

## 2022 CSU Extension Internship Application

### Expanding Residential Rain Garden Installations in Front Range Communities

**1. Mentor name, department, college, and contact information:**

Jessica Thrasher, Education and Outreach Manager for the [Colorado Stormwater Center](#), One Water Solutions Institute, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

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**2. In what region(s) will the student be working? (county/region):**

Larimer County, Arapahoe County, Weld County, Denver County, and Boulder County

**3. Project Background:**

Colorado communities are facing unprecedented pressure on dwindling water resources due to factors such as climate change (increased drought conditions) and dramatic rises in population. These factors are resulting in increased water demand for outdoor irrigation. Implementing more efficient ways to irrigate landscapes while preserving the beauty of vegetated spaces is becoming more important than ever in our state. One way this can be accomplished is by exploring opportunities to retain and use stormwater onsite for outdoor irrigation thereby reducing the amount of stormwater municipalities are required to managed. Rain gardens are an efficient and aesthetically pleasing mechanism for communities to conserve water, enhance green space, reduce stormwater runoff, and protect water quality. The Expanding Residential Rain Garden Installations in Front Range Communities project will: create a bilingual Residential Rain Garden Installation Guide and Planting Layouts, develop and deliver a bilingual Certified Residential Rain Garden Installation Training Course, install 19 demonstration rain garden sites, monitor and evaluate of demonstration sites

**4. Stakeholder Groups:**

The intern will be working with a variety of stakeholder groups including: municipalities/ water providers, Latinx community members, low-income community members, nonprofits, businesses, and other groups/organizations.

**5. Internship Goals:**

The proposed internship goals are: to increase the awareness of the benefits of using stormwater as a resource; teach the importance of community outreach and engagement in water education; and demonstrate the need for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the water field and the importance of incorporating language justice when developing educational content and programs.

**6. Student Learning Outcomes and Opportunities for Professional Development:**

At the end of the internship, the student will be trained as a Certified Rain Garden Installer, be able to assess a rain garden site, determine the best location for the rain garden, conduct the appropriate soil and infiltration tests, choose a rain garden layout, and plant the rain garden. The intern will be able to attend any other Colorado Stormwater Center classes on green infrastructure, rain barrels, or stormwater control measures that are being offered during the internship timeframe. The intern will be able to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by the Colorado Stormwater Center to increase their knowledge of the subject matter and on-the-ground experience.