



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council

STAFF

Greg Oakes, Landscape Architect – Park Planning and Development
Kirsten Flower, Financial Analyst
Sara Arfmann, Legal

SUBJECT

Second Reading of Ordinance No. 125, 2023, Making a Supplemental Appropriation from the Great Outdoors Colorado Grant in Support for the Completion of the Colorado Front Range Trail-Poudre River Trail Segment.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Ordinance, unanimously adopted on First Reading on September 19, 2023, appropriates \$1,000,744 of unanticipated grant revenue from GOCO through Larimer County to the City.

Larimer County, in partnership with City of Fort Collins (City), and Towns of Windsor and Timnath, applied for a funding opportunity through Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) in support of the completion of the Poudre River Trail. The joint request successfully secured the funding needed to design and construct the remaining sections of trail. The focus of this work extends from the Environmental Learning Center in eastern Fort Collins to River Bluffs Open Space west of Windsor and includes a spur connection to Windsor's Kyger Reservoir property (the Project).

Larimer County, serving as the grant administrator, signed an agreement with GOCO that GOCO would pay a total of \$3,740,402 to complete construction of the Poudre River Trail. The agreement provides for the proposed allocation of construction costs to each of the partners. The City and Larimer County entered an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) identifying the City as a subrecipient of \$1,000,744 of the total \$3,740,402 awarded by GOCO. The IGA stipulates the City's obligation to invoice Larimer County for all eligible costs associated with the construction of Poudre River Trail within the City's jurisdiction. Larimer County will reimburse the City for all eligible construction-related costs.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend adoption of the Ordinance on Second Reading.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The City of Fort Collins, the Towns of Timnath and Windsor, the City of Greeley, and Larimer County have been actively coordinating to plan and construct the remaining sections of the Poudre River Trail – a regional, riparian corridor that will soon consist of 45 miles of contiguous trail from the Town of Bellvue to the City of Greeley.

Today, residents of Larimer and Weld Counties are limited in their ability to safely access and enjoy all parts of the Poudre River from their respective communities. This project will construct the remaining sections of trail needed so residents can safely traverse between communities, uninterrupted, while enjoying the beauty of the Poudre River corridor. The completion of the trail from the Town of Bellvue to the City of Greeley marks a major accomplishment spanning over 40 years in the making. The City and its project partners anticipate completing the project in 2025, which will include a multi-jurisdiction grand opening celebration.

This project is additionally supported by the City of Fort Collins Budgeting for Outcomes 2023 – 2024 process (Funded Offer 60.1, Recreational Trail Development).

The GOCO grant was applied for in 2019 through a collaboration with Larimer County and neighboring towns that own and manage portions of the Poudre River Trail. \$1,000,744 of the total \$3,740,402 funds awarded by GOCO, will support the City's completion of the designated portion of the Poudre River Trail.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

This item appropriates \$1,000,744 in project costs for completion of the Poudre River Trail from unanticipated grant revenue in the Conservation Trust Fund from GOCO.

The City, in capacity as a subrecipient of GOCO awarded funds, will be reimbursed for allowable construction costs, meaning Conservation Trust Fund expenses will be reimbursed up to \$1,000,744, and does not require a City match.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

None.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

None.

ATTACHMENTS

First Reading Attachments not included.

1. Ordinance for Consideration