

Town of Erie

Lawrence A. Wurl Service Center Turf Replacement Project

WaterSMART Grants

Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025

Bureau of Reclamation NOFO No. R24AS00059

January 16, 2024



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Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria

Executive Summary

Submittal Date:	January 16, 2024
Applicant:	Town of Erie, Colorado
Project Manager:	Dylan King Sustainability & Water Conservation Specialist II Public Works dking@erieco.gov (303)926-2871
Applicant Type	Category A
Grant Funding Request	\$ 69,443
Non-Federal Matching Funds	\$ 34,874
Total Project Cost	\$154,317 (Includes non-federal funding source)
Estimated Project Start Date	July 2024
Estimated Project Completion Date	April 2025
Located on Federal Facility	No
Unique Entity Identifier	X54EMT612417

Project Summary

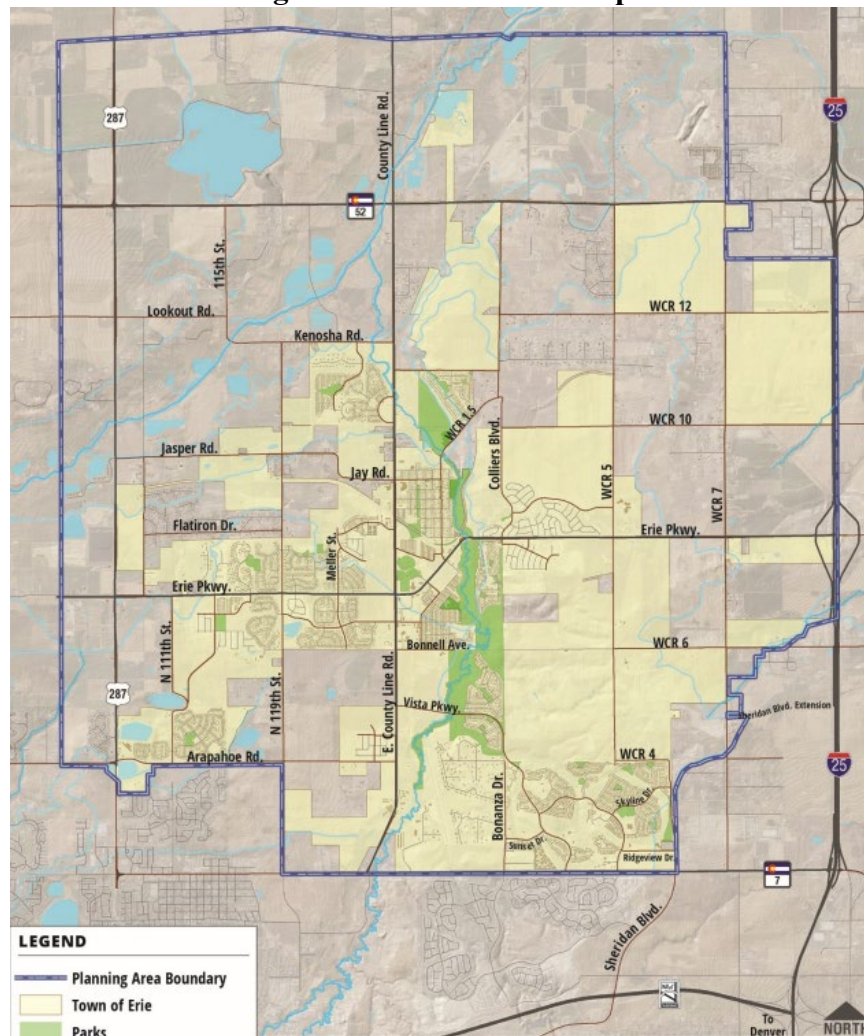
The Town of Erie's (the Town's) Sustainability Division is seeking funding for the Lawrence A. Wurl Service Center (LAWSC) Turf Replacement project. Nestled in Boulder and Weld counties, just west of I-25, Erie boasts convenient access to I-70, Denver International Airport (DEN), and Colorado's entire Front Range, covering a planning area of 48 square miles. The Turf Replacement initiative aims to address water management challenges exacerbated by climate change and Colorado's susceptibility to droughts. The project entails replacing the LAWSC's current lawn landscape with drought-resistant plants, low-water-use grass varieties, and diverse mulch types. The Town plans to introduce a drip irrigation system equipped with meters to monitor water usage and study the needs of the newly selected plant species. Anticipated benefits include a significant reduction in water consumption and the establishment of a model landscape to both educate and inspire residents to adopt water-wise practices. These efforts align with the Town's 2021 Water Efficiency Plan, which outlines the objective of creating irrigation efficiency and landscaping on Town Parks and Facilities. The overall project will assist in the creation of a sustainable, water-efficient community while mitigating the impact of climate change.

Project Location

Town of Erie

The Town of Erie is located in Boulder and Weld counties, just west of I-25, for easy access to I-70, Denver International Airport (DEN), and Colorado’s entire Front Range. Erie’s planning area spans 48 square miles. The Town provides water and wastewater services for residential, commercial, and other municipal needs. The service area consists of 48 square miles, bordered generally to the east by Interstate 25, to the west by Highway 287, to the north by Niwot Road, and to the south by Highway 7. The Town currently provides water to approximately 35,000 residents. According to the Town’s Water Efficiency Plan (2021), the Town will serve approximately 50,020 people by 2035, assuming a 4% growth rate.

Figure 1 - Town of Erie Map

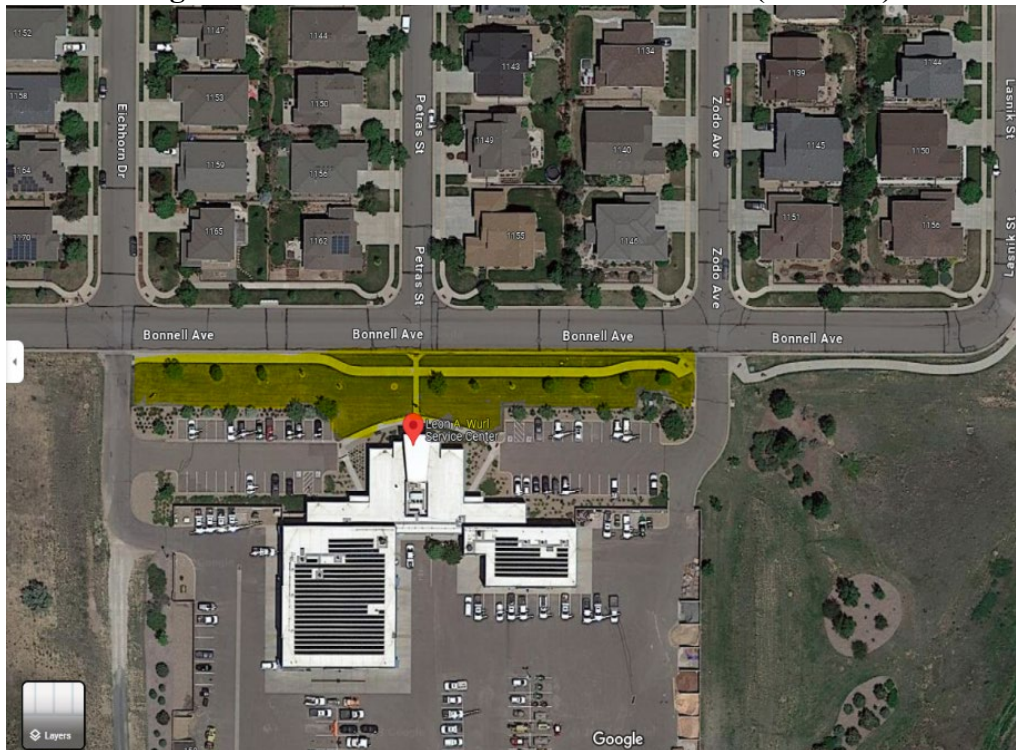


Leon A. Wurl Service Center

The Lawrence A. Wurl Service Center (LAWSC) Turf Replacement project, located in Erie, Colorado, is an initiative to replace the water-intensive lawn on the North side of the LAWSC with water-wise landscaping. The project aims to create a demonstration landscape that aligns with the Town's water conservation goals and reduces water usage. The Leon A. Wurl Service Center is a one-story Public Works and Parks and Recreation maintenance facility located on approximately 16.6 acres. The facility is designed to house maintenance personnel, equipment, and materials for the Public Works and Parks Departments and includes an approximately 8,500 sq. ft. office building with two attached maintenance bays, an approximately 4-acre storage yard, and associated accessory structures.

The project location address is 150 Lambert Avenue Erie, Colorado 80516. The project latitude is 39° 53' 37.6002" N and longitude is 104° 59' 51.3954" W. The proposed turf replacement will take place at the LAWSC building within the boundaries highlighted yellow in Figure 2 below.

Figure 2 - Lawrence A. Wurl Service Center (LAWSC)



Technical Project Description

The Lawrence A. Wurl Service Center Turf Replacement project in Erie, Colorado, is a strategic response to the state's water usage challenges, particularly in the realm of outdoor irrigation. Given that municipal water accounts for 7% of the total water use in Colorado, with 40% of that dedicated to outdoor irrigation, the project aims to showcase water-wise design practices that

align with the Town's water conservation goals.¹ The Town's Turf Replacement project involves replacing the current lawn landscape at the Lawrence A. Wurl Service Center (LAWSC) with drought-resistant plant species, low-water-use grass varieties, and a range of mulch types, collectively contributing to a modest reduction in water consumption.

In addition to the project's water-efficient transformation of the LAWSC landscape, the Town is set to introduce a new drip irrigation system equipped with meters to monitor water usage for landscape maintenance and study the water needs of the newly selected plant types. This will enable the town to research the water requirements of chosen plant species, with the aim of implementing them on other town properties in the future.

The new landscape will serve as an inspiration for the Town's water customers on how to create their own water-wise projects on their property. By designing their own water-efficient landscapes, customers can become eligible for the Town's Turf Replacement Rebate program.

Materials and Equipment

- **Turf Removal Tools:** Specialized turf removal equipment, including sod cutters, to efficiently strip existing grass.
- **Drought-Tolerant Plants:** The construction contractor will select drought-tolerant plants, Colorado native plants, and other plants whose watering needs match the precipitation rates of the area they reside in. All plant choices will be approved by the project team.
- **Irrigation System Components:** Upgrade the existing irrigation system with the installation of a drip irrigation system for efficient water distribution.
- **Mulching Materials:** Implement multiple mulch types to enhance water retention and soil health.

Site Preparation

Site Preparation will include ensuring proper soil preparation for the new landscaping, which will address any required soil amendments.

Construction Impact

To minimize inconvenience to residents, the project will be carried out in a phased approach. This means that specific areas will be targeted one at a time. Additionally, the project team will be implementing traffic control measures to ensure the safety of the residents, the construction team, and the LAWSC facility staff. These measures will be put in place at and around the project site.

¹ BBC Research and Consulting. (2023). Exploratory analysis of potential water savings, costs and benefits of turf replacement in Colorado. Colorado Water Conservation Board.

Turf Removal

- **Safe Removal Practices:** The project team will employ safe removal practices, ensuring proper disposal and, when possible, composting the removed turf.

Through careful plant selection, landscape design refinement, and the introduction of drip-irrigation systems, the Lawrence A. Wurl Service Center (LAWSC) Turf Replacement project sets a precedent for water management excellence in the Town of Erie. It not only conserves water but also provides a community example of water-wise landscaping, empowering residents to make sustainable choices for their landscapes while fostering a community-wide commitment to water-wise practices.

Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation Criterion A – Project Benefits (35 Points)

Describe the expected benefits to the Category A applicant’s water delivery system.

Address the following:

- Clearly explain the anticipated water management benefits to the Category A applicant’s water supply delivery system and water customers.

Benefits to the Water Supply Delivery System

The Lawrence A. Wurl Service Center (LAWSC) Turf Replacement project is anticipated to reduce more than 50% of the LAWSC’s annual outdoor water consumption based on the plant and turf species targeted for the project. A study conducted by the Colorado Water Conservation Board outlined the potential yearly water conservation per acre for converted landscapes. According to their estimates, water-efficient converted landscapes could save 1.9 acre-feet (AF) of water per acre.² Applying this to the proposed Turf Replacement, covering about 20,000 sq. ft. or 0.459 acres, the Town of Erie is projected to conserve approximately 283,057 gallons of water in the initial year. Reducing water demand will ultimately reduce strain on the Town of Erie’s (the Town’s) water supply delivery system.

This project is a vital step toward long-term water efficiency across the entire Town. Through meticulous plant selection and landscape design refinement, the Town aspires to set a precedent for water management excellence, laying a foundation for a more sustainable and resilient community in the face of evolving environmental demands.

In addition to the project’s transformative landscape changes at the LAWSC, the Town is set to introduce a new drip irrigation system equipped with meters to monitor water usage for landscape maintenance and study the water needs of the newly selected plant types. This will allow the Town to study the water requirements of the selected plant species.

² BBC Research and Consulting. (2023). Exploratory analysis of potential water savings, costs and benefits of turf replacement in Colorado. Colorado Water Conservation Board.

Benefits to Water Customers

The new landscape will serve as an inspiration for water customers on how to create their own water-wise projects on their property. By implementing such projects, customers can become eligible for the Town's Turf Replacement Rebate program. Since the rebate program's inception in 2022, 136 customers have participated and received up to \$2,000 for qualified projects. However, before participating in the program, residents are required to submit a design that must be approved by the Town's Sustainability Division.

Although the Town's Turf Replacement Rebate program has been successful, it quickly became apparent that residents would benefit from a tangible example of water-wise plant species and types. The Turf Replacement project at the LAWSC will serve as that inspiration and will educate water customers who wish to benefit financially from installing water-wise landscapes through the Town's rebate program. Water customers participating in the Turf Replacement Rebate program will see lower water bills, providing them with cost savings and financial relief. Additionally, the project will contribute to the overall quality of life in the community by preserving the natural beauty of the landscape and maintaining green spaces.

Through careful plant selection, landscape design refinement, and the introduction of drip-irrigation systems, the Lawrence A. Wurl Service Center (LAWSC) Turf Replacement project sets a precedent for water management excellence in the Town of Erie. It not only conserves water but also empowers residents to make sustainable choices for their landscapes, fostering a community-wide commitment to water-wise practices.

Explain the significance of the anticipated water management benefits for the Category A applicant's water delivery system and customers.

Significance to Water Delivery System

This project will be replacing approximately 24,000 square feet of thirsty bluegrass with low-water use landscaping. In doing so, the Town will be lowering the water demand for the landscaping at the LAWSC site. While the water savings from this project are specific to one location, this project will still reduce water demand and thus reduce the strain on the water delivery infrastructure in Erie.

With this project being a demonstration piece for the public, the Town anticipates an increase in residential and commercial turf replacement projects. As these projects become more widespread in the Town, we will see a drastic reduction in water usage and a continued positive impact on the water delivery system. In the future, as more water-efficient projects take root, the resulting water use reduction will lead to a more resilient and efficient water supply system.

Significance to Water Customers

Participants in the Town's Turf Replacement Rebate Program have expressed a desire for more concrete examples and ideas before beginning their landscaping projects. Recognizing this need, the LAWSC, centrally located in the Town, provides residents with a convenient locale to seek inspiration. This central hub eliminates the necessity for residents to travel to neighboring

municipalities, allowing them a visual of water-wise landscaping just a short distance from their homes. To complement these demonstrations, the initiative will incorporate informative signage, educational materials, and educational seminars for staff and residents. These seminars will be hosted at the LAWSC and will discuss the importance of water efficiency as well as drought-resistant plant life and how they can be incorporated into a turf replacement project design for residents and business owners.

Broader Benefits: Describe the broader benefits that are expected to occur as a result of the project.

Addressing Drought Conditions

The Town’s proposed Turf Replacement project is strategically aligned with sub-basin scale water conservation endeavors. The shift from water-intensive turf to drought-tolerant landscaping is finely tuned to suit the unique conditions of the sub-basin. This targeted approach not only reduces water consumption at a local level but also contributes to the broader objective of enhancing water resilience within the specified sub-basin. The project’s impact extends beyond a singular facility, fostering a localized response to drought conditions while complementing a comprehensive strategy for sustainable water management within the sub-basin.

Economic Benefits

Transitioning from water-intensive turf to drought-tolerant landscaping will result in substantial cost savings in water consumption. The funds saved on water bills can be reallocated to other water utility needs or infrastructure projects.

Agricultural Impact

By conserving water, the project indirectly benefits agriculture in the region. Preserving water resources ensures that there is an ample water supply for agricultural activities, supporting local farmers and contributing to a stable agricultural economy.

Environmental Benefits

Drought-tolerant landscapes alleviate water scarcity, promoting environmental sustainability, biodiversity, and ecosystem health, fostering a resilient and vibrant local environment.

Recreation and Tourism

Well-maintained, drought-tolerant landscapes enhance public spaces, attracting more visitors and benefiting local businesses, recreation, and tourism.

Evaluation Criterion B – Planning Efforts Supporting the Project (25 Points)

Plan Description and Objectives: Is your project supported by a specific planning document or effort? If so, describe the existing plan. When was the plan developed? What

is the purpose and objective of the plan? Plan Development: Who developed the planning effort? What is the geographic scope of the plan?

Efficiency and responsible stewardship are crucial elements of Erie's water management strategy. “As competition and costs for water supplies increase, coupled with the uncertainty of climate change and the influx of new Erie residents, water efficiency is a critical component to maintaining a resilient, sustainable, and thriving community” (Town of Erie’s Water Efficiency Plan, 2021). The Lawrence A. Wurl Service Center (LAWSC) Turf Replacement project is supported by the Town of Erie’s (the Town’s) 2021 Water Efficiency Plan and the Town’s Turf Replacement Rebate program.

2021 Water Efficiency Plan

The Town’s Water Efficiency Plan (2021) was developed in 2020 and adopted by the Town in 2021. It was a collaborative effort involving key individuals such as the Town’s Public Works Director, the Parks and Recreation Director, and a representative from INTERA Incorporated. The updated Plan outlines the Town’s strategies and actions to achieve water efficiency and conservation goals. It serves as an update to the Town’s previous Water Conservation Plan and is the third State-approved water efficiency plan for the Town.

Since 2014, Erie has experienced significant growth and changes to Town staff, establishing a Sustainability Division, hiring a Sustainability and Water Conservation Specialist focused on Town sustainability and water efficiency, and a full-time Water Conservation Technician. This Plan capitalized on new ideas provided by Erie staff and the community while incorporating water and land use planning. The resulting State-approved Plan adheres to Colorado statutes and aligns with guidelines from the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB). Notably, the development of this Plan was closely coordinated with the Town’s update to the Drought and Water Supply Shortage Plan (2021). This synchronized approach allowed Erie to enhance efficiency in planning processes, ensuring seamless integration between Erie’s Water Efficiency Program and the Town’s drought mitigation and response strategies.

The Town of Erie’s Turf Replacement Rebate Program

The Turf Replacement program was developed and implemented in 2022 by the Town’s Sustainability and Water Conservation Specialist II. This program offers a cash incentive for Erie residents to upgrade their properties with low-water use landscaping as part of the water-efficient turf replacement program. Traditional grasses like bluegrasses and other cool-season grasses have a significantly higher water requirement than other plantings, necessitating large amounts of supplemental irrigation. The program aims to assist residents and business owners in replacing these thirsty grasses with low-water use landscaping that is better suited to the Northern Colorado environment.

While the Turf Replacement Rebate program is successful, feedback from participants and potential participants has highlighted the need for in-person examples of water-efficient plant life. Many individuals expressed a desire to see tangible examples of water-wise landscaping before submitting their landscape design for the rebate program. The Turf Replacement project at

the LAWSC will be a source of inspiration and education for Erie residents. It will provide them with the opportunity to learn about water-efficient landscaping practices and make informed decisions when designing their landscapes for the rebate program.

Support for the Project: Describe to what extent the proposed project is supported by the identified plan.

The LAWSC Turf Replacement project was mentioned in the 2021 Water Efficiency Plan as a proposed Water Efficiency Activity. This project will help the Town achieve one of the main objectives of the Plan, which is to save 10% of water in 10 years, also known as the "10 in 10" Town goal. This water savings goal applies to first-use water and is equivalent to 115 gallons per capita per day (gpcd) based on population and demand projections presented in this Plan. The Town’s ability to meet the target will be evaluated by comparing annual per capita water demands on an annual basis relative to the 115 gpcd target.

Evaluation Criterion C – Implementation and Results (20 Points)

Describe the implementation plan for the proposed project. Please include an estimated project schedule that shows the stages and duration of the proposed work, including major tasks, milestones, and dates.

Timeline		
Project Stage	Task	Timeframe
Award Notification	-	June 2024
Post-Award Grant Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Execution of Grant Documentation 	June-July 2024
Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design commission and approval • Gathering quotes from contractors 	April 2024 - June 2024
Installation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of existing turf • Soil prep and grading • Drip irrigation installation • Planting • Mulching 	June 2024-January 2025
Post-Installation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational materials installed • Watering schedule adjusted as needed • Possible replacements for failed plantings 	January 2025-March 2025
Grant Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalization of financials and close-out reporting 	April-May 2025
Total Project Time		12 Months

Describe any permits and agency approvals that will be required, along with the process and timeframe for obtaining such permits or approvals.

No permits or approvals are required for this project.

Does the applicant have access to the land or water source where the project is located?

Yes. The Town of Erie (the Town) owns the land at the Lawrence A. Wurl Service Center (LAWSC).

Identify whether the applicant has contacted the local Reclamation office to discuss the potential environmental and cultural resource compliance requirements for the project and the associated costs.

The Town does not foresee the need for an additional environmental compliance review beyond the evaluation conducted by Reclamation in the context of the grant award.

Evaluation Criterion D – Nexus to Reclamation (5 Points)

Describe the nexus between the proposed project and a Reclamation project or activity, including:

- **Is the proposed project connected to a Reclamation project or activity?**

The Town of Erie primarily obtains its water from the Bureau of Reclamations' Colorado-Big Thompson Project (C-BT). This project is located on the western slope, and the water is transported via a pipeline from Carter Lake in Berthoud, CO, to the town's water treatment facility. Additionally, C-BT water is stored in Erie's reservoirs after being transported via pipeline.

Evaluation Criterion E – Presidential and Department of the Interior Priorities (15 Points)

Sub-criterion – Climate Change – Please describe how the project will address climate change, including the following:

- **Please provide specific details and examples on how the project will address the impacts of climate change and help combat the climate crisis.**
- **Does this proposed project strengthen water supply sustainability to increase resilience to climate change?**

The Lawrence A. Wurl Service Center (LAWSC) Turf Replacement project is designed to directly address the impacts of climate change and contribute to combating the climate crisis. By establishing a landscape that is resilient to the challenges of drought and shifting climate conditions, the project will support the mitigation of climate change impacts on water resources while simultaneously building local water resiliency. This aligns with the Department of the Interior's commitment to addressing the drought crisis and finding long-term solutions to climate change.

In Colorado, which is both a headwater state and naturally predisposed to drought, the frequency and intensity of drought conditions have escalated due to increasing temperatures and changing hydrological patterns as a result of climate change. This puts additional pressure on regional water resources and highlights the urgent need for action. The proposed project recognizes this need and seeks to strengthen water supply sustainability to increase resilience to climate change.

The project aligns with the priorities of the Presidential and Department of the Interior agendas, emphasizing the importance of climate resilience in site management and promoting climate literacy. By implementing measures such as reducing water-intensive turf landscapes within the Town, the project aims to reduce potable water consumption in non-essential turf areas. This not only helps conserve water but also minimizes greenhouse gas emissions from landscape upkeep, contributing to the overall effort to combat climate change.

Furthermore, the project seeks to educate residents through practical examples of low-water use landscapes. The project aims to inspire and empower individuals to make sustainable choices in their homes and communities by showcasing the benefits and feasibility of such landscapes. This educational component is crucial in building a culture of climate resilience and ensuring long-term sustainability for the Town of Erie.

Project Budget

Funding Plan

The Lawrence A. Wurl Service Center (LAWSC) Turf Replacement project, initiated by the Town of Erie (the Town), has a total budget of \$154,317. The requested funding for this project from the Bureau of Reclamation is \$69,443, with a local match of \$34,874. The Town is also utilizing non-federal funding to complete the project. The Sustainability Division was awarded a \$25,000 Turf Replacement grant from the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) under the Department of Natural Resources. The Town's Sustainability budget has also allocated \$25,000 to match the CWCB grant.

Budget Proposal

Table 1. Summary of Non-Federal and Federal Funding Sources

Funding Sources	Amount
Non-Federal Entities	
1. Town of Erie	\$ 34,874
2. Colorado Water Board Turf Replacement Grant	\$ 25,000
3. Town of Erie Match for Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Turf Replacement Grant	\$ 25,000
Non-Federal Subtotal	\$ 84,874
Requested Reclamation Funding	\$ 69,443
Total	\$ 154,317

Table 2. Total Project Cost

Source	Amount
Costs to be Covered by the CWCB Grant	\$ 25,000
Costs to be Reimbursed with the Requested Federal Funding	\$ 69,443
Costs to be Paid by Applicant	\$34,874 + \$25,000 CWCB Match
Value of Third-Party Contributions	N/A
Total Project Cost	\$ 154,317

Table 3. Budget Proposal

Budget Item Description	Computation		Quantity Type	Total Cost
	\$/Unit	Quantity		
1. Salaries and Wages				
Sustainability & Water Conservation Specialist Yr 1	\$ 40.00	100	Hour	\$ 4,000.00
Sustainability & Water Conservation Specialist Yr 2	\$ 42.00	50	Hour	\$ 2,100.00
Parks Supervisor	\$ 45.00	100	Hour	\$ 4,500.00
Parks Staff	\$ 25.00	150	Hour	\$ 3,750.00
2. Fringe Benefits				
Sustainability & Water Conservation Specialist Yr 1	\$ 4,000.00	0.34	Rate	\$ 1,356.00
Sustainability & Water Conservation Specialist Yr 2	\$ 2,100.00	0.34	Rate	\$ 712.00
Parks Supervisor	\$ 4,500.00	0.34	Rate	\$ 1,526.00
Parks Staff	\$ 3,750.00	0.34	Rate	\$ 1,271.00
3. Supplies				
Signage to Label Plant Species and Types	\$ 100.00	15	Each	\$ 1,500.00
4. Construction				
Landscape Contractor	\$ 133,602.00	1	Each	\$ 133,602.00
Total			\$154,317	

Budget Narrative

Salaries and Wages

The proposed project includes a budget allocation for salaries and wages to support the implementation and management of the grant program. The Town of Erie's (the Town's) full-time Sustainability and Water Conservation Specialist, Dylan King, will serve as the Project Manager. The Project Manager's role encompasses various tasks, such as conducting regular meetings with the project team, which includes the Town's full-time Director of Parks and Recreation and a part-time Parks and Recreation staff member. Additionally, the project manager will coordinate with the contractor to ensure smooth implementation of the turf replacement and installation of the drip irrigation system.

The Project Manager will analyze and quantify the water savings achieved through the turf replacement, tailored explicitly to the Front-Range climate. This data will provide valuable insights into the project's impact and contribute to future water conservation efforts in the region.

The Project Manager will also be responsible for all grant and program reporting and compliance, ensuring that the project meets all requirements and regulations. This includes submitting progress reports, financial documentation, and other necessary paperwork to demonstrate the project's success and adherence to grant guidelines.

Finally, the Project Manager will be responsible for hosting educational seminars for Town Staff and residents. The seminars will take place at the Lawrence A. Wurl Service Center (LAWSC). They will cover the significance of water efficiency, drought-resistant plant life, and how to incorporate them into a turf replacement project design for homeowners and business owners.

The budget also includes provisions for the Parks Supervisor and Park Staff members. These individuals will oversee the LAWSC construction site and the commissioning and maintenance of the drip irrigation system. They will also maintain the newly planted species, ensuring their long-term health and vitality.

Fringe Benefits

Full-time employees of the Town of Erie are eligible for fringe benefits, which are calculated at an estimated rate of 34% of their salary. Employee benefits include health insurance and retirement benefits.

Supplies

To ensure the effectiveness of this educational component, it is estimated that 15 signs will be required, with an estimated cost of \$100 per sign. Therefore, a total budget of \$1,500 will be allocated for the procurement and installation of these signs. This investment in signage will not only enhance the overall aesthetic appeal of the project but also contribute to its broader benefits by promoting awareness and understanding of water-wise landscaping principles among community members. Aside from the signage, all other necessary supplies for the turf replacement initiative will be provided by the contracted landscape contractor.

Construction

The landscape contractor will play a crucial role in the successful execution of the proposed project by procuring and supplying all other necessary items including plants, irrigation systems, and materials. Additionally, the contractor will also undertake various essential tasks to transform the project site. This involves removing existing turf, ensuring proper disposal, and grading land if necessary to create an optimal foundation for new landscaping. The contractor will also focus on enhancing the soil quality to support the growth and vitality of the newly planted vegetation.

The contractor's responsibilities extend to the installation of the new drip irrigation system, which will provide a sustainable and efficient method of watering the plants. To further enhance the aesthetic appeal and functionality of the landscape, the contractor will also be responsible for spreading mulch, which not only adds visual appeal but also helps in moisture retention and weed suppression.

Environmental and Cultural Resource Compliance

Will the proposed project impact the surrounding environment (e.g., soil [dust], air, water [quality and quantity], animal habitat)? Please briefly describe all earth-disturbing work and any work that will affect the air, water, or animal habitat in the project area. Please also explain the impacts of such work on the surrounding environment and any steps that could be taken to minimize the impacts.

As a result of the large amount of turf that will be removed, there will be some site impacts. These impacts will mainly come from the use of machinery and equipment, the storage of both old and new vegetation, and the necessary soil amendments that must be completed before planting. The site is located adjacent to the pavement, and most machinery will be kept on the pavement to minimize the impacts on the environment, staff, and nearby neighborhoods. While there may be some minimal air impacts due to the site's location, all necessary measures will be taken to keep these impacts to a minimum.

Are you aware of any species listed or proposed to be listed as a Federal threatened or endangered species, or designated critical habitat in the project area? If so, would they be affected by any activities associated with the proposed project?

The Town of Erie (the Town) has confirmed that the Turf Replacement project at the Lawrence A. Wurl Service Center (LAWSC) will not have any impact on federally threatened or endangered species that are listed or proposed to be listed. However, if any such species is identified, the Town will comply with any environmental resource compliance provisions.

Are there wetlands or other surface waters inside the project boundaries that potentially fall under CWA jurisdiction as “Waters of the United States”? If so, please describe and estimate any impacts the proposed project may have.

No. There are no wetlands or other water surfaces within the boundaries of the proposed project.

When was the water delivery system constructed?

The Erie water treatment facility was established in 1920 on the site of the existing water plant.

Will the proposed project result in any modification of, or effects to, individual features of an irrigation system (e.g., headgates, canals, or flumes)? If so, state when those features were constructed and describe the nature and timing of any extensive alterations or modifications to those features completed previously.

No modifications to individual features of an irrigation system are necessary for the proposed project.

Are any buildings, structures, or features in the irrigation district listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places?

No historical buildings, structures, or features will be affected by the Lawrence A. Wurl Service Center (LAWSC) project.

Will the proposed project have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low-income or minority populations?

The proposed project to replace the turf at the LAWSC will not disproportionately or negatively impact individuals of lower socioeconomic status or historically marginalized populations.

Will the proposed project limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites or result in other impacts on tribal lands?

The Town's proposed turf replacement project at LAWSC will not impact any tribal lands or sacred sites.

Will the proposed project contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area?

The proposed project for the replacement of the turf at the LAWSC has been designed to ensure that it does not have any negative impact on the area's ecosystem. The project will not introduce, continue the existence, or spread of any noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area. In fact, the project aims to promote the use of weed-suppressing mulch and native water-efficient plant life. Additionally, it will encourage residents to consider incorporating the same native species in their own turf replacement projects.

Required Permits or Approvals

No permits or approvals are required for this project.

Letters of Support

Letters of support are included in the Appendix of the Project Narrative.

Official Resolution

An official resolution from the Town of Erie meeting the mandatory requirements set forth in the NOFO will be provided within 30 days after the application deadline.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

The Town of Erie is not aware of any actual or potential conflicts of interest concerning this grant application.



January 5, 2024

Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton
Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240-0001

Dear Commissioner Touton,

I am writing to express WaterNow Alliance's (WaterNow) support for the Town of Erie's (the Town's) grant application to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Small-Scale Water Efficiency Program (SWEP). We commend the Town's commitment to innovative and responsible water management, and we believe that the SWEP grant will provide crucial support to advance their efforts.

The Town's Turf Replacement Project at the Lawrence A. Wurl Service Center (LAWSC) is a shining example of their dedication to sustainability and their proactive efforts to engage and empower the community. By transforming LAWSC's existing lawn landscape with drought-resistant plant species, low-water use grass, and varying mulch types, the Town is not only creating a visually appealing space but also providing residents with a central location for inspiration and guidance for their own turf replacement projects.

The Town of Erie's commitment to water efficiency and sustainability aligns perfectly with the goals of the Small-Scale Water Efficiency Program. By supporting their grant application, WaterNow aims to contribute to the Town's efforts in promoting responsible water management practices and fostering a more sustainable future.

Thank you for considering the Town of Erie's grant application. We believe that their dedication and innovative approach to water efficiency make them a deserving candidate for the SWEP grant. If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at va@waternow.org or 303-253-2621 (c).

Sincerely,

Victoria Arling
Senior Program Manager, Colorado Basin
WaterNow Alliance



January 12, 2024

Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton
Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240-0001

Dear Commissioner Touton,

We are writing to express our strong support for the Town of Erie's (the Town's) grant application to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Small-Scale Water Efficiency Program (SWEP). As the Director of Public Works and the Director of Parks and Recreation for the Town, we have witnessed firsthand the Town's commitment to responsible water management and dedication to implementing innovative projects that promote water efficiency.

The Lawrence A. Wurl Service Center (LAWSC) Turf Replacement Project is a prime example of the Town's proactive approach to water conservation. By replacing the existing lawn landscape with drought-resistant plant species and low-water use grass, the Town is taking significant steps to reduce water consumption and promote sustainable landscaping practices. This project not only serves as a model for other municipalities but also provides a valuable educational resource for our community members who are interested in participating in the Town's Turf Replacement Rebate program.

We believe that by conserving water resources and reducing water waste, we can create a more resilient and prosperous community for current and future generations. The SWEP grant funding will play a crucial role in supporting our ongoing efforts and accelerating our progress toward a more sustainable future.


We appreciate your consideration of the Town of Erie's application. If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us at sbrown@erieco.gov or phammer@erieco.gov.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

3486CE0BCC23438...

Scott Brown
Interim Director of Public Works
Town of Erie

DocuSigned by:

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Patrick Hammer
Director of Parks and Recreation
Town of Erie

Budget Proposal

Town of Erie Lawrence A. Wurl Service Center Turf Replacement Project

WaterSMART Grants

Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects for Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025

Bureau of Reclamation NOFO No. R24AS00059

January 16, 2024



Town of Erie
645 Holbrook Street
Erie, Colorado 80516

Project Budget

Funding Plan

The Lawrence A. Wurl Service Center (LAWSC) Turf Replacement project, initiated by the Town of Erie (the Town), has a total budget of \$154,317. The requested funding for this project from the Bureau of Reclamation is \$69,443, with a local match of \$34,874. The Town is also utilizing non-federal funding to complete the project. The Sustainability Division was awarded a \$25,000 Turf Replacement grant from the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) under the Department of Natural Resources. The Town's Sustainability budget has also allocated \$25,000 to match the CWCB grant.

Budget Proposal

Table 1. Summary of Non-Federal and Federal Funding Sources

Funding Sources	Amount
Non-Federal Entities	
1. Town of Erie	\$ 34,874
2. Colorado Water Board Turf Replacement Grant	\$ 25,000
3. Town of Erie Match for Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Turf Replacement Grant	\$ 25,000
Non-Federal Subtotal	\$ 84,874
Requested Reclamation Funding	\$ 69,443
Total	\$ 154,317

Table 2. Total Project Cost

Source	Amount
Costs to be Covered by the CWCB Grant	\$ 25,000
Costs to be Reimbursed with the Requested Federal Funding	\$ 69,443
Costs to be Paid by Applicant	\$34,874 + \$25,000 CWCB Match
Value of Third-Party Contributions	N/A
Total Project Cost	\$ 154,317

Table 3. Budget Proposal

Budget Item Description	Computation		Quantity Type	Total Cost
	\$/Unit	Quantity		
1. Salaries and Wages				
Sustainability & Water Conservation Specialist Yr 1	\$ 40.00	100	Hour	\$ 4,000.00
Sustainability & Water Conservation Specialist Yr 2	\$ 42.00	50	Hour	\$ 2,100.00
Parks Supervisor	\$ 45.00	100	Hour	\$ 4,500.00
Parks Staff	\$ 25.00	150	Hour	\$ 3,750.00
2. Fringe Benefits				
Sustainability & Water Conservation Specialist Yr 1	\$ 4,000.00	0.34	Rate	\$ 1,356.00
Sustainability & Water Conservation Specialist Yr 2	\$ 2,100.00	0.34	Rate	\$ 712.00
Parks Supervisor	\$ 4,500.00	0.34	Rate	\$ 1,526.00
Parks Staff	\$ 3,750.00	0.34	Rate	\$ 1,271.00
3. Supplies				
Signage to Label Plant Species and Types	\$ 100.00	15	Each	\$ 1,500.00
4. Construction				
Landscape Contractor	\$ 133,602.00	1	Each	\$ 133,602.00
Total			\$154,317	

Budget Narrative

Salaries and Wages

The proposed project includes a budget allocation for salaries and wages to support the implementation and management of the grant program. The Town of Erie’s (the Town’s) full-time Sustainability and Water Conservation Specialist, Dylan King, will serve as the Project Manager. The Project Manager’s role encompasses various tasks, such as conducting regular meetings with the project team, which includes the Town’s full-time Director of Parks and Recreation and a part-time Parks and Recreation staff member. Additionally, the project manager

will coordinate with the contractor to ensure smooth implementation of the turf replacement and installation of the drip irrigation system.

The Project Manager will analyze and quantify the water savings achieved through the turf replacement, tailored explicitly to the Front-Range climate. This data will provide valuable insights into the project's impact and contribute to future water conservation efforts in the region.

The Project Manager will also be responsible for all grant and program reporting and compliance, ensuring that the project meets all requirements and regulations. This includes submitting progress reports, financial documentation, and other necessary paperwork to demonstrate the project's success and adherence to grant guidelines.

Finally, the Project Manager will be responsible for hosting educational seminars for Town Staff and residents. The seminars will take place at the Lawrence A. Wurl Service Center (LAWSC). They will cover the significance of water efficiency, drought-resistant plant life, and how to incorporate them into a turf replacement project design for homeowners and business owners.

The budget also includes provisions for the Parks Supervisor and Park Staff members. These individuals will oversee the LAWSC construction site and the commissioning and maintenance of the drip irrigation system. They will also maintain the newly planted species, ensuring their long-term health and vitality.

Fringe Benefits

Full-time employees of the Town of Erie are eligible for fringe benefits, which are calculated at an estimated rate of 34% of their salary. Employee benefits include health insurance and retirement benefits.

Supplies

To ensure the effectiveness of this educational component, it is estimated that 15 signs will be required, with an estimated cost of \$100 per sign. Therefore, a total budget of \$1,500 will be allocated for the procurement and installation of these signs. This investment in signage will not only enhance the overall aesthetic appeal of the project but also contribute to its broader benefits by promoting awareness and understanding of water-wise landscaping principles among community members. Aside from the signage, all other necessary supplies for the turf replacement initiative will be provided by the contracted landscape contractor.

Construction

The landscape contractor will play a crucial role in the successful execution of the proposed project by procuring and supplying all other necessary items including plants, irrigation systems, and materials. Additionally, the contractor will also undertake various essential tasks to transform the project site. This involves removing existing turf, ensuring proper disposal, and grading land if necessary to create an optimal foundation for new landscaping. The contractor will also focus on enhancing the soil quality to support the growth and vitality of the newly planted vegetation.

The contractor's responsibilities extend to the installation of the new drip irrigation system, which will provide a sustainable and efficient method of watering the plants. To further enhance the aesthetic appeal and functionality of the landscape, the contractor will also be responsible for spreading mulch, which not only adds visual appeal but also helps in moisture retention and weed suppression.