



**COLORADO**

**Parks and Wildlife**

Department of Natural Resources

## GRANT APPLICATION CHECK LIST

### MANDATORY:

- Signed letter of resolution from Governing Body
- Exhibit A - Application
- Exhibit B - Budget (Unprotected Excel CPW form)
- Environmental Forms (not required for Regional Trails Planning grants)
- Maps/Photographs/Graphics (5 page max, pdf, letter sized pages)
- Letters of Support (maximum of 5). No letters from clubs or groups specifically working on the project
- Project can be completed within 2.5 years from receiving grant
- Required MATCH funding is secured, including CASH match funds
- CPW District Wildlife Manager has been contacted and informed of construction projects by July 1st. Note that ALL projects will be reviewed by CPW for wildlife impacts
- (Construction only) Project area is owned by public land agency or has easement that designates the area to be open to public outdoor recreation for at least 25 years
- (Construction Only) Formal Environmental Assessment (EA) or NEPA has been completed with final approval for the project area (federal lands only).

### ADDITIONAL PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Youth Corps or youth organization will be used on the project (name of organization)
- Volunteers will be utilized on the project (name organization)



**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Service  
Administration**

July 30, 2018

Colorado Parks and Wildlife Division  
Trails Program  
13787 S. Hwy 85  
Littleton, CO 80125

RE: Rock Island Trail Grant Application

State Trails Committee:

Thank you for your consideration of the attached Rock Island Trail - Legacy Loop grant application. The City of Colorado Springs is submitting an application on behalf of a project that will fill a critical trail gap in a comprehensive trail and park development project located in the heart of downtown Colorado Springs. The Rock Island Trail is the northern connector and is essential to connecting to our greater trail system.

The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board, appointed by the elected members of the Colorado Springs City Council, proudly supports this project and the opportunities it offers for the community. As representatives and residents for the citizens of this community, we feel it is important to continue to expand and enhance our recreational opportunities and support this grant application.

The Legacy Loop project is located in the heart of Colorado Springs adjacent to Monument Creek, Colorado College, and historic Monument Valley Park. The Legacy Loop will directly serve numerous neighborhoods through dramatically enhanced trail, park and recreational access. Further, the Legacy Loop project will position trails and parks at the center of community life and radically improve the recreational landscape of central Colorado Springs. As a primary trail corridor, the property will be under the control of the City for a minimum of the next 25 years. Completing the Rock Island Trail will help to close a critical gap in this trail network.

We appreciate your highest consideration of our grant application. This project will provide essential linkages throughout the community and improves upon our community's section of the Front Range Trail.

Sincerely,

Mina Liebert, Chair  
Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Advisory Board

# EXHIBIT A

## COLORADO THE BEAUTIFUL CONSTRUCTION APPLICATION

Applicant or Organization Name: Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services		
Mailing Address: 1401 Recreation Way, Colorado Springs, CO 80905		
Applicant Lead Contact Name: Tilah Larson		Title: Senior Analyst
Telephone: 719-385-6532	Email: tlaron@springsgov.com	Is this the primary contact for this grant: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

### OFFICIAL USE ONLY – DUNS # (IF REQUIRED):

## PROJECT MANAGER (this person will have day-to-day responsibility for the project)

Name: Steve Bodette		
Mailing Address: 1401 Recreation Way, Colorado Springs, CO 80905		
Telephone: 719-385-6534	Email: sbodette@springsgov.com	

## PRIMARY PARTNER INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE)

Name:		
Mailing Address:		
Partner Contact Name:		Title:
Telephone:	Email:	Is this the primary contact for this grant: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

Project Title: Legacy Loop – Rock Island Trail	
Grant Request: \$500,000	Required Match: \$150,000 required, \$936,760 committed
Total Project Cost: \$1,436,760	

**Project Description:** Please write a 3-4 paragraph description of your project and the expected accomplishments. Be sure to include Who, What, When, and Where.) **This is your scope of work.** (This section is not the place to talk about the project background, the benefits, the funding, or anything other than the actual work to be accomplished. Please address this information in question #1 of the Selection Criteria.)

The **Legacy Loop** is a comprehensive and transformative trail development project located in the heart of downtown Colorado Springs, El Paso County. This project, led by the City's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department, will extend a developing tier 1 trail network to 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. Specifically, linking the Rock Island Trail to the Pikes Peak Greenway will provide a critical east-west trail connection with the "spine" of our community's urban trail network, which also serves as the city's segment of the Colorado Front Range Trail.

Construction of the new Rock Island Trail from the Pikes Peak Greenway east to the existing Rock Island Trail will add an additional 3,270' of concrete urban trail to the city's active transportation and recreation network. This project will construct a 12' wide concrete multiuse trail with a 4' wide breeze gravel shoulder along the entire length of Rock Island's 'missing gap.' In doing so, thousands of families living east of downtown will for the first time have safe trail access to parks, neighborhoods, schools, and the larger Colorado Springs trail network. This new trail will also connect to the existing Shook's Run Trail, a 3+ mile existing tier 1 urban trail that forms the eastern boundary of the Legacy Loop Trail.

## EXHIBIT A

In addition to the 3,270' of concrete trail and gravel soft surface trail that will be constructed, 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. The design, engineering and construction documents are 95% complete and the project has an anticipated 9 to 10 month construction timeline.

### LAND OWNERSHIP

1. Provide the name/s of the property owners: City of Colorado Springs
2. The trail corridor is controlled by:  Fee Simple  Lease  Easement  License  Right-of-Way  Other:

### USER INFORMATION (Please check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Hiking	<input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycling	<input type="checkbox"/> Equestrian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Walking	<input type="checkbox"/> Four-Wheeling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADA Accessible
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Running	<input type="checkbox"/> All-Terrain Vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Skateboarding	<input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiling	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-Line Skating	<input type="checkbox"/> Snowshoeing	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biking	<input type="checkbox"/> X-Country Skiing	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

### TRAIL SURFACE

<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concrete	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Natural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crusher Fines	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

### PROJECT LOCATION (For multiple project sites attach a separate list.)

Nearest Town or City: Colorado Springs

County: El Paso

Latitude & Longitude Coordinates: Approximate Latitude: 38.868271 and  
Longitude: -104.82571

State Senate District #: 2

State Representative District #: 20

Acreage of new trailhead		Miles of trail grooming	
Miles of new trail construction	.62	Miles of trail being planned	
Miles of trail maintenance		Miles of trail reroute	
Miles of trail reconstruction		Miles of inter-connecting trail	
Miles of trail to be signed		Other	
Miles of trail restoration		Other	

EXHIBIT A

Applicant Authorized Signature: Kimberly A. King Date: 8/1/18  
(From Applicant Organization)

Land Agency Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(From project location land agency, if different from applicant)

## COLORADO SPRINGS LEGACY LOOP – ROCK ISLAND TRAIL PROJECT NARRATIVE

### 1. Community Need

Over a century in the making, the Legacy Loop stems from the establishment of Colorado Springs, where founder General William Jackson Palmer had a bold and far-sighted vision for a city singularly inspiring and eminently livable at the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. General Palmer’s urban vision linked the city directly to the restorative and recreational power of parks and trails. He platted the town with parks at the forefront and gifted property to the city to further support his vision for a trail and park loop surrounding central Colorado Springs.

Today, the Legacy Loop is both a continuation of General Palmer’s vision and the creation of a new image for connectivity and access to those parks, recreation, and natural areas that are so integral to the character and quality of life of Colorado Springs. This comprehensive multi-phase project aims to create a cohesive multi-use 10-mile trail and park loop that improves connectivity, expands accessibility, promotes safety, supports alternative modes of transportation, and significantly enhances existing outdoor recreational opportunities in Colorado Springs. 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. *See Map 2 for details.*

The Legacy Loop circles downtown Colorado Springs with the northern section project area impacting over 21,861 people living within a half-mile walking radius and another 121,000 people living within a two mile biking radius of the entire Legacy Loop project. Specifically, over 4,000 households are located along the unbuilt Rock Island Trail corridor, with 25% of those households experiencing poverty and 20% do not have access to a personal vehicle.<sup>1</sup> In addition to creating a 10-mile ring around the City, the project area connects key linkages that fill gaps and build off of the hub of the city’s active transportation network. The 375,000+ current annual uses/1,105 daily uses<sup>2</sup> along the Pikes Peak Greenway west side spur segment alone illustrate the importance of this trail and potential for expanded use.

The subject of this application, the completion of the Rock Island Trail segment of the Legacy Loop, will provide a critical east-west trail connection in the City’s active transportation network. *See Map 1 for the Rock Island Trail location.* Currently, the Rock Island Trail 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. The Rock Island Trail also does not connect to Shook’s Run Trail, the eastern boundary of the Legacy Loop. 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 citizens letting us know that this is their highest priority trail construction project. Through this project thousands of families living east of downtown will for the first time have safe trail access to parks, neighborhoods, schools, and the larger regional trail network.

#### *Expected Users and Critical Need*

Residents will use the Legacy Loop as part of the local active transportation network by commuting to work, accessing business areas, engaging in recreation, and to connect to local attractions or nearby places of interest. Additionally, since the Legacy Loop is at the core of the city’s urban trail system, it

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<sup>1</sup> 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>.

<sup>2</sup> Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services trail counter data. EcoCounter database accessed Jan 2, 2018.

## COLORADO SPRINGS LEGACY LOOP – ROCK ISLAND TRAIL PROJECT NARRATIVE

will be used to navigate the greater regional trails that link to areas beyond the city. Proximity to downtown Colorado Springs connects the trail to other existing bicycle and transit infrastructure, allowing for multi-modal transit.

Currently, the community compensates by opting not to utilize trails as a form of transportation or by using the on-street system, which has its own challenges of safety and lack of maintenance. According to the *2018 Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments Transportation Needs Report* survey results, 37% of respondents would like to walk to work, school or shopping, but they need improved infrastructure and a more pleasant walking environment in order to do so. Further, cyclists' prioritized enhanced connections between bicycle facilities and cited separated trails as the most desirable type of bicycle facilities. Cyclists mentioned distracted drivers and hostile car culture as the top reasons they chose not to bicycle.<sup>3</sup> As we add trail connectivity, improve safety and user experience, and enrich recreational offerings along the trail, more people will opt to utilize the trail for transportation.

### *Community Significance*

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. Project improvements 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 completion of the Rock Island Trail provides pivotal infrastructure for user safety and connectivity. Through the construction of the 3,270' 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 along the existing Shooks Run and Pikes Peak Greenway Trails.

Current lack of a built trail corridor to connect the east and west segments of the Loop prohibits people from accessing the greater trail system of Colorado Springs, local amenities, and nearby parks located along the Loop. With certainty, the Legacy Loop's impact will stretch far beyond the current users and families living within a half mile of the project. By increasing accessibility to 7 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. The project serves 11 elementary and middle schools and 2 colleges located within a ¼ mile of the Loop. Additionally, 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. The social, economic, and recreational impact of a Legacy Loop project that brings families to nature and easily accessible parks and trails to the city is immeasurable.

Further, this project will 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 community park, is located at the eastern end of the Legacy Loop in the heart of downtown Colorado Springs. The park is home to a public swimming pool complex, a baseball field, multiple tennis and pickleball courts, duck ponds, herb and flower demonstration gardens, and 7.5 miles of existing gravel trails and paths. This

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<sup>3</sup> *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.

## COLORADO SPRINGS LEGACY LOOP – ROCK ISLAND TRAIL PROJECT NARRATIVE

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, park and trail 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. *See Map 1.*

Additionally, Bonforte Park, Nancy Lewis Park and Patty Jewett Golf Course are located with a ½ mile of the new Rock Island Trail and these destinations will now be accessible to youth and families by concrete multiuse trail. *See Map 4.* Shook’s Run Trail will no longer end abruptly, and 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. *See Map 3.* These many destinations offer diverse opportunities for play, exploration, and environmental education.

### 2. Scope

While a longtime priority, the Rock Island Trail corridor gained momentum when the City purchased 10.75 linear acres of land from the Union Pacific Railroad in 2015, providing the necessary area for the Rock Island Trail. While the Parks Department pursued this property acquisition since the late 1980s to no avail, this great milestone launched the development of the Legacy Loop. Since the inception of the City’s urban trail network, the Rock Island Railroad corridor was planned as part of an active transportation and recreational corridor that will accommodate mixed uses of cycling (30%), walking (30%), running (35%), skateboarding (3%), and rollerblading (2%).<sup>4</sup>

This east-west trail provides Rocky Mountain views while heading west through the rail corridor. *See Figures 1 & 2.* Trail construction includes 3, 270’ of 12 foot wide concrete trail and a 2 foot wide gravel soft surface trail along each side of the trail for a total of 4 feet of soft surface trail. This project will also include an ADA accessible trail connection to the north end of the Shook’s Run trail and 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 will be erected in locations where the trail traverses cross slopes. Finally, necessary wayfinding includes locational signage, trail crossings, and kiosks at major trail connection points, such as at Van Buren Road and Templeton Gap Road.

The project consists entirely of new construction along the recently acquired trail corridor and builds on previously implemented elements of the Legacy Loop. Between 2015 -2018 the City addressed several critical projects to improve access to and along the Loop. *See Map 2.*

*Uintah Street Underpass:* The previous at-grade trail crossing forced cyclists, pedestrians and other users off the Greenway Trail, along a high traffic street, through a busy five-lane intersection and along a side street before they could re-access the trail. The completion of the underpass in June 2018 allows for seamless use of the west side of the Greenway.

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<sup>4</sup> User estimates based on current recreational trends in the City.



## COLORADO SPRINGS LEGACY LOOP – ROCK ISLAND TRAIL PROJECT NARRATIVE

*Trailhead Parking Area and Plaza:* In 2017 the City constructed the trailhead plaza of the Legacy Loop, providing a central area for community gathering, connection, and special events. The parking area is conveniently located off I-25 for easy highway access.

*Rock Island Trail Corridor Acquisition:* After 20 years of negotiating with the railway the City acquired an easement along the Rock Island Railroad corridor in 2015, making the Legacy Loop a reality and elevating the project as the highest priority trail project for our city.

*Shooks Run Trail Reconstruction:* A deteriorated asphalt section of the Shooks Run Trail was reconstructed as a concrete corridor that aligned with the connecting concrete segments of the trail.

*Midland Trail Realignment:* The I-25/Cimarron Interchange project required realignment of the Midland Trail to improve connectivity to the Pikes Peak Greenway.

### 3. Timeline

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 Rock Island 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. Upon completing grant contracting requirements we will begin construction immediately. This shovel ready project benefits from an advanced timeline due to recent completion of other components along the Legacy Loop and from having nearly completed design and construction documents.

#### *Environmental Permits*

The Department is prepared for the anticipated review processes and obtaining the necessary permits having previously conducted environmental assessments as part of the real estate process for purchasing the Rock Island Trail corridor. Should the Rock Island Trail receive additional federal funding, which is currently being sought to expand trail connectivity, the latest update of the NEPA Program Assignment Categorical Exclusion Guidance should classify this proposed project as Categorical Exclusion C2, requiring a minimal level of documentation. The project will require a migratory bird survey, which will be completed in the month prior to the start of construction, summer 2019. The entire project area is within existing public rights-of-way or within land owned by public agencies. The City will work with Rob Seel, CPW SW Region Trails Coordinator, to ensure compliance with CPW protocol and permissions.

#### *Wildlife Assessments*

As an urban trail located along a railroad corridor this project does not have significant wildlife or environmental impacts. Both Frank McGee, CPW District Wildlife Manager, and Kirsta Scherff-Norris, Senior Wildlife Biologist with Colorado Springs Utilities, did not identify any impacts that would limit implementation of the project. The area is currently disturbed with negligible wildlife habitat.

#### *Pending Grant Impacts*

## COLORADO SPRINGS LEGACY LOOP – ROCK ISLAND TRAIL PROJECT NARRATIVE

The City has pending Legacy Loop grant applications to the Department of Transportation and National Parks Service. If awarded, the project timeline would be amended to allow for completing the grant requirements for those entities. At the latest, we anticipate a late 2019 construction start date and project completion occurring during the fall of 2020, allowing for project finalization well within the 2.5 years required by the Colorado the Beautiful Grant.

### 4. Access

The Legacy Loop has three primary objectives. First, the project will **leverage existing park and trail assets** to foster economic development and improve the safety, functionality and connectivity of trails in the Pikes Peak Region. 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. Finally, this project aims to **create new and lasting recreational opportunities** throughout the project area for the citizens of Colorado Springs.

#### *Economic Development*

This project sees improved trail connections as an opportunity to build on existing park and trail amenities, create exciting new outdoor recreational opportunities, foster exploration, and spur and support economic development. Not only will the project expand business development along commercial areas of the trail corridor, but its adjacency to the North Nevada Revitalization and Economic Opportunity Zone, and the repurposed Lincoln Elementary School Complex allows for the trail to directly aid in facilitating community revitalization. *See Map 4.*

The project directly links to our community's 2017 North Nevada Revitalization Plan and Economic Opportunity Zone, which addresses an area subject to decades of disinvestment where residents have been segregated from the city by railroad corridors and industrial development. 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." The plan outlines trails that link to the Legacy Loop and completing the Rock Island Trail is an essential component for strengthening planned redevelopment.

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.<sup>5</sup> The project will help stabilize local neighborhoods, provide low-cost transportation options, generate economic reinvestment and provide residents with access to jobs, the city's transit center located downtown, 7 parks located along the Loop, 2 hospitals, 11 elementary and middle schools, 2 colleges, and numerous business institutions that have been inaccessible for decades. With 25% of households experiencing poverty and 20% without access to a personal vehicle, community members located in close proximity to the new trail corridor will benefit greatly from improved transportation accessibility and the ability to utilize parks and trails connected along the Legacy Loop.<sup>6</sup>

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

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

## COLORADO SPRINGS LEGACY LOOP – ROCK ISLAND TRAIL PROJECT NARRATIVE

Another benefit and unmet need of the Legacy Loop is its ability to connect parks and trails to major downtown revitalization plans. As our city continues to develop it is imperative that those efforts work in tandem to include access to parks, trails, and open space. Recently, Colorado Springs was awarded \$120 million dollars in state funding for the City of Champions initiative, which 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.

### *Regional and Statewide Connectivity*

The Colorado Springs urban trail system is comprised of over 140 miles of multi-use trails. The regional connectivity of our trail system is extremely important to its function as a viable transportation network and as a provider of high quality outdoor experiences. To expand the regional connectivity of trails in our area, multiple communities in the Pikes Peak Region adopted a new Regional Non-Motorized Plan, which reaffirms the need for a connected, highly functional Legacy Loop Trail. Completing the critical Rock Island east-west trail connection, and connecting trails to parks in the core of our city will leverage the existing trail network to create a highly connected and functional trail system—one that will benefit the Pikes Peak Region.

The Legacy Loop is an essential component to fully link all of the active transportation corridors in the city. It represents a transformational opportunity to correct decades of isolation, reduced property values, and disparity in project area neighborhoods due to rail lines that bisect the city, creating segregated neighborhoods. Colorado the Beautiful funds will help stitch these neighborhoods back together to provide access to transportation and opportunity. This project will complete a critical gap in the city's active transportation network for north and east side residents. Completing the Rock Island Trail will allow for direct neighborhood access to the trail and link the City's major east-west active transportation corridor to both the Pikes Peak Greenway, the city's major north south active transportation trail and Shooks Run Trail, another major north south thoroughfare for non-motorized transportation and recreation.

### *Health Benefits*

A 2017 study found that 45,200 Colorado Springs 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.<sup>7</sup> However, these benefits are based on those who can access the facilities. Having access to places to walk, bike, and exercise can help individuals meet recommendations for regular physical activity. 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. The Legacy Loop will allow more residents to access local parks, including the 11 sites along the Loop, to improve their health.

### *Connecting to Regional Trail Networks, Transit and Parks*

The project will improve access to adjacent trail systems, transit, and parks, allowing residents more opportunities access work, school, daily activities, and recreation.

- Improved access to the larger trail network including the Colorado Front Range Trail via the Pikes Peak Greenway; the Rock Island Trail heading east; and Pikes Peak Greenway to Shooks Run Trail.

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

## COLORADO SPRINGS LEGACY LOOP – ROCK ISLAND TRAIL PROJECT NARRATIVE

- Access to 11 community and neighborhood parks located along the Loop.
- Access to the Mountain Metro Transit Central Terminal that connects throughout the city via 18 bus routes corridors pass through the Legacy Loop.
- The Legacy Loop trails will provide safe routes to schools and daily activities for students of two colleges, two high schools, and six elementary and middle schools.
- Access to major businesses, shopping and service destinations.

### **5. Planning**

Over the past two decades the Legacy Loop Project has been a focus of multiple high-profile public planning processes in our community such as an Urban Land Institute study, the Monument Valley Park Master Plan, North Nevada Revitalization Plan, 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, each highlighting the importance of the project for specific plan purposes.

The community reconfirmed their desire for the Legacy Loop 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. In the community's top five list of desires for the Parks Department were 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, which addresses each of these priorities.

As part of the planning process for the Legacy Loop our staff, consultant and partners coordinated extensive community outreach and public meetings in 2016, as outlined below.

- 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.

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

## COLORADO SPRINGS LEGACY LOOP – ROCK ISLAND TRAIL PROJECT NARRATIVE

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. To date, the Legacy Loop has received only resounding support and remains without public opposition.

### **6. Collaboration and Matching Funds**

The total estimated cost of the project is \$1,437,000. The City has up to \$1 million, plus the necessary contingency to complete the scope of work, should the National Parks Service and/or the Department of Transportation opt to not award pending grant applications. Overall, 66% of the project costs and over six times the required match will be provided for by the City and/or other grantors. Should the City receive other grants, that funding will provide \$750,000 in project costs and allow for the City to extend the scope of trail work by repaving the current dirt and asphalt Rock Island Trail between Shooks Run and Templeton Gap Road to allow for an expanded concrete trail. *See Map 2 for the planned Rock Island Trail connection.* If unsuccessful with other grant applications, the City will allocate the match for those applications to complete the scope of work in this application, building the new Rock Island Trail from the Pikes Peak Greenway to Shooks Run Trail.

Beyond the City's commitment of project funding, the project benefits from diverse partners committed to raising funds, awareness and activating the Legacy Loop. The Greenway Fund, the City's grassroots partner, raised \$50,000 to date to support the Legacy Loop. In addition to their direct financial commitment to the project, the Greenway Fund actively raises awareness within business and residential communities about the importance of the Legacy Loop and its long-term economic and health benefits. Additionally, the Rails to Trails Conservancy awarded this project \$35,000 from the Doppelt Fund. They also selected Legacy Loop as a Trail Nation project, one of 20 trail projects across the nation recognized for delivering powerful community results for its diverse geography, culture, size and scope. Rails to Trails provides additional support to Trail Nation Projects by convening and investing in their innovative approaches to how trails and active transportation systems are built.

Strong support for the Legacy Loop is further evidenced by the numerous community organizations that continue to champion the project and commit in-kind resources to various Legacy Loop elements. Kids on Bikes, a local youth cycling non-profit, assisted with funding renovation of the Pop-Cycle Bridge, one of the elements along the Legacy Loop. They raised \$30,000 to convert an old blighted pedestrian bridge into an on-street cycling demonstration area with colorful artistic components. Further, they adopted the bridge and regularly coordinate stewardship events along that section of the Legacy Loop. Similarly, the Trails and Open Space Coalition 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. Local neighborhood organizations have also championed support, as illustrated by the Bonforte Neighborhood Association, which is located directly adjacent to the Rock Island Trail corridor. They have expressed interest in coordinating community stewardship events along the trail once it is constructed.

### **7. Urgency and Need for Funds**

Colorado the Beautiful Funds are necessary to continue development of the Legacy Loop Trail. The City continues to dedicate maximum funds to the Legacy Loop (\$6M in City funding has been committed from 2015-2019), but current allocations fall short of needed funding. Recent increases in construction costs due to growing development coupled with the limiting low tax base in Colorado

## COLORADO SPRINGS LEGACY LOOP – ROCK ISLAND TRAIL PROJECT NARRATIVE

Springs requires the City to seek additional outside funding to supplement current project investment. Recent capital campaigns have asked the Colorado Springs' corporate and philanthropic community to fund major projects including the \$28 million United States Olympic Museum and the rebuilding of the Pikes Peak Summit House Complex, estimated to cost \$50 million. Securing funding to finish a key linkage of the Legacy Loop has slowed considerably as high profile projects break ground. Requested funds will complete this transformative trail project that increases access for both the neighborhoods that surround the Legacy Loop and those who rely on regional trails in the Pikes Peak Region.

### **8. Maintenance**

With 140 miles of existing urban trails the Parks Department was able to draw upon proven designs to ensure that the trail not only meets the needs of users, but will also be as durable and maintenance-free as possible. We recognize that even with best-practice designs there will still be maintenance costs associated with the trail corridor. Currently, the Parks Department spends approximately \$650/mile per year for general trail maintenance. Through a combination of Conservation Trust Funds, Trails, Open Space and Parks sales tax revenue and City General Fund dollars, the Department will have the resources to maintain the trail in the highest condition. Parks Department staff will be responsible for all maintenance and can fully maintain this project into the future. Once completed, the Legacy Loop will become part of our Urban Trail Operation and Maintenance Plan that provides for routine maintenance and inspection of the trail and the surrounding corridor.

### **9. Contingency/Ability**

Current funds secured for construction of the Legacy Loop includes funding from the Pikes Peak Regional Transportation Authority and from Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services. Additionally, the Rails to Trails Conservancy provided a grant for this project and pending grants include a request to the Department of Transportation and National Parks Service. These funds will be used to further leverage the Colorado the Beautiful investment. If the City is unable to secure the necessary funding for the Rock Island Trail we will reassess opportunities to scale and value engineer the project, or postpone construction until adequate funding is identified.

The Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department regularly develops, bids, and manages multi-million dollar construction projects. We recently completed the Uintah Underpass, a State Trails LWCF funded \$1.2M trail corridor underpass and water recreation/engagement space along the Pikes Peak Greenway and Monument Valley Creek. Since our Park System Master Plan identified trail connectivity and development as one of the highest priorities, our Department has allocated a significant portion of its budget annually to pursue and complete our urban trail plan.

As previously identified, the Legacy Loop is currently an active construction project, with several elements recently completed. Grant awards for completed elements included a \$1,000,000 grant from Great Outdoors Colorado in 2015 and a \$400,000 grant from Colorado Parks and Wildlife – State Trails (Land, Water Conservation Funds) in 2018. We have sought an extension on the GOCO grant due to increased project costs, but are actively moving forward with completing the outstanding elements, including the Rock Island Trail. We are in the process of closing out the State Trails Grant since the project was completed in June 2018. Our Department does apply for funding through the CPW-State Trails Program, though future applications are not yet determined.

**Exhibit B**

**Budget Form - Project Name: Colorado Springs Legacy Loop - Rock Island Trail**

SOURCE OF FUNDS	Date Secured				CPW Trails Grant Request [A]	Total Project Match [B]	Total Funding (\$) [C]	
<b>CASH</b>								
Colorado the Beautiful Grant	May-19				\$ 500,000.00		\$ 500,000.00	
City of Colorado Springs	Jan-19					\$ 186,760.00	\$ 186,760.00	
NPS/DOT (pending)*	Sep-19					\$ 750,000.00	\$ 750,000.00	
* if NPS/DOT are not awarded the City will provide the \$750,000 match								
<b>TOTAL SOURCES OF FUNDS</b>					<b>\$ 500,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 936,760.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,436,760.00</b>	
<b>USE OF FUNDS - CASH</b>								
USE OF FUNDS - CASH	Quantity/ Cost per Unit	Qty	Cost	Total	CPW Funds	Total Project Match (\$)	Total Funding (\$)	Balance [should be 0]
<b>Category 1 - Contracted Services</b>								
<b>DEMO AND RELOCATION</b>								
<i>Nevada and Cascade Underpasses</i>	EA	2	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 150,000.00		\$ 150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	0
<i>Tree Removal</i>	EA	1	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00		\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	0
				\$ -			\$ -	0
<b>SITE UTILITIES</b>								
<i>Percentage of Cost - Utilities - 1%</i>	EA	1	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00		\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	0
				\$ -			\$ -	0
<b>EARTHWORK</b>								
<i>Cut to Fill</i>	4,800 CY / \$20	4,800	\$ 20.00	\$ 96,000.00		\$ 96,000.00	\$ 96,000.00	0
<i>Structural Fill at Underpasses</i>	15,000 CY/ \$8	15,000	\$ 8.00	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 52,040.00	\$ 67,960.00	\$ 120,000.00	0
				\$ -			\$ -	0
<b>PAVEMENTS</b>								
<i>Concrete Bikeway (5 inch) Shooks Run to Van Buren</i>	3,270 SY/\$72	3,270	\$ 110.00	\$ 359,700.00	\$ 359,700.00		\$ 359,700.00	0
<i>Aggregate Shoulder (Class 6, 6 inch)</i>	430 CY/\$25	190	\$ 20.00	\$ 3,800.00	\$ 3,800.00		\$ 3,800.00	0
				\$ -			\$ -	0
<b>RETAINING WALLS</b>								
<i>Sheet Piling at Underpasses</i>	5,700 SF/ \$67	5,700	\$ 67.00	\$ 381,900.00		\$ 381,900.00	\$ 381,900.00	0
<i>4-foot MSE Walls</i>	2,700 SF/ \$39	2,700	\$ 39.00	\$ 105,300.00		\$ 105,300.00	\$ 105,300.00	0
				\$ -			\$ -	0
<b>GUARD RAILS AND BARRIERS</b>								
<i>Smooth Dowelled Fence</i>	3,664 LF/ \$24	3,664	\$ 15.00	\$ 54,960.00	\$ 54,960.00		\$ 54,960.00	0
<i>Handrailing</i>	300 LF/\$75	300	\$ 75.00	\$ 22,500.00	\$ 22,500.00		\$ 22,500.00	0
				\$ -			\$ -	0
<b>CIVIL SITE IMPROVEMENTS</b>								
<i>Trail Signage</i>	EA	1	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00		\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	0
<i>Erosion Control BMP's and monitoring</i>	EA	1	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00		\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	0
				\$ -			\$ -	0
<b>LANDSCAPE</b>								
<i>Revegetation -seeding and mulching</i>	2 AC/ \$3,500	2	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00		\$ 7,000.00	0
				\$ -			\$ -	0
<b>Additional Categories</b>								
<b>GENERAL</b>								
<i>Construction Surveying</i>	EA	1	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00		\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	0
<i>Mobilization</i>	EA	1	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00		\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	0
<i>Public Information Services -.2%</i>	EA	1	\$ 3,100.00	\$ 3,100.00		\$ 3,100.00	\$ 3,100.00	0
<i>Traffic Control</i>	EA	1	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	0
				\$ -			\$ -	0
<b>USE OF FUNDS - CASH SUBTOTAL</b>					<b>\$ 500,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 936,760.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,436,760.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>					<b>\$ 500,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 936,760.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,436,760.00</b>	
<b>30% REQUIRED MATCH</b>						<b>\$ 150,000.00</b>		

## ROCK ISLAND TRAIL TIMELINE ESTIMATE

*This shovel ready project benefits from an advanced timeline due to recent completion of other components along the Legacy Loop and from having 95% completed design and construction documents. Overall, we anticipate a 9 to 10 month timeline for construction and for the site to be open to the public by spring 2020.*

*Another recent Legacy Loop element funded from State Trails through LWCF, the Uintah Underpass, had a similar timeline. Construction started immediately upon receiving the completed grant agreement in January 2018 and was completed in June 2018, with administrative close-out of the grant anticipated by September 2018.*

*Please note, should the project receive funding from additional federal grant programs the project timeline would extend to meet those grant contracting requirements. The anticipated start would then be October 2019 with completion by fall 2020, well in advance of the 2.5 year deadline.*

<b>TASK</b>	Jun-Sep 2019	Oct-Dec 2019	Jan-Mar 2020	Apr-Jun 2020	Jul-Sep 2020	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021
Project Initiation							
Design & CDs Complete							
Environmental Review							
Permitting							
Procurement							
Mobilization							
Construction/Maintenance Phase							
Administrative Close-Out							
Grand Opening							



# Non-Federal Environmental Form

## **ENVIRONMENTAL CHECK LIST (for projects outside of NEPA requirements)** **(Construction Grants Only)**

Applicants are responsible to complete this form with local agency staff or an environmental consultant to address any environmental impacts associated with the project, including: securing all necessary permits, licenses, clearances, and environmental analysis documentation necessary to comply with local, state, or federal law. Please fill out the table below and associated narratives.

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS</b> Indicate potential for adverse impacts	<b>NOT APPLICABLE</b> Resource does not exist	<b>NEGLIGIBLE IMPACTS</b> Exists but no or negligible impacts	<b>MINOR IMPACTS</b>	<b>IMPACTS EXCEED MINOR</b>	<b>MORE DATA NEEDED TO DETERMINE DEGREE OF IMPACT</b>
1. Plants/fish species of special concern and habitat; state/federal listed or proposed for listing*					
2. Unique or important aquatic habitat; e.g. fish passage					
3. Water quality/quantity – surface and ground water considerations					
4. Stream flow characteristics					
5. River corridors/lakes/ponds/ seasonal water ways**					
6. Wetlands/floodplains					
7. Storm water runoff					
8. Sedimentation					
9. Disturbances to neighboring properties					
10. Soil/erosion					
11. Introduction or promotion of non-native species					
12. Environmental disturbances during construction					

\*If the proposed project affects threatened or endangered species or critical habitat listed at the federal or state level, concurrence with a CPW wildlife manager or biologist is required prior to the submission of this application  
 \*\*If the proposed project lies within 200 feet of a stream, river, lake, pond, seasonal stream or reservoir, concurrence with a CPW aquatic biologist is required prior to the submission of this application

**MITIGATION: Please describe how any impacts exceeding negligible will be mitigated, some considerations below:**

- Alternative design or trail route system
- Seasonal Closures

# Non-Federal Environmental Form

- Screening of users from wildlife area, protection of critical habitat, channeling use through less sensitive habitat areas
- Re-vegetation of disturbed areas and control of invasive species
- Management of users and related activities with signs, fencing, and education programs
- Consideration of runoff when selecting project materials, such as uncured concrete that would encourage seepage
- Comprehensive storm water runoff plan

**BENEFIT:** Please describe if the project will have a positive impact on wildlife and/or sensitive species; some consideration below:

- Habitat improvement such as restoration of native habitat, wetlands restoration, erosion reduction, sediment reduction, river corridor clean-up, or plantings with a diversity of species and plant types for habitat restoration, and the reduction or elimination of non-native plant species
- Education of users through environmental education programs, opportunities for "watchable wildlife," and wildlife impact monitoring

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:** The applicant is responsible for adhering to all applicable environmental compliance regulations including: Migratory Bird Treaty Act; concurrence with US Fish and Wildlife Service if any federally listed species of concern exist in project area; Clean Water Act section 404; US Army Corps of Engineers 404 permits; raptor buffer guidelines and incorporation of CPW recommended wildlife best management practices; CO Senate Bill 40 (33-5-101-107, CRS 1973 as amended); Colorado Historical, Prehistoric and Archeological Resources Act.

Kim King, Recreation and Administration Manager

Printed name of applicant:

An authorized person must sign here, such as the applicant's executive director, county commission chairperson, or city council chairperson. Must be same person as Application Checklist.

Kimberly A. King  
Signature of applicant

8/1/18  
Date

Kirsta Scherff-Norris, Senior Wildlife Biologist, Colorado Springs Utilities

Printed name, title of authority:

Agency natural resource specialist or hired consultant that completed this checklist must sign here. The applicant and title of authority must be different.

Kirsta Scherff-Norris  
Digitally signed by Kirsta Scherff-Norris  
Date: 2018.07.24 15:28:39 -06'00'

Signature authority:

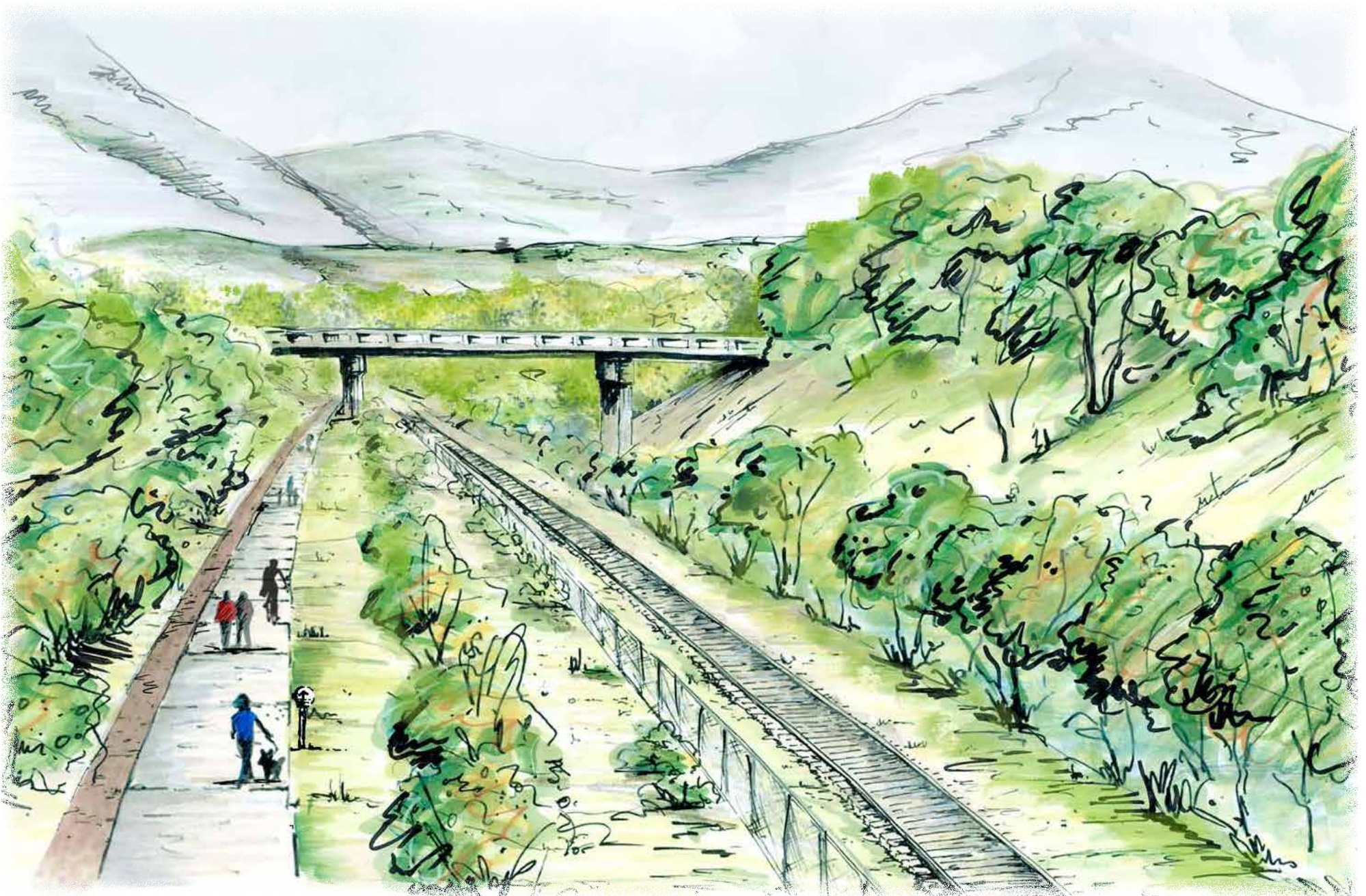
24 July 2018

Date

Figures 1 & 2: Rock Island Perspective



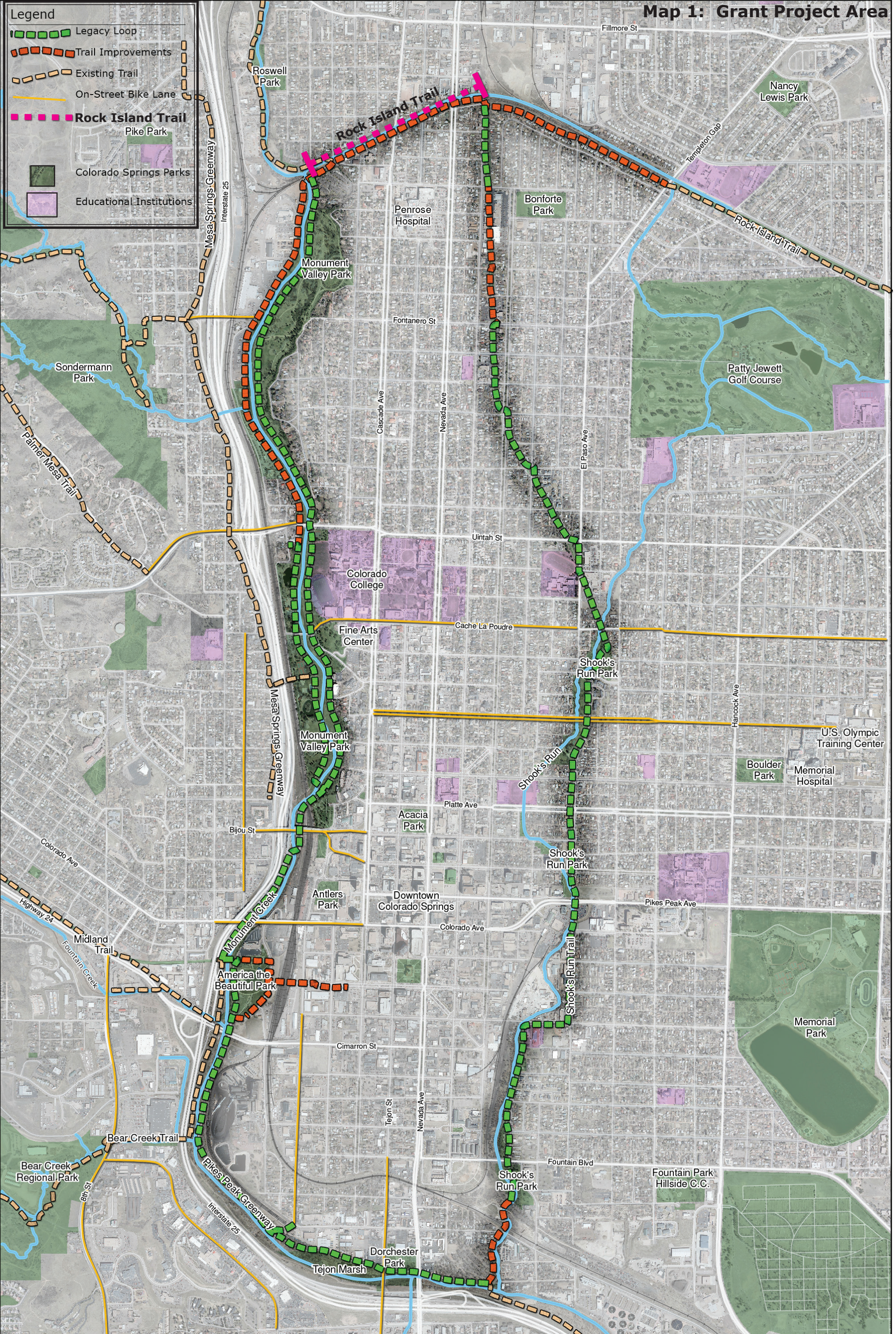
EXISTING ROCK ISLAND TRAIL CONNECTION

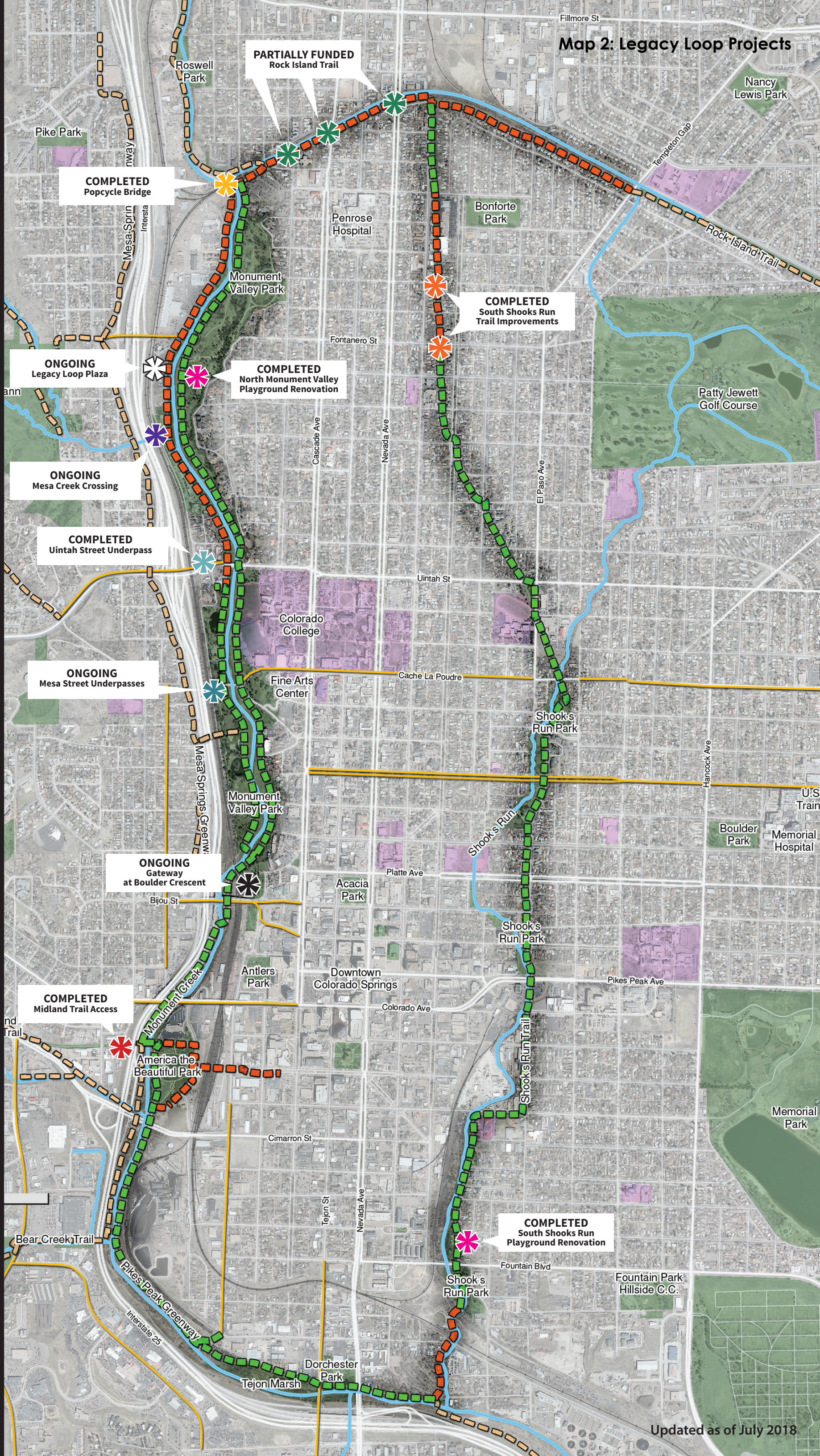


ROCK ISLAND TRAIL CONNECTION IMPROVEMENTS

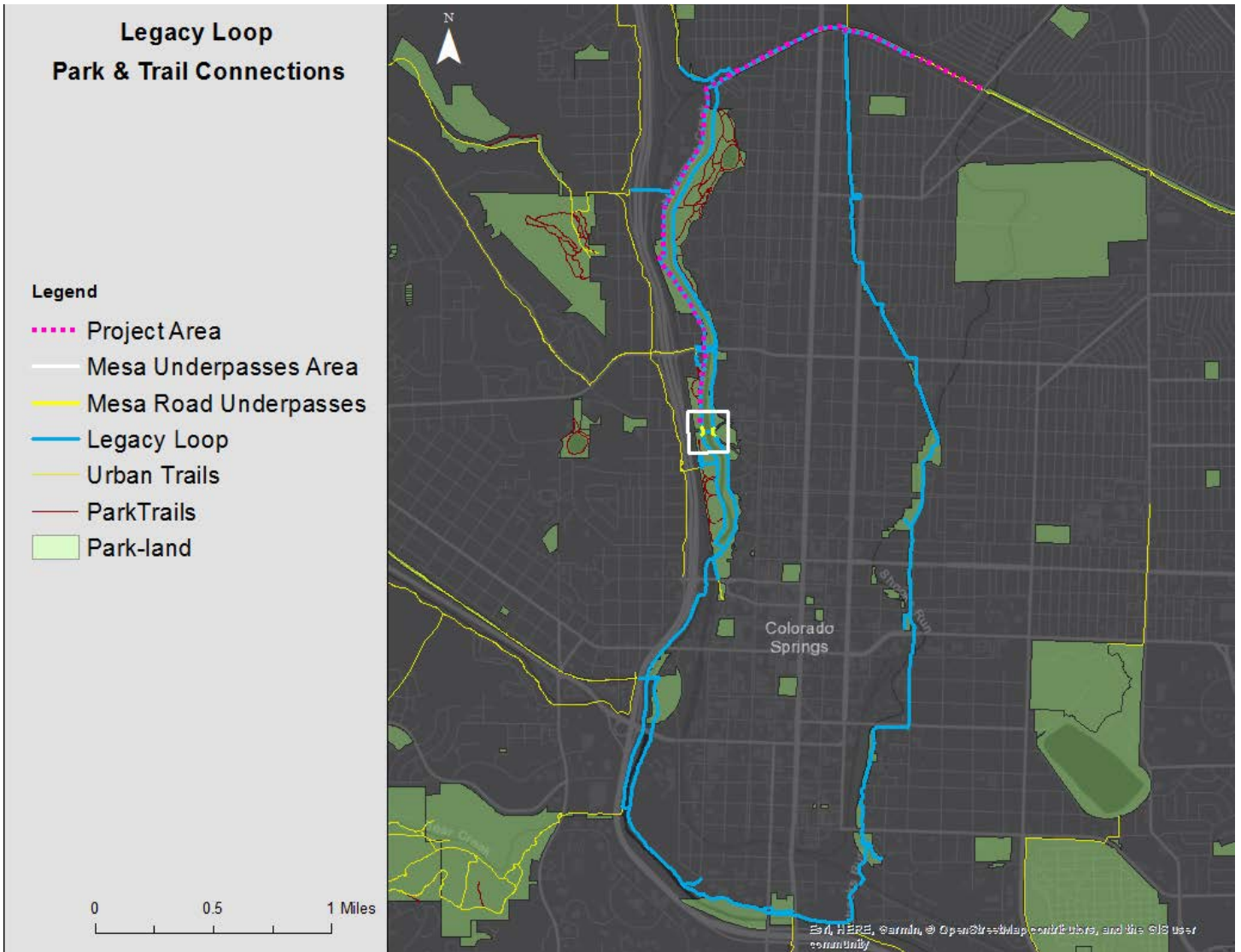
**Legend**

- Legacy Loop
- Trail Improvements
- Existing Trail
- On-Street Bike Lane
- Rock Island Trail
- Pike Park
- Colorado Springs Parks
- Educational Institutions



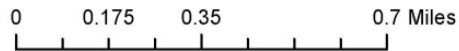
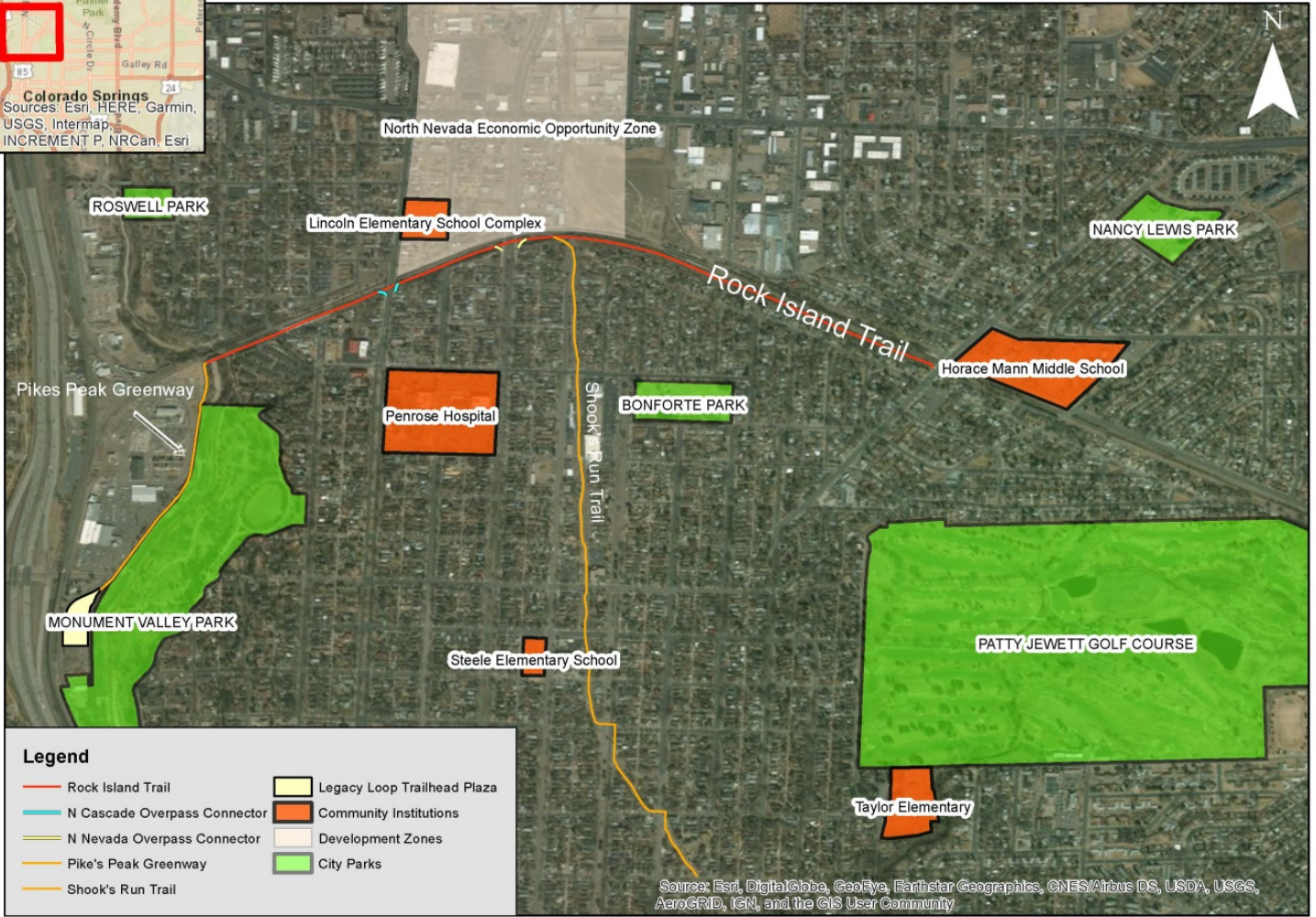
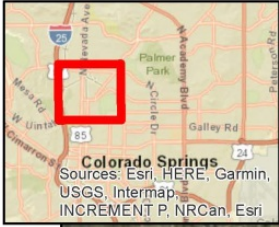


### Map 3: Legacy Loop Park and Trail Connections



# Map 4: Amenities Near the Project Area

## Legacy Loop-Rock Island Trail Development





The Greenway Fund  
P.O. Box 1976  
Colorado Springs Colorado 80903

A proud collaborative of COCO  
EIN 47-2144690



July 2, 2018

The Greenway Fund fully supports and advocates for continued development of the Legacy Loop project in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The Legacy Loop project is a transformational project for Colorado Springs. Beyond economic development, impacted residents will enjoy improved health and activity outcomes. Completion of the Legacy Loop realizes a vision City founders had over 100 years ago.

The Greenway Fund is a recognized partner to the Legacy Loop. We are actively raising awareness within business and residential communities about importance of the Legacy Loop for long term economic and health benefit realization. In addition to outreach and advocacy, The Greenway Fund actively fundraises for major gift and in-kind donations. Recently, we were the community fundraising partner with the City of Colorado Springs for a Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) grant.

We recently completed an in-depth economic impact study of greenways throughout the region which included the Legacy Loop. The specific topics of economic impact interest were: health, recreation, transportation, and property value. With just over 50,000 residents living adjacent to the Legacy Loop, the potential results of a developed and maintained trail system are dramatic. The study numbers specific to the Legacy Loop:

- 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
- 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. Improved property values do generate additional property tax revenues; in Colorado Springs this is essential for building stronger schools and infrastructure.

Thank you for considering this grant application. The Greenway Fund enthusiastically supports this application for the Legacy Loop because it will have a direct and positive impact on our community.

Sincerely,

*Christine Ames Lowenberg*

Christine Lowenberg  
Executive Director, The Greenway Fund  
719.598.9131





July 9, 2018

Dear Colorado Parks and Wildlife:

Colorado Springs is fortunate to be situated in a beautiful natural setting with the Pikes Peak Greenway Trail that acts as the “spine” of the Colorado Springs trail system. While the Greenway effectively serves as a north-south trail, it lacks connectivity to key east-west trails in the city. In order to create a thriving Greenway, we must enhance and bolster this corridor so that people come to recreate, commute and connect.

I write on behalf of Kids on Bikes, a local nonprofit committed to inspiring and empowering all kids to lead healthy, active and happy lives through bicycling. We work heavily in underserved neighborhoods with the goal of providing every kid in need with a bike and proper bicycle training. We regularly use the Greenway through community programs, such as Popsicles Ride where kids and families meet at local parks and travel along the Greenway Trail for refreshing popsicles, youth learn to ride programs, and summer bike camps. We bring hundreds of people to this trail throughout the year and will be able to more effectively offer programs, events, and further connect to other neighborhoods once the essential east-west Rock Island Trail links to the Greenway and Shook Run Trails and beyond.

As part of our commitment to the Legacy Loop we created the PopCycle Bridge, renovating an old pedestrian bridge along the Legacy Loop so that it serves as an attractive connector and offers educational opportunities for bicycling. The once blighted bridge now serves as an amenity for the community. We regularly use the bridge for programs and have adopted the site to ensure continued community care for the area.

I also speak personally as an avid bicycle commuter who knows the trail system in this City quite well. If we are able to connect the Legacy Loop then we will be able to engage and encourage many more people to utilize our trail system for recreation and transportation. I urge you to strongly consider this particular proposal for a grant award. This project is incredibly unique and will transform our trail system and overall community accessibility.

Respectfully,

Daniel Byrd  
Executive Director  
Kids on Bikes



ALL KIDS DESERVE TO EXPERIENCE THE JOY, HEALTH AND INDEPENDENCE THAT COME FROM RIDING A BIKE

Judith Rice-Jones, M.A., M.L.I.S.  
428 E. Jefferson St., Colorado Springs, CO 80907  
[jricejon@gmail.com](mailto:jricejon@gmail.com) 719 440-6431

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July 6, 2018

Colorado the Beautiful Grant

Colorado Parks and Wildlife  
State Trails Program  
13787 U.S. Hwy. 85 N.  
Littleton, CO 80125

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of my neighborhood, Bonny Park/Bonnyville, in support of the City of Colorado Springs grant proposal (Colorado the Beautiful Grant Program) for the completion of the northern section of the Legacy Loop Trail Corridor. This trail corridor comprises the northern boundary of our historic neighborhood, Bonny Park/Bonnyville. The Chicago Rock Island & Pacific and the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad corridors form the northern and western boundaries of our neighborhood and represent the first infrastructure in the area, both dating from the 1880s. As railroads built our city, their history provides physical evidence of that narrative and contributes to a sense of place for our community.

In identifying assets and opportunities in our neighborhood, many residents pointed to the potential of this corridor, not only for completing an important trail link but also in exploiting the potential of this substantial corridor as a valuable green space for our residents and the city. Evidence based research on the benefits of green corridors in providing ecosystem services, recreation, **alternative transportation modes**, biodiversity and more has led to awareness of the importance of protecting and maintaining such assets. We look forward to working with the City on the completion of this critical link in the Legacy Loop and exploring the many public goods that will result. Many thanks for any support you can provide for this project.

Sincerely,

Judith Rice-Jones  
Historian, Bonny Park/Bonnyville Neighborhood



Trails and  
Open Space  
Coalition

702 E. Boulder St., Ste 200  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903  
719.633.6884

[info@trailsandopenspaces.org](mailto:info@trailsandopenspaces.org)  
[www.trailsandopenspaces.org](http://www.trailsandopenspaces.org)

Mission:

*We work to preserve open space and parks, and create a network of trails, bikeways and greenways for the Pikes Peak region.*


Dear State Trails Grant Committee ,

On behalf of our 1000 members, the Trails and Open Space Coalition strongly supports the completion of the Legacy Loop trail for the numerous benefits it will provide for our community. Bike Colorado Springs, a program of the Trails and Open Space Coalition, is actively engaged in the local community committed to making bicycling in the Pikes Peak Region safer for people of all ages and abilities. We accomplish this by: advocating for safe and connected bicycle infrastructure, teaching people how to access and safely use our bicycle network from neighborhoods and places of employment, building an alliance of businesses, organizations and individuals that embrace cycling; and celebrating the strength of a community that pedals.

As part of our commitment to creating a thriving Legacy Loop, we have engaged numerous activities to activate the Legacy Loop. This included leading a dozen bike rides over the past year that engaged 150 residents living around the Legacy Loop, identifying wayfinding gaps within and connecting to the Legacy Loop, and promoting the opportunities offered by the Legacy Loop at various community events.

We have long sought to close the trail gaps in our overall trail system. Implementing the Legacy Loop not only provides for a great urban trail system, but it also eliminates key trail gaps. A Colorado the Beautiful Grant will create a critical corridor by linking the Rock Island Trail to the Pikes Peak Greenway, exponentially expanding how residents use our trail system to recreate, commute, and connect to other park amenities.

We appreciate your highest consideration for this application. Completing the Legacy Loop will significantly expand recreation and commuting opportunities for our entire community, not just those living within close proximity to the Legacy Loop. We look forward to filling this trail gap, which will allow Bike Colorado Springs to further promote and activate our local trail infrastructure.

Thank you,  
  
Susan Davies, Executive Director  
Trails and Open Space Coalition