

2024 Landscape Incentive Program Offerings

March 6, 2024



JORDAN VALLEY WATER
CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Section 1

Program Eligibility

- The property must be in a city that has adopted qualifying water efficiency standards.
- An up-to-date list of cities can be found at <https://conservewater.utah.gov/landscape-rebates/>
- Project area must be a minimum of 200 square feet.
- Applicant must submit photos of their current yard (“before photos”).
- A landscape design or drawing depicting the project area is required.
- An initial site visit is required.
- All projects must be in compliance with local city/county landscaping ordinances.

Section 2

Turf Removal Incentive

We have streamlined our residential turf removal incentive to offer a single funding rate of \$3.00 per square foot for residential projects and \$2.00 per square foot for commercial, industrial, and institutional projects. In accordance with Senate Bill 118 and the rules established by the Division of Water Resources, the turf slated for removal must be a minimum of 200 square feet and be a living and maintained lawn.

The program requirements will prioritize best practices of water-efficient landscapes without mandating specific design elements of Localscapes. However, whenever possible, we will teach and encourage design principles aligned with high-quality functional Localscapes designs.

Incentive:

- Residential: \$3.00 per square foot of turf removed.
- Commercial, industrial, institutional: \$2.00 per square foot of turf removed.

2.2 Program Requirements

2.2.1 Planting Beds

- Lawn areas converted to planting beds will have at least 50% perennial and shrub plant coverage at maturity at the ground level. This does not include tree canopy, bulbs, and annuals.
- Planting beds must be covered with 3-4 inches of mulch.
- Groundcover plants, densely planted to cover 100% of the ground at maturity, do not require mulch.

2.2.2 Irrigation System:

- Drip emitters must not exceed a flow rate of 5 gallons per hour.
- Only one type of drip irrigation per zone (point source or inline) is permitted.
- Micro-sprays, bubblers, and soaker hoses are not permitted as drip irrigation.
- Planting beds in the converted area must have drip irrigation, on dedicated irrigation zones that are not connected to overhead spray.
- Drip irrigation must be properly installed and be accompanied by a filter and pressure regulator.
- Irrigation must be operational and accessible for testing during the final visit.

2.2.3 Remaining lawn:

- Turf removal projects may not result in the creation of lawn areas that are narrower than 8 feet and are inefficient to irrigate.

2.2.4 Park Strips Requirements:

- In the park strip, mature plant height must not exceed 24 inches.
- Poured concrete is not permitted.

2.2.5 Hardscape Limitations:

- Hardscape cannot exceed 50% of the front yard landscaped area or 75% of the backyard landscaped area.
- 100% of the project area can be converted to hardscape if the remainder of the landscaped area does not exceed the above hardscape percentage.
- Commercial, industrial, and institutional projects are not subject to the hardscape limitations if the City Planner approves the project and it does not violate regional or municipal ordinances.

2.2.6 Exclusions:

- Incentives for water features and/or artificial turf will not be provided.
- Artificial turf is analyzed as hardscape and cannot exceed hardscape limitations (see Appendix A of this document).

Section 3

New Construction (Turf Prevented)

Residential properties with backyards constructed within the past five years and devoid of prior landscaping are qualified for our turf prevention incentive. We are extending an offer of \$1.00 per square foot for designs adhering to the outlined criteria.

Incentive:

- \$1.00 per square foot of project area

3.2 Eligibility:

- Full backyard projects only.
- The incentive applies to all landscape areas except lawn, artificial turf, or water features.
- There is no minimum square footage requirement. However, the entire yard must meet program requirements.
- An approved 2-dimensional landscape design is mandatory.
- Irrigation must be operational and visible during the final visit.

3.3 Program Requirements

3.3.1 Planting Beds:

- Planting beds will have at least 50% perennial and shrub plant coverage at maturity at the ground level. This does not include tree canopy, bulbs, and annuals.
- Planting beds must be covered with 3-4 inches of mulch.
- Groundcover plants, densely planted to cover 100% of the ground at maturity, do not require mulch.
- Hardscape cannot exceed 75% of the backyard landscaped area.

3.3.2 Irrigation System:

- Drip emitters must not exceed a flow rate of 5 gallons per hour.
- Only one type of drip irrigation per zone (point source or inline) is permitted.
- Micro-sprays, bubblers, and soaker hoses are not permitted as drip irrigation.
- Planting beds in the converted area must have drip irrigation, on dedicated irrigation zones that are not connected to overhead spray.
- Drip irrigation must be properly installed and be accompanied by a filter and pressure regulator.
- Irrigation must be operational and accessible for testing during the final visit.

3.3.3 Lawn:

- Grass cannot exceed 35% of the landscaped area.
- Grass must be a minimum of 8 feet wide at its narrowest point.
- Grass cannot be obstructed or used as a pathway.
- Grass cannot be installed on slopes steeper than a 4:1 grade (25%).

Section 4

Switch-to-Drip Incentive

While turf removal programs are crucial for water savings initiatives across the West, we recognize that solely focusing on turf removal overlooks other avenues for landscape water conservation. We are pleased to reintroduce a Switch-to-Drip incentive to the Landscape Incentive Program to address this. This incentive offers homeowners \$0.50 per square foot to convert their existing planting beds from overhead spray irrigation to water-efficient drip systems. Planting bed retrofits have the potential to yield just as much water savings per square foot as turf removal at a fraction of the cost and effort to homeowners, making it a valuable addition to our conservation efforts.

Incentive:

- \$0.50 per square foot

4.2 Eligibility:

- Residential projects only.
- Participants must have an existing overhead spray irrigation system in place.
- A minimum area of 200 square feet is required. There is no minimum if done in conjunction with a qualifying lawn removal project.

4.3 Program Requirements

4.3.1 Planting Beds:

- Planting beds will have at least 50% perennial and shrub plant coverage at maturity at the ground level. This does not include tree canopy, bulbs, and annuals.
- Planting beds must be covered with 3-4 inches of mulch.
- Groundcover plants, densely planted to cover 100% of the ground at maturity, do not require mulch.

4.3.2 Irrigation Requirements:

- Drip emitters must not exceed a flow rate of 5 gallons per hour.
- Only one type of drip irrigation per zone (point source or inline) is permitted.
- Micro-sprays, bubblers, and soaker hoses are not permitted as drip irrigation.
- Planting beds in the converted area must have drip irrigation, on dedicated irrigation zones that are not connected to overhead spray.
- Drip irrigation must be properly installed and be accompanied by a filter and pressure regulator.
- Irrigation must be operational and accessible for testing during the final visit.

Section 5

Treebate Add-on Incentive

We're introducing a new rebate option in the Landscape Incentive Program to address concerns about tree mortality associated with turf removal and to promote responsible tree planting and irrigation practices. Homeowners participating in the Landscape Incentive Turf Removal and/or Switch to Drip programs can now receive \$100 per tree for up to five trees. Participants will receive educational materials covering proper tree planting and irrigation techniques alongside this rebate.

This incentive aims to mitigate concerns of significant tree mortality in other regions due to turf removal initiatives. Mature trees accustomed to overhead spray irrigation may face challenges adjusting to new irrigation methods like drip irrigation, potentially leading to insufficient watering and tree loss. However, when young trees are planted and irrigated correctly, they can adapt well to drip irrigation, developing deeper root systems and enhancing resilience against drought. Through incentives for tree planting and education on proper care, we strive to enhance landscape quality, mitigate urban heat islands, and underscore our dedication to community welfare. This initiative aligns with our mission and vision for a vibrant, sustainable community.

Incentive:

- \$100 per tree (up to five trees).

5.2 Eligibility:

- Residential projects only.
- Must be in conjunction with qualifying Turf Removal or Switch-to-Drip project.
- Trees must be planted within the project area.

5.3 Program Requirements

- Maximum of 5 trees per year.
- Must comply with local city or HOA requirements.
- May not be a tree from the excluded species list.
- Must provide plant tags at the final visit.
- Must be planted in the ground in a planting bed. Trees planted in pots, with burlap, or cages, will not be eligible.
- Minimum 1" caliper at the time of purchase.
- Must be drip irrigated correctly for mature size.

Section 6 Program Summary

Landscape Incentive Program				
	Turf Removal (\$/ft ²)	Turf Prevention (\$/ft ²)	Switch to Drip (\$/ft ²)	Tree Incentive (\$/tree, 5 tree max)
Residential Retrofit	\$3.00	-----	\$0.50	\$100
Residential New Construction	----- ----	\$1.00	----- ---	-----
Commercial, Industrial, Institutional (CII)	\$2.00	-----	----- ---	-----

Appendix A

Exclusion of Artificial Turf from Incentive Eligible Areas

In line with our commitment to transparency, accountability, and long-term sustainability, we have opted to exclude artificial turf from our incentivized areas due to environmental and health risks associated with its use. Research indicates numerous concerns with artificial turf, including exacerbating the urban heat island effect, water management challenges, soil compaction, stormwater runoff issues, and pollution from chemicals and microplastics. Moreover, the presence of harmful substances like PFAS and carcinogenic compounds in commonly used infill materials raises serious health concerns.

Additional factors such as soil quality degradation, limited product lifespan, recycling difficulties, and environmental hazards upon disposal are also inconsistent with our commitment to the community. The decision to exclude artificial turf from our incentive program aligns with the industry trend of turf removal rebate programs across the West, as seen in the practices of entities like the Division of Water Resources, Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, and Central Utah Water Conservancy District.