

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BRIEFING PAPER**

**Topic: Bowles Metropolitan District, Sunset Park  
Playground - Community Partnership Program**

**Presented by: Nikki Holmlund, Business Manager, Open Space**

**Date: 4/8/2025**

For Information    For Discussion/Board Direction    Consent to  
Place on Business/  
Hearing Agenda

**Issue:**

In 2021, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approved the Community Partnership Program (CPP) and allocated 7% of the County's annual Colorado Lottery proceeds, held in the County's Conservation Trust Fund (CTF), for this purpose. Bowles Metropolitan District has submitted a proposal for improvements for the playground located in Sunset Park which has been reviewed by Jeffco Open Space (JCOS) and will be presented to the BCC for consideration and action.

**Background:**

Adopted August 31, 2021, the Administrative Policy Conservation Trust Fund allocates 7% annual Colorado Lottery proceeds for the CPP. The CPP provides funding to 501(c)(3) nonprofit or governmental entities for up to 25% of local or up to 50% of regional conservation, park, and recreation projects in unincorporated Jefferson County. As of March 18, 2025, the CPP had a balance of \$868,334.41 for these purposes.

Through awards approved by the BCC, funding can be used for the acquisition, development, and maintenance of new conservation properties, for capital improvements, or for the maintenance of recreational amenities on publicly owned sites. CPP proposals are accepted at any time, evaluated by JCOS, and approved by the BCC.

**Discussion:**

Bowles Metropolitan District has submitted a proposal requesting \$25,000 to upgrade the playground at Sunset Park, located at 5916 W Grant Ranch Blvd. The current structure, over 30 years old, lacks ADA-compliant components. Additionally, the park currently uses wood chips, which, due to drainage issues, wash away after each weather event.

The proposed upgrades will provide a more modern and inviting playground,

featuring ADA-compliant elements such as an accessible swing and spinner. The landscaping and earthwork will address the park's drainage issues. The District's top priority is safety, and given the park's aging condition, there are concerns that safety risks may soon go beyond routine maintenance. The redesign also aims to improve the flow of space, making it more enjoyable for both parents and children.

The total project cost is \$399,000 with Bowles Metropolitan District contributing 94% of the cost (\$374,000) with a 6% match (\$25,000) from the CPP fund balance.

**Fiscal Impact:**  **yes**  **no**

\$25,000 from the Jefferson County Conservation Trust Fund CPP fund balance which is \$868,334.41 as of March 18, 2025. This project qualifies for use of CTF dollars.

- Year of impact: 2025
- Existing grant or project: N/A
- New grant or project: New
- Requested in adopted budget: No
- Ongoing or one-time: One-time
- General Fund impact: None
- Staffing impact: None
- Match requirements: N/A
- Mandate/Contractual obligation: N/A

**SPA Review:** Brett Deady, reviewed March 19, 2025. Support, no concern. Funds are coming from the Conservation Trust Fund which has an allocation to fund these projects and has sufficient funding.

**County Attorney Review:** Anthony Chambers, March 20, 2025.

**Facilities Review:** Approved, Support, no concern.

**BIT Review:** Support, no concern.

**Fleet Review:** Support, no concern.

**Human Resources Review (new FTE only):** N/A

**Recommendations:**

That the Board of County Commissioners consider the recommendation made by JCOS staff to approve the \$25,000 Community Partnership Program grant request from Bowles Metropolitan District for improvements

to the Sunset Park playground and authorize the grant of these funds along with a supplemental 2025 budget increase of \$25,000 for the Conservation Trust from the Conservation Trust Fund balance at a future hearing.

**Originator:**

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