



COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

| | | |
|---|--|---------------------|
| Name of Applicant | Westminster, City of | |
| Name of Water Project | Westminster City Hall Landscape Transformation | |
| Grant Request Amount | | \$225,000.00 |
| Primary Category | | \$225,000.00 |
| <i>Conservation & Land Use Planning</i> | | |
| Total Applicant Match | | \$774,999.57 |
| <i>Applicant Cash Match</i> | | \$774,999.57 |
| <i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i> | | \$0.00 |
| Total Other Sources of Funding | | \$0.00 |
| Total Project Cost | | \$999,999.57 |

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Westminster, City of
Mailing Address: 6575 West 88th Avenue, Annex Westminster CO 80031
FEIN: 846,000,726

Organization Contact: Blake Ramsey
Position/Title: Parks, Recreation, and Libraries Operations Manager
Phone: 303-658-2836
Email: bramsey@westminsterco.gov

Organization Contact - Alternate: Lance Johnson
Position/Title: Parks, Golf, and Open Space Manager
Phone: 303-658-2854
Email: ljohnson@westminsterco.gov

Grant Management Contact: Blake Ramsey
Position/Title: Parks, Recreation, and Libraries Operations Manager
Phone: 303-658-2836
Email: bramsey@westminsterco.gov

Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Mandy Lemig
Position/Title: Sr. Water Resources Analyst
Phone: 303-658-2173
Email: mlemig@westminsterco.gov

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 | 39.863056 |
| Longitude | 105.048889 |
| Lat Long Flag | Precise coordinates: Project coordinates are readily definable and precisely define the location of the project |
| Water Source | Clear Creek |
| Basins | Metro |
| Counties | Adams |
| Districts | 2-South Platte: Denver Gage to Greeley |

Water Project Overview

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Major Water Use Type | Municipal |
| Type of Water Project | Construction / Implementation |
| Scheduled Start Date - Design | |
| Scheduled Start Date - Construction | 4/1/2024 |

Description

This project will transform Westminster City Hall's "North Lawn" from a highly visible, seldom used, difficult to access, four-acre expanse of non-functional Kentucky bluegrass, into a low-water use landscape that includes native grasses, regionally appropriate perennial gardens, and beautiful shade trees. Westminster estimates this landscape transformation and irrigation system replacement will save approximately 1.6 million gallons (five acre-feet) of water per year (>50% reduction in use), increasing water efficiency, and improving water supply security and drought resilience. The project will greatly improve public accessibility and create a new space for

the community to enjoy, where residents can also learn about the benefits of replacing turf with Colorado-appropriate landscaping and other water conservation options. The project will include signage identifying each plant and its water use, provide numerous new walking paths, and offer seating areas throughout.

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) |
| \$10,000 | Efficiency Savings (dollars/year) |
| 5 | 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) |
| 118,000 | Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning |
| 118,000 | Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity |
| | Other |
| | No additional measurable results provided |

Water Project Justification

Westminster City Hall’s “North Lawn” is currently a highly visible, seldom used, difficult to access, four-acre expanse of high-water use Kentucky bluegrass that consumes approximately 3 million gallons (9 acre-feet) of reclaimed water annually. The City of Westminster’s proposed City Hall Landscape Transformation project will convert this water-intensive, non-functional turf area into a low-water use landscape that includes native grasses, regionally appropriate perennial gardens, and beautiful shade trees. The transformation is estimated to save about 1.6 million gallons (5 acre-feet) of water per year, a greater than 50% reduction in use; enhance water efficiency and drought resilience; greatly increase public access, trails, seating, and educational signage; provide pollination and foraging opportunities; and significantly reduce the City’s reclaimed water demands. This project strongly supports the following goals:

Colorado’s Water Plan (2023)

- (Pg. 9) The project’s transformation of a high-water use landscape to a water conscious and attractive landscape addresses the Vibrant Communities action area.
 - o Colorado communities need resilient water supplies, water conscious and attractive urban landscapes, planning that integrates land use and water solutions, and residents who understand the importance of water to their lives and economy. An integrated One Water ethic is necessary to create the transformative change needed to meet the moment and the future.
- (Pg. 122) The project readily aligns with the following South Platte and Metro Basin Roundtable Goals as listed in the Colorado Water Plan:
 - o Encourage implementation of projects
 - o Maintain and promote municipal and industrial conservation and efficiency
 - o Maintain and promote reuse
 - o Broaden South Platte communications, outreach, and education programs
- (Pg. 153) The project utilizes the following solution tools:
 - o Public Outreach and Education

- o Funding
- o Climate Adaptation
- o Water Efficiency and Conservation Programs
- o Water Reuse
- (Pg. 176 - 181) The project is consistent with the Water Plan's Vibrant Communities and Resilient Planning Visions and specifically partner actions towards:
 - o Meeting Future Water Need
 - o Wise Water Use
 - o Healthy Lands
 - o Engaged Partners
- (Pg. 181) Partner Actions Rely on Effective Engagement and Education at Different Levels - City government will leverage the project's new landscaping for public education and awareness to demonstrate strategies that others can implement and that will increase water efficiency.
- (Pg. 188) The project specifically assists in meeting Agency Action 1.7 - Identify turf replacement options that support transformative landscape change.

South Platte – Metro Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) (2022, Volume 1)

- (Pg. 3) The project helps realize the BIP Strategic Vision and Strategies to meet the municipal supply gap.
- (Pg. 24) The project is consistent with the following BIP Themes:
 - o The South Platte Basin Will Continue its Leadership Role and Performance in Efficient Use and Management of Water
 - o The South Platte Basin Must Sustain its Economy, Culture, and Environment
- (Pg. 25) The project supports the BIP goals to:
 - o Maintain and promote municipal and industrial conservation and efficiency
 - o Maintain and promote reuse
 - o Protect and enhance environmental attributes
 - o Broaden South Platte communications, outreach, and education programs

Water Plan Grant Criteria and Guidelines

- (Pg. 4) Letters from Basin Roundtables – The project aligns with the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan and a letter of support from the Metro Basin Roundtable, where the project is located, is attached.
- (Pg. 4) Evaluation Criteria – As documented above, the project conforms well to goals of the Colorado Water Plan and the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan. The project has multiple benefits including water supply, efficiency, environmental, educational, and recreational, among others. The project involves multiple stakeholders including City of Westminster's Departments of Parks, Recreation, and Libraries and Public Works and Utilities, Western Resource Advocates, and Water Now Alliance. The project's anticipated start date is Spring 2024.
- (Pg. 6) Conservation & Land Use Project Grants Criteria and Considerations – The project reduces future water needs at City Hall by an estimated 5 acre-feet annually. The project is designed to help educate City staff, elected officials, businesses, and residents about turf replacement with the goal of leveraging the project to inspire and inform additional projects. The project integrates water efficiency planning and projects into Westminster's water resources management and will assist greatly in promoting water efficiency in the City and beyond. The project is a direct result of Western Resource Advocates and WaterNow Alliances' CWCB funded "Enabling the Large-Scale Replacement of Non-Essential Turf" project and, as such, the City Hall case study will be shared broadly to assist other communities considering their own, similar, projects. Additionally, the landscape is irrigated with recycled water so the project will free up that supply for other uses in the City. We will use the project to assist in future land use and water planning integration work, conservation planning, and drought mitigation, as well as to respond to the impacts of climate change on water supplies and supplemental irrigation needs.

Related Studies

City of Westminster 2020 Water Conservation & Efficiency Plan (www.westminsterco.gov/Residents/Water/Conservation/WaterEfficiencyPlan).

CWCB Grant Project CMS 168113/CTGG1 2021-3240 Enabling Large Scale Replacement of Non-Essential Turf. Applicant: Western Resource Advocates.

Western Resource Advocates and WaterNow Alliance, 2022, Financing the Future: How to Pay for Turf Replacement in Colorado.

CWCB Water Plan Grant Colorado Native Grass Manual Website. Applicant: Colorado WaterWise.

Koehler, C. and C. Koch, 2019, Innovation in Action: 21st Century Water Infrastructure Solutions. WaterNow Alliance.

Colorado WaterWise. 2010. Guidebook of Best Practices for Municipal Water Conservation in Colorado. Prepared by Colorado WaterWise.

Castle, A. and Rugland, E. 2019. Best Practices for Implementing Water Conservation and Demand Management Through Land Use Planning Efforts. Addendum to 2012 Guidance. Prepared by Getches-Wilkinson Center, University of Colorado and Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy for Colorado Water Conservation Board.

Nolan Blanchard, J. C. 2018. Integrating Water Efficiency into Land Use Planning in the Interior West: A Guidebook for Local Planners. Prepared by Land Use Law Center for Western Resource Advocates.

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

None. The City of Westminster has removed all TABOR limitations related to grant funds.