

# Evergreen Lake Trail Improvement Project



Application for  
**Colorado the Beautiful Trails Program Grant**  
Evergreen Park & Recreation District  
August 1, 2019

**A RESOLUTION OF THE  
EVERGREEN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**July 23, 2019**

**Resolution Number: #2019-006**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE GRANT APPLICATION  
TO THE COLORADO THE BEAUTIFUL TRAILS GRANT PROGRAM  
FOR THE EVERGREEN LAKE TRAIL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Evergreen Park & Recreation District strongly supports the Colorado the Beautiful Trails Grant Program Application for the Evergreen Lake Trail Improvement Project.

WHEREAS, the Evergreen Park & Recreation District (EPRD) is requesting funding from the Colorado the Beautiful Trails Grant Program for construction of improvements to the Evergreen Lake North Trail.

WHEREAS, the Evergreen Park & Recreation District has management responsibilities for the Evergreen Lake North Trail under existing agreements related to the trail's operation and maintenance. Under said agreements the Evergreen Lake North Trail will be operated and maintained by EPRD and open to the public for at least 25 years.

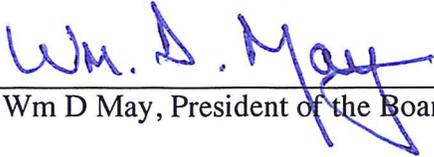
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EVERGREEN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT THAT:

- Section 1: The Board of Directors supports this application for grant funding from the Colorado the Beautiful Trails Grant Program.
- Section 2: If the Colorado the Beautiful grant request is awarded, and subject to annual appropriations, the Board of Directors of the Evergreen Park & Recreation District will appropriate matching funds for the grant up to \$150,000 and support the completion of the project.
- Section 3: If the Colorado the Beautiful grant is awarded, the Board of Directors of the Evergreen Park & Recreation District hereby authorizes the Executive Director of Evergreen Park & Recreation District to sign the grant agreement, subject to the Evergreen Park & Recreation District Board of Directors' review.
- Section 4: This resolution to be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

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PASSED AND APPROVED this 23rd day of July, 2019.

APPROVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Wm D May, President of the Board of Directors

## EXHIBIT A

# 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 Area 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)

# EXHIBIT A

COLORADO THE BEAUTIFUL CONSTRUCTION APPLICATION		
Applicant or Organization Name: <span style="color: #0070c0;">Evergreen Park &amp; Recreation District</span>		
Mailing Address: <span style="color: #0070c0;">1521 Bergen Parkway, Evergreen CO 80439</span>		
Applicant Lead Contact Name: <span style="color: #0070c0;">Ellen O'Connor</span>	Title: <span style="color: #0070c0;">Executive Director</span>	
Telephone: <span style="color: #0070c0;">720-880-1011</span>	Email: <span style="color: #0070c0;">eoconnor@eprd.co</span>	Is this the primary contact for this grant: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

PROJECT MANAGER (this person will have day-to-day responsibility for the project)		
Name: <span style="color: #0070c0;">Heart Cameron</span>		
Mailing Address: <span style="color: #0070c0;">1521 Bergen Parkway, Evergreen CO 80439</span>		
Telephone: <span style="color: #0070c0;">720-880-1014</span>	Email: <span style="color: #0070c0;">hcameron@eprd.co</span>	

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: <span style="color: #0070c0;">Evergreen Lake Trail Improvement Project</span>			
Grant Request: \$	<span style="color: #0070c0;">\$550,000</span>	Required Match: \$	<span style="color: #0070c0;">\$165,000</span>
Total Project Cost: \$ <span style="color: #0070c0;">\$3,763,903</span>			

**Project Summary:** Please write a short (1 paragraph) summary of your project. This information will be posted online and in grant application and reviewer information packets.

**Detailed 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.)

**WHO?** Who will complete the work and who will oversee the project? Provide a description of your community or organization, highlighting its mission and purpose.

**WHAT?** Explain what you are going to do or accomplish. What is the goal or the reason for your project? Break down the project into a list of specific activities to be completed. These should be quantifiable items that correspond to the categories on your budget page. Include quantity or quality as part of your description of work to be performed. How long? How many? How many feet? How many miles? What materials will be used? Is a specific standard or guideline being used?

**WHERE?** Explain in detail the location of your project. Where is the project located? What county? What National Forest/ BLM Field Office? Provide the names of the trail(s) or trail system and where the work will be performed. What agency manages or is responsible for the land where the project is located?

**DEFINITIONS?** Please define all acronyms and specialized terms that are used in your project description.

[See Project Summary & Detailed Project Description on Following Pages](#)

## EXHIBIT A

LAND OWNERSHIP			
1. Provide the name/s of the property owners: <span style="color: blue;">The City &amp; County of Denver</span>			
2. The trail corridor is controlled by: <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Simple <input type="checkbox"/> Lease <input type="checkbox"/> Easement <input type="checkbox"/> License <input type="checkbox"/> Right-of-Way <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <span style="color: blue;">Intergovernmental agreements between City &amp; County of Denver, Evergreen Metro District, Jeffco Open Space and EPRD; see Narrative at p. 3.</span>			
USER INFORMATION (Please check all that apply)			
<input checked="" 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 Access	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Running	<input type="checkbox"/> All-Terrain Vehicle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <span style="color: blue;">Fishing</span>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Skateboarding	<input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <span style="color: blue;">Wildlife viewing</span>	
<input type="checkbox"/> In-Line Skating	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Snowshoeing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <span style="color: blue;">Nature Center</span>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biking	<input type="checkbox"/> X-Country Skiing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <span style="color: blue;">Recreational boating &amp; ice skating</span>	
TRAIL SURFACE			
<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concrete	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <span style="color: blue;">Wooden boardwalk</span>	
<input checked="" 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: <span style="color: blue;">Evergreen</span>			
County: <span style="color: blue;">Jefferson County</span>			
Latitude & Longitude Coordinates: <span style="color: blue;">39.633229, -105.325164</span>			
State Senate District #: <span style="color: blue;">16</span>		Refer to <a href="https://leg.colorado.gov/find-my-legislator" style="color: blue;">https://leg.colorado.gov/find-my-legislator</a>	
State Representative District #: <span style="color: blue;">25</span>			
Acreage of new trailhead		Miles of trail grooming	
Miles of new trail construction	1240 feet	Miles of trail being planned	
Miles of trail maintenance	1240 feet	Miles of trail reroute	
Miles of trail reconstruction	1240 feet	Miles of inter-connecting trail	40 miles+
Miles of trail to be signed	1240 feet	Other	
Miles of trail restoration		Other	

Applicant Authorized Signature: Ellis M O'Connor Date: 7/31/2019  
 (From Applicant Organization)

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

# EXHIBIT A

## Evergreen Lake Trail Improvement CtB 2019 Project Summary & Description

**Project Summary:** The Evergreen Lake Trail Improvement Project will deliver a multimodal, accessible trail on the north side of Evergreen Lake, a gateway to outdoor recreation in the Rockies. The project will replace an existing 5-foot wide, soft-surface, multi-use trail built in 1988. The project will improve access to the abundant outdoor recreation opportunities at Evergreen Lake including boating, ice-skating, fishing, wildlife viewing, golf, a nature center, and free community events. It also will create an accessible off-street bike/ped connection to downtown Evergreen and local recreation destinations, close gaps in the regional trail network, improve safety for trail users, replace aging support infrastructure, reduce run-off and erosion into Evergreen Lake, foster interagency collaboration, and leverage current investments to produce a trail connection of regional significance.

**Detailed Project Description:** The Evergreen Lake Trail Improvement project will create a multimodal, accessible trail on the north side of Evergreen Lake, a hub for outdoor recreation less than 25 miles west of Denver. Its goal is to connect residents and visitors from across Colorado to the outdoors with expanded access and better connections to recreation amenities, improved safety, and enhanced user experiences, while protecting the land, water and wildlife of our mountain community.

**WHO?** Consistent with its mission to provide “a wide range of excellent, financially responsible park and recreation amenities while maintaining and enhancing the mountain character of the area,” Evergreen Park & Recreation District (EPRD) is the lead agency on this collaborative project that involves the City & County of Denver (landowner), Evergreen Metro District (manages water of Evergreen Lake and operates water main under the trail), CDOT (operates state highway adjacent to trail) and Jefferson County (home County of the project). EPRD will select construction contractor(s) in compliance with Denver, County, and State standards. EPRD will oversee the project with the assistance of its current planning and engineering consultant, who will continue to provide project management support during the construction phase.

**WHAT?** The preferred alternative identified in planning to date is a two-track bike/ped facility of roughly 1,240 lineal feet on the north side of Evergreen Lake. The upper track (near road level) is an off-street, hard surface, accessible trail of 8-10' width that can accommodate bicycles and pedestrians and connects regional trails to downtown Evergreen, Evergreen Lake, and other recreation and community destinations in the area. The lower track (lake level) is envisioned as a 5' wide pedestrian-only trail with observation and fishing bump-outs, consisting of a combination of natural surfaces and wooden boardwalks. The project will include improvements to drainage, roadway characteristics, and support infrastructure at and near the project site. Specific project activities are:

- RFP Development & Contracting;
- Permitting and Clearances (including environmental);
- Drainage improvements at and around the project site;
- Construction of the Upper Trail, an off-street, multimodal, accessible, hard surface trail of 8-10' treadwidth, near SH-74 but separated by grade and physical barriers from the highway;
- Construction of the Lower Trail, a combination of 5-foot-wide lakeside pedestrian trails, boardwalks, and observation bump-outs depending on terrain;
- Changes to shoulder alignment/edge of roadway characteristics of SH74; and
- Site Restoration, Project Review and Close Out.

**WHEN?** Three planning and design phases precede this construction project. The last design phase (Phase 3) will produce a final design and construction drawings by late 2020. It is anticipated that the bulk of the construction project will be conducted in late 2021 through summer 2022.

**WHERE?** The project is located in the heart of Evergreen, an unincorporated village of about 30,000 residents on the western edge of Jefferson County. Evergreen Lake is adjacent to our downtown and serves as a recreation hub for an estimated 160,000 annual visitors from across Colorado. The project is located on the north side of the 1.25-mile Loop Trail around Evergreen Lake and links to the regional Pioneer Trail and the new Connector Trail to downtown Evergreen. Evergreen Lake and the project site are part of Dedisse Park, owned by the City & County of Denver. EPRD operates and manages recreation activities and facilities at the lake under a series of intergovernmental agreements described in further detail below. We are in the US Forest Service's South Platte Ranger District (Conifer) and BLM's Rocky Mountain Region (Canon City).

**DEFINITIONS?** Please define all acronyms and specialized terms that are used in your project description.

EPRD	Evergreen Park & Recreation District	DEED	Downtown Evergreen Economic Dist.
CDOT	Colorado Dep't of Transportation	GOCO	Great Outdoors Colorado
Denver	The City & County of Denver	DRCOG	Denver Regional Council of Gov'ts
Jeffco	Jefferson County	TAP	Transportation Alternatives Program
EMD	Evergreen Metropolitan District	TIP	Transportation Improvement Program

# EXHIBIT A

Evergreen Park & Recreation District  
**Colorado the Beautiful Trails Grant Application**  
 August 1, 2019

## EVERGREEN LAKE TRAIL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

### Preliminary Timeline Estimate

(Construction Project Only; see narrative for Design & Eng estimated timeline)

TASK	Apr-Jun 2020	Jul-Sep 2020	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Jan-Mar 2022	Apr-Jun 2022	Jul-Sep 2022	Oct-Dec 2022
RFP/Contracting											
Construction Project Initiation											
Site Prep/ Drainage Improvements											
Mobilization											
Trail Construction											
SH-74 Roadway/Shoulder Work (CDOT)											
Site Restoration/ Erosion Control											
Project Review/ Project Close-out											
Administrative Close-Out											
Grand Opening											
Final Report											

Note: This estimated project timeline is designed to align with the estimated timeline of the project's major funding source for construction funding, the \$2.6 million DRCOG TIP grant. The TIP grant's estimated project close-out is close of FY 2022 (September 30, 2022). Because of the complexity of the project, and because this is the last round of CtB grant funding, EPRD respectfully requests your consideration of an estimated timeline based on construction completion in third quarter 2022 (roughly 2.5 years after projected January 2020 grant awards) and administrative close-out and Final Report in fourth quarter 2022.

**1. COMMUNITY NEED (15 points)** Introduce the community this project will serve. Provide population and income data. Discuss the recreational interests of your community and how this project ties in to those? Provide estimates of trail usage in your community. Discuss the ways in which the community currently is or is not compensating for the lack of the proposed project components. Why does the community need this trail segment and why is it important to them? Discuss its significance to users.

**Community** Originally an independent ranching territory and vacation destination to Denver residents, today Evergreen is a vibrant, unincorporated mountain community on the western edge of Jefferson County. Evergreen covers over 78 square miles, with a population of about 30,000 and an estimated per capita income of \$54,735. Because Evergreen is easy to reach from Denver - 25 miles west on I-70 – today it is both a bedroom community for residents who work in metro Denver, and a gateway to the outdoors for visitors from across the State. Evergreen Park & Recreation District (EPRD) serves about 22,000 residents from Evergreen, Bergen Park, Kittredge, Indian Hills, and Marshdale. Residents and visitors enjoy the outdoors in over 11,000 acres of parkland and on 230 miles of trails within EPRD's borders.

At Evergreen's geographic center and next to our downtown is Evergreen Lake, affectionately known as the "crown jewel" of the community. Evergreen Lake is part of Dedisse Park, owned by the City and County of Denver (Denver). Recreational facilities around Evergreen Lake, including the 1.25-mile Evergreen Lake Loop Trail, are operated by EPRD. The 5.5-acre park around Evergreen Lake is the community's recreational hub, offering an abundance of diverse, year-round recreation opportunities for a wide variety of visitors as discussed below. The park draws an estimated 160,000 visitors each year. Estimated annual use along the north corridor of Evergreen Lake is about 70,000 users -- 56,000 pedestrians on the existing trail and 13,500 bicyclists on the adjacent roadway.

**Need** The community needs the Evergreen Lake Trail Improvement project to 1) create off-street bike/ped connections to link recreation assets and community destinations, 2) improve public health with better accessibility and safety, and 3) protect the area's land, water and wildlife in the face of increased use.

**1) Creating off-street bike/ped connections.** The trail segment to be improved – the North Lake Trail – is the bike/ped connection between downtown Evergreen, regional trails, area parks, and community destinations. The improvement will create an off-street bike/ped link to the abundant recreational opportunities at Evergreen Lake, our community's gathering place, including ice-skating, boating, hiking, fishing, bird & wildlife viewing, a Nature Center, picnicking, summer concerts, festivals and events. Please see pp 4-5 for more discussion of connections and access to the area's recreation assets, regional trails, parks and open space.

**2) Improving accessibility and safety.** Many community health benefits will arise from the accessibility and safety improvements of the project. The existing North Lake Trail is a 1240-foot, soft-surface, multi-use trail of variable 4.5-6' width, running adjacent to State Highway 74 (SH-74) through a constrained corridor between steep granite cliffs to the north and Evergreen Lake to the south. The existing trail cannot accommodate its multiple and varied users, creating a high risk of potential user conflicts and crashes between users and motor vehicles on the narrow corridor shared by the state highway. The community currently compensates for the lack of trail improvements in several ways. Cyclists ride along the narrow SH-74 instead of the adjacent soft-surface trail, posing grave risks of conflicts with motor vehicles. See Letter Ex F7. To avoid traffic, noise, and trail conflicts, users often choose to forego this section of the loop trail, instead doing out-and-back arcs on the lake's south side. And some users with disabilities simply cannot access the soft-surface North Lake Trail.

The degradation of the 31-year-old galvanized steel bin gravity wall underlying the trail (with an estimated lifespan of 30 years) has compounded public safety issues. Even with regular maintenance and repair, instability and active wall failures have required intermittent trail closures for safety concerns. Trail closures lead pedestrians and bicyclists to use the roadway and narrow shoulders of State Highway 74. The trail has reopened, after temporary repairs to the trail's support structure – estimated to last five years. Complete wall failure

could produce catastrophic results threatening the safety of trail users, as well as the integrity of Evergreen's main water transmission line under the trail or the stability of the adjacent state highway, or both. See Existing Conditions discussion below and Photos Ex E1.

**3) Protecting land, water & wildlife in the face of increased use.**

*"Dedisse Park has some of the best designed and highest quality structures, roadwork, and woods and meadows ... It is a model Denver Mountain Park. At the same time, it is connected to wider, regional amenities through partnerships with EPRD and Jefferson County Open Space. As Evergreen grows, the popularity and programming of large events at the lake increases and trail use also grows, impacting the park. Preserving the natural and cultural resources in the face of increasing use, traffic, and growth is the major challenge at Dedisse. It is an issue facing both Denver Mountain Parks and EPRD."* [Denver Mountain Parks' 2008 Master Plan](#) at p. 114; see also Denver Letter Ex F3.

EPRD and Evergreen residents share this concern. According to the [Jeffco Comprehensive Master Plan Evergreen Area Plan](#) (2015) at p. 4, *"Many of the community's concerns center on preserving the existing quality of the mountain area environment, including water, air and wildlife habitat."* This project responds to these concerns by creating improvements (and mitigating impacts) for water quality, erosion control, and revegetation of native species, as described more fully in the CPW Area Wildlife Manager's letter Ex C1 & the Env Form Ex C2.

According to the CO 2019 SCORP, walking and hiking are the two most popular outdoor recreation activities in Colorado. An estimated 56,000 pedestrians and 13,500 bicyclists use the North Lake Trail and adjacent roadway each year. The route's popularity not only poses challenges for protecting natural resources, but also for effectively managing safe and pleasant trail interactions. *"As traffic increases on this trail, more user conflicts will result leading to a need to manage modal interactions more aggressively. With a wider trail area, those conflicts can be minimized."* [Evergreen Trails Master Plan](#) (2015) at pp. 48-49.

**Importance/Significance** The Evergreen Lake Trail Improvement is important because the community prioritizes high-quality, safe, outdoor recreation and access to (and protection of) our beautiful mountain environment. It is the very reason people live and visit here. The trail improvement is significant to its users because this segment is the bike/ped connection between downtown Evergreen, regional trails, community destinations, and the many recreational opportunities at Evergreen Lake, as discussed in more detail below.

**2. SCOPE (15 points)** Describe the proposed project including the length/width of trail construction, any major components necessary to complete the trail such as under/overpasses, bridges, trail heads, etc. – describe what exactly will be built. Discuss the ownership status of the trail corridor and any easements or land acquisitions necessary to complete the trail. Address each trail component separately, specifically mentioning its characteristics. If the project is intended to enhance or replace an existing trail and/or trail amenities, describe their existing state, why they are no longer acceptable, and how they arrived at the condition they're in. Discuss the significance of the trail segment to users. List each user group and estimate their percentage of overall trail use, how did you arrive at those estimates? Include site photos.

**Scope** The Evergreen Lake Trail Improvement project will create a multimodal, accessible trail on the north side of Evergreen Lake, a regional hub for outdoor recreation. The scope, budget and timeline of this construction project are based on the Preferred Alternative described in the [Evergreen Lake North Trail Phase II Planning Study](#), funded by a \$100,000 GOCO Connect Initiative Planning Grant in 2017. See the attached Budget & Timeline. Planning documents including the Phase II Planning Study can be found on [EPRD's website](#).

The scope of the preferred alternative is the improvement of an existing trail to create a two-track bike/ped facility of roughly 1,240 lineal feet on the north side of Evergreen Lake. The upper track (near road level) is an off-street, hard-surface, accessible trail of 8-10' width that can accommodate bicycles and pedestrians and connects regional trails to downtown Evergreen, Evergreen Lake, and other recreation and community destinations in the area. The lower track (lake level) is a 5' wide pedestrian-only trail with observation and fishing

bump-outs, consisting of a combination of natural surfaces and wooden boardwalks. See Renderings Ex E2. Specific project elements are:

- RFP Development & Contracting;
- Permitting and Clearances (including environmental) (if any, tbd in Final Design);
- Construction of the Upper Trail, an off-street, multimodal, accessible, concrete trail of 1240 feet and 8-10' treadwidth, near SH-74 but separated by grade & physical barriers;
- Construction of the Lower Trail, a combination of 5-foot-wide lakeside pedestrian trails, boardwalks, and observation bump-outs depending on terrain, approximately 1240 feet;
- Drainage improvements and erosion control measures at and around the project site;
- Changes to shoulder alignment/edge of roadway characteristics of SH74, such as installation of curb & gutter; and
- Site Restoration, Project Review, and Close Out.

**Ownership & Management Interests** The trail corridor is located within Dedisse Park, owned by Denver. Immediately adjacent to the trail is CDOT's State Highway 74 (Evergreen Pkwy), part of the Lariat Loop Scenic Byway. Evergreen Metro District (EMD) owns and operates the water transmission line that was installed underneath the trail in 1988. In a series of intergovernmental agreements in the early '80s, Denver turned over operation/maintenance of recreation facilities at Evergreen Lake to EMD, which in turn assigned those operations to Jeffco Open Space, which in turn assigned those operations to EPRD. In 1987, EPRD and EMD entered into a Supplemental Agreement governing the North Lake Trail's construction, operation, and maintenance. All of these stakeholders have participated in planning efforts for the project since 2016. Denver and EPRD currently are revising the operating agreement for recreation facilities around the lake, including this trail section. Denver's input, process, and approvals will be essential to design and construction. The parties' revised agreement and Phase III Final Design will lay the groundwork for continued interagency coordination.

**Existing Conditions** As discussed above, the existing North Lake Trail is a 1240-foot soft-surface, multi-use trail of variable 4.5'-6' width, adjacent to State Highway 74 (SH-74). The trail and roadway corridor are extremely constrained and subject to heavy roadway and storm water run-off. Installed in 1988, the galvanized steel bin wall supporting the trail has reached its 30-year life expectancy. Shortly after the wall was constructed, a timber facade was mounted to cover the steel bins for aesthetic purposes. Over the years, the timber facade has caused excess retention of water and sediment build-up, further compromising the integrity of the aging wall system. Working together, EPRD and EMD have regularly inspected, maintained and repaired the bin wall through the years. Over the last four years, however, drainage, run-off, erosion, and water retention issues have led to instability and active failures of the wall structure, requiring intermittent closures of the trail for safety concerns. After an 18-month closure in 2016-17, EPRD/EMD performed temporary repairs to reopen the trail, but instability issues continue, with a trail failure occurring in May 2019. Photos Ex E1.

**Significance to Users & Estimated Usage.** The trail improvement is significant to its users because this segment is the bike/ped connection between downtown Evergreen, regional trails, community destinations, and the myriad recreational opportunities at Evergreen Lake, as discussed above. Based on manual user counts in Feb 2019, annual usage estimates for the existing trail and adjacent roadway are:

<b>Pedestrians</b>	<b>56,000 (81%)</b>	<b>Bicyclists</b>	<b>13,500 (19%)</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>69,500 (100%)</b>
(Seniors/Youth 14,000 (20%); Dog Walkers 5,600 (8%); Disabled Users -insignificant data-)					

**3. TIMELINE (15 points)** List the permits, licenses, and approvals required to complete this project. For each one, discuss where you are in the process of securing it and when you anticipate securing it. For easements or land acquisitions, provide details on where you are in negotiations with the landowner. Discuss any wildlife concerns that may impact the implementation of this project. How will they be addressed? Have CPW wildlife specialists provided input or consultation on this project? Reviewers will evaluate the responses using CPW's Wildlife Assessment and the applicant's Environmental Forms.

**Construction Project Timing** Based on the preferred alternative of Phase II Planning, it is anticipated that the bulk of the construction project will be conducted in late 2021 through summer 2022. Please see Estimated Timeline Ex A.

**Anticipated Permits, Licenses & Approvals** Specific construction-related permits, licenses and approvals required have been identified and will be addressed during the \$250,000 TAP Phase III Final Design project, which should be completed in late 2020. They include:

- Approvals from Denver including competitive bidding & procurement requirements, all environmental & cultural/historic issues addressed and cleared, authority to construct project on Denver property, and public art requirements (to be addressed in Final Design, approval anticipated in late 2020);
- Environmental review, analysis and permitting as needed including but not limited to NEPA requirements, SB40 and wildlife elements, endangered species, Army Corps of Engineers permitting (e.g. 404) if needed, US Fish and Wildlife Service consultation, LWCF Recreational 4(f), and hazardous materials analysis (to be addressed in Final Design, permitting anticipated in late 2020 to early 2021);
- Historical & Cultural review and permitting as needed such as Land & Water Conservation Funds (LWCFA) 4(f)/6(f) and NHPA Section 106 (to be addressed in Final Design, permitting anticipated in late 2020 to early 2021);
- Review with Jefferson County potential floodplain considerations if any (to be addressed and resolved during Final Design);
- Identify potential Urban Drainage and Flood Control District interests if any (to be addressed and resolved during Final Design);

Other items that will be completed prior to the beginning of construction activities are:

- Traffic Control and Road Closure Permits from CDOT (permits anticipated mid 2021); and
- Utility Relocation permits as needed from Xcel Energy (permits anticipated mid 2021).

As stated above, it will be crucial that Denver's design criteria are incorporated into Final Design, that the construction project follow Denver's permitting, licensing and approval processes, and that EPRD and Denver enter into a Trail Improvement License to govern the project. The parties are working to finalize the revised Cooperative Agreement at Evergreen Lake, which will provide the foundation for collaboration and licenses between the parties.

**No Major Wildlife Concerns Identified from CPW Site Visit** EPRD met on site with CPW Area Wildlife Manager Mark Lamb on March 27, 2019 to assess potential impacts and possible mitigation measures. Mr. Lamb's letter states:

*"After meeting ... on site and discussing the project, CPW does not have any major concerns regarding impacts to wildlife. As discussed, we would recommend using best management practices in relations to preventing erosion into the lake during all phases of construction. We are excited to hear about the possibility of extending the boardwalk around the lake, which will allow the public a safe place to hike, as well as increasing fishing opportunities."* See Mr. Lamb's Letter Ex C1.

**4. ACCESS (10 points)** Describe the larger trail network this project is a part of. How does it contribute to local, regional and/or statewide trail opportunities? Will the proposed trail(s) increase access to existing recreational, open space, and/or environmental education opportunities for youth/families? Which studies or community level data were used to make this for marginalized communities and/or serve communities with large prevalence of health conditions (i.e. obesity) determination? Will the project increase park, trail, or open space access?

**Connections to Local & Regional Trail Networks.** Because the project is located at a hub for the area's trail, open space, and recreation systems, it will increase access to our community's open space/recreation assets and complete regional trail connections. As shown in the Vicinity Map Ex D2, the project is part of a connected trail network and links to the following regional and local trails/routes:

- the regional **Pioneer Trail** to the north (directly linked);
- the new **Connector Trail** into downtown Evergreen to the east (directly linked);
- trails in Denver's **Dedisse Park** to the west (directly linked), which in turn connect to trails in Jeffco's **Alderfer/Three Sister's Park**;
- routes north on SH-74 to connect to rides on **Squaw Pass Rd** and the **I-70 Bike Path**;
- routes west on **Upper Bear Creek Rd** to USFS' **Mt Evans Wilderness Area**;
- routes south on **JC-73** to Marshdale, Aspen Park and Conifer; and
- routes east on **Bear Creek Rd** (SH-74) to Red Rocks Park and Morrison.

***Increased Access to Existing Recreation, Environmental Ed & Tourism.***

The project will provide a safe link between the adjacent Evergreen Lake (fishing, skating & boating), Evergreen Lake House (community events), Evergreen Lake Loop Trail and trails in Dedisse Park (hiking), Evergreen Nature Center (environmental education programming), Evergreen Golf Course (golf and cross-county skiing), and downtown Evergreen. It is estimated that 160,000 people visit Evergreen Lake for boating, skating, fishing, bird watching, strolling, picnicking, environmental education, and community events each year. The wide range of recreation choices and easy hike on the 1.25-mile loop trail around the lake make it especially popular for youth and their families from across the State. See Letters Ex F4, F6, F8 & F9.

Based on trail user tallies conducted in February 2019, of the 56,000 estimated pedestrian users each year, about 7% are seniors (est 3,900 per year) and 18% are youth (over 10,000 per year). The project will further serve local youth by improving outdoor connections for 1,450 students who attend Evergreen High School and Wilmot Elementary, both less than half a mile from the trail. The improved connection will make it possible for youth and families to play at the lake, stroll into town, and return to the lake again, in a span of three hours or over the course of a day. See Vicinity Map Ex D2.

***Great place for an easy walk/hike***

*If you are looking for a beautiful walk by a lake that is surrounded by the foothills of the Rockies....check it out. There's easy parking and the lake is situated next to the charming downtown Evergreen with cute restaurants and shops. Winter season offers ice skating in the lake...truly a "Currier and Ives" experience! [Trip Advisor Review of Evergreen Lake, Dec 2018](#)*

***Improved Connections to Nearby Parks, Trails, Parks & Open Space.*** Beyond better connections to Evergreen Lake amenities and the trail networks discussed above, trail users will enjoy improved bike/ped access to a multitude of other high quality parks and open space assets throughout Evergreen, via Dedisse Park trails and the Pioneer Trail, including: Alderfer/Three Sisters Park (Jeffco); Elk Meadow Park (Jeffco); Stagecoach Park (EPRD); Buchanan Park (EPRD); and Bergen Park (Denver). Vicinity Map Ex D2; Jeffco Letter F4.

**5. PLANNING (10points)** Describe any comprehensive planning efforts that this project has undertaken or has been a part of. If this project is part of an approved master plan, what priority is it given in that plan? *Public comment and involvement is mandatory for all projects.* Describe public planning process that identified this trail as a priority. Summarize feedback received from the public and describe the involvement of user groups and/or communities that are within the project's region. Have any potential user group conflicts been identified? If so, how will they be addressed/managed? Has this project been deemed a priority by any other agencies or given any significant designations? Has there been public opposition to the proposed project? If so, describe the opposition & what has been done to address it.

Three phases of project planning and design are fully funded and well underway, with over \$400,000 already invested in engineering, planning, and design. In 2015, the North Lake Trail improvement was one of ten recommended projects featured in the [Evergreen Trails Master Plan](#). The Master Plan compiled recommendations from multiple local and regional trail plans and gathered extensive public/stakeholder input from web-based communication, four working group meetings, three public meetings, and targeted user group outreach to

local user groups including Team Evergreen Bicycle Club, Evergreen Rotary, Evergreen Pathfinders, Evergreen Downtown Business Ass’n, local school administrators and PTAs, and local residents/property owners. The Master Plan concluded that “Major benefits could be realized in water quality, reduced bank erosion, accommodations of persons with disabilities, and system level connectivity with this improvement.” [Trails Master Plan](#) at p. D-29.

As soon as the trail’s support infrastructure began to fail in spring 2016, EPRD recognized it would need to accelerate and lead a multi-agency effort to plan, design, and build the improved trail recommended in the Master Plan. The [Phase I Engineering Study](#) (conducted by Muller Engineering and funded by DOLA, EMD & EPRD) was completed in 2017.

The [Phase II Planning & Preliminary Design Study](#) (conducted by OV Consulting and funded by GOCO & EPRD) was completed in September 2018. First a Stakeholder Group was formed, comprised of representatives from CDOT, Denver, Jeffco, EMD, and EPRD. Letters Ex F1, F3, F4 & F5. Phase II planning involved extensive public process, solicited community feedback, conducted three stakeholder forums, and hosted two public meetings in spring/summer 2018. The public meetings were well attended (50 & 25 attendees respectively), and the project received overwhelming public support. Public comments illuminate the project’s significance to trail users (see [Phase II Planning Study](#) App B):

<i>This is a much needed project that will benefit the community.</i>	<i>Loop is very important. I live in town and quit walking the Lake when trail closed ... I don't know why, just quit those daily walks. Now that loop is back open, my family and friends are walking the lake again. Has everything to do with being a loop ... Separate pedestrians from vehicles! Get trail off of roadway.</i>
<i>Including bikes is important &amp; a safety issue.</i>	
<i>Separating pedestrians from the traffic level is <u>very</u> important to me for safety reasons. Keeping the loop is <u>very</u> important!</i>	
<i>The 2 level trail looks good. Think about use by fishing folks.</i>	<i>How many people on this path over weekends? High Traffic. Thank You!</i>
<i>We like the idea of decoupling the trail from the road, and the boardwalk idea is consistent with trail areas on the opposite side of the lake.</i>	<i>The only way a cyclist can ride past or along the lake is on Highway 74, or by using the dirt road by the golf course. Hopefully there will be some alternatives for cyclists along the lake.</i>

Two comments were received about the need for more parking near the trail. The 2015 Evergreen Trails Master Plan studied and made recommendations about the ongoing need for additional parking in the Evergreen Lake area. The recommended location for additional parking, which is directly across from the North Lake Trail, is owned by Denver. “The size, included amenities, and exact siting of the [parking] improvements would be determined through the County planning process with Denver Mountain Parks making the final decision for any improvements on its property.” [Evergreen Trails Master Plan](#) at pp. D-30-31.

Currently EPRD is working with CDOT to develop the RFP for Phase III Final Design (funded by a \$200,000 TAP grant administered by CDOT, see CDOT Letter at Ex F1), which should be completed by late 2020. Denver’s input and approvals will be critical to final design of this project. This comprehensive engineering, planning and design work already underway will prepare the project for 2021-22 construction as shown on the Estimated Timeline Ex A.

As discussed above, EPRD and Denver currently are revising the Cooperative Agreement governing operations at Evergreen Lake. At the same time, safety issues and temporal funding opportunities create urgency to get this trail improvement planned, funded and implemented as soon as possible. EPRD is confident that the parties will fully coordinate on design, process, and approvals once the operating agreement is revised. EPRD believes that both efforts can and should move forward simultaneously. See Denver Letter Ex F3.

Support for the project demonstrating prioritization by partners is further discussed below, but CDOT's ongoing support/prioritization of the project is particularly noteworthy. CDOT was the first agency to dedicate funds toward the project with its 2016 award of a \$200,000 TAP grant for design, and has since added another \$200,000 toward the DRCOG TIP construction grant. CDOT will administer both the TAP Final Design and TIP construction projects, so it will be closely involved in all phases of the project. See CDOT Letter Ex F1.

**6. COLLABORATION AND MATCHING FUNDS (10 points)** Discuss partnerships established for this project and their contributions. Discuss the sources of matching funds. How much match is secured beyond the required 30%? How much of it is yet to be raised and what are your plans for raising those additional funds? Submit letters of commitment/support from landowners and/or funders + up to 5 letters of non-cash support.

This project has been brought to life by over three years of support from statewide agencies and local stakeholders alike, with over \$3.61 raised for engineering, planning, design, and construction. EPRD and its partners have raised a million dollars for the project -- \$400K for design and \$600K for construction. EPRD is proud of the project's collaborative partnerships and leveraged funding structure that will maximize investments. See Budget at Ex B. The list below shows the project's wide range of support and references attached Letters of Support.

<b>CDOT (TAP)</b> (grantor & match)	<b>Ex F1</b>	<b>Evergreen Metro Dist</b> (match partner)	<b>Ex F5</b>
<b>DRCOG (TIP)</b> (grantor)	<b>Ex F2</b>	<b>Dntn Egrn Econ Dist</b> (match partner)	<b>Ex F6</b>
<b>City &amp; County of Denver</b> (landowner)	<b>Ex F3</b>	<b>Team Evergreen</b> (local stakeholder)	<b>Ex F7</b>
<b>Jeffco Open Space</b> (home county)	<b>Ex F4</b>	<b>Evgn Trout Ultd</b> (local stakeholder)	<b>Ex F8</b>
<b>Great Outdoors Colo</b> (planning grantor)		<b>Evgn Audubon</b> (local stakeholder)	<b>Ex F9</b>
<b>Colorado DOLA</b> (planning grantor)			

In April 2019 DRCOG's Jeffco Subregion recommended the project for full funding of a \$2.61 million grant under the federal TIP program for FY2020-23. With formal TIP adoption scheduled for August 21, DRCOG's major funding investment will drive the construction project. CDOT has pledged a contribution of \$200,000 toward the construction project, and also is the administrator of the \$200,000 TAP grant for Phase III final design. Evergreen Metro District (EMD) is contributing \$200,000 to this project and already has provided \$12,500 in funding and extensive consultation to the planning phases. Our local partner DEED will add \$50,000 through its Evergreen Legacy Fund (ELF). And CO DOLA provided a matching grant of \$25,000 to kick off Phase I Engineering. See Letters Ex F1, F2, F5 & F6. In all, secured construction funding and match is \$3.21 million, or 85% of the \$3.76 million total estimated construction project cost. See Budget Ex B.

We also are grateful to our local stakeholders, Team Evergreen, Evergreen Audubon, and Evergreen Trout Unlimited, which support the project in many ways. See Letters F7, F8 & F9. For example, Evergreen Trout Unlimited has offered to provide volunteer consultation on the design of fishing elements of the project, and also will volunteer time to conduct youth education and fishing skills days at the new fishing areas created by this project.

**7. URGENCY AND NEED FOR FUNDS (5 points)** Briefly describe the project's urgency. Why are Colorado the Beautiful funds necessary this grant cycle? What opps are lost if the grant isn't awarded?

Our funding request is extremely urgent. First, project urgency is created by time-sensitive funding opportunities discussed above. This Colorado the Beautiful grant is needed to match \$3.21 million in leveraged funding already raised for trail construction. The 2020-23 TIP, which includes \$2.61 million in construction funding for this project, will be adopted on August 21, 2019. EPRD and its partners will provide \$600,000 toward the TIP match, but EPRD needs an additional \$550,000 to meet the TIP match and secure 100% of construction funding for the project. We respectfully request your consideration of a grant award in this amount, so that the project can move forward with certainty and full resources can be dedicated to final design and construction rather than fundraising.

CtB is the only state trail grant program large enough to meet our construction shortfall in a single award. EPRD does not have means to close the funding gap, in view of the failure of our 2018 bond initiative. We do not know if DRCOG would be amenable to changes in the project's scope to cut costs, and we fear that without CtB's contribution the \$2.61 million DRCOG grant would have to be declined and passed on to waitlisted projects. The project also needs to be implemented swiftly after design is completed, so that cost estimates are not rendered obsolete in a prolonged waiting period between design and construction.

Existing conditions in the project area also create urgent public safety issues, as discussed above in response to Question 1. The ongoing infrastructure failures of the trail's substrate threaten the safety of trail users, the integrity of Evergreen's main water transmission line, and/or the stability of the adjacent highway. Trail users often take to the adjacent roadway or narrow shoulders of SH-74 when the trail is closed for repair. We cannot wait another federal grant cycle –DRCOG's next round is 2024-27 -- to address these urgent safety issues.

**8. MAINTENANCE (10 points)** Describe how the project will be developed, maintained, and managed for long-term sustainability. Has an Operations and Maintenance Plan been developed for the project areas? Prior to considering new trail construction, have current trail reroute options been considered for current on-the-ground unsustainable trails and trail sections in the project area? Estimate the annual costs to maintain the project. How did you derive those numbers; how do you intend to fund operations and maintenance; and who is responsible?

The project has been developed with comprehensive planning & design and extensive agency & stakeholder input to ensure the trail's long-term sustainability and public use. Before recommending a preferred alternative, the [Phase II Planning Study](#) at pp 31-43 considered public input on ten different trail concepts, including several trail reroute options such as improvement to the existing trail on the south side of the lake. Then, the preferred alternative was developed for long-term sustainability -- for example, the trail's support wall will be designed to withstand impacts from roadway/storm water run-off, and the project will include roadway improvements, drainage fixes, and erosion control to protect the wall. The upper trail's hard-surface tread will further reduce impacts from run-off and snow-loading.

There are many maintenance plans, agreements and covenants already in place that will dictate/inform the operation and maintenance of the Evergreen North Lake Trail:<sup>1</sup>

- 1980 Cooperative Agreement, Denver & EMD
- 1981 Agreement, EMD & Jeffco Open Space
- 1981 Assignment Agreement, Jeffco Open Space & EPRD
- 1987 Supplemental Agreement, EMD & EPRD

Of these agreements, the 1987 Supplemental Agreement between EMD and EPRD relates directly to maintenance at the project site, setting forth EPRD's operation/maintenance of the trail above the water main and EMD's operation/maintenance of the water main below the trail. Based on the terms of current agreements between Denver, EMD and EPRD, the trail improvement will be managed and maintained by EPRD for long-term sustainability and public use. Under these agreements EPRD performs regular inspections, routine trail maintenance, snow removal, and resurfacing on a regular basis, and infrastructure repairs as needed. EPRD Park Operations Manager Heart Cameron estimates that a quarter of EPRD's park maintenance resources are devoted to maintenance and repair of the project site. EPRD will continue its trail management and maintenance functions for any portions of the Evergreen Lake Trail operated by EPRD in compliance with the parties' agreements, and will appropriate necessary funds for such trail maintenance in its annual budget subject to board approval. See Resolution Ex 1.

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<sup>1</sup> Denver, EMD and EPRD currently are revising their operating agreements for Evergreen Lake. EPRD will immediately inform its funders/partners if the revised operating agreement makes any changes that would impact the trail's construction, management & maintenance.

**9. CONTINGENCY/ABILITY (10 points)** What other funding sources have been dedicated to this project? Will applicant and/or partner funds be lost if funds are not awarded? If you are not awarded funding, what measures will be taken to complete the project? Describe your ability to complete the specific grant transaction(s) that will be necessary to accomplish this project. Please provide examples for grant projects of similar magnitude that demonstrate your ability to manage the requested level of grant funding; including the project title, grantor, award amount and year the project was funded. Was reporting and close-out requirements completed? How well was it managed from your perspective? Will you apply for additional funds through CPW State Trails?

As discussed above, a total of \$3.61 million in other funding sources have been dedicated to project design and construction -- 1 million from EPRD and its partners and \$2.61 million from DRCOG. These contributions include: DRCOG TIP (\$2,613,903); Evergreen Park & Rec (\$212,500); Evergreen Metro District (\$212,500); CDOT TAP (\$200,000); CDOT (\$200,000); GOCO (\$100,000); DEED (\$50,000); and CO DOLA (\$25,000). The \$3.21 million in funds raised thus far for construction represents 85% of the project's \$3.76 million total estimated construction costs. \$550,000 (15%) in non-federal dollars are still needed to complete the match to DRCOG's \$2.61 million TIP grant. See Budget Ex B.

Because a \$550,000 CtB grant would be the last funds in to complete construction funding, we respectfully request your consideration of a grant award in this amount. At the same time, we recognize that the award range for this CtB cycle is \$250,000-\$500,000. Should CtB award \$500,000 to this project, we have a strong opportunity to close the \$50,000 gap with a contribution from The Trust for Public Land Colorado Community Trails Program, which has prioritized this project and is aware of the potential funding gap. While we feel confident about this funding prospect, our Plan C would be to raise \$50,000 from a community match campaign led by our local stakeholders. That said, with our limited resources we are eager to move forward and focus our attention on final design and construction planning.

If the project is not awarded CtB funding, EPRD could try to make up the \$550,000 match shortfall with future grant applications to CPW's State Trails Program or GOCO's Local Park & Outdoor Recreation Program. But the project is moving quickly -- Phase III final design is teed up and the imminent TIP adoption this month will start the DRCOG construction funding clock. EPRD is hesitant to clip the project's momentum and divert its resources with extended fundraising to meet the match shortfall. Without CtB funding in this round, EPRD would have three difficult choices: keep pressing on with future fundraising to build the preferred alternative; ask DRCOG to fund a less costly project with a narrower scope or phased approach; or decline the \$2.61 million TIP grant and pass it on to a waitlisted project.

Over the last ten years, EPRD has spearheaded two major projects that demonstrate our ability to successfully plan, manage funding, and implement large-scale trail projects. In 2006-13 EPRD partnered with North Evergreen Activity Trails to build a 1.8-mile accessible trail linking North Evergreen schools, homes and community destinations -- the NEAT Trail, a \$1.1 million project funded by Co State Trails (\$200K in 2011), Jeffco (\$425K in 2006-11), CDOT Safe Routes to School (\$332K in 2006 & 2011), Jeffco Public Schools (\$60K in 2012) and private donations (\$130K). And in 2012-15 EPRD built an accessible, pedestrian bridge connecting downtown Evergreen to the North Lake Trail -- the Connector Trail, a \$514K project funded by GOCO (\$250K in 2015), EPRD (\$178K in 2015), DEED + in-kind (\$86K). The projects were well-managed and all reporting and close-out requirements were met.

Admittedly this is a large and complex project to be pursued by a local park & rec district in an unincorporated mountain community. While many stakeholders are involved, in reality it is unlikely that some other state or local agency will spearhead planning, funding and delivering the project. EPRD approaches its leadership role with conviction, dedication, and gratitude for the help from our friends. We have hired experienced planning & engineering consultants to assist us throughout the project. We are working closely with partners, and are planning the project carefully to meet the needs of both the stakeholders and the community. We have raised 100% of the funds needed to plan and design the project, and 85% of the funds needed to build the trail. Please join EPRD, its partners and stakeholders, and the Evergreen community to complete the Evergreen Lake Trail Improvement Project.

## Non-Federal Environmental Form

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

Applicants are responsible to complete this form with county/local government staff or an environmental consultant to address the following 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.

All applicants will be evaluated for wildlife and aquatic impacts in a separate evaluation process by CPW wildlife staff.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS Indicate potential for adverse impacts	NOT APPLICABLE Resource does not exist	NEGLECTIBLE IMPACTS Exists but no or negligible impacts	MINOR IMPACTS	IMPACTS EXCEED MINOR	MORE DATA NEEDED TO DETERMINE DEGREE OF IMPACT
1. Plants species of special concern and habitat; state/federal listed or proposed for listing		✓			
2. Water quality/quantity – surface and ground water considerations			✓		
3. Wetlands/floodplains			✓		
4. Storm water runoff			✓		
5. Sedimentation			✓		
6. Disturbances to neighboring properties		✓			
7. Soil/erosion			✓		
8. Introduction or promotion of non-native species		✓			
9. Environmental disturbances during construction		✓			

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

- Alternative design or trail route system
- 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

See attached Mitigation and Benefits discussion.

## Non-Federal Environmental Form

**BENEFIT:** Please describe if the project will have a positive impact on 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
- See attached Mitigation and Benefits discussion.

**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. *All required permits must be acquired prior to submitting a non-motorized trails grant application.*

Ellen M. O'Connor

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.

Ellen M. O'Connor

7/31/2019

Signature of applicant

Date

Joe Nicholson, Evergreen District 525 Wildlife Officer, Colorado Parks & Wildlife

Printed name, title of authority:

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

Joe Nicholson

06/26/2019

Signature authority:

Date

## Attachment to Non-Federal Environmental Form Project Environmental Mitigation and Benefits

Mark Lamb of CPW visited the project site in March 2019. He noted that “no significant environmental impacts that require mitigation are expected to be encountered during construction of this project.” Consistent with Mr. Lamb’s review, Mr. Nicholson ranked plant species of concern, disturbances to neighboring properties, introduction of non-native species, and environmental disturbances during construction all to be of “negligible impact”.

**MITIGATION:** To address the environmental considerations Mr. Nicholson identified as potential “minor impacts” (water quality, wetlands/floodplain, storm water runoff, sedimentation, and soil/erosion), over a quarter of Phase 3 Final Design funding is dedicated to environmental assessment and design, including mitigation means and measures for construction. Phase 3 final design also will address any necessary environmental consultations such as CWA Section 404 permitting, LWCF Section 6(f) and 6(f)(3), and USDOT Section 4(f). Specifically:

- A comprehensive **Storm Water Management Plan** to reduce run-off, erosion, and sedimentation during and after construction will be developed as part of the project’s Phase 3 final design and incorporated into the construction project’s scope.
- Anticipated **drainage improvements** will include repair/replacement of culverts and drains under the adjacent road and along the embankment.
- Vegetation will be planted below the highway and erosion control blankets will be used along the embankment to **revegetate disturbed areas, stabilize soil, control erosion, discourage invasive species, and improve aesthetics**. The preferred alternative design also creates **natural terracing** between the upper and lower trails to further reduce erosion.
- During construction, **appropriate buffer areas** will be established, and users will be redirected from the project site to other **developed, existing routes**.
- **User activity will be managed** by providing limited access to designated areas for fishing and wildlife areas.
- **Water quality** will be improved by the project’s drainage, erosion control, and storm water management components discussed above. Water quality and **sedimentation levels** at Evergreen Lake are monitored by Evergreen Metro District, and will continue to be monitored throughout the construction project.
- There are **no wetlands** at the project site. During Phase 3 final design, EPRD will work with Jefferson County to **assess floodplain status** and design any necessary mitigation measures.

Evergreen Lake Trail Improvement Project  
Evergreen Park & Recreation District

**BENEFITS:** Mr. Nicholson’s evaluation found that the project poses “negligible impacts” for plant species of special concern and habitat. More generally, the project will have a positive impact on the environment of the area in the following ways:

- The project will **improve water quality** and **reduce roadway and storm water run-off, erosion, and sedimentation** into the lake by developing a comprehensive storm water management plan that incorporates the mitigation measures discussed above.
- The project will **improve drainage** by working with CDOT to repair/replace culverts and drains at and near the project site.
- The preferred alternative’s fishing platforms along the lower trail will **minimize bank erosion** caused by the current fishing uses and improve water quality.
- The project will **reduce non-native and invasive species** by using erosion control blankets as described above.
- The project will increase bicycling and walking, to potentially **reduce the carbon-based vehicle miles** traveled and the the high ADT (curently 18,000) on the adjacent highway.
- The project will incorporate signage into the fishing/observation platforms to **educate users about environmental considerations** and good stewardship at Evergreen Lake.
- The project will improve bike/ped access to the **Evergreen Nature Center**, which features exhibits related to the plants, wildlife, and environment of Evergreen Lake.

**EXHIBIT B Rev 1.1: 8-22-19**  
**Budget Form - Project Name: Evergreen Lake Trail Improvement Project -- \$550,000 CtB Grant Request**

SOURCE OF FUNDS	Date Secured				CPW Trails Grant Request [A]	Total Project Match [B]	Total Funding (\$) [C]	
<b>CASH</b>								
DRCOG TIP Grant	Aug 2019					#####	#####	
CDOT Concurrence	Feb 2019					\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	
Evergreen Metro District	Feb 2019					\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	
Evergreen Park & Recreation District	Feb 2019					\$ 150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	
Downtown Evergreen Economic District	Feb 2019					\$ 49,999.69	\$ 49,999.69	
Colorado the Beautiful Trails Grant	TBD				\$ 550,000.00		\$ 550,000.00	
<b>IN-KIND</b>							\$ -	
<b>TOTAL SOURCES OF FUNDS</b>					<b>\$ 550,000.00</b>	<b>#####</b>	<b>#####</b>	
[CASH] Description of Work	Qty	Unit	Unit Price	Total (B*D)	CPW Funds	Total Project Match (\$)	Total Funding (\$)	Balance (should be 0)
<b>CATEGORY 1-Contracted Services</b> Identify as: Youth Corps, Engineering, Contractor, etc.								
<i>All Services below are Contractor Services</i>								
Project Management Contractor***	0.05	%	#####	\$ 158,195.15		\$ 158,195.15	\$ 158,195.15	0
Pre-Construction Contract Work*		misc	aggregated	\$ 730,077.00		\$ 730,077.00	\$ 730,077.00	0
(Permitting, Utilities, Mobilization, Survey)								
Removal of Existing Wall	1240	LF	\$ 8.83	\$ 10,949.20		\$ 10,949.20	\$ 10,949.20	0
Removal of Guardrail	1240	LF	\$ 7.73	\$ 9,585.20		\$ 9,585.20	\$ 9,585.20	0
Removal of Surfacing	7400	SY	\$ 13.24	\$ 97,976.00		\$ 97,976.00	\$ 97,976.00	0
Excavation	722	CY	\$ 8.83	\$ 6,375.26		\$ 6,375.26	\$ 6,375.26	0
Post Construction Contract Work*		misc	aggregated	\$ 659,745.34	\$ 80,002.87	\$ 579,742.47	\$ 659,745.34	0
(erosion control, testing/quality, traffic control, signing/stripping, landscaping)								
<b>Category 2 - Salary/Wages</b>								
Administration Fee**	0.05		\$ 550,000.00	\$ 27,500.00	\$ 27,500.00		\$ 27,500.00	0
<b>CATEGORY 3-Materials/Supplies</b> Identify as: Signs, crusherfines, native seed, weed barrier, etc.								
Concrete Walk	1333	SY	\$ 66.22	\$ 88,271.26		\$ 88,271.26	\$ 88,271.26	0
Concrete Curb & Gutter	1410	LF	\$ 33.11	\$ 46,685.10		\$ 46,685.10	\$ 46,685.10	0
Drainage Improvements*		misc	aggregated	\$ 56,612.00		\$ 56,612.00	\$ 56,612.00	0
Metal Handrail	1240	LF	\$ 193.14	\$ 239,493.60		\$ 239,493.60	\$ 239,493.60	0
Two Rail Giant Tenon Buck Fence	1240	LF	\$ 27.59	\$ 34,211.60		\$ 34,211.60	\$ 34,211.60	0
Large Block Wall	10000	SF	\$ 55.18	\$ 551,800.00		\$ 551,800.00	\$ 551,800.00	0
Random Rip Rap	20	CY	\$ 99.33	\$ 1,986.60	\$ 1,986.60		\$ 1,986.60	0
Pavers	715	FS	\$ 22.07	\$ 15,780.05	\$ 15,780.05		\$ 15,780.05	0
Wood Boardwalk	5750	SF	\$ 55.18	\$ 317,285.00	\$ 317,285.00		\$ 317,285.00	0
Fishing Bumpouts	400	SF	\$ 55.18	\$ 22,072.00	\$ 22,072.00		\$ 22,072.00	0
Earth Trail	1000	SF	\$ 5.52	\$ 5,520.00	\$ 5,520.00		\$ 5,520.00	0
Boardwalk Handrail	1750	LF	\$ 38.63	\$ 67,602.50	\$ 67,602.50		\$ 67,602.50	0
Turf Restoration	2778	SY	\$ 4.41	\$ 12,250.98	\$ 12,250.98		\$ 12,250.98	0
<b>Additional Categories</b>								
Contracting Requirements*		misc	aggregated	\$ 287,538.55		\$ 287,538.55	\$ 287,538.55	\$ -
Contingencies	0.1	%	#####	\$ 316,390.30	\$ -	\$ 316,390.30	\$ 316,390.30	0
<b>USE OF FUNDS - CASH SUBTOTAL</b>					<b>\$ 550,000.00</b>	<b>#####</b>	<b>#####</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
[IN-KIND] Description of Work	Qty	Unit	Unit Price	Total (B*D)		Total Funding (\$)	Balance (should be 0)	
				\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	0
<b>IN-KIND SUBTOTAL</b>						\$ -	\$ -	
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>					<b>\$ 550,000.00</b>	<b>#####</b>	<b>#####</b>	
<b>30% REQUIRED MATCH</b>						<b>\$ 165,000.00</b>	<b>#####</b>	

**Notes:**

\* All line items not calculated from estimated quantities and unit prices are taken from the estimate of probable cost developed in the 2018 Phase II Planni See the 2018 Phase 2 Planning Study for additional detail.

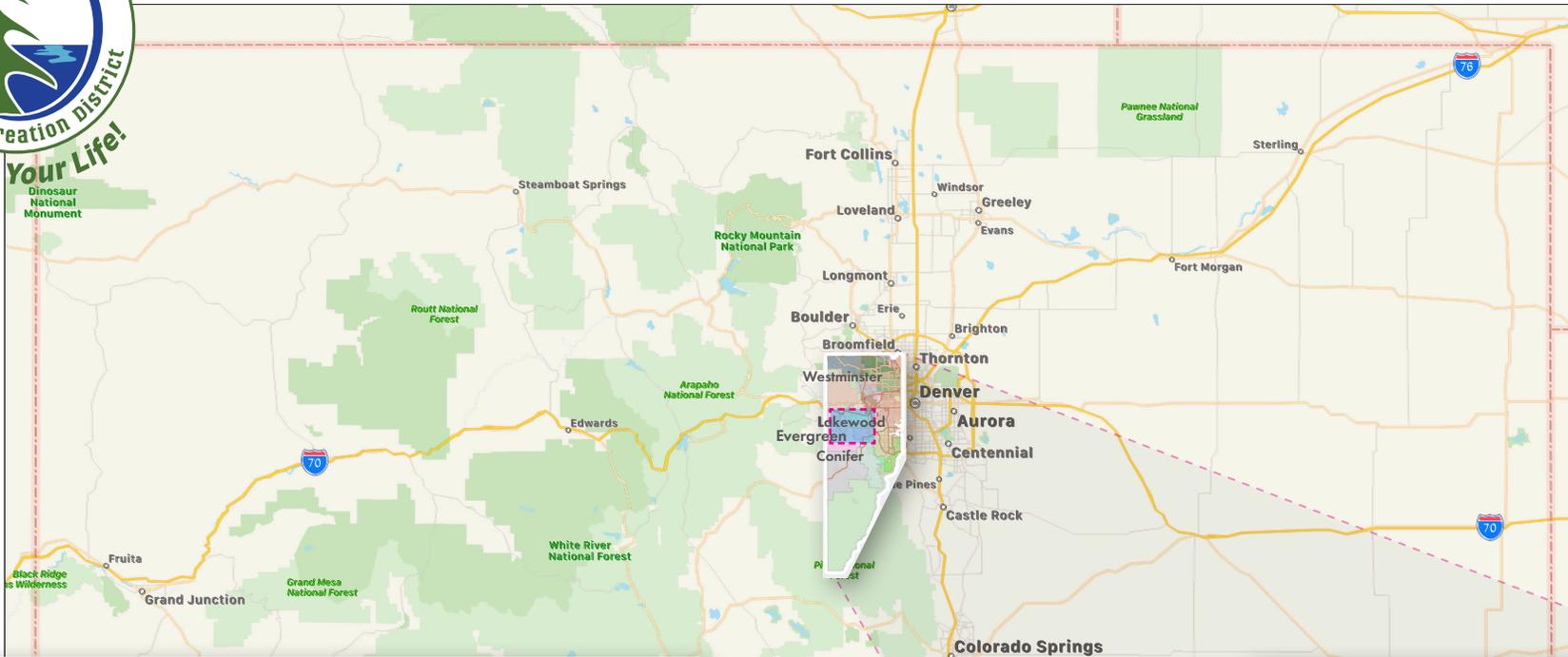
\*\* The Administration Fee is 5% of requested grant award of \$550,000, and is charged to cover costs of record keeping, accounting, and reporting related to

\*\*\* Contracted Project Management covers third-party contract costs to manage the construction project, including contractor and stakeholder coordination, permitting and approvals oversight, utilities coordination, scheduling, construction project oversight, and regular meetings with EPRD.

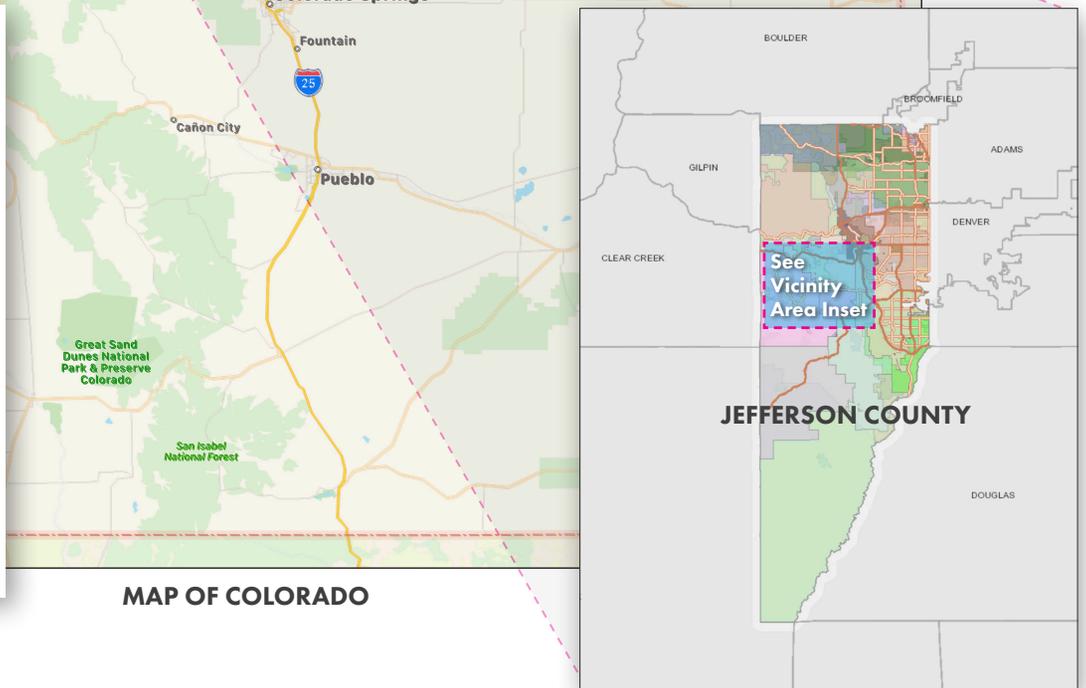
*Because this large project's budget was developed one year prior to this grant application during Phase 2 Planning, \$3.2 million in previously-secu funding has relied on it. EPRD respectfully requests the opportunity to amend this budget should the reviewers/committee object to aspects of its format or contents. Please contact EPRD with any additional questions. Thank you for your consideration.*



# EVERGREEN LAKE TRAIL IMPROVEMENT State Overview (Map 1)



Vicinity Area Inset (See Map 2)



MAP OF COLORADO



# EVERGREEN LAKE TRAIL IMPROVEMENT Local Vicinity (Map 2)

EXHIBIT D2



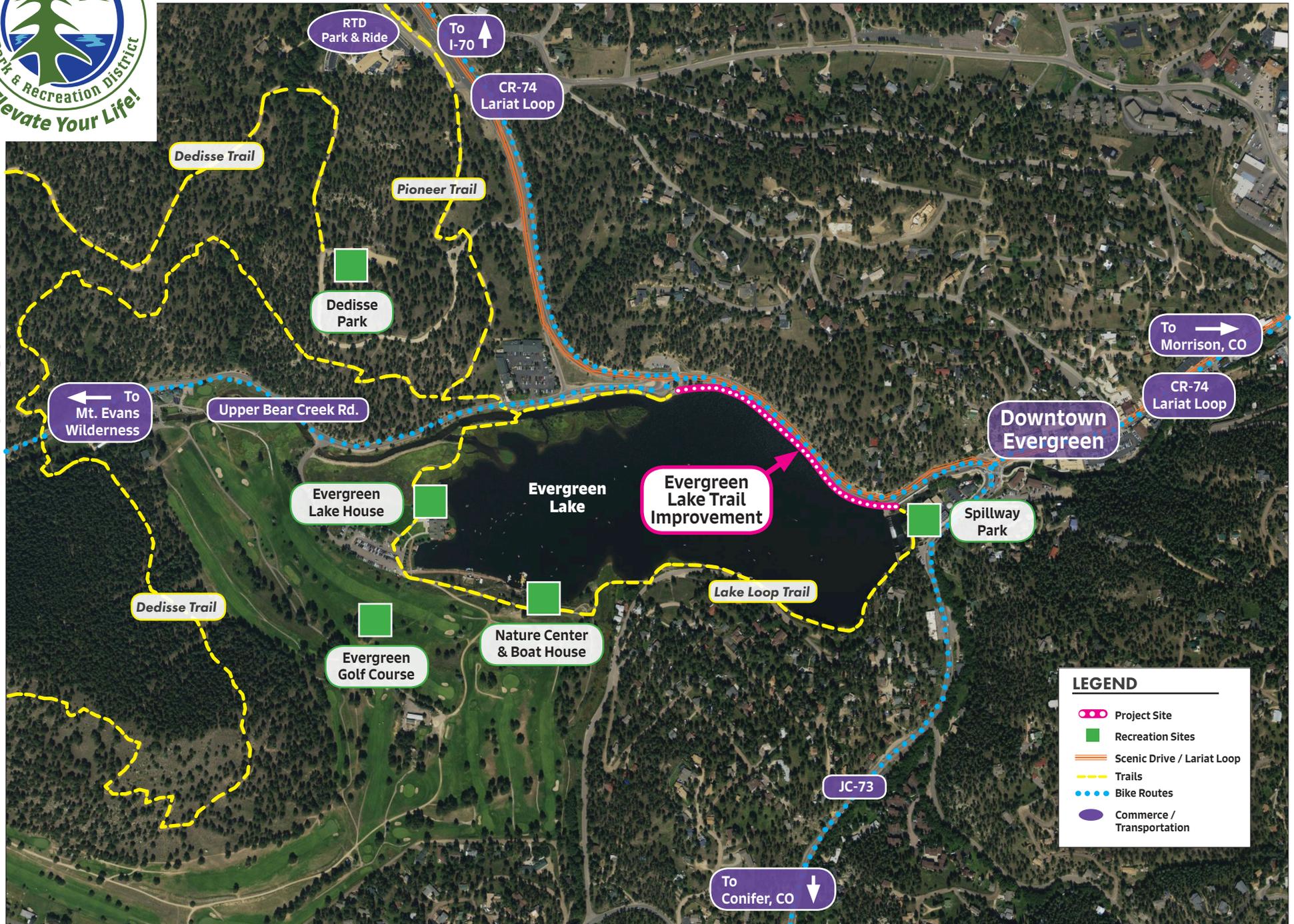
**LEGEND**

- ★ EPRD Facilities
- EPRD Parks
- ⊕ Jeffco Open Space / Denver Mountain Parks
- Schools
- Public Services
- ⋯ Scenic Drive / Lariat Loop
- Trails
- ⊞ Bike Routes
- Local Routes
- Bus Transit / Park & Ride



# EVERGREEN LAKE TRAIL IMPROVEMENT Project Site (Map 3)

EXHIBIT D3



**LEGEND**

- Project Site
- Recreation Sites
- Scenic Drive / Lariat Loop
- Trails
- Bike Routes
- Commerce / Transportation

Evergreen Park & Recreation District  
Evergreen Lake Trail Improvement Project  
Colorado the Beautiful Trails Program Grant Application 8-1-19

## Photos of Existing Conditions



Evergreen Lake and its loop trail are gateways to year-round mountain recreation and tourism for an estimated 160,000 visitors from across the Denver Region each year. The 1.25-mile loop trail around Evergreen Lake is popular with families and youth because of its easy topography, proximity to downtown Evergreen, and connection to diverse recreational offerings at the lake including ice skating, boating, fishing, hiking, and free community events.

The Connector Trail installed in 2015 creates a new accessible link from downtown Evergreen to the project site. The project will add major access/mobility gains.

The project area is extremely constrained between SH-74 and Evergreen Lake.



Support wall failures have led to trail closures for safety concerns. Pedestrians and cyclists often choose to skirt the narrow shoulder of State Highway 74 instead.



## Renderings of Improved Evergreen Lake Trail

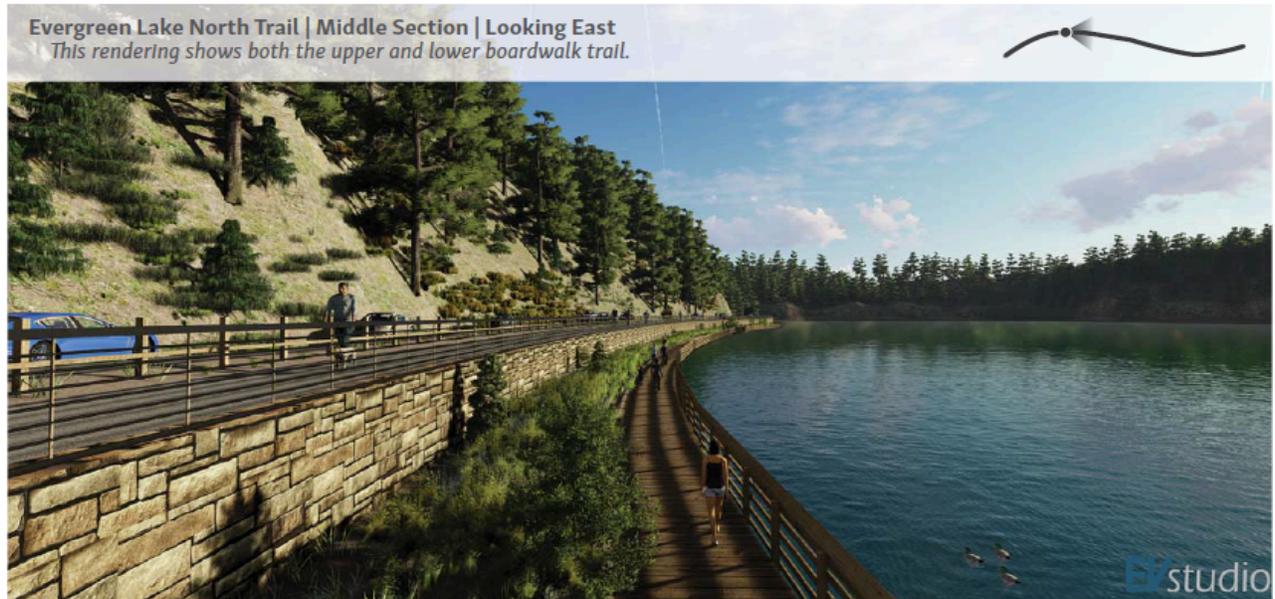


Figure 02: Recommended Alternative Diagram





July 23, 2019

Colorado the Beautiful Trails Program  
Colorado Parks & Wildlife  
6060 Broadway, Denver CO 80216

RE: Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW) Colorado the Beautiful (CtB) Trails Program Grant Application for Evergreen Lake Trail Improvement Project

Dear Members of the CPW CtB Grant Review Committee,

Jefferson County Open Space (JCOS) supports the Evergreen Park & Recreation District (EPRD) pursuit of funding for the Evergreen Lake Trail project. JCOS partnered with EPRD on the funding and development of the 2015 Evergreen Trails Master Plan as well as successful 2016 funding pursuits through the Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Connect Initiative and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) for this trail segment.

The sweeping partnerships strategically pursued by EPRD staff have resulted in millions of dollars needed to fund the complex solution to the vital trail linkage subject of this grant application. We believe it is of great benefit to the residents and visitors to the area who will be provided a quality experience once this critical segment of trail is improved from its current compromised condition.

Improved bike/pedestrian access to local recreation destinations/activities will be made possible, including Evergreen Lake, Evergreen Nature Center, as well as Dedisse, Alderfer/Three Sisters & Elk Meadow Parks.

Closing the gap in the regional trail network, providing a safe, off-street link to regional bike routes and direct connections to the JCOS Pioneer Trail, Connector Trail, Lake Loop Trail, will be made possible through the CPW CtB funding opportunity.

Thank you for your consideration and if we can provide any additional information or answer any questions, please contact me at 303-271-5930 or [thoby@jeffco.us](mailto:thoby@jeffco.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Hoby".

Tom Hoby, CPRE  
Director



July 17 2019

Colorado the Beautiful Trails Grant Program  
Colorado Parks and Wildlife  
6060 Broadway  
Denver, CO 80216

Dear CtB Grant Review Committee,

Team Evergreen Cycling strongly supports the Evergreen North Lake Trail construction project as a means of improving safety and connectivity in the Evergreen community.

Team Evergreen actively supports bicycling and related activities to further the sport of cycling and promote its continued growth and safe enjoyment. Colorado's premier bicycle club is dedicated to serving cycling and charitable organizations that make a difference. For 31 years Team Evergreen has promoted one of Colorado's premier bicycle rides, the "Triple Bypass." Over 4,500 riders participated in our 2019 event. Our organization originated in the Evergreen area. Team Evergreen sponsors regular rides throughout the year for various levels of riders.

Evergreen Lake is a frequently used outdoor recreation facility in Jefferson County and the roadway on the north side of the lake is heavily used by cyclists as the primary transportation corridor between the north and south sections of the Evergreen area. We support the North Lake Trail Project as a means to increase local and regional connectivity, multi-modal access and most importantly, improve the safety of all users in the area.

Team Evergreen appreciates the efforts of Evergreen Parks and Recreation and is pleased to provide our support for this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jennifer A. Barbour'.

Jennifer Barbour  
Executive Director, Team Evergreen Cycling



# EVERGREEN TROUT UNLIMITED

Preserving, Enhancing and Protecting Colorado Fisheries  
Evergreen, Colorado



July 29, 2019

Colorado the Beautiful Trails Grant Program  
Colorado Parks & Wildlife  
6060 Broadway  
Denver, CO 80216

To Grant Reviewers:

Evergreen Trout Unlimited founded in 1983, a subsidiary organization of Trout Unlimited, Inc., fully supports the Evergreen Lake Trail Improvement Project. The overall project benefits fall directly in line with our Chapter purpose to conserve, protect and restore coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. We have a long history of teaming with Evergreen Parks & Recreation and Colorado Parks & Wildlife on projects such as Mount Evans Outdoor Education Laboratory Program, National Earth Day, Annual Youth Fishing Camp @ Buchanan Ponds, 4<sup>th</sup> of July Spectacular, CP&W Evergreen Outdoor Skills Day, Camp Comfort, CP&W Pine Valley Ranch Outdoor Skills Day and Evergreen Middle and High School classroom programs. All of these have the end purpose of improving our environment (wildlife, water quality, outdoor recreation, etc.) by developing true stewards for our future.

We firmly support the project's overall benefits to improve safety and access to recreation in our community. We are especially supportive of the project's improvements to environmental and water quality to protect fish, wildlife and plants in the area. We also applaud the project's plans to enhance opportunities for youth, visitors, and the entire community to enjoy fishing on Evergreen Lake.

Evergreen Trout Unlimited would like to stay involved in the project. We would be eager to help with volunteer consultation on the design of the fishing elements of the trail. And we will continue our volunteer work to provide youth education and fishing skills days at Evergreen Lake, hopefully with a focus on new fishing opportunities on the north side of the lake!

We encourage you to fund the Evergreen Lake Improvement Project for the benefit of all in our community.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike McGinnis".

Mike McGinnis  
President  
Evergreen Trout Unlimited  
PO Box 1974  
Evergreen, CO 80437-1974



# Evergreen Audubon & Nature Center

July 24, 2019

Colorado the Beautiful Trails Grant  
Colorado Parks & Wildlife  
6060 Broadway, Denver CO 80216  
RE: Evergreen Lake Trail Improvement Project

To Grant Reviewers,

Evergreen Audubon, a Colorado local chapter of the National Audubon Society, has strong ties to Evergreen Lake and its surrounding area. We were founded in 1968 as an organization to conserve wildlife and natural ecosystems, provide citizen science experiences and inspire and educate our mountain community. In 2008, Evergreen Audubon open its Evergreen Nature Center in the historic warming hut on Evergreen to foster contagious enthusiasm and life-long respect for the natural world by providing fun and inspiring educational experiences for people. The Evergreen Nature Center received over 14,000 visitors in 2018 between Earth Day and October 15<sup>th</sup>, with many of those visitors coming specifically to enjoy Evergreen Lake.

Clearly our mission is in line with the vision of the Evergreen Lake Improvement Project proposed by Evergreen Parks and Recreation (EPRD); therefore, we support the effort.

The improved trail would:

- Provide Evergreen Nature Center the perfect venue to conduct interpretive nature walks for the general public, summer camps, school programs and scouting outings.
- Encourage *all* visitors to safely hike around the lake where they can take advantage of an enhanced wildlife viewing experience. The current trail prohibits individuals with disabilities from fully enjoying the North side of Evergreen Lake.
- Increase the visitation at the Evergreen Nature Center and therefore increasing our opportunity to educate individuals on how important nature is to help maintain a high quality of life.
- Help Evergreen Audubon in their efforts to complete citizen science projects where we identify and log bird species during events, such as, our Annual Christmas Bird Count (in its 52<sup>nd</sup> year) and Dawn Chorus (in its 26<sup>th</sup> year).
- Prevent erosion along the trail which can interfere with lake water quality and therefore effect fish, water fowl and mammals who make Evergreen Lake their home, either year-round or seasonal.

We encourage you to fund the Evergreen Lake Improvement Project which will benefit Evergreen Audubon and all individuals who enjoy and see the value of Nature.

Kathy Madison  
President, Evergreen Audubon  
[president@evergreenaudubon.org](mailto:president@evergreenaudubon.org)