

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BRIEFING PAPER**

**Topic: Nature's Next Stewards Grant Application**

**Presented by: Matt Martinez, Partnerships and Outreach Coordinator,  
Open Space**

**Date: 10/22/2024**

For Information

For Discussion/Board Direction

Consent to  
Place on Business/  
Hearing Agenda

**Issue:** Jefferson County Open Space (JCOS) staff requests support from the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) to apply for up to \$30,000 through the Jeffco Open Space Foundation's Nature's Next Stewards program to support existing and new youth programs. If awarded, staff asks the Chair to execute the financial agreement and all related documents.

**Background:** The Nature's Next Stewards program, offered through the Jeffco Open Space Foundation, utilizes funding from individual and business donations as well as funding from the Metropolitan Football Stadium District to support existing and new youth programs. Applications are due October 31, 2024.

**Discussion:** The \$30,000 from Jeffco Open Space Foundation's Nature's Next Stewards would support the following programs:

- JCOS currently makes over 75,000 stewardship education contacts annually through school tours, guided hikes, trailhead pop ups, and other educational opportunities in our parks and in our community. JCOS education staff is requesting \$10,000 to help support existing natural and cultural resource youth programming through the purchase of supplies and services such as professional storytellers or live birds for educational events.
- JCOS improves trail usability through design and by offering mobility equipment free of charge. The Community Connections Team is requesting \$10,000 toward the purchase of a Terrain Hooper, which expands trail usability for persons who normally use a wheelchair for mobility. The Terrain Hopper program will be administered by the Community Connections team and can be made available in most Jeffco Open Space Parks.
- JCOS's Heritage Stewardship Team (HST) provides youth stewardship education programming focused on historic preservation, heritage education, and indigenous perspectives. HST is requesting \$10,000 to support a youth intern

program that will provide career building museum, collections, and education opportunities in cultural resource protection.

JCOS will provide up to \$15,000 in matching funds, which are already accounted for in operations budgets.

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

If awarded, JCOS will receive \$30,000 in grant funds, which will be matched by \$15,000 from the proposed 2025 Open Space budget.

- Year of impact: 2025
- TABOR impact: None
- Existing grant or project: None
- New grant or project: None
- Requested in adopted budget: No
- Ongoing or one-time: one time
- Staffing impact: N/A
- Match requirements: up to 15K, included in JCOS operations budget
- Mandate/Contractual obligation: must use all funds by May 2026

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

**SPA Review:** Support, no concerns

**County Attorney Review:** Anthony Chambers, 10/14/24

**Facilities Review:** Support, no concerns

**BIT Review:** Support, no concerns

**Fleet Review:** Support, no concerns

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

**Recommendations:**

That the Board of County Commissioners supports Open Space's application to support existing and new youth programs from the Jeffco Open Space Foundation's Nature's Next Stewards program in an amount up to \$30,000.

**Originator:**

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