

Application form

LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND GRANT APPLICATION



PROJECT BASICS

Title	Beaver Ranch Park Inclusive Playground			
Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Development/renovation <input type="checkbox"/> Combination acquisition and development			
Acres to be acquired				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Outcome	<input type="checkbox"/> Creates new park	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expands/improves existing park	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Phased project	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, Phase #	of
Brief summary	The purpose of the proposed project is to replace the existing playground at Beaver Ranch Park in Conifer with a new one featuring an inclusive design as part of the Master Plan implementation. The current playground is outdated and not accessible for children experiencing disabilities.			
Grant request	\$ 752,500.00	Grant ratio ¹	50.00	%
Match	\$ 752,500.00	Match ratio	50.00	%
Total	\$ 1,505,000.00	Total	100	%

APPLICANT

Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> Tribal
Organization	Jefferson County Open Space			
Postal address	700 Jefferson County Parkway, Suite 100			
City	Golden	State	CO	ZIP Code 80401
General email	jeffcoparks@jeffco.us		UEI #	L8ZYYJENKA23
Lead contact	Julie Liggett	Title	Grant and Special Projects Coordinator	
Telephone	303.271.5924	Email	jliggett@co.jefferson.co.us	
Project manager	Eric Krause	Title	Visitor Relations Program Manager	
Telephone	303.271.5915	Email	ekrause@co.jefferson.co.us	

PARTNER OR CO-SPONSOR

Organization	Beaver Ranch Community, Inc.	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A		
Postal address	11369 South Foxton Road			
City	Conifer	State	CO	ZIP Code 80433
Contact name	Wyatt Yates	Title	President	
Telephone	303.815.7657	Email	wyatt@beaverranch.org	

¹ Grant ratio = grant request / total x 100. Match ratio = match / total x 100.

PROPERTY

Park name	Beaver Ranch Park				<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Address	11369 South Foxtan Road				
City	Conifer	State	CO	ZIP Code	80433
County	Jefferson	Congressional district	7th		
Name of property owner	Jefferson County				
Ownership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee simple	<input type="checkbox"/> Lease	<input type="checkbox"/> Easement	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Applies to	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entire site	<input type="checkbox"/> Portion of site			
Existing LWCF site	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, grant #	08-	

Describe any leases, easements (including surface and subsurface utilities), rights or interests.

Beaver Ranch Park has an easement for telephone and electric, which services the buildings on the property. Beaver Ranch Community, Inc. (BRCI) entered into a License and Management Agreement with Jefferson County in 2001. The term of the Agreement is 25 years, and it will be renewed in 2026. The Agreement outlines BRCI’s operations and maintenance responsibilities for Beaver Ranch Park.

Describe the property and its current uses. Include acreage, terrain, unique features, and usage history.

Beaver Ranch Park is a 446-acre park located off U.S. Highway 285 near Conifer 45 minutes west of the Denver Metro Area. Beaver Ranch was homesteaded in 1860 and has since been home to a series of summer camps. At one time, there were two lodges, eight cabins, tent camping sites and an outdoor chapel on the site; the lodges and chapel remain on the property. Jefferson County Open Space (JCOS) purchased the land from the YMCA in 2001. The park is jointly operated and maintained by JCOS and BRCI (a 501(c)(3)). Per the Agreement, BRCI oversees the buildings, events and concessionaires, while JCOS manages natural resources, trails, and park regulation enforcement. There is currently an event center and two concessionaires with use agreements with BRCI for a zipline and a disc golf course. Revenue generated by park facility use fees and park concessions is used by BRCI for park operations and maintenance. There is a small 20-year-old modular playground that lacks shade and other amenities and is not accessible to children experiencing disabilities. The terrain consists of open meadows, pine forests, aspen stands and hills with rocky outcrops and 6.5-miles of multi-use trails; hikers and equestrians are the most common trail users.

1. PROJECT SCOPE**10 points**

a) Describe the proposed acquisition or development project.

The proposed project is to replace an aging and out-of-date playground with an inclusive playground designed to welcome children of all abilities. The existing playground is located near the entrance to Beaver Ranch Park and will remain in its current location with an expanded footprint. The playground is of an old modular design and there is no shade and very little seating for families accompanying children.

The overarching goal of the project is to install a destination playground that embraces the principles of inclusive design. This includes features such as entryways that are wide and free of any obstacles, ramps where needed to provide access, a variety of play equipment that provides appropriate challenges for children of all ages and abilities and sensory play components. A poured-in-place playground surface will be used to maximize accessibility for children using wheelchairs or other mobility devices. Shade structures will provide a place to get out of the sun and weather, aid with temperature regulation and allow a space to escape over stimulation. Seating areas will offer places for families to picnic, play games or just enjoy being together.

The inclusive playground project is part of the larger Beaver Ranch Park Master Plan implementation. JCOS has a contract with CEI for \$1.5m to design the improvements for the entire Beaver Ranch Park site. The first area to be designed is the main trailhead which includes the park entry, the parking lot closest to entryway and playground, the shade structure and restrooms. This design work will begin in November 2023. It is important to note that road and parking lot improvements as well as access from the parking lot to the playground are critical to the success of this project. The plans will ensure that the parking lot and paths to the playground are ADA accessible and designed to be a safe, welcoming connection to the new playground. The parking lot is of adequate size to accommodate the anticipated number of visitors. Parking lot and playground construction will take place concurrently from spring 2025 through fall 2026.

b) Indicate the current stage of design at the time of application.

Development projects:

- Pre-design
- Schematic design
- Design development
- Construction documents
- Permitting
- Bidding

Acquisitions (applicable milestones obtained at the time of application):

- Yellow Book appraisal complete
 - Purchase agreement drafted
 - Land will be open for public use immediately after acquisition
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2. PROJECT NEED**5 points**

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

The Beaver Ranch Master Plan was adopted in 2017. Since that time, it has been on hold while the resources were gathered to proceed. JCOS now has staff, including a project manager and a landscape architect, to lead the planning, design and implementation of the Master Plan. BRCI has an active and dedicated board and deep ties in the community. Their organization receives a Conservation Trust Fund allocation from the County (this money comes from the state and is distributed by the county); the fund balance has accumulated to point where it can meet a substantial portion of the grant match. As construction prices continue to increase, it is essential to move forward while the funds available can meet the projected project budget. In addition to funding considerations for moving forward, the condition of the playground is of growing concern. It is more than 20 years old and the parts necessary to keep the playground in safe working order are becoming harder to find. It is increasingly difficult to justify the time and upkeep expense for an amenity that does not meet the needs of the community, and which does not provide equitable access. The playground is the centerpiece of the Master Plan and the first priority for implementation.

3. COMMUNITY BENEFIT**15 points**

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

Beaver Ranch Park is part of the Conifer community along the Highway 285 corridor. Conifer has a population of about 8,087 (Jefferson County Economic Development Corp, 2021). The following is the Conifer breakdown by race/ethnicity (US Census nomenclature): white alone 95.9%, black alone 0.4%, American Indian alone 0.5%, Pacific Islander alone 0%, some other race alone 0.7%, two or more races 1.5%, Hispanic origin 4.3%. The per capita income is \$54,111 and the median age is 51.2. The U.S. Census Bureau reported that the percentage of children nationwide with a disability was 4.3 percent in 2019. A July 2022 US Census report for Jefferson County estimates the percent of people under 65 with a disability to be 6.5%. No information specific to the percent of children with disabilities in Jefferson County of Conifer was found. The site is a 45-minute drive from Denver along Highway 285 and easily accessible to the nearly 3 million people living in the Denver Metro Area. Jefferson County has a population of 582,902 according to 2020 Census data. The project benefits residents of Conifer, the surrounding community and the Greater Denver Metro Area.

- b) Outline any deficiencies or barriers to access that this project would address or improve for the abovementioned community. Include Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) access.

Conifer is a small community and playgrounds are typically modest and associated with a school. The nearest inclusive playgrounds are at Carmody Park (21 miles away) and Clement Park (22 miles away). The current playground does not have any accessible equipment. An inclusive playground will remove barriers to access for children experiencing disabilities. Inclusive playgrounds are critical for social and motor development, while allowing children with disabilities to play alongside their able-bodied siblings and friends. Sensory play is beneficial to all children and provides another opportunity for children with disabilities and able-bodied children to play together. The parking, circulation and playground access will be done concurrently and will be designed to meet all ADA standards. This work is being led by Jeffco Open Space staff. The project also meets Architectural Barriers Act standards to ensure new facilities are accessible to people experiencing disabilities. The playground will be designed with inclusivity at the forefront but it's also important to remember that it may be the parents experiencing a disability and accessible parking, access and amenities such as shade structures are essential.

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- 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.

Beaver Ranch Park is a public facility and as such anyone in the Conifer area, the mountain communities to west and the more urban areas to the east has free access to the park. Theoretically, this is the entire population of the Denver Metro Area and the many tourists who visit the area annually. The visitor numbers for Beaver Ranch Park are estimated at 191,844 per year. There was an average of 292 cars per day with an average of 1.8 visitors per car. This was determined by entryway counters as well as observation by staff and volunteers. The distribution of adults and children was not accounted for when counting visitors but assuming a 50/50 distribution (some adults will be alone and some will bring more than one child), the estimated number of children experiencing disabilities who visit the park every year is 4,125 ($191,844/2 = 95,922 \times 4.3\%$). This number represents the estimated touch points, or times the park is visited by a child with a disability, and not the individual number of children with a disability who visit.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

15 points

- a) Outline public engagement activities for this project. For example, public meetings, comment periods, surveys, etc.

Public engagement began with the Beaver Ranch Park Master Plan planning process. The Master Plan was adopted and published in 2017. As part of that process, a community survey was performed. The survey questions and a summary of the results are included in the final document. Since then, Beaver Ranch Community Inc. has continued to conduct public engagement through surveys and a dedicated, citizen-driven, playground working group.

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

Beaver Ranch Community Inc. will manage the completed playground, ensure ongoing maintenance and plan for its eventual replacement. BRCI, and in particular their playground committee, is an active partner with JCOS and will be on hand to provide support and expertise. There are two Certified Playground Safety Inspectors on the staff/board of directors, which contributes to the long-term project success. Funding support is also provided through state's Conservation Trust Fund monies allocated through Jefferson County. BRCI is receiving \$100,000 in Metropolitan Football Stadium District funds from Jefferson County's share of sale of the Denver Broncos to contribute to the playground. The project is supported by local groups such the Mountain Resource Center that provides multiple, related services to low-income residents of western Jeffco and eastern Park County and the Conifer Newcomers, an organization that welcomes new members to the community and informs them of local services and amenities.

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- c) Outline any concerns identified as part of public engagement. Explain how these will be addressed.

The primary concerns brought forward through the public engagement process relate to the existing playground being outdated and lacking modern features, inclusive features, and shade. The updated playground will address these concerns by having an inclusive, modern design at the forefront throughout the design process. Shades structures will also be a central feature of the overall playground design.

5. SCORP

10 points

- a) List the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) priorities that this project will advance.
- Priority 1: Sustainable Access and Opportunity
Goal: More Coloradans and visitors benefit from outdoor recreation and conservation.
 - Priority 2: Stewardship
Goal: Coloradans and visitors enjoy and care for natural and cultural resources and commit to stewarding them for future generations.
 - Priority 3: Land, Water and Wildlife Conservation
Goal: Private and public lands and waters are conserved to support sustainable outdoor recreation, the environment and wildlife habitat.
 - Priority 4: Funding the Future
Goal: Coloradans and visitors contribute to diverse funding sources that are dedicated to support outdoor recreation and conservation. Existing sources of funds are preserved.

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- b) Explain how.

An inclusive playground aligns with SCORP Priority 1. The SCORP goal of more Coloradans and visitors benefiting from outdoor recreation is precisely the goal of providing a new playground at Beaver Ranch designed for inclusivity. The project will remove physical barriers for children experiencing disabilities in several ways. The parking lot is close to the entry and adjacent to the playground and will contain designated ADA parking spaces, an accessible vault restroom, bus/large vehicle parking and ADA compliant paths that lead from the parking lot to the playground. The Trackchair program will be running within the park, and it is very likely that families will recreate together in the outdoors. After time on the trails, the family can gather to sit in the shade, picnic or play on the new playground. Inclusive playgrounds offer an opportunity for parents with disabilities to play and engage with their children. Access is not just about mechanics of availability; it is about social and emotional connections. All children can benefit by experiencing the diversity of society, developing an appreciation that everyone is unique, developing respect for others and feelings of empathy, empowerment and appreciation.

6. PLANNING**10 points**

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

Beaver Ranch is a story of community groups working together to preserve public open space. Following a history of ranching and use as a summer camp, Beaver Ranch was being considered for subdivision/development. Community members organized to find a way to keep the park intact. A solution was reached in 2001 when JCOS purchased Beaver Ranch and BRCI was founded to operate and manage the park. The mission is to provide a public resource of open lands, waters, and facilities for recreation, culture, civic, and educational benefit of the Conifer community, Jefferson County, and all visitors. In the years between 2001 when the park was purchased and 2017 when the Master Plan was adopted, several amenities were added or expanded, including trails, a disc golf course, a zipline and the current playground. However, over time it became clear that there were many opportunities to improve the visitor experience at Beaver Ranch Park. The purpose of the Plan was to create a comprehensive, long-term vision for the park that will guide its development strategically and incrementally toward a better experience for a wide range of park visitors. The primary focus is the main trailhead, which includes the entryway and playground improvements.

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

This project supports the Beaver Ranch Park Master Plan adopted by the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners in 2017. The Plan was created as a joint effort between JCOS, BRCI and the community. The project supports Jefferson County's Conifer/285 Corridor Area Plan. Under "General Policies", the "Open Space & Recreation" section states the importance of providing passive and active recreation areas, especially in light of the expanding population of the Denver Metro Area. As discussed in Question 5 above, the project directly speaks to Priority 1 of SCORP.

7. WILDLIFE AND NATURAL RESOURCES**15 points**

- a) Describe how potential impacts to wildlife and natural resources were evaluated during the initial project-scoping phase. For example, using "Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind", mapping tools, etc. Include any positive impacts this work will have on wildlife and natural resources.

Beaver Ranch has been a hub of human activity since the mid-1800s when it was used for logging and ranching. It has since been used for summer camps, hiking, biking, disc golf, ziplining and as a community park for locals and a destination for visitors from the Denver Metro Area and beyond. Environmental assessments were performed as part of the master planning process and there were no concerns related to its implementation. The project is near the entry to the park, immediately off Highway 285. The new inclusive playground will be in the same area (with a slightly expand footprint) as the existing playground. The adjacent parking lot is gravel. This area is highly disturbed and offers little in the way of wildlife habitat. Because no additional areas are being disrupted, no adverse impacts to wildlife are anticipated. There are areas in Beaver Ranch targeted for restoration. For example, the banks of Casto Creek, which runs east to west along the northern part of the park, have eroded and the JCOS Natural Resources and Planning teams are developing a strategy for restoring the creek and associated wetlands to a more natural state. These areas are expected to have a positive impact on wildlife and natural resources.

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- b) Describe any wildlife and natural resource issues raised by CPW staff during grant application consultation.

CPW staff did not raise any wildlife or natural resources issues during our application consultation.

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

Beaver Ranch Park is regularly patrolled by JCOS Park Rangers. There is a resident ranger who lives at Reynolds Park about 8 miles away. BRCI staff and volunteers are at the park on an almost daily basis and concessionaires are nearly always at the park during open hours. This means that any problems, issues or concerns are identified and addressed almost immediately. There is informational signage that conveys park rules and educational information about safe and respectful interaction with wildlife to visitors. There is no trail realignment required. Though seasonal closures are not anticipated, if issues arose, closures would be implemented and communicated to the public.

8. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

5 points

- a) Outline any LWCF funding received in the last five years and if the project/s were completed on time, on budget and within scope. Applicants without LWCF funding, provide examples of similar grant funded projects that were completed on time, on budget and within scope. Include project title, year of award, grant amount, and grantor.

No LWCF funds have been received in the last five years. Examples of other grant funded projects: Regional Trail Courtesy Study, 2018, \$100,000, GOCO Conservation Excellence; Colorado Front Range Trail Feasibility Study, 2019, \$100,000, Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Subregional; Peaks to Plains Trail 3-mile Clear Creek Canyon Segment, 2019, \$4,500,000, DRCOG TIP Subregional; Peaks to Plains Trail Central Canyon Segment, \$10,000,000, DRCOG TIP Regional; Tincup Ridge SLASH Facility, 2022, \$1,065,000, Colorado Department of Health and the Environment, Division of Environmental Health and Sustainability; Jefferson County Wildfire Safe, 2022, \$203,000, Colorado Strategic Wildfire Action Program (COSWAP), Landscape Resilience Investment. Multiple Colorado State Forest Service grants for wildfire mitigation; COSWAP Youth Force Development, TIP, TAP and DRCOG Regional and Subregional funding, etc.

9. MAINTENANCE**5 points**

- a) Explain how the site will be maintained in perpetuity for outdoor recreation. For example, maintenance plans, future budgeting commitments, etc.

In 1972, the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners enacted an "Enabling Resolution" stating that any open space funds shall be expended only for the planning for, developing necessary access to, acquiring, maintaining, administering, and preserving open space real property or interests in open space real property. These properties include lands to be used for recreational purposes such as Beaver Ranch Park. The resolution was amended in 1981 and includes the same protections for open space lands, ensuring they are maintained in perpetuity. Maintenance plans are developed as part of the Master Plan implementation process and the budget to support these plans is appropriated on an annual basis.

10. BUDGET AND FUNDING**10 points**

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

BRCI is providing a cash match of \$580,000 for this project. Approximately \$400,000 of the matching funds are coming from BRCI's Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) account. The remainder of the funds are being contributed by the community through an active fundraising campaign, through a JCOS Community Partnership Program grant and through a portion of Jefferson County's Metropolitan Football Stadium District distribution. The Board of County Commissioners and the department director have indicated their support of the Community Partnership Program grant application; the request will be for the amount needed to meet the funding gap after the CTF funds, fundraising dollars and Stadium District funds have been accounted for.

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

There are several consequences related to not moving forward at this time. JCOS is under contract with CEI to design the entire Beaver Ranch Park site improvements project. The first phase is designing the main trailhead, which includes the proposed inclusive playground (the playground itself is not a phased project). It is critical to move all parts of the implementation forward together when staff have the time to dedicate to the project. If we were to wait a year to apply, grant funding would not be received until the fall of 2025, and we plan to be well into implementation at that time. Master Plan implementation has languished since it was adopted in 2017 but now there is a community push and dedication of JCOS resources to see it moved forward. BRCI has been soliciting playground donations for a couple of years and if a project can't get off the ground, the community begins to feel their donations don't have an impact and become frustrated. BRCI has put together the matching funds and now is the time see the playground come to fruition.

LWCF budget

Project details				Match details			
LWCF grant #				Source of match (organization)	Type	Date available	Amount
Organization	Jefferson County Open Space			Beaver Ranch Community, Inc.	Cash	Sep-24	\$ 580,000.00
Project title	Beaver Ranch Park Inclusive Playground			Jefferson County Open Space	Cash	Nov-24	\$ 82,500.00
LWCF grant	\$ 752,500.00	Grant ratio	50.00%	Jefferson County Open Space	Cash	Sep-24	\$ 85,000.00
Local match	\$ 752,500.00	Match ratio	50.00%	Jefferson County Open Space	Cash	Sep-23	\$ 5,000.00
Total	\$ 1,505,000.00	Total	100.00%	Total			\$ 752,500.00

Description	Pre-award cost	Anticipated date of expense	Qty	Unit type	Cost per unit	Total	Type	LWCF grant	Local match	Balance
Land										
	No					\$ -				\$ -
Architectural and engineering fees										
						\$ -				\$ -
Other architectural and engineering fees										
Class III Cultural Survey	Yes		1.00	LS	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	Cash	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -
Beaver Ranch Park Improvement Design Phase	Yes	November 23-December 24	1.00	LS	\$ 165,000.00	\$ 165,000.00	Cash	\$ 82,500.00	\$ 82,500.00	\$ -
						\$ -				\$ -
Site work										
Site prep: survey, clearing and grubbing, mobilization, grading, compaction, sub-grade prep, drainage	No	Jun-25	1.00	LS	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 70,000.00	Cash	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ -
Playground infrastructure: concrete curb, ramp, sidewalks, walls, drainage infrastructure, foundations	No	Jun-25	1.00	LS	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	Cash	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -
	No					\$ -				\$ -
Demolition and removal										
Remove and dispose of existing playground (steel will be recycled if possible)	No	May-26	1.00	LS	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	Cash	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -
	No					\$ -				\$ -
Construction										
Installation	No	Jun-26	1.00	LS	\$ 162,944.00	\$ 162,944.00	Cash	\$ 81,472.00	\$ 81,472.00	\$ -
Poured-in-Place surface	No	Jun-26	1.00	LS	\$ 224,462.00	\$ 224,462.00	Cash	\$ 112,231.00	\$ 112,231.00	\$ -
	No					\$ -				\$ -
Equipment										
Play structures (total estimated cost for approximately 15 play features)	No	Jan-26	1.00	LS	\$ 772,594.00	\$ 772,594.00	Cash	\$ 388,797.00	\$ 388,797.00	\$ -
	No					\$ -				\$ -
Miscellaneous										
	No					\$ -				\$ -
TOTAL						\$ 1,505,000.00		\$ 752,500.00	\$ 752,500.00	

Timeline

LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND GRANT APPLICATION



PROJECT DETAILS


Organization Jefferson County Open Space
 Project title Beaver Ranch Park Inclusive Playground


TASK	Jul-Dec 2023	Jan-Jun 2024	Jul-Dec 2024	Jan-Jun 2025	Jul-Dec 2025	Jan-Jun 2026	Jul-Dec 2026
Project Initiation							
Design	X	X	X				
Mobilization							
Site Prep				X	X		
Remove existing playground				X	X		
Construction							
Playground installation						X	X
Poured-in-place installation						X	X
Other/Additional Category							
Open to the public							X
Grand Opening							X
Administrative Close-Out							X


BEAVER RANCH PARK


Proposed Conditions




 Beaver Ranch Park Boundary

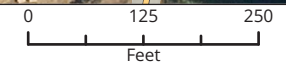
 Playground/
Project Site
(≈ 0.36 acres)

 Restroom

 Shade Shelter

 Paved Road

 Main Parking Area



Scale is 1:2,500 when printed at 8.5"x11"

Last Revised 10/2/2023

Data Sources: Jeffco Open Space, Jeffco ITS, USGS, NHD, CDOT, DRCOG

jeffco.us/open-space



NOTE: The site plan is being developed. This option is the closest to the vision for the space but it will be refined and customized with JCOS staff and BRCI playground committee input.

COLOR KEY

●	TAN
●	OLIVE
●	REDWOOD
●	BROWN
●	OLIVE/BLACK
●	BROWN/TAN



INCLUSIVE PLAY

Inclusive play makes opportunities available to all children, regardless of their abilities. We believe children should all have the chance to play together. All children benefit from being outside, interacting with their environment, learning from nature, and developing through play.



NATUREPLAY®

The NaturePlay® design offers kids and families the opportunity to reconnect and rediscover the wonders of nature within a safe and durable environment. These pieces are designed to look like they have been in the play area for years. This is a great way to bring new adventure and thrill to children while playing and being safe.



3D Designer: Kencla



LEVEL X® EXTREME

Extreme play value is what the Level X Extreme is all about. Sliding, climbing, traversing, games and more provide something for everyone and the mixed materials in design bring a sensory element to the playspace.



CLIMBING

Climbing brings adventure and challenge to the playground while providing necessary developmental benefits such as balance, agility, upper and lower body strength and decision-making skills! When children climb, they develop confidence and take age appropriate risks that help build skills that will help them throughout their lives.



PLAY VARIETY

This design offers the perfect solution for a great playspace and ensures that the necessary and age-appropriate play components are included. With various slides, climbers and spinning events, kids will be able to enhance physical fitness while having fun playing.



SENSORY RAIL

A sensory experience like no other, the Sensory Rail adds an important developmental aspect to the playground that brings all children together in the same space, regardless of ability. Providing access to the sensory panels on both sides of the rail ensures that everyone will have room to play!

Beaver Ranch Park Inclusive Playground



Beaver Ranch Park Entry



South Valley Trail Looking East

Bear Ranch Park Inclusive Playground – Current Conditions



Entry from Parking Lot



Playground Surface

Beaver Ranch Park Inclusive Playground - Current Conditions



Existing Equipment



Seating



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Colorado Ecological Services Field Office
Denver Federal Center
P.O. Box 25486
Denver, CO 80225-0486
Phone: (303) 236-4773 Fax: (303) 236-4005

In Reply Refer To:
Project Code: 2023-0123849
Project Name: Beaver Ranch Park Playground

August 30, 2023

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2))

(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf>

Migratory Birds: In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts, see <https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit/what-we-do>.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures, see <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds>.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit <https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Colorado Ecological Services Field Office

Denver Federal Center
P.O. Box 25486
Denver, CO 80225-0486
(303) 236-4773

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2023-0123849

Project Name: Beaver Ranch Park Playground

Project Type: Recreation - New Construction

Project Description: In 2017, after a community engagement process, a Master Plan was developed for Beaver Ranch Park. As part of implementing the Master Plan, this project will replace an existing playground in the western 1/3 of the park along the northern edge near the main entrance. The goal is to provide a playground with "universally accessible" features to ensure that children experiencing disabilities can have access to outdoor play amenities. Beaver Ranch is in the foothills near Conifer and affords visitors a variety of outdoor experiences in a mountain setting within an easy drive of the Denver Metro Area.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@39.502939350000005,-105.30241280329338,14z>



Counties: Jefferson County, Colorado

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 10 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species. Note that 3 of these species should be considered only under certain conditions.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

-
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Canada Lynx <i>Lynx canadensis</i> Population: Wherever Found in Contiguous U.S. There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3652	Threatened
Gray Wolf <i>Canis lupus</i> Population: U.S.A.: All of AL, AR, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, GA, IA, IN, IL, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MO, MS, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NV, NY, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, VA, VT, WI, and WV; and portions of AZ, NM, OR, UT, and WA. Mexico. There is final critical habitat for this species. This species only needs to be considered under the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lone, dispersing gray wolves may be present throughout the state of Colorado. If your activity includes a predator management program, please consider this species in your environmental review. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4488	Endangered

BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
<p>Mexican Spotted Owl <i>Strix occidentalis lucida</i></p> <p>There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8196</p>	Threatened
<p>Piping Plover <i>Charadrius melodus</i></p> <p>Population: [Atlantic Coast and Northern Great Plains populations] - Wherever found, except those areas where listed as endangered. There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. This species only needs to be considered under the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project includes water-related activities and/or use in the N. Platte, S. Platte, and Laramie River Basins which may affect listed species in Nebraska. <p>Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039</p>	Threatened
<p>Whooping Crane <i>Grus americana</i></p> <p>Population: Wherever found, except where listed as an experimental population There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758</p>	Endangered

FISHES

NAME	STATUS
<p>Pallid Sturgeon <i>Scaphirhynchus albus</i></p> <p>No critical habitat has been designated for this species. This species only needs to be considered under the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project includes water-related activities and/or use in the N. Platte, S. Platte, and Laramie River Basins which may affect listed species in Nebraska. <p>Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7162</p>	Endangered

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
<p>Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i></p> <p>No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743</p>	Candidate
<p>Pawnee Montane Skipper <i>Hesperia leonardus montana</i></p> <p>There is proposed critical habitat for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/929</p>	Threatened

FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME	STATUS
Ute Ladies'-tresses <i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2159	Threatened
Western Prairie Fringed Orchid <i>Platanthera praeclara</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1669	Threatened

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: County of Jefferson
Name: Julie Liggett
Address: 700 Jefferson County Parkway
Address Line 2: Suite 100
City: Golden
State: CO
Zip: 80401
Email: jliggett@co.jefferson.co.us
Phone: 3037385881

Certification

LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND GRANT APPLICATION



PROJECT DETAILS

Organization Jefferson County Open Space
 Project title Beaver Ranch Inclusive Playground

Match: Our entity is aware that LWCF is a 1:1 matching grant program and that match is available. Our entity is aware that failure to spend the minimum match amount listed in the project budget will reduce the amount of grant funds.

Reimbursement: Our entity is aware that LWCF uses a reimbursement model where grantees incur project costs before seeking reimbursement from CPW. Reimbursement requires submission of invoices, proof of payment and progress reports. Project costs (including match) must be incurred during the CPW contract period unless marked 'pre-award' on the project budget or a Waiver of Retroactivity applies.

Laws and regulations: Our entity will adhere to all applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations, as well as guidelines governing the LWCF program. This includes Build America Buy America (BABA).

LWCF boundary area: Properties receiving LWCF assistance must be maintained in perpetuity for public outdoor recreation. Our entity certifies that it shall record that the property has been dedicated to public outdoor recreation in perpetuity as per the LWCF Act on the real property title, prior to final reimbursement under this program.

Inspections: LWCF-assisted properties will be inspected at least once every five years after project completion by CPW and/or National Park Service (NPS) staff. If non-public recreation use is discovered, or is proposed on the property, our entity will work with State and/or NPS LWCF staff to determine and resolve any potential conversion issues.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

Organization

Name Jefferson County Open Space
 Postal address 700 Jefferson County Parkway, Suite 100
 City Golden State CO ZIP Code 80401

Authorized Representative

Signature *Tom Hoby* Date September 28, 2023
 Name Tom Hoby Title Director, Parks & Conservation

Commissioner Kraft-Tharp moved that the following Resolution be adopted:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OF THE COUNTY OF JEFFERSON

STATE OF COLORADO

RESOLUTION NO. CC23-319

RE: Open Space - Grant Application and Acceptance - Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners hereby authorizes the Open Space Director to execute and submit a Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant Application for the Beaver Ranch Inclusive Playground, and, if the grant is awarded, for the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners to execute the necessary Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant documents.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners for Jefferson County (BCC) supports the Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant (Grant) Application for the Beaver Ranch Inclusive Playground. And if the Grant is awarded, the BCC supports completion of the Project.

WHEREAS, the BCC has requested \$752,500 from the Land & Water Conservation Fund to support construction of the Beaver Ranch Park Inclusive Playground.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BCC THAT:

Section 1: The BCC strongly supports the application for a Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant.

Section 2: If the Grant is awarded, the BCC strongly supports the fulfillment of the Project.

Section 3: If the Grant is awarded, the BCC authorizes the expenditure of funds necessary to meet the terms and obligations of the Grant agreement.

Section 4: If the Grant is awarded, the BCC agrees to abide by Land & Water Conservation Fund rules and regulations.

Section 5: This Resolution to be in full force and effect from and after its

passage and approval.

Commissioner Dahlkemper seconded the adoption of the foregoing Resolution. The roll having been called, the vote was as follows:


Commissioner Tracy Kraft-Tharp	Aye
Commissioner Lesley Dahlkemper	Aye
Commissioner Andy Kerr, Chairman	Aye

The Resolution was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Jefferson, State of Colorado.

Dated: November 14, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Joe Kerby, County Manager 

RE: Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant

DATE: November 14, 2023

Staff Recommendation:

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners hereby authorizes the Open Space Director to execute and submit a Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant Application for the Beaver Ranch Inclusive Playground, and, if the grant is awarded, for the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners to execute the necessary Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant documents.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners for Jefferson County (BCC) supports the Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant (Grant) Application for the Beaver Ranch Inclusive Playground. And if the Grant is awarded, the BCC supports completion of the Project.

WHEREAS, the BCC has requested \$752,500 from the Land & Water Conservation Fund to support construction of the Beaver Ranch Park Inclusive Playground.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BCC THAT:

- Section 1: The BCC strongly supports the application for a Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant.
- Section 2: If the Grant is awarded, the BCC strongly supports the fulfilment of the Project.
- Section 3: If the Grant is awarded, the BCC authorizes the expenditure of funds necessary to meet the terms and obligations of the Grant agreement.
- Section 4: If the Grant is awarded, the BCC agrees to abide by Land & Water Conservation Fund rules and regulations.
- Section 5: This Resolution to be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

Resolution No. CC23-319

Background:

The grant would fund construction of the Beaver Ranch Inclusive Playground, including site prep, playground infrastructure, a portion of the overall site improvements design and purchase and installation of the new inclusive playground amenities.

Jeffco Open Space (JCOS) is requesting \$752,500 from the Land & Water Conservation Fund. The total project cost is estimated to be \$1,505,000.

Fiscal Impact:

If the Land & Water Conservation Fund grant is awarded, the County's proposed cash match of \$752,500 will be met with \$580,000 in Beaver Ranch Community, Inc. funds and \$172,500 from JCOS for site prep, playground infrastructure, removal of the existing playground and a portion of the Beaver Ranch Park Improvement design. The JCOS match is from the existing budget for Beaver Ranch Park Improvements.

BCC Briefing Presented on: October 31, 2023

Originator: Julie Liggett, Grants and Special Projects Coordinator

Distribution: Clerk to the Board, Anthony Chambers, Hillary Merritt, Lori Foster, Karey Baker Leticia Lamprecht, Becky Gehrig and Eric Krause

BCC HEARING ROUTING FORM (non-purchasing items)

Contacts: Originating Division and Contact: Open Space, Julie Liggett Phone: 303.271.5924
 County Attorney Contact: Anthony Chambers Phone: 303.271.8942

Agenda Placement:

Item Title: LWCF Grant: Beaver Ranch Inclusive Playground

ROUTING					
O R D E R	Division	Authorized Signatures Name/Initials	Date Rec'd	Date Frw'd	Comments
()	Originator	<i>Julie Liggett/JL</i>	11/06/23	11/06/23	
()	Division Director	<i>Tom Hobey</i>	11/06/23	11/06/23	
()	County Attorney	Anthony Chambers	11/06/23	11/06/23	
()	Department Director	<i>Tom Hobey</i>	11/06/23	11/06/23	
()	Budget				
()	Elected Official				
()	BCC Agenda Coordinator	JJS			



September 27, 2023

Chrystal Read
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
6060 Broadway
Denver, CO 80126

Dear Ms. Read,

I am writing to you in my capacity as the President of the Board of Directors of Beaver Ranch Community, Inc. ("BRCI") to express our wholehearted support for the proposal to construct a new playground at Beaver Ranch Park that complies with ADA standards.

At BRCI, we are deeply invested in this project as we take great pride in our joint management and operation of Beaver Ranch Park alongside Jefferson County Open Space. Our dedicated team works tirelessly to ensure that the park remains a welcoming and inclusive space for all visitors. We firmly believe that the addition of an ADA-compliant playground will significantly enhance the inclusivity and accessibility of our beloved park.

Over the years, community surveys and feedback from local groups serving families in our area have overwhelmingly expressed support for this playground project. This strong backing has made it abundantly clear to us that the new ADA-compliant playground is not just a desirable improvement, but an absolute necessity for our community. Consequently, it has become one of the primary capital improvement objectives that the BRCI board has been diligently working towards for several years.

Acknowledging the significance of this project, I am delighted to inform you that Beaver Ranch Community, Inc. has secured matching funds totaling \$500,000. This substantial financial commitment serves as a testament to our unwavering dedication to the ADA-compliant playground project and will greatly expedite our progress towards its realization. We are genuinely excited about the potential of this project to transform our park into a truly inclusive recreational space.

We firmly believe that this initiative perfectly aligns with our ongoing commitment to inclusiveness and equal access for all members of our community. By ensuring that our playground meets ADA standards, we further underscore our belief that everyone, regardless of their physical capabilities, should have the opportunity to enjoy and benefit from the recreational opportunities our park has to offer.

We sincerely appreciate your efforts in spearheading this important endeavor and eagerly anticipate the positive impact it will undoubtedly have on our community. Beaver Ranch Community, Inc. stands ready to assist in any way necessary to bring this vision to life.

Once again, thank you for your initiative and unwavering commitment to inclusivity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wyatt N. Yates".

Wyatt N. Yates
President, Board of Directors
Beaver Ranch Community, Inc.

October 2, 2023

Chrystal Read
Federal Grants Administrator
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
6060 Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80126

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for considering an accessible / inclusive playground at Beaver Ranch in Conifer, Colorado. As a resident and parent of a child with disabilities, I am very excited at the prospect of having a wheelchair accessible playground in our town.

Accessibility in the mountains is challenging, especially for people with limited mobility. Out of the six Jeffco parks in our area, none have trails appropriate for wheelchairs. Staunton State Park offers Track chairs but those require reservations and are more suited to teenagers or adults. The closest accessible playground is at Clement Park in Littleton, Colorado. Obviously, there is a huge opportunity to build an inclusive playground in western Jefferson County.

My son, now age 11, grew up crawling around playgrounds regardless of accessibility. He loved climbing to the top of the tallest slides, fearless and preferring to go face first. As he got older, he could no longer safely crawl around any playground without being injured by bigger children. As his school playground has been under construction for 3 years, he spends recess sitting in his wheelchair. It's devastating that he doesn't feel safe enough to use a traditional playground.

Please consider families like ours who have accessibility needs in your decision-making process for Beaver Ranch in Conifer, Colorado.

Regards,

Erin Thatcher
Conifer, Colorado 80433

Kristy Parsons
President
Conifer Newcomers & Neighbors
P O Box 1027
Conifer, CO 80433

September 24, 2023

Chrystal Read
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
6060 Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80126

Dear Ms. Read:

I am writing on behalf of the Conifer Newcomers community to express our enthusiastic support for your initiative to build a new public playground at Beaver Ranch Park. We are excited about the prospect of having a dedicated playground in Conifer, CO, and believe it will greatly benefit our community.

As a community organization to help welcome new members of our community, I understand the importance of investing in the development of our local areas, and a public playground aligns perfectly with our vision for a thriving and family-friendly Conifer. This project will undoubtedly enhance the quality of life for families in our region.

Conifer, being a community with a significant number of families, currently lacks a modern public playground. The Beaver Ranch Park Playground will serve as a valuable recreational resource for children and parents alike, offering a safe and enjoyable space for children to play and families to connect. Additionally, it will allow physically challenged children an opportunity to participate in an outdoor playground. It will also bring communities together, fostering a sense of togetherness that is so essential in today's world.

We have already witnessed widespread support for this project within the Conifer Newcomers group. Many of our members are parents and grandparents, who would greatly appreciate having a playground in our area. We are confident that this initiative will not only improve the lives of current residents but also attract more families to Conifer, further contributing to the vitality of our community.

Thank you for your dedication to enhancing our community's well-being.

Sincerely,
Kristy Parsons
President
Conifer Newcomers & Neighbors



Mail: P.O. Box 425, Conifer, CO 80433
Physical: 11030 Kitty Dr., Conifer, CO 80433
Phone: 303.838.7552 | Fax: 303.816.9375
www.mrcco.org

9/20/2023

Ms. Chrystal Read
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
6060 Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80126

Dear Ms. Read,

I am writing on behalf of Mountain Resource Center to express our agency's support for the proposed new ADA compliant, state-of-the-art playground at Beaver Ranch in Conifer, Colorado. There are not currently any such facilities that exist in our mountain community for children and families of all abilities to use and enjoy.

Founded in 1990, Mountain Resource Center is the only agency along the Highway 285 corridor that provides multiple, related services for low-income residents of Western Jefferson and Eastern Park counties. A large part of our service area is designated as low access, and, as one might imagine, living in a geographically isolated community means that residents must travel farther distances for all necessary services, including playgrounds and appropriate space for their children to safely recreate. Mountain Resource Center provided services to over 1300 households this last year, with over 60% of those having young children at home. Therefore, there is certainly a young community in need in Conifer. Additionally, approximately 97% of those households are living below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, which for a family of four is \$60,000/year. This means that the families we serve do not have the financial ability to join clubs, camps, or other classes geared towards play and recreation for children. They need an accessible and free community space to meet their needs, which is exactly what this playground would provide.

Mountain Resource Center proudly stands behind the request for support and funding needed by the Beaver Ranch Playground. Our children and their families will greatly benefit from its creation.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sarah Kinzer
Chief Executive Officer



October 2, 2023

Chrystal Read
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
6060 Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80126

Dear Ms. Read:

On behalf of Easterseals Colorado, we are pleased to provide a letter of support for Jefferson County Open Spaces's application for a Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant for construction of an inclusive playground at Beaver Ranch Park. Easterseals Colorado is one of 71 Easterseals affiliates in communities nationwide and serves 13,000 people with disabilities, older adults, and caregivers each year. Our mission at Easterseals Colorado is to lead the way to full equity, inclusion, and access for people with disabilities, their families, and caregivers across Colorado by enhancing wellbeing, expanding employment, and elevating the community.

Engaging in play is understood to be an important contributor to child health and development and is a fundamental right. Inclusive playgrounds fully support our mission as they are designed to be physically accessible and welcoming to children with all abilities and provide equitable access to play for all children. There are very few such playgrounds in the Denver Metro Area and even fewer for those who seek inclusive recreation opportunities in the mountains close to Denver.

With the backing of Jefferson County and deep community involvement, we think this project is destined for success. We encourage LWCF to fund the inclusive playground project for the benefit of children with disabilities, their families, and the entire community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roman Krafczyk".

Roman Krafczyk, President and CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Krasimir Koev".

Krasimir Koev, COO

Easterseals Colorado
393 S Harlan St, Suite 250 • Lakewood, CO 80226
Phone 303.233.1666 • Fax 303.233.1028
www.eastersealscolorado.org