

GRANT APPLICATION CHECK LIST

MANDATORY:

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

ADDITIONAL PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Youth Corps or youth organization will be used on the project (Western Colorado Conservation Corps - letter attached)
- n/a Volunteers will be utilized on the project (name organization)

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO. 41-18

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE GRANT APPLICATION FROM COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE - COLORADO THE BEAUTIFUL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE LUNCH LOOP TRAIL

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Junction supports the Colorado the Beautiful grant application through Colorado Parks and Wildlife for the Lunch Loop Trail. And if the grant is awarded, the City of Grand Junction supports the completion of the project.

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Junction has requested \$400,000 from Colorado Parks and Wildlife to complete the Lunch Loop Trail.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION THAT:

- Section 1: The City Council of the City of Grand Junction strongly supports the application and has appropriated matching funds for a grant with Colorado Parks and Wildlife.
- Section 2: If the grant is awarded, the City Council of the City of Grand Junction strongly supports the completion of the project.
- Section 3: The City Council of the City of Grand Junction authorizes the expenditure of funds necessary to meet the terms and obligations of any Grant awarded.
- Section 4: The project site is owned by the City of Grand Junction and will be owned by City of Grand Junction for the next 25 years.
- Section 5: The City Council of the City of Grand Junction recognizes that as the recipient of a Colorado the Beautiful grant through Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the project site must provide reasonable public access.
- Section 6: The City Council of the City of Grand Junction will continue to maintain the Lunch Loop Trail in a high-quality condition and will appropriate funds for maintenance in its annual budget.
- Section 7: If the grant is awarded, the City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to sign the grant agreement with Colorado Parks and Wildlife for the Colorado the Beautiful grant program.
- Section 8: This resolution to be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

Passed and adopted this 18th day of July, 2018.



President of the City Council

ATTEST:



City Clerk



EXHIBIT A

COLORADO THE BEAUTIFUL CONSTRUCTION APPLICATION

Applicant or Organization Name: City of Grand Junction

Mailing Address: 1340 Gunnison Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501

Applicant Lead Contact Name: Traci Wieland

Title: Assistant Director

Telephone: 970-254-3846

Email: traciw@gjcity.org

Is this the primary contact for this grant: YES NO

OFFICIAL USE ONLY – DUNS # (IF REQUIRED):

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

Name: Traci Wieland

Mailing Address: 1340 Gunnison Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501

Telephone: 970-254-3846

Email: traciw@gjcity.org

PRIMARY PARTNER INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE)

Name: Colorado West Land Trust

Mailing Address: 1006 Main Street, Grand Junction, CO 81501

Partner Contact Name: Libby Collins

Title: Project Manager

Telephone: 970-263-5443

Email: libbyc@coloradowestlandtrust.org

Is this the primary contact for this grant: YES NO

Project Title: Lunch Loop Connector Trail

Grant Request: \$400,000

Required Match: \$120,000

Total Project Cost: \$2,534,645

EXHIBIT A

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

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

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

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

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

WHO: The City of Grand Junction's Public Works and Parks and Recreation Departments will partner to oversee the construction of the paved Lunch Loop Connector Trail. Public Works will provide project engineers for project management including hiring and working with contractors for all phases of trail construction. Parks and Recreation will manage project administration including grant and budget administration. The City of Grand Junction is the largest community between Salt Lake City, Utah and Denver, Colorado. Because of its geographic isolation, the City routinely serves the Grand Valley comprised of smaller communities such as Palisade, Clifton, Fruita, and unincorporated Mesa County residents totaling nearly 144,000 people. The City of Grand Junction strives to provide low or no cost parks and recreation facilities and services for all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.

WHAT: The Lunch Loop Connector Trail will extend approximately 1.5 miles from the start of Monument Road to Lunch Loop Connector Trail system. The proposed trail is 8,080 feet, 10-foot-wide 5-inch-thick concrete path with two bridges and the four low water crossings of No Thoroughfare Wash. The 5-inch-thick concrete trail is proposed to be placed on 6 inches of aggregate base course (Class 6) over 12 inches of recompacted native material. This will provide long lasting all-weather surface that can also sustain maintenance vehicles and, if necessary, emergency vehicles. There are three locations where smaller drainages will need to be conveyed under the trail in 30-inch pipe complete with flared end sections. The project includes construction of storm water controls and over three acres of reseeding with native plant species along the trail alignment. There are two bridges, one 80 feet long and another 100 feet long, both H-Section Weathering Steel Truss "Big R" type bridges. Retaining walls and wing walls (4,800 vertical square feet) are anticipated along the alignment and at bridge abutments.

The low water crossings are 16 feet in width, 5 feet tall, and 31 feet long three-cell box culverts and have been designed to allow for small storm events to be carried under the trail while allowing for large flood events to proceed uninhibited over the top of the proposed trail. These culverts have been designed wide enough to allow for clear distances, eliminating the need for railings that would become an impediment during large flood events. All the low water crossings and bridge abutments will be armored to prevent damage even from large 100-year events.

The project will also include five historic/interpretive signs along the trail and at the trailhead as well as a new, relocated trailhead kiosk providing maps and safety information. The relocated trailhead will be placed in a location away from the main vehicular entrance and will be surrounded by 187 square yards of concrete hardscape and 290 square yards of crushed granite seating and gathering areas. The area will have 51 linear feet of free standing walls with a rock veneer finish as well as 73 square yards of concrete to serve as a path to ADA parking.

WHERE: The construction of the paved Trail will be in the City of Grand Junction in Mesa County, just 1.5 miles from downtown. The City of Grand Junction owns the land that the Trail will traverse. The Lunch Loop and Three Sisters trail system includes over 75 miles of single track dirt trails as well as a very popular Bike Park. The Lunch Loop area currently experiences over 120,000 visits per year. According to the management plan, the City manages the trailhead, parking lot, and will maintain the paved trail, the Grand Junction BLM Field Office and the Colorado West Land Trust co-manage the land and dirt trails.

DEFINITIONS:

RTCA - Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program through National Park Service

GOCO – Great Outdoors Colorado

RIO - A coalition of local organizations and neighborhood youth was organized in 2016, funded by the GOCO Inspire Initiative, to strategize on how to eliminate these barriers to open space use. The youth participants named the coalition RIO (or Recreation inspired by the Outdoors) and helped shape pilot outdoor programs that included taking these youth hiking and biking on the Riverfront Trail, at the Lunch Loop/Three Sisters trails, and at the bike park.

EXHIBIT A

LAND OWNERSHIP			
1. Provide the name/s of the property owners: City of Grand Junction			
2. The trail corridor is controlled by: X Fee Simple <input type="checkbox"/> Lease X Easement <input type="checkbox"/> License X Right-of-Way <input type="checkbox"/> Other:			
USER INFORMATION (Please check all that apply)			
X Hiking	<input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycling	<input type="checkbox"/> Equestrian	
X Walking	<input type="checkbox"/> Four-Wheeling	X ADA Accessible	
X Running	<input type="checkbox"/> All-Terrain Vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
X Skateboarding	<input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiling	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
X In-Line Skating	<input type="checkbox"/> Snowshoeing	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
X Biking	<input type="checkbox"/> X-Country Skiing	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
TRAIL SURFACE			
<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt	X Concrete	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
<input type="checkbox"/> Natural	<input type="checkbox"/> Crusher Fines	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
PROJECT LOCATION (For multiple project sites attach a separate list.)			
Nearest Town or City: Grand Junction			
County: Mesa			
Latitude & Longitude Coordinates: 39.050482, -108.60477			
State Senate District #:7			
State Representative District #:55			
Acreage of new trailhead		Miles of trail grooming	
Miles of new trail construction	1.5	Miles of trail being planned	
Miles of trail maintenance	1.5	Miles of trail reroute	
Miles of trail reconstruction		Miles of inter-connecting trail	
Miles of trail to be signed	1.5	Other	
Miles of trail restoration		Other	

Applicant Authorized Signature: Traci Wieland Date: July 15, 2018
 (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

TASK	Jun-Sep 2019	Oct-Dec 2019	Jan-Mar 2020	Apr-Jun 2020	Jul-Sep 2020	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021
Project Initiation										
Advertise for Bids										
Open Bids										
Award Contract										
Notice to Proceed/Preconstruction										
Mobilization										
Mobilization										
Clearing and Grubbing										
Construction/Maintenance Phase										
Rough Grading of Trail/Placement of Low Water Crossing										
Bridges Manufactured										
Set Bridges										
Final Grading of Trail										
Concrete Construction – Average 150 Feet Per Day										
Project Clean Up										
Administrative Close-Out										
Close-out										
Grand Opening										
Ribbon Cutting										

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

Outdoor recreation and enjoyment in Mesa County is a favorite pastime of locals and, now, is attracting a growing number of visitors, outdoor related businesses, and a professional labor force for its vast public lands and miles of trail systems. However, as outdoor recreation plays a larger role in driving sustainable economic growth for the area, access to the abundant public open space remains limited for many residents throughout the County where household incomes are far below the state average and over half of all school children in the local school district qualify for free and reduced lunch. The median household income in Grand Junction is \$49,322.

As the largest municipality between Salt Lake City and Denver, Grand Junction routinely serves the residents of the Grand Valley, from Palisade to the east and Fruita to the west, as well as all Mesa County residents. The City's population is 63,775 of the total Mesa County population of 149,249. According to the state demographer's office, Mesa County is expected to grow over the next 25 years, adding in population, the equivalent of another City of Grand Junction.

The Lunch Loop Connector Trail and improvements to the Lunch Loop Connector Trailhead are essential pieces of infrastructure for the Grand Valley as it moves into an expansive growth period. Not only is this connection strategic for mountain bike riders to reach a world renown single track system, but it ensures that all residents can experience the recreation and health benefits that nature and public lands have to offer.

Driver of Economic Growth and Recovery: Grand Junction's City Council has identified the promotion of outdoor recreation as essential for economic recovery as the area continues its slow rebound from the recession and significant shift from the boom and bust oil and gas development focus. Industry moving to Grand Junction that will bring additional jobs and income to the area have stated that the quality of life and premier access to outdoor recreation are extremely important factors in relocating their businesses to this area.

As a result, the City is investing in business park development targeting the outdoor recreation industry and outdoor amenities in the urban area along the Colorado River. These investments include the Las Colonias Amphitheater, a river recreation feature on a water channel of the Colorado River, upgrades to the Riverfront Trail, and now, the Lunch Loop Connector Trail which will connect downtown Grand Junction, the Riverfront, and neighborhoods to one of Mesa County's most popular open space areas, Lunch Loop/Three Sisters.

As a priority segment of future development of the Riverfront Trail, the Lunch Loop Connector Trail was identified by Governor Hickenlooper as a 16 in 2016 Trail. The Riverfront Trail in the Las Colonias Park area now experiences approximately 75,000 visits annually, and this number continues to grow as improvements are made to the Riverfront. It is expected that the Lunch Loop Connector Trail will experience a minimum of 50,000 visits annually; with users including paved trail users exploring a more wildlands area at the Lunch Loop/Three Sisters, recreational commuters of all ages using the trail to get to mountain bike and hiking trails; youth from surrounding neighborhoods to access the Lunch Loop bike park; and commuters from neighborhoods who will use the paved trail for alternative transportation to town or work.

Improving Safety: One of the most unique aspects of the Lunch Loop and Three Sisters area is that these vast wild lands are close to neighborhoods, the Riverfront Trail, and downtown Grand Junction. However, vehicle traffic along Monument Road, the main access to this open space, travels at speeds up to 50 mph (sometimes 60 mph). Only the most courageous currently ride to Lunch Loop, which requires at least one unsafe and unmarked crossing. Furthermore, recreational riders, families, youth, and pedestrians cannot access this public open space without a car, despite its proximity.

A paved shared use path will improve safety for those who want and need to reach close to home outdoor spaces by bike or foot and it will attract far more trail users to the natural wild land areas of Lunch Loop/Three Sisters making healthy lifestyles and the benefits of connecting to nature attainable for people of all ages and abilities.

The Lunch Loop/Three Sisters trailhead experiences well over 120,000 visits annually and is highly valued by the community as a wonderful gathering place for trail users pre and post trail experiences. The current trailhead, however, was designed decades ago to serve far fewer number of trail users. The high volume of traffic currently makes trail access points dangerous and the lack of amenities, other than two pit toilets, encourages people to tailgate in locations that directly conflict with vehicle and bike traffic. To address these issues, the proposed project includes improvements to enhance safety and the visitor experience for current trail users as well as paved trail users.

Connecting Neighborhoods to Trails and Open Space, and the Benefits of Being in Nature: Underserved communities, including the Latino neighborhood of Riverside and lower income Orchard Mesa are located less than three miles from these open space areas, yet, members of these communities do not use the trails at Lunch Loop/Three Sisters. According to a study completed by the Mesa County Health Department and funded by GOCO, *Pathways to Nature, 2016*, residents from these marginalized neighborhoods stated that barriers to using open space included requiring a vehicle for transportation, time as many parents and caregivers work multiple jobs, and knowledge about how to use these areas safely.

A coalition of local organizations and neighborhood youth was organized in 2016, funded by the GOCO Inspire Initiative, to strategize on how to eliminate these barriers to open space use. The youth participants named the coalition RIO (or Recreation

inspired by the Outdoors) and helped shape pilot outdoor programs that included taking these youth hiking and biking on the Riverfront Trail, at the Lunch Loop/Three Sisters trails, and at the bike park. Youth also participated with RIO Coalition members in neighborhood meetings to determine what outdoor infrastructure improvements would allow youth to connect more frequently to open space. The Lunch Loop Connector Trail received widespread support.

- 2. SCOPE (15 points) Describe the proposed project including the length/width of trail construction, any major components necessary to complete the trail such as under/overpasses, bridges, trail heads, etc. – describe what exactly will be built. Discuss the ownership status of the trail corridor and any easements or land acquisitions necessary to complete the proposed trail. Address each trail component separately, specifically mentioning its characteristics. If the project is intended to enhance or replace an existing trail and/or trail amenities, describe their existing state, why they are no longer acceptable, and how they arrived at the condition they're in. Discuss the significance of the trail segment to users. List each user group and estimate their percentage of overall trail use, e.g., motorized users – 20% mountain bikers – 70%, hikers – 10%) How did you arrive at those estimates? Include any site photos.**

The Lunch Loop Connector Trail will extend approximately 1.5 miles from the existing trail at the intersection of Monument Road and D Road to Lunch Loop Connector Trail system. The proposed trail is 8,080 feet long, 10-foot-wide, 5-inch-thick concrete path. The proposed alignment includes two major bridges and a retaining wall along Monument Road. Further southwest along No Thoroughfare Wash, the alignment requires four low-water crossings.

Bridge # 1: The proposed bridge will be 80 feet long and is proposed to be an H-Section Weathering Steel Truss “Big R” type bridge.

Bridge #2: The proposed bridge will be 100 feet long and is proposed to be an H-Section Weathering Steel Truss “Big R” type bridge.

Retaining Walls: Retaining walls and wing walls (4,800 vertical square feet) are anticipated along the alignment and at bridge abutments.

Low Water Crossings: The low water crossings are 16 feet in width, 5 feet tall, and 31 feet long three-cell box culverts and have been designed to allow for small storm events to be carried under the trail while allowing for large flood events to proceed uninhibited over the top of the proposed trail. These culverts have been designed wide enough to allow for clear distances, eliminating the need for railings that would become an impediment during large flood events. All the low water crossings and bridge abutments will be armored to prevent damage even from large 100-year events.

Construction: The 5-inch-thick concrete trail is proposed to be placed on 6 inches of aggregate base course (Class 6) over 12 inches of re-compacted native material. This will provide a long-lasting all-weather surface that can also sustain maintenance vehicles and, if necessary, emergency vehicles. There are three locations where smaller drainages will need to be conveyed under the trail in 30-inch pipe complete with flared end sections. The project includes construction of storm water controls and over three acres of reseeding with native plant species along the trail alignment.

As described in the above section, the Lunch Loop/Three Sisters Trailhead needs significant improvements to address safety issues and enhance the user experience. An extensive public process engaged trail users in the re-design of the trailhead. Trailhead enhancements will include the relocation of trail access points, designated safe tailgate areas, a new kiosk area, seat walls and surface improvement for seating areas, and improved ADA access points, as well as a new, relocated trailhead kiosk providing maps and safety information. The relocated trailhead will be surrounded by 187 square yards of concrete hardscape and 290 square yards of crushed granite seating and gathering areas. The area will have 51 linear feet of free standing walls with a rock veneer finish as well as 73 square yards of concrete to serve as a path to ADA parking. The project will also include five historic/interpretive signs along the trail and at the trailhead.

Colorado West Land Trust is working with partners to design shade structures for the seating area and will conduct a separate funding campaign to construct those structures.

Ownership Status of Trail Segments and Trailhead: The City of Grand Junction has an easement, owns the right of way, and owns the public open space for the entire length of the proposed trail. Redlands Water & Power has granted an easement across their narrow parcel for the trail. That easement is recorded with Mesa County and is attached. Colorado West Land Trust acquired an undeveloped parcel, adjacent to Redlands Water & Power, and granted ownership to the City.

For the remaining three private property owners, the City has executed legal agreements with all three property owners, with one right of way complete and two remaining rights of way scheduled for completion in the last quarter of 2018. Colorado West Land Trust raised funds to purchase two of the three rights of way. The third property owner has requested drainage improvements to the property in exchange for granting the right of way.

The City owns the Lunch Loop/Three Sisters Trailhead, the open space surrounding the Trailhead, and the Three Sisters property that is adjacent to this open space on which the Trail will traverse. The remaining requirements for the trail alignment fall within the City's road easement.

Expected Lunch Loop Connector Trail User Groups: The following numbers are estimates by the project partners who co-manage the trails and trailhead.

- Paved Trail Recreational Users (riders and pedestrians): 45%
- Mountain Bike Riders accessing trails: 30%
- Pedestrians accessing single track trails: 15%
- Commuter and flow through riders (seeking a safe multi-modal option for getting work, downtown, and the Riverfront): 10%

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

Army Corps of Engineers has been consulted on a small area of wetlands. Because this wetland area was the result of a leaky ditch, the Army Corps of Engineers has determined it is not jurisdictional and is unregulated. The Army Corps of Engineers was also consulted for the two major bridge crossings of No Thoroughfare Wash. The crossings are more than 500 feet apart, and both bridges will be built above the 100-year flood plain, thus minimizing the impacts to existing wetlands. The Army Corps of Engineers has determined since the impacts to wetlands are minimal at each crossing, that a non-notifying Nationwide Permit 14 (Linear Transportation) would apply. No further verification from the Corps would be required.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife has determined that due to the development around the project area, few impacts are anticipated on wildlife. Colorado Parks and Wildlife has recommended the trail be as close to Monument Road as possible to alleviate possible flooding issues in No Thoroughfare Wash. District Wildlife Manager, Matt Sturdevant, consulted on the project and completed an environmental checklist for this funding opportunity and the 2017 State Trails opportunity.

The final execution of the two outstanding rights of way along Monument Road for the Lunch Loop Connector Trail will occur in the final quarter of 2018. Upon grant contract award, the City will advertise for bids and award a construction contract in the summer and early fall of 2019. Contractor mobilization, rough grading of trail, clearing and grubbing, and bridge manufacturing will occur in the fall and early winter of 2019. The bridges will be set with final grading of trail in the winter of 2020 with trail installation being completed by June of 2020.

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

The Lunch Loop Connector Trail will link two trail systems, connecting some of the Grand Valley's most incredible outdoor amenities: the Colorado Riverfront Trail to the world renown and community favorite Lunch Loop and Three Sisters trail system. The Grand Junction section of the Colorado Riverfront Trail, funded extensively with GOCO funds, includes the Las Colonias section, the Audubon Trail, and the Connected Lakes

section of the James M. Robb River State Park that meanders along the local river corridor.

The Lunch Loop and Three Sisters trail system includes over 75 miles of single track dirt trails as well as a very popular Bike Park. The Lunch Loop area currently experiences over 120,000 visits per year. These trail users range in age, skill level, and interest, including mountain bikers, runners, hikers, and walkers. The Lunch Loop bike park and development of beginner trails and additional access points are bringing more and more youth and families to the trail system.

The proposed Lunch Loop Connector Trail was prioritized by the City of Grand Junction as a strategic extension of the Riverfront Trail that will encourage access for youth and families to healthy outdoor lifestyles. Proximity to marginalized and other neighborhoods, downtown, and existing recreational amenities influenced the City Council to recommend the Lunch Loop Connector Trail for construction as part of the 16 for 2016 application to the Governor's office.

As stated in Section 1, the Lunch Loop Connector Trail will be a critical improvement to outdoor access for the lower income Riverside, Orchard Mesa, and downtown neighborhoods. We know that nationally, kids on average experience seven minutes outdoors in unstructured play. The RIO coalition is only one effort throughout Mesa County to improve access to outdoor spaces to address health and enrichment for under resourced neighborhoods.

Colorado West Land Trust, as the conservation easement holder and co-manager of Three Sisters, will work with local organizations and experts to restore the areas around the newly constructed paved trail. The Land Trust will recruit youth and family volunteers, as part of its Community Stewardship program, to participate in this long-term restoration process. The Trail will also provide opportunity for formal and informal education for the public about the importance of native vegetation and restoration through the Land Trust's interpretive walks and signage.

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

The City of Grand Junction and Mesa County Comprehensive Plan (2014), Redlands Area Plan (2002), Urban Trails Master Plan, and the City's Economic Development Plan (2014) all call for open space improvements and paved path connectivity along

Monument Road. The Grand Valley 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (2014), highly prioritized a shared-use path along the Monument Road Corridor.

Since 2009, when the need for a paved trail along the Monument corridor was first identified by the City and the Riverfront Foundation, engineers from Mesa County and the City have researched and proposed different alignments for this trail on both the north and south sides of the roads.

The selected alignment along the south side of Monument Road was the culmination of years of public discussion and engineering conceptualizing. Land conservation along Monument Road by Colorado West Land Trust in 2012 and 2014 inspired local partners to conduct a public process with Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA - National Park Service) to create a community vision for the Monument corridor. The community's vision includes protecting more land for open space and habitat, building more trails, preserving scenic views, and connecting the Riverfront, Lunch Loop, the Colorado National Monument and surrounding neighborhoods with a paved shared use trail.

In 2017, the City, Colorado West Land Trust, Mesa County, and the Bureau of Land Management completed another RTCA project that involved stakeholders and the public in a six-month process to vet the proposed Lunch Loop Connector Trail alignment, determine preferred design specifications, as well as identify needed improvements to the Lunch Loop/Three Sisters Trailhead and parking lot. This process has included focus groups, public meetings, and extensive meetings and communications with the public and elected officials. There has not been any public opposition to the Trail or proposed improvements to the trailhead.

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

The City of Grand Junction and Colorado West Land Trust are collaborating with the Bureau of Land Management and the Grand Valley Metropolitan Planning Office to conduct the public process, re-design the trailhead, and determine the best trail alignment and design for the Lunch Loop Connector Trail. The City and the Land Trust are collaborating on funding for this project with a long list of secured funding sources, including: GOCO Connect Initiative, \$1,517,045; City of Grand Junction, \$225,000; Mesa County, \$225,000; Bacon Family Foundation, \$25,000; El Pomar Foundation, \$15,000; Goodwin Foundation, \$25,000; Gates Family Foundation, \$50,000; and One Riverfront, \$50,000. The Western Colorado Conservation Corps (WCCC) will contribute two weeks of work, employing a crew of eight to ten youth. The crew will assist with clearing and grubbing to ready the area for the new trail. WCCC is providing \$2,600 in in-kind match for the project. The project has \$2,134,645 of secured funds totaling

almost 85% of total project cost. The Colorado the Beautiful grant will complete the fundraising effort for this project.

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

Colorado the Beautiful funding will be critical in allowing the City to complete the project by the summer of 2020 to meet other funding requirements and restrictions. If awarded, the Colorado the Beautiful grant will meet the project's final funding requirements. The Lunch Loop Connector Trail is a three-year project, first funded in 2017 by the GOCO Connect Initiative. The project's other funders have also agreed to this time frame.

[Note: Grand Junction, as the second highest-scoring applicant, was awarded funds through the 2017 Colorado State Trails Program. The State asked the City to consider utilizing federal Land and Water Conservation Funds that would free up state dollars for applicants who couldn't meet federal requirements. Despite the additional administrative burden associated with federal monies, the City agreed so that other trails projects might benefit.

Unfortunately, the City was informed late in the process that federal requirements changed. The City initially was told that the 6F overlay, the area subject to federal controls, would apply only to the trail corridor itself. Shortly before the federal submission deadline, City staff was told that the overly would need to encumber over 140 acres of City parkland. Staff did not have sufficient time to review the change, seek consent from other partners, and bring it before council for approval. Unable to meet the deadline, the City withdrew its application from consideration.]

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

An operations and maintenance plan has been developed by the City of Grand Junction and is based on the other 21 miles of hard surface trails within the City's trail system. This on-going maintenance operation will be funded by the City's general fund and is included in the Parks Operations Division area of responsibility and budget. Responsibilities will require 214 1/2 employee hours per year for a total of \$4,397.25 (average wage of \$20.50 per hour). Culvert cleaning is anticipated once every three years at an annual rate of approximately \$1,250 and is based on higher skilled labor at \$40 per hour. These estimates have been developed by the Parks and Recreation Department and are based on other similar projects and trail systems. Total estimated

maintenance is under \$5,647.25 per year which will be included in the overall Parks Operations budget of \$800,000 which includes trail maintenance.

A trail reroute is not an option for this project since there are no existing trails that provide the connection proposed.

- 9. CONTINGENCY/ABILITY (10 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 funds are not awarded? If you are not awarded funding, what measures will be taken to complete the project? Describe your ability to complete the specific grant transaction(s) that will be necessary to accomplish this project. Please provide examples (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? Will you be applying for additional funding through CPW State Trails Program in the future?**

The City of Grand Junction and Colorado West Land Trust are partnering to raise the approximate \$2.5 million needed to complete the Lunch Loop Connector Trail and site improvements at the Lunch Loop/Three Sisters trailhead. The City and the Land Trust are collaborating on funding for this project with a long list of secured funding sources, including: GOCO Connect Initiative, \$1,517,045; City of Grand Junction, \$225,000; Mesa County, \$225,000; Bacon Family Foundation, \$25,000; El Pomar Foundation, \$15,000; Goodwin Foundation, \$25,000; Gates Family Foundation, \$50,000; and One Riverfront, \$50,000. Secured cash match to date is almost 85% of total project cost. If the Colorado the Beautiful grant is not secured, the project will move forward; however, an unfavorable reduction in scope is likely. A change in trail surfacing is the only applicable change that could be made. This would likely mean a change from concrete to crushed granite (or other type of compacted material). Extensive feedback was garnered through the public process stating crushed granite as being not conducive for all-age, all-ability users.

The City of Grand Junction has the experience and ability to manage large-scale grant projects involving multiple funding partners. Most recently, the City completed a \$3.6 million outdoor Amphitheater at Las Colonias Park in July of 2017 involving 12 different funding sources including \$306,000 from six different foundations, \$120,000 from the Department of Energy and Navarro (contractor to the Department of Energy), \$300,000 from the Grand Junction Lions Club, \$500,000 from the Downtown Development Authority, \$1.6 million from the Department of Local Affairs, and \$954,000 from two different City of Grand Junction funding sources. Each partner had different funding requirements, pay out schedules, reporting requirements, and close-out procedures. The process was handled efficiently with City of Grand Junction financial, project management, and Parks and Recreation personnel and processes.

USE OF FUNDS - CASH	Quantity/ Cost per Unit	Qty	Cost	Total	CPW Funds	Total Project Match (\$)	Total Funding (\$)	Balance (should be 0)
Category 2 - Salary/Wages								
None								
Category 3 - Materials/Tools								
Dust Palliative	180 DAYS @ \$100	180	\$ 100.00	\$ 18,000.00		\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	0
Import Material	300 CY @ \$50	300	\$ 50.00	\$ 15,000.00		\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	0
Reseeding of Disturbed Areas	187,000 SF @ \$.20	187,000	\$ 0.20	\$ 37,400.00		\$ 37,400.00	\$ 37,400.00	0
Erosion Control	1 EA @ \$40,000	1	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00		\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	0
Trail Guardrail	300 LF @ \$140	300	\$ 140.00	\$ 42,000.00		\$ 42,000.00	\$ 42,000.00	0
Interpretive/Trailhead Signage	5 EA @ \$1633	5	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 7,500.00		\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	0
Additional Categories								
Construction Newsletters	24 WK @ \$155/WK	24	\$ 155.00	\$ 3,720.00		\$ 3,720.00	\$ 3,720.00	0
Wire Fence	400 LF @ \$18	400	\$ 18.00	\$ 7,200.00		\$ 7,200.00	\$ 7,200.00	0
Construction Contingency				\$ 222,515.00		\$ 222,515.00	\$ 222,515.00	0
USE OF FUNDS - CASH SUBTOTAL					\$ 400,000.00	\$ 2,132,045.00	\$ 2,532,045.00	
IN-KIND	Quantity/ Cost per Unit	Qty	Cost	Total			Total Funding (\$)	Balance (should be 0)
Category 1 - Contracted Services								
Western Co Conservation Corps - Saw Crew	1 WK @ \$1,300	1	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,300.00		\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,300.00	0
Western Co Conservation Corps - Trail Crew	1 WK @ \$1,300	1	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,300.00		\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,300.00	0
Category 2 - Salary/Wages								
None								
Category 3 - Materials/Tools								
None								
Additional Categories								
None								
IN-KIND SUBTOTAL					\$ -	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 2,600.00	
TOTAL PROJECT COST					\$ 400,000.00	\$ 2,134,645.00	\$ 2,534,645.00	
30% REQUIRED MATCH						\$ 120,000.00		

ENVIRONMENTAL FORMS

Section 5 – Application – Environmental Checklist

The applicant is responsible for addressing any environmental impacts associated with the project, including: securing all necessary permits, licenses, clearances, and environmental analysis documentation necessary to comply with local, state, or federal law. Please fill out the table below and associated narratives. Consultation with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) local District Wildlife Manager and biological staff is required if the project is expected to have impacts on wildlife, sensitive wildlife habitats and/or lies within 200 feet of any aquatic landscape.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS Indicate potential for adverse impacts	NOT APPLICABLE <i>Ex: owner does not exist</i>	NEGLECTIBLE IMPACTS <i>Ex: + but no or negligible impact</i>	MINOR IMPACTS	IMPACTS EXCEED MINOR	MORE DATA NEEDED TO DETERMINE DEGREE OF IMPACT
1. Plant/animal/fish species of special concern and habitat; state/federal listed or proposed for listing**	X		N/A	N/A	N/A
2. Unique or important wildlife habitat – i.e.: migration corridor, winter range, reproductive considerations	X		N/A	N/A	N/A
3. Unique or important aquatic habitat – i.e.: fish passage	X		N/A	N/A	N/A
4. Water quality/quantity – surface and ground water considerations		X	N/A	N/A	N/A
5. Stream flow characteristics		X	N/A	N/A	N/A
6. River corridor/lake/ponds/seasonal water ways***	X		N/A	N/A	N/A
7. Wetlands/floodplains	X		N/A	N/A	N/A
8. Storm water runoff		X	N/A	N/A	N/A
9. Sedimentation		X	N/A	N/A	N/A
10. Disturbances to neighboring properties		X	N/A	N/A	N/A
11. Soil/erosion		X	N/A	N/A	N/A
12. Introduction or promotion of non-native species	X		N/A	N/A	N/A
13. Environmental disturbances during construction	X		N/A	N/A	N/A

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

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

- The construction and placement of the trail should be considered placed next to the existing road to minimize the disturbance to the surrounding area.
- The intermittent creek bed should be undisturbed as much as possible for it does provide a movement corridor for the wildlife inhabiting the area.
- Re-vegetation of disturbed areas and control of invasive species

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

Section 5 – Application – Environmental Checklist

- 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 opportunities for “watchable wildlife.”

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

City of Grand Junction

Printed name of applicant:

Traci Wetland

Signature of applicant

August 3, 2017

Date

Matt Sturdevant, CPW District Wildlife Manager

Printed name, title of authority:

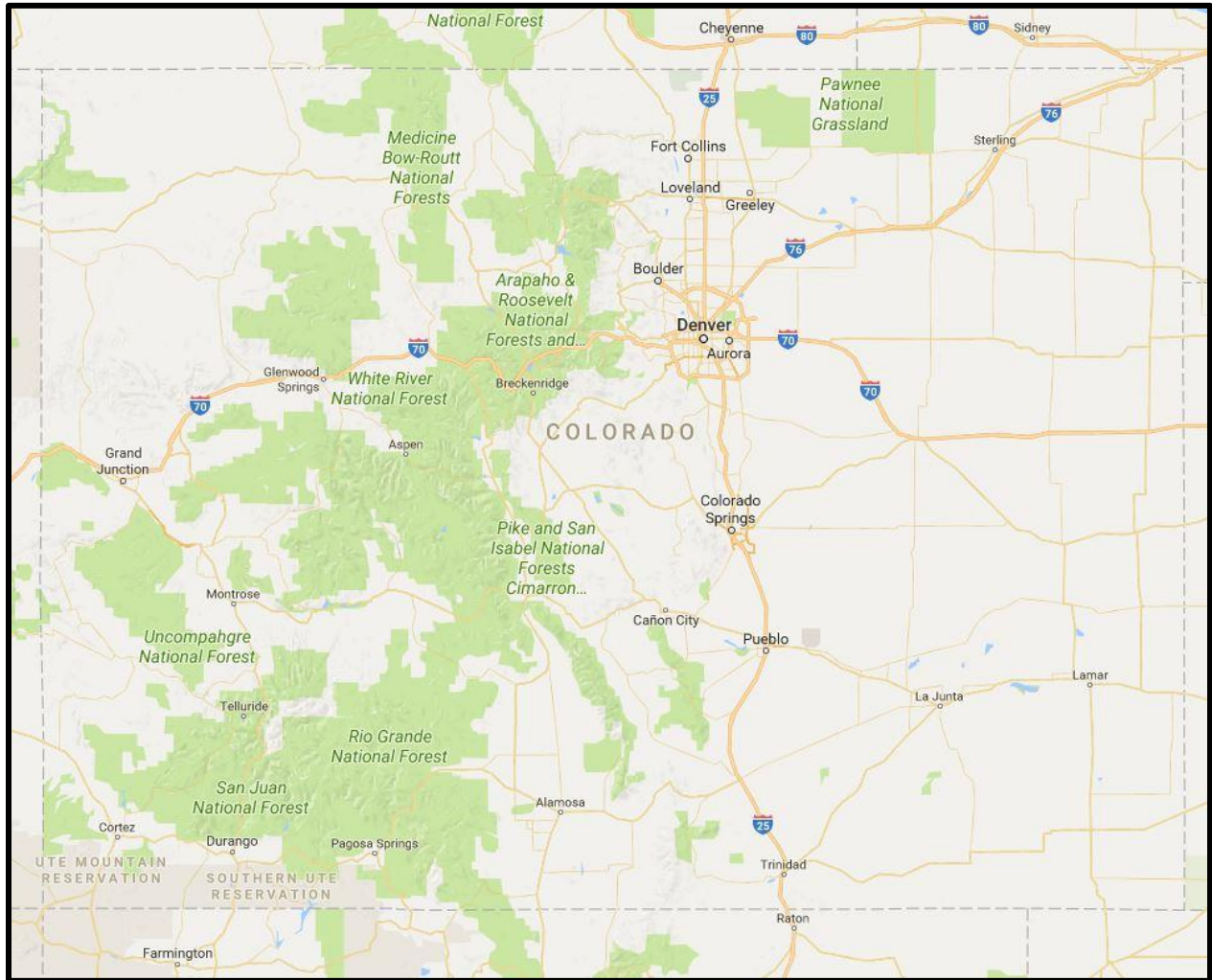
Matt Sturdevant

Signature authority:

August 3, 2017

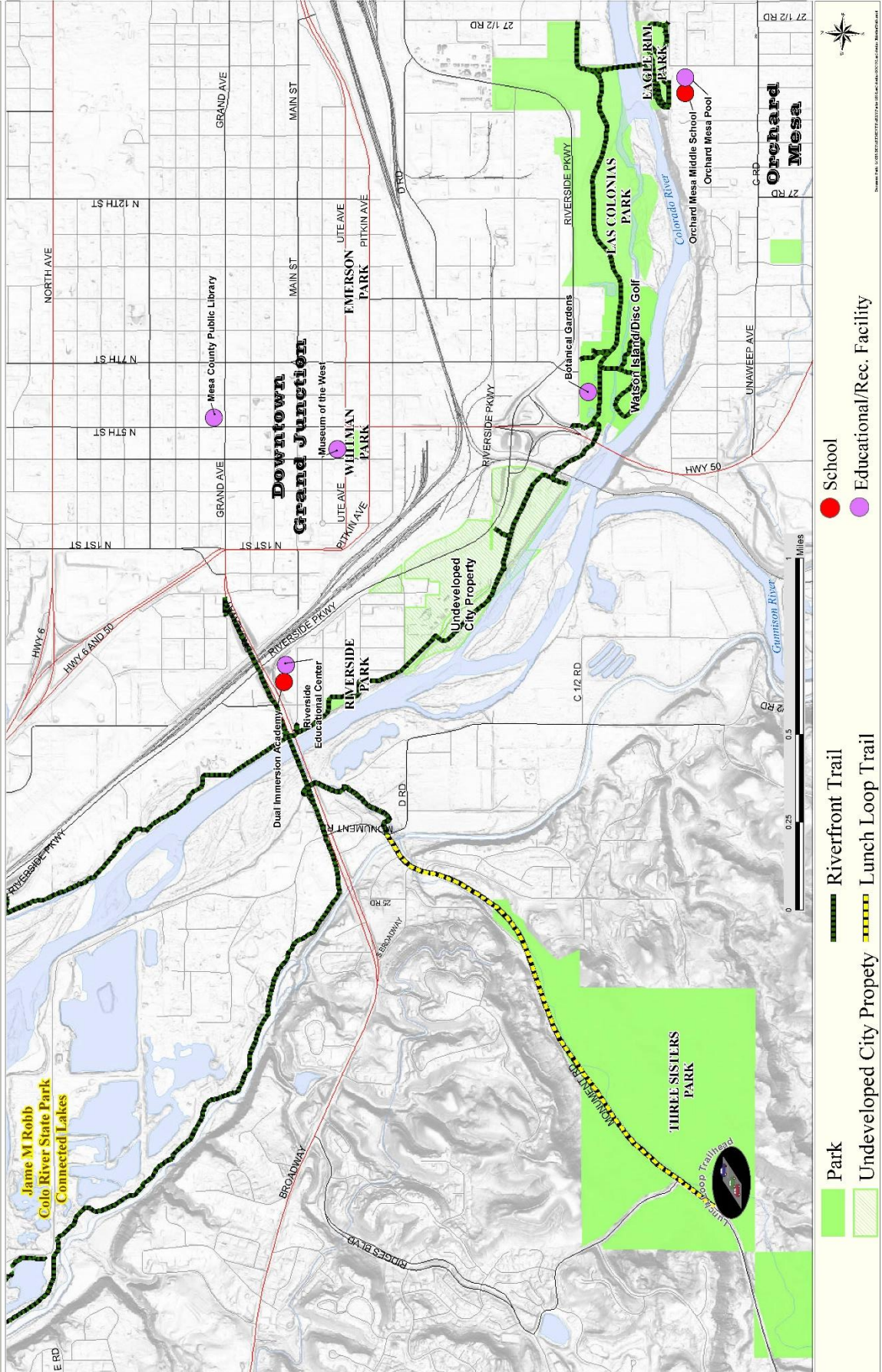
Date

STATEWIDE VICINITY MAP



LOCAL VICINITY MAP

Lunch Loop Trail - Local Vicinity Map



PROJECT SITE MAP

Project Context Map: Lunch Loops Shared-Use Path

City of Grand Junction, Mesa County CO

10/2017



PHOTOGRAPHS AND GRAPHICS



Conceptual Drawing



Existing Lunch Loop parking lot and overview



Existing shoulder use

LETTERS OF SUPPORT



June 25th, 2018

Dear State Recreation Trails Committee;

Please accept this letter of support for the City of Grand Junction's application to construct the Lunch Loop Connector Trail along the Monument Road corridor. The construction of this paved path directly aligns with our mission to create more job opportunities, a diversified and improved quality of life for our community, emphasizing our community's interest in promoting healthy lifestyles.

The off-road paved path will connect the Riverfront Trail and Grand Junction's River District to the Lunch Loop Trailhead and Three Sisters public open space. This trail will form a linear park that extends from the Las Colonias Park and its new amenities along the Colorado River, continue up Monument Road corridor, the gateway to extensive public lands and trail systems and the Colorado National Monument.

Mesa County is quickly becoming an outdoor mecca for the State of Colorado and Colorado's Grand Valley has benefited economically from the growth of the outdoor tourism and outdoor recreation manufacturing sector. Outdoor manufacturers and related businesses seek locations that provide interesting and easily accessible outdoor recreation opportunities. Advancement of this industry is a priority not only for the state, but for our community and we firmly believe the proposed paved trail will help make Grand Junction a more desirable location by helping to attract new professionals to the area as well as help retain the workforce that is currently residing here.

This paved trail is an important element of the outdoor recreational and biking infrastructure that promotes tourism and economic development. According to a recent study conducted by Colorado Mesa University (*Grand Valley Public Trail Systems Socio-Economic Study, 2018*) the Lunch Loop trail system, along with two other systems in the Valley, contribute over \$14.5 million annually to our local economy in tourism. This proposed trail will appeal to tourists visiting downtown Grand Junction and the Riverfront and will provide a great opportunity for riders and pedestrians at all abilities to enjoy these public wildlands and scenic views. The trail will also connect professionals employed at the new Las Colonias business park and new businesses locating along the Riverfront Trail with residential neighborhoods and recreational opportunities, thus greatly advancing the live, work and play aspects of Colorado's Grand Valley.

We appreciate your consideration to the City of Grand Junction's application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robin Brown".

Robin Brown
Executive Director



Mesa County Regional Transportation Planning Office

July 16, 2018

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

To Whom It May Concern:

The Grand Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GVMPO) fully supports the 2018 Colorado the Beautiful Grant Application submitted by the City of Grand Junction to provide funding for the Lunch Loop Connector Trail, a shared use path along the Monument Corridor. Throughout the development of plans for the shared-use path and related trailhead improvements, the GVMPO has provided planning and technical assistance to the City of Grand Junction and the Colorado West Land Trust.

The Lunch Loop Connector Trail project will provide a multi-modal trail connecting two of the area's most valued assets: The Colorado Riverfront Trail and the BLM's Tabeguache/Lunch Loops Trailhead and trail system, one of Mesa County's most visited trail networks. Presently, access to Lunch Loops is generally limited to those with a motor vehicle and the ability to drive and park to enjoy this marvelous trail system by foot, bicycle, or assistive device. The shared-use path will provide for a safe and very manageable walk or bike ride from the Colorado Riverfront Trail, several low-income neighborhoods that are underserved by transportation, as well as Downtown Grand Junction, thereby supporting local and regional economic development goals. The project also includes safety and other improvements at the trailhead and parking lot that will benefit all users but are designed to make this great resource more accessible for families and youth groups. In short, the project will help to meet the goals established through our regional transportation planning process including improved connectivity and the public health benefits resulting from active transportation options. It also meets the Strategic Goals and Objectives of the 2016-2026 Statewide Trails Strategic Plan.

The planning process has included numerous community outreach activities and the Trail and the trailhead improvements have received one-hundred percent positive feedback from the public, businesses, and agencies. We've reviewed this project extensively with our Technical Advisory Committee and with the Grand Valley Regional Transportation Committee, the board that oversees the GVMPO, and both committees are in full support. We strongly recommend this project for 2018 Colorado the Beautiful Grant funding. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Todd Hollenbeck, Director
Grand Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization



July 12, 2018

Dear State Recreation Trails Committee,

I am writing this letter of support for the City of Grand Junction's application to construct the Lunch Loop Connector Trail and to improve the Lunch Loop Trailhead. Hilltop supports the construction of these facilities that will significantly make access safer to our wonderful trail systems and open spaces in the Grand Valley for people of all ages and abilities.

Hilltop operates facilities and services for community members ranging in ages from newborns to seniors. Our mission incorporates programs that promote healthy lifestyles and advance the quality of life for our participants. Exercising and socializing outdoors aligns with Hilltop's mission to support individuals and build strong communities. In fact Hilltop and The Mesa County Department of Public Health and Mesa County Partners are only a few of our community's organizations that have incorporated outdoor recreation into programs to help address physical, mental, and emotional health, particularly for those in under resourced communities.

The Lunch Loop Connector Trail will link the Riverfront Trail, and its more urban outdoor amenities, to the Lunch Loop and Three Sisters public open space. This will bring the Wildlands Trail System and popular Lunch Loop into walking and biking distance for under resourced neighborhoods in Riverside, downtown Grand Junction and Orchard Mesa. In addition, the Riverside Educational Center, Mesa County Partners and Colorado Discoverability are making bikes available right on the Riverfront Trail and at the Lunch Loop Trailhead to benefit low income youth and adults through bike libraries.

The Lunch Loop open space and trail area serves as an amazing opportunity for volunteers from all over the State to participate in trail building, native plant restoration and citizen science projects. Hilltop's Youth Trail Building crew has volunteered over the years to construct the first pedestrian only trail at Lunch Loop. Lunch Loop is Mesa County's first adaptive mountain bike trail, in addition to other single-track trails. A paved trail to this area further connects our residents to their community.

The Lunch Loop Trailhead is an important hub for the community. Home to a popular bike park and a variety of cycling and hiking trails. The Connector Trail will serve as a nexus for the Lunch Loop and Wildlands area. The Trailhead parking lot is often overcrowded and chaotic. This grant will redesign the Trailhead to improve safety and provide seating areas and signage. Connecting our community and providing a safer way to enjoy our beautiful landscape.

Please consider full support for the City's request to construct this important community project.

Sincerely,

Will Hays
Chief Operating Officer



June 28, 2018

Colorado State Recreation Trails Committee;

Dear Committee,

The Outdoor Recreation Coalition (ORC) is writing to you in support of the City of Grand Junction's application for funds to help construct a paved trail that will connect the Riverfront Trail, the Las Colonias Park and adjacent business park, and downtown Grand Junction to the Three Sisters/Lunch Loops public open space and trail system. This paved trail will complete a significant piece of infrastructure that will directly benefit our community, providing biking and pedestrian opportunities that will support healthy lifestyles and contribute to our economic growth.

Our organization was created to expand and enhance the Grand Valley's economy through collaboration and promotion of outdoor recreation businesses. Our growing supporters include dozens of service providers, retailers, manufacturers, and organizations. We understand that trails and outdoor recreation opportunities foster business development and expansion, and they promote a growing tourism industry.

This hard-surface, multi-use trail will connect the Lunch Loop trailhead, our county's most popular trailhead with well over 100,000 user days a year, to the Riverfront Trail, new businesses locating at Las Colonias and along other areas of the Riverfront Trail and our vibrant downtown. Connecting these amenities draws both a professional labor force and visitors to the area who are interested in outdoor recreation. The trail, furthermore, will connect neighborhoods to the Lunch Loop/Three Sisters trails, including a few significant underserved low income and minority neighborhoods. Continuous paved trails encourage people to ride and walk for recreation and for commuting, choosing healthy lifestyles.

Our experience as business owners is consistent with the findings of the 2015 North Star Destination Strategies report; Outdoor recreation opportunities and quality of life are critical to our economy. Road cycling and mountain biking play significant and expanding roles as drivers of economic growth. This paved trail not only connects our amazing amenities around the Riverfront but it also highlights the Monument Corridor, a critical cycling/riding area for the Grand Valley. The Corridor includes two of our community's most important recreational assets, the Colorado National Monument and the Lunch Loop/Three Sisters trail system. Enhancing this corridor is a wise investment in our biking and walking infrastructure and our community's future.

We hope your Committee will support this wonderful project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Shrader'.

Sarah Shrader, Chair
Outdoor Recreation Coalition

Owner, Bonsai Design, Inc
201 South Avenue
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501

Rob Bleiberg
Robin Brown
Dawn Cooper
Tim Fry
Dave Grossman

Scott Mercier
Randy Miller
Christi Reece
Sarah Shrader
Sam Williams

Scott Winans
Jen Zeuner

**Outdoor Recreation Coalition
PO Box 2504
Grand Junction, CO 81502**



Riverside Educational Center
After School Tutoring and Enrichment

July 12, 2018

Dear State Trails Committee,

We are writing this letter of support for the City of Grand Junction's application to construct the Lunch Loop Connector Trail and to make improvements to the Lunch Loop/Three Sisters trailhead. We at the Riverside Educational Center strongly support this project because it will improve access for all those who live in the Riverside and neighboring communities to trails and really fun outdoor open space.

The Riverside Educational Center (REC) operates a K-12 after school tutoring program that includes outdoor enrichment opportunities and a summer camp. REC serves youth from marginalized communities around the Grand Valley, including from Riverside and Orchard Mesa neighborhoods.

Two years ago, REC partnered with the RIO coalition to expand outdoor programming to include hiking, biking, camping, and rafting. Colorado West Land Trust and Mesa County Partners joined together to lead hikes and bike rides along the Riverfront Trail and at the Lunch Loop and Three Sisters open space. Even though the Riverfront Trail and Lunch Loop are so close to Riverside, REC's students and their families did not frequent them.

The Land Trust and Partners provided bikes and equipment for all the students and taught us how to ride both paved and dirt trails. All the students rode to Las Colonias and to Connected Lakes many times. REC recruited a number of older REC students to form a Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) to weigh in on determining improvements to parks and trails that would allow our communities to use the open space that are close to neighborhoods. The YAC presented its ideas to the community at large at public meetings in our local park and at our neighborhood school.

The YAC and the Riverside and Orchard Mesa communities voted for improvements to made in the Riverside Park, along the Riverfront Trail, and for the construction of the Lunch Loop Connector Trail. This paved trail would allow local residents to ride bikes to the Lunch Loop trails and bike park and just ride on a different section of the Riverfront Trail through a more natural open space.

We hope you will support the City's full request for funds to build the Lunch Loop Connector Trail.

Sincerely,

Joy Hudak, Executive Director
Riverside Educational Center

Hannia Bravo
YAC Member/Riverside resident

YOUTH CORPS LETTERS OF SUPPORT



6/20/2018

City of Grand Junction
1340 Gunnison Ave
Grand Junction, CO 81501
RE: Lunch Loop Connector Trail Grant Application

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter of support and commitment of the Western Colorado Conservation Corps for the Colorado State Trails application submitted by the City of Grand Junction for the invasive species removal and the trail completion at the Lunch Loop Connector Trail.

The Western Colorado Conservation Corps (WCCC) is an employment and educational experience for a diverse population of youth ranging in age from 16-25. Corps Members have the opportunity to learn life skills and provide service to their community, as well as take on civic and environmental responsibilities designed to enrich their lives and their surroundings. The WCCC's purpose is to serve youth in western Colorado through service by improving their community and gaining valuable life experience for their success in the future.

The proposal clearly fits the mission of the Western Colorado Conservation Corps (WCCC) by providing youth the opportunities to work on a valuable project with your agency. Youth from the cities of Grand Junction and surrounding areas, who are able to participate in the program, will gain a sense of accomplishment and a strong work ethic they will need in the future. These youth become better stewards of the land and receive a sense of civic and environmental responsibility because they're working in their own community.

Below is the commitment of the Western Colorado Conservation Corps to assist the City of Grand Junction in the invasive species removal as well as the trail completion at the Lunch Loop Connector Trail. The crew will spend one week clearing and grubbing the area getting the site ready for trail construction. The crew will spend the second weeks assisting with the construction of stairs on the southern end of the trail and installing interpretive signage.

- WCCC will provide a trained specialty crew (saw and pesticide) to complete the work of clearing and grubbing the area prior to trail construction for a rate of \$9,000.00 for the week.
- WCCC will provide a chipper to chip the bio-mass at a rate of \$840.00 a week.
- WCCC will provide a crew to assist with the construction of the stairs and installing the interpretive signage at a rate of \$7,000.00 for the week.
- WCCC's actual cost for this effort is \$19,440.00 for the two weeks, but we will provide the balance, \$2,600, as in-kind services.

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Jeff Roberts, Director
Western Colorado Conservation Corps
2818 ½ North Ave.
Grand Junction Co. 81504
970-241-1027 x 12

EASEMENT INFORMATION

Three Sisters: Colorado West Land Trust (d.b.a. Mesa County Land Conservancy, Mesa Land Trust) purchased the Three Sisters parcel (130 acres) from a private landowner in 2012. The Land Trust placed a conservation easement on the property and deeded this property to the City of Grand Junction for non-motorized recreational purposes and open space. This conservation easement is perpetual and specifically allows for this paved trail.

Meens parcel: In 2014, Colorado West Land Trust (d.b.a. Mesa County Land Conservancy, Mesa Land Trust) purchased the Meens parcel (approximately 13 acres) from Robert Meens, a private landowner. The Land Trust placed a conservation easement on the property and deeded this property to the City of Grand Junction for non-motorized recreational purposes and open space. This conservation easement is perpetual and specifically allows for this paved trail.

Frog Pond LLC: The City of Grand Junction purchased ROW for the paved trail from Frog Pond, LLC in 2016. This document has been recorded with Mesa County.

Tau Kappa Sigma LLC (373 S. Redlands Rd): The City of Grand Junction signed a MOA with the previous owner, Davene Kyle, in 2016 to transfer ROW to the City of Grand Junction for the paved trail upon the City completing requested drainage improvements to the immediate area where the trail will be constructed. Davene Kyle recently sold her property to the Tau Kappa Sigma LLC. The new owners have agreed to the same terms as Ms. Kyle in signed agreements.

Once the City has completed the drainage work for the Tau Kappa Sigma LLC as per agreement, the transfer of the ROW will be recorded with Mesa County.

Annabel Castaneda (377 S. Redlands Rd.): Ms. Castaneda signed documents transferring ROW required for the paved trail in 2016. The Land Trust is completing due diligence with Ms. Castaneda's lien holders for the partial release for the necessary 232 square feet. Ms. Castaneda's signed documents are included in the application. Once the Partial releases are complete, the transfer of the ROW will be recorded with Mesa County.

Kiefer parcel: The Kiefer parcel refers to a piece of land adjacent to the Redlands Water and Power Company. The Land Trust acquired this parcel from the Kiefer family and transferred ownership through a quitclaim deed to the City of Grand Junction.

Redlands Water and Power Company: Redlands Water and Power Company has granted a perpetual easement for this trail across its property. This document has been executed by Redlands Water and Power and will be executed by the City of Grand Junction on April 4th. Once executed, the City of Grand Junction will record with Mesa County.

All remaining ROW necessary falls within the existing Monument Road road-easement.