EXHIBIT A

CONSTRUCTION
GRANT APPLICATION CHECK LIST
(Return this completed form with your application)

MANDATORY:

☑ Signed letter of resolution from Governing Body that includes resources/support committed to the project
☑ Exhibit A - Application
☑ Exhibit B - Budget (Unprotected Excel CPW form)
☑ Environmental Forms
☑ Maps/Photos/Graphics [Separate PDF document(s)] **DO NOT** combine with application
☑ Letters of Support (maximum of 5). No letters from clubs, groups or individuals specifically working on the project.
☑ Project should be completed within 2.5 years from receiving grant.
☑ Required MATCH funding is secured, including CASH match funds.
☑ CPW Area Manager was contacted about the project by September 3rd and applicant has discussed the project with them. Note: ALL projects will be reviewed by CPW for wildlife impacts.
☑ 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.
☑ Formal Environmental Assessment (EA) or NEPA has been completed with final approval for the project area (federal lands only, include link to EA)
☑ Construction projects have been evaluated for required permits and if required, permits have been acquired (404 permit, etc.).
☑ Copy of Maintenance and Operation plan attached.

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 of organization).
Colorado Parks and Wildlife  
State Trails Program  
13787 U.S. Hwy. 85 N.  
Littleton, Co 80125

The City of Fort Morgan plans to develop a trail system in a Conservation and Open Space Corridor called the Twamore Farm Property along the north side of the South Platte River and opposite Riverside Park.

The City of Fort Morgan would like to thank you in advance for the opportunity to apply for a 2020 Non-Motorized Trail Grant. Following this page please find the completed Grant application.

Attached as a separate file please find a working copy of the estimated budget and a file containing all supporting documents including, conceptual maps, excerpts from the 2016 Comprehensive Plan, the 2018 Trails and Connectivity Plan, Pictures, Environmental Impact Check List and letters of Support.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ty Hamer, PGA  
Director of Community Services  
City of Fort Morgan
RESOLUTION No. 2019-09-01

SUPPORTING THE GRANT APPLICATION FOR A COLORADO PARKS AND
WILDLIFE NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL GRANT FOR THE TWAMORE PROPERTY

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Morgan has the opportunity to participate in grant
funding provided by the Colorado State Recreational Trails Grant Program which funds
projects for large recreational trail grants, small recreational trail grants, trail planning and
trail support grants, and which is a partnership among Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Great
Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), the Colorado Lottery, the federal Recreational Trails
Program (RTP) and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF); and,

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Morgan City Council supports this grant application
for a non-motorized trail grant, and if the grant is awarded, the City of Fort Morgan
supports the completion of the trail project; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Morgan will request approximately three-hundred
thousand dollars ($300,000) for the non-motorized trail grant from the Colorado State
Recreational Trails Grant program; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Morgan has appropriated funds of approximately
ninety-five thousand dollars ($95,000) for the purpose of provide matching funds for the
grant awarded to the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF FORT MORGAN, COLORADO:

Section 1: The City Council of the City of Fort Morgan strongly supports the
application and has appropriated matching funds for the non-motorized
trail grand from the Colorado State Recreational Trails Grant program.

Section 2: If the grant is awarded, the City Council of the City of Fort Morgan strongly
supports the completion of the trail project.

Section 3: The City Council of the City of Fort Morgan authorizes the expenditure of
funds necessary to meet the terms and obligations of any Grant awarded.

Section 4: If the grant is awarded, the City Council of the City of Fort Morgan hereby
authorizes the Mayor to sign the grant agreement.

Section 5: This resolution is to be in full force and effect from and after its passage
and approval.
INTRODUCED, PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 17th day of September 2019, the vote upon roll call being as follows:

Ayes: Mayor Ronald Shaver, Councilmembers Anderson, Fowler, Lindell, Northrup and Schossow

Nays: None.

Absent / Abstain: Councilmember Howe, Absent (excused)

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT MORGAN, COLORADO

BY: ____________________________
   Mayor Ronald Shaver

ATTEST:

[Signature]
John Brennan, City Clerk

STATE OF COLORADO )
COUNTY OF MORGAN ) ss. CERTIFICATE
CITY OF FORT MORGAN )

I, John Brennan, City Clerk for the City of Fort Morgan, Colorado, do hereby certify and attest that the foregoing Resolution is a true, perfect and complete copy of the Resolution adopted by the Council of Fort Morgan, Colorado, and is identical to the original thereof appearing in the official records of the City of Fort Morgan, Colorado, and that the same has not been, since its adoption, in any respect, rescinded or amended.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have affixed the seal of the City of Fort Morgan this 17th day of September, 2019.

[Signature]
John Brennan, City Clerk
EXHIBIT A

NON-MOTORIZED CONSTRUCTION APPLICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant or Organization Name: City of Fort Morgan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mailing Address: PO Box 100, Fort Morgan CO 80701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicant Lead Contact Name: Ty Hamer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone: 970-370-6563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is this the primary contact for this grant: ❑ YES ❑ NO</td>
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OFFICIAL USE ONLY – DUNS # (IF REQUIRED):

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name: Doak Duke</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Telephone: 970-542-6311</td>
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PRIMARY PARTNER INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE)

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Mailing Address:</td>
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<td>Partner Contact Name:</td>
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<td>Telephone:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is this the primary contact for this grant: ❑ YES ❑ NO</td>
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ABOUT THE PROJECT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title: Twamore Farm Trail System</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grant Request: $225,750.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Project Cost: $331,635.00</td>
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Project Summary: 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: Write a 2-3 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 brief 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 are the nearby towns? 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 the project is on?

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

Project Description:

The City of Fort Morgan plans to develop a trail system in a Conservation and Open Space Corridor called the Twamore Farm property along the north side of the South Platte River and opposite Riverside Park. This project will consist of 3.85 miles of 10-foot-wide multipurpose trail and 3.5 miles of interconnecting nature trails. The Twamore Property was purchased with a Colorado Open Lands grant in 2006 and is subject to Colorado Conservation Trust guidelines.

In August of 2018, with the help of the SE Group, the City of Fort Morgan completed a Master Plan for trails and connectivity for Fort Morgan and the surrounding area. Through various public input sessions, trails and outdoor recreation were clearly identified as a priority. The Twamore Farm property became a big part of the discussions and the project.

The Twamore Farm property is a very natural, mostly undeveloped 300-acre parcel of land. Although the majority of the area is relatively flat there are also ravines, streams and washes created by the 2013 flood to navigate the trails system around and several spots with good access to the sandy beaches of the South Platte River. The City of Fort Morgan Trails and Connectivity plan has identified and mapped out potential trail routes, trail varieties and access points. The conceptual design includes concepts for a "Fort Morgan Beach," with potential for stand-up paddle boarding and/or tubing, biking, hiking, running, dog walking paths, bird watching and general sightseeing. These trails will be a good match and similar in design to the Riverside Park trail system. Overall this project will enhance the current trail system as well as offer additional training grounds and loops for the High School Cross Country team.

The proposed project includes professional design/build of a trailhead, parking, the 5K loop trail, nature trails and access point to the river. The Master Plan includes a bike park and a pedestrian bridge, connecting the two trail systems at the east side of the properties. The City of Fort Morgan would like to see this property enhanced in a way to increase user access, while maintaining the natural beauty and habitat. This project will focus on trails, interpretive signage and access.

This project is located in Morgan County along the northernmost border of the City Limits, and runs parallel to Riverside Park along the north bank of the South Platte River.
EXHIBIT A

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

USER INFORMATION (Please check all that apply)

| ☑ Hiking       | □ Motorcycling | ☑ Equestrian |
| □ Walking      | □ Four-Wheeling | ☑ ADA Accessible |
| ☑ Running      | □ All-Terrain Vehicle | □ Paddling |
| □ Skateboarding | □ Snowmobiling | ☑ Other Education / Interpretive Signage |
| □ In-Line Skating | □ Snowshoeing | ☑ Other Exercise / Education |
| ☑ Biking       | □ X-Country Skiing | ☑ Other Wildlife viewing |

TRAIL SURFACE

| □ Asphalt       | □ Concrete | □ Other |
| □ Natural       | ☑ Crusher Fines | □ Other |

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

Nearest Town or City: City of Fort Morgan
County: Morgan
Latitude & Longitude Coordinates (in decimal degrees): 40°16'15.06"N 103°47'16.75"W
State Congressional District (https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members): 4th

Please fill out all the applicable categories for your project:

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<td>Miles of trail maintenance</td>
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<td>Miles of inter-connecting trail</td>
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<td>Miles of trail reroute</td>
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<td>Miles of trail to be decommissioned</td>
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<td>Miles of trail to be restored</td>
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<td>Miles of trail to be signed</td>
<td>3.85</td>
<td>Miles of trail grooming</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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Applicant Authorized Signature: __________________________ Date: 9/29/19
(From Applicant Organization)

Land Agency Authorized Signature: __________________________ Date: ______________
(From project location land agency, if different from applicant)
TIMELINE

Provide a timeline estimate using the following form. Remember that the project is to be completed within two and a half years of the award date. Any proposed changes, including extensions or modifications in the project timeline, must be requested in writing and approved in advance by the State Trails Program.

**PRELIMINARY TIMELINE ESTIMATE**

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CONSTRUCTION GRANT SCORING CRITERIA

All applicants must respond to the following selection criteria questions in nine pages or less. Use the numbered blank pages at the end of this section. This application will be scored on a 100 point basis. The maximum number of points that can be awarded for each question is shown in parentheses. Outside reviewers and State Trails staff will review each project. Projects will be ranked according to reviewer and staff scores.

Grant review subcommittee members review and score grant applications based on the totality of information available. This may include not only the answers provided to the application questions, but also additional information provided to the review subcommittee from agency staff and subcommittee member knowledge and information that is relevant to the proposed project.

Failure to provide a response to any question (unless otherwise noted) will reduce your project’s score. Please read and understand all application questions prior to answering. Respond in 12 point font. Reference all attachments.

SCOPE (15 Points Total)

1. **Scope (10 points)**
   Describe the proposed project including the length/width of trail construction, any major components necessary to complete the trail such as materials, under/overpasses, bridges, trail heads, trail sections, etc. – describe exactly what will be built. Discuss the ownership status of the trail corridor and any easements or land acquisitions that have been acquired for the trail. Address each trail component separately, specifically mentioning its characteristics. Please include a few site photos.

2. **Access/Trail Connections (5 points)**
   Briefly discuss how this project expands trail loops, links, or improves and/or restores trail use and connectivity to other trails, park areas, outdoor recreation opportunities, and/or other public recreation and community centers. If the project is connected to a larger trail system, describe the size, extent, and predominate uses of that system.

NEED (10 Points)

3. Clearly address unmet recreational trail needs and specifically explain how this project will meet those needs (i.e., trail demands, deteriorating conditions, etc.). Describe the community this project will serve and provide population and economic data. Discuss the ways in which the community currently is or is not compensating for the lack of the proposed project components. Briefly describe how the proposed trail currently and/or will accommodate multiple non-motorized uses within the region. Discuss the significance of the trail segment to users. List each user group and estimate their percentage of overall trail use, e.g., bicyclists – 40%, hikers – 50%, equestrian – 10%). How did you arrive at those estimates? Describe the project’s urgency. Why are CPW State Trails funds necessary for this grant cycle? What opportunities are lost if the grant is not awarded?
PLANNING/SUSTAINABILITY (45 Points Total)

4. Planning and Prioritization Process (15 points)
Is this project part of an approved master plan and if so, what priority is it given in that plan? Are there existing trails in the area? If so, was there any consideration to use those existing trail routes? Please explain the need for additional trail routes and why new trail construction is being pursued at this time. What best management practices were used during the planning process to ensure that the trail and its amenities will be sustainable? What design practices were used to ensure that the project will meet current and future use levels? How were wildlife and natural resource impacts addressed in the planning process? Have CPW wildlife specialists provided input or consultation on this project?

5. Maintenance and Sustainability (15 points)
Describe how the project will be maintained, and managed for long-term sustainability. Has an Operations and Maintenance plan been developed for the project areas? Have trail reroute options been considered for current on-the-ground unsustainable trails and trail sections in the project area? If so, are there plans to decommission and/or restore these unsustainable trail sections? Is this a multi-phase project, and if so, how many phases is it and how will future phases be funded? Estimate the annual costs to maintain the project once completed. How did you derive those numbers; how do you intend to fund long term maintenance; and who will be responsible for the long term maintenance? Is there committed funding and/or personnel and volunteer stewardship resources to support the long term maintenance? Will funds from the State Trails Grant Program be requested for this trail project in the future?

6. Wildlife and Natural Resources (15 points)
How were CPW staff engaged in the planning process? How were impacts to wildlife and habitat evaluated, avoided, and/or minimized? What factors were considered to avoid large blocks of less disturbed sensitive environmental resources such as wildlife habitat or wetlands in the planning process? What aspects were considered to evaluate wildlife connectivity across the landscape and to avoid and/or minimize the potential for fragmentation? If necessary, describe any plans for avoiding and/or minimizing wildlife and natural resource impacts. Describe how the applicant will help support the land manager in implementation. For example, if a season closure is recommended, what are the dates of the closure and how will it be implemented to be effective (signage, gates, game cameras, etc.)?

PUBLIC COMMENT (15 points)

7. Public notification is mandatory for all projects. Projects without public involvement are not eligible for rating.
Describe the public planning process that identified the construction of this trail(s) as a priority. Summarize the feedback received from the public and how it was determined that your constituents want and will use the project? Has this project been deemed a priority by any other agencies or given any significant designations? Describe any received opposition to the project and how the concerns have been addressed.
ABILITY (15 Points Total)

8. Matching Funds and Partnerships (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 as a separate attachment (resolution from the governing body should include support and resource commitment; a separate support letter is not required). Beyond these letters you may submit up to 5 letters of non-funding support.

9. Contingency/Ability (5 points)
What other funding sources have been dedicated or are anticipated to be dedicated to this project? Will applicant and/or partner funds be lost if State Trails funds are not awarded? If you are not awarded State Trails 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 (if any) 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?
Priority 1: Focus for this project would be to complete the multi-purpose trail of approximately 3.2 miles and 8 to 10 feet in width, a gravel parking area, trailhead and interpretive signage. Staff recently drove the property and believe it would be relatively straightforward to stake out the intended path in a creative and meandering flow through the property.

Priority 2: Will include interconnecting nature trails of 18 to 36 inches in width, these trails will remain natural and be intending for more adventurous hikers and mountain bikers. These nature trails could navigate through dense trees, ravines and dry creek beds.

Access to the river could include both a wider crusher fines trail with a viewing platform, ADA access and benches, as well as various nature trails providing access to more secluded beaches.

The city would like to pursue including interpretive signage at various points as a way to educate the public on the history of the land and community, past flood events that have shaped the land and the wildlife typically found in the South Platte River Corridor.

Later Phases: Additional future projects could include a pedestrian bridge, archery range and water-related activities.

This property was purchased by the City of Fort Morgan and permanently conserved with a Colorado Open Lands Conservation Easement Agreement. Any improvements or development of the land must be submitted as a management plan to Colorado Open Lands and approved before construction can begin.
This project would include parking, trailhead enhancements, gates, etc., and signage off Colorado Hwy 52 just north of the Rainbow Bridge.

Access to the trail can be by parking at the trailhead or can be found by parking at one of the many parking sites within Riverside Park and following the current trail to the west, crossing the Rainbow Bridge and entering Twamore through the current access gate.

The addition of the Twamore Trail along with the current Riverside Trails would provide public access to 7 miles of multi-purpose trails and 4 miles of nature trails.

These trails would see a variety of use from local residents out for a quiet walk with their dogs, mountain bikers looking for a quick workout, travelers looking to stretch their legs, educational tours, walking meetings, bird watching, and much more.

The City of Fort Morgan recently completed work on a Bike Park and short trail system at our Brenda Joy Park located at 120 Cheyenne St., and we plan to begin the process of connecting our parks via bike lanes and wayfinding signage in the next couple of years. The initial phase will include safe routes from Brenda Joy to City Park and then on to Riverside and Twamore with additional routes connecting the town from east to west and north to south.

As these plans for trails continue to develop in the future, there is potential to connect a trail system leading out north into Morgan County. This would connect the City of Fort Morgan to Riverside and Twamore, the city golf course and further north to the Morgan Heights, Blue Sky and Saddle Ridge subdivisions.
Other than Jackson Lake State Park and the Pawnee National Grasslands, Morgan County has limited open space and outdoor recreation opportunities. Access to Jackson Lake State Park requires an entrance fee and the Pawnee Buttes Trailhead is 48 miles from the City of Fort Morgan. Recent Health Indicators for Morgan County are alarming and show a trend toward an unhealthy lifestyle.

- 24% Adult Physical Inactivity Rate
- 28% Adult Obesity Rate
- 32.2% Percent of Children 5 to 14 years are overweight or obese
- 16% of Morgan County children live in poverty
- 8.2% of households are linguistically isolated

**Health data is derived from Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and County Health Rankings.

Census data from 2017 reports Morgan County with a population of 28,075 and and average household income of $50,408. Data shows Fort Morgan with a population of 11,183 residents in 2017. Fort Morgan is quickly becoming a Majority-Minority community with current demographics showing a population of 46.9% Hispanic, 8% Other Minorities and 44.8% White. The City of Fort Morgan is a very diverse community with over 26 different languages being spoken. This diversity is a great asset of the city but creates barriers to organized recreation opportunities, leaving residents to seek out ways to play and recreate within their respective cultures, or in non-organized areas like biking, walking, hiking and outdoor activities.

The Twamore property offers a chance to educate our new residents on the types of wildlife found in Northern Colorado. With the location of the Twamore property being within walking distance of Fort Morgan High School and minutes away from our Morgan Community College and other schools, there is a huge opportunity to use this trail system for educational purposes.

Our current trail system sees a variety of users, with the majority being walkers, runners, dog walkers and trail riding. We anticipate the Twamore Trail seeing a similar variety with 50 to 60 percent usage by walkers and runners, around 35 to 40 percent biking (although this may increase as this property may be more dynamic and exciting to ride) and less than 5 percent equestrian.

CPW State Trail Funds would enable these trails to be professionally designed and built. Without the CPW funds the project will be dramatically scaled back, and the timetable for completion will be drastically lengthened. The City will continue to move forward with the project but put focus on only the multi-purpose trail.
The 2016 Fort Morgan Comprehensive Plan set out many goals related to improving the trails, pedestrian and bicycle networks throughout the city. In 2017 the City of Fort Morgan contracted with the SE Group to create a Trails and Connectivity Master Plan to guide the City’s future development, design and implementation of trails, bike paths and pedestrian networks.

One goal of the Plan focused on the need to connect and expand the existing trail network in Riverside Park, including additional parking and a trailhead north of the Rainbow Bridge to allow access to the Twamore Farm area, and to expand existing trail systems through possible coordination with the ditch/canal companies and continue to increase user accessibility.

Two areas were identified for potential trail development: the Twamore Farm and the Quail Dunes Golf Course. Both properties offer distinct and different experiences to hikers and bikers. The 300 acres along the north bank of the South Platte known as the Twamore Farm offers a site well suited for a variety of trails including multi-use, single track, bike park and equestrian. This property offers good access to the riverfront and could bring other recreation/quality of life aspects to Morgan County.

Located a few miles outside of the City Limits, Quail Dunes Golf Course is owned and operated by the City and already used regularly by nearby residents for walking and recreation. The property contains a wide variety of native areas that could be utilized for additional single-track trails for hikers looking for more adventure or mountain bikers looking to develop their skills.

Over the past couple years the City of Fort Morgan has put great effort into quality of life issues and the development of additional outdoor recreation. In 2018 the City contracted with Evergreen Skate Parks to design and build a $225,000, 8,000 square-foot skate park located at Brenda Joy Park within the City Limits. In 2019 this project was expanded by adding 31 different bike park features and developing a fun and challenging bike park for riders of all abilities.

Focus has now been moved to developing the Twamore Property and starting the process of trail construction. The Trails and Connectivity plan has provided maps, concepts and best practices for the area. Issues that will need to be addressed will be environmental and wildlife impacts, floodplain issues and erosion control. This area is in a floodplain which could create a challenge in the event of a flood similar to that of 2013. A wide range of wildlife inhabits or uses the property including eagles and owls, whitetail deer, turkeys, bats and many other species typically found around river corridors in Northeast Colorado. On Sept. 19 City Staff toured the property with CPW staff to review the wildlife and environmental impacts of developing trails at the Twamore Property. CPW staff had little to no concerns with any significant impact to wildlife, and pointed out several things to consider when laying out the trail system for longevity and maintenance.
Long-term maintenance for these trails will be similar to that of the trail system at Riverside Park and should not create a challenge for current staff or too large of a budget responsibility. Maintenance will be performed by the 8 full-time employees and 8+ seasonal employees regularly employed by the Parks Department.

Maintenance will likely include mowing side areas around trails 5-6 times per year (estimated 180 hours of labor) and spraying for weed control on trails and side areas 3-4 times per year (96 hours of labor). At $18 per hour the city is prepared to budget an additional $5,000 for labor per year and another $1,500 - $2,000 for equipment maintenance and chemicals. This will be budgeted within the Parks salary, chemical and equipment line items.

Careful consideration will be given to locating the multi-use trail on the highest ground possible and out of the possible flood paths and wash areas. Lower spots and access to the river will consist of narrow 18"-36" path that will need less general maintenance.

At the present time the City is working to apply for a CDOT permit for ingress and egress to the parking area. If the entrance is delayed by CDOT the City will continue to move forward building trails, utilizing the current parking located at Riverside Park with access by crossing the Rainbow Bridge.

If successful with this grant application the City plans to complete ingress and egress off of State Hwy. 52, a dirt parking lot, trailhead with gate and signage, and to design and install interpretive signage. Without this grant the City will focus on the multi purpose trail and may have to push additional work back to a later date.

Eventually there could be interest in building a pedestrian bridge connecting the two trail systems at the eastern side of the property.

Additional funds could be requested from the State Trails Grant Program in the future, but most likely for further new development like the Quail Dunes Golf Course or connection trails to the North, connecting Riverside and Twamore to the Golf Course and then to the neighborhoods of Morgan Heights, Blue Sky and Saddle Ridge.
CPW staff along with city staff have toured the property together and have discussed the possible routes for the multi-use trails and the nature trails. Careful consideration will be taken to locate the trail in areas where construction will have the least impact on the natural landscape, deer trails, downed trees, ravines, streams and other natural habitat. Todd Cozad with the CPW had a lot of great ideas and provided the feedback to help us make sure we continue this project in a fashion that will allow the property to remain naturally pristine.

While on the tour with the CPW staff we saw owls, deer, eagles and turkeys. Todd Cozad did not initially state too many concerns and we have asked him if he would like to continue to be involved as we move forward with the layout of the trails and the interpretive signs.

This property will have only one access point for the public, a small gate that will allow for bicycles, wheelchairs, horses and pedestrians. In the event the area needs to be temporarily closed or conditions become unsafe due to weather or river levels, the gate can be locked and signage can be installed.

Seasonal closures are yet to be determined but will be considered and if needed enforced by locking gates and installing signage.
The City of Fort Morgan Comprehensive plan completed in 2016, identified recreation, outdoor activity and trails as a priority for the community.

"Additional recommendations include connecting and expanding the existing trail system with additional parking provided north of Rainbow Bridge, pedestrian bridges to connect additional trails north of the river. " (Comment from 2016, Comprehensive Plan)

The planning process that led to this project began in late 2017, a stakeholder working group was developed that included a collection of residents, educators, city staff and council members. This group met throughout the process to discuss the community’s needs, develop goals and offer feedback and recommendations. Two community outreach events were held to gather additional input form the larger community.

On Aug. 1, 2017, during a local community public gathering, SE Group performed an outreach program and again the public identified trails, connectivity and outdoor recreation as priorities. Additional public input is planned as well as selecting a local group of running and biking enthusiasts to tour the property and assist with mapping out the different routes.

During the City of Fort Morgan’s regular City Council meeting held on Sept. 3, 2019, the Council discussed the importance of developing a trail system at the Twamore Farm property. On Sept. 17 the Council unanimously approved a Resolution supporting this grant application and committing matching funds.
The City of Fort Morgan plans to dedicate Conservation Trust dollars to this project and is in a solid financial situation to meet the 30% required match. The Fort Morgan City Council unanimously passed a resolution of support for this grant application on Sept. 17, 2019.

The 2020 final budget will be approved in November 2019 and will include the matching funds allocated for this project.
The 2020 City of Fort Morgan Budget will allocate $175,000 of Conservation Trust dollar to this project. However, without the support of a CPW Trails grant the project will be scaled down to include only the multi-purpose trail construction in 2020.

The City of Fort Morgan has a strong success rate with GOCO grants, FAA grants and DOLA grants. The City has successfully partnered with the Morgan County school district on many grant projects and staff is confident in their ability to administer this grant and finish this project on time.

2019 DOLA City Campus Design Project - $800,000 (ongoing)
2019 Brenda Joy Bike Park – $45,000
2017 Trail Master Plan - $97,985
2014 Riverside Park Flood Restoration Softball Fields - $566,470
2013 Columbine Elementary Playground - $100,000
2007 Baker School Field Renovation - $165,220
2006 Twamore Farm Acquisition - $282,597
2005 Fulton Heights Playground Renovation - $25,000
2004 Riverside Trail Enhancement - $15,000
### Exhibit B
Budget Form - Project Name: Twamore Trails - Fort Morgan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOURCE OF FUNDS</th>
<th>Date Secured</th>
<th>CPW Trails Grant Request [A]</th>
<th>Total Project Match [B]</th>
<th>Total Funding ($) [C]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CASH</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Fort Morgan</td>
<td>10/15/2019</td>
<td>$ 96,750.00</td>
<td>$ 96,750.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPW Grant</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>$ 225,750.00</td>
<td>$ 225,750.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IN-KIND</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor of Parks staff</td>
<td>9/17/2019</td>
<td>$ 5,760.00</td>
<td>$ 5,760.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks Equipment Used</td>
<td>9/17/2019</td>
<td>$ 3,375.00</td>
<td>$ 3,375.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL SOURCES OF FUNDS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 225,750.00</td>
<td>$ 105,885.00</td>
<td>$ 331,635.00</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>[CASH] Description of Work</th>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Unit Price</th>
<th>Total (B*D)</th>
<th>CPW Funds</th>
<th>Total Project Match ($)</th>
<th>Total Funding ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Multipurpose Trail Construction - to include lay out for 10&quot; foot wide path, trail routing, ground prep, back fill, compaction, crusher fines, vegetation and tree trimming and weed control.</td>
<td>3.85 miles</td>
<td>$ 20,000.00</td>
<td>$ 77,000.00</td>
<td>$ 53,900.00</td>
<td>$ 23,100.00</td>
<td>$ 77,000.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature Trails - to include routing of connecting inner loops, river access, weed control and clearing of debris for 18-36&quot; nature trails.</td>
<td>3.5 miles</td>
<td>$ 15,000.00</td>
<td>$ 52,500.00</td>
<td>$ 36,750.00</td>
<td>$ 15,750.00</td>
<td>$ 52,500.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ingress/egress and parking - access point off of HWY 52 into dirt or gravel parking lot.</td>
<td>1 EA</td>
<td>$ 50,000.00</td>
<td>$ 50,000.00</td>
<td>$ 35,000.00</td>
<td>$ 15,000.00</td>
<td>$ 50,000.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail head barriers and gate - split rail or other attractive natural looking fencing, gate structure, Shade structure for interpretive sign.</td>
<td>1 EA</td>
<td>$ 10,000.00</td>
<td>$ 10,000.00</td>
<td>$ 7,000.00</td>
<td>$ 3,000.00</td>
<td>$ 10,000.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CATEGORY 1-Contracted Services** Identify as: Youth Corps, Engineering, Contractor, etc.

**CATEGORY 3-Materials/Supplies** Identify as: Signs, crusher fines, native seed, weed barrier, etc.

**[IN-KIND] Description of Work**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Unit Price</th>
<th>Total (B*D)</th>
<th>CPW Funds</th>
<th>Total Project Match ($)</th>
<th>Total Funding ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Additional Crusher fines / Millings / 4 inch deep / 8-10 foot wide 3.85 miles</td>
<td>2800 cubic yard</td>
<td>$ 35.00</td>
<td>$ 98,000.00</td>
<td>$ 68,600.00</td>
<td>$ 29,400.00</td>
<td>$ 98,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood features, stream crossings/bridges, erosion control timbers etc.</td>
<td>10 EA</td>
<td>$ 3,000.00</td>
<td>$ 30,000.00</td>
<td>$ 24,500.00</td>
<td>$ 5,500.00</td>
<td>$ 30,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpretive Signs / post etc.</td>
<td>10 EA</td>
<td>$ 500.00</td>
<td>$ 5,000.00</td>
<td>$ 5,000.00</td>
<td>$ 5,000.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional Categories**

$ 133,000.00

**USE OF FUNDS - CASH SUBTOTAL**

$ 225,750.00 | $ 96,750.00 | $ 322,500.00

**[IN-KIND] Description of Work**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Unit Price</th>
<th>Total (B*D)</th>
<th>CPW Funds</th>
<th>Total Project Match ($)</th>
<th>Total Funding ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Park Dept labor for 1 supervisor &amp; 1 worker for weed control, etc.</td>
<td>240 hr.</td>
<td>$ 24.00</td>
<td>$ 5,760.00</td>
<td>$ 5,760.00</td>
<td>$ 5,760.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>skid / loader etc. / Sprayer other equip</td>
<td>15 days</td>
<td>$ 225.00</td>
<td>$ 3,375.00</td>
<td>$ 3,375.00</td>
<td>$ 3,375.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Category 2 - Salary/Wages**

$ - | $ - | $ - | 0

**Category 3 - Materials/Tools**

$ - | $ - | $ - | 0

**Additional Categories**

$ - | $ - | $ - | 0

**IN-KIND SUBTOTAL**

$ 9,135.00 | $ 9,135.00 | 0

**TOTAL PROJECT COST**

$ 225,750.00 | $ 105,885.00 | $ 331,635.00

30% REQUIRED MATCH

$ 67,725.00
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.

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

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

✓ Both are recommended considerations during and after construction to avoid invasive species or noxious weeds due to disturbance of soil.
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  

**Yes, very high potential**

**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.*

Printed name of applicant:
Hamel

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.

Signature of applicant

Date: 9-24-19

Todd Cozad - District Wildlife Manager, Colorado Parks and 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.

Signature authority:

Date: 9/24/2019
Looking North along HWY 52—Future Entry way would be in this picture at some point.

Current Gate and Access Point—just across Rainbow Bridge along HWY 52

After entering gate looking North East

One of several points that open up right along the bank of the river. Bank is approximately 20 feet high. This view is looking west towards Rainbow Bridge

Channel / Ravine Created During 2013 Flood.
Background and Existing Conditions

Twamore Farm is a 300-acre city-owned parcel located on the north bank of the South Platte River. The parcel is bordered by the river to the south, State Highway 52 to the west, and farmland to the north and east. It is directly across from Riverside Park and connected by the iconic Rainbow Arch bridge. The city acquired the property in 2006 via a GOCO grant, has not developed it, and conserved it with Colorado Open Lands.

The parcel is former farmland and the city has continued to allow grazing in the northeastern corner of the property. This is likely to continue until it further projects are implemented.

The terrain is very flat with scattered trees and high grasses. There are ravines and stream channels on the property, formed during flood events. In 2013 the South Platte River flooded, downing trees and leaving debris on the property. When the river is at normal levels, sandy, flat areas are accessible to enjoy the river.

Photos of Existing Conditions at Twamore Farm
Unpaved Graded Trail (5k loop)

Unpaved graded paths are wide paths designed to accommodate multiple uses. A graded gravel surface has a lesser impact on the natural environment and provides accessible outdoor recreation to a variety of user groups. These trails are appropriate for child and adult bicyclists, horseback riding, strollers, wheelchairs, walking, jogging/running, and dog walking. As a shared use path, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) recommends a minimum 10’ width, with 12’ to 14’ recommended in heavily trafficked areas.
DID YOU KNOW?

Fort Morgan has more parks and open space per capita than the national average and higher than most Colorado municipalities, with 77 acres of developed parkland plus over 300 acres of undeveloped open space.

COMMUNITY SERVICES + FACILITIES

SNAPSHOT HIGHLIGHTS:

• Fort Morgan has 77 acres of developed parkland - nine public parks including one dog only area, a premier disc golf course, and over three miles of scenic nature trails.
• 80% of Fort Morgan residential parcels are within .25 miles of a park.
• The City's six largest General Fund programs are: police, streets, parks, library, fire, and recreation.

CITIZENS' PERSPECTIVE:

The public desires more cultural facilities in Fort Morgan, including more public art placed throughout the City and in parks, more youth-oriented activities, and additional library services. According to the stakeholders, the existing parks, recreation and open space network is an important asset in Fort Morgan and one that should be supported and expanded. However, they also feel that the recreation system and facilities in Fort Morgan are outdated and too localized. They have expressed a strong desire for the City to build a modern recreation/community center that integrates new types of programming for multiple generations and affordable recreation programs. Stakeholders are supportive of the collaboration with the County and neighboring communities to create a recreation district. Additional recommendations include connecting and expanding the existing trail system with additional parking provided north of Rainbow Bridge, pedestrian bridges to connect additional trails north of the river, maintaining emphasis on tourism and events. Stakeholders agree that the City should continue to preserve the land within the floodplain as parks and open space.
**Goal CSF 2.** Maintain a park, trail, and recreation system that serves the diverse recreation needs of Fort Morgan's residents and visitors.

*Policy CSF 2.1* Integrate new types of programming for various generations and affordable recreation programs.

*Policy CSF 2.2* Expand existing trail systems through possible coordination with ditch/canal companies and continue to increase user accessibility.

*Policy CSF 2.3* Work with the County and neighboring communities to create a recreation district with the goal of approving a funding option to build a community/recreation center.

*Policy CSF 2.4* Coordinate and partner with the school district to allow park access.

*Policy CSF 2.5* Develop additional neighborhood parks as the city expands.

**Goal CSF 3.** Protect and enhance the South Platte River corridor as an environmental and recreational resource.

*Policy CSF 3.1* Connect and expand the existing trail network in Riverside Park, including additional parking and trailhead north of the Rainbow Bridge.

*Policy CSF 3.2* Link the passive recreational use of the South Platte River corridor with leveraging economic development.

*Policy CSF 3.3* Create a pedestrian connection over the South Platte River to connect additional trails north of the river to the fishing ponds and south side trails.

*Policy CSF 3.4* Ensure access points for emergency vehicles, police services, etc.
Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Re: Grant for Twamore Trail Development

Dear Members of the board;

I am writing you this letter in support of the development of the Twamore Farms trails. As a family physician in Fort Morgan for over 30 years I have watched as our population has become more and more overweight like the rest of the nation. I have also witnessed the City of Fort Morgan continue to offer exercise options for it's residents. They recently added pickle ball courts, and new tennis courts. The current Riverside Trails are frequently utilized by our residents. I feel that adding these new trails will give people more variety of scenery and therefore hopefully more incentive to exercise. Also I feel that it might be another feature to make our town more alluring to people moving to Colorado to take advantage of our 300+ days of sunshine.

So in summary, I ask that you please give Fort Morgan strong consideration for this grant. I believe it will be a real benefit to both the residents and the city itself!

Sincerely,

Kevin V. Lindell, M.D.
September 18, 2019

Colorado Parks and Wildlife Department

Dear Trail Construction Grant Members:

Morgan Community College (MCC) whole-heartedly offers this letter of support for the Fort Morgan Twamore Farm development project. This community project would support the College’s objectives to promote a healthy work-life balance for its employees, provide recreational opportunities for its students, and support regional economic development and community success.

More than 900 students attend classes on the MCC campus each year, which is located just half a mile from the current east entrance to Riverside Park. In the last five years, the students attending MCC are increasingly younger and more interested in recreational activities. As a commuter college, MCC does not have the recreational amenities that larger and athletic-oriented colleges often provide. The Twamore Farm project would provide a significant expansion to the opportunities for student recreation. Further, the project would enhance the College’s ability to attract potential employees.

The proposed pedestrian bridge would provide easy access to the recreational area for students and employees. While the current trails in Riverside Park are adequate, the multiple uses of the area create hazardous conditions. Walkers, bikers, and Frisbee golf enthusiasts often make use of the same area simultaneously. The diversified trails in Twamore would provide safer and more enjoyable spaces for all recreation enthusiasts. Further, the project proposes to provide additional recreational activities, such as stand-up paddle boarding, tubing, and water activities that are not currently available in the region. Potential collaborations between MCC, the City of Fort Morgan, and Twamore include events such as 5K fundraisers for student clubs and charities, student/employee bicycling clubs, and student intramural sports.

MCC is dedicated to being a community leader in education and community development. We highly recommend the approval of the Fort Morgan Twamore Farm development project given its significant potential impact to recreation opportunities and economic development for the region.

Sincerely,

Curt Freed, Ph.D.
President

Curt Freed, Ph.D.
President
970-542-3105
1-800-622-0216 ext. 3105
Curt.Freed@MorganCC.edu

Fort Morgan Campus
920 Barlow Road
Fort Morgan, CO 80701
970-542-3100
Fax 970-542-3114

Bennett Center
100 I-70 Frontage Road
PO Box 554
Bennett, CO 80102
303-644-4034
Fax 303-644-4680

Burlington Center
340 S. 14th Street
Burlington, CO 80807
719-346-9300
Fax 719-346-5236

Limon Center
940 2nd Street
PO Box 729
Limon, CO 80828
719-775-8873
Fax 719-775-2580

Wray Center
32415 Highway 34
P.O. Box 36
Wray, CO 80758
970-332-5755
Fax 970-332-5754
September 17, 2019

Colorado Parks and Wildlife Department  
1313 Sherman Street, 6th Floor  
Denver, CO 80203

To whom it may concern:

I heard a repurposed proverb today during a meeting on collaboration across sectors to improve community health; It takes a village to keep a village healthy.

Fort Morgan is my village. I am passionate about population-based health initiatives and it truly takes a variety of partners to make it happen. Unfortunately, our health statistical region (HSR 1) has a statistically significant higher rate of adult and child obesity.

Built environments that support physical activity is one of the strategies for obesity prevention. The City of Fort Morgan takes this seriously by investing in parks, funding a sidewalk replacement program, and organizing affordable recreation programs.

I was an active participant on the City of Fort Morgan's Trails Master Planning committee. I am grateful the city continues to move forward on these plans.

I give my full support on the Twamore Farm Trails project for the City of Fort Morgan. I support it as a resident, mother of four, and a public health professional.

Thank you for your consideration of the grant proposal submitted by Fort Morgan staff.

Best,
Alli Howe, MPH, CHES  
Director of Client Health Services  
Northeast Colorado Health Department  
228 West Railroad Avenue  
Fort Morgan, CO 80701

- Serving Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington and Yuma counties since 1948 -
October 20, 2019

RE: Trail System Grant for Fort Morgan

Colorado Parks and Wildlife,

My name is Paula Hough. I have been a lifelong resident of Morgan County. I attended school here, and although my husband and I attended college in another community, we both decided to return to our roots. For the past eighteen years I have been the owner of a thriving fitness center that provides healthy opportunities for Morgan County citizens and those visiting the area. Obviously, health and wellness are very important to me. However, my passion lies with coaching kids. I have been the Fort Morgan High School cross country coach for the past ten years. My running program operates eleven months of the year. A big part of that program’s success is having safe and accessible areas to run and train on. We are blessed to have one of the best trail systems that I have ever been on in our own backyard. It is located along the south side of the Platte River and attached to our beautiful Riverside Park. It was a well planned out looped system with numerous switchbacks and possibilities, including being attached to the historic Rainbow Bridge. Although my team trains six days a week, we find ourselves on this trail system at least three of those days. Our team is even host to a race invite involving up to two dozen teams and 400 to 500 runners every year from across the state. The coaches from other communities always tell me how they never miss our race, largely since it takes place on such a great trail system. My team does not take our trails for granted. We are very thankful for what we have been given for our use.

When I heard that Fort Morgan had acquired the property on the north side of the river, I was excited hoping that an extension of our trails would continue, opening us up to more beautiful and safe areas to run as well as the possibility of having 10K race events. Fort Morgan has owned the property for some time now but has not been able to fund the trail construction project yet. We reside in a very rural, low income community, so often our resources need to go to other projects. However, I would argue that once the trails on the north side are constructed that they will be one of the most used features in our community.

Besides coaching athletes weekly on our trails, I am also a runner myself. I run towards nightfall and I am in good company. The trails along the Platte River are full of dozens of people that time of night. People like me, who are running or walking to decompress after work. Women walking with friends, as well as families walking their dogs or playing there with their children. There are also many young athletes out there complimenting their workout programs with a jog or brisk run. It is a very heavily used trail. My husband runs the trail in the mornings with a small group of members from my gym. He loves to see the many of our retired community on the trail, either with friends or trying to keep themselves healthy while enjoying nature. He, as well as all of them, feel safe walking in an area that is well-maintained and quite free of any dangerous obstacles, even when in the early morning dark hours.

We are fortunate to have such a great trail system in Fort Morgan. The thought that went into its construction, as well as the daily maintenance that our parks department puts into making it safe and beautiful makes it a heavily used community feature. The possibility that it could be expanded to the
other side of the river is exciting. Our cross-country team will be frequent users to this new possibility as I am sure the rest of our community will. We hope that you will consider Fort Morgan when deciding for your grant. We are a small community that values health, wellness, and recreation for everyone. This is one way the City of Fort Morgan can offer that with your assistance.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Paula Hough
The Body Firm Fitness Center, owner
Fort Morgan High School Cross Country, head coach