



 Eagle County, CO

EXPANDED ACCESS TO TURF REPLACEMENT & IRRIGATION REBATES ON THE WESTERN SLOPE



OUR APPROACH

WaterNow Alliance and Western Resource Advocates (WRA) partnered with the Eagle County Conservation District (ECCD) and Eagle River Coalition (ERO) develop and launch Beyond Lawn – a county-wide turf replacement and irrigation system upgrade incentive program. This program provides rebates to landowners to replace their high-water use landscaping with waterwise alternatives and upgrade irrigation systems with more efficient components including smart controllers that adjust watering based on environmental conditions. Participants begin with a professional landscape and irrigation evaluation to identify water savings opportunities and receive customized retrofit recommendations. The project team supported program design, outreach tools, and implementation guidance to help landowners reduce water use and preserve streamflows in the county.

IMPACT

In its first year, Beyond Lawn completed 55 landscape and irrigation evaluations, leading to 8 turf conversion rebates totaling \$26,872 and replacing 13,767 square feet of turf. Five irrigation rebates were awarded, including \$4,225 in upgrade incentives and one smart controller. These efforts supported efficient outdoor water use and laid the groundwork for broader community participation. The program also delivered community benefits through 7,000 square feet of demonstration gardens and three do-it-yourself landscape conversion workshops for landowners.

KEY DRIVERS

Eagle County, a river-centric community with a population of ~56,000, relies on healthy, flowing streams to support its tourism and recreation-focused economy year round. With the population expected to double by 2050, there are concerns about increased water demand on top of the water supply issues they are currently facing due to drought and climate change. Many communities in the county lacked access to outdoor landscape rebates. ECCD and ERO launched Beyond Lawn to expand conservation practices county-wide, aiming to reduce per capita water use and safeguard future streamflows.

HOW IT WORKS

To be eligible for a turf or irrigation system rebate, landowners must enroll and complete a landscape and irrigation evaluation on their property. These evaluations cost \$100 and are completed by a team of professionals that assess landscape watering needs, identify inefficiencies, and explore potential savings opportunities. Once complete, landowners receive a comprehensive report with tailored recommendations for landscaping and irrigation upgrades to achieve water conservation goals.

PROPERTY MAP - OVERVIEW



Layers on the Map

 Turf	6,150.29 sf
 Mulch Beds	1,252.13 sf
 Tree	9N
 Non-Irrigated Native	395.48 sf
 Vegetables	118.36 sf

IRRIGATION ZONES



HOW IT WORKS

Landowners can then apply for turf replacement and irrigation system rebates. If approved, they can receive \$1.44 - \$2.44 per square foot of turf removed (up to 2,500 square feet), 50% of the irrigation upgrade cost (up to \$1,000), and \$100 off a smart controller. Participants are encouraged to attend educational events and use resources from the Beyond Lawn website to support their project needs.

ZONE DATA - IRRIGATION SYSTEM CONDITIONS

The following chart is an overview of the issues currently present in your irrigation system that are causing water loss and inefficiency

		Major water loss - fix before running the irrigation system				
		Moderate water loss/inefficiency				
		Minor water loss/inefficiency				
ZONE #	1	2	3	4	5	7
Lateral Leaks	X			X		
Broken Heads						
Low Heads			X			
Tilted Heads			X			
Spacing						
Clogged Nozzles						
Obstructions						
Pressure						
Overspray						
Low Head Drainage	X			X		

IRRIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS

The following list contains the irrigation system recommendations identified at your evaluation. The order indicates which upgrades will produce the biggest water savings, and each recommendation comes with a difficulty rating

EASY	DIY upgrade, with some research and the right tools
MEDIUM	Requires skill & research, and some cases may need professional help
HARD	Usually requires professional help

REPAIR LEAKS AND REPLACE BROKEN HEADS

MEDIUM

#1

Check Zones #1 and #4 for leaks, and fix or replace

Resources:

- [Beyond Lawn Fact Sheet - Leaks and Broken Heads](#)

REPLACE OLD, TRADITIONAL SPRAY NOZZLES WITH NEW, HIGH EFFICIENCY SPRAY NOZZLES

EASY

#2

Zones # 5 and #7 can be upgraded with new, high efficiency rotor nozzles to decrease water loss.

Resources:

- [Beyond Lawn Fact Sheet - High Efficiency Spray Nozzles](#)



**LANDSCAPE CONVERSIONS ARE NOT CHEAP. IRRIGATION
UPGRADES ARE NOT CHEAP. SO WE WANT TO ENABLE PEOPLE
TO MAKE THOSE CHANGES AND NOT FEEL LIKE IT'S AN
IMPOSSIBLE CHANGE TO MAKE BECAUSE OF THE FINANCIAL
STRAIN.**

– Allegra Waterman-Snow
District Technician, Eagle County Conservation District

THE PATH FORWARD

Building on early success, ECCD and ERO aim to expand Beyond Lawn's reach to additional communities in the county and explore partnerships with other water providers like Eagle River Water and Sanitation District to further scale outdoor water conservation efforts.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Connect with neighboring communities to learn effective systems, workflows, and strategies for designing and implementing conservation programs.

Provide custom recommendations through evaluations to provide participants with tailored, actionable strategies to reduce water use.

Involve the community early on to ensure the program reflects local needs and leverages available expertise and resources.

Pilot the program on a small scale to refine strategies and set the foundation for long-term success.

SOURCES

Eagle River Coalition & Eagle County River Conservation District, *Meadowscaping*, <https://beyondlawn.org/meadowscaping>.

Scott Miller, *Eagle County Conservation District Had a Busy 2024, with More on Tap for This Year*, on VailDaily (Jan. 24, 2025), <https://www.vaildaily.com/news/eagle-county-conservation-district-busy-2024-mill-levy/>.

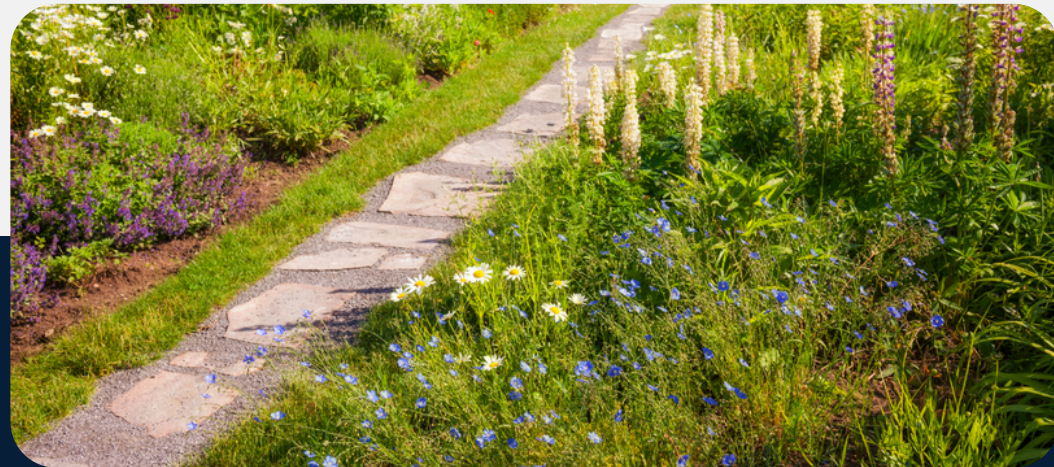
WaterNow Alliance, *Eagle River Coalition & Eagle County Conservation District, CO, Beyond Lawn Water Efficient Landscape Conversion Program*, <https://waternow.org/project/eagle-river-watershed-council-eagle-county-conservation-district-co/>.

Zoe Goldstein, *Water-Saving Turf Removal Program, Beyond Lawn, Enormously Successful in First Year*, on VailDaily (Nov. 10, 2024), <https://www.vaildaily.com/news/water-saving-turf-removal-program-beyond-lawn-enormously-successful-in-first-year/>.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[BEYOND LAW PROGRAM HOMEPAGE](#)

RELATED PROJECTS



FOUNTAIN, CO

Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional Turf Conversion Incentive Program Development



EVANS, CO

Direct Install Program for Income-Qualified Residents and Indoor Water Efficiency Audits



CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

Toilet Rebate Program Review and Revamp

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