



Weber Basin Water Conservancy District

Flip Your Strip Program Overview

Park strips are one of the largest water wasters in residential and commercial landscapes because they are hot, narrow and when planted in lawn can't be watered effectively. Overhead spray sprinklers are inefficient in areas less than 8' wide. Park strips are also one of the easiest places to begin to change a landscape to be more Utah-friendly and more water-efficient because they require minimal landscape design and are usually on their own irrigation zone. A typical park strip area will require 7,000-10,000 gallons of water per year when planted in lawn.

Weber Basin's Flip Your Strip program is intended to remove turf from park strips and create attractive, low-water alternatives. Weber Basin will rebate \$1.25 per square foot to homeowners that convert the lawn landscaping in their park strip to a more water-efficient area. Program participants will apply for the program using the Utah Water Savers website (www.utahwatersavers.com). Weber Basin's program will vary slightly from the requirements listed on that application, but the application must be completed in full and District staff will work with applicants on any changes specific to the District's program. The program is generally the same. A few of the changes to note include:

- A specific "Flip Your Strip" class will be required of all participants in the Weber Basin program. Classes will be offered on a regular basis.
- The percentage of landscape material required to be put back in place of lawn will be up to the participant but will be required to meet local city ordinances or requirements.
- A pre-inspection may not be needed if the "before" pictures of the park strip submitted on the application are adequate.
- An agreement will be required to be signed by each participant.

District staff will work with participants to make sure they are meeting all the requirements of the program and successfully completing the park strip projects to meet the program objectives.

Program Process

- Participants log in to www.utahwatersavers.com to apply for the program. They will verify eligibility, check deadlines, and ensure funds are available.
- Weber Basin will contact eligible participants to schedule a site visit if needed guide the participant to find the next class required for the program.
- Participant will sign the Program Agreement that will be sent to them via email. This can be signed digitally and returned via email.
- Once participation in class is verified and the agreement is signed, the participant will be authorized to start the project and do the work.
- Photos of each step of the process will be required. This includes once turf is removed, the irrigation system converted to drip, new plants installed and then final product that includes mulch (bark or rock).
- Participant will then schedule a final site visit once all the work is complete. This site visit must happen when water is still on for the season so that the irrigation system operation can be verified.
- The participant will then receive the rebate of \$1.25 per square foot for the area that was converted.

Program Requirements and Restrictions

- Participant must be a residential customer within the District's service area in a city that has modified ordinances to meet water efficient requirements.
- Participant's park strip must be fully landscaped with living, well maintained lawn at the time of the application. (Before photos must verify landscaping and a site visit may be scheduled to verify these conditions. District staff will consider drought water restrictions when assessing the health of the pre-project landscaping.)
- Participant shall remove all the lawn in the park strip and replace it with water-efficient landscaping using drip irrigation.
- All lawn must be removed and converted to other plant material. The percentage of plant material used in the final design will be up to the homeowner but must meet the City requirements per their code for percent cover at maturity. Plants cannot exceed 24 inches tall at maturity with the exception of trees.
- Converted park strips will be watered with a drip irrigation system equipped with a filter, pressure regulator, and proper emitters.
- Converted park strips must be covered by at least 3 inches of mulch permeable to water and air.

- Participant will be advised to not remove any park strip trees as part of conversion, but doing so will not disqualify them from receiving the rebate. Trees must be planted or left in the landscape if required by the City.
- Participant must complete the park strip conversion and notify Weber Basin within 10 months of signing the Agreement.
- Participant must sustain park strip conversion and never reinstall lawn for as long as they own the property.
- Participant must comply with all applicable laws, policies, codes, ordinances and covenants regarding the park strip landscape. Each participant must sign an agreement regarding this compliance.
- Participant waives and releases Weber Basin Water Conservancy District and their contractors or agents from any and all claims and causes of action arising out of the installation and use of devices pursuant to this program.

Weber Basin Water Conservancy District has limited funds for this program each year. The program will continue assuming funding is available. Funding will be monitored, and applications may be stopped if funding becomes unavailable. Any participant approved in the program will be allowed to complete the program and receive the rebate.