

Last Updated: August 2023

WATER PLAN GRANT PROGRESS REPORT	
All Water Plan Grant awardees are required to provide the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) progress reports every 6 months, beginning from the date of issuance of a purchase order, or the execution of a contract.	
Please note that the CWCB may withhold reimbursement until satisfactory progress reports have been submitted. Please submit this progress report to your CWCB Water Plan Grant Manager once completed.	
Project Information	
Grantee:	Colorado Water Wise
Grant Agreement Number or PO Number:	POGG1 2023-3583
Project Title:	Native Grass Manual Website
Reporting Period:	05/15/2024 to 09/01/2024
Date:	09/01/2024
Budget Information	
Total CWCB Grant Amount:	\$50,000.00
CWCB Grant Funds Spent to Date:	\$50,000.00
Remaining CWCB Funds to be Spent:	\$0.00
Match Acquired During this Reporting Period:	Cash Match: \$13,010
	In-Kind: \$35,425.00
	Total Match for Reporting Period: \$48,435.00
Remaining Match to be Acquired:	None
Please provide a general project update including those project tasks worked on, completed and in-progress during this reporting period. Please also lists those tasks that have been completed to date.	
<p>COMPLETED TASKS as of 05/15/2024 (covered in previous progress report).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Task 1 – Define website objectives, structure, functionalities, and outreach strategy</u> • <u>Task 2 – Review proposals and select contractor</u> • <u>Task 3 – Website design and development</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discovery ○ Website Architecture ○ Website Design <p>COMPLETED TASKS, 05/16 to 9/01/2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Task 3 (continued) – Website design and development</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Built site based on approved sitemap, design, and functional specifications. ○ Completed “Select a Grass” tool. ○ Populated site with content. ○ Copywrote and copyedited site content. ○ Finalized site domain, hosting, and security. 	

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- The Native Grass Working Group continued outreach and education activities.
 - We conducted two separate full-day native grass educational workshops on July 26 (Colorado Springs, 90 attendees) and August 23, 2024 (Northern Colorado, 70 attendees). The goal was to educate and inform landscape and water professionals of native grass best practices and feature the website as a resource for themselves and their clients. The Northern Colorado event also included a three-hour “train the trainer” event to empower professionals to facilitate native grass capacity building in their own communities. Fifteen water and landscape professionals attended this event.
 - We will continue offering monthly presentation/discussion sessions online. We currently get about 50-100 professionals joining for each session.

Task 4 – Acceptance testing, documentation, and training

- Conducted quality assurance, reviewed deliverables, and issued acceptance.
- Created training documentation.
- Trained Colorado Water Wise and Native Grass Working Group on site administration.

Task 5 – Launch and refine site; transition to long-term maintenance

- Launched site to the general public on July 23, 2024.
- Assets and credentials have been transitioned to long-term maintenance Website Committee.

IN-PROGRESS TASKS

- Education and Outreach
 - Overview of the Native Grass Website for the Native Grass Working Group, online session, 10/16/2024.
 - Will showcase the Native Grass Website at the Rocky Mountain Turfgrass Association Conference 12/6/2024.
 - Submitted a presentation abstract for January 2025 Progreen Conference for landscape professionals to showcase the Native Grass Website.
- Finalizing the operating agreement with partner agencies.
- Monitoring analytics.
 - 762 new users with 2,650 page views from 7/23 to 8/28/2024.

Page title and screen class		↓ Views	Users
		2,650	762
		100% of total	100% of total
1	Colorado Native Grass Guide We need to landscape differently in Colorado.	887	555
2	Grass Options Colorado Native Grass Guide	545	150
3	Blue Grama Grass Colorado Native Grass Guide	131	109
4	Buffalograss Colorado Native Grass Guide	121	92
5	Learn Colorado Native Grass Guide	116	67
6	Resources Colorado Native Grass Guide	102	64
7	Case Studies Colorado Native Grass Guide	90	58
8	Take Action Colorado Native Grass Guide	83	53
9	Buffalograss/Blue Grama Grass Mix Colorado Native Grass Guide	80	65
10	Western Wheatgrass Colorado Native Grass Guide	74	56

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Please describe any major issues that have occurred relating to the project's tasks, including any information on cost overruns.
We did not encounter any major issues related to project tasks. We added a work package, contracted with Vermilion, to copywrite and copyedit the site's content. This work package cost \$7,000 and was paid for through cash match fund contributed by Denver Water, Northern Water, and Colorado Springs Utilities.
Please describe corrective actions taken to address the issues described above.
None needed.
Please provide an update on the project schedule including a description of any potential/anticipated delays.
None.

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2024 Outreach and Education Plan - Native Grass Working Group

Updated 8/28/2024

Objective

To create opportunities for water and landscape professionals to share knowledge, approaches, learning, and insights related to irrigated native grass projects and programs in Colorado.

Website Development

Creating a state-wide online repository of knowledge, photos, resources, and tools for irrigated native grass project success.

- Complete building website, to be launched in July.
- Promotion at all educational events, trainings and workshops.
- Will host two online promotional events, one for supporting organizations and one open to all, August.

Outreach

Getting the word out about the website, training, field days, and virtual meetings.

- Progreen Conference, February
 - Update on Native Grass Manual.
 - Panel of Landscape Contractors – Lessons learned from contractors who did native grass projects in 2023.
- Leverage email interest list at coloradonativegrass.org (350 contacts), ongoing

Landscape Contractor Training

Offering step-by-step training on native grass installation and maintenance.

- Northern Colorado (Fort Collins, Greeley, Boulder, Berthoud), August
- Colorado Springs, March and July

Project Site Visit Field Days

Hosting in-person events to visit native grass projects and share lessons learned.

- Colorado Springs, July 26
- Fort Collins/Northern Water, August 23

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Skill Development

Fostering collaboration and education through periodic virtual and in-person meetings with updates, short educational presentation, and time for discussion.

Table 1: 2024 Schedule of Educational Events

Date	Activity	Number of Contacts
1/30/2024	Progreen Presentation – Update on the Native Grass Website and Guide	250
1/30/2024	Progreen Presentation – Lessons Learn from Landscape Contractors on Native Grass Projects	250
3/6/2024	Online Topic – Wildfire Risk and Native Grasses	191
3/8/2024	Landscape Contractor Training, Colorado Springs Utilities – Native Grass Installation and Maintenance	35
4/17/2024	Online Topic – Irrigation Improvements for Native Grass Projects	212
5/15/2024	Online Topic – Dealing with Existing Vegetation	72
7/24/2024	Online Topic – Weed Management in Native Grass Projects	55
7/26/2024	Native Grass Workshop, Colorado Springs Utilities	90
8/14/2024	Review Native Grass Website for Funding Partners	16
8/22/2024	Train the Trainer Event, Facilitating Native Grass Capacity Building in Your Community	15
8/23/2024	Native Grass Workshop, Northern Water, Fort Collins, Greeley	60
9/25/2024	Estimating Water Savings for Native Grass Projects	
10/16/2024	Review Native Grass Website for the Native Grass Working Group	
11/13/2024	Considering the Needs of Your Trees	
	Subtotal as of 8/28/2024	1,246

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Draft Operating Agreement – Colorado Native Grass Website

Effective until December 31, 2027

Primary Contact: Catherine Moravec, Water Conservation Lead, Colorado Springs Utilities,
cmoravec@csu.org

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Definitions

- [Colorado Native Grass Website](#) (also referred to as the “Native Grass Website”) is the final product of the Water Plan Grant effort, posted at coloradonativegrass.org.
- [Colorado Guide to Native Grass Installation and Maintenance](#) is the free pdf “native grass manual” contains detailed information on best practices.
- [Native Grass Working Group](#) is an informal collaboration of water and landscape professionals to share knowledge, approaches, learning, and insights related to irrigated native grass projects and programs in Colorado.
- [Colorado Native Grass Website Project Steering Committee](#) (also referred to as the “Steering Committee”) is the group of people who led and managed the Native Grass Website project.
- [Native Grass Website Committee](#) is the group of people who will lead the stewardship and maintenance of the Native Grass Website long-term.

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Project Background

Description

The Colorado Native Grass Website is an independent educational website about using native grasses in irrigated landscape settings, both in retrofit projects and new construction. It is supported by a partnership of Colorado water providers (listed on [page 7](#)) and Colorado WaterWise.

It contains free information, photo galleries, interactive tools, project case studies, and resources to help users be more successful when installing and maintaining native grasses in business, commercial, and institutional settings.

The website supports water providers and stakeholders who are incentivizing retrofitted water-wise, living landscapes through Turfgrass Replacement Programs by providing education and inspiration, as well as consistent guidance on best practices seeking to implement a project.

Purpose

Traditional landscaping approaches have resulted in many Colorado communities using 30 to 50 percent of their annual water use to irrigate landscapes. This is not sustainable with population growth and climate change impacts straining water supplies.

Colorado communities need to find better approaches to landscaping. Landscapes provide tremendous economic and environmental benefits, while supporting human well-being. Unplanted rock and artificial turf are not suitable alternatives.

Native and water-wise grasses have become a viable water conservation measure, especially for replacement of high-water turfgrass in large commercial and municipal landscapes. But current native grass installation and maintenance best practices are not widespread, current projects have many points of failure, and there is not a common skill set among landscape professionals and project managers.

The Native Grass Website and the Colorado Guide to Native Grass Installation and Maintenance seek to distill best known steps into actionable procedures, create usable resources, and educate landscape owners/managers along with landscape industry professionals. This resource is critical to enable successful large-scale, non-essential turfgrass replacement in Colorado.

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This effort aligns with the Aug 24, 2022 Memorandum of Understanding among Colorado River Basin Municipal and Public Water Providers, which defined actionable commitments to water conservation actions. Native grasses provide a sustainable, low-water alternative to non-essential turfgrass and support vibrant, water-wise communities.

Website Objectives

1. Document consistent, expert guidance, and best practices to maximize project success. Identify common causes of failure, potential risks, and provide guidance to improve outcomes.
2. Provide usable tools for landscape professionals, project managers, program managers, and associated parties involved in decisions and oversight of grass projects.
3. Include case studies to showcase options, costs vs. benefits, and water/maintenance savings.
4. Communicate options for different ecological regions.

Target Audiences

Stakeholders who are involved in larger-scale native grass projects, such as:

- Landscape contractors
- HOA board members
- Municipal, campus, and parks staff
- Facilities and ground managers
- Project managers
- Water conservation professionals

The website currently focuses on larger-scale projects due to the larger volumes of potential water savings available. In the future, the content may be adapted to a homeowner audience through a website enhancement project.

Scope of Website Content

The scope of the website content is limited to the description contained in the document titled, “Call for Proposals – Native Grass Website,” dated 10/06/2023.

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Guiding Principles

- The website should be maintained as a standalone URL at coloradonativegrass.org.
- Users, including entities and citizens of Colorado, should be able to access the information free of charge (not through membership fees or dues).
- Other organizations may link to the website, but the website should contain links to supporting partner organizations, educational organizations, and non-profit or not-for-profit organizations only. Referrals to material or service providers should be done through other means.
- The information should remain current and accurate from a water conservation and horticultural perspective. The recommendations and best practices may change as our understanding evolves through gaining more experience.

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Website Maintenance Plan

Governance Structure

The website will be supported by a group called the “Native Grass Website Committee (Website Committee),” with up to seven members total. Members should have professional training and experience in horticulture, landscape transformation, or landscape water conservation.

The Website Committee will be composed of the individuals listed below, or a designee from their organization. If an organization chooses not to appoint a representative, their seat may be filled by an at-large member for a one-year, renewable term and must be approved by majority vote of the Website Committee.

- Catherine Moravec, Colorado Springs Utilities
- Bea Stratton, Denver Water
- Lance Ackerman, Colorado Springs Utilities
- Lyndsey Lucia, Northern Water/Colorado WaterWise
- Frank Kinder, Northern Water
- Dr. Tony Koski, Colorado State University
- Ruth Quade, City of Greeley/Colorado WaterWise

The Website Committee will have the following responsibilities:

- Hold quarterly meetings to do the following:
 - Review user analytics.
 - Review, approve, and publish proposed content updates to the website and the Colorado Native Grass Guide to allow these resources to evolve as our understanding of best practices and recommendations improve.
 - Contract technical support services for ongoing maintenance and repairs.
 - Evaluate, approve, and implement proposed enhancements.
 - Document meeting notes, including discussion topics, decisions, and action items.
- Accomplish the following annually:
 - Secure funding to pay for expenses, including Colorado WaterWise administrative time.
 - Maintain domain name/hosting services and plugin subscriptions.
 - Manage website administrative accounts (Wordpress).
 - Determine committee members.
- As needed:
 - Amend and renew operating agreement.
 - Manage dispute resolution.

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- Other tasks required to maintain and support a dynamic website.

Colorado WaterWise will have the following responsibilities, to be accomplished by Website Committee Members who are Colorado WaterWise Board members and/or the Colorado WaterWise Administrator:

- Maintain an accurate record of income and expenses related to the website.
- Invoice organizations for website maintenance funds.
- Hold funds contributed by partner organizations for site maintenance.
- Work to execute and maintain records of photo agreements posted on the website.
- Pay expenses as needed.

Website Content

All website content was created by the Colorado Native Grass Website Project Steering Committee. Content contributors will retain the right to use the content for other uses outside of the Native Grass Website.

Photo Agreements

All website photos were provided by the Colorado Native Grass Website Project Steering Committee member organizations and individuals. The organizations and individuals will have signed photo agreements with Colorado WaterWise. These agreements will allow the photos to be used for the Native Grass Website and allow Native Grass Website Committee supporting organizations and individuals to use the photos for other uses at their discretion.

Operating Agreement Period

The terms of this Agreement will be active from signing through 12/31/2027. At the end of this period, the agreement may be amended and renewed, or terminated for periods of three-years. The Native Grass Website Committee will determine how to amend and/or renew this agreement through majority vote. If an organization wishes to withdraw its support, they may do so at the end of the operating agreement even if other partner organizations plan to renew the agreement.

If the agreement is terminated, Colorado Springs Utilities will assume responsibility for the website's support and maintenance.



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Dispute Resolution

Disputes will be resolved by the Website Committee through majority vote.

Signatories of Partner Organizations

[Name, Organization, Date]

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Requesting signatures from the following organizations:

- Colorado Springs Utilities
- Colorado WaterWise
- Denver Water
- Northern Water
- City of Greeley

Statement of Work

DATE: January 10, 2024
CLIENT: Colorado WaterWise
PROJECT: Colorado Native Grass Website Design & Development

OVERVIEW

Colorado WaterWise (“Client”) has engaged with Vermilion Inc. (“Vermilion”) to design and develop a new website for the Colorado Native Grass Working Group. This Statement of Work addresses and outlines the scope, deliverables, timeline, cost estimate, and terms and conditions in relation to the Native Grass Website proposal delivered on November 15, 2023.

SCOPE

DISCOVER

- **Desk Research** - Vermilion will facilitate desk research, reviewing available site user data, existing materials and reports, and other resources provided by the Client team.
- **Kickoff Workshop** - Vermilion will facilitate a group workshop with the key Client and agency teams to build rapport, hear needs in the Client’s own words, explore the assignment at hand, and set the path for the work to follow.
- **Project Timeline** - Vermilion will provide a detailed week-by-week schedule after the kickoff meeting that outlines each major milestone leading to the site launch.
- **Strategic Project Brief** - Vermilion will create a discovery recap that confirms the assignment, insights, audiences, and key goals to drive the ongoing creative strategy for your new brand and website.

ARCHITECT

- **Sitemap** - Vermilion will review and confirm the Client-provided Sitemap. Any additional Sitemap work will be scoped separately, with Client approval.
- **Wireframes** - Based on the Sitemap and the Client’s initial content planning work, Vermilion will identify core pages that will require unique page design considerations. We will create page content outlines to gain alignment on-page content, structure, and UX before applying design. Based on initial discussions, this scope includes the anticipated 6 wireframed page templates (our initial understanding is listed below). This is subject to change and refinement as the site’s strategy is solidified, and additional pages will be scoped on a time and materials basis, with Client approval.
 - Homepage
 - Native Grass Options
 - Take Action
 - Tools & Templates
 - TBD Template
 - Default Page Template (Case Studies, Learn, About Us)

- **Grass-Type Selection Tool** - Vermilion will collaborate with the Client team to develop and finalize a Logic Flow Map for the site's Grass-Type Selection Tool. This process will establish the sequence of steps that will cause users to land on the appropriate results based on their selections.
- **Intuitive CMS + Plugins** - The website will be built on an intuitive CMS platform (WordPress) and all supporting plugins will be documented within the functional specifications. On the day prior to launch (while all site content is on a 'freeze'), Vermilion will update the CMS and all plugins to the latest versions.
- **Functional Specifications Document** - Vermilion will capture all necessary and desired features into a written summary, describing expectations for performance and functionality. During the Discover phase of this project, Vermilion will introduce an initial first draft. Over the following weeks, we will focus on finalizing this document to specify functional requirements for the website. Based on initial discussions, we've included known and anticipated technical integrations below. Note that this is subject to change as the site's content strategy is solidified, and additional website functionality requirements will be rescoped on a time and materials basis, with Client approval. Current functionality outlined in this scope includes:
 - Grass-Type Selection Tool
 - Case Studies (GIS Story Map)
 - Links to Microsoft form for email sign-ups
 - Links to existing Water Savings Calculator

DESIGN

- **Website Design Exploration + Concepting** - To establish a compelling and strategic look and feel for the new site, Vermilion will use insights from the Discover and Architect phases and leverage the current brand materials to create up to two design concept directions for the Homepage. This scope includes a single concept chosen and one round of refinements to the winning concept. Vermilion will work closely with the Client team for final design approvals before beginning the Development work.
 - Vermilion will work with the Client team to identify which photo and video assets work best based on the new site content strategy and facilitate the procurement of stock assets as needed. Depending on the amount of support needed to identify stock photography options additional billing may be needed on a time and materials basis. Any purchase of stock images will be billed separately with Client approval.
- **Website Design Extension** - The selected design concept will then be refined and applied throughout the remaining six core page templates and will be subject to up to one round of revisions. Additional page designs or revisions outside of scope will be billed on a time and material basis, with Client approval.
- **Website Styleguide** - The site's design will be codified in a Styleguide document to establish and maintain an overarching visual site theme through typography, color, and photos.

DEVELOP & LAUNCH

- **Back and Front-End Development** - Vermilion will use WordPress to develop the new website. The development and design teams will work closely with the creative and Client teams to ensure design and functionality integrity during the development, utilizing and fulfilling the Functional Specifications Document. Vermilion will utilize the finalized Logic Flow Map to develop and test the Grass Type Selection Tool.

- **Training + Technical Documentation** - We work collaboratively to ensure the website is easy to use for the administrators of the website in the backend. Major content areas will be editable, and elements of the theme will include options in line with the design guide. We'll conduct a recorded video meeting to train the Client team on backend capabilities.
- **Content Population** - Following the CMS training, the Client team will take the lead on content migration and content population into the new website CMS.
 - Vermilion anticipates the addition of copywriting and copyediting services for the new website. This portion of work is not currently reflected in this Statement of Work and will be scoped separately when we have a clear understanding of the content needs.
- **Quality Assurance (QA)** - The website will support the latest versions of Chrome, Safari, Edge, and Firefox that are current on the day of launch. We test across mobile and desktop viewport widths from 320 pixels to 1920 pixels to ensure the site behaves well responsively and is optimized for mobile viewing.
 - Vermilion will lead QA efforts for all content, functionality, and design. Once complete, the Client team will conduct a final check for content, functionality, and design. Vermilion and the Client team will track QA task items through a shared Google spreadsheet in the weeks leading up to launch.
- **Accessibility** - Vermilion will design and develop the site in adherence to the Accessibility Standards outlined in the proposal.
- **Launch** - Once the site has been thoroughly tested and approved, Vermilion will manage the deployment process to safely move code and database from the staging environment into the production site.
- **Immediate Post-Launch Support** - In the days immediately following launch, Vermilion will assist with any bugs or issues encompassed within the functionality detailed in the specifications document. A retainer for ongoing site maintenance will be set up when the website is launched, with Client approval.

TRACK

- **Best Practices** - Vermilion will work to establish clear website goals before the site launch and ensure that the website's design and development support these success metrics to the best of our ability.
- **Analytics + SEO Setup** - Vermilion will create an analytics profile, add tracking codes and pixels, configure SEO plugins, set up Google Data Studio, run SEO checks, and perform SEO/Analytics QA for the new website.

DELIVERABLES

- Project Timeline
- Strategic Project Brief
- 6 Wireframed Templates
- Functional Specifications Documentation
- 2 Homepage Design Concepts
- 6 Page Template Designs
- Website Styleguide
- Front and Back-End Development of 6 Page Templates
 - Custom Grass-Type Selection Tool

- QA and Testing
- CMS Training and Documentation
- SEO & Analytics Setup

TIMELINE

This project timeline represents an anticipated 5-6 months and assumes a project kickoff in January 2024. This timeline is an estimate only and is subject to revision in the event of delays not reasonably foreseeable by Vermilion.

COST ESTIMATE & BILLING MILESTONES

DISCOVER	\$5,300
ARCHITECT	\$10,600
DESIGN & DEVELOP	\$29,100
GRASS-TYPE SELECTION TOOL	\$4,300
LAUNCH	\$3,200
TRACK	\$1,800
TOTAL	\$54,300

Billing Milestones



- Colorado Native Grass Website
 - \$9,050 - billed upon signing of SOW - January 2024
 - \$9,050 - billed February 2024
 - \$9,050 - billed March 2024
 - \$9,050 - billed April 2024
 - \$9,050 - billed May 2024
 - \$9,050 - billed June 2024 or upon completion

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The Client agrees to provide any requested in-house information, documents, data, existing research, art or graphic files, branding guidelines, and/or other company assets (this may include logos and any branding assets).
2. The Client represents that it has all necessary rights to permit Vermilion to use such materials as provided in this Statement of Work ("SOW") and agrees to indemnify and hold Vermilion harmless against any claims or liabilities arising from materials provided by the Client.
3. The Client will appoint a main point of contact who will help guide the reviews and approvals, whether verbally, written, or by email, within the timing of the project schedule provided. Vermilion may rely on authorizations and direction provided by such a contact person.
4. This estimate does not include the following incremental costs: custom or stock photography, video production, illustration, printing costs, travel, applicable sales tax, or usage rights to any software or font licenses. These will be quoted and approved before expenditure.
5. In the event of late payment, work may be halted until full payment is received. Accounts not paid within terms may be subject to a 1.5% monthly finance charge.
6. This SOW represents estimates of the amount of work it will take to accomplish the project to everyone's satisfaction. Any additional work beyond that quoted in this agreement will be scoped, quoted, and approved before expenditure, at Vermilion's hourly rate. Quotes for revision fees and expenses (outside of the scope above) will be provided before the initiation of the requested work.
7. Title and rights to assets and work produced under this SOW shall not be transferred to the Client until all related invoices are paid in full.
8. Cancellation During Project Execution: If the Client terminates the project or our services during the project execution, the project shall be billed based on the work completed to date, time for related tasks required for the separation of work, expenses incurred, and a project termination fee. The fees shall be calculated as follows:
 - a. The Client shall pay for all completed work, expenses, and hours worked by Vermilion up to the date of cancellation at our Standard Hourly Rate.
 - b. The Client shall pay for Vermilion's time associated with any necessary reconciliation, file delivery, or related tasks required for the separation of work at our Standard Hourly Rate. Any costs incurred due to these tasks shall be paid by the Client.
 - c. The Client shall reimburse Vermilion for any expenses incurred and any third-party contractual obligations entered into by the Agency on behalf of the Client up to the date of cancellation.
 - d. The Client shall pay a project termination fee calculated as the lesser of a.) Ten percent (10%) of the total estimated project costs; or b.) The remaining balance of estimated work that is not yet completed or delivered at the time of cancellation.
9. While Vermilion will exercise all reasonable care and diligence in the creation and production of materials for its Clients, the ultimate responsibility for the accuracy and content rests with the Client.
10. All work provided by Vermilion shall conform to the written specifications provided in this SOW and shall be provided in a workmanlike fashion, with no less diligence or expertise as is customary for services of this type.
11. All other warranties, whether express or implied, are hereby disclaimed including warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose.
12. The Client's sole remedy in the event of any breach of the foregoing warranties shall be the reperformance of the affected work. In no event shall either party be liable for punitive, special, consequential, incidental, or indirect damages of any kind.
13. Vermilion agrees that Client information shall be held and treated in confidence at all times.
14. Vermilion agrees to not reproduce or make copies of any information except as may be expressly permitted by the Client.

15. This SOW may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, and which together shall be considered one instrument. Signatures transmitted electronically shall be deemed to be originals.
16. These provisions shall survive termination of this SOW.
17. This SOW shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the law of the State of Colorado, without regard to choice or conflict of law issues. The parties hereto agree that any legal action under this SOW shall be brought only in courts located in the State of Colorado and the parties submit to exclusive jurisdiction and venue of such courts. The prevailing party in any legal action shall be entitled to recover its costs and expenses of such action, including reasonable attorneys' fees, from the non-prevailing party.

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES

	COLORADO WATERWISE	VERMILION INC.
Signature:		
Name:	Alyssa Quinn	Kate Mason
Title:	Co-Chair	Senior Account Manager
Date:	1/18/2024	January 11, 2024

STATE OF
COLORADO

Spann - DNR She Her, Laura <laura.spann@state.co.us>

Native Grass Manual Website, PAY REQUEST No. 5, CWCB POGG1 2023-3583

Catherine Moravec <cmoravec@csu.org>

Wed, Sep 25, 2024 at 9:43 PM

To: "Spann - DNR She Her, Laura" <laura.spann@state.co.us>, Colorado WaterWise
<admin@coloradowaterwise.org>

Hi Laura and Melissa,

Indeed, Vermilion is 100% complete with their work and it was all accepted. In mid-July we created a punchlist document for issue resolution, which was all completed before launch on July 23.

Let me know if there's any documentation or other information I can provide to help.

Thank you,
Catherine

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Spann - DNR She Her, Laura <laura.spann@state.co.us>

Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2024 2:23:02 PM

To: Colorado WaterWise <admin@coloradowaterwise.org>

Cc: Catherine Moravec <cmoravec@csu.org>

Subject: Re: Native Grass Manual Website, PAY REQUEST No. 5, CWCB POGG1 2023-3583

[External Email - Be careful! DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email.]

[Quoted text hidden]

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Colorado Springs Utilities
It's how we're all connected

Native Grass Workshop

Colorado Springs Utilities
July 26, 2024



Agenda

1. Intros and facility orientation
2. Why native grass?
3. The vision
4. Resources
5. Logistics

Welcome!

- Our staff
- Bathrooms
- Parking lots
- Demonstration Garden
- Conservation Center Lobby

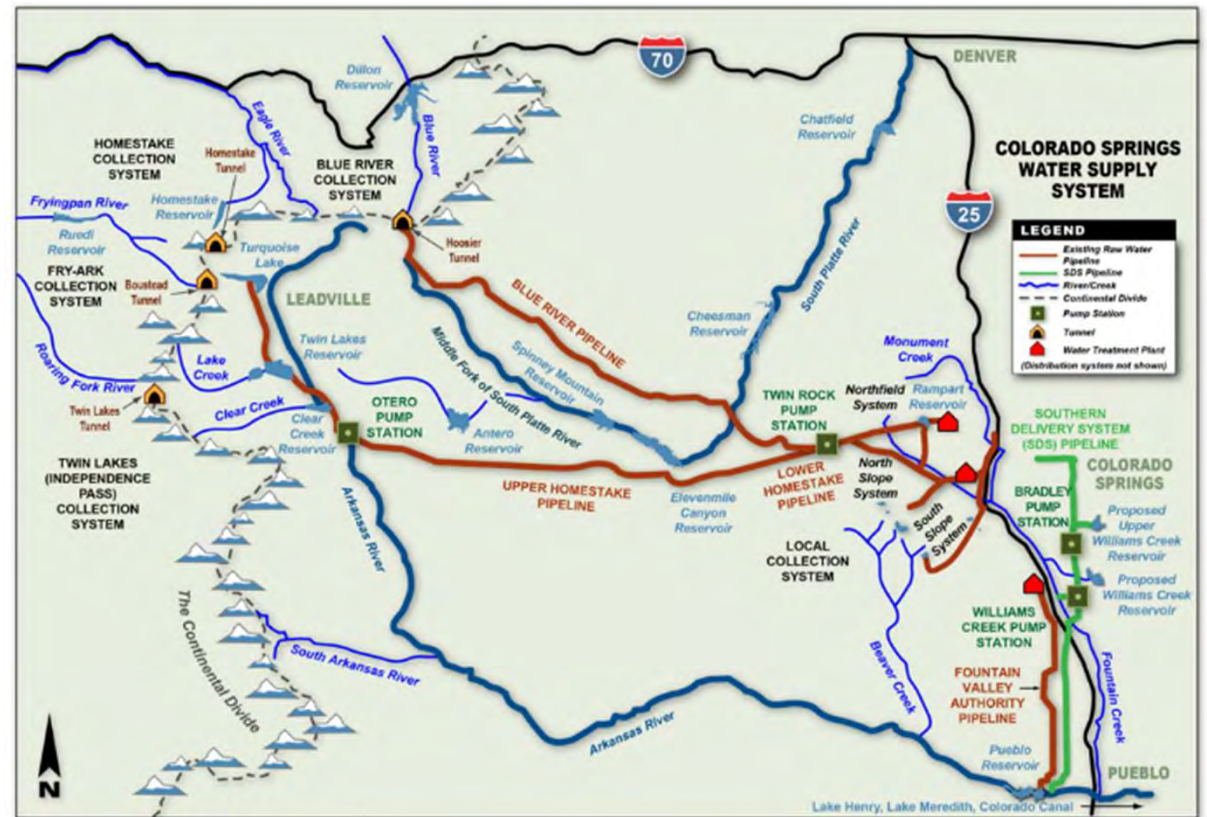


Why Native Grass?

The Front Range has always been water short.



Snowmelt is our primary water source.



What are Water Providers Facing?

Increasing challenges to deliver reliable and affordable water supplies to their rate payers.



Conditions Driving Change

- Prolonged drought
- Population growth
- Climate change impacts
 - Higher temperatures
 - Higher evapotranspiration
 - Heat waves
 - More intense weather events
- More scrutiny

Major municipal water providers act on Colorado River crisis^[OBJ]

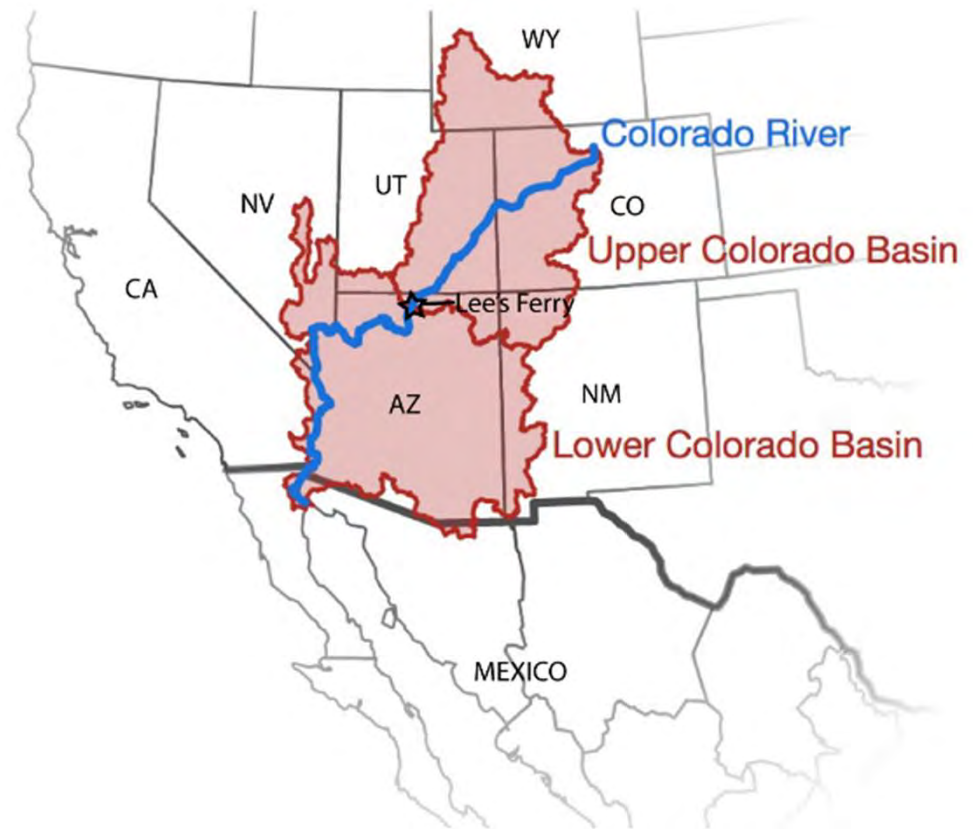
By Denver Water

Editor's note: We are sharing on TAP this **important Aug. 24 announcement** from major water providers in Colorado and other states that rely on the Colorado River. **Subscribe to TAP** to stay up to date on water issues affecting the metro area and the West.



The Colorado River Crisis

- Supports 40 million people.
- Worst drought in 1,200 years.
- Powell and Mead are at critically low levels.
- Business as usual is not an option.



Projected Statewide Water Supply Gap

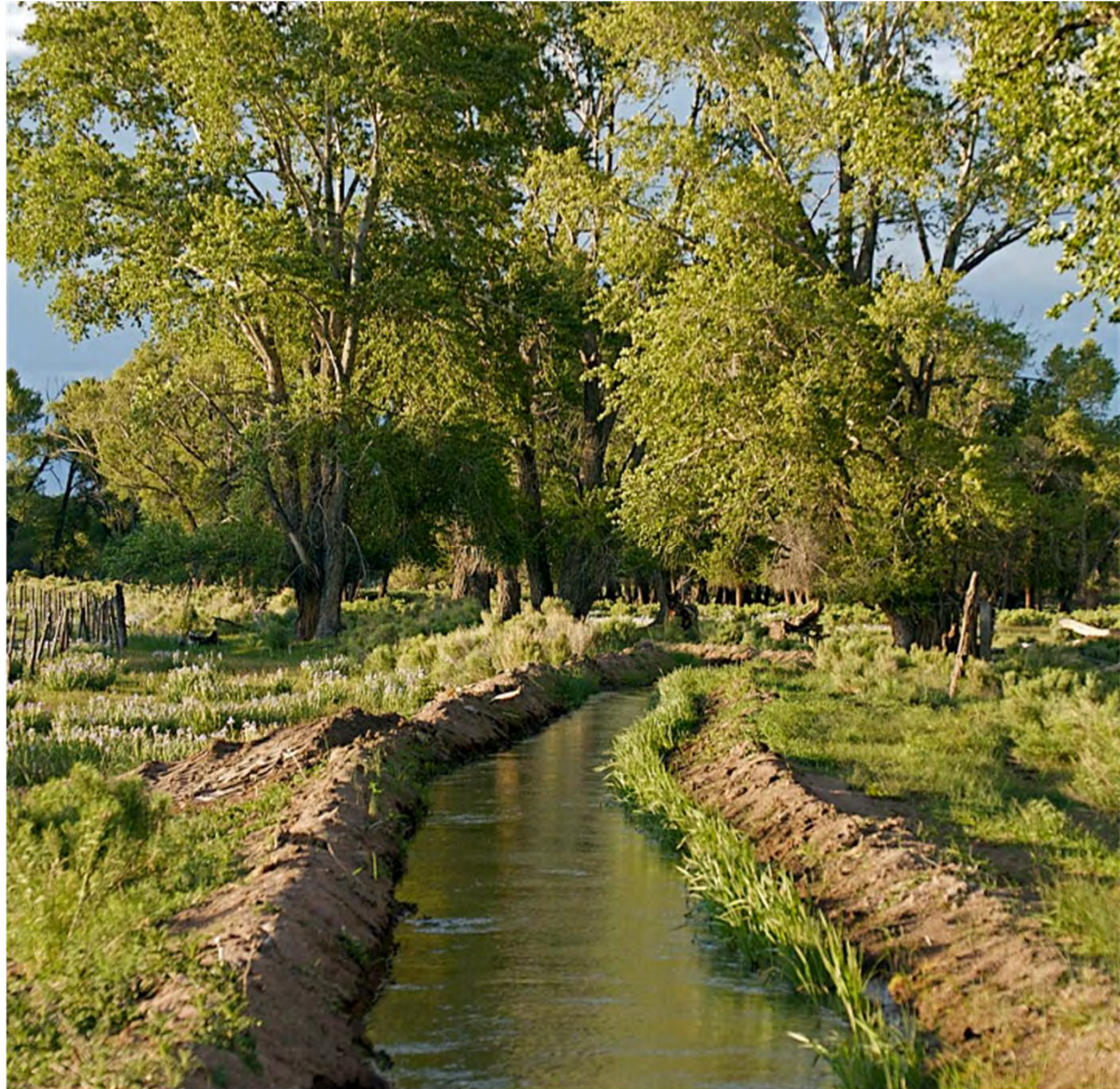
- Ranges from 230,000 to 740,000 acre feet per year.
- Each water provider is working to address their community's potential gap.



Where will cities get more water?

Gap will be met through:

- Irrigated agriculture (sharing or transfer)
- Reuse
- Storage
- Conservation



Why is Landscape Irrigation Targeted?

- Very visible.
- Consumptive use vs. reusable.
- Landscape watering is discretionary.



Living landscape sustain our communities.



Landscapes provide tremendous value.



Economic

Environmental

Human Health

But they depend on irrigation.

Reducing water waste and water management are key solutions.



Colorado Springs Utilities

**We need to find a different
way to landscape our
communities**

Colorado Non-Functional Turfgrass Legislation

SB 24-005 now prohibits local governments and HOAs from installing new non-functional turfgrass in the following property types:

- Commercial
- Institutional
- Industrial
- Transportation corridors



Colorado Non-Functional Turfgrass Legislation

Defines non-functional turfgrass as “purely ornamental” and located in an area “that is not regularly used for civic, community, or recreational purposes.”

Does not apply to residential properties.



Rock and artificial turf are not long-term solutions.



Plant beds and xeriscapes are limited by cost.



A new approach to landscaping in Colorado

- Affordable
- Maintainable
- Beautiful
- Ecologically functional
- Scalable

Photo Credit:
Joan Sapp,
Professional
Landscaper

Colorado Springs Utilities



Native Grass will Play A Central Role

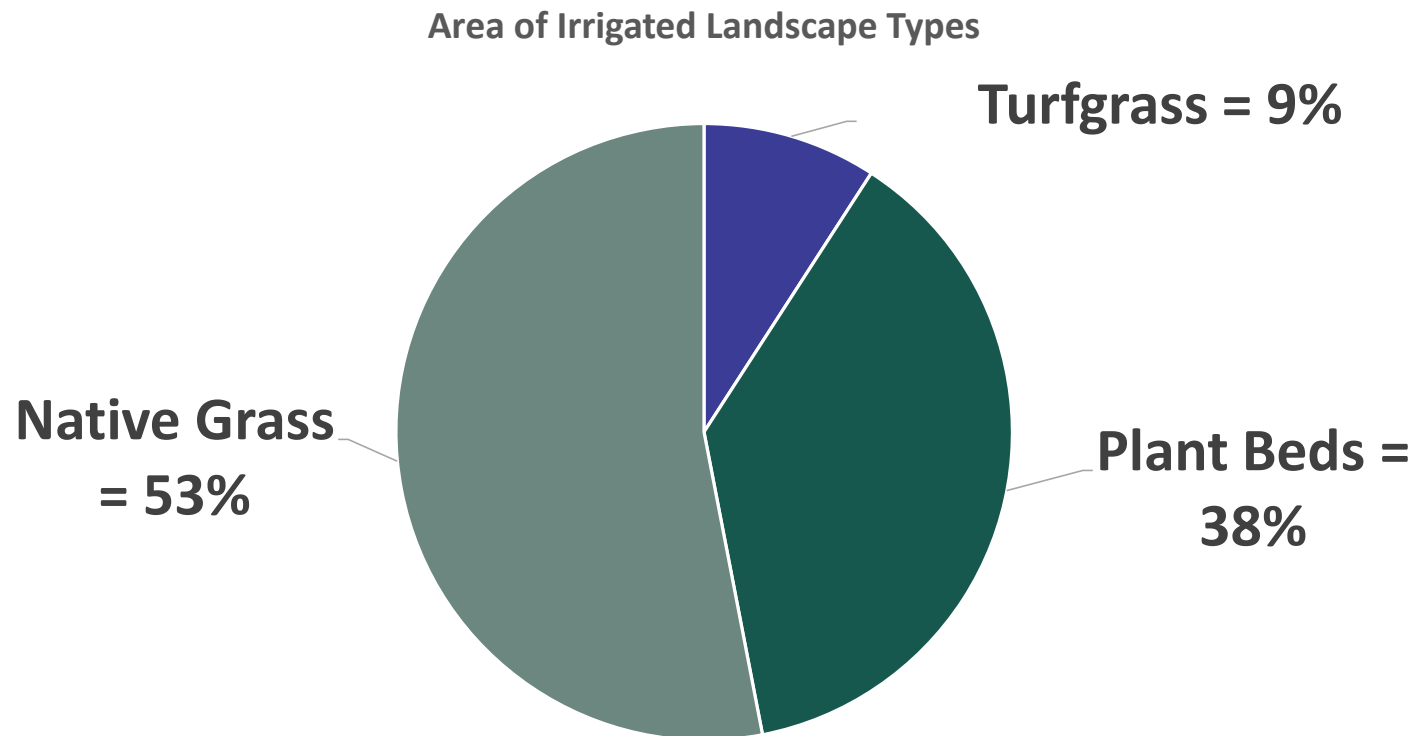
Good groundcover for low-traffic areas.

Cost effective to install and maintain.

Drought resilient.



Colorado Springs' Future Landscapes

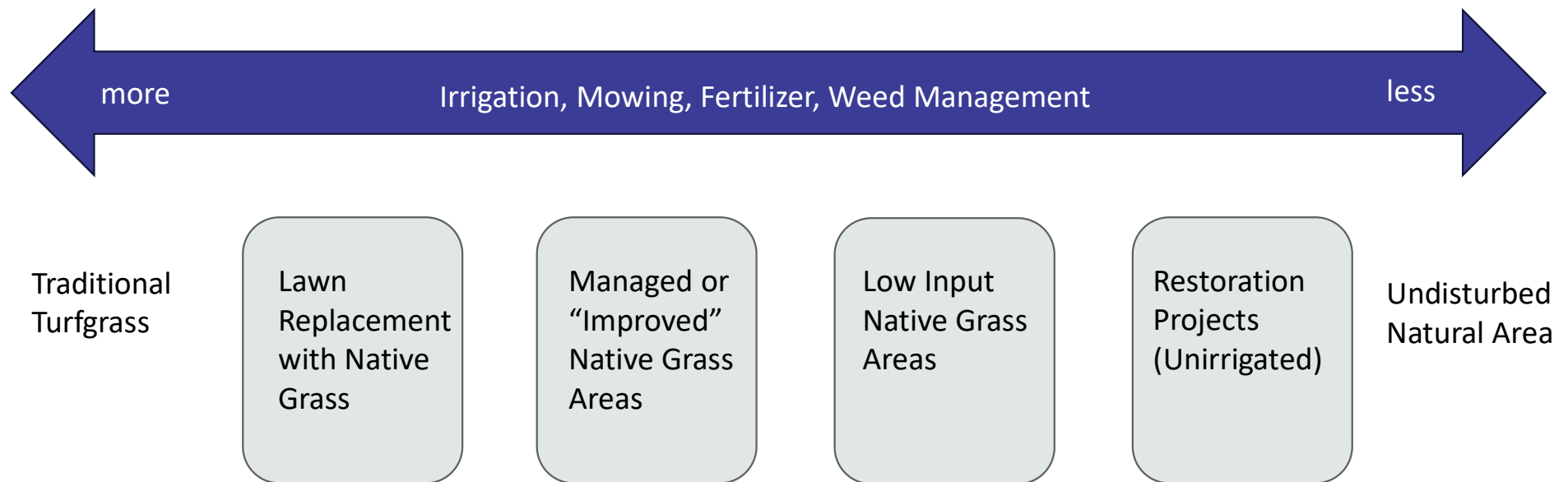


81 projects designed to cover 143 acres of irrigated landscape in new developments.

Source: City of Colorado Springs, Colorado Springs Utilities

Colorado Springs Utilities

Native grass projects can span a spectrum of inputs.



“High-Input” Native

- “Native” areas can end up being cared for like turfgrass.
- Low grow mixes of turfgrasses cannot perform with fewer inputs.



“No-Input” Native

- Where is the best place to site these types of projects?
- Does this fit in a high visibility area?

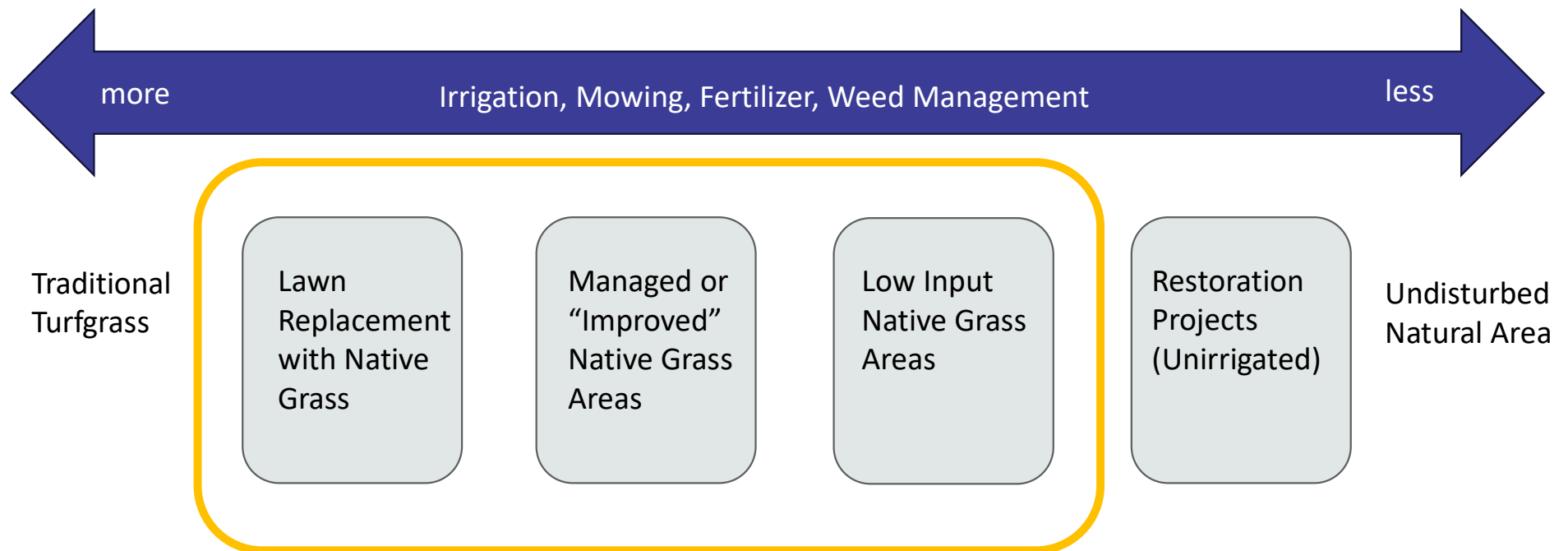


“No-Input” Native

- 50% bare soil (or more) is common.
- Brown when hot or dry.



Native grass projects can span a spectrum of inputs.



Native grasses can be uniform and tidy.



Native grasses can be beautiful.



Native grasses can survive and thrive with fewer inputs.



Native grasses can survive and thrive with fewer inputs.



Native grasses can honor Colorado's natural beauty.



Native grasses can offer ecological services.



Native grasses can cover large, low-use areas.



Resources

Native grass projects can be challenging.

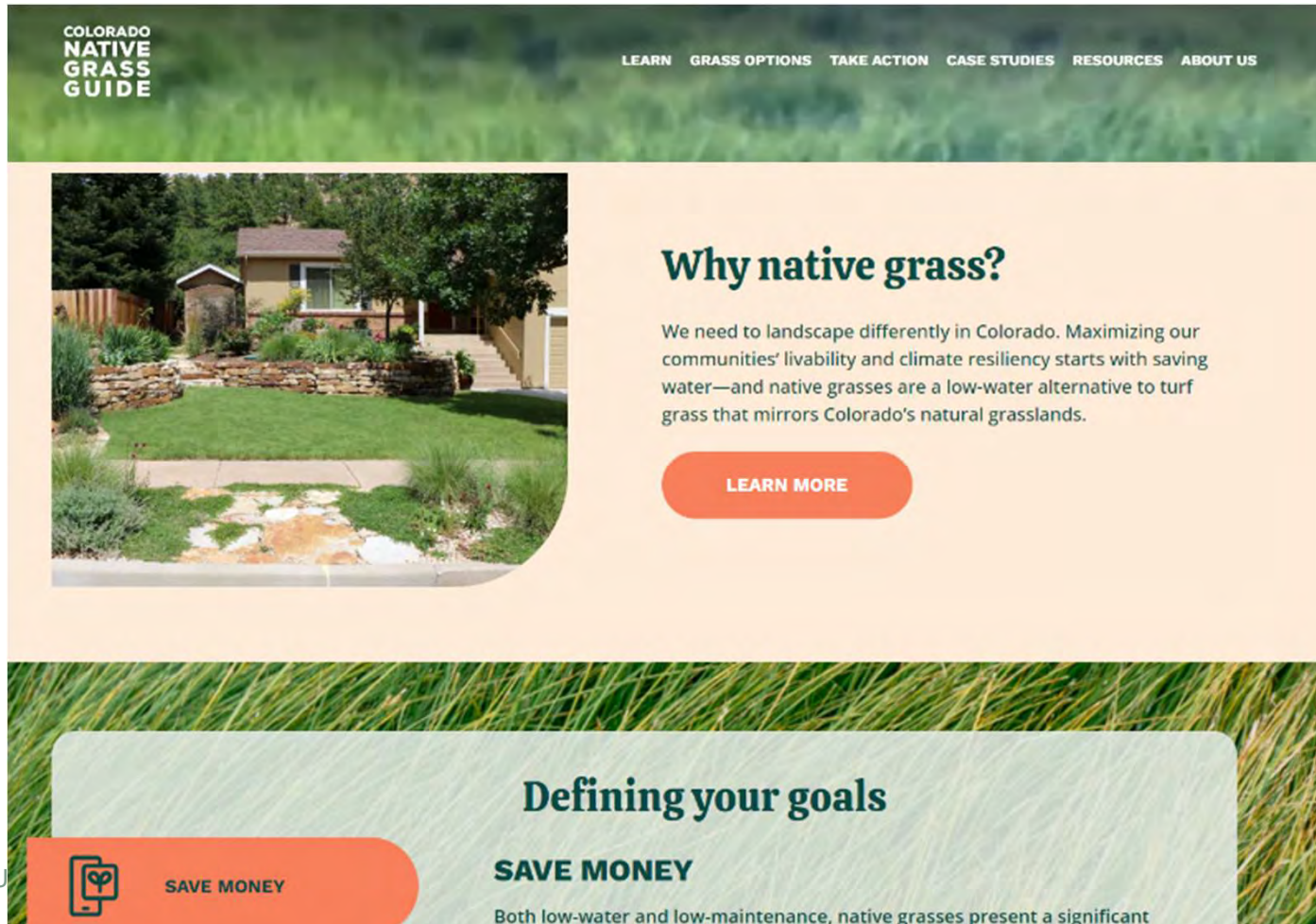


Native Grass Working Group Formed in 2022.

- Document best practices and fundamental principles of successful projects.
- Consulted with professionals.
- Gathered case studies.
- Guide and resources at coloradonativegrass.org.



Visit our new website at coloradonativegrass.org.



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Colorado Native Grass Guide website. The header features the site's name in the top left and a navigation menu in the top right. The main content area is divided into two sections: 'Why native grass?' with a photo of a lawn and a 'Learn More' button, and 'Defining your goals' with a 'Save Money' button and text about the benefits of native grasses.

COLORADO NATIVE GRASS GUIDE

LEARN GRASS OPTIONS TAKE ACTION CASE STUDIES RESOURCES ABOUT US

Why native grass?

We need to landscape differently in Colorado. Maximizing our communities' livability and climate resiliency starts with saving water—and native grasses are a low-water alternative to turf grass that mirrors Colorado's natural grasslands.

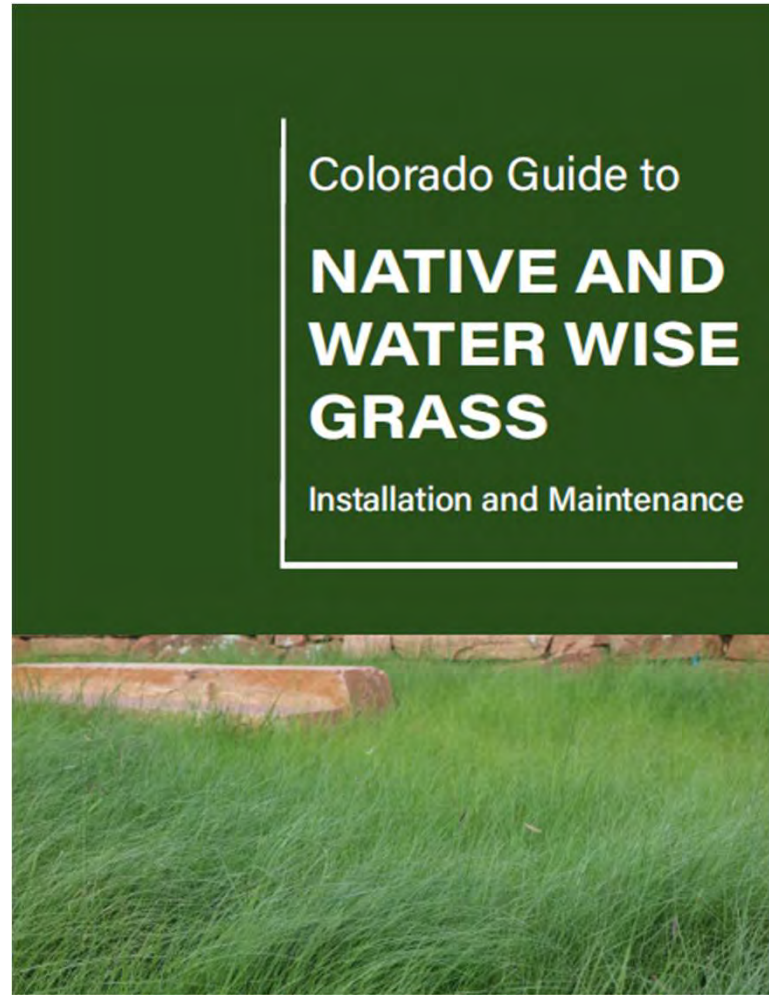
LEARN MORE

Defining your goals

SAVE MONEY

Both low-water and low-maintenance, native grasses present a significant

**The downloadable
manual has the
details.**





Colorado Springs Utilities[®]
It's how we're all connected

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Partnership of Colorado Water Agencies Launches New Website to Promote Sustainable Landscaping

Colorado – **Month date, 2024** – Colorado Water Wise, Native Grass Working Group and a coalition of [water and climate agencies](#) are excited to announce the launch of a new website, designed to provide landscape professionals, property owners/managers, and environmental enthusiasts with comprehensive resources on sustainable landscaping using native grasses.

The new website, coloradonativegrass.org, offers a wealth of information on the benefits of incorporating native grasses into irrigated landscaping projects in urban and suburban areas. Visitors can explore guidance on various native grass species, learn about their benefits, and find practical tips for project planning, planting and maintenance.

Key features of the website include:

- **Species Profiles:** In-depth information on native grass species, including their growth habits, appearance, benefits, water savings potential, and site requirements.
- **Project Planning Tips:** Practical advice on how to install and maintain native grass in irrigated landscapes for long-term success.
- **Detailed Planning Guide:** A downloadable pdf file that covers the best practices for native grass installation and maintenance in landscape settings.
- **Photo Gallery:** See images of Colorado projects that feature native grasses in low-maintenance landscapes.
- **Community Resources:** A section dedicated to connecting professionals with educational events focused on landscaping with native grasses.

“We are thrilled to launch this new platform to support water wise landscaping with native grasses,” said Catherine Moravec of Colorado Springs Utilities. “Our goal is to empower communities to implement climate resilient landscape projects that provide multiple benefits and protect the long-term sustainability of Colorado’s water supplies.”

For more information, visit www.coloradonativegrass.org or contact Catherine Moravec at cmoravec@csu.org.

About the Project Partners: This effort was funded, in part, by a generous Colorado Water Plan Grant. Funding partners include Colorado Springs Utilities, Northern Water, Denver Water, Colorado WaterWise, Denver Office of Climate Action, Sustainability, and Resiliency, Aurora Water, City of Greeley, Western Resource Advocates and Joan Sapp Landscaping, LLC.

The [Project Partners](#) for the Native Grass Website are dedicated to promoting the use of native grasses in landscaping to conserve water, support biodiversity, and create beautiful, climate-resilient landscapes. Through collaboration, education, resources, and community engagement, the partnership aims to inspire water wise landscaping practices across Colorado and beyond.

New Native Grass Website Offers Flexible Lower Water Solutions

Native grasses are gaining prominence as an important water efficiency solution in the west. While such grasses have been in continual use in rural areas, over the last century, western urban development sought to recreate the civic conditions of the east coast, where rich soil and heavy rainfall are common. To achieve the aesthetic, municipalities frequently default to non-native Kentucky Bluegrass.

While turfgrass provides many benefits including simple and affordable installation, ongoing stormwater mitigation, verdant color, drought tolerance and recreational support, it often requires supplemental irrigation and soil treatment. It also needs chemical applications and regular mechanical maintenance to meet appearance expectations. Now, sustained temperature extremes, sustainability mindsets and budget limitations are driving interest in native, water-efficient ground covers to achieve similar goals.



For large contiguous spaces, native grasses are an achievable investment. They offer drought tolerance, reduced resource needs, enhanced ecosystem services and can be designed to suit a variety of site characteristics. While some might picture regional vegetation seen in the mountains as the only native grass choice, there are many beautiful, easy to care for urban options.

As a newer landscape choice, successful design, installation and maintenance of native grass is critical for success in urban environments. To make the process of planning and selection easier, a new interactive [Colorado Native Grass Guide](#) is now available. This guide was created by Front Range Water Providers and [Colorado WaterWise](#), with funding from [Colorado Water Conservation Board](#). The website includes pictures, case studies and filters to determine what options work best for any given location. The platform uses leading industry expertise to offer flexible, customizable guidance on seed type, height, rate, installation method, maintenance, savings potential, important managerial considerations and more.

Native grasses are a natural, sustainable choice reflecting Northern Colorado's vegetation conditions. Northern Water is investing in collaborative resources to enhance landscape, municipal and user knowledge of this critical solution. Keep an eye on our [website](#) for upcoming educational opportunities!

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Newsletters and Updates

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Catherine Moravec

From: Elisabeth Bowman <ebowman@resourcecentral.org>
Sent: Friday, September 20, 2024 8:50 AM
To: Catherine Moravec; Board@coloradowaterwise.org
Subject: Fwd: Colorado Sprinkler Guide - 9/20/24

[External Email - Be careful! DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email.]

FYI: Wanted to share our Colorado Sprinkler Guide's promotion of the Native Grass Guide. Our guide gets sent to anyone who's had a sprinkler evaluation from us in the past.

Best,

Elisabeth D. Bowman

Conservation Engagement Manager
ResourceCentral.org
303-999-3820 x210
Pronouns: [She/Her/Hers](#)



----- Forwarded message -----

From: Resource Central <water@resourcecentral.org>
Date: Fri, Sep 20, 2024 at 8:33 AM
Subject: Colorado Sprinkler Guide - 9/20/24
To: <ebowman@resourcecentral.org>





WEEKLY WATERING RECOMMENDATION

2-3 days
per week

Based on the weather for the past two weeks and the forecast for the next two weeks (it is projected to be hotter and drier over the next 2 weeks compared to normal), **we recommend watering 2-3 days per week for the next 14 days.**

This is a general recommendation based on the expected weather along the Front Range. Depending on your specific area, you may need to water more or less.

This recommendation is only applicable to the watering schedule you received from your Slow the Flow sprinkler inspection. If you no longer have the watering schedule from your inspection, please call 303-999-3824 or email water@resourcecentral.org, and we will resend your schedule.

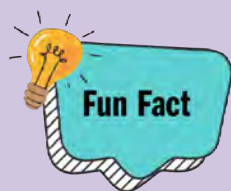


**Seasonal
Tip**

Go Native!

Have you seen the new Colorado Native Grass Guide that was created by [Colorado WaterWise](#) in partnership with Front Range water providers? Native grass requires less water, less mowing, and less fertilization. It also provides habitat for local pollinators and other wildlife. If you have ever considered converting part or all of your turf grass to native grass, this guide can help make your project a success. Check it out by clicking on the link below!

Colorado Native Grass Guide



Kentucky bluegrass is a cool-season grass so it grows best at 60-75 degrees, making fall its time to shine! Most of Colorado's 300+ native grasses, on the other hand, are warm season grasses that grow more dormant in fall.

Elevation, soil type, and sunlight exposure all affect which types of native grass will do best in a local environment. Make sure to research the qualities of different grass species if you're thinking of introducing native grass into your landscape.



WATERWISE YARDS
Your inspiration hub for Colorado landscaping

Looking for design ideas and inspiration to get your lawn removal or xeriscape project started? Check out [WaterwiseYards.org](https://www.waterwiseyards.org) to browse local yard projects and see how easy it can be to replace grass with a beautiful drought-tolerant landscape!

Participate in Our Conservation Programs

[Resource Central](#) is an innovative nonprofit dedicated to helping people save water, reduce waste, and conserve energy. With 40+ years of experience, our programs make it easy to conserve natural resources.

[Lawn Removal](#)

[Garden In A Box](#)

[Waterwise Yard Seminars](#)

[Slow the Flow](#)

[Renew Our Schools](#)

[Materials Reuse](#)

Disclaimer: The proposed changes to your watering schedule contained within this newsletter will be calculated using evapotranspiration data and weather forecasts averaged across the Front Range, and may not be fully accurate for your specific geographical area. By agreeing to receive this newsletter, you understand that all recommended changes to your current watering schedule are simply suggestions. Furthermore, you acknowledge that Resource Central will not be held responsible for any damage to your landscape or irrigation system, nor will Resource Central be liable for covering costs due to an increase in your water bill.



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