



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

State Trails Program
13787 Highway 85 North
Littleton, CO 80125
P 303.791.1957 | F 303.470.0784

March 18-19, 2020

2018 Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Grant funding award as recommended by the State Recreational Trails Committee

Enclosed is a summary of the Land and Water Conservation Fund funding recommendation of the Legacy Loop - Rock Island Trail for Parks and Wildlife Commission (PWC) approval during the March 2020 meeting.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Division's (CPW) Trails Program, a statewide program within CPW, administers grants for trail-related projects on an annual basis. Local, county, and state governments, federal agencies, special recreation districts, and non-profit organizations with management responsibilities over public lands may apply for and are eligible to receive non-motorized and motorized trail grants.

State Trails Committee

The creation and role of the Committee are set forth in sections 33-11-105 to 107, C.R.S. In addition to using the Committee as an advisory body on the expenditure of funds appropriated by the General Assembly, the Commission also uses the Committee as an advisory body on the expenditure of federal and GOCO funds available for recreational trail purposes. The Committee consists of nine members appointed by the Commission representing each of the seven congressional districts from which one member represents Off Highway Vehicle interests. One At Large member who represents Snowmobile interests and one member represents the GOCO Board. The Committee reviews, scores, ranks and submits recommendations for funding of Recreation Trails Grants to the Commission for their consideration and final approval. (Appendix A lists the current Committee members.) Sections 33-11-105 to 33-11-107, C.R.S., describe the roles, responsibilities and relationship of the State Trails Committee in working with the Commission.

2018 Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Grant

In 2018, The National Park Service (NPS) offered an additional Land and Water Conservation Fund competitive grant program called the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP). The purpose of the ORLP program is to provide grants to acquire and/or develop public lands for outdoor recreation purposes consistent with the purposes of the LWCF, but with further specific goals of funding projects that:

- Are located within or serve jurisdictions delineated by the Census Bureau from the 2010 Census as "urbanized areas," that is, areas with a population of 50,000 or more people and consisting of densely settled territory.



- Are located in or directly accessible to neighborhoods or communities that are underserved in terms of parks and recreation resources and where there are significant populations of people who are economically disadvantaged.

Each state was allowed to submit up to three grant proposals. After internal review of the applications received, Colorado submitted one application in September, 2018, which was for the Legacy Loop - Rock Island Trail Segment in Colorado Springs. On December 27, 2019, we were notified that our project was not selected for funding through ORLP. The National Park Service let us know that this project could be considered for funding through our LWCF grants as it had competed during the original grant process. As it has met that criteria, we are proposing to fund this project with our LWCF Regular Apportionment.

Grant Categories	Total Applications	Total \$ Requested
ORLP Grant	1	\$750,000.00
Total	1	\$750,000.00

FUNDING:

For the 2018 ORLP cycle approximately \$750,000.00 will be available from the following funding source:

Source of Funding	Dollars Awarded
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	\$750,000.00
Total	\$750,000.00

DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY:

The ORLP application process was very competitive and because of this the Legacy Loop - Rock Island Trail project was not selected for funding. NPS received 51 applications and only selected 11 for funding. Despite this, reviews completed by state trails staff determined that the Legacy Loop - Rock Island Trail project was a great fit for funding through our LWCF program. It meets the goals of the State Trails Program’s Strategic Plan, the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) Trails Program, and provides great opportunities for trail activities for underserved neighborhoods within Colorado Springs. Because of this, the State Trails Program is recommending funding this application with our available LWCF money.

DIVISION RECOMMENDATION:

Staff has provided the Legacy Loop application (Appendix A) for Committee’s review and approval. Appendix B are the original wildlife comments on this project and an updated communication from the Area Wildlife Manager. It is suggested that minor adjustments of project funding levels be permitted at the discretion of the Division Director.

LEGACY LOOP – ROCK ISLAND TRAIL PROJECT NARRATIVE

Project Overview and Impact

The Legacy Loop is a comprehensive and transformative trail development project located in the heart of downtown Colorado Springs. The planned Rock Island Trail, the northern connector of the Loop, will link more than 121,000 residents living within a 2 mile biking radius and 21,861 residents within a one-half mile walking radius of the Legacy Loop to nearby parks, educational institutions, hospitals, business districts, and areas of employment.¹ By increasing accessibility to 11 parks located along the Loop, building a critical new east-west trail connection, and adding new recreation amenities, the Legacy Loop will draw park users from across our region and has an estimated per capita recreational benefit of \$282.²

Investment in trail infrastructure in the project area is critically needed as many residents are economically disadvantaged with 25% of households living in poverty and 20% having no access to a personal vehicle.³ According to the *2018 Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments Transportation Needs Report*, survey results demonstrated that 37% of respondents would like to walk to work, parks, recreation areas, school or shopping, but they needed improved infrastructure and a more pleasant walking environment in order to do so.⁴ The project also directly links to the 2017 North Nevada Revitalization Plan and Economic Opportunity Zone, a redevelopment plan for a blighted segment of Nevada Avenue that relies on the Legacy Loop for access and infrastructure. The 2,000 households located in this area have a relatively low average household income of \$28,000 and will benefit from the added connectivity brought by the Rock Island Trail.⁵

The Legacy Loop seeks revitalizing the landscape of Colorado Springs' park and trail system through:

- **Quality of Life** – The connections through this project enhance 3 regionally significant trails and create direct linkages to 11 parks, multiple employment centers, 2 hospitals, 11 educational institutions and extensive recreation opportunities. Further, it provides accessible transportation to the 20% of residents who live near the corridor and do not own a vehicle, with a per capita transportation benefit of \$94 due to improved connectivity for non-motorized modes of transportation.⁶

¹ Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services analysis of project area using US Census Bureau 2009-2013 ACS Block Group Data database.

² *2018 Economic Impact of Greenways in Colorado Springs Report*, July 2018 (Summit Economics), 3-4.

³ Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services analysis of project area using US Census Bureau 2009-2013 ACS Block Group Data geodatabase. US Census Bureau/American FactFinder, *2009-2013 American Community Survey*, US Census Bureau ACS Office, database accessed June 2, 2018, <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

⁴ *2018 Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments Transportation Needs Report*, April 2018 (Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments Moving Forward 2045 Regional Transportation Plan), 23-24.

⁵ Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services analysis of project area using US Census Bureau 2009-2013 ACS Block Group Data database.

⁶ *2018 Economic Impact of Greenways in Colorado Springs Report*, July 2018 (Summit Economics), 3-4.

- **Environmental Impact** – The Legacy Loop is part of the Monument Creek Greenway and integrates watershed stewardship and connectivity opportunities, while also encouraging active transportation which improves air quality.
- **Health Equity** – Residents are adversely affected by negative health outcomes due to lack of access to recreation facilities. A 2017 study found that 45,200 adult residents exclusively use the public park and trail system to engage in physical activity at a level sufficient to generate measurable health benefits, yielding a medical cost savings of \$56.5 million.⁷ Parks and trails have been found to be one of the most commonly reported convenient places for improved physical and mental health, especially if the space is accessible.
- **Economic Equality** – The project’s adjacency to the North Nevada Avenue Economic Redevelopment District and several urban renewal areas near the Legacy Loop will stimulate redevelopment and increase property values along the trail corridor, while also connecting to downtown infill projects.
- **Partnership** – From grassroots local champions to financial support from project partners, the Legacy Loop works with stakeholders to gain buy-in and impact at all levels.

The over 375,000 current annual uses along the east side of the unlinked Pikes Peak Greenway represents the need to accommodate additional users that cannot currently access the trail. Located in the heart of the city, the Legacy Loop centers on developing a vibrant, livable city where the essential functions of mobility and access are integrated with the community’s parks, open spaces and trails.

Project Background

The completion of the Rock Island Trail segment of the Legacy Loop will provide a critical east-west trail connection. This includes the construction of the new Rock Island Trail from the Pikes Peak Greenway east to the existing Rock Island Trail at Templeton Gap Road, a distance of 6,650’. The Rock Island Trail currently does not connect to the Pikes Peak Greenway, the north/south spine of the Colorado Springs trail network and our community’s segment of the Colorado Front Range Trail, which traverses Colorado from Wyoming to New Mexico. This ‘missing gap’ has been identified as a critical project as early as the 1980s as well as in the 2015 Regional Non-Motorized Plan, the 2014 Park System Master Plan, and by countless citizens letting us know that this is their highest priority trail construction project in Colorado Springs. This project will construct a 12’ wide concrete multiuse trail with a 4’ wide breeze gravel shoulder along the entire 6,650’ length of Rock Island’s ‘missing gap.’ In doing so, thousands of families living east and north of downtown will for the first time have safe trail access to parks, neighborhoods, schools, and the larger Colorado Springs trail network.

In anticipation of construction of the Rock Island Trail corridor the City purchased 10.75 linear acres of land from the Union Pacific Railroad in 2015. While the Parks Department pursued this property acquisition since the late 1980s to no avail, a great milestone for the development of the Legacy Loop occurred when the railroad agreed to sell land adjacent to the railway to provide for the Rock Island Trail. In addition to the 6,650’ of concrete trail and gravel soft surface trail that will be constructed,

⁷ *The Economic Benefits of Parks and Recreation in Colorado Springs*, January 2017 (The Trust for Public Land), 20-22.

this project will also include an ADA accessible trail connection to the north end of the Shook's Run trail, two bridge underpasses at Cascade Avenue and Nevada Avenue where the trail passes under these elevated roadways, approximately 280' of masonry structurally engineered retaining walls in locations where the trail traverses cross slopes, trail crossings and signage at Van Buren Road and Templeton Gap Road, and wayfinding. Design, engineering and construction documents are 95% complete and will be submitted to Pikes Peak Regional Building for approval by the end of 2018. Construction will commence in late 2019 or early in 2020, pending the timeline for executing grant documents. We anticipate a 9 to 10 month timeline for construction and for the site to be open to the public by the end of 2020.

While the Rock Island Trail corridor is not associated with a specific address, the eastern endpoint is located just north of 936 E. La Salle, near the intersection of La Salle and Templeton Gap. The western end point, where the Rock Island Trail intersects with the Pikes Peak Greenway, is located in close proximity to 2415 Beacon Street. This section of trail is served by the Legacy Loop Trailhead Plaza, located at 1867 Recreation Way.

Improving Physical and Recreational Access and Addressing Recreational Deficiencies

The concept of the Legacy Loop project is rooted in the belief that easy and abundant access to recreation within Colorado Springs should be universal across every user group. Inclusive of all ages, incomes, races, and user types, our Department's goal is to provide top quality recreational amenities to all of our citizens. The Legacy Loop project is intended to build on this strong tradition by constructing improvements that will enhance access and increase usership among youth, families, and citizens from all backgrounds by creating both close-to-home recreational facilities for local neighbors and concurrently serving as a primary trail corridor that increases community-wide access.

The Legacy Loop has three primary objectives. First, the project will **leverage existing park and trail assets** by improving the safety, functionality and connectivity of the Pikes Peak Greenway Trail as it runs through the heart of Colorado Springs. The second major goal of the Legacy Loop aims to **create regionally significant trail connections** through the construction of the long sought-after Rock Island Trail connection and improvement of the Pikes Peak Greenway, part of the Colorado Front Range Trail. Finally, this project aims to **create new and lasting recreational opportunities**.

The completion of the Rock Island Trail provides pivotal infrastructure for user safety and connectivity. Current lack of a built trail corridor to connect the east and west corridors of the Loop prohibits people from accessing the greater trail system of Colorado Springs, local amenities, and nearby parks located along the Loop. The Loop traverses mixed-income neighborhoods, businesses, and cultural institutions. From young families to college students and daily commuters, the new Legacy Loop will offer previously unavailable outdoor amenities to all citizens. When this project is completed, cycling will increase, running and walking options will grow, and events along the Legacy Loop will flourish.

The project will improve access to adjacent trail systems and parks, allowing residents more opportunities access recreation. Improved access to the larger trail network and parks includes:

- Access to the Colorado Front Range Trail via the Pikes Peak Greenway

National Parks Service Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program

Legacy Loop – Rock Island Trail | 3

- Access to the Rock Island Trail heading east
- Connecting from the Pikes Peak Greenway to Shooks Run Trail
- Access to the Pikes Peak Greenway, the major spine trail in Colorado Springs
- Access to 11 community and neighborhood parks located along the Loop

Connecting to Parks and Recreation Areas

Some of the specific unmet recreational needs this project will address include improved access to the 160-acre Monument Valley Park through the completion of the Rock Island Trail. Monument Valley Park, a 2-mile long linear park, is located at the eastern end of the Legacy Loop in the heart of downtown Colorado Springs. The park is adjacent to Colorado College, many residential neighborhoods and is home to a public swimming pool complex, a baseball field, multiple tennis courts, beautiful duck ponds, mature cottonwood trees, an herb and flower garden, and 7.5 miles of existing gravel trails and paths. This project will leverage the existing recreational assets of Monument Valley Park by making them more accessible to youth and families and better integrated into the larger recreational fabric of Colorado Springs. Currently, access and use is limited by parking constraints, unsafe road crossings, and narrow gravel trails and paths that are not particularly accessible to cyclists, strollers, and those of limited mobility.

Through the construction of the 1.26 mile long ‘missing gap’ section of Rock Island Trail in the northern project area, the Legacy Loop will provide new safe, direct trail and park connections for many thousands of residents living near both the new trail construction as well as the existing seven miles of Rock Island Trail farther east. Mann Middle School, Wasson High School, Jefferson Elementary School, Monument Valley Park, Bonforte Park, Nancy Lewis Park and Patty Jewett Golf Course are located within a ½ mile of the new Rock Island Trail and these destinations will now be accessible to youth and families by concrete multiuse trail. Shook’s Run Trail will finally connect to the broader Colorado Springs multiuse trail network via the new Rock Island Trail. Students and families living in nearby neighborhoods will enjoy greatly improved trail connections to Gossage Youth Sports Complex, America the Beautiful Park, downtown Colorado Springs, Colorado College, Monument Creek, and the Mesa and Sinton urban bike trails. Within these many destinations, diverse opportunities for play, exploration, and environmental education abound.

The trail connections and recreation opportunities provided by the Legacy Loop project are significant to the community of Colorado Springs on many levels. First, in an age of increasing childhood obesity and a growing recognition of the dangers of ‘Nature-Deficit Disorder’, fun, safe, and accessible recreational opportunities are seen as one of the most critical factors in the health of our youth. Further, in a sprawled city that can at times be quite fractious, a project that builds community through play and recreation has immense value. Building infrastructure envisioned in the Legacy Loop will foster community events that can help make outdoor recreation a driver of civic cohesion. Finally, by strengthening existing parks and trails and building new trail connections, this project builds on the work and investment of previous generations to develop compelling recreation facilities for families in Colorado Springs. The Legacy Loop project will leverage these existing assets to achieve big recreational impacts at a low comparative cost.

Improving Recreation Service and Economic Opportunity for the Target Population

This grant proposal recognizes that the goal of any successful trail project should not simply be to move people from point 'A' to point 'B'. Instead, this project sees improved trail connections as an opportunity to build on existing park and trail amenities, meet community-identified needs, foster exploration, and spur and support economic development.

Barriers to Connect Redevelopment

Not only will the project create short-term construction jobs for the local economy, but it also has the potential to expand business development along commercial areas of the trail corridor. This includes supporting development in the adjacent North Nevada Revitalization and Economic Opportunity Zone, as well as business development in the repurposed Lincoln Elementary School Complex and other localized neighborhood retail areas located along the trail. Additional economic benefits of the project are outlined in the Innovative and Transformative Attributes section of this application, as they relate to health, transportation and real estate benefits.

The project directly links to our community's 2017 North Nevada Revitalization Plan and Economic Opportunity Zone, which includes 2,000 households that have a relatively low average household income of \$28,000 and will benefit from the added connectivity brought by the Rock Island Trail. The plan specifically identifies the need for trail connections to link the area to local and regional trails, as well as the need to offer convenient access to anticipated restaurants, shops, and entertainment activities. As one open house participant stated, *"My favorite elements are the dedicated transportation corridors and connected bike and trail systems."*⁸ The plan outlines an extension of trails that link to the Legacy Loop and completing the Rock Island Trail as an essential component for strengthening redevelopment in this area.

Unsafe Conditions and Inadequate Infrastructure

The project area lacks safe bicycle and pedestrian facilities and even sidewalks are non-existent in adjacent areas. Residents are subjected to overall poor quality or absent trail infrastructure. As outlined in the *Renew North Nevada Master Plan*, although this is not a pedestrian or bicycle friendly corridor, many pedestrians and bicyclists are present and often in conflict with vehicle movement. Once the Rock Island Trail connects to the Pikes Peak Greenway it would significantly improve the trail accessibility prospects for the North Nevada Avenue Corridor.

Connecting to Regional Trail Networks

The Colorado Springs urban trail system is comprised of over 140 miles of multi-use trails distributed across the 180 square miles that make up our city. The trail network connects via the Pikes Peak Greenway to the towns of Fountain and Security to the south and to Monument, the Air Force Academy and Palmer Lake community to the north. Further trail connections throughout El Paso County and the Pikes Peak Region are made possible by our existing trail network. The regional connectivity of our trail

⁸ *Renew North Nevada Master Plan*, March 2017 (City of Colorado Springs), 20.

system is extremely important to its function as a viable transportation network and as a provider of high quality outdoor experiences.

Project Engagement and Participation

While the Legacy Loop Trail has been identified in official planning documents for over thirty years, the concept of a downtown loop trail has been a dream since the founding of Colorado Springs. As the name of this project suggests, the Legacy Loop Project seeks to fulfill this 130-year-old vision for our community. Over the past two decades the Legacy Loop Project has been a focus of multiple high-profile public planning processes in our community. These studies and public planning efforts have consistently identified the potential of the Legacy Loop to improve connectivity and access, increase safety and promote recreation. Planning efforts include an Urban Land Institute study, the Monument Valley Park Master Plan, the North Nevada Revitalization Plan, the current Colorado Springs Bicycle Master Plan, Pikes Peak Regional Non-motorized Plan, Imagine Downtown, and the Colorado College Visioning Plan. Each of these planning efforts has resoundingly supported the Legacy Loop project both in concept and specifics.

The community's desire for the Legacy Loop was reconfirmed once again during the 2014 Park System Master Plan process. In creating the new master plan, 3,000+ citizens provided feedback through community meetings, mailed surveys and online questionnaires to share their hopes and desires for the Colorado Springs Parks Department for the next ten to fifteen years. The community identified several important unmet recreational needs through this process, with the top 5 priorities being better trail connections, improved accessibility to parks, and the desire to complete 'missing gaps' in our trail system. The top trail priority the community identified was completion of the Legacy Loop trail.

City staff, consultants and partners coordinated extensive community outreach and public meetings in 2016 as part of the planning process to develop a master plan for the Legacy Loop.

- April 21, 2016: Open House Public Meeting at City Auditorium; approximately 100 participants. Key comments specified the need for improved safety, connectivity and wayfinding signage
- June 23, 2016: Legacy Loop Master Plan Review at City Auditorium; approximately 30 participants. Key comments specified the need for restrooms, views of the creek and shade structures
- July 30, 2016: Outdoor engagement event and guided Legacy Loop bike tour, hosted with the Greenway Fund; approximately 70 participants.

Additional community forums hosted by community partners provided for additional opportunities for feedback and education.

- January 28, 2016: Envision Shooks Run public workshop, First Presbyterian Church, 120 attendees
- April 13, 2016: Greenway Fund Forum, El Pomar Penrose House, 300 attendees
- June 3, 2016: Colorado Springs Bicycle Summit Expo, UCCS, 300 attendees

- June 14, 2016: Envision Shooks Run public workshop, First Presbyterian Church, 80 attendees
- July 15, 2016: Centennial Boulevard Extension public meeting, Academy for Advanced & Creative Learning, 80 attendees

Methods for engaging the community included e-newsletters, local organization newsletter announcements, hard copy newsletters, door to door flyers, new releases, social media postings, and website promotion. Between January and September 2016 we coordinated with numerous local partners, including the Greenway Fund, the Trails and Open Space Coalition, Old North End Neighborhood Association, Coalition of Neighborhood Organizations, Bonforte Neighborhood Association, Mid-Shooks Run Neighborhood Association and Patty Jewett Neighborhood Organization to expand our planning process and ensure that neighbors and stakeholders had adequate opportunity to learn about the project and provide comments.

Strong support is further evidenced by the numerous community organizations that commit resources to various Legacy Loop elements, including the renovation of the Pop-Cycle Bridge by Kids on Bikes and activation by the Trails and Open Space Coalition, which led over a dozen community bike rides that engaged 150 residents that live along the Legacy Loop, with the goal of activating the trail corridor and creating neighborhood connectivity. Several of our community partners provided letters of support illustrating their engagement with and commitment to this project.

Innovation and Transformative Attributes

The Legacy Loop has the ability to connect trails to major downtown revitalization plans and the North Nevada Revitalization Plan. As our city continues to develop and promote infill, it is imperative that those efforts work in tandem to include and utilize access to parks, trails, and open space as components of redevelopment. Recently, Colorado Springs was awarded \$120 million dollars in state funding for the City of Champions initiative. This \$250 million dollar project will construct a new Olympic Museum adjacent to America the Beautiful Park. It will also fund a new Air Force Academy visitor's center and a sports medical campus at the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs. Once completed, the connection through the Rock Island Trail will more effectively link people to the Pikes Peak Greenway Trail, which directly connects to all three projects.

Economic Benefits

The Greenway Fund, our community partner, recently completed an economic benefit study that highlighted additional intrinsic and complementary benefits of the Legacy Loop.⁹ The study states:

- It is well documented that per capita healthcare costs will improve due to increased convenience to physical activity opportunities. Per capita, healthcare costs for our residents will decrease by \$141.
- The per capita recreational benefit is \$282. This is due to decreased barriers to improved recreational areas and cost of access to those areas.

⁹ 2018 Economic Impact of Greenways in Colorado Springs Report, July 2018 (Summit Economics), 3-4.

- The per capita transportation benefit is \$94 due to improved connectivity for non-motorized modes of transportation. The Legacy Loop connects to downtown and several concentrated employment areas.

With a total per capita benefit, excluding gained real estate value, of \$516 for over 50,000 Colorado Springs residents, the economic benefits of a completed and maintained Legacy Loop are well over \$25 million. These benefits directly impact residents. The expected healthcare benefits will exceed \$7 million. The study also examined gained residential value and subsequent municipal tax revenues. Property values were negatively impacted up 15% by blighted greenways while a maintained greenway typically enjoyed a 15-20% positive impact on property value.

Community Revitalization

Additionally, the Legacy Loop will complement recent investment in downtown Colorado Springs, which is located in the heart of this trail project. The city center is experiencing an unprecedented \$600 million in completed, in-process or announced public and private investment since 2013. Vacancy rates have plummeted; inquiries and pipeline prospects are surging.¹⁰ Downtown Colorado Springs has business density more than 20 times greater than the City as a whole with 3,225 businesses per square mile compared to 102 businesses per square mile experienced in the rest of the City¹¹. Similarly, downtown is home to 20,000 employees per square mile as opposed to 1,310 employees per square mile throughout the remainder of the City. Additionally, downtown gross sales in 2016 increased 5.3 percent overall from 2015, with retail sales reaching their highest figure since 2009.¹² Thus, Legacy Loop will directly benefit downtown residents and visitors who are seeking alternative transportation modes to access shopping and restaurant venues in surrounding neighborhoods, as well as project area residents who want to commute to downtown for work, shopping or visiting local attractions.

Project's Alignment with SCORP and Other Applicable Plans

This project advances the following goals outlined in the Colorado Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Contributes to an integrated, statewide trail system.

The Pikes Peak Greenway is our community's segment of the Front Range Trail. By adding necessary upgrades to this portion of the Front Range Trail and creating a critical east-west connection this project addresses the need for the corridor to accommodate diverse users and overcome safety obstacles. Improving the integrity and accessibility of the Front Range Trail in Colorado Springs will help to meet user expectations for premiere statewide trail system.

Further, Pikes Peak Greenway is the spine of Colorado Springs' urban trail system, which spans over 140 miles of multi-use trails distributed across the 180 square miles that make up our city, as well as other

¹⁰ Colorado Springs Downtown Partnership, State of Downtown 2017, 2.

¹¹ *Ibid*, 11.

¹² *Ibid*, 15.

trails in the Pikes Peak Region. By effectively connecting to trails and parks in the core of our city, the Legacy Loop will leverage the existing trail network to create a highly connected and functional trail system – one that will benefit the entire region.

Promotes an environmentally appropriate trail design, construction and management.

The design and construction of the Legacy Loop will utilize contemporary urban trail building techniques and decrease the overall maintenance requirement. The corridor will accommodate multiple types of trail users by providing a 4 ft. natural surface breeze trail adjacent to the 12 ft. concrete trail, and improve safety for trail users.

Invests in outdoor infrastructure through well-planned, on-going commitments to meet a growing community's expectations.

First the project will leverage existing park and trail assets by improving the safety, functionality and connectivity of the Pikes Peak Greenway Trail as it runs through the heart of Colorado Springs. The second major goal of the Legacy Loop is to create regionally significant trail connections through improvements to the Pikes Peak Greenway, part of the Colorado Front Range Trail. The final major goal of this project is to create new and lasting recreational opportunities throughout the project area for the citizens of Colorado Springs.

The project also advances priorities of several other community plans. During the 2014 Park System Master Plan process the community rated the Legacy Loop as a high priority project due to its ability to provide essential connectivity and provide additional safety to a primary trail corridor. Additional studies and public planning efforts, as outlined in the Project Engagement and Participation section, consistently identified the potential of the Legacy Loop to improve connectivity and access, increase safety and promote recreation.

Project Readiness

The overall Legacy Loop project is underway, with several elements recently completed and others in process. We are currently in the first phase of the northern section of the Legacy Loop, which includes completing the Rock Island Trail segment. The design, engineering and construction documents for the trail and its various elements near 95% completion. We will have obtained Pikes Peak Regional Building approval for Rock Island Trail construction documents by the end of 2018. Having previously received LWCF funding we understand the additional required steps that occur after receiving notice of being recommended for funding and will plan our procurement processes so that they align with the grant early administration requirements. This will allow for us to begin construction as early as possible in late 2019 or early 2020 with an anticipated 9 to 10 month construction period.

Legacy Loop - Rock Island Trail and Mesa Creek Bridge
Budget Form

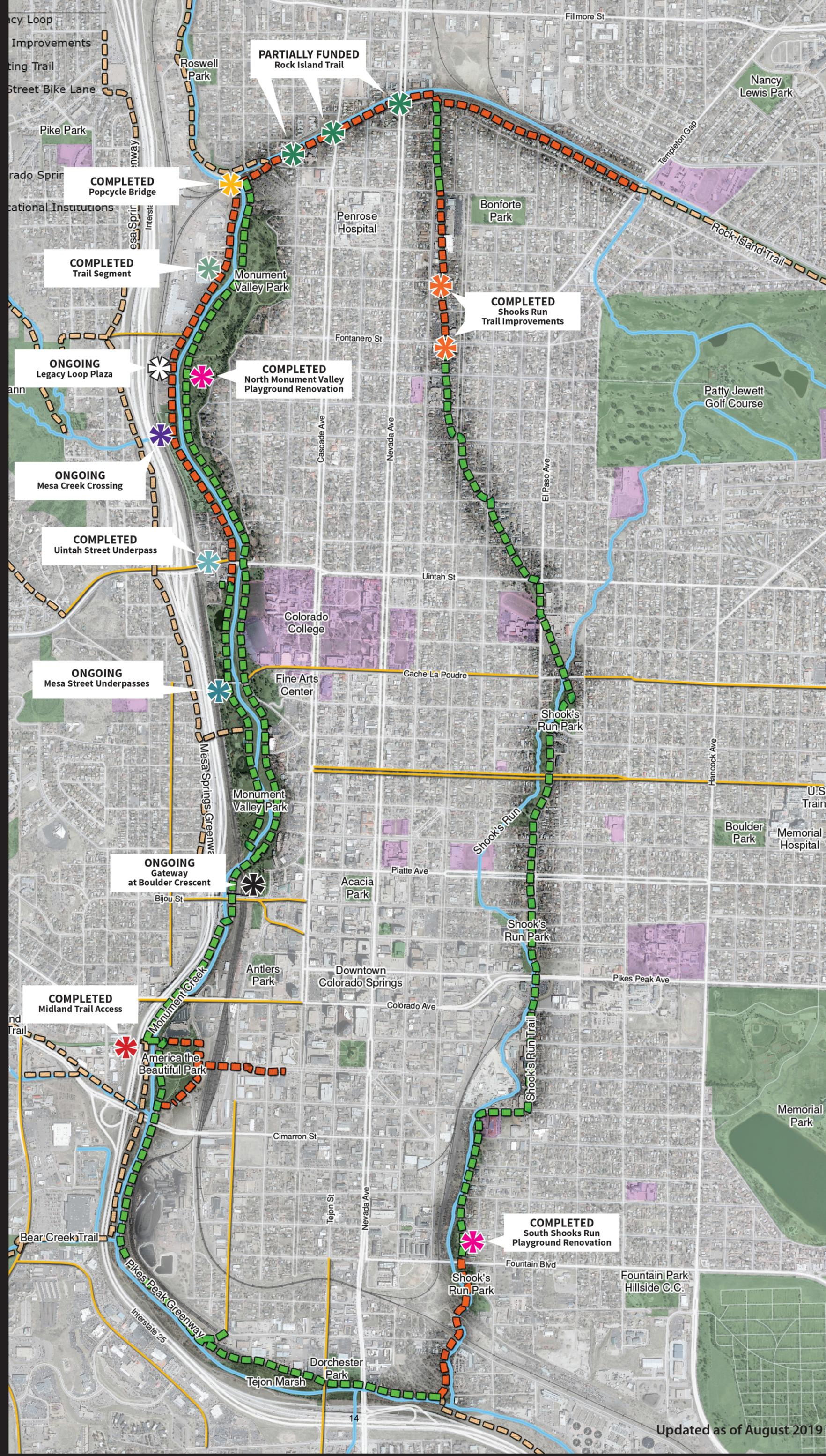
Source of Funds	Date Secured				LWCF Grant Request	Total Project Match	Total Funding (\$)
CASH							
City of Colorado Springs	Jan-18					\$ 668,100.00	\$ 668,100.00
LWCF	Pending				\$ 750,000.00		\$ 750,000.00
Greenway Fund	Jun-18					\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Rails to Trails Conservancy - Doppelt Fund	Jun-17					\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00
IN KIND							
City of Colorado Springs - staff time	Jan-20					\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
TOTAL SOURCES OF FUNDS					\$ 750,000.00	\$ 773,100.00	\$ 1,523,100.00

Description	Qty	Unit	Unit Price	Total (B*D)	LWCF Funds	Total Project Match (\$)	Total Funding (\$)
ROCK ISLAND TRAIL							
GENERAL							
Construction Surveying	1	EA	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Mobilization - 5% of Construction	1	EA	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00		\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
Public Information Services -.2%	1	EA	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00		\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Traffic Control	1	EA	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
							\$ -
DESIGN							
Planning, Engineering, CDs	1	EA	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00		\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
Drainage Report	1	EA	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00		\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
							\$ -
EARTHWORK							
Cut to Fill	4,800	CY	\$ 30.00	\$ 144,000.00	\$ 144,000.00		\$ 144,000.00
							\$ -
PAVEMENTS							
Concrete Bikeway (5 inch) Shooks Run to Templeton Gap	4,800	SY	\$ 90.00	\$ 432,000.00	\$ 432,000.00		\$ 432,000.00
Aggregate Shoulder (Class 6, 6 inch)	430	CY	\$ 25.00	\$ 10,750.00	\$ 10,750.00		\$ 10,750.00
							\$ -
							\$ -
CIVIL SITE IMPROVEMENTS							
Trail Signage	1	EA	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00		\$ 15,000.00
Erosion Control BMP's and monitoring	1	EA	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00		\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
							\$ -
LANDSCAPE							
Revegetation -seeding and mulching	3	AC	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 10,500.00		\$ 10,500.00	\$ 10,500.00
							\$ -
CONTINGENCY (9%)							
			\$50,000	\$ 50,000.00		\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
							\$ -
MESA CREEK CROSSING & TRAIL							
GENERAL							
Construction Surveying	1	EA	\$8,000	\$ 8,000.00		\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
Mobilization - 5% of Construction	1	EA	\$20,000	\$ 20,000.00		\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Traffic Control	1	EA	\$5,000	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Trail Signage	1	EA	\$400	\$ 400.00		\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
							\$ -
DESIGN							
Planning, Engineering, CDs	1	EA	\$40,000	\$ 40,000.00		\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
Drainage Report	1	EA	\$3,900	\$ 3,900.00		\$ 3,900.00	\$ 3,900.00
							\$ -
DEMO AND RELOCATION							
Clearing and Grubbing	1	EA	\$10,000	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 13,000.00	\$ 13,000.00
Tree Removal	1	EA	\$10,000	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
							\$ -
							\$ -
EARTHWORK							
Cut to Fill	250	CY	\$30	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00		\$ 7,500.00
Embankment at Abutments	2000	CY	\$25	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00		\$ 50,000.00
Structure Excavation/Backfill	600	CY	\$35	\$ 21,000.00	\$21,000		\$ 21,000.00
							\$ -
PAVEMENTS							
							\$ -

Concrete Bikeway (5 inch) Plaza to Mesa Creek Crossing	640	SY	\$90	\$ 57,600.00	\$ 57,600.00		\$ 57,600.00
Aggregate Shoulder (Class 6, 6 inch)	10	CY	\$25	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00		\$ 250.00
							\$ -
GUARD RAILS AND BARRIERS							\$ -
Smooth Dowelled Fence	180	LF	\$15	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 2,700.00		\$ 2,700.00
							\$ -
CIVIL SITE IMPROVEMENTS							\$ -
Pedestrian Bridge	100	LF	\$1,500	\$ 150,000.00		\$ 150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00
Cast in place deck	20	CY	\$800	\$ 16,000.00		\$ 16,000.00	\$ 16,000.00
Abutments	50	CY	\$1,500	\$ 75,000.00		\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00
Foundation (piles)	140	LF	\$250	\$ 35,000.00		\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00
Handrails	50	LF	\$200	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 6,800.00	\$ 10,000.00
Riprap bank protection	500	CY	\$120	\$ 60,000.00		\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
Trail Signage	2	EA	\$3,000	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00		\$ 6,000.00
Erosion Control BMP's and monitoring	1	EA	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00		\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
							\$ -
LANDSCAPE							\$ -
Revegetation -seeding and mulching	1	EA	\$5,000	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
							\$ -
CONTINGENCY (9%)	1	EA	\$50,000	\$ 50,000.00		\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
USE OF FUNDS - CASH SUBTOTAL					\$ 750,000.00	\$ 713,100.00	\$ 1,463,100.00
[IN-KIND] Description of Work	Qty	Unit	Unit Price	Total (B*D)			Total Funding (\$)
SALARY/WAGES							
City of Colorado Springs - staff time				\$ 60,000.00		\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
IN-KIND SUBTOTAL						\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
TOTAL PROJECT COST					\$ 750,000.00	\$ 773,100.00	\$ 1,523,100.00
PERCENT MATCH						100%	

LEGACY LOOP

COLORADO SPRINGS



PARTIALLY FUNDED
Rock Island Trail

COMPLETED
Popcycle Bridge

COMPLETED
Trail Segment

ONGOING
Legacy Loop Plaza

ONGOING
Mesa Creek Crossing

COMPLETED
Uintah Street Underpass

ONGOING
Mesa Street Underpasses

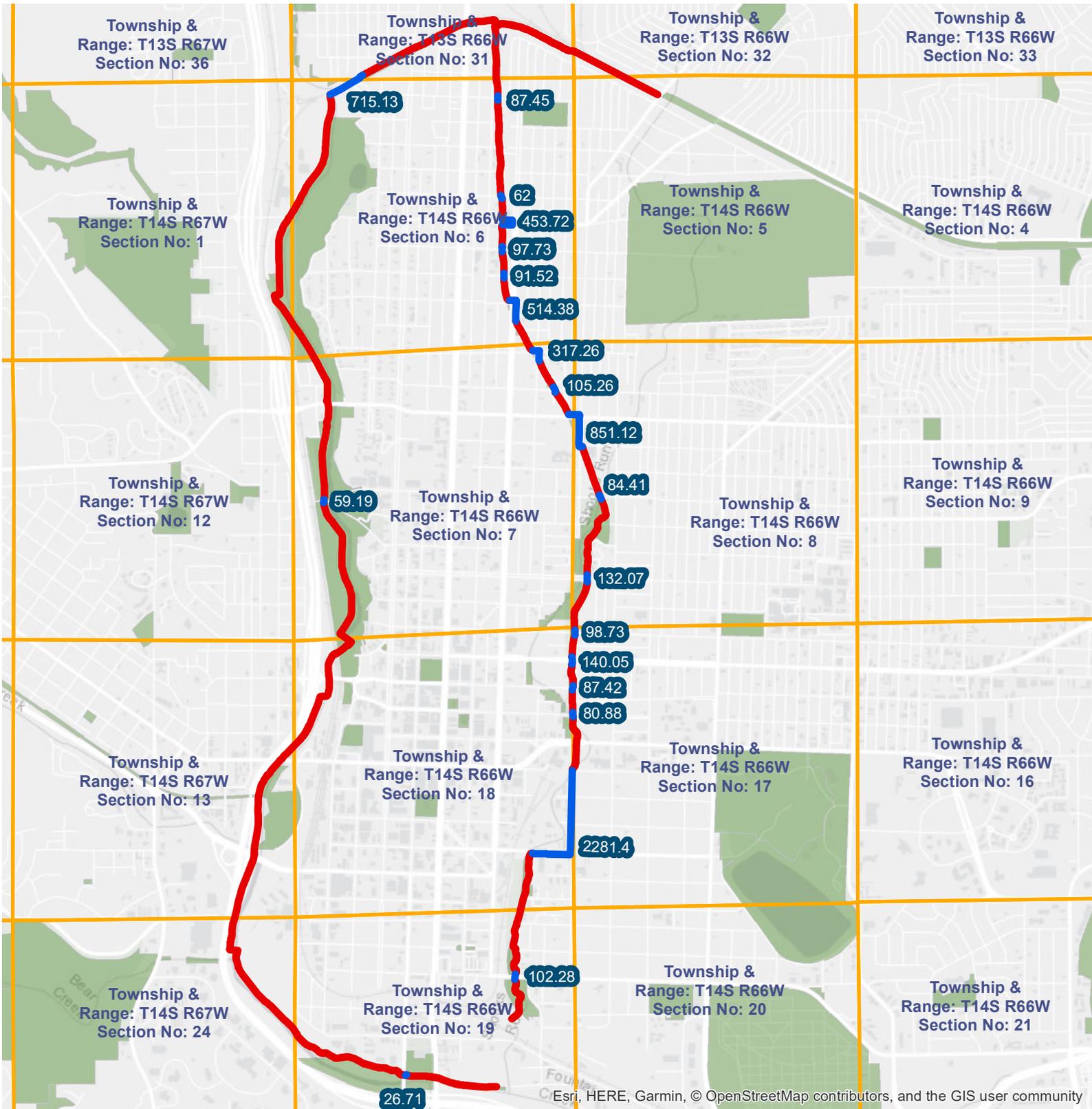
ONGOING
Gateway at Boulder Crescent

COMPLETED
Midland Trail Access

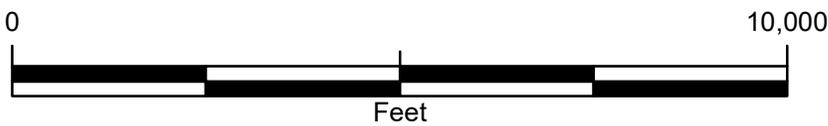
COMPLETED
Shook's Run
Trail Improvements

COMPLETED
South Shook's Run
Playground Renovation

Legacy Loop



Esri, HERE, Garmin, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community



Project Title: Legacy Loop
 Approximate Acreage: 21.5 Acres
 Map Prepared: 9 August 2018

- Gaps (feet)
- Legacy Loop
- Parkland





EXISTING SITE - NO EXISTING TRAIL CONNECTION OVER MESA CREEK



MESA CREEK PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE CONNECTION

**LEGACY LOOP
GREENWAY AND ROCK ISLAND
TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS
SPRING, 2018**



THK association inc.
2500 South Powers Street, Ste 101
Aurora, Colorado 80014
303-775-7281 FAX 770-7183
Planning, Landscape Architecture



EXISTING PIKES PEAK GREENWAY TRAIL - NORTHBOUND TO POPCYCLE BRIDGE



PIKES PEAK GREENWAY TRAIL - NORTHBOUND TO POPCYCLE BRIDGE

**LEGACY LOOP
GREENWAY AND ROCK ISLAND
TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS
SPRING, 2016**



THK associates inc.
2500 South Powers Street, Ste 101
Fountain, Colorado 80914
303-770-7281 FAX 770-7133
www.thkassociates.com



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Southeast Region Office
4255 Sinton Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80907
P 719.227.5220

MEMORANDUM

To: Margaret Taylor/Mark Leslie/Nick Dellaca
From: Brad Henley
CC: Dan Prenzlow, Brett Ackerman, Jim Aragon, Frank McGee, Rob Seel
Subject: Colorado the Beautiful Grant Application Southeast Region Review/Comment
Date: September 14, 2018

There is a total of four Colorado the Beautiful grant applications in the Southeast Region. This application was sent to the CPW Area Field Staff for review and comment.

This is not a comprehensive discussion on the best available science regarding trail development, trail use, and the subsequent impacts to wildlife. It is a brief overview of the wildlife management issues CPW Staff consider in evaluating the trail grant proposals. The individual grant comments and CPW Staff recommendations are detailed below.

After review of the four applications, the Southeast Region found no significant wildlife impacts during review.

The Grants:

1) **Methodist Mountain Trail – Construction – Salida Mountain Trails (SMT).**

Salida Mountain Trails is requesting \$269,951 to create two new connections to the Rainbow Trail and improve access to the trails from downtown Salida by constructing 6 miles of new multi-use, non-motorized trails, reconstructing 5 miles of existing trails, building a new trailhead parking lot, and adding signage.

- a. Jim Aragon, Area Wildlife Manager, commented that it appeared SMT has taken all the previous comments that CPW has offered into consideration. SMT has stayed out of the areas above the power lines and has included seasonal closures per CPW recommendation. It is important to remain consistent and provide the best management practices in all of the future construction and maintenance. It is also important to utilize cooperation among agencies and partners to try to help prevent user created trails on public lands. As with all trail work, it is important to be bear aware and prevent conflicts with bears in this area.



2) **Stage and Rail Trail – Construction – Chaffee County.**

Construct a 1.9 mile asphalt path to connect Buena Vista to Johnson Village, improve trail and trailhead areas from the north end of Buena Vista to the south end of Granite with new signage. They are requesting \$313,063.67 for the work to be completed. They estimate a total cost of \$522,977.67

- a. Jim Aragon again commented it is important to remain consistent and provide the best management practices in all of the future construction and maintenance. It is also important to utilize cooperation among agencies and partners to try to help prevent user created trails on public lands. As with all trail work, it is important to be bear aware and prevent conflicts with bears in this area.

3) **Legacy Loop Rock Island Trail – Construction - Colorado Springs Parks, Rec, and Cultural Services.**

They are requesting \$500,000 to construct .62 miles of trail to link the Rock Island Trail to the Pikes Peak Greenway, providing an east-west connection with the “spine” of the community’s urban trail network.

- a. Frank McGee, Area Wildlife Manager, commented that he supports the project and has no concerns regarding it.

4) **Envision Recreation in Balance – Planning – County of Chaffee.**

They are requesting \$99,366.70 for planning new solutions that will balance rapid growth in outdoor recreation with watershed health protections by tracking and managing unplanned growth and impact issues. This is a part of a county wide planning and working group that is looking at the growth and sustainability of the county.

- a. Jim Aragon has no issues with this grant and the expectation is that as a planning grant they will work with the local wildlife staff to ensure that no problems will arise in the future.



Jacobs - DNR, Fletcher <fletcher.jacobs@state.co.us>

Re: Legacy Loop - Rock Island Trail

1 message

McGee - DNR, Frank <frank.mcgee@state.co.us>

Sun, Jan 26, 2020 at 1:22 PM

To: "Henley - DNR, Brad" <brad.henley@state.co.us>

Cc: Lucas Svare - DNR <lucas.svare@state.co.us>, "Jacobs - DNR, Fletcher" <fletcher.jacobs@state.co.us>

Brad, we still support the project and don't have any wildlife issues.

Thanks,
Frank McGee
Area Wildlife Manager - Colorado Springs



LIVE LIFE
OUTSIDE

P 719.227.5218 | F 719.227.5264 | C 719.439.9634
4255 Sinton Rd., Colorado Springs, CO 80907
frank.mcgee@state.co.us | cpw.state.co.us