

12/01/2022

St. Vrain & Left Hand Water Conservancy District Board of Directors,

Thank you for the opportunity to request funds through the District's Partner Funding Program. We request funding to increase and expand our Outdoor Water Conservation programs to more community members in the City of Longmont and our neighbors in the Town of Lyons.

We believe this project successfully addresses the Districts' goal to "Protect Water Quality And Drinking Water Sources" through drought planning and preparedness, as well as "Safeguard and Conserve Drinking Water" through conservation, as outlined in the Five Point Plan.

**Project Description: Conservation Program Increase and Expansion to Lyons**

Conserving water outdoors through xeric landscaping is looked at as one of the leading "new water sources" in the nearing times of extended drought conditions and aridification. The City of Longmont is prioritizing managing our existing water supplies with long-term water sustainability and best management practices in mind.

Since conserving water, especially outdoors, is one of the methods of meeting our long-term water demand, the City of Longmont (Longmont) would like to increase our outdoor water conservation program through your partner funding opportunity. Not only would we like to provide more programming for our community, but we would like to expand into our neighboring community, The Town of Lyons (Lyons), as Longmont provides water treatment services to Lyons. 100% of Longmont and Lyons residents are served by the District, therefore, increasing the reach of these programs increases the reach of the District's conservation goals.

The outdoor programs we are proposing to expand are the Garden in a Box program and the Lawn Replacement program through Resource Central. Garden in a Box is a professionally designed, water-wise garden kit tailor-made for Colorado yards. These boxes make it easy to get a professional look by including plant-by-number maps, seasonal maintenance suggestions, and watering recommendations to help the low-water garden thrive year after year. The Lawn Replacement Program offers a mix-and-match solution to remove and replace turf grass. This helps community members save water and money, reduce lawn maintenance, and create a colorful yard habitat.

Through the partnership with Resource Central, Longmont currently provides 200 (including 30 income-qualified) discounted Garden in a Boxes and 10-15 Lawn Replacement projects. Through the Garden in a Box program, we have been able to conserve 126,400 gallons of water per year on average, and through the Lawn Replacement program, we will save approximately 2,000 gallons of water per lawn (Resource Central). Note: on average it takes three (3) years to notice high volumes of water savings due to the establishment of water needs of new plants

We request District Partner Funding to increase Longmont's community programming and bring back Lyon's programming.

**Project Objectives:**

With District Partner funds to support program expansion, Longmont will be able to provide 10-15 additional lawn replacements and 40-100 additional garden discounts. We will also be able to bring the programs back into Lyons, where they were previously popular with community members, but were discontinued due to funding constraints.

The City of Longmont has successfully been overseeing the Garden in a Box program since 2012. Each year, the program is more successful and Longmont community members continue to sell out our discounts and additional, non-discounted gardens. District funding support will help expand the number of community members served, both in Longmont and in Lyons.

While Longmont has just begun our turf replacement program in 2022, it was wildly successful. We were only able to provide funding for 12 projects, but we had over 30 applicants. We know that being able to offer more funding will increase our participation in the program. The 12 projects funded in 2022 consisted of 7,317 square feet of turf replaced (Resource Central). While nothing currently exists to ensure projects are not transitioned back to turf, we will be researching best practices to ensure that properties converted through the city-sponsored program cannot be transitioned back to turf as part of Longmont’s Master Plan update (due in 2024). A potential option would be placing a deed restriction or conservation easement on treated properties. We will also be conducting code and design standard updates to limit landscape redevelopment. Customers participating in Lawn Replacement program are required to sign the agreement provided by Resource Central (see attached Memo).

These programs will result in a lower total build-out water demand for both entities. Absent these conservation programs, the total water demand for Longmont at build-out will exceed the currently programmed water supply, requiring the acquisition of additional water supplies or projects.

**Funds Requested and Match Amounts:**

The City of Longmont would like to request \$20,000 of Partner Funding for Outdoor Water Conservation program expansion.

Project	Longmont’s Contribution (Dollars)	Longmont’s Contribution (Percentages)	District’s Contribution (Dollars)	District’s Contribution (Percentages)	Total Estimated Project Cost
Garden in a Box	\$12,750	56.05%	\$10,000.00	43.95%	\$22,750
Lawn Replacement	\$25,000	71.43%	\$10,000.00	28.57%	\$35,000.00

**Stakeholder Involvement**

With the expansion of the Outdoor Conservation Programs, we will be able to offer discounted programs to more Longmont and Lyons community members. 100% of Longmont and Lyons residents are served by the District, therefore, increasing the reach of these programs increases the reach of the District’s conservation goals.

If this cross-community expansion is successful, we would like to explore expanding the program discounts district-wide.

**District Recognition:**

The St. Vrain Left Hand & Water Conservancy District will be recognized in multiple ways:

1. Contribution highlighted on the City of Longmont’s website and any program marketing materials and social media outlets
2. Contribution highlighted in the Town of Lyon’s marketing materials and social media outlets

3. Longmont will work with Resource Central to place St. Vrain & Left Hand Water Conservancy District stickers on garden handouts given to each customer to highlight the collaboration.
4. District recognition in Longmont water bill inserts (Lyons water bill inserts TBD).

We thank you for your consideration of our project for the Partner Funding Program and for your support as we continue to grow our program from its infancy.

Sincerely,  
The City of Longmont Water Resources Staff

## **St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District Quarterly Partner Funding Project Report Template**

Partner Entity:  
Project Title:  
Reporting Period:  
Date:

### **Budget**

1. Total Funding:
2. Funds spent this quarter:
3. Remaining funds to be spent:
4. How were District funds specifically spent this quarter?

### **Scope**

5. Tasks/deliverables completed to date:
6. Tasks/deliverables worked on this quarter:
7. Tasks/deliverables completed this quarter:
8. Tasks/deliverables in progress:

### **Schedule**

9. Is the project on schedule? If no, how will the schedule be handled moving forward?
10. Upcoming deadlines:

### **District Contributions**

11. District contribution recognition to date:
12. Was the District highlighted for its contributions this quarter? If so, where and how?

### **Issues**

13. Any issues to report/discuss and how will they be addressed?

### **Outcome (only at completion of project)**

14. Is the project complete?
15. What are the results and benefits of the project to the basin?
16. If the project has next steps, what are they?
17. Are you seeking District support for these next steps?