**Native and Water-Wise Grass Installation and Maintenance Manual**

9/28/2022

**Project Description**

*Purpose*

To produce an educational manual that describes the best practices for the successful installation and maintenance of native and water-wise grasses in urban/suburban landscapes in Colorado.

*Need*

Native and water-wise grasses have become a viable water conservation measure, especially for replacement of high-water turfgrass in large commercial and municipal landscapes. But current native grass installation and maintenance best practices have not been systematically identified, current projects have many points of failure, and are not a common skill set among landscape professionals. This project seeks to distill best known steps into actionable procedures, create usable resources, and educate landscape owners/managers along with landscape industry professionals.

*Project Objectives*

1. Document consistent, expert guidance, and best practices to maximize project success. Identify common causes of failure, potential risks, and provide guidance to improve outcomes.
2. Provide usable tools for landscape professionals, project managers, program managers, and associated parties involved in decisions and oversight of grass projects.
3. Include case studies to showcase options, costs vs. benefits, and water/maintenance savings.
4. Communicate options for different ecological regions.

**Request**

To leverage Colorado Water Wise as a fiscal entity to apply for a Water Plan Grant. The grant funds would be used to pay for adapting the manual content to an online format as well as building an online, interactive decision support tool. We anticipate this will be a stand-alone website to maximize visibility through search results.

Native Grass Working Group Role

* Produce manual content, case studies, and decision support tool content.
* Prepare grant application, including budget and schedule.
* Identify stakeholders and document matching fund commitments.
* Create statement of work and manage vendor selection process.
* Serve as project manager.
* Accept/reject deliverables.
* Produce grant progress reports.

Colorado Water Wise’s Role

* Submit grant application.
* Invoice partners for matching fund contributions.
* Pay vendor.
* Submit prepared grant progress reports and add invoices.
* Receive grant funds.
* Provide input to NGMWG on project management procedures, if needed.
* Estimated total staff time = 30-50 hours in 2022-23.

Guidelines and Supporting Information

* We think our grant request will be for $25,000 and will ask water provider partners for matching funds (up to $5,000 per water provider).
* We anticipate it would be appropriate for CWW to charge a program administration fee to cover administrative costs associated with grant administration and any program-related costs.
* CWW could be listed as a project partner and a link to the tool could be posted on CWW’s website.
* Website/manual should be available to all Coloradoans for free, not offered solely as a member benefit.
* We anticipate the content will be creative commons copyrighted (public domain), not copyrighted by a specific organization or individual.
* The Native Grass Working Group would request guaranteed, on-going editing and website management rights access to the developed website to do content updates.