

*A variety of solutions will be needed to address Northern Colorado water users' demands and diverse challenges, and that's why Northern Water is collaborating with entities across the region and offering an array of new water efficiency programs. Learn more at [www.northernwater.org/WaterConservation](http://www.northernwater.org/WaterConservation).*

# Collaborative Water-Efficient Landscape **GRANTS**

Get funding for your landscape project, and become a partner in Northern Water's education and outreach network

Northern Water is eagerly launching its Collaborative Water-Efficient Landscape Grant Program to promote water-efficient, Colorado climate-friendly landscapes, and to broaden its education and outreach efforts.

The program will help fund new or redeveloped landscapes based on the principles and best practices displayed at the Northern Water Demonstration Gardens. Northern Water will also provide signs and other material, so the project can serve as a water-education site for the public.

**Grants may range from \$5,000 up to \$15,000, with a 50 percent match requirement that can be met with cash and/or in-kind labor contributions.** A limited number of grants will be awarded in a given year.



## Who can apply?

The program will be open to new or redeveloping landscapes at:

- **Public facilities or open spaces**
- **Businesses**
- **Schools**
- **Multi-family complexes**
- **HOA-managed landscapes**

*Projects must be located within Northern Water's boundaries.*

## What projects qualify?

Landscapes must be:

- **At least 500 square feet** (although smaller projects may be considered if they offer unique public education opportunities)
- **Designed to use substantially less water than traditional landscapes**
- **Designed to include at least 50 percent plant coverage when the plants are mature**

## Additional grant program details

- Applicants must participate in a pre-installation site inspection conducted by Northern Water prior to breaking ground on the project.
- This incentive program is not retroactive. Projects underway prior to the pre-installation site visit are ineligible.
- Installation is the sole responsibility of the applicant.
- Grant recipients will be required to submit monthly updates and photos while the project is underway.
- Grant payments will be made once the project is completed. It is the grant recipient's responsibility to notify Northern Water when the project is complete and schedule a post-installation site inspection that will verify the project was completed according to the program's terms and conditions.
- Hard costs (plants and materials) plus contract and in-kind labor can qualify for matching funds. Material costs per unit must not exceed manufacturer's suggested retail price. In-kind labor must be documented and is to be valued at prevailing rates not to exceed \$25 per hour.
- Recipients must keep all original receipts and plant labels to verify that all grant qualifications have been met. Copies of itemized receipts are required for reimbursement processing. Contractor's invoices must show an itemized materials list separate from labor.
- To ensure water savings are achieved, the converted area must remain in compliance with the program terms and conditions for a period of five years following receipt of the grant payment. Applicants are asked to include a maintenance plan as part of the application process.

### 2019 Grant Program Timeline

Application deadline	Feb. 15
Applicants notified	March 15
Project completion deadline	Oct. 30

## Additional landscape requirements

**Location:** High-visibility locations will be given priority due to the educational component, but all qualifying projects will be considered.

**Plants:** Must have xeric to moderate water requirements and be appropriate to Northern Colorado's climate. Plant Select and CSU Extension plant recommendations are preferred. Refer to [www.plantselect.org](http://www.plantselect.org) or the "Native Plant Garden Guides" at [www.extension.colostate.edu/garden](http://www.extension.colostate.edu/garden). Invasive plants and artificial plants are not allowed.

**50 percent plant cover:** To meet the 50 percent coverage requirement, up to half of the existing tree canopy can be used. To determine mature plant size, consult the Plant Select and CSU Extension plant lists. Plants outside the converted area are not considered in the calculation, even if they are adjacent to or overhanging into the converted area.

**Hardscape:** Impermeable surfaces, such as concrete, that do not allow water to penetrate into the ground, are not allowed as part of the conversion area. Permeable concrete or pavers are allowed, but the 50 percent plant cover rule still applies to the entire area.

**Mulch:** Appropriate planting areas must have a minimum of three inches of wood or natural-material mulch. If a weed barrier is used below the mulch, it must be permeable to air and water.

**Irrigation:** An irrigation system is not required. However, if installed, the system must have a WaterSense controller, be well-designed and receive an irrigation audit. Where possible, drip irrigation is preferred. As the project is implemented, separate metering of the irrigation system is preferred, if possible.

## Submitting an application?

Please be sure to also include:

- **Photos of the property**
- **Project drawings and sketches**
- **A site map with dimensions**
- **A break-down of costs, including total project cost, in-kind services, and other funding**
- **A five-year maintenance plan for the new or redeveloped landscape**
- **Any other information pertinent to the project**

### Contact Us

Additional details and updates will be available at [www.northernwater.org/WaterConservation](http://www.northernwater.org/WaterConservation). You can also contact **Frank Kinder** at (970) 622-2353, or at [fkinder@northernwater.org](mailto:fkinder@northernwater.org).