



**COLORADO**

**Colorado Water  
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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**TO:** Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

**FROM:** Jenna Battson, Outdoor Water Conservation Coordinator  
Kat Weismiller, Section Chief  
Water Supply Planning Section

**DATE:** January 27-28, 2025, Board Meeting

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEM: 3a - b Turf Replacement Grants**

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**Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommends Board action on two (2) Turf Replacement Grant Program applications between \$50,000 and \$100,000, as described in the following summary tables.

**Introduction**

The 2024 Water Projects Bill (SB24-1435) appropriated \$2M for the Turf Replacement Grant Program, with \$1,680,000 in awards available beginning in fiscal year 2025. Turf Replacement Grant Program awards are made in two cycles during the fiscal year when funding is available. The due date for the first review cycle of the 2025 fiscal year was October 31, 2024. By that date, CWCB had received seven (7) applications requesting \$1,210,571.50. All applications are available for public viewing online at <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/turf>

The process of reviewing the applications consisted of criteria qualification checks, dialog with the applicants, and consideration by CWCB staff. All 7 applicants qualified during the process, resulting in 7 staff recommendations for consideration. The end result of the review is a portfolio of recommendations representing qualifying individual projects that collectively best advance the goals of the Turf Replacement Grant Program. \$1,210,571.50 in awards are recommended.

Per CWCB Policy #25, grant recommendations are considered for approval in three separate groups depending on the recommended amount. Those awards above \$100,000 will be placed on the full agenda for consideration by the Board, those between \$50,000 and \$100,000 and those not recommended for funding will be placed on the consent agenda, and those below \$50,000 are considered by the CWCB Director. This consent agenda item recommends approval of 2 applications above \$100,000 for a total recommended amount of \$127,250, as shown in Table 1. See attached Data Sheets for additional project details.



Table 1: Award Recommendations between \$50,000 and \$100,000

Category	Number of Applications	Recommended
Incentive; Site-specific	1	\$52,250
Site-specific	1	\$75,000
Total:	2	\$127,250

**Project Issues/Additional Needs:**

- All funding awards are contingent upon the applicant's ability to secure match funding
- Grantees should adequately address CWCB staff comments to scopes of work and engineering designs (when applicable). Staff will contact each successful applicant to discuss comments and contracting procedures prior to contracting.
- All grantees should adhere to their organizational procurement policies when hiring contractors and consultants. CWCB recommends that State procurement policies be used as a guide if an organization does not have procurement policies.
- Projects should comply with the CWCB's Rules and Regulations for Regulatory Floodplains in Colorado, when applicable.

**Incentive;  
Site-specific**

3a

Applicant	Project Name	Request	Recommendation	Total Project Cost	Match	Basin
City of Boulder	City of Boulder	\$52,250.00	\$52,250.00	\$105,000.00	50%	South Platte
\$52,250.00						

**Site-specific**

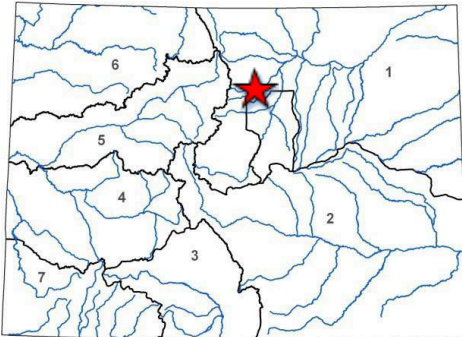
3b

Applicant	Project Name	Request	Recommendation	Total Project Cost	Match	Basin
Highlands Ranch Metro District	Highlands Ranch Metro District	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$150,000.00	50%	Metro
\$75,000.00						





# Turf Replacement Grant Program



LOCATION	
Counties:	Boulder
Basin:	South Platte

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$105,0000
Turf Replacement Grant Program Request:	\$52,250
Recommended amount:	\$52,250
Applicant Match:	\$52,750
Project Type:	Implementation
Project Category:	Incentive, Site-specific

MEASURABLE RESULTS	
Water Savings:	111,250 - 131,050 gallons (0.34 - 0.4 acre-feet)
Converted Area:	9,850 - 12,050 square feet (0.23 - 0.28 acres)

The Turf Replacement Grant Program funding will help the City of Boulder expand the number of participants in the lawn replacement program and support the removal and replacement of Kentucky bluegrass in a multi-family property community space with a native landscape.

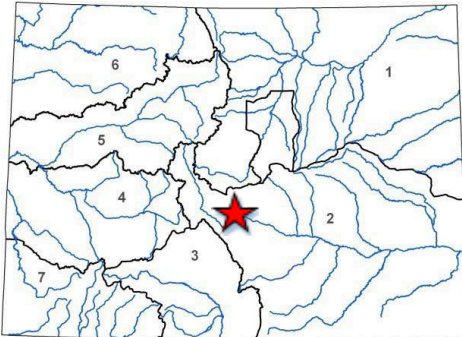
1. Resource Central Lawn Replacement Program  
Turf Replacement Grant Program funding: \$32,250 (incentive)  
The City of Boulder has an annual contract with Resource Central to implement a lawn replacement program for single-family residential sector customers. The Lawn Replacement program includes irrigation education and provides participants with free drip irrigation conversion kits. The City has historically contracted with Resource Central to support thirty (30) to forty-five (45) participants by removing at least 200 square feet of existing bluegrass. Additional funding will be used to expand the number of participants in the lawn replacement program, adding forty-three (43) participants between Fall 2024 and 2025. This effort will remove and replace an estimated 8,600 square feet (0.2 acres) of turf, saving an estimated 100,000 gallons (3.26 acre-feet) of water annually. The expected cost is \$3.75 per square foot.
2. Foundation for Leaders Organizing for Water and Sustainability (FLOWS), Boulder Housing Partners (BHP), and City of Boulder Partnership Tantra Nature Garden  
Turf Replacement Grant Program funding: \$20,000 (site-specific)  
This project will engage community members (residents, BHP, and FLOWS) in permaculture design, passive water harvesting, Indigenous edible forest garden practices, native plants, native foods, and native plant usage. The project will remove and replace Kentucky Bluegrass from a multi-family property community space with a native landscape and will include any necessary irrigation system modification and educational signage. This effort will remove and replace between 1,250 and 3,450 square feet of turf, saving between 11,250 and 31,050 gallons (0.03 and 0.1 acre-feet) of water annually. The expected cost is \$12 to \$32 per square foot.

## Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$52,250 to the City of Boulder.



## Turf Replacement Grant Program



LOCATION	
Counties:	Douglas
Basin:	Metro

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$150,000
Turf Replacement Grant Program Request:	\$75,000
Recommended amount:	\$75,000
Applicant Match:	\$75,000
Project Type:	Implementation
Project Category:	Site-specific

MEASURABLE RESULTS	
Water Savings:	202,000 - 270,000 gallons (0.62 - 0.83 acre-feet)
Converted Area:	40,000 square feet (0.92 acres)

The Turf Replacement Grant Program funding will support the Highlands Ranch Metro District Parkway Landscape Conversion Program and help the Highlands Ranch Metro District convert approximately 40,000 square feet of roadside landscape composed primarily of Kentucky bluegrass on a sloping parkway. CWCB funding will go to turf removal, irrigation zone improvements, native seed installation, Tahoma-31 sod installation, planting beds with water-friendly plant materials, soil amendments, and new trees.

Highlands Ranch Metro District has paid a contracted landscape architect to complete the project design. Through a public bidding process, Highlands Ranch Metro District intends to enter into a contract with a qualified landscape construction vendor to execute the landscape conversion project. Several community partners outside the Highlands Ranch are involved with the program, including the Community Association, South Metro Fire and Rescue, and Highlands Ranch Water (formally Centennial Water and Sanitation District). This project will be highlighted in future publications created by the Highlands Ranch Metro District, and Centennial Water and Sanitation District will feature the program. A dedicated webpage will convey the importance of using sustainable plant materials and conserving water.

This effort will remove and replace an estimated 40,000 square feet (0.92 acres) of turf, saving an estimated 202,000 to 270,000 gallons (0.62 - 0.83 acre-feet) of water annually. The expected cost is \$3.75 per square foot.

### Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends full funding of \$75,000 to Highlands Ranch Metro District.