

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

Greg Oakes, Park Planning and Development
Sara Arfmann, Legal

SUBJECT

Resolution 2023-067 Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with Larimer County for the Funding of the Colorado Front Range Trail – Poudre River Trail Segment with the Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Grant Reimbursement.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to support the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the City and Larimer County for the Poudre River Trail segment grant. Larimer County, in partnership with Fort Collins, Timnath, and Windsor, received a \$2.0 million grant from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) for the completion of the remaining segments of the Poudre River Trail. The Grant will fund construction of gaps in the trail from Colorado State University's (CSU) Environmental Learning Center (ELC) to River Bluffs Open Space west of Windsor including a spur connection to Windsor's Kyger Reservoir property.

Funds from the award will be used to close two gaps of the Poudre River Trail within the City, one between Arapaho Bend Natural Area and the existing Timnath trail system on the east side of I-25, and the other connecting the existing trail near Rigden Reservoir to CSU's ELC. Alternative alignments are being explored for the segment of trail between Rigden Reservoir and the ELC (see attachment 2).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

Until recently, residents of Larimer and Weld Counties have only been able to access and enjoy portions of the Poudre River Regional Trail. People using the trail for recreating and commuting were unable to safely access via contiguous trail, using sections of the trail existing east and west of I-25. With this project, all the missing trail sections will be constructed, filling in the gaps and completing the 45-mile regional trail corridor. The completion of the trail from Bellvue to Greeley will be publicized to celebrate this major accomplishment, which is over 40 years in the making, and to inform people how to safely and conveniently access and use the entire regional trail system.

The final connection of the trail's east and west segments was completed as part of Colorado Department of Transportation's I-25 Express Lane project, which includes replacing a bridge along the trail and building an underpass to accommodate the trail.

The GOCO grant is on a reimbursement basis. To date, the only funds that have been disbursed by GOCO have gone to Windsor as they completed their section back in 2020.

The grant funding splits are as follows:

- Fort Collins: \$1,000,744
- Larimer County: \$405,017
- Windsor: \$405,017 (paid)
- Timnath: \$162,713

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

Total project cost for the City of Fort Collins portion is estimated at \$1,809,546. GOCO's contribution to the City is \$1,000,744 with the remainder of the necessary funds coming from Conservation Trust funds.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Park Planning and Development staff presented the project to the Parks and Recreation Board (P&R Board) and received support on March 27, 2019. Additionally, the project was also presented to the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC), receiving support on August 28, 2019. Continual project updates since 2019 have occurred to the P&R Board and the BAC. In addition to the various Boards support, Budgeting for Outcomes (BFO) offer 60.1, Recreational Trail Development was funded in 2023 and 2024 to support this initiative.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

A press release was published in the Coloradoan in June of 2022. Staff have provided consistent City of Fort Collins Park Planning and Development webpage updates throughout the design process and will continue to update the community on relevant construction and safety information.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution for Consideration
2. Exhibit A to Resolution
3. 2019 GOCO Connect Final Project Budget
4. 2019 GOCO Initiative Poudre River Regional Trail