

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BRIEFING PAPER

Topic: Non-Motorized Trails Grant

Presented by: Julie Liggett, Grants & Special Projects Coordinator, Open Space

Date: 9/10/2024

For Information

For Discussion/Board Direction

Consent to Place on Business/Hearing Agenda

Issue:

Jefferson County Open Space (JCOS) staff requests approval from the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) to apply for up to \$250,000 in Non-Motorized Trails Grant funding through Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW) to offset construction costs of the Van Bibber Park & Greenway Trail Extension project, and if awarded, for the Chair to execute the grant agreement and all related documents.

Background:

The Colorado State Recreational Trails Grant Program funds projects to continue to improve outdoor recreation opportunities, including trail construction, maintenance, planning, and support while protecting wildlife, habitat, and cultural resources. Funded by Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) and the Federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP), eligible project types include trail construction, maintenance, planning, and support. Applications are submitted, and grants managed through Colorado Parks & Wildlife under the Non-Motorized Trails Grants umbrella.

The Van Bibber Park & Greenway Trail Extension is aligned with the goal of the program to provide new trail or trailhead construction and/or create new facilities where none currently exists.

Discussion:

The trail extension project is just under two miles long and will provide an essential east/west connection where there is currently a gap in the trail system. It will connect the Van Bibber Park-Indiana Trailhead, located between West 56th Drive and West 55th Drive in the Golden/Arvada area to the Fairmount Trail at the base of North Table Mountain Park.

This project was highlighted under Goal 9 of the JCOS 2020-2025 Conservation Greenprint as an opportunity to connect visitors to 24 miles of trails in Van Bibber and North Table Mountain Parks as well as the Fairmount Trail. It also supports Goal 8 of the Conservation Greenprint, which provides easier and more equitable access to greenspace within a 10-minute walk or drive from home.

Staff is seeking the maximum amount of \$250,000 allowed under the Non-Motorized

Trails grant program, with a required match of 25% (\$62,500), for a total of grant project cost of \$312,500. Staff will identify a portion of the larger trail extension project to construct within the grant funding constraints.

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

\$62,500 included in the proposed 2025 Open Space Fund Budget.

- Year of impact: 2025-2027
- TABOR impact: NONE
- Existing grant or project: NONE
- New grant or project: Colorado Parks & Wildlife Non-Motorized Trails grant
- Requested in adopted budget: The match is part of the annual JCOS budget.
- Ongoing or one-time: One-time
- General Fund impact: None
- Staffing impact: This contract does not necessitate an increase in staffing.
- ARPA impact: There are no ARPA funds as part of this contract.
- Match requirements: There is a twenty-five percent match requirement for this grant: \$62,500 in Open Space funds will be provided as matching grant funds.
- Mandate/Contractual obligation: Grant agreement with Colorado Parks & Wildlife.

Revenue Limits Impact: **yes** **no**

SPA Review: Support, no concerns

County Attorney Review: Anthony Chambers, August 29, 2024

Facilities Review: No fiscal impact

BIT Review: No fiscal impact

Fleet Review: No fiscal impact

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

Recommendations:

Staff recommends that the Board of County Commissioners consider the recommendation made by JCOS Staff to approve the 2025 Non-Motorized Trails Grant application for up to \$250,000, and if awarded, to accept the award of the grant if issued for the project, to supplement the total amount of the award if necessary, and to authorize execution of the grant agreement and all related documents at a future hearing.

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