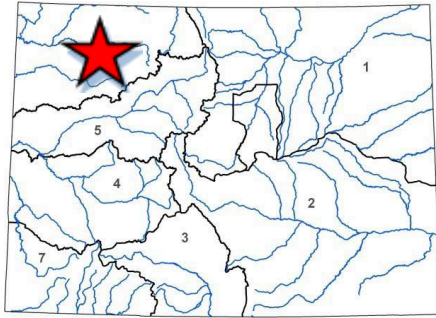




Water Plan Grant Program



LOCATION	
County:	Routt
Basin:	Yampa/White/Green

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$550,000.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$250,000.00
Recommended Amount:	\$250,000.00
Match Commitment:	\$300,000.00
Grant to Match Ratio	45/55
Project Type:	Construction
Primary Project Category:	Conservation & Land Use Planning
Measurable Result:	6 acre-feet/year Efficiency Savings

The City of Steamboat Springs is seeking Colorado Water Plan grant funding to support Phase III of their Smart Irrigation Central Control System project. This project aims to complete irrigation improvements for efficient water distribution across City parks and facilities.

The City of Steamboat Springs is implementing a smart irrigation central control system to manage watering at 49 city-owned sites, including parks, greenbelts, open spaces, and other facilities. The project need and locations were identified in the City's 2020 Water Conservation Plan. Phase I and II of the project focused on high-water usage sites and establishing the controller system, and is estimated to conserve 12 acre-feet of water annually. In 2024 and 2025 upgrades were completed at Emerald Park, Whistler Park, Little Toots Park, Bud Werner Library, West Lincoln Park, Iron Springs Park, Howelsen Hill Complex, Ski Town Park, Memorial Park, the Community Center, and the Stockbridge Transit Center.

This project will allow for the scheduling, monitoring, and management of all city managed irrigation sites from a central location, achieving quantifiable water savings and enhancing drought resiliency. The system schedules customized irrigation based on site specific parameters including soil and vegetation type, intensity of use, seasonality, and current and predicted drought conditions, and uses machine learning to dial in operational efficiency.

It advances the Colorado Water Plan by furthering the vision for Vibrant Communities through implementing strategies for meeting future water needs, wise water use, and healthy lands. It aligns with Water Plan Grant criteria by investing in water efficiency technology and infrastructure to realize long-term water savings in the municipal sector, promoting municipal water conservation, and addressing right-sizing outdoor water use. The Water Conservation Plan has a goal to capitalize on the opportunity for the City to lead by example, conserving water and demonstrating responsible stewardship of the environment.

Grant dollars would be used to purchase and install smart irrigation components at 12 additional sites, including parks, greenbelts, open space, medians, facilities, and right-of-ways. This will involve replacing necessary hardware, wiring, and valves and installing soil moisture sensors to enable daily weather-based irrigation scheduling, remote operation, flow monitoring, and usage forecasting.

Project supporters include the City of Steamboat Springs, Parks & Recreation Commission, Mount Werner Water and Sanitation District, and Yampa Valley Sustainability Council.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends a Water Plan Grant award not to exceed \$250,000.00 to the City of Steamboat Springs for the Smart Irrigation Central Control System Phase III project.