



CITY OF LONGMONT | Parks & Natural Resources Division

July 6, 2022

To the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District Board,

The City of Longmont Ecosystem Management Workgroup respectfully requests funding from the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District (SVLHWCD) for the design of a native, xeric, demonstration garden to be located at the City's Sandstone Ranch Nature Area. We believe that this project will meet directives outlined in the District's Five Point Plan for utilizing funding from Ballot Question 7A.

Based off a landscape plan completed in 2007 by Colorado State University landscape architecture students, The City of Longmont would like to partner with SVLHWCD to modify the design to incorporate native plants into a xeric, demonstration garden. This garden would be located along the heavily traveled and visited St. Vrain Greenway Trail and Sandstone Ranch Visitor and Learning Center, providing an excellent opportunity to educate residents served by SVLHWCD on landscaping techniques to conserve water at their homes and businesses. SVLHWCD would fund the design of the garden to be completed by November 2022, paying invoices from a consultant while the City would act as project manager. Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District has expressed strong interest in funding the construction of the garden in 2023 through their Collaborative Water-Efficient Landscape Grant Program.

Specifically, this project meets the funding criteria by being located within SVLHWCD's boundaries and addressing the following directives of the District's Five Point Plan:

- Protect water quality and drinking water sources through
 - o Drought planning & preparedness – As more residents learn about and in turn, incorporate xeric landscaping at their homes and businesses, the community will be better prepared for drought.
- Safeguard and conserve drinking Water through
 - o Conserving water including indoor water uses and urban outdoor irrigation – Residents utilizing xeric landscaping techniques learned from the garden will conserve urban, outdoor irrigation water.
 - o Educating the District constituents on how water management occurs in Colorado and in the District – Constituents will learn how the City utilizes and encourages xeric landscaping to more efficiently manage its water use.
 - o Leading the water community to reach a broader audience through all forms of media – The St. Vrain Greenway Trail and the Sandstone Ranch Visitor and Learning Center have thousands of

users per year that will learn about SVLHWCD and how to conserve water through xeric landscaping.

The City of Longmont has the ability to complete this project utilizing existing staff that will act as project manager overseeing the design and construction of the garden. The necessary amount of hours required to manage the project will be provided for.

The City would like to request that SVLHWCD fund the entirety of the design of the garden. A quote from a landscape architect for design estimated the cost to be \$20,135.00. In-kind services would be provided by the City in the form of staff time acting as project manager as well as by providing materials for the garden construction such as landscape boulders, wood mulch, and stone for retaining walls. It is estimated that the City would provide approximately \$20,000.00 of in-kind contributions. The City would also contribute \$50,000.00 in cash for the construction of the garden in 2023 with Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District providing an additional \$20,000.00. As a percentage breakdown, the partners funding amounts are:

SVLHWCD = ~18%

City of Longmont = ~64%

Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District = ~18%

Should Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District not contribute any funding, the project will still be feasible. Based off of the landscape architect's preliminary cost estimate for construction, the project could be pared down in scope. Also, between Longmont's cash and in-kind contributions for construction, the costs would be covered.

Throughout the design phase of the garden, SVLHWCD will be involved in reviewing design drafts. Furthermore, SVLHWCD will be recognized for their contributions to this project by having their logo placed on interpretive signage within the garden.

The City of Longmont is excited about this project and for the opportunity to partner with St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District. We feel that it meets the District's mission and values as outlined in the Five Point Plan. We appreciate the District's consideration for funding and look forward to hearing from the District.

Please reach out if there are any questions. I am happy to discuss this project in further detail.

Sincerely,



Daniel Wolford
Land Program Manager