



# Residential Terms and Conditions

## Eligibility

- Participant must receive water from Fort Collins Utilities.
- Project area must be high-water use grass proposed for low- or no-water landscape.
- New construction yet to be landscaped and built within 18 months of application submittal may be eligible.
- One rebate per address per year.
- Landscape designs must be approved before installation or within 3 months of project completion in order to be eligible for a rebate. If the project is installed prior to program approval, it must meet all program requirements or make the required changes identified by City staff to meet program requirements.
- Participant must submit “before” photos of the proposed renovation area(s). Photos taken during active growth of the landscape are preferred.
  - Photos must be in color and include:
    - ✓ A wide view of the property
    - ✓ Comprehensive views of each area to be renovated, clearly showing existing plant material



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- Proposed renovation area must be existing high-water grass with historical, regular water use. Fort Collins Utilities will confirm eligibility by looking up historical water use. Automatic irrigation systems are not required. Proposed projects must demonstrate long-term water reduction.
- It is the participants responsibility to receive HOA or mobile home park management approval as necessary before applying to XIP. XIP approval does not guarantee HOA or mobile home park management approval.
- Participants may begin killing grass once they have submitted a completed application and photos within the specifications listed above. Please note that application submittal does not guarantee approval into the XIP program.
- Standard rebate: \$0.75 per square foot up to \$750. Native Rebate: \$1.00 per square foot up to \$1000.
- Eligibility for the Native Rebate rate is determined by City staff at the time of application approval.

- XIP is first come, first served. Estimated rebate funds are held per participant for one-year from the date of application approval. Extensions will not be granted. Applicants with expired applications must reapply.
- Landscapes must be installed to plan within reason. Variations in plants and plant location are acceptable without additional approval.
- Inspections are performed by City staff after project completion. Participants may schedule an inspection on the XIP website.
- Rebate amount is based on measurement at final inspection multiplied by the approved rebate rate. Rebate amount may not exceed total project cost minus taxes.
- Rebates are issued in the form of a check.



## Landscape Requirements

- **Plants** must be appropriate to the Fort Collins climate and may be selected from, but not limited to, the plants listed on the XIP-Approved Plant List and City Vegetation Database. Plants listed with moderate, low and very low water requirement are eligible. Low-water turf types may be eligible.
- To avoid over-watering some plants and under-watering others, **plants must be grouped together according to water requirement.**
- **Hardscaping is eligible area if it allows water to pass through.** Concrete and grouted patios are not eligible.
- **Front yard must contain a total of 50% plant coverage at maturity. Plant coverage is determined based on estimated area of plants at maturity, verified at design approval. Landscape plans must show plants drawn to scale at mature size.** Remaining areas of grass in the front yard may count toward coverage. Tree canopy does not count toward coverage.
- Changes to **parkway landscapes** must meet the City's parkway guidelines and require an additional Parkway Amendment Application. Parkways are city-owned property and are the responsibility of the adjacent property owner to maintain.
- Eligibility for the **Native Rebate** rate requires 1) minimum of 80% plants native to Colorado, calculated by total quantity of plants 2) 50% plant coverage at maturity of the total renovation area.
- **Items not eligible for rebate:** annual vegetable beds, raised beds, annual plants, synthetic mulches, water features, trees, equipment purchases, moderate water turf grass, landscape fabric,

- Automatic **irrigation** zones must be retrofitted to water both remaining grass adequately and irrigate the new landscape efficiently. Drip irrigation is preferred to overhead sprays, but not required. If overhead sprays are used, high-efficiency nozzles are required. Hand watering and semi-automatic irrigation is acceptable. Only one irrigation type (drip, spray, mister) may be used on each irrigation zone.
- **New and existing trees must have dedicated irrigation** or a proposed method for regular hand watering. Regardless of size, age and how long trees on the property have existed without regular irrigation, trees need 10 gallons per inch of diameter of tree trunk at least once per month to stay healthy. Young trees require the calculated volume once a week, mature trees require the calculated volume once a month.
- **City code requires residents to amend their soil** when grass is physically removed and replaced with new plant material by adding 3 cubic yards/1000 square feet in planted areas. Plant based compost is recommended. Soil amendment is any material added to the soil to improve its physical properties, such as water retention, permeability, water infiltration, drainage, aeration and structure. The goal is to provide a better environment for roots. After your project is finished, complete a Notarized soil certificate and get it notarized. *A soil test is NOT required for the program unless you choose not to amend your soil.*
- To avoid landscape failure, **participants must manage weeds** pre- and post-installation. Participants are required to eradicate weeds prior to landscape installation.



## Rebate Materials

Rebate materials must be submitted prior to or at inspection.

- **Final Rebate Application Form:** Digital form filled out at inspection that requires total project cost and signature.
- **Soil amendment certificate:** notarized form certifying you amended your soil. A soil amendment certificate is NOT a soil test.
  - A soil amendment certificate is only required if grass was physically removed and replaced with new plant material. Please note, a soil test is NOT required for the program unless you choose not to amend your soil.
- **W9:** Water rebates over \$600 are considered taxable income. Participants who receive more than \$600 of water rebates throughout the year will be sent a 1099 form for the tax year the rebate was received. Paper W9 forms will be provided and completed at inspection in order to receive a rebate.
- **Receipts:** original or copies of project receipts must prove the project cost is equal to or greater than the rebate. If providing an invoice from a contractor, proof of payment must be provided as well. XIP rebate cannot exceed project cost, minus taxes, and receipts must clearly show the date of purchase and total cost of items.
- A **list of expenses** that includes date of purchase, amount spent on your XIP project, and the store purchase was made at for each receipt.