



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE POLICY

I. Purpose

This policy intends to reduce water use on outdoor landscapes for new construction, substantial renovation, and redevelopment by reducing nonfunctional turf and requiring water-efficient landscaping at State facilities. Restricting high-water use vegetation in underutilized and nonfunctional landscape areas and installing water-wise landscapes benefits every Coloradoan as it helps conserve shared water resources. Landscapes that feature water-wise vegetation can help create visible examples of transformative landscape change and push new development toward lower-water-using vegetation.¹

II. Authority

Executive Order D2023 018 directs the development of a water-efficient landscape policy for new construction and substantial renovation projects at State-owned facilities.

[SB24-005](#) “Prohibit Landscaping Practices for Water Conservation”

§ 37-99-101 C.R.S. Legislative Declaration

§ 37-99-102 C.R.S. Definitions

§ 37-99-103 C.R.S. Prohibition of nonfunctional turf, artificial turf, and invasive plant species - local entities - construction or renovation of state facilities.

III. Requirements

Any new construction or substantial renovation projects at a State-owned facility that begins a design solicitation on or after January 1, 2025, or where landscaping is being modified, shall incorporate regional climatic and ecosystem considerations as well as water-efficient irrigation.

The water-efficient criteria shall require the installation of sustainable, drought-tolerant, and ecoregion-appropriate landscaping, including native or drought-tolerant lawn grasses, and high-efficiency irrigation infrastructure in areas where high-water turf grass is non-essential, such as medians, roundabouts, parking lot islands, slopes greater than 4:1, and areas not used for water quality.

¹ Urban Landscape Conservation Task Force Final Report 2024