



COLORADO

Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of Applicant | Thompson School District |
| Name of Water Project | Elementary School Low-water Landscaping Projects 2026 |
| Grant Request Amount | \$101,423.00 |
| Primary Category | \$101,423.00 |
| <i>Conservation & Land Use Planning</i> | |
| Total Applicant Match | \$76,825.42 |
| <i>Applicant Cash Match</i> | \$57,765.00 |
| <i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i> | \$19,060.42 |
| Total Other Sources of Funding | \$25,000.00 |
| <i>Northern Water</i> | \$25,000.00 |
| Total Project Cost | \$203,248.42 |

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Thompson School District
Mailing Address: 800 S Taft Ave Loveland CO 80537

Organization Contact: Melissa Carroll

Position/Title:

Email: melissa.carroll@tsd.org

Phone: 970-613-5380

Organization Contact - Alternate: John Rowell

Position/Title: Project Manager

Email: john.rowell@tsd.org

Phone: 970-566-2366

Description of Grantee/Applicant

No description provided

Type of Eligible Entity

- ☒ Public (Government)
- ☐ Public (District)
- ☐ Public (Municipality)
- ☐ Ditch Company
- ☐ Private Incorporated
- ☐ Private Individual, Partnership, or Sole Proprietor
- ☐ Non-governmental Organization
- ☐ Covered Entity
- ☐ Other

Category of Water Project

- ☐ Agricultural Projects
Developing communications materials that specifically work with and educate the agricultural community on headwater restoration, identifying the state of the science of this type of work to assist agricultural users among others.
- ☒ Conservation & Land Use Planning
Activities and projects that implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning.
- ☐ Engagement & Innovation Activities
Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts. Please fill out the Supplemental Application on the website.
- ☐ Watershed Restoration & Recreation
Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation.
- ☐ Water Storage & Supply
Projects that facilitate the development of additional storage, artificial aquifer recharge, and dredging existing reservoirs to restore the reservoirs' full decreed capacity and Multi-beneficial projects and those projects identified in basin implementation plans to address the water supply and demand gap.

Location of Water Project

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Latitude | 40.383857 |
| Longitude | -105.096419 |
| Lat Long Flag | Default/Proponent headquarters: If the location cannot be defined with flags above, use location of project proponent headquarters |
| Water Source | City of Loveland Utilities |
| Basins | South Platte |
| Counties | Larimer |
| Districts | 4-Big Thompson River |

Water Project Overview

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|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Major Water Use Type | Municipal |
| Type of Water Project | Construction / Implementation |
| Scheduled Start Date - Design | 11/11/2025 |
| Scheduled Start Date - Construction | 4/27/2026 |

Description

The Thompson School District strives towards being a community leader in conserving natural resources such as water. As a continuation of the previous CWCB-supported landscape improvement projects over the last 3 years, TSD wants to remove unnecessary turf, replacing it with low water native landscaping at Laurene Edmondson Elementary School and Namaqua Elementary School. Laurene Edmondson ES will remove around 13k sq ft of turf and add 20 trees, wildflowers, and inorganic mulch to provide much-needed shade and sitting areas. Namaqua ES will remove around 10k sq ft of turf and replace it with native plants that invite year-round color, low maintenance, and low water.

Both sites are providing unique community engagement opportunities. Laurene Edmondson ES is hosting the City of Loveland's 2026 Arbor Day celebration on Fri, May 8, which will include a school-wide assembly with speeches from prominent people from the City and County and planting of trees both on the school grounds and the neighboring City park. This collaboration will be open to the public as an outreach opportunity regarding water

conservation. Namaqua ES hosts many community events outside of regular school hours and has an active parent teacher association interested in supporting the ongoing efforts to reduce water use onsite. The PTA is looking forward to the volunteer planting day and the long-lasting beautification of the school entrance.

Measurable Results

| | |
|---------|---|
| | New Storage Created (acre-feet) |
| | New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive |
| | Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet) |
| | New Storage Created (acre-feet) |
| | Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet) |
| | Length of Pipe, Canal Built or Improved (linear feet) |
| \$2,060 | Efficiency Savings (dollars/year) |
| | Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year) |
| | Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres) |
| | Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms or water sharing agreement (acre-feet) |
| 17,000 | Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning |
| 1,000 | Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity |

Other

Thompson School District is the seventeenth largest school district in Colorado, encompassing 362 square miles and serving approximately 15,000 students and over 2,000 employees. The district's territory includes Loveland and Berthoud, plus sections of Fort Collins, Windsor, Johnstown, and unincorporated land in Larimer, Weld, and Boulder counties. On their own, Laurene Edmondson Elementary School has a capacity of 280 students and Namaqua Elementary School has a capacity of 505 students. Each site hosts community activities outside of the regular school hours as well.

Water Project Justification

The Thompson School District spends around \$750,000 a year on potable water every year with over 75% of all water use occurring outdoors during the irrigation season. While there are some necessary irrigated turf areas such as playfields, the District also contains many areas of unnecessary turf areas. These areas provide opportunities to demonstrate to the community the natural beauty available with low-water, native landscaping. Additionally, studies have shown that students have improved academic performance and wellbeing when they are exposed to nature. The locations included in this application (Laurene Edmondson Elementary School and Namaqua Elementary School) are continuations of the previous CWCB grant-supported projects. Success of these projects enables the District to expand its landscaping conversion efforts.

Related Studies

No Related Studies provided

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

No Tax Bill of Rights provided