

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 Larimer County Department of Natural Resources (Larimer County)

Postal address 1800 South County Road 31

City Loveland State CO ZIP Code 80537

Contact name Jennifer Almstead

Contact email almstejw@co.larimer.co.us Phone (970) 619-4569

FUNDING

Grant request for 2 - 4 person crews (max \$75,000)	\$ 72,625.00
Grant request for 5-8 person crews (max \$150,000)	\$ 0.00
Match (min. 25% of grant request)	\$ 269,837.84
Total	\$ 342,462.84

STEWARDSHIP ELIGIBILITY

Why is this program a good fit for your organization?

Larimer County seeks capacity support from CPW's grant program to help resolve a critical backlog of trail maintenance across county-owned open space properties. This backlog is due to extreme weather events, totaling over 20 inches of rain in the spring and summer of 2023, causing significant trail erosion. The extent of this trail maintenance backlog has been exacerbated by the increased pressure to construct new trails in high-use areas to meet increased visitor demands. Additional crew members are needed in 2024 to ensure Larimer County's trail system is well-maintained and not further degraded while simultaneously allowing Larimer County to advance another grant-funded trail construction project that is urgently needed. Funding provided by CPW will enable the county to train and hire three (3) full-time trail crew staff members for six months for priority trail maintenance work. This project will help to ensure that Larimer County's trails continue to be well-maintained in order to protect the surrounding natural resources as well as provide high-quality visitor experiences.

STEWARDSHIP WORK PLAN

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

The proposed three-member trail crew will be supervised by county trail staff to maintain up to 70 miles of trails on county-owned open spaces to meet the highest priority needs. If awarded, the county can easily integrate the additional crew members into the department's work plan in 2024. This is a fairly turn-key operation given the county's long history of hiring seasonal staff for trail maintenance.

The grant-funded trail maintenance crew will use hand tools to clean and create rolling grade dips, remove berms, fill in eroded sections of trail, close and/or restore existing social trails, cut back vegetation, remove downed trees, and re-bench trail tread. Other work will include constructing trail reroutes, installing steps using treated timber or native rock, constructing rock walls, rock armoring of trail tread, installing trail signage, and leading volunteer groups.

STEWARDSHIP CREW

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

Larimer County is a tenured land managing agency with experienced professional staff that hires and supports trail crews who perform non-motorized trail maintenance on an annual basis. If awarded, Larimer County will hire, train, and supervise the CPW trail crew members per our standards and protocols. Grant funding will in part be used to secure a county-fleet vehicle to support these additional crew members. The seasonal staff will be provided training on best practices in trail maintenance, resource protection and personal and crew safety. All staff will be provided with safety gear, all of the necessary equipment, and associated training to complete this work. The staff would also take part in the county's offered benefits for seasonal employees. Larimer County's Trail Supervisor has over 19 years of trail construction and maintenance and has supervised seasonal trail crew employees for 11 years. The Trail Supervisor's exemplary leadership, hard work ethic, and calm demeanor are why so many of our seasonal staff return year after year.

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.

Larimer County has conserved a vast network of public lands, totaling 34,000 acres of county-owned open space properties, serving more than 550,000 visitors annually. These publicly accessible open spaces include close in, high demand recreation sites such as Horsetooth Mountain Open Space which receives over 250,000 visitors annually. Larimer County's open space trail system is significant to the state and to the local community by offering residents and visitors a plethora of nature-based recreational opportunities along with spectacular views, pristine wildlife habitat, and high conservation values for the benefit of people and wildlife alike. There are 70 miles of natural surface trails of which 80% are multi-use trails, catering to a wide range of user groups including hikers, trail runners, mountain bikers, and equestrians. The county's interconnected and complex trail system offers the public a place of refuge, exercise, time spent with family and friends, and a way to connect with the natural world. A well-maintained trail system is our best tool to protect natural resources and provide quality visitor experiences.

Application form



NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION - MAINTENANCE

PROJECT BASICS

Title 2024 Larimer County Priority Trail & Maintenance Capacity Support Project

Type Construction Planning
 Maintenance Support

Phased project Yes No If yes, Phase # of

Brief summary

Larimer County seeks financial support to hire three trail crew members to help resolve a critical backlog of trail maintenance across county-owned open space properties in 2024.

Grant request	\$ 72,625.00	Grant ratio ¹	21 %
Match	\$ 269,837.84	Match ratio	79 %
Total	\$ 342,462.84	Total	100 %

APPLICANT

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

Organization Larimer County Department of Natural Resources (Larimer County)

Postal address 1800 South County Road 31

City Loveland State CO ZIP Code 80537

General email parksoffice@co.larimer.co.us UEI # HQMBX6GPALH6

Lead contact Jennifer Almstead Title Fund Development & Projects Specialist

Telephone (970) 619-4569 Email almstejw@co.larimer.co.us

Project manager Joel Schwab Title Trails and Project Supervisor

Telephone (970) 498-5609 Email schwabja@co.larimer.co.us

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	Northern Colorado	County	Larimer County
Latitude/Longitude	N/A	Congressional district	2
Name of property owner	Larimer County Department of Natural Resources		
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Equestrian
E-bikes allowed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Snow sports (non-motorized)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Ebikes (I & II) are allowed on natural trails for those with mobility issues.		
Estimate percentage by type (e.g.,) 50% hiking, etc.	78% Hiking, 15% Biking, and 2% Equestrian		
Surface	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural	<input type="checkbox"/> Crusher fines	<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt
	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:		
Size of new trailhead (sq. ft.)	0	Length of trail being planned	0
Length of new trail construction ²	0	Length of trail maintenance	88 miles
Length of inter-connecting trail	0	Length of trail reroute	0
Length of decommissioned trail	0	Length of restored trail	.5 miles
Length of trail to be signed	2.5 miles	Length of trail grooming	0
Other:			
Estimated amount of paid crew hours:	Grant 3,120 hours	Match:	9,040 hours

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	Jennifer Almstead <small>Digitally signed by Jennifer Almstead Date: 2023.09.30 09:06:46 -06'00'</small>	Date	09/28/2023
Name	Jennifer Almstead	Title	Fund Development Specialist

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

Resolution

Supporting the Grant Application for a 2024 Non-Motorized Trail Stewardship Program Grant from Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) to provide funding for Larimer County's Department of Natural Resources 2024 Priority Trail Stewardship & Maintenance Capacity Support Project.

WHEREAS, the Larimer County Board of County Commissioner, for the Larimer County Department of Natural Resources (collectively the "County"), supports CPW's Non-Motorized Trail Stewardship Program Grant application for the County's 2024 Priority Trail Stewardship & Maintenance Capacity Support Project. And if the grant is awarded, the County supports the completion of the Project; and

WHEREAS, the County, requesting up to **\$75,000** from CPW's Non-Motorized Trail Stewardship Program grant for capacity support to train and hire three (3) full-time trail crew members to assist with priority trail maintenance across the County's trail system for six months in 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE LARIMER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS THAT:

- Section 1: The County strongly supports the application and has appropriated its portion of the matching funds required under the grant from CPW from Department of Natural Resources revenues.
 - Section 2: If the grant is awarded, the County strongly supports the completion of the Project.
 - Section 3: The County, by executing a grant agreement with CPW, will authorize the expenditure of funds necessary to meet its obligations pursuant to the terms and obligations of the Grant awarded.
 - Section 4: The County owns the lands on which the Project will be maintained and is committed to maintaining ownership responsibility for the next 25 years.
 - Section 5: The County recognizes that as the recipient of a CPW State Stewardship Program grant the project site must provide reasonable public access.
 - Section 7: If the grant is awarded, the Larimer County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Chair of the Larimer County Board of Commissioners to sign the grant agreement with CPW.
 - Section 8: This resolution to be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.
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PASSED AND APPROVED ON: 09-26-2023

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LARIMER COUNTY, COLORADO

BY: Godey Shaddock-McNally
Chair

ATTEST:
Jess Beatty
Deputy Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive "C" followed by a horizontal line.

September 12, 2023

Christine M. Luckasen
Assistant County Attorney I

Timeline

NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION



PROJECT DETAILS

Organization Larimer County Department of Natural Resources

Project title 2024 Priority Trail & Maintenance Capacity Support Project

TASK <small>Mobilization, staffing, construction or maintenance elements, planning phases, etc.</small>	Dates*	Dates	Dates	Dates	Dates	Dates	Dates
	May '24	June '24	July '24	Aug.'24	Sept-Oct '24	Nov. '24	DEC. '24
Interview and Hire Crew Members	X						
Crew Orientation and Training(s)	X						
Priority Trail Maintenance Work		X	X	X	X	X	
Assist Volunteer Groups (1-2 per month)		X	X	X	X	X	
Install updated signage/wayfinding		X	X	X	X	X	
Project conclusion							X
Administrative Close-out							X

*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 Larimer County Department of Natural Resources (Larimer County)

Project title 2024 Priority Trail & Maintenance Capacity Support Project

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.

Larimer County seeks grant funding to train and hire three (3) trail crew members in 2024, to provide critical capacity to its existing trail crew (2 full time and 4 seasonal staff). The natural surface trail system within Larimer County open spaces has faced multiple challenges this year, resulting in a long list of prioritized trail maintenance repairs and infrastructure improvements. The grant-funded crew members would provide important non-motorized trail maintenance support across county-owned open space properties for six months in 2024. The scope of work includes completing priority trail maintenance across 70 miles of natural surface trails (within the existing trail tread and established trail system) to fix damage from heavy rainfall events. Specifically, the crew will construct trail reroutes, restore degraded areas or social trails, install steps using treated timber or rock, construct rock walls, rock armor trail tread, install trail signs, and lead volunteer groups to conduct trail maintenance. The project will take place at Red Mountain, Eagle's Nest, Horsetooth Mountain, Devil's Backbone Open Space, Ramsay-Shockey, and Hermit Park open spaces in northern Colorado.

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

Larimer County prides itself on maintaining a high-quality trail system which consistently receives a 95% satisfaction rating from visitors. Larimer County is at a crucial point to ensure its trail system remains sustainable going into the next two years, as funding and staffing are limited to address the extensive trail damage incurred from the heavy rain events in 2023, conduct regular ongoing maintenance across its 70-mile natural surface trail system within open space properties, and also construct a new grant-funded trail in 2024. Therefore, additional capacity is needed to ensure Larimer County's trail system does not worsen and focus on a prioritized 70 miles of trail for maintenance in 2024. The grant-funded crew members will provide critical and necessary capacity as well as streamline the efficiency of the trail maintenance work while ensuring a well-maintained trail for the benefit of people and wildlife.

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

In 2023, Larimer County received anywhere between 20 to 30 inches of rain from numerous severe weather events. The condition of the trail system includes vast sections that are eroded and require filling in and regrading, washed out steps, and need for added drainage features to bring the system back to a sustainable, safe level. In many cases, the existing trails require rebenching to improve drainage and reduce muddy conditions such as along Horsetooth Falls and Horsetooth Rock trails, at Horsetooth Mountain Open Space near Fort Collins. There are numerous timber steps that have fallen into disrepair and need to be replaced at Devil's Backbone Open Space, west of Loveland and Hermit Park Open Space in the Estes Valley. There is also general maintenance work such as cleaning drainage structures, removing vegetation within the trail corridor, as well as monitoring and closing mapped, new social trails.

2. COMMUNITY BENEFIT**15 points**

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

Larimer County is home to over 300,000 people and tops countless charts as one of one of the best places to live in the west. According to the state demographer, Fort Collins is the fifth fastest growing city in Colorado and is expected to double in size in the next 20+ years. Studies have shown that a quality of life defined by open spaces, recreation, and scenery has become a major factor in where people choose to live and invest in new businesses. In fact, a 2018 GOCO-funded study, "Our Lands, Our Future" found that proximity to open space resulted in an increase of \$104 million in residential property values in Larimer County.

Larimer County Department of Natural Resources' mission is to connect people, nature, and place. Our vision for the future rests on the belief that healthy landscapes support healthy people. Since 1954, Larimer County has acquired and conserved a vast network of public and private lands. The community's love and appreciation of the outdoors has played a vital role in this growth. This project will certainly benefit this growing community and its visitors alike.

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

This project will address and improve the existing 70-mile trail system at these open spaces and cater to a wide variety of recreational users and abilities. This work includes repairing surfacing and slopes for improved accessibility outcomes. Those with mobility disabilities are permitted to use Class I & II e-bikes on our natural surface trails. The crew will also conduct trail maintenance on an ADA accessible trail at Devil's Backbone Open Space.

- 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.

Based on statistically valid visitor studies conducted by Colorado State University, combined with Larimer County's daily permit sales, it is estimated that these county-owned open space properties serve over 550,000 visitors annually. These publicly accessible open spaces include close-to-home high demand recreation sites such as Horsetooth Mountain, Devil's Backbone, and Hermit Park open spaces. These also represent the most popular open spaces in Larimer County's system with more than 500,000 visitors annually. Eagles Nest and Red Mountain open spaces are within an hour's drive north of Fort Collins and offer a less crowded option than the close-in properties, with approximately 50,000 visitors annually. Ramsay-Shockey Open Space is immediately adjacent to Pinewood Reservoir in west Loveland, and offers users a 1.5-mile natural surface trail with approximately 10,000 visitors annually.

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.)

Larimer County's full-time professional Trail Supervisor, full-time Trail Technician, and Temporary Trail Crew Lead positions will oversee all trail maintenance conducted as part of this grant funding. Between these three positions, staff have over 30 combined years of professional trail design, construction and maintenance experience.

All maintenance tasks will be completed by Larimer County's trained full-time and seasonal trail staff, which will include the three requested grant-funded staff positions. Larimer County will engage volunteers and offer ten (10) trail maintenance projects during this project. All of the volunteer events will be organized and led by permanent Larimer County trail staff.

- 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.

In 2022, Larimer County, in partnership with the Town of Timnath were awarded \$250,000 from Colorado Parks and Wildlife's Non-Motorized Trail Program to construct .93 miles of the Poudre River Regional Trail, the final trail gap between Timnath and Windsor. This project is on-track to be completed by the contract deadline and within the project scope by June 30, 2024.

4. PLANNING**10 points**

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

Larimer County annually assesses current trail conditions system-wide to develop annual maintenance work plans and prioritize trail projects. Following this fall 2023's inventory, it was determined that there was more extensive damage to the trails than originally anticipated. Due to the heavy workload anticipated for the trail crew in 2024 it became apparent that additional capacity support was needed.

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

Numerous adopted county master plans support the work proposed in this application, namely the importance of stewarding and protecting the existing investment in Larimer County's trails system. The Larimer County Open Lands Master Plan (2015), developed with significant public outreach and stakeholder input, overwhelmingly confirmed public desire for Larimer County to provide natural surface trail opportunities for low impact recreational uses while developing facilities to minimize conflicts with wildlife and other natural features. Each Larimer County open space property has an adopted management plan developed around the guiding principles of balancing protection of ecological resources, provision of nature-based high quality visitor experiences, while ensuring fiscal sustainability. Specific to trail design, construction and management, Larimer County Natural Resources Department has an adopted trails standard that matches industry and trail professional best practices.

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.)

Upon project completion, the grant-funded maintenance work will be included in Larimer County's monitoring and maintenance plan and reviewed on an annual basis. The Trails Supervisor will work closely with the Land Conservation, Planning and Resource Division Manager to identify any ongoing maintenance needs across the county's non-motorized trail system and prioritize funding accordingly. The annual trail maintenance work plan will include any necessary budgeting commitments to account for the associated costs of conducting the annual monitoring and trail maintenance work for the following year.

- 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.

Larimer County Department of Natural Resources has established and follows adopted professional trail construction and maintenance standards for our non-motorized trail system. These standards are based on standards, guidelines and professional best practices that have been created by other agencies and groups, including the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (Colorado's Guide for Planning Trails with Wildlife In Mind), Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, U.S. Forest Service, and the National Park Service.

Larimer County believes a well-built, well-maintained trail is our best tool to protect natural resources and provide quality visitor experiences. If we design, build and maintain trails well and follow established best practices, visitors will stay on the trail and minimize resource impacts and disturbances to wildlife. Therefore, best management practices are employed beginning with initial trail design including locating the trail to avoid fragmenting wildlife habitat and key conservation targets (nest sites, rare plant communities, fawning areas, cultural resource sites, etc.), and follows a sustainable grade (typically between 5%-8%). Best trail construction practices are followed including but not limited to properly clearing the trail corridor, using full bench trail construction techniques, cutting the trail tread to an 8% outslope to sheet water across the trail, and backsloping the uphill side of the trail to reduce erosion. And then over time, employing adaptive best trail maintenance practices such as adding drainage structures, removing berms, closing down trail braids and social trails, filling-in material, re-benching the tread surface, re-backsloping and removal of vegetation on and near the trail tread to ensure ongoing protection trail infrastructure.

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.

Over the past 20 years, Larimer County has built the natural surface trails in its’ system following tenants of conservation planning – first mapping and evaluating natural and cultural resource conservation targets to ensure the protection and sustainability of those resources and then designing trails to avoid, minimize and mitigate (last resort) impacts to those targets. A key resource to guide trail design and maintenance has been Colorado Parks and Wildlife’s Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind. This approach is intended to minimize habitat fragmentation, limit disturbance of wildlife movement corridors, and avoid sensitive wildlife habitats (raptor nest buffers, denning and fawning areas, riparian area buffers, etc.). Because we believe in the tenant that trails are our best people management and resource protection tool, it’s imperative that trails are designed to avoid resource impacts and are sustainable over time. The maintenance work proposed in this application will help meet existing trail system maintenance goals and metrics in complement to the demand to construct additional trails (identified in our 2024-2027 work plan).

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

The planned maintenance work will take place within the existing tread of the county’s established trail system. Therefore, there are no additional vegetation, habitat, or resource impacts anticipated for this project. CPW has reviewed the materials but has not provided any specific comments regarding this project. All of the trail improvements will be in alignment with CPW’s trail planning guidance.

- 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.)

All work proposed in this grant application will be conducted within the existing tread and footprint of Larimer County’s established trail system. The trail system has been designed to avoid, minimize, and mitigate wildlife habitat and other resource protections. Specifically, trail closures are in place for raptor nest buffers (timing varies by species), muddy trail conditions (post rainfall events), and full property seasonal closures for wildlife (December through February for properties with high-use elk and deer winter concentration areas). Larimer County employs a variety of measures to notify the public including a text notification system, updates to COTREX, gates, signs, and staff at key locations as needed.

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

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

Larimer County’s Natural Resources Department provides the local and surrounding community with a plethora of volunteer opportunities to maintain and improve our public open spaces and facilities. Specifically, through our education and volunteer management staff, we actively recruit and provide volunteer opportunities to work on trail maintenance projects across our open spaces. As part of our grant match, we will offer ten (10) trail maintenance projects and garner up to 150 volunteers who will provide 900 hours of work, valued at over \$30,000. The volunteer projects will be open to the general public as well as recreation and corporate groups who wish to participate in trail maintenance work. Information about these volunteer opportunities will be posted on the county’s website, volunteer and county newsletters, and social media platforms for the duration of this project.

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

Larimer County’s Natural Resources Department provides the local and surrounding community with a plethora of volunteer opportunities to maintain and improve our public open spaces and facilities. Specifically, through our education and volunteer management staff, we actively recruit and provide volunteer opportunities to work on trail maintenance projects across our open spaces. As part of our grant match, we will offer ten (10) trail maintenance projects and garner up to 150 volunteers who will provide 900 hours of work, valued at over \$30,000. The volunteer projects will be open to the general public as well as recreation and corporate groups who wish to participate in trail maintenance work. Information about these volunteer opportunities will be posted on the county’s website, volunteer and county newsletters, and social media platforms for the duration of this project.

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

Larimer County does not anticipate any public opposition to this project as it is providing priority trail maintenance. Any complaints that might be received would be directed to Larimer County Natural Resources appropriate staff to resolve the issue promptly and respectfully. If the opposition is more serious and urgent the concern or issue is handled by the Department Director.

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.

Larimer County has dedicated Help Preserve Open Spaces sales tax funds that are applied toward annual trail maintenance costs through 2043. The funds are distributed every month and will be available beginning in January 2024. Larimer County’s significant cash match demonstrates our deep and steadfast commitment toward this project.

The Friends of Larimer County Parks and Open Lands, a nonprofit organization, is contributing \$1,000 toward this project, and ten (10) volunteer projects are anticipated, to leverage this project work even further. The county estimates that 150 volunteers, from the local area, will provide 900 hours of volunteer time toward this project, valued at over \$30,000.

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

Grant funds provided by CPW will enable Larimer County to address the critical trail maintenance backlog while continuing forward with an urgently needed trail construction project because of increased visitor demand and timed due to a secured trail construction grant. If funding is not secured, funding from the Friend of Larimer County Parks and Open Lands will no longer be available and the trail maintenance backlog will continue to worsen. This could result in trail sections with extensive damage being closed until the visitor safety and resource protection issues are resolved. Delaying critical maintenance work could also contribute to further exacerbated trail damage resulting in wholesale trail rebuild level work versus standard maintenance level work.

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: Trail Stewardship & Maintenance **Project Sponsor:** Larimer County

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					
2. Water quality/quantity – surface and ground water considerations					
3. Wetlands/floodplains					
4. Storm water runoff and/or Sedimentation					
5. Geological resources: soils, bedrock, slopes, streambeds, landforms, etc.					
6. Disturbances to neighboring properties					
7. Historical/cultural resources, including landscapes, ethnographic, archeological, structures, etc.					
8. Introduction or promotion of non-native species					
9. Environmental disturbances during construction					
10. Air Quality					
11. Land/structures with history of contamination/hazardous materials even if remediated					
12. Other important environmental resources to address					

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

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

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

Printed name of applicant

Signature of applicant

Date

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



Signature of authority

Date

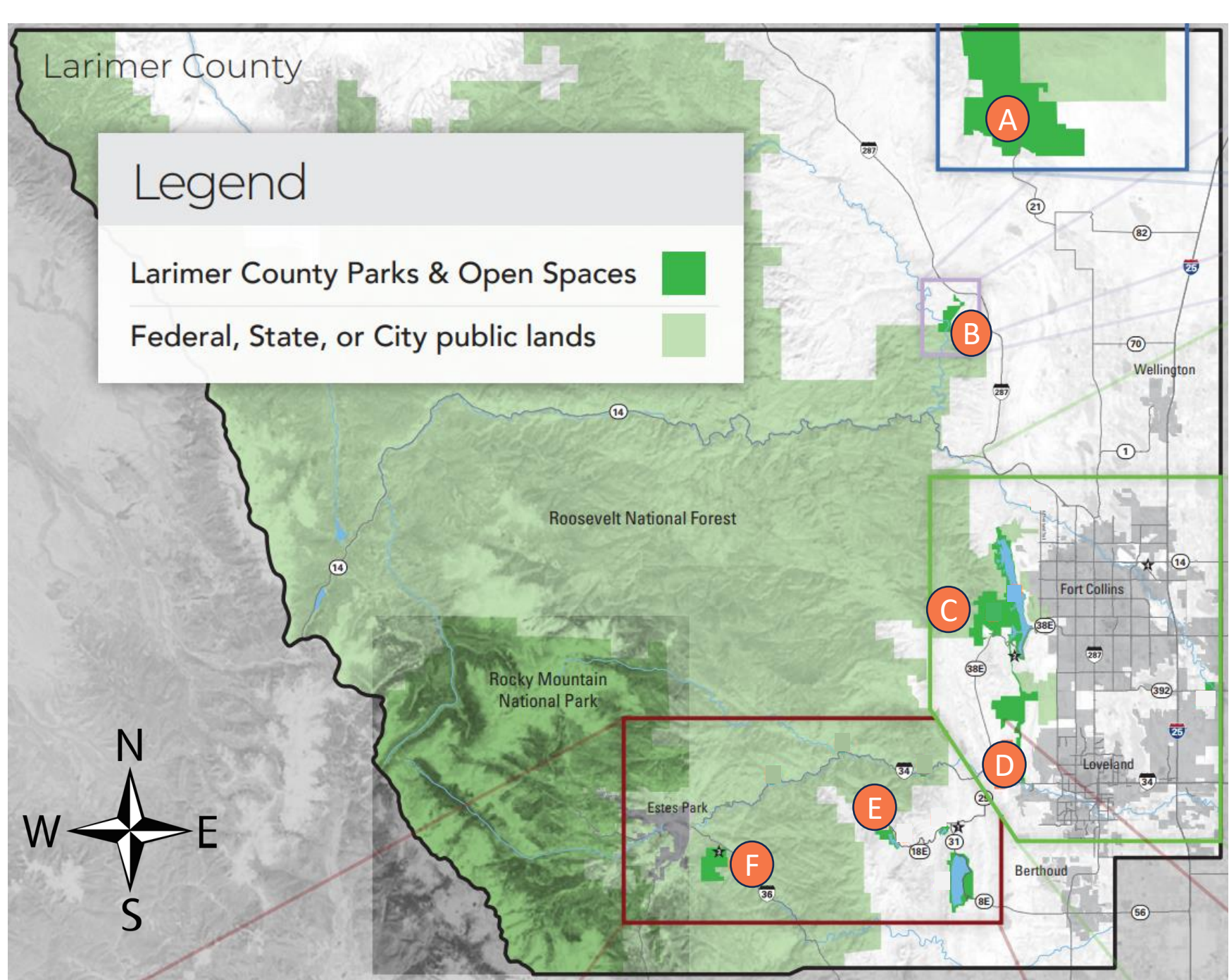
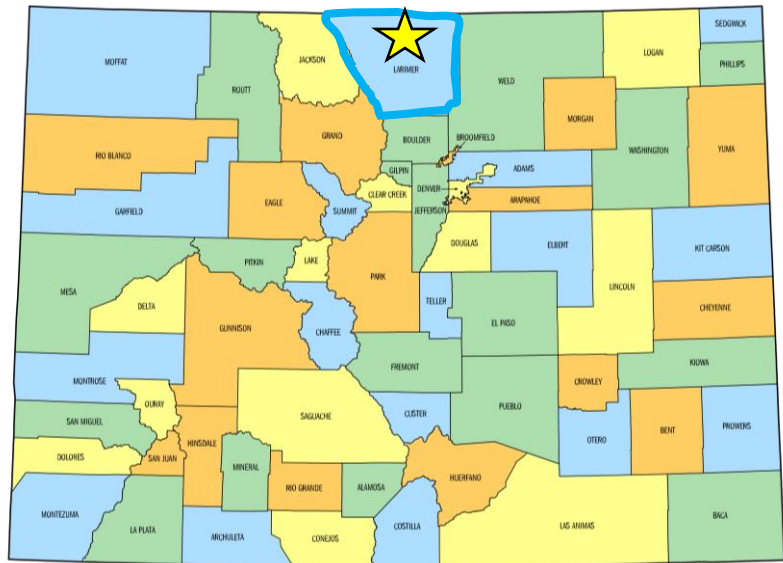
Project Budget



NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT

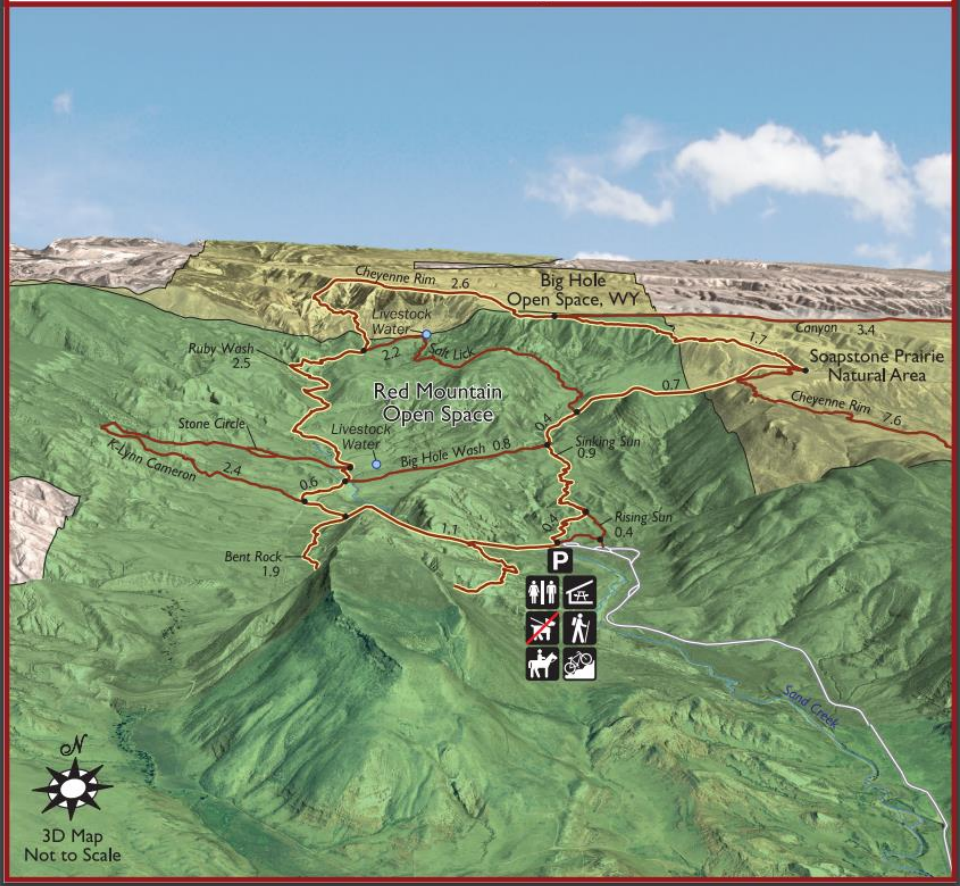
Project details				Match details			
CPW Grant #				Source of match	Type	Date available	Amount
Organization	Larimer County Department of Natural Resources			Help Preserve Open Spaces sales tax	Cash	Jan-24	\$ 237,913.84
Project title	2024 Priority Trail Stewardship & Maintenance Capacity Support			Friends of Larimer County	Cash	Sep-23	\$ 1,000.00
Grant Request (auto populates)	\$ 72,625.00			Local Community Volunteers	In-Kind	Jan-24	\$30,924
Local match	\$ 269,837.84	Min. Match	\$ 18,156.25				
Project Total	\$ 342,462.84					Match Total	\$ 269,837.84

Description	Qty	Unit type	Cost per unit	Total	Type	CPW Grant	Local match	Balance
Salary/Wages								
Permanant Trail Staff-Trail Supervisor	52	WK	\$ 1,542.88	\$ 80,229.76			\$ 80,229.76	\$ -
Permanant Trail Staff-Trail Technician	52	WK	\$ 1,188.54	\$ 61,804.08			\$ 61,804.08	\$ -
Temporary Trail Staff-10 month (1 staff)	44	WK	\$ 890.00	\$ 39,160.00			\$ 39,160.00	\$ -
Temporary Trail Staff-6 month (3 staff)	26	WK	\$ 2,220.00	\$ 57,720.00			\$ 57,720.00	\$ -
Temporary Trail Staff- 6 months (3 staff)	26	Wk	\$ 2,220.00	\$ 57,720.00		\$ 57,720.00		\$ -
Materials/Supplies								
Fleet vehicle rental for crew members	26	WK	\$ 150.00	\$ 3,900.00		\$ 3,900.00		\$ -
Fleet vehicle fuel	26	WK	\$ 120.00	\$ 3,120.00		\$ 3,120.00		\$ -
Tools (pick, mcleod, lopper, shovel, etc.)	9	EA	\$ 65.00	\$ 585.00		\$ 585.00		\$ -
Safety equipment (gloves, eye protection, first aid kits, hard hats,)	3	EA	\$ 150.00	\$ 450.00		\$ 450.00		\$ -
Update and replace existing damaged signage/wayfinding	13	EA	\$ 100.00	\$ 1,300.00		\$ 1,300.00		\$ -
Supplies and Materials for trail maintenance (rebar, timber locks, crusher fines, etc.)	1	EA	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00		\$ -
Timber treated step replacement	70	EA	\$ 65.00	\$ 4,550.00		\$ 4,550.00		\$ -
Volunteers								
Volunteers labor (10 events x 15 attendees x 6 hours of work)	900	HR	\$ 34.36	\$ 30,924.00			\$ 30,924.00	\$ -
TOTAL				\$ 342,462.84		\$ 72,625.00	\$ 269,837.84	



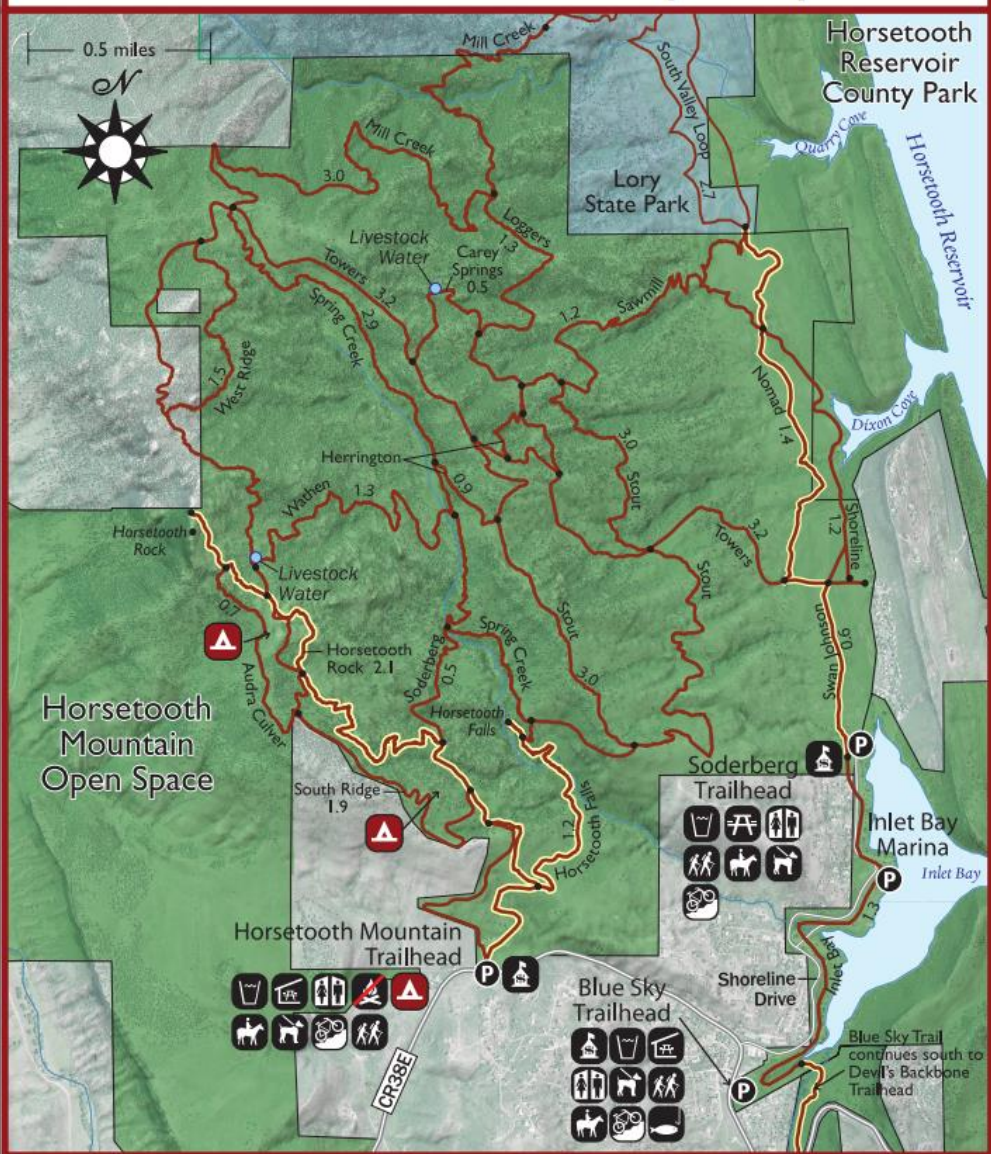
- A. Red Mountain Open Space.
- B. Eagle's Nest Open Space.
- C. Horsetooth Mountain Open Space.
- D. Devil's Backbone Open Space.
- E. Ramsay-Shockey Open Space.
- F. Hermit Park Open Space.

Red Mountain Open Space



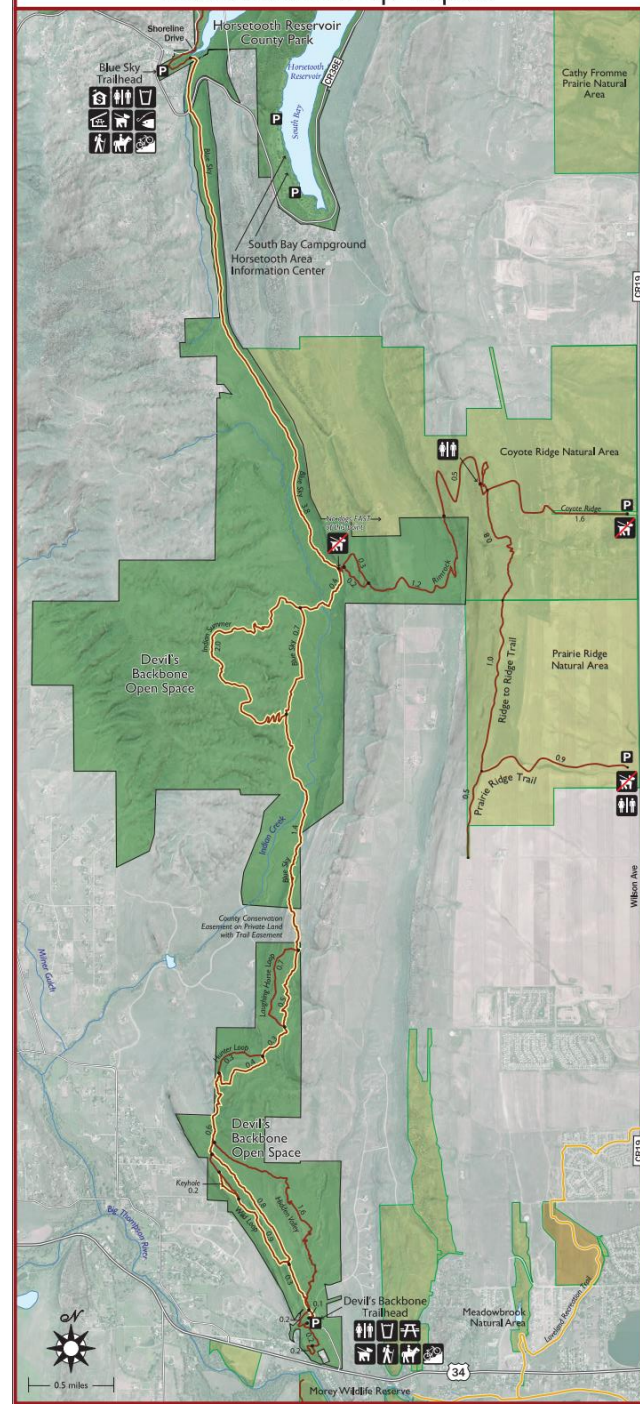
Red Mountain Open Space has 16.5 miles of trail. Eroded trails have become a problem due to torrential rainstorms in 2023. Damage from erosion is seen in these photos on Salt Lick and K-Lynn trails. Filling in, regrading, and adding trail drainage features is needed throughout the entire trail system.

Horsetooth Mountain Open Space



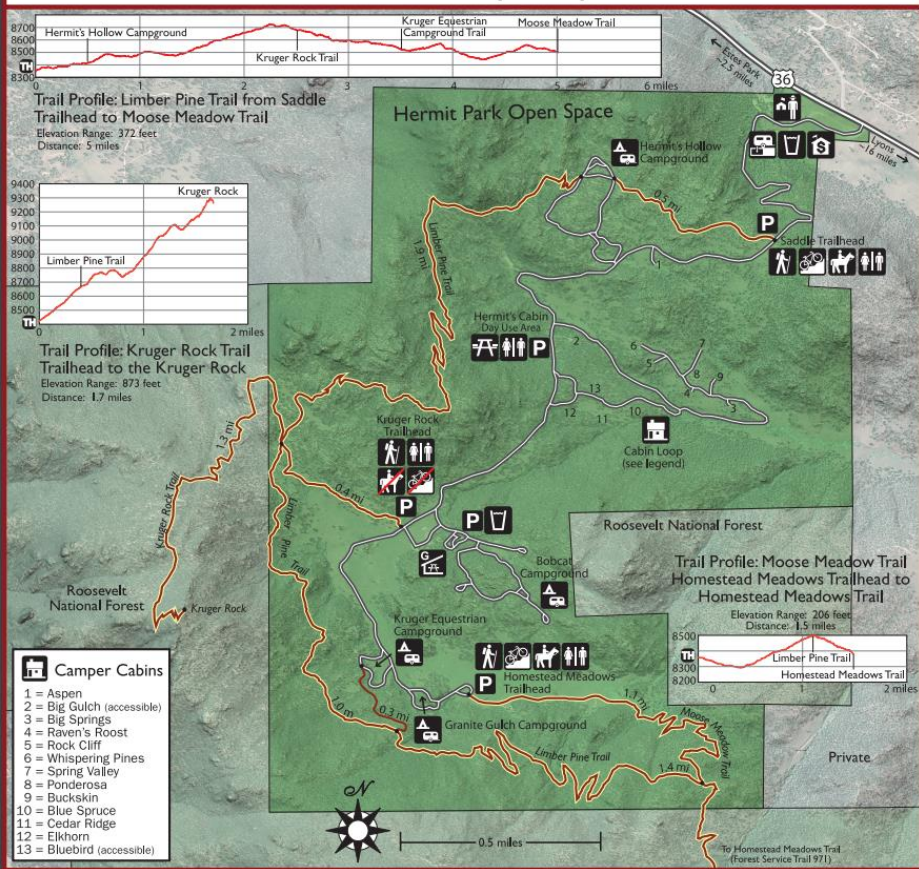
Horsetooth Mountain Open Space has 30.5 miles of trail. High use trails like Horsetooth Rock and Horsetooth Falls are always in need of maintenance to keep water off and users on trail. Both photos show damage to the Horsetooth Falls trail due to higher-than-normal moisture received in 2023. On this section of Horsetooth Falls trail, 900 ft of trail needs rebenched with improved drainage to reduce muddy conditions and keep users on trail.

Devil's Backbone Open Space

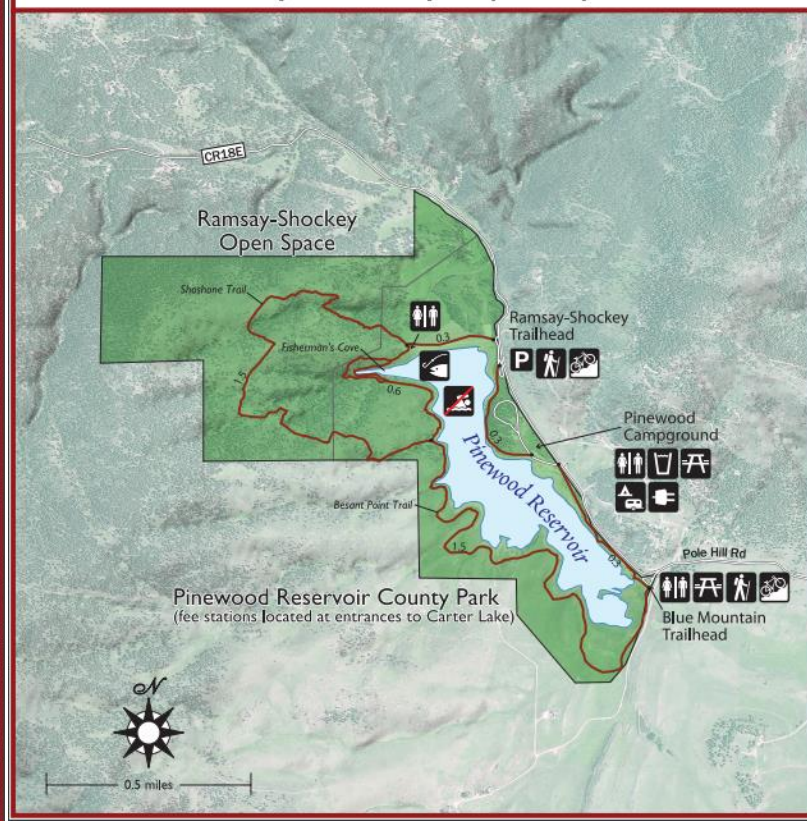


Devil's Backbone Open Space has 17 miles of trail. High use and torrential rains have caused damage to the trails system in 2023. Replacement of steps is needed on the high use Wild Loop trail (see photos of steps).

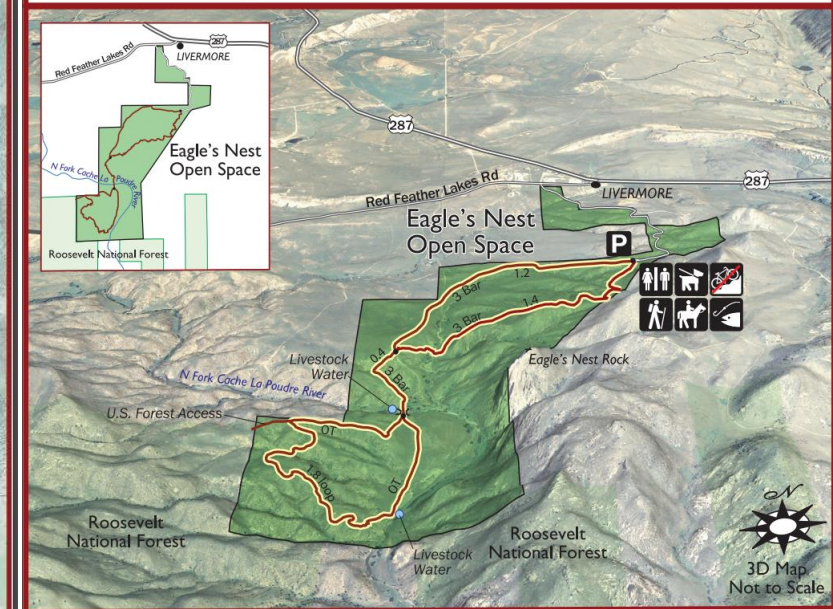
Hermit Park Open Space



Pinewood Reservoir County Park & Ramsay-Shockey Open Space



Eagle's Nest Open Space



Hermit Park Open Space has 7.3 miles of trail. Ramsay-Shockey Open Space has 1.5 miles of trail. Eagle's Nest Open Space has 4.8 miles of trail. General maintenance tasks of cleaning drainage structures, removing vegetation, and monitoring/closing social trails is needed on a yearly basis to upkeep trails in these open spaces.

October 24, 2023

Mr. Fletcher Jacobs
State Trails Program Manager
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
13787 South Highway 85
Littleton, CO 80125



Dear Mr. Jacobs:

I am writing to express my strong support for Larimer County's 2024 Priority Trail Stewardship & Maintenance Capacity Support Project and associated grant application. The supported work will include general trail maintenance to identify and fix trail or resource damage from rainfall events, as well as regular ongoing maintenance. The trail crew will spend its time on natural surface trails using hand tools to perform these tasks:

- Clean and create rolling grade dips
- Remove berms
- Fill in eroded sections of trail
- Close and/or restore existing social trails
- Cut back vegetation
- Remove downed trees
- Re-bench trail tread.

The crew may also construct trail reroutes, restore degraded areas or social trails, installing steps using treated timber or rocks, construct rock walls, rock armor trail tread, install trail signage, and lead volunteer groups to conduct trail maintenance.

I am a member of the Larimer County Horseman's Association (LCHA). Equestrians ride the trails of Larimer County. When riding the trails in our area, we have noted that rain and traffic have degraded trail tread, and that some sections of trails require rerouting. We provide volunteers to assist in many of the tasks listed above. We volunteer so that the trails remain safe for all users. However, we are few and the work load is great. A surge in trail maintenance personnel would go along way in ensuring the completion of critical projects to maintain trail integrity and safety.

Without additional assistance, and with the number of trail users increasing, our trails will continue to suffer, and perhaps get worse. We support the proposed grant, which will provide funding to train and hire three (3) full-time trail crew members to assist with priority trail maintenance across 70 miles of LCDNR's trail system for six months in 2024.

I urge Colorado Parks and Wildlife to help fund this important project which will benefit the citizens and visitors to the northern Colorado region for generations to come.

Sincerely,

| Hugh E. Templeton, Jr.



Mr. Fletcher Jacobs
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
State Trails Program
13787 S. Hwy 85
Littleton, CO 80125

September 26, 2023

Re: Larimer County Department of Natural Resources (LCDNR) 2024 Priority Trail Stewardship & Maintenance Capacity Support Project

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

I am writing to express my strong support for Larimer County's 2024 Priority Trail Stewardship & Maintenance Capacity Support Project and associated grant application. The proposed project will allow for much-needed trail maintenance and improvements to the LCDNR's 70-mile system of trails. Many of these popular multi-use trails were heavily impacted by multiple heavy rainfall events in 2023.

Constructing and maintaining local trails and trail systems in Northern Colorado is at the core of our organization's mission. OMBA provides and facilitates thousands of volunteer hours annually on trail projects within our local public lands. Our long-standing relationship with LCDNR is based on providing high-quality, sustainable, fun multi-use trails to the residents and visitors of our region. Increasing levels of trail use combined with the 2023 rainfall events has created a critical need for additional levels of stewardship.

This project will greatly improve the user experience by providing much better trail conditions overall and by bringing less sustainable sections of trail into better alignment. OMBA volunteers have participated in LCDNR trail stewardship projects annually for nearly 20 years. We look forward to continuing this partnership with Larimer County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Bearden', is written over a faint, illegible background.

Kenneth Bearden
Executive Director - Overland Mountain Bike Association



Friends of Larimer County
Parks & Open Lands
PO Box 2715
Loveland CO 80539

September 28, 2023

Mr. Fetcher Jacobs
State Trails Program Manager
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
13787 S. Highway 85
Littleton, CO 80125

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

I am writing to express my strong support for Larimer County's 2024 Priority Trail Stewardship & Maintenance Capacity Support Project and associated grant application.

As a hiker at many open spaces in Larimer County, I can appreciate the hard work that goes into creating safe and sustainable trails. Erosion from large rainstorms this year certainly increased the amount of trail maintenance needed at many open spaces that I visited. If not corrected, short cuts and diversions will make the trail difficult to use and the condition of the trails will only worsen.

As the Treasurer of the Friends of Larimer County Parks and Open Lands, we are proud partners and have agreed to contribute \$1,000 toward this important trail maintenance project. The additional crew members will provide the critical trail work that is greatly needed at the county's open spaces. Therefore, I urge Colorado Parks and Wildlife to consider funding this project for the benefit of all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cathy Parkhurst
Treasurer

Document checklist



NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION – CONSTRUCTION OR MAINTENANCE

PROJECT DETAILS

Organization Larimer County Department of Natural Resources (Larimer County)

Project title 2024 Priority Trail & Maintenance Capacity Support Project

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: N/A
15. Volunteers will be utilized on the project
Name of organization: Local volunteers from area businesses and recreation groups.

*Must be completed prior to application presentations in January.