



# City Manager's Office

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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** March 3, 2022

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**THROUGH:** Doug Thornley, City Manager Approved Electronically

**FROM:** Matt Brezina, Parks Manager

**SUBJECT:** City Plaza Turf Reduction and Native Plant Demonstration Garden

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In an effort to be environmentally proactive and minimize water use, staff are working on a plan to convert turf at City Plaza to a drought resistant, native pollinator garden. The removal of turf will eliminate the need for overhead irrigation, thus reducing water waste while preserving the valuable resource.

Northern Nevada is currently facing an extended drought period, and actively assessing the use of non-renewable resources is of highest priority. Recurring vandalism to sprinklers during night time watering cycles has forced staff to irrigate City Plaza during the day, increasing evaporation and water waste by up to 50 percent. Converting the irrigation to a drip system distributes irrigation directly to targeted vegetation while reducing runoff, evaporation, and water use by non-targeted species.

The turf reduction project will convert approximately 6,900 square feet of turf to a water-wise planter garden, allowing for up to 530 native shrub plantings. Multiple drip irrigation valves will isolate trees from new shrub plantings, allowing for proper water distribution to trees while minimizing output to the pollinator garden. The garden will be accented with a mix of decomposed granite, bark mulch, and large boulders.

Incorporating native, drought resistant shrubs, perennials, and grasses can be an environmental and educational enhancement to City Plaza by showing residents the benefits of planting native vegetation while reducing water needs. The proper selection of plants will provide pollinating options for insects through three seasons, and also provide overwintering habitat. Proposed plant selections are identified in Exhibit A. A map of the garden locations is shown in Exhibit B and a list of estimated costs is shown in Exhibit C.

**Exhibit A: Proposed plant varieties**

Shrubs	Perennials	Grasses
Green rabbitbrush	Blue flax	Alkalai sacaton
Mountain sage	Showy penstemon	Bluebunch wheatgrass
Shadscale	Pineleaf penstemon	Great Basin wildrye
Gro-low Sumac	Red yucca	Sandberg bluegrass
Kinnickinick	Sulfur-flower buckwheat	Indian ricegrass
Apache plume	Blanketflower	Thickspike wheatgrass
Spiny hopsage	Globemallow	Desert needlegrass
	Princes' plume	

**Exhibit B: Map of City Plaza with proposed garden locations**



**Exhibit C: Estimated landscape costs**

<b>Supplies</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
Irrigation supplies	<b>\$2,304</b>
Plant material	<b>\$12,420</b>
Rocks, DG, soil	<b>\$1,900</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,624</b>