



## DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER

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### APPLICATION PROCESS FOR OPTIONAL WATER-EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE/IRRIGATION PLANS AKA HYDROZONE

#### PROGRAM SUMMARY

- The City of Loveland has developed a voluntary water budget program that is designed to provide cost savings to water customers and to protect the City's water resources by encouraging the design, installation and maintenance of water-efficient landscaping.
- This program is available for new landscapes and retrofitted landscapes.
- To qualify for this program, landscaping must be based on hydrozone design and demonstrate a maximum annual water usage rate of 15 gallons per square foot following a three-year period of establishment; this amount is roughly equivalent to a 25% reduction in water usage compared to a typical bluegrass installations.
- Landscaped areas must be irrigated by a dedicated irrigation meter; a graduated water-rate surcharge will be charged to all program participants who exceed the water budget allowance following the three-year establishment period.

#### POLICY AND STANDARD GUIDELINES

- Chapter 4 of the Site Development Performance Standards and Guidelines. Section 4.10 specifies the requirements for Optional Water-Efficient Landscape Plans. All other provisions of Chapter 4, unless otherwise noted, are applicable to Water-Efficient Landscape Plans.
- Chapter 19.06 (Water Rights) of the Municipal Code which provides applicable information relating to meter size, surcharges and related program requirements.

#### APPLICATION PROCESSES

- A. Standard Submittal - Water-efficient Landscape Plans are submitted in lieu of the city's regular landscape plan requirement. Submittal can be any point in the submittal process where landscape plans are normally submitted for review.

##### Required Information for Water-Efficient Landscape Plans:

1. Landscape Plan (to scale not greater than 1"=60')
  - a) Plant areas should be grouped into the distinct hydrozones according to their microclimatic needs and water requirements.
  - b) List of planting types separated into hydrozone groupings (VL, L, M, H)
  - c) Location of dedicated irrigation meter & meter size
  - d) Landscape plans must be prepared and stamped by Colorado Registered Professional Landscape Architect
2. Hydrozone Plan (at the same scale as the Landscape Plan)
  - a) Depiction of landscape areas grouped by each hydrozone
  - e) List of planting types separated into hydrozone groupings (VL, L, M, H)
  - b) Table with Square Footage area of each hydrozone and calculated area of each and total area
  - c) Location of dedicated irrigation meter & meter size

- d) Hydrozone plans must be prepared and stamped by Colorado Registered Professional Landscape Architect
- 3. Schematic Irrigation plan (at the same scale as the Landscape Plan)
  - a) Schematic view of the irrigation system showing the location of the irrigation meter & meter size
  - b) Indication of automatic rainfall shut-off (rain sensor).
  - c) Narrative description of irrigation system including a statement of the design pressure and the procedure for any temporary irrigation systems;
  - d) A table of flow rates into each hydrozone, indicating that the water usage of the total landscaped area, upon establishment, will not exceed 15 gallons per square foot per year;
  - e) An table of the proposed irrigation schedule, illustrating that irrigation can be satisfactorily provided within a 16 hour period per day, excluding subsurface irrigation of trees and shrubs
  - f) Irrigation plans must be prepared and signed by a Colorado Registered Professional Engineer, Landscape Architect, or by a designer certified by the Association of Landscape Contractors of Colorado (CLT-E Certification) or by the Irrigation Association (CID Certification).
- B. Retrofit Submittal – Submittal of plans can be made on an existing irrigation meter. If the submittal can show a difference in water rights a credit for the difference can be put into the Water Bank for the applicant. Submittal is made directly to the Planning Division (use the PICP application form) as a revision to the previously approved Landscape plans.

Required information for a retrofit submittal:

1. Copies of the original approved Landscape Plans corresponding to the retrofit irrigation meter
2. Proposed Hydrozone Plans
  - a) Depiction of landscape areas grouped by each hydrozone
  - b) List of planting types separated into hydrozone groupings (VL, L, M, H)
  - c) Table with Square Footage area of each hydrozone and calculated area of each and total area
  - d) Location of retrofit irrigation meter & meter size
  - e) Hydrozone plans must be prepared and stamped by Colorado Registered Professional Landscape Architect
3. Copies of the original approved Irrigation Plans corresponding to the retrofit irrigation meter. If Irrigation plans were not previously submitted and approved then the Irrigation plans will need to be submitted for review:
  - a) Plan view of the irrigation system showing the location of the irrigation meter & meter size & indication of automatic rainfall shut-off (rain sensor).
  - b) A table of flow rates into each hydrozone, indicating that the water usage of the total landscaped area, upon establishment, will not exceed 15 gallons per square foot per year;
  - c) An table of the proposed irrigation schedule, illustrating that irrigation can be satisfactorily provided within a 16 hour period per day, excluding subsurface irrigation of trees and shrubs
  - d) Irrigation plans must be prepared and signed by a Colorado Registered Professional Engineer, Landscape Architect, or by a designer certified by the Association of Landscape Contractors of Colorado (CLT-E Certification) or by the Irrigation Association (CID Certification).
4. A request letter from the developer/owner requesting the retrofit.