Beyond Lawn
HOA Irrigation Efficiency Grant

Application Deadline: Midnight, December 15th, 2026 (for 2027 projects)
Submit to: BeyondLawn@ECCDistrict.org
Questions? Call (970) 236-1165 or email BeyondLawn@ECCDistrict.org

Beyond Lawn Mission

Empowering communities to conserve water and enhance biodiversity through education, collaboration, and guidance towards fostering sustainable landscapes.

Program Background

The Beyond Lawn Program offers HOA Grants to Homeowner Associations (HOAs) within Eagle County Conservation District boundaries to support meaningful water conservation improvements.

- **2027 Projects**: Irrigation efficiency upgrades only.

Why Irrigation Efficiency First?

Eagle County is currently experiencing exceptional drought conditions. In response, Beyond Lawn is prioritizing irrigation efficiency upgrades - the fastest and most direct way for HOAs to reduce water use.

Projects funded through this grant must demonstrate measurable, long-term reductions in irrigation water use for the HOA community. **Grant funds are limited and will be distributed through a competitive application process.**

Grant Funding Summary

- Homeowners Associations (HOAs) are eligible to receive up to $10,000 in total funding within any rolling five-year period, calculated from the date of the first awarded grant.
- **Eligible expenses include**: professional water auditing services, associated design and reporting, irrigation materials and equipment, and irrigation contractor labor
- Grant funds cannot be used for general landscape labor, design unrelated to irrigation, or unrelated site improvements
- Projects must be completed within one year of the grant award date
- **This is a reimbursement-based grant** — the HOA is responsible for full payment upfront and will be reimbursed upon verified project completion

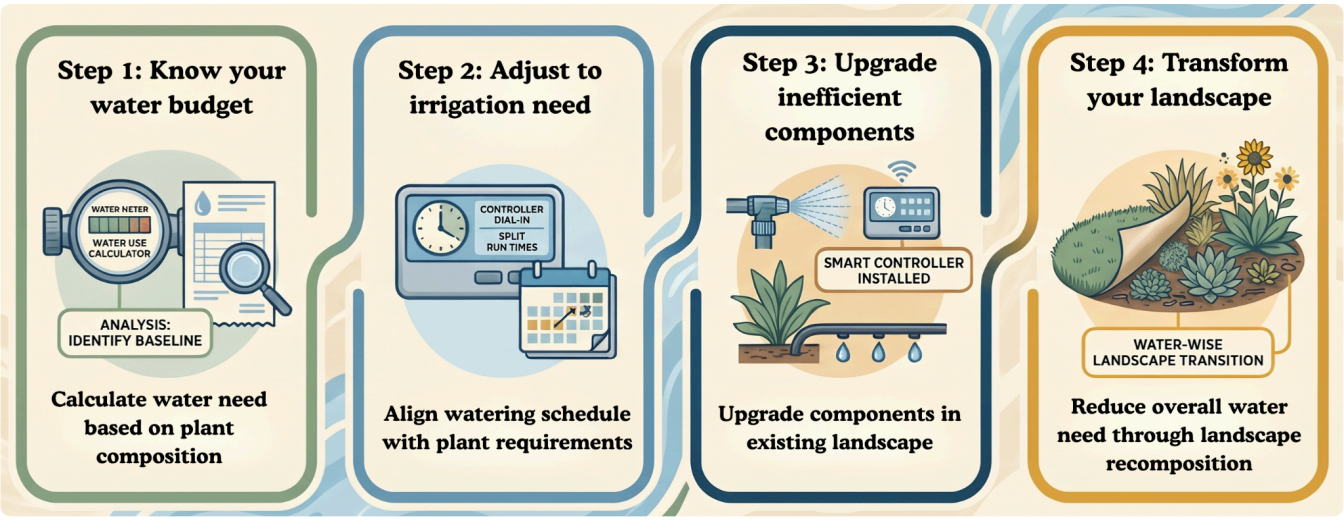
Pre-Application Requirements

Before submitting this application, the following steps must be completed. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

1. Contact Beyond Lawn staff to discuss the proposed project prior to applying. Call (970) 236-1165 or email BeyondLawn@ECCDistrict.org.
2. If using an irrigation auditor, determine whether you will be working with a certified irrigation professional qualified for the scope and scale of your project (see note below).
3. Obtain a draft contractor estimate that includes an itemized breakdown of materials, labor, and any auditing or design services.

Irrigation Audit Requirement

- **An irrigation system audit from an irrigation system professional and a water budget for the property is required for all applicants. These services are eligible for grant funds and can be included as part of the grant application.**
- If you are working with a **certified irrigation professional (QWEL, CIT, or CLIA)**: a Beyond Lawn Landscape and Irrigation Evaluation is **not required** prior to application. The professional's audit or assessment is sufficient.
- If you are **not working with a certified irrigation professional** : a completed Beyond Lawn *Landscape and Irrigation Evaluation* is **required** before submitting this application. Contact BeyondLawn@ECCDistrict.org to schedule.



Efficient components only save water if landscapes are not being overwatered, so we require that HOAs establish a baseline water need before upgrading irrigation system components.

Eligibility Requirements

Your project must meet all of the following requirements to be eligible for a Beyond Lawn HOA Irrigation Efficiency Grant. If your project does not meet these requirements, your application may be denied or only partially funded. Please reach out to BeyondLawn@ECCDistrict.org with any eligibility questions.

HOA applicants must:

- Be located within Eagle County Conservation District boundaries (see MAP)
- Have an existing irrigated landscape on the property
- Complete an irrigation audit and water budget before applying or as an objective in the application
- Propose upgrades to an existing irrigation system — this grant will not fund new irrigation systems in previously unirrigated areas
- Prioritize common areas that provide shared benefit to the broader HOA community
- Demonstrate measurable, long-term water savings resulting from the project
- Work with a certified irrigation professional, OR have a completed Beyond Lawn Landscape and Irrigation Evaluation on file

Project Requirements

Eligible Work

Grant funds may be used for the following:

- Professional water auditing services, including associated design, reporting, and system assessment
- Irrigation materials & equipment (heads, drip lines, valves, pressure regulators, sensors, etc.)
- Smart irrigation controllers and weather-based or soil-moisture-based technology
- Conversion from overhead spray to drip irrigation in applicable zones
- Irrigation contractor labor for controller upgrades, installation, system programming, or component efficiency upgrades

Ineligible Expenses

- General landscaping labor or plant installation
- Landscape design services not directly related to irrigation
- New irrigation infrastructure in areas not previously irrigated
- Irrigation associated with pools, fountains, hot tubs, or other water features
- Equipment purchases unrelated to irrigation efficiency

Contractor Requirements

If contractor labor is included in the grant request, the following apply:

- Labor costs will only be reimbursed if performed by a certified irrigation professional holding one or more of the following credentials:
  - QWEL (Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper)
  - CIT (Certified Irrigation Technician, Irrigation Association)
  - CLIA (Certified Landscape Irrigation Auditor, Irrigation Association)
- The contractor's name, company, and applicable certification(s) must be provided with the application.
- A signed contract or firm estimate from the contractor must be submitted with the application.
- Contractor rates are capped at $80/hr for reimbursement; the HOA is responsible for rates exceeding this amount

Project Evaluation Criteria

Beyond Lawn staff will review applications using a scoring rubric. Priority for funding will be given to projects that achieve the highest scores based on the established criteria.

Evaluation Category	Description
Estimated Water Savings	Projects demonstrating the greatest reduction in annual water use (measured in estimated gallons saved and as a percentage of total HOA irrigation demand) will receive higher scores.
Efficiency of Design	Projects that incorporate high-efficiency equipment, smart controllers, pressure regulation, or system-wide redesign and efficiency improvements will be evaluated on the quality and comprehensiveness of the proposed upgrades.
Long-Term Conservation Impact	Priority will be given to projects expected to produce durable, lasting savings — particularly those with equipment, designs, or management practices that sustain or improve efficiency gains over many years.
Project Readiness	Applications that include a complete proposal, contractor estimate, and clear implementation plan will receive higher scores.
Determination of Need	Beyond Lawn may give additional consideration to HOAs that demonstrate a meaningful financial need — particularly where the cost of upgrades would otherwise prevent the project from moving forward without grant assistance.

How to Apply

The HOA Irrigation Efficiency Grant application form is available now through the December 15th, 2026 deadline. In the meantime, interested HOAs should complete the following steps:

1. Contact Beyond Lawn staff to discuss your project and confirm eligibility before applying. Call (970) 236-1165 or email BeyondLawn@ECCDistrict.org.
2. If you have not received an evaluation or hired a certified irrigation professional (QWEL, CIT, and/or CLIA), you are not eligible for this round. Low cost evaluations are available on a limited basis and can be scheduled in the spring when evaluations open. Sign up to receive updates here.
3. Obtain a draft contractor estimate with an itemized breakdown of materials, labor, and any auditing or design service costs.
4. Submit your completed application and supporting materials via the google form, accessible here, by December 15th, 2026.