

Non-Motorized Trails Stewardship Program



2023 PILOT PROGRAM APPLICANT INTEREST FORM

Submit this completed form to be combined with a Non-Motorized Maintenance Application to trails@state.co.us by October 3, 2023.

APPLICANT

Type Land Manager Non-Profit

Organization

Postal address

City State CO ZIP Code

Contact name

Contact email Phone

FUNDING

Grant request for 2 - 4 person crews
(max \$75,000) \$

Grant request for 5-8 person crews
(max \$150,000) \$

Match (min. 25% of grant request) \$

Total \$

STEWARDSHIP ELIGIBILITY

Why is this program a good fit for your organization?

STEWARDSHIP WORK PLAN

Describe the type of trail stewardship and the anticipated work plan your organization would perform if funded by this opportunity.

STEWARDSHIP CREW

Describe your current ability to hire and support trail crews who perform non-motorized trail maintenance.

AREA OF IMPACT

Describe the importance of the trail system that would be positively impacted by this work to both the local community and the State of Colorado.

Application form



NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION - MAINTENANCE

PROJECT BASICS

Title City of Greeley Trail Stewardship Crew

Type Construction Planning
 Maintenance Support

Phased project Yes No If yes, Phase # of

Brief summary

The core mission of this crew is trail maintenance hand work across the full trail system with an emphasis on vegetation management and surface grooming on all soft surface trails.

Grant request	\$ 68,260.00	Grant ratio ¹	79 %
Match	\$ 17,880.00	Match ratio	21 %
Total	\$ 86,140.00	Total	100 %

APPLICANT

Type Local County Federal Tribal
 Recreation and Metro Districts Non-Profit

Organization City of Greeley Natural Areas & Trails Division

Postal address 321 N 16th Ave

City Greeley State CO ZIP Code 80631

General email trails@greeleygov.com UEI # VJG3QJJKZ1X6

Lead contact Justin Scharton Title Division Manager

Telephone (970) 350-9412 Email justin.scharton@greeleygov.com

Project manager Kristen Wilkinson Title Community Conservation Fellow

Telephone (970) 301-2869 Email kristen.wilkinson@greeleygov.com

PARTNER OR CO-SPONSOR

Organization N/A

Postal address

City State CO ZIP Code

Contact name Title

Telephone Email

¹ Grant ratio = grant request / total. Match ratio = match / total.

PROPERTY			
Nearest town or city	Greeley	County	Weld
Latitude/Longitude	40.44290N/104.80047W	Congressional district	4
Name of property owner	City of Greeley		
Trail Corridor controlled by	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee simple	<input type="checkbox"/> Lease	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Easement
	<input type="checkbox"/> License	<input type="checkbox"/> ROW	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:

TRAIL			
Uses	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hiking, walking, running	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biking	<input type="checkbox"/> Equestrian
E-bikes allowed?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Snow sports (non-motorized)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADA Accessible
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:		
Estimate percentage by type (e.g.,) 50% hiking, etc.	63% biking, 37% walking		
Surface	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crusher fines	<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concrete
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:		
Size of new trailhead (sq. ft.)	Length of trail being planned		
Length of new trail construction ²	Length of trail maintenance		30 miles
Length of inter-connecting trail	Length of trail reroute		
Length of decommissioned trail	270 ft	Length of restored trail	
Length of trail to be signed	1 mile	Length of trail grooming	7.2 miles
Other: Trailhead maintenance (9 total), education and outreach			
Estimated amount of paid crew hours:	Grant 50%	Match: 50%	

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

On behalf of the applicant entity, I certify to the best of my knowledge that the information in this application is true and correct.

Authorized Representative

Signature	Justin Scharton <small>Digitally signed by Justin Scharton Date: 2023.10.02 16:03:25 -06'00'</small>	Date	10/02/2023
Name	Justin Scharton	Title	Division Manager

² Length of trail – use miles, square feet, linear feet



Colorado Department of Natural Resources
State Trails Program
Attn: Fletcher Jacobs
13787 US Hwy 85
Littleton, CO 80125

September 30, 2023

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

Please accept this letter as evidence of support for the City of Greeley's State Trails grant applications including one for the Poudre River Trail Narrows design (planning grant) and one for a Trails Stewardship Crew.

Staff anticipates that the resolution will be on the Oct. 17th City Council meeting agenda and the approved resolution will be provided to your office prior to the December 1st deadline.

Thank you for the flexibility to provide the required resolution after the grant deadline. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the City's application and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Diana Frick

Diana Frick

Interim Director Culture, Parks, and Recreation Department

Timeline



NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION

PROJECT DETAILS

Organization City of Greeley

Project title City of Greeley Trail Stewardship Crew

TASK <small>Mobilization, staffing, construction or maintenance elements, planning phases, etc.</small>	Dates*	Dates	Dates	Dates	Dates	Dates	Dates
Grant Award-Contract	Q1 2024						
Hire Seasonal Crew		Q2 2024					
Trail Maintenance Work		Q2 2024	Q3 2024				
Snow Removal (as needed)				Q4 2024			
Sign Inventory and Installation				Q4 2024			
Trail De-commission (if time allows)				Q4 2024			
Administrative Close-out					Q1 2025		

*The timeline is an estimate of your project completion. Remember the project must be completed within 2.5 years of the award date. Suggestion - use quarterly or multiple month time frames [Q2/XX; Jun-Sept XX]. Initial grant expiration date will be June 30th or December 31st, dependent upon assigned funding source.

Criteria Questions



NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION - MAINTENANCE

Organization City of Greeley

Project title City of Greeley Trail Stewardship Crew

1. PROJECT NEED

15 points

- A. Give a detailed description of the project, including information such as mileage or width of trail maintenance, re-route or restoration plans, and any other trail components/structures.

Of Greeley's 30 miles of trails, about 23 miles consist of 8-10ft wide concrete paths. Trail maintenance hand work on these concrete trails includes string trimming vegetation as appropriate, blowing debris off trail after mowing, cleaning up debris after large storm events and targeted weed management. Greeley has approximately 7.2 miles of soft surface trails, ranging from 10ft wide crusher fines to 2 ft wide natural surface single track. On these soft surface trails, work will include trail surface grooming and vegetation management around infrastructure and amenities. At trailheads, work will include litter clean up, string trimming, weed management and repair of crusher fine access paths after large storm events. Crews will also conduct on-going trail user education and outreach and trail monitoring. The tasks listed above are the primary objective, if time allows after these are completed then crews may complete a signage inventory, installation of high priority trail signage and decommissioning a short section of the Poudre Trail, which includes removing 270ft of 10ft wide concrete and re-vegetating the area.

- B. Describe the project's urgency and why it is being pursued at this time.

The Natural Areas & Trails (NAT) team is struggling to keep up with trail maintenance at current levels of staffing. In particular, labor intensive handwork is often delayed, resulting in mowed debris on trails and benches completely hidden by weeds. With impressive precipitation levels, 2023 has been a very challenging vegetation management season. In addition, in September 2023, a new natural area was opened, adding three miles of trails to the system. No new staff positions were approved in the 2024 budget and funding for seasonal positions has declined in recent years. The NAT division is fairly new, formed in 2019, and the Greeley community is somewhat unfamiliar with natural areas and trails. This project is urgent at this time to demonstrate the value of natural areas and trails to the Greeley community, by making the trails a welcoming and safe place for all.

- C. Describe the current condition of the existing trail. Include how it arrived at its current condition.

In 2023, trailside vegetation has grown rapidly and, at times, overwhelmed sections of concrete trail, making recreation difficult. This hasn't caused lasting damage to the trails and is manageable with more frequent mowing and maintenance. This current condition is the result of unprecedented rainfall in 2023, reduced staff capacity and frequent equipment breakdowns. The soft surface trails have suffered more significant impacts including vegetation growing in the middle of the trail surface and significant erosion from large storm events. Maintenance on these trails is time consuming and more immediate issues often pull staff off the regular maintenance rotations. Additional seasonal staff and more funding for equipment repair and replacement will make a noticeable difference in trail user experience.

2. COMMUNITY BENEFIT

15 points

- A. Describe the community that will benefit from this project. Include relevant demographic and economic data.

This work will benefit Greeley's entire trail system, spanning across the community. The community that will benefit the most from this project is trail users, which includes both Greeley residents and visitors from other communities. Improved trail grooming and maintenance may also encourage folks who live nearby to use the trails, perhaps for the first time. Nearly all of Greeley's 30 miles of trails are within a 10 minute walk (0.5 miles) of areas identified in the North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization's Environmental Justice Plan. These areas meet certain low income and/or minority population criteria and are shown on the attached map.

Greeley's 2023 estimated population is 112,000 and it is the fastest growing city in Colorado. The median household income is just over \$60K and Greeley has a poverty level of 15.3%. Persons 65+ years of age comprise 12.2% of the population. Hispanic/Latine people comprise just over 40% of Greeley's population.

- B. Outline any deficiencies or barriers to access this project would address or improve for the abovementioned community.

In recent community surveys, trail users have identified tall trailside vegetation as a major safety concern, citing both reduced visibility around corners and concerns about hazards, such as hidden snakes. The ability to hire additional seasonal staff will help NAT stay on schedule with trailside mowing and increase the capacity to respond to debris from large storm events. Improved trail maintenance will make the trails more welcoming for new trail users, those with mobility limitations and people recreating with small children.

If time allows, the stewardship crew will also work on installing high priority signage on the trails, including wayfinding and regulatory signage. Improved signage will help users identify where they are on the trails, what they are allowed to do there and will make people feel more safe and welcome.

- C. Estimate the number of people and/or types of user groups that will have access to recreational opportunities as a result of this project. Include methods for determining this estimate.

In 2022, trail counters recorded approximately 300,000 total users on the Poudre and Sheep Draw Trails. This number does not include the number of people using the smaller, soft surface trails interior to the natural areas. Fewer people use these small nature trails, but they provide important nearby nature connections and are used primarily by visitors who live within walking distance. We estimate that 5,000-10,000 people use these nature trails annually.

Usage across the trail system is split fairly evenly between cyclists and pedestrians. Since this project benefits the entire trail system, it will likely improve user experience for over 300,000 people.

3. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

10 points

- A. Give a detailed description of who will oversee the trail work. Include who will perform the maintenance activities (staff, volunteers, conservation corps, contractors, etc.)

Trail work will be overseen by Chris Scully, Greeley Natural Areas & Trails Crew Supervisor. Maintenance activities will be performed by Greeley NAT technicians and seasonal staff. City staff will be assisted at times by the Weld County Youth Conservation Corps and volunteers organized by Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado's Weld County Volunteer and Partnership Coordinator, Ellen Bergly.

- B. Outline any CPW State Trails funding received in the last five years and if the project(s) were completed on time, on budget and within scope. For applicants without prior State Trails funding, provide examples of similar grant funded projects. Include project title, year of award, grant amount, and grantor for each.

Sheep Draw Trail (McCloskey TH) (2019)(\$78,690.35)

- this project had several project extensions due to the impacts of COVID
- the project was completed on budget and within scope

Poudre Nature Trails (2017)(\$186,024)

- the project received two 6-month extensions
 - it was completed on budget and within scope
-

4. PLANNING **10 points**

A. Discuss the process that identified this maintenance project as a priority.

Over the last few years, NAT field crews have struggled to keep up with regular trailside mowing, due to staffing shortages and equipment breakdowns. Trail users have become increasingly frustrated with the condition of trailside vegetation and have expressed their concerns via community surveys, emails and phone calls. The situation escalated in 2023, when unprecedented spring and summer precipitation, combined with months of equipment problems, resulted in very poor trail conditions. NAT is changing several operational practices to re-focus efforts on day-to-day trail maintenance. This shift is necessary to demonstrate the division's commitment to operational excellence and providing positive trail experiences for the Greeley community.

In September 2023, a new natural area and three miles of trails were added to Greeley's system. Staff analysis of workload identified the need for up to 12 seasonal positions annually. Current budget supports two seasonal positions and as minimum wage increases that budget has less buying power. No new NAT staff positions are funded in the 2024 budget. Additional seasonal staff, beyond the two positions funded in NAT's operational budget, are necessary to provide a consistent and effective level of service for the Greeley community.

B. List all approved internal master our outdoor recreation plans and/or any external area, regional, or statewide plans this project supports.

This project supports Greeley Natural Areas & Trails' 2021-2026 strategic plan, titled Get Outdoors Greeley. Specifically, this project supports the following priority themes from the plan:

- Operational Excellence, defined as "Provide effective, efficient and consistent level of service to all Greeley residents at all natural areas, open lands and trails."
- Sustainable Funding, defined as "Develop and maintain sustainable funding sources to sustainably and equitably acquire, restore and maintain natural areas and a trail system in perpetuity for all Greeley residents."
- Connections to Nature, defined as "Equitably create physical connections to nature for all Greeley residents, through acquisition of high-value lands and expansion of the City's trail system."

This project also supports the Greeley City Council 2037 vision, specifically the following key focus areas:

- Community Vitality
 - High Performance Government
 - Infrastructure and Mobility
 - Quality of Life Amenities
 - Safe and Secure Communities
-

5. MAINTENANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

10 points

- A. Explain how the site will be maintained and monitored after the grant funded work is complete (operation and maintenance plans, future budgeting commitments, etc.)

While grant funded work is on-going, NAT staff will track tasks, staff time needed to complete tasks, equipment use, and costs associated with equipment replacement and repair. Trail user experience will also be evaluated via surveys and a log of complaints including date, location and type of complaint. This data will be used in the development of the 2025 budget, demonstrating the impact of additional seasonal staff on trail conditions and trail user experience. Quantitative data on the staff hours needed to complete maintenance tasks will demonstrate the need to increase NAT's seasonal budget going forward. The goal is that this grant will serve as a one-time increase of staff capacity, a cost that can be rolled into NAT's operational budget in future years.

Trail conditions will continue to be monitored on a regular basis by the Crew Supervisor, who keeps the field crew on a system-wide mowing and maintenance schedule.

- B. Describe the best management practices that will be used to construct the trail to ensure that the trail and its amenities will be sustainable.

Not applicable, no trail construction is included in this application.

6. WILDLIFE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

15 points

- A. Describe how potential impacts to wildlife and natural resources were evaluated during the project scoping phase (using 'Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind', mapping tools, etc.). Include any positive impacts this work will showcase.

Potential impacts to wildlife and natural resources are considered minor to negligible for this project. The work outlined in this project is primarily limited to maintenance of existing trail surfaces and corridors (approximately 4 feet on either side of trail) and trailheads. Since these areas have existing human infrastructure, the on-going maintenance of that infrastructure should have a negligible impact on wildlife or natural resources.

This project may result in a positive impact on natural resources. Improved trail maintenance encourages trail users to stay on the path and may reduce the occurrence of social trails, which have numerous negative impacts. By avoiding the proliferation of social trails, we can preserve less fractured habitat, support native vegetation and reduce the spread of noxious weeds. The addition of these stewardship crew members will increase NAT full time staff's capacity to focus on restoration and invasive species management, adding to the positive impact of this project.

- B. Describe any wildlife and natural resources issues raised by CPW staff during the application consultation.

No issues were raised by CPW staff during the application consultation.

- C. Explain how potential wildlife and natural resource impacts will be avoided, minimized, and/or mitigated (trail realignment, seasonal closures (include dates), signage, gates, game cameras, etc.)

Staff are trained in principles that reduce the impact of their work tasks. This includes walking and driving on durable surfaces, raking in sediment to avoid smothering vegetation, and cleaning shoes, tools and vehicles to avoid the spread of noxious weeds.

7. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & PARTNERSHIPS**15 points**

- A. Outline public engagement activities for this project (public meetings, comment periods, surveys, etc.)

Seasonal stewardship crew members will be trained as Trail Ambassadors and will engage in visitor interactions and education as appropriate. NAT will provide updates to the Greeley community about work happening on the trails. NAT will conduct annual surveys to assess trail user experience and evaluate the impact of this crew on public perceptions of trail conditions. Finally, NAT will document complaints regarding trail conditions received in 2023 and 2024, to further evaluate the impact of this crew.

One particular natural area this crew will work on, Campo Esperanza Natural Area, is located in a neighborhood that houses immigrants and refugees from all over the world. Campo Esperanza was opened in 2021 and NAT and is in the early stages native veg establishment at the site. The community has expressed dissatisfaction with the conditions of the natural area. NAT works regularly with a group of neighbors in that area, attending community meetings and working towards solutions together. This project will demonstrate the City's commitment to this neighborhood and NAT's desire to provide high quality amenities for the residents.

- B. Describe any partnerships that will ensure the project's success (public agencies, conservation or recreation groups, local businesses, etc.)

NAT has a strong partnership with Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado; our office hosts the Weld County Volunteer and Partnership Coordinator, Ellen Bergly. She will train the seasonal stewardship crew members as Trail Ambassadors. She also organizes volunteer events throughout the year that support the goals of this project, including trail work and invasive species management.

NAT also has strong partnerships with professors at University of Northern Colorado. NAT works to recruit students who are interested in natural resource professions for seasonal positions.

NAT works closely with Thriving Weld Active Living group, Greeley Walks, Poudre River Trail Corridor, Inc. and the North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization. These groups have all provided letters of support for this project.

- C. Describe how potential opposition to this project or its implementation will be identified, addressed and managed.

Opposition to this project is not anticipated as this work has been designed to respond to complaints from the public. Concerns or opposition to this project will be addressed in the same way NAT addresses other public concerns. Field crews are trained on public contact standard operating procedures and the authority of the resource technique for talking to the public. Concerns that are brought forward either in person, via email or phone call, are addressed in a timely manner by the most appropriate staff member. Staff are always willing to take time to meet with concerned residents to answer questions and talk through solutions. Over the years, staff have found that this personal approach sometimes turns critics of natural areas into advocates.

8. BUDGET AND FUNDING

10 points

- A. Describe the source of match for the project and when it will be secured. Include in-kind donations and partner contributions.

The match for this project will come from NAT's annual division budget for 2024 and will be secured when the 2024 budget is finalized and adopted by City Council. The 2024 budget is anticipated to be adopted in October 2023.

- B. Describe any consequences if this funding application is unsuccessful (loss of partner funds, staff capacity, expiration of surveys, etc.).

If this funding application is unsuccessful then NAT will likely have two seasonal crew members for 2024. This will result in reduced capacity to maintain the trails during the 2024 season. Consequences of this reduced capacity include tall trailside vegetation, slow clean up of storm debris, and erosion of soft surface trails. These conditions may make the trails less safe and enjoyable for users. In addition, the backlog of sign installation will continue to go unaddressed. These consequences may result in eroding public support for natural areas and trails in the Greeley community and a reduced appetite for funding these efforts in the future.

Non-Federal Environmental Form

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECK LIST (for projects outside of NEPA requirements)
(Construction and Maintenance 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. If an environmental review has already been conducted on your proposal and is still viable, include the citation including any planned mitigation for each applicable resource, and choose an impact level as mitigated. If the resource does not apply to your proposal, mark NA in the first column.

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

Project Name: Greeley Trail Stewardship Crew

Project Sponsor: City of Greeley

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS Indicate potential for adverse impacts	NOT APPLICABLE Resource does not exist	NEGLIGIBLE 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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Water quality/quantity – surface and ground water considerations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Wetlands/floodplains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Storm water runoff and/or Sedimentation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Geological resources: soils, bedrock, slopes, streambeds, landforms, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Disturbances to neighboring properties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Historical/cultural resources, including landscapes, ethnographic, archeological, structures, etc.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Introduction or promotion of non-native species	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Environmental disturbances during construction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Land/structures with history of contamination/hazardous materials even if remediated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Other important environmental resources to address	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Use a separate sheet if necessary for the following questions.

Please briefly clarify how each resource could be adversely impacted; any direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts that may occur; and any additional data that still needs to be determined. Also explain any planned mitigation already addressed in previous environmental reviews.

MITIGATION: Please describe how 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 to encourage seepage
- Comprehensive storm water runoff plan

The minor impacts noted above are all associated with decommissioning a section of the Poudre Trail, which is one of the lower priority projects in this application. The following practices will be used to mitigate impacts associated with this process:

- work will take place in fall/winter when storm water runoff is less of a concern
- use best practices to manage erosion and storm water quality
- re-vegetation of area after concrete removal
- signs and fencing are in place or will be installed in 2024 to inform users the spur trail is a dead end

BENEFIT: Please describe any positive impacts of the project on sensitive species; some considerations 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

Decommissioning this section of trail will reduce visitor traffic through riparian habitat and will encourage users to stay on the trail. The decommissioned trail will be restored with native plants, creating more habitat for wildlife in the future. NAT will re-seed the area with a diversity of plant species appropriate for a riparian ecosystem.

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.***

Kristen Wilkinson

Printed name of applicant

Kristen Wilkinson Digitally signed by Kristen Wilkinson
Date: 2023.10.03 13:01:04 -06'00'

Signature of applicant

10-3-23

Date

Karen Scopel, Environmental Planner

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.*

Karen Scopel Digitally signed by Karen Scopel
Date: 2023.10.03 09:31:29 -06'00'

Signature of authority

10-2-23

Date



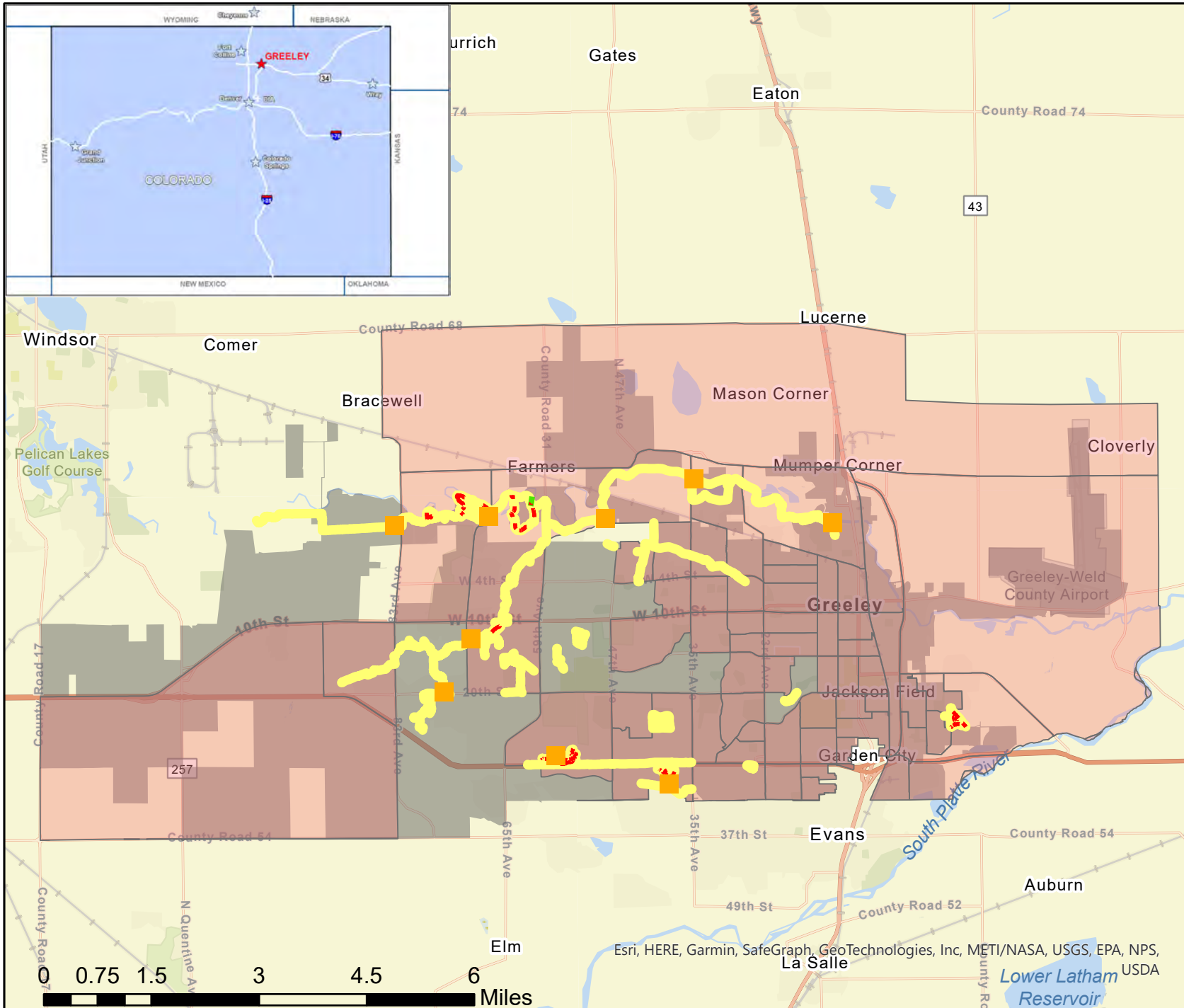
Project Budget

NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT

Project details				Match details					
CPW Grant #	Organization			Source of match	Type	Date available	Amount		
	City of Greeley Natural Areas & Trails			City of Greeley	Cash	Jan-24	\$ 17,340.00		
	City of Greeley Trail Stewardship Crew			City of Greeley	In-Kind	Jan-24	\$ 540.00		
Grant Request (auto populates)	\$	68,260.00							
Local match	\$	17,880.00	Min. Match	\$	17,065.00				
Project Total	\$	86,140.00					Match Total	\$	17,880.00

Description	Qty	Unit type	Cost per unit	Total	Type	CPW Grant	Local match	Balance
Salary/Wages								
Two 6-month seasonal position @ 40 hours/week	2080	HR	\$17	\$ 35,360.00	Cash	\$ 35,360.00		\$ -
Taxes/Workers Comp for two seasonal positions (25% per position)	2	EA	\$4,420	\$ 8,840.00	Cash		\$ 8,840.00	\$ -
Project management - Record keeping and recording	20	HR	\$27	\$ 540.00	In-Kind		\$ 540.00	\$ -
Materials/Supplies								
Purchase of tools and equipment (string trimmers, blade trimmers, hand blowers, etc.)	1	EA	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	Cash		\$ 5,000.00	\$ -
Signs (Design, fabrication, posts and concrete)	1	EA	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	Cash	\$ 7,000.00		\$ -
Crusher fines for trail repair (20 cubic yds @ \$75/cubic yd)	1	EA	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	Cash	\$ 1,500.00		\$ -
Tool maintenance (fuel and oil)	1	EA	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	Cash	\$ 400.00		\$ -
Fleet vehicle rental	1	EA	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 14,000.00	Cash	\$ 14,000.00		\$ -
Safety and PPE	1	EA	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	Cash		\$ 500.00	\$ -
Seed mix (plus amendment)	1	EA	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	Cash		\$ 1,500.00	\$ -
Fleet vehicles - fixed and variable expenses	1	EA	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	Cash		\$ 1,500.00	\$ -
Tool/equipment rental	1	EA	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	Cash	\$ 10,000.00		\$ -
TOTAL				\$ 86,140.00		\$ 68,260.00	\$ 17,880.00	

Greeley Trail Stewardship Crew - State-wide and Local Vicinity Maps

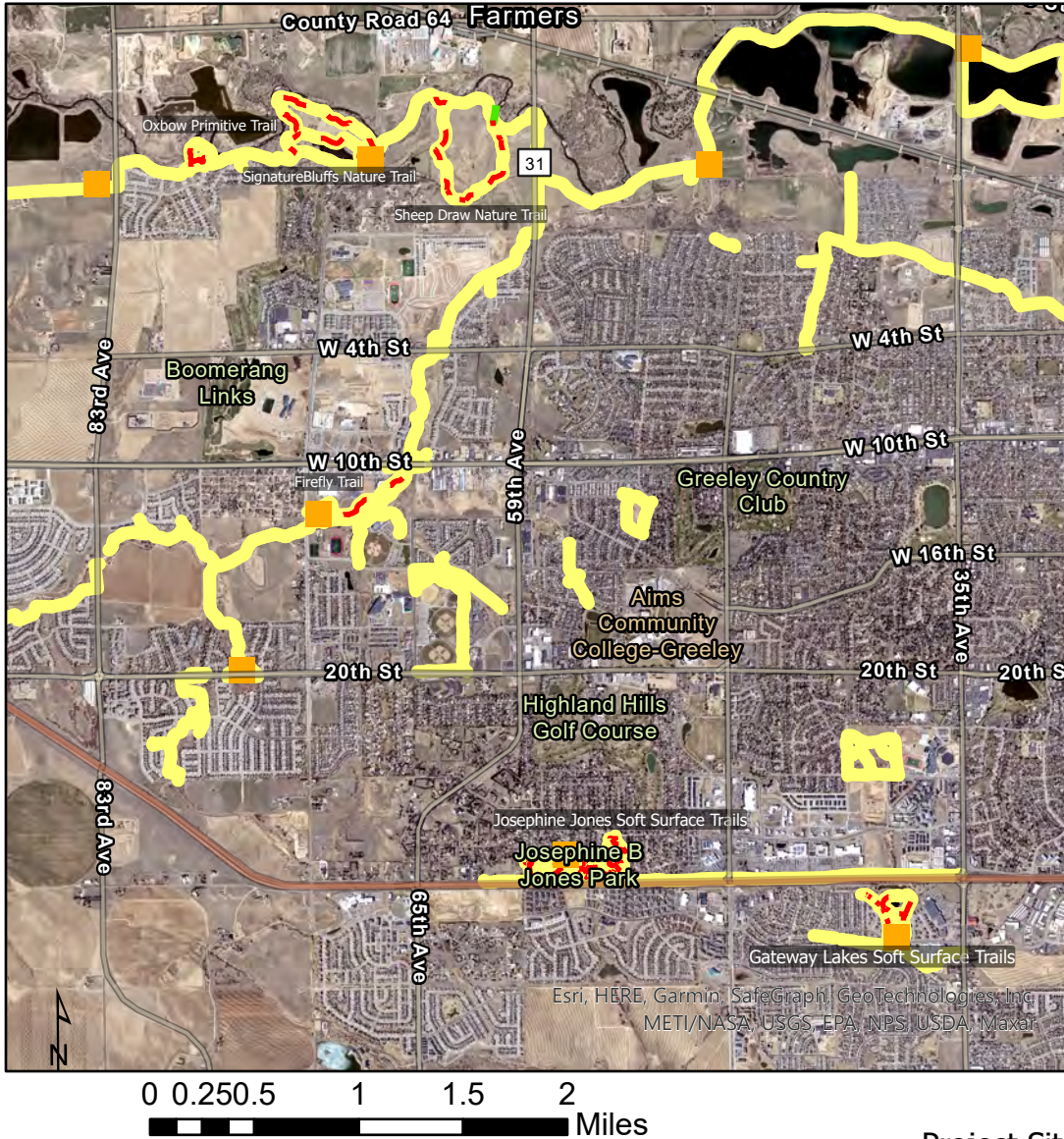


Legend

- Trailheads
- - - Soft Surface Trails
- ~ Abandoned Trail Section
- Trails
- Greeley City Limits
- Environmental Justice Areas

Greeley Trail Stewardship Crew - Project Site Maps

Project Site Map 1



Project includes multiple sites. Project Site Map 1 (left) shows project locations in central and west Greeley. Project sites include trailheads, soft surface trails and specified locations for handwork on all trails. Trail section to be decommissioned is also shown on Map 1, in green.

Legend

- Trailheads
- - - Soft Surface Trails
- ~ Abandoned Trail Section
- Trails

Project Site Map 2

Project Site Map 2 (right) shows Campo Esperanza Natural Area, in east Greeley. This natural area requires a great deal of hand work on the soft surface trails and nature play elements.





LEFT: Trail sections like this require string trimming of trailside vegetation. With reduced staff capacity, this hand work often becomes a lower priority, impacting trail user experience.



LEFT: Cleaning debris off trails, after either mowing or large storm events, is necessary to maintain a safe and welcoming trail experience. Trail stewardship crew will add to NAT's capacity to remove debris in a timely manner.



LEFT: Several soft surface trails are in need of grooming and repair after erosion caused by large storm events in 2023. Trail stewardship crew will repair soft surface trails to create a safer and more accessible trail experience.



LEFT: NAT field crews struggled to keep up with trailside mowing in the 2023 season, resulting in overgrown trails and proliferation of non-native weeds.



RIGHT: Vegetation management in the nature play sections of Campo Esperanza is essential to provide a safe, welcoming area for kids and families. This is a high priority area for the trail stewardship crew since it is the only natural in the entire east Greeley community.

RIGHT: A view of Campo Esperanza from the top of the nature play hill. The boulders are intended for nature play and require intensive vegetation management via string trimming.





LEFT: Work at trailheads will include vegetation management, litter clean up and repair of soft surface access paths damaged by heavy rainfall.



LEFT: If time allows, trail stewardship crew will decommission section of abandoned trail shown in the picture.



Weld County

Department of Public Health and Environment

September 29th, 2023.

Greeley Natural Areas & Trails
321 N 16th Ave
Greeley, CO 80631

RE: Support for City of Greeley Natural Areas & Trails application to the 2023-2024 Trail Stewardship Crew grant.

As a public health worker and an advocate promoting active lifestyles among the Weld County community, I am writing to express my support for the 2023-24 Trail Stewardship Crew Grant request submitted by the City of Greeley Natural Areas & Trails (NAT).

Physical inactivity is a public health issue affecting most communities in Weld County including the City of Greeley, therefore encouraging people to spend time outdoors is a salient part of my job in public health. Multiple studies have shown that being physically active is one of the most important ways people of all ages and abilities can improve their physical and mental health – there are many cognitive benefits including improvements in mood and emotional wellbeing. Trailside maintenance is essential for the success and sustainability of keeping people outdoors to improve physical and mental health and wellbeing. We don't want to discourage potential users and supporters of the trail by not keeping Greeley's trailside in good condition.

As I promote physical activity in Weld, I notice if the trailside is sub-standard. A poorly maintained trailside can cause soil loss, water pollution, habitat degradation, and increased future maintenance costs. This grant would provide funding for additional seasonal staff next summer to help Greeley Natural Areas & Trails stay on top of trail maintenance, thereby improving visitor safety and experience. Community members feel motivated to enjoy the wonderful outdoors when they can do so in safe, well-maintained areas. It can also demonstrate a sense of stewardship and pride in the community.

City of Greeley community members deserve an aesthetic and well-maintained trailside to enhance the appeal and accessibility of the trail, where community members can enjoy viewing wildlife and better quality of life opportunities.

Sincerely,
Olga Maria Gonzalez
Healthy Eating and Active Living
Coordinator

1555 N. 17th Avenue
Greeley, CO 80631
Phone: (970) 400-6410
weldhealth.org



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



September 27, 2023

Greeley Natural Areas & Trails
321 N 16th Ave
Greeley, CO 80631

To whom it may concern:

The North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization (NFRMPO) is pleased to support the City of Greeley's application for the Colorado Parks & Wildlife Trail Stewardship Crew Grant. The grant will span a wide variety of trail projects ranging from on-going maintenance to small construction projects across the city. Many of these trail construction and improvement projects are in the city's natural areas. The completion of these projects will improve Greeley's active transportation system.

The NFRMPO believes the projects align with the NFRMPO's 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) vision, which is to ensure the multimodal transportation system in Northern Colorado is safe, socially and environmentally sensitive, and strengthens the region's quality of life and economic vitality. The proposed projects are also in alignment with the goals and objectives outlined in the 2050 RTP, particularly the regional health, mobility, and multimodal goals.

The completion of the projects outlined in the grant application will also allow the NFRMPO region to make progress toward achieving the performance measures and targets laid out in the 2050 RTP and in the GHG Transportation Report. Specifically, these projects will assist in achieving the goal of expanding access to the active transportation system. These improvements will provide more and safer transportation options that can make active transportation more attractive and make more destinations accessible. The NFRMPO is committed to supporting projects that help the region achieve the regional performance measure target of 7.62 miles of non-motorized facility miles per 1,000 people. This will also contribute to the regional performance measure of reducing Daily VMT Per Capita. The region has identified equity as a major concern, and the NFRMPO supports Greeley's efforts to ensure access to parks, natural areas, and open space for its residents. These projects will provide more active transportation options for historically marginalized communities, which can increase quality of life and have significant health benefits.

Improving Greeley's active transportation network will help the NFRMPO achieve its regional transportation goals. We strongly support these projects and appreciate Greeley's efforts in building out their active transportation network.

Respectfully,

Suzette Mallette

Suzette Mallette (Sep 27, 2023 11:07 MDT)

Suzette Mallette
Executive Director

September 29, 2023

Kristen Wilkinson
Greeley Natural Areas and Trails
321 N 16th Ave.
Greeley, CO 80631

RE: Letter of Support for the Trail Stewardship Grant

Dear Kristen:

The purpose of this letter is to support the City of Greeley's grant application to provide funding for a trails Stewardship Crew.

As a regular trail user, I enjoy the many benefits of having access to the nature and recreational trails in Greeley. The trail system is a place where I can get out of the city and experience nature. I'm especially excited that the city continues to add trails in our community connecting more and more people to the benefits of the great outdoors. However, with the addition of more miles of trails, and more people using them it is evident that resources have been strained. I'm hopeful our community will respond, but that takes time. During this period, I'm pleased to see that our Natural Areas and Trails Division is actively looking for ways to leverage resources.

I hope you will be successful in this grant request. If I can assist in anyway, please feel free to ask. I can be reached at 970-371-0863 or by e-mail hinderaker@comcast.net.

Sincerely,

Bob Hinderaker

Bob Hinderaker
5414 W 27th Street
Greeley, CO 80634

September 29, 2023

Karen Scopel
Greeley Natural Areas and Trails
321 N 16th Ave.
Greeley, CO 80631

RE: Letter of Support for the Trail Stewardship Grant

Dear Karen:

I am writing to support the City of Greeley's grant application to provide funding for a Trails Stewardship Crew.

I am a regular trail user, cycling literally thousands of miles a year on the Poudre River Trail. I enjoy the many benefits of having access to the nature and recreational trails in Greeley. The Poudre River Trail system is a place where I can get out of the city and experience nature.

I'm very encouraged that the city continues to add trails in our community, connecting our neighborhoods and providing more people access to the benefits of the great outdoors. In recent years, more people have discovered and regularly use our trails for commuting, healthy exercise, and the opportunity to experience nature.

With expanded trail use, it has become very evident that resources have been strained. Trail upkeep, maintenance, weed control, mowing, and repairs have declined and it is obvious that our crown jewel of a trail has become tarnished and needs additional polish.

I'm hopeful our community leaders will take appropriate action to expand and support the upkeep, maintenance, and expansion of the Greeley trail system, but the government process takes valuable time while the needs of the trails continue unabated. I'm encouraged to see that our Natural Areas and Trails Division is seeking ways to leverage resources to address the needs on an expedited basis.

I hope you will be successful in this grant request. If I can assist in anyway, please contact me at 970-371-7800 or by e-mail at kirkgoble@icloud.com.

Sincerely,



Kirk Goble
1813 Levis Rd.
Greeley, CO 80631

September 29, 2023

Karen Scopel
Greeley Natural Areas and Trails
321 N 16th Ave.
Greeley, CO 80631

RE: Trail Stewardship Grant

Dear Karen:

It is my understanding that the City of Greeley's has a grant application to provide funding for a trails Stewardship Crew.

The Poudre Trail is one of the great treasures of our community. I personally use the trail for biking and hiking, and my appreciation has led me to become a volunteer for the past few years. Over the years, I've seen the trail usage significantly increase, so clearly our residents and visitors value the resource. With this increased usage, maintenance and upkeep has sometimes been understandably short of what is needed. I'm concerned that without some attention to this increasing need, deterioration and wear may significantly impact Greeley's Poudre Trail experience.

When I heard that our Natural Areas and Trails Division is actively pursuing a grant for the Stewardship Crew, I wanted to put my hat in to support it in any way that I can. If I can help in any way, I can be reached at 970-405-4182 or by e-mail stevejbrinkman@gmail.com

Best Regards,

Steve Brinkman

Steve Brinkman
2129 64th Ave.
Greeley, CO 80634

Document checklist



NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION – CONSTRUCTION OR MAINTENANCE

PROJECT DETAILS

Organization City of Greeley

Project title City of Greeley Trail Stewardship Crew

DOCUMENTS

PRE-APPLICATION - SEPTEMBER

Document	Source	Submission format
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. Scope of work	Applicant's own	PDF
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. Project map	Applicant's own	PDF

FULL APPLICATION - OCTOBER

Document	Source	Submission format
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. Application form	CPW template	PDF
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. Timeline	CPW template	PDF
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5. Budget	CPW template	Unprotected Excel file
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6. Photographs & maps	Applicant's own	Merged PDF (5 pages max)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7. Letters of support	Various	Merged PDF (5 letters max)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 8. Resolution	Applicant's own	Signed PDF
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 9. Environmental forms	CPW Template	Signed PDF
<input type="checkbox"/> 10. Formal EA or NEPA*	Federal Template	Web link or PDF

ADDITIONAL PROJECT INFORMATION

11. Required match funding secured (including cash match funds)
12. Construction projects have been evaluated for permits and, if required, permits obtained.
13. Project area is owned by a public land agency or has an easement that designates the area be open to the public for at least 25 years.
14. Conservation/Youth Corps or other organization will be used on the project.
Name of organization: Weld County Youth Conservation Corps
15. Volunteers will be utilized on the project
Name of organization: Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado - Weld County

*Must be completed prior to application presentations in January.