

**COLORADO**Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Colorado Nonprofit Development Center
Name of Water Project	Urban Turf Replacement with Youth Workforce Programs
Grant Request Amount	\$111,855.50
Primary Category	\$111,855.50
<i>Conservation & Land Use Planning</i>	
Total Applicant Match	\$0.00
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	\$0.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	\$0.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	\$111,855.00
<i>Aurora Water</i>	\$48,000.00
<i>Denver Water</i>	\$15,500.00
<i>Property Owner Match</i>	\$48,355.00
Total Project Cost	\$223,710.50

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Colorado Nonprofit Development Center

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Position/Title: Founder and Executive Director

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Description of Grantee/Applicant

Fiscal sponsored by CNDC, Neighborhood Resilience Corps is a climate adaptation and resilience workforce program for young people to make their communities more resilient while training for careers in climate.

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 43.900000
 Longitude 55.900000
 Lat Long Flag Precise coordinates: Project coordinates are readily definable and precisely define the location of the project

Water Source
 Basins Metro
 Counties Denver; Adams
 Districts 1-South Platte: Greeley to Balzac

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type Municipal
 Type of Water Project Construction / Implementation
 Scheduled Start Date - Design 4/27/2026
 Scheduled Start Date - Construction 6/1/2026

Description
 Neighborhood Resilience Corps (NRC, www.resilience-corps.org), a Denver based climate adaptation youth workforce nonprofit, will complete a portfolio of four (4 ambitious) urban turf replacement projects across different property owner types utilizing youth sustainable landscaping workforce programs operated by NRC. These projects will have multiple benefits, including 23,000 sqft of turf replaced, providing training, stipends, and certifications for over 50 underrepresented youth participants, a report on applying state and local subsidies to

accelerate turf replacement, and serve as a pilot for potentially large scale turf replacement, with youth workforce program components, at state-owned properties.

Benefit 1: The 23,000 sqft of properties undergoing turf replacement projects will include: the Governor's Residence at Boettcher Mansion, the Colorado Department of Human Services Ft. Logan Campus, a large HOA within Denver (Central Park MCA), and a Denver-based high school campus/community hub. Each property required addressing unique issues that will be helpful for accelerating similar property turf replacement activity in the future. Our intention with each project is to publicize how similar property owners could take part, by soliciting local/state/national media as well as incorporating QR code signage that helps interested individuals understand how to do a similar project on their property. Evidence of local media can be reviewed in this 9News Feature (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AJ_tf4YZcXM&t=1s)

Benefit 2: NRC will also test public-private financing models that could serve as a sustainable and predictable financing mechanism for large-scale turf replacement projects by incorporating both CWCB Water Plan grant funding with turf replacement funding from Denver Water and Aurora Water (included in the final report). In sum, the project serves to inspire public-private partnerships to accelerate turf replacement and climate adaptation in urban areas with youth workforce as the focal point, all while instructing property owners on how to best access public and private financing to do so.

Benefit 3: Underrepresented youth who will train and work to complete these turf replacement projects will be recruited from our committed education partner, the DSST Public Schools system based in Denver/Aurora. Each youth participant will be paid a project stipend, earn their Seal of Climate Literacy certification, and be offered connections to Registered Apprenticeship Programs in sustainable landscaping offered within the Denver Metro Area's landscaping industry post-project completion.

Benefit 4: Two of the projects, one being CDHS, and one being a very large property maintenance portfolio HOA (MCA-Central Park), are pilots for potential long-term turf replacement partnerships that could involve hundreds of thousands of square feet of turf being replaced with waterwise alternatives. Our hope is to incorporate youth from CDHS programs into a pre-apprenticeship landscaping program for any longer-term projects with them or other government-owned properties.

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)
\$1,240	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)
10,000	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
250	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
Other	
No additional measurable results provided	

Water Project Justification

Our youth workforce-led turf replacement water projects are justified under Colorado's Water Plan due to the following reasons:

- 1) Colorado is warming, especially in urban areas where asphalt, water-intensive turf, and concrete are the predominant forms for the built environment, which only exacerbate the urban heat island effect, creating a feedback loop that will only increase water usage unless interrupted by a better built environment on large properties that utilize native and adapted plants, trees, grasses, and mulch instead of Kentucky bluegrass (p.2, Colorado Water Plan Executive Summary)
- 2) Demands are increasing: As temperatures rise, more water will be needed to irrigate non-native and non-adapted turf. Our projects will lead to 70-80% less irrigated water needs due to using native or adapted trees, plants, and grasses to replace the turf (p.2, Colorado Water Plan Executive Summary)
- 3) Water conservation is critical: We aim to use our projects to increase public and property-owner awareness of the immense savings (both in irrigation and irrigation costs) to encourage others to do the same, as it is critical that standardized solutions to specific use cases are scaled up in order to influence an order of magnitude difference in water conservation (p.2 Water Plan Executive Summary)
- 4) We need to proactively manage risk: Our projects proactively seek out property owners and parcels that are ideal for both water conservation, climate adaptation, and community serving lands, so their turf replacement projects happen ahead of need, and will be ready to thrive in a hotter, drier climate for the years to come. (p. 2, Executive Summary).

Related Studies

This proposed project is an extension of our prior grant for the Turf Replacement Grant Program project we did in the Summer of 2025 at DSST Elevate High School in the Montbello neighborhood of Denver (see here for 9News feature: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AJ_tf4YZcXM&t=1s)

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

N/A