of your proposed turf replacement funding?

Expands on an existing turf replacement program within my jurisdiction (primary provider)

### Existing Turf Replacement Program

How will these new funds expand your existing efforts?

Increases amount of turf removed for my existing program; Pays for one or more municipal projects to remove turf (in right of ways, medians, parks, etc.)

Other expand effort

Does this funding expand your program or would it be used to replace existing funding?

This will be used to expand my program efforts

Other funding use

What is your estimated total water savings associated with this project? Please explain your method for estimating savings

35-40% reduction in water consumption. The area to be converted is approximately 40K sq. ft. and mostly consists of bluegrass that will entirely get eliminated and replaced with a mixture of native grasses, xeric shrub beds and plots of Tahoma 31 Bermuda Grass. The anticipated water savings are consistent with other conversion projects that we've pursued throughout the community since 2020.

Do you have a plan for addressing underlying irrigation (e.g. switching to drip irrigation) as a part of this project?

Yes

### Water Conservation Efforts

Do you already have a water conservation rebate program or mechanism for funding rebates or otherwise incentivizing water conservation efforts?

No

Do you already have a water conservation/efficiency plan and/or a drought management plan?

I have both

### Information on Plans, Rates, Codes & Partnerships

Do you have a tiered rate structure that incentivizes water conservation?

Yes

Do you have landscape codes, ordinances or rules that prevent any turf replaced through your program from being reverted back to turf by the current or future property owner?

No

Do you currently work with your municipalities transportation department?

No

Do you have the ability to ensure (through inspection or other

means) that turf removal was done and eligible materials were put in its place? Yes

Do you have the capability to separately track outdoor water used for irrigation (i.e., sub-metering or separate metering)? Yes

### Additional Information for Existing Programs

Do you plan to continue this program in the future? Yes

Does your turf replacement program consider addressing any of the following encouraged planning considerations? Protecting Tree Health;Reducing Heat Island;Stormwater Protection;Defensible Space to Reduce Wildfire Risk

Is your funding match made-up of cash, in-kind or both? Both

Other Funding Match Made-Up of

Can you ensure funds will start being spent within 12 months of the contract if funds are awarded? Yes

Please describe any elements of your program that address equity, diversity, and inclusivity issues

Our current turf replacement program targets our extensive parkway (roadside) landscaping and project sites are selected for their historical high water consumption and lack of useability or visual appeal. Numerous conversions have already been completed throughout the community in a balanced approach. The District has a webpage dedicated to the turf conversion program and it includes lots of information for our residents to become more educated about the value of turf conversions.

### Equity Considerations

How is equity included into and/or supported outside of your turf replacement program when it comes to your communities water conservation efforts?

Our agency is not the community's water and sanitation provider but we do work in concert with them and try to set the example for responsibly conserving water and using sustainable plant materials. Messaging to conserve water and use Colorado appropriate plant materials is not selective and is strongly encouraged throughout our community.

### Program Info

Please briefly describe the program you envision. What work will be completed, who/what would be the target of the work (e.g., residential, commercial, community spaces), are there any partnerships you have developed, and what value are you adding beyond administering funding? Please note that the provided program description does not suffice as an official Scope of Work required for contracting.

This project will involve the conversion of approximately 40,000 square feet of sloping parkway landscape which is mostly bluegrass. This project is part of the Metro District's Parkway Landscape

Conversion Program which is designed to reduce water consumption and maintenance by gradually converting strategic areas of the community's parkway landscape to more sustainable plant material. Several community partners have been involved with the program including the Highlands Ranch Community Association, South Metro Fire and Rescue and the Centennial Water and Sanitation District. Metro District staff are committed to the success of the program and, for this project in particular, intend to provide the following: Planning/design input, irrigation modifications, project oversight and future maintenance of the converted landscape including irrigation programming and tracking of consumption.