

**Mechanical Engineering** University of Colorado Boulder

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## **Smart Sprinkler for Increased Irrigation Efficiency** Team 43: WaterWise

Problem

- 9 billion gallons of water are used daily in residential landscape irrigation
- 50% of this water is wasted due to overlapping sprinkler flow

## **Our Solution**

## **The GrassGuard**

- Up to 40% more water efficient
- Self-powered
- Works with existing sprinkler systems
- Pays for itself in as little as 11 months



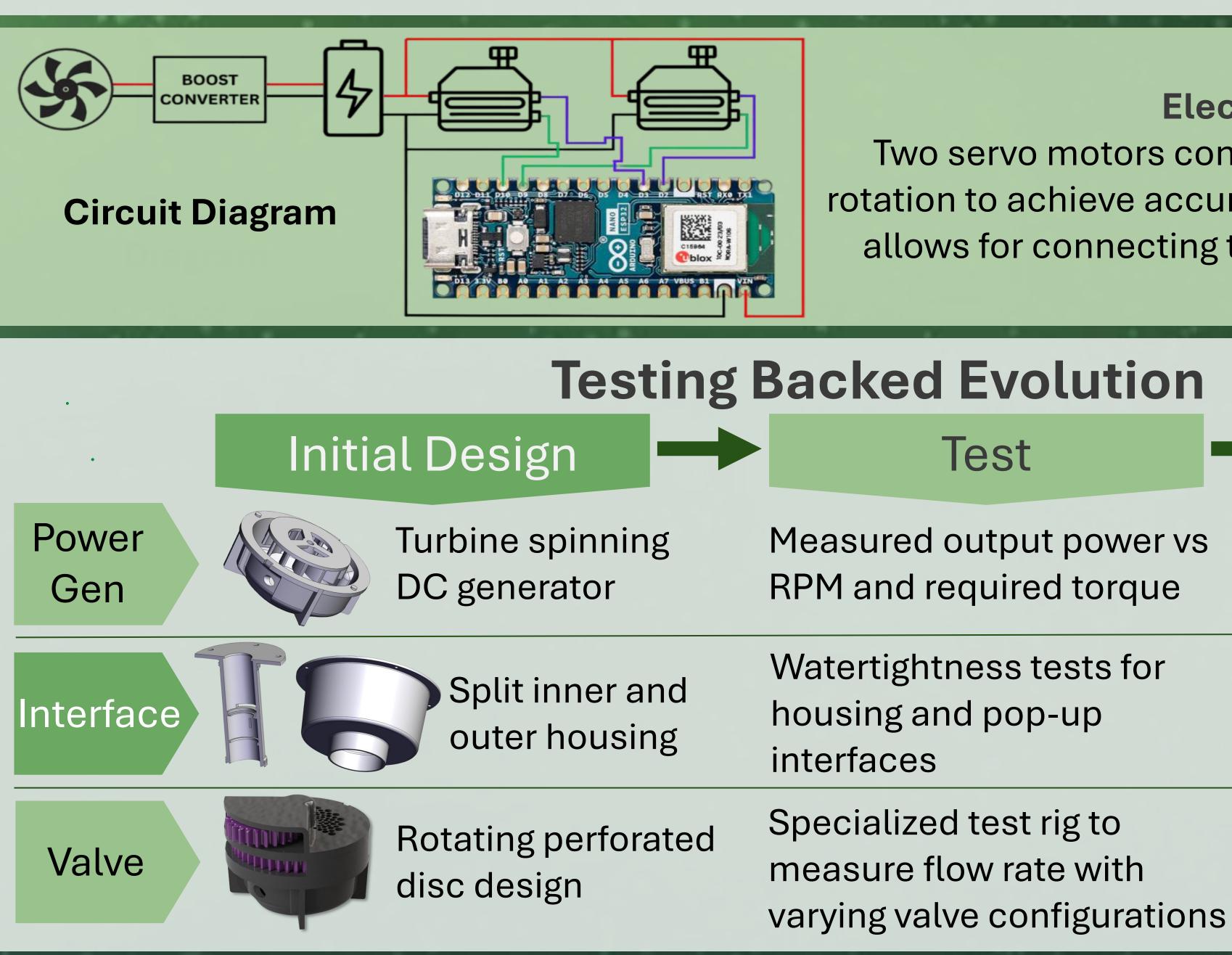
Easily programmable to the shape of your lawn through the app

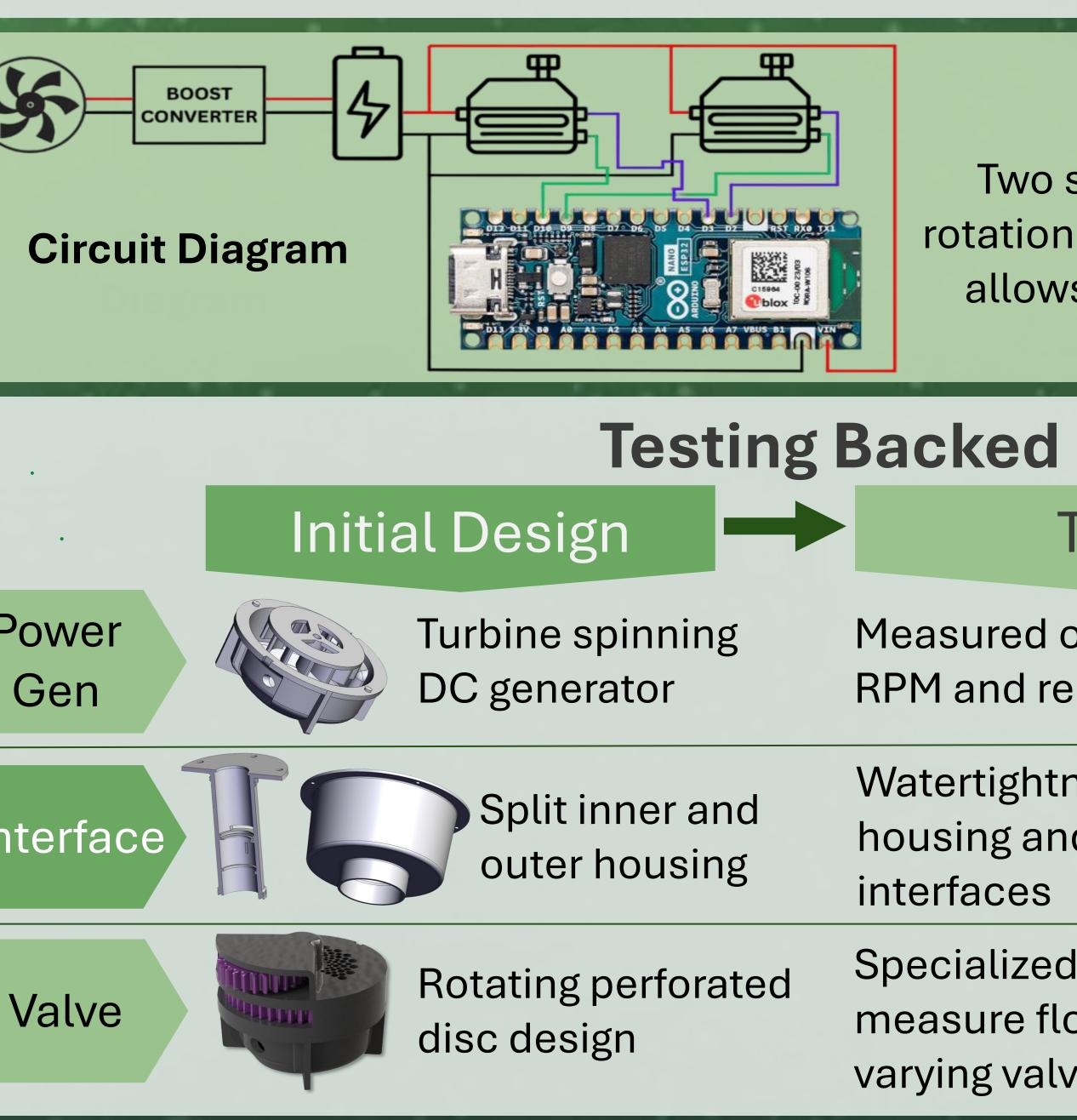
## Requirements

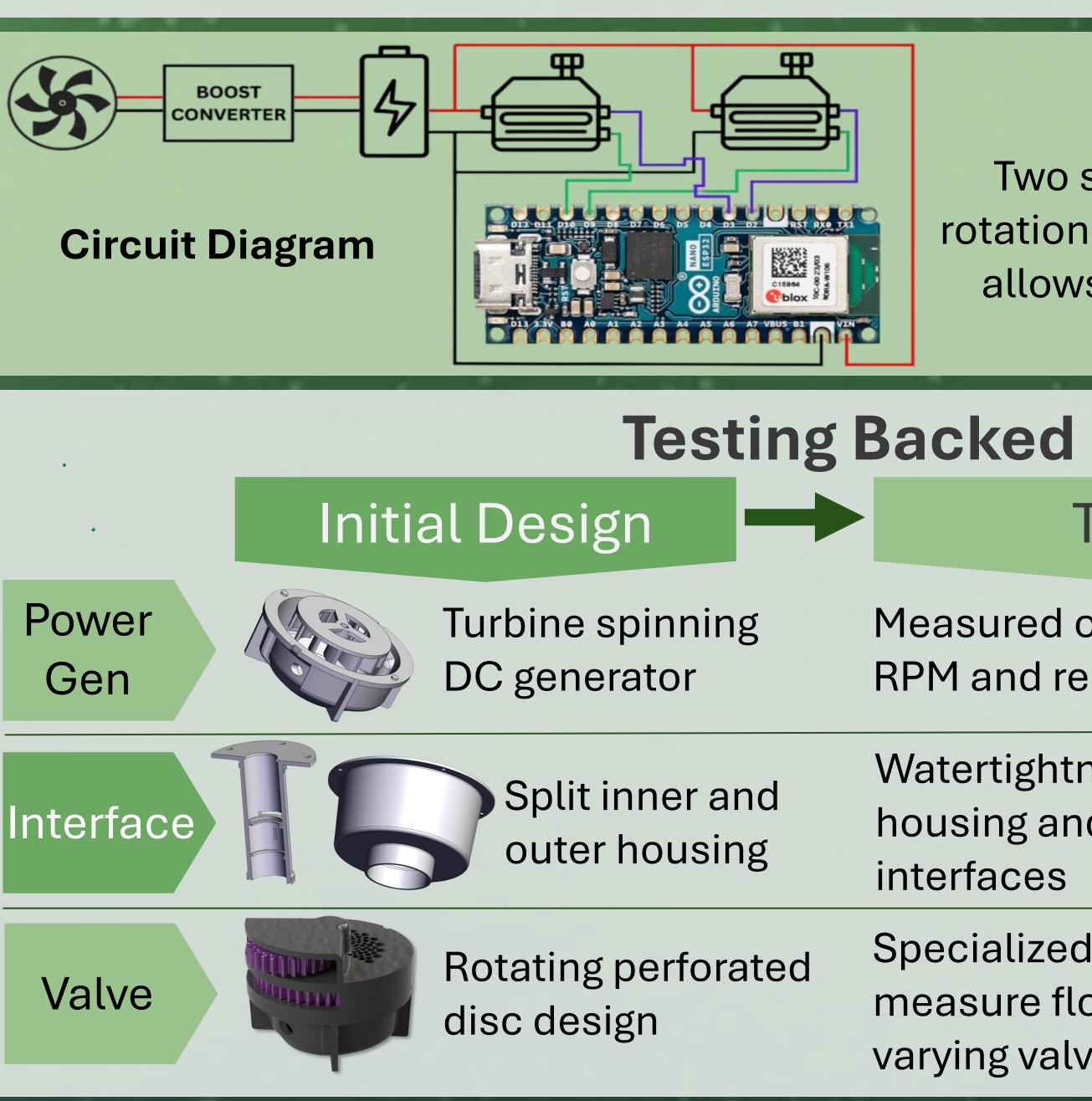
- Spray distance of up to 30'
- Backwards compatible with standard system (<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" NPT)
- Waterproof and dust resistant (IP67)
- The sprinkler head shall operate for a minimum of five 8-month seasons
- The generator shall produce a minimum of 9W to charge the battery and power all electronics
- Spray distance shall range from 5-30' at 25-65 psi line pressure and flow rate between 3-10 gpm













## Pop-up

Telescoping pop-up activates with water pressure and returns flush to the surface.

## **Power Generation**

Water is directed through a hydroelectric generator, which charges the battery when the sprinkler is on.

## Valve

The flow rate is modified using a ball valve to control the spray distance.

## Housing

Protects the sprinkler from the surrounding environment and keeps the electronics dry while holding them in place.

Threaded Adapter

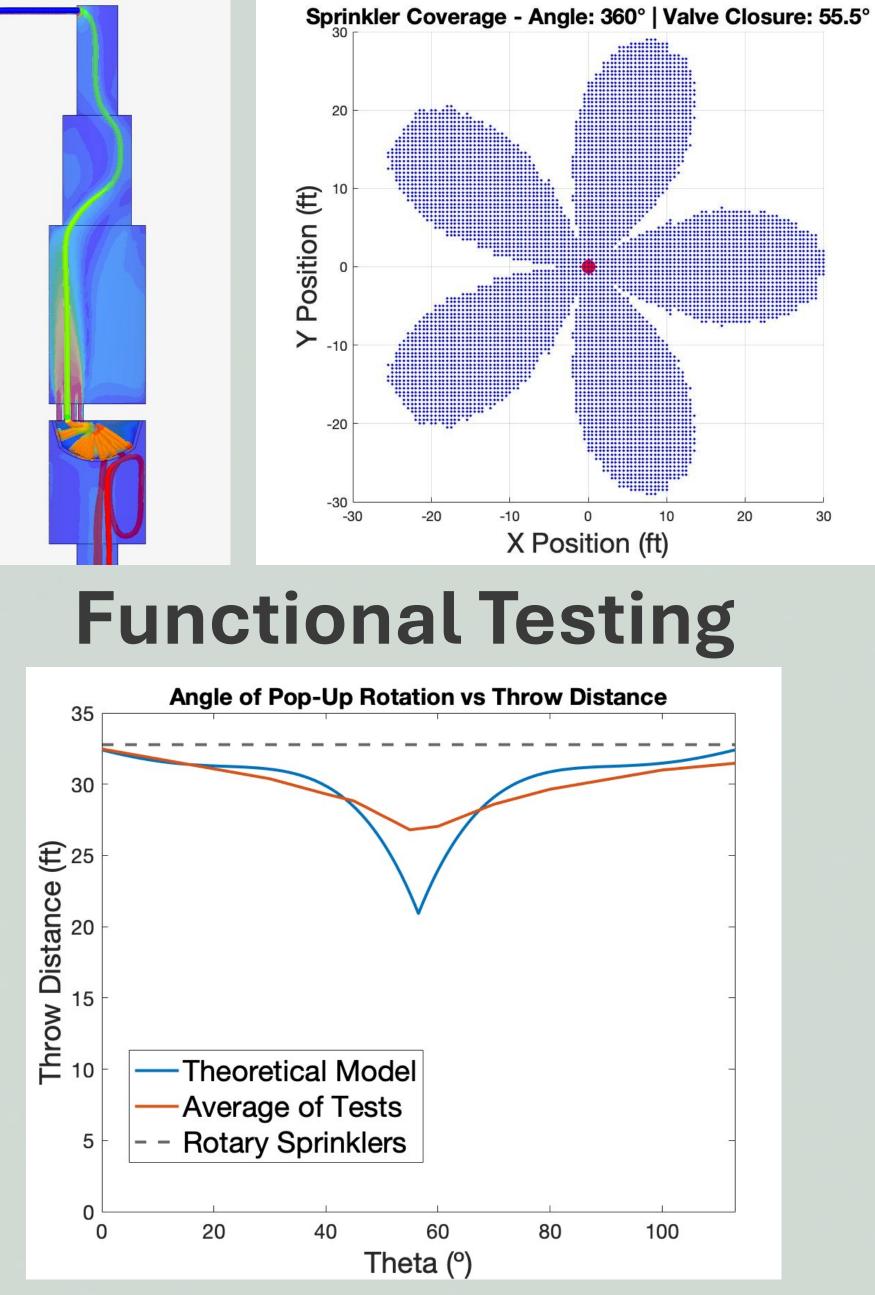
## Electronics

Two servo motors control the pop-up and valve rotation to achieve accurate spray patterns. The PCB allows for connecting to the sprinkler over Wi-Fi.

### Final Design Test Measured output power vs Off the shelf RPM and required torque generator Watertightness tests for Simplified design with post processing Off the shelf measure flow rate with Ball valve

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## **Theoretical Model**



Tested one petal of the theoretical model • Results averaged over all 10 tests Variation attributed to precision of

adjustments on non-linear valve

Validates key functionalities

## Lessons Learned

• Design for manufacturing and assembly

• Crucial to work on and test different subsystems in parallel

Seeking expert advice to solve problems

 Iterative design process and pushing through failure

## **Future Work**

 Improve valve accuracy and repeatability Injection molding design modifications

Condense electromechanical systems to reduce overall diameter

• App development and user testing

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