

# Water Conservation with SACWSD and C3

February 2026 EPIC Meeting

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February 26, 2026



Commerce  
**CITY**



# Presentation Outline

1. Introductions
2. Background - SACWSD and C3 Collaborative Work and Partnerships
3. SACWSD Water Sustainability Programs
4. E3 Work
5. E3/Community Development Work
6. Next Steps/Actions for Community
7. Questions

# Presenters (Names/Roles)

## **SACWSD**

- Daniel Kelshaw, Water Resources Engineer
- Drew Howland, Public Information Officer

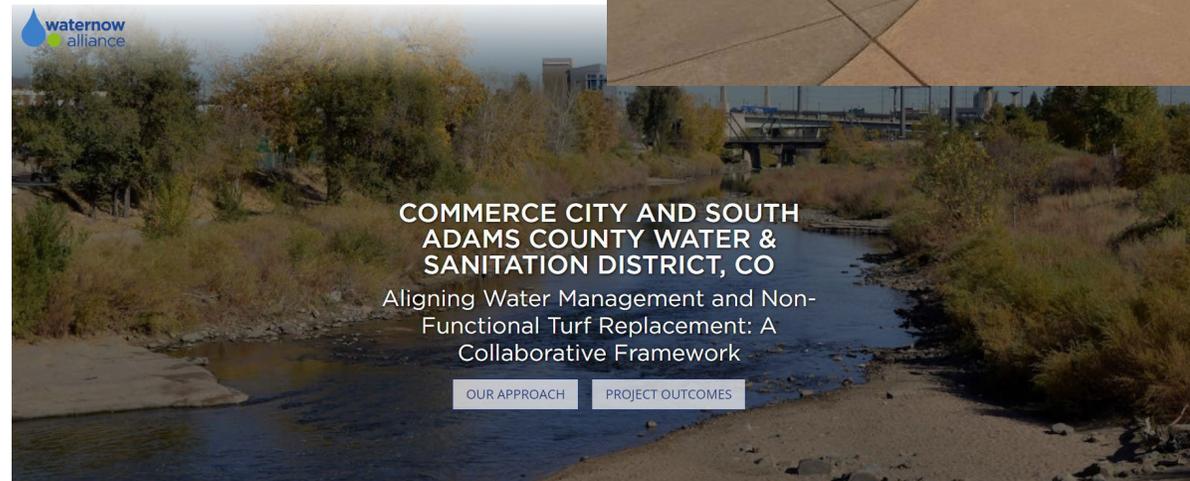
## **Commerce City**

- Libby Tart, Senior Environmental Planner, E3 Division
- Dave Foster, Landscape Architect, Community Development Department



# Recent SACWSD and C3 Partnerships

- Northern Colorado Water Smart Workshop – Estes Park May 2023
- Water Smart Grant Collaboration
- Project Accelerator
- ERUs/Temporary Irrigation Meters



# SACWSD Water Sustainability Programs

## District Turf Replacement

- Klein Water Treatment Plant native grass and xeriscape implementation designed by Denver Botanic Gardens
- Replacing turf with river rocks and native flora at 77th & Pontiac reservoir, followed by 80th & Jasmine reservoir in 2027

## Resource Central 2026 "Slow the Flow" programs:

- Irrigation audits (75)

## Additional WaterSmart Efforts in 2026

- Rain sensor giveaways
- Smart irrigation controller giveaways

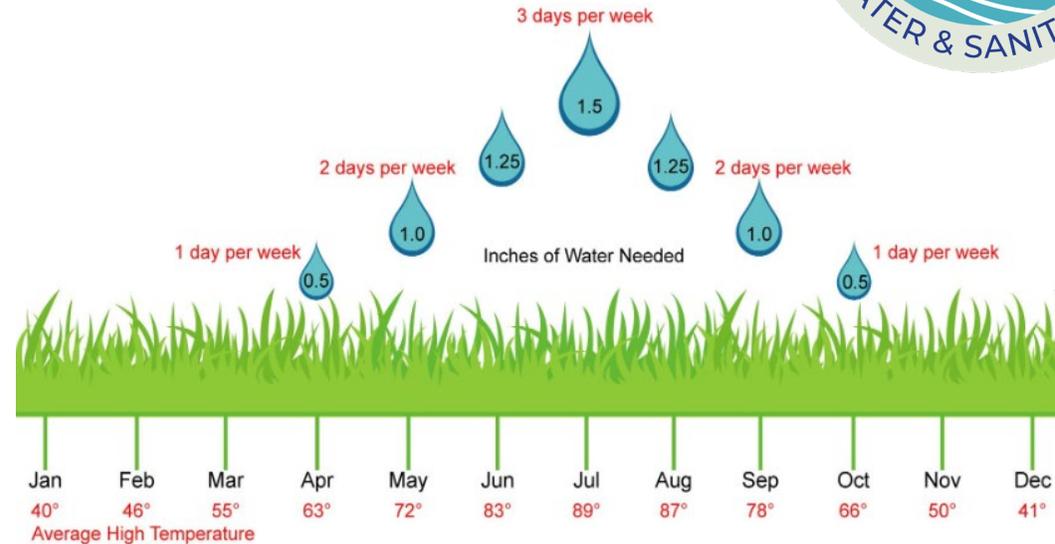


# SACWSD Water Sustainability Programs



## Water Conservation

- **Indoor:** find and fix leaks, add aerators, prevent leaky toilets, purchase water efficient appliances
- **Outdoor:** adhere to lawn watering times and quantities

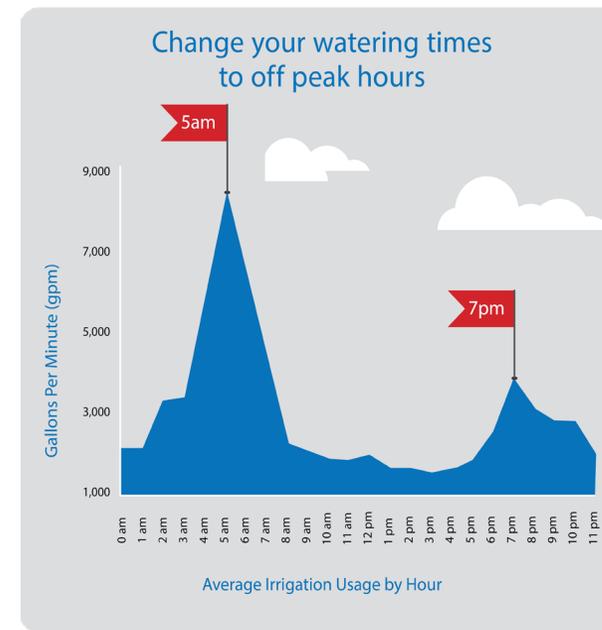


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Even	City Utility Special Use Permit Only	Odd	Even	Odd	Even	Odd

# SACWSD Water Sustainability Programs

## District "Drop the Peak" Initiative

- Localized to non-potable service area
- Objective is to reduce irrigation demand between the hours of 4 and 6 AM
- This effort reduces system stress while improving irrigation performance
- Promotion of initiative will take place summer 2026



# E3 and Community Development



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**GARDEN IN A BOX**  
**Introducing the 2026 Collection**

The new Garden In A Box designs are ready to explore — perfect for starting to plan a colorful, low-water yard this year. Our store is stocked only twice per year - March and June - so to get notified, join the Interest List on the sidebar.

[Learn more about Garden In A Box.](#)

Showing 1-8 of 16 results Default sorting



COMING SOON! COMING SOON!



*Monaco Park Garden*



*Bison Ridge Garden*

- Xeric Demonstration Gardens
- Resource Central Work - Garden in a Box

# E3 and Community Development

- Myths/Facts on Land Development Code/State Legislation with native/xeric landscaping
- Water Sustainability Page for E3 – CD/E3/ECV coordination
- Future Revisions/Info. on Policies/LDC at City with Landscaping
- CIP Streetscape and median design projects
- Water system/irrigation corrections with designs, practices
- Best practices with Parks irrigation – Smart controllers, weather sensors, water efficient equipment, water budget requirements



## Local Compliance with Colorado Senate Bill 24-005

Prohibition of nonfunctional turf, nonfunctional artificial turf, and invasive plant species



Senate Bill 24-005 (SB5) passed with bipartisan support and was signed into law by Governor Jared Polis on March 15, 2024. The bill addresses the impacts of both climate change and increased demands on Colorado's water supplies by limiting specific uses of water-intensive turfgrass (turf) in Colorado landscapes. Specifically, **SB5 prohibits the installation of nonfunctional turf, artificial turf, and invasive plant species on nonresidential properties for new development and some redevelopment projects on or after January 1, 2026.** The bill acknowledges the community benefits of turf in appropriate locations and the importance of tree canopy and green spaces. On or before January 1, 2026, local entities shall enact or amend ordinances, resolutions, regulations, or other laws in accordance with SB5.

In 2025, **House Bill 25-1113 (HB1113)** passed, expanding and modifying the requirements of SB5. While SB5 prohibited all artificial turf, **HB1113 changes that by adding definitions for functional artificial turf, which is allowed, and**

### How HOAs can benefit from waterwise landscaping



- Beautifying neighborhoods**  
Well-designed and maintained water wise landscapes have been shown to increase property values by up to 15%.
- Lowering water and maintenance costs**  
Established water wise landscapes typically require less time, fertilizer, and water to maintain compared to turfgrass.
- Reducing air pollution from mowing**  
Removing turfgrass reduces the need to use gas-powered lawn mowers, which release harmful pollutants.
- Creating pollinator habitat**  
Native and water wise plants provide habitat for hummingbirds, butterflies, bees, and other pollinators.
- Saving Water**  
Replacing turf with water wise, climate-appropriate landscaping has been shown to save 30-70% of water applied to outdoor landscapes.

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it addressed here, by the later  
th more than 12 units to the  
idential properties, allowing



### Why native grass?

We need to landscape differently in Colorado. Maximizing our communities' livability and climate resiliency starts with saving water—and native grasses are a low-water alternative to turf grass that mirrors Colorado's natural grasslands.

[LEARN MORE](#)

# Next Steps/Actions

## SACWSD Programs:

- **Spring 2026** Klein landscaping project
- **April 15, 2026** – Irrigation season begins
- **Summer 2026** – Slow the Flow program
- **Fall 2026** – 77 & Pontiac landscaping
- **October 2026** – Irrigation season ends

## E3 Programs:

- **Early March 2026** – Water Sustainability Page Link to E3 Website
- **March 11** – Start of Garden in a Box Spring Discounts
- **Spring 2026** – Request for Proposals for Two C3 Xeric Demonstration Gardens at Monaco Park and Bison Ridge Recreation Center
- **Fall 2026** – Two xeric gardens installed

## Community Development Programs:

- **Spring 2026** – Implementation of Irrigation Plan Review
- **Summer 2026** – Updates to Xeric Plant List/ Street Tree List
- **Summer 2026** – Collaboration with Denver Botanical Gardens, Sustainable Landscape Services Program
- **Fall 2026** – Sustainability Index (Land Dev. Code)

# Questions/Comments?

## Contact Information for Presentation Team:

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