

Local Compliance with Colorado Senate Bill 24-005

Prohibition of nonfunctional turf, nonfunctional artificial turf¹, 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 SB5². While SB5 prohibited all artificial turf, **HB1113 changes that by adding definitions for functional artificial turf, which is allowed, and nonfunctional artificial turf, which communities will need to incorporate into their codes by the SB5 implementation date of January 1, 2026.** HB1113 also requires local entities to adopt additional changes, not addressed here, by the later date of January 1, 2028. Those changes include adding multifamily residential properties with more than 12 units to the applicable properties that SB5 applies to and requiring local entities to regulate turf on all residential properties, allowing local entities to determine how they will do that.

Where does this bill apply?

SB5 applies to all new and some redevelopment* projects on:



Commercial, institutional, or industrial properties



State-owned properties



Common interest community property, i.e., homeowner association (HOA) common areas



Street rights-of-way, parking lots, medians, and transportation corridors

**Redevelopment is defined as projects that require a building permit or landscaping permit, plan check, or design review and that result in a disturbance of more than 50% of the aggregate landscape area.*

Residential properties are not subject to SB5 requirements.

¹SB5 prohibited all artificial turf. HB1113 modified that to only prohibit nonfunctional artificial turf.

²SB5 is encompassed in C.R.S. Section 37-99, which will be updated to reflect HB1113 changes and additions.

What does the bill prohibit?

SB5 (as modified by HB1113) prohibits the use of:



Nonfunctional turf

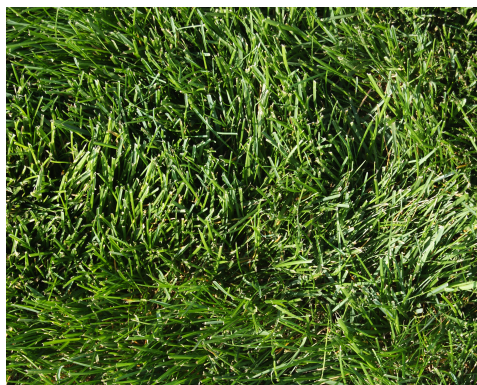


Nonfunctional artificial turf



Invasive plant species

Key SB5 Definitions



Turf

Continuous plant coverage consisting of non-native grasses or grasses that have not been hybridized for arid conditions and which, when regularly mowed, form a dense growth of leaf blades and roots.

Per Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.) Section 37-60-135(2)(i).



Functional turf

Turf that is located in a recreational use area or other space that is regularly used for civic, community, or recreational purposes, which may include a playground, a sports field, a picnic ground, an amphitheater, a portion of a park, and the playing area of a golf course, such as a driving range, chipping and putting green, tee box, green, fairway, and rough.



Nonfunctional Turf

Turf that is not functional turf. Nonfunctional turf includes but is not limited to turf located in a street right-of-way, parking lot, median, or transportation corridor.



Functional artificial turf

Artificial turf that is:

- Located in a recreational use area or other space that is regularly used for civic, community, or recreational purposes, which may include a playground, a sports field, a picnic ground, an amphitheater, a portion of a park, and the playing area of a golf course, such as a driving range, chipping and putting green, tee box, green, fairway, and rough;
- Or a component of a product designed and approved by a professional engineer for civil infrastructure projects, including but not limited to: covers for solid waste facilities and brownfield sites; and revetments for slopes, channels, levees, and dams.



Nonfunctional artificial turf

Artificial turf that is not functional artificial turf.



For more information

Laura Belanger
Senior Policy Advisor
Western Resource Advocates
laura.belanger@westernresources.org
303.215.9122



Published
July 2025



Frequently Asked Questions

Why does the legislation prohibit nonfunctional artificial turf when it doesn't use any water?

The aim of this restriction is to ensure that turf is not replaced with landscape material that could cause other environmental or health concerns. While artificial turf can reduce water use and eliminate the use of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers for landscape maintenance, it can have considerable drawbacks. The legislative declarations in SB5 includes the finding that artificial turf can cause negative environmental impacts, such as exacerbating heat island effects in urban areas and releasing harmful chemicals, including plastics, microplastics, and perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl chemicals into the environment and watersheds.

What are invasive plant species?

Invasive plant species are plants that are not native to Colorado, can have negative environmental or economic impacts, and spread readily, outcompeting native plants for space. A complete definition of "invasive plant species" can be found in Colorado Statutes Section 37-60-135(2)(e). While not specified in SB5, invasive plant species are synonymous with noxious weeds that are regulated under the Colorado Noxious Weed Act (C.R.S. Section 35-5.5)

What types of grass are restricted under SB5?

The legislation defines turf as, "Continuous plant coverage consisting of non-native grasses or grasses that have not been hybridized for arid conditions and which, when regularly mowed, form a dense growth of leaf blades and roots." Generally, turf restricted under SB5 will be cool season grass varieties that have high water demands, such as Kentucky bluegrass or fescues. Native or climate-adapted grasses are not restricted under SB5 and may be a viable alternative to nonfunctional turf. Examples of native or climate-adapted turfgrasses include blue grama and buffalo grasses propagated as turf, and cold-hardy Bermuda grass. Learn more about alternative grasses in our [**Colorado Senate Bill 24-005 Grasses and Plants Guide**](#).

How will SB5 be enforced?

SB5 directs each city and county to enact or amend its local code requirements to be compliant with SB5. Implementing the nonfunctional turf prohibition is the responsibility of each local jurisdiction. The legislation does not specify reporting requirements or penalties for noncompliance; however, SB5 is state law as of January 1, 2026.