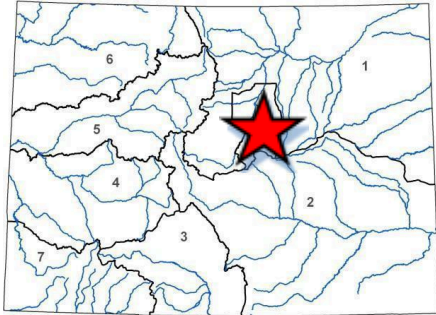




Water Plan Grant Program



LOCATION	
County:	Denver
Basin:	Metro

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$288,762.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$170,687.00
Recommended Amount:	\$0.00
Match Commitment:	\$118,075.00
Grant to Match Ratio:	59/41
Project Type:	Implementation
Primary Project Category:	Conservation & Land Use Planning
Measurable Result:	Unable to evaluate with current project development

With the Colorado Nonprofit Development Center as their fiscal agent, the Neighborhood Resilience Corps is requesting a Colorado Water Plan grant to support Scaling Turf Replacement and Youth Climate Adaptation Workforce in Denver.

The Neighborhood Resilience Corps proposes to pilot a cost-effective process to implement waterwise turf replacement on community-serving land in Denver. The project would involve teaching young people how to remove turf, amend soil, and plant climate-resilient plants and trees, which will both scale turf replacement for climate adaptation and train the next generation of water and climate professionals. If successful, the pilot could serve as a template for other communities to pursue similar turf replacement efforts that simultaneously develop the needed workforce.

Turf replacement properties have not yet been identified. The applicant mentions recruiting education, municipal, and community-serving land property owners to secure ideal turf replacement projects.

Committed project partners are not identified in the application materials. Neighborhood Resilience Corps proposes to engage United Ecology as a contractor and approach Denver Water as a potential financial and technical partner. Partner education or workforce institutions from which to recruit students have not yet been identified.

Project funding is still in flux. The applicant aims to establish a public-private funding cost-share for turf replacement and youth education, where property owners or private philanthropic funders fund 25-30% of the cost and public partners such as CWCB and Denver Water provide the remainder.

In concept, the effort aligns with the Water Plan Grant criteria by building capacity for turf replacement and waterwise landscaping on publicly accessible properties. If successful, the project would advance Water Plan goals around fostering a pipeline of skilled professionals for the state's water sector.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff does not recommend that the Colorado Nonprofit Development Center be awarded a Water Plan Grant for “Scaling Turf Replacement and Youth Climate Adaptation Workforce in Denver” because the application materials did not adequately demonstrate project readiness or feasibility. Because the project sites are not identified, CWCB is unable to evaluate the overall cost-effectiveness of the proposed turf replacement and educational efforts. Relevant project partners associated with the student recruitment and project sites have not yet been identified and committed.