

**Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program  
Water Activity Summary Sheet  
Agenda Item 25.k**

**Applicant:** Greenway Foundation

**Water Activity Name:** Denver South Platte River Implementation Project –  
Frontier/Overland Final Design

**Water Activity Purpose:** Structural Water Project

**County:** Denver

**Drainage Basin:** South Platte River

**Water Source:** South Platte River

**Amount Requested:** \$500,000

**Source of Funds:** \$300,000 (Statewide Account), \$175,000 (Metro Basin Account), and  
\$25,000 (South Platte Basin Account)

**Matching Funds:** \$3,600,000 specifically for the Frontier/Overland Park Project (\$1.9M of a \$4.6M  
GOCO Grant to the City and County of Denver, \$1.7M Shattuck Natural Resource Damages Funds)

<b>Staff Recommendation</b>
Staff recommends approval of up to \$175,000 from the Metro Basin Account, \$25,000 from the South Platte Basin Account, and \$300,000 from the Statewide Account to help fund the final design of the Frontier/Overland Park project upon the condition of providing the additional documentation specified in the Issues/Additional Needs section.

**Water Activity Summary:**

This Water Supply Reserve Account (WSRA) grant will progress the South Platte River Recreation and Habitat Improvements Preliminary Design effort through final design. A previous WSRA Grant funded \$250,000 for the South Platte River Recreation and Habitat Improvement Preliminary Design. This grant focuses on one priority area and supports the final design of a project and secure required permits that has already secured funds to build it.

The project will support river improvements targeting non-consumptive needs including boating, tubing, fishing and wildlife enhancements in this urban environment. Within the Project Area, non-native and invasive vegetation species will be removed and replaced with representative native vegetation within the South Platte River watershed. The vegetation will be monitored and maintained for a minimum of three years.

This project will result in significantly improved access for recreation, including boat launch ramps and jetties, access trails and trailheads (within the immediate vicinity of the south Platte River) and new trail segments affected by grading and re-vegetation work as well as bank re-grading/wetlands/native vegetation restoration to allow users to engage in a variety of recreational activities.

Proposed improvements at *Grant Frontier Park and Pasquinel's Landing* include laying back a portion of the east bank of the River, establishing emergent benches, and design of in-channel habitat structures for native fish species and macroinvertebrates. The drop structure near West Evans Avenue will be modified to promote fish movement (upstream and downstream) and develop additional foraging and spawning areas in addition to providing enhanced boating opportunity.

Proposed improvements at *Overland Park* include establishing a series of pools and riffles to provide aquatic habitat (resting, foraging and spawning). This will also improve boating, because the existing drop structure is dangerous to navigate.

A concept plan figure and map are provided at the end of this summary sheet.

As stated in the scope of work, the grant will complete the following tasks:

- Task 1 – Project Management and Meetings
- Task 2 – Data Acquisition and Field Investigations
- Tasks 3 through 5 – Final Design Development (60-, 90-, and 100-percent design documents)
- Task 6 – Floodplain Analysis and Hydraulic Modeling
- Task 7 – Permitting

*Threshold and Evaluation Criteria* The application meets all five Threshold Criteria.

The application meets the Evaluation Criteria in the following way:

*Tier 1: Promoting Collaboration/Cooperation and Meeting Water Management Goals and Identified Water Needs*

- a. **Multipurpose:** The project meets both environmental and recreational needs in the area.
- b. **Collaboration & Cooperation:** Significant cooperation and collaboration is demonstrated in this project, including working with GOCO, the City and County of Denver, Urban Drainage and Flood Control District, and joint funding from both the Metro and South Platte Roundtables.
- c. **Meets Defined Needs:** The reach of the project was identified in the nonconsumptive needs assessment as being a recreational focus area.

*Tier 2: Facilitating Water Activity Implementation*

The applicant indicated that finding funding for final design is difficult compared to funding construction of a project. Therefore, this grant helps the project's success. There are significant matching funds demonstrated for this project.

*Tier 3: The Water Activity Addresses Other Issues of Statewide Value and Maximizes Benefits.*

The projects will help meet recreational needs.

#### **Discussion:**

Along with the Gore Canyon Whitewater Park project, this grant would be the first time significant statewide resources would be spent on final design or construction of river recreation structures.

#### **Issues/Additional Needs:**

Please provide the following additional detail:

- Please identify which fish species the project plans to assist.
- Please provide the full scope of work for construction as a separate attachment
- Please include detail on monitoring efforts for success of improved aquatic habitat for fish and macroinvertebrate species once the project is complete.

#### **Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends approval of up to \$175,000 from the Metro Basin Account, \$25,000 from the South Platte Basin Account, and \$300,000 from the Statewide Account to help fund the final design of the Frontier/Overland Park project upon the condition of providing the additional documentation specified in the Issues/Additional Needs section.

All products, data and information developed as a result of this grant must be provided to the CWCB in hard copy and electronic format as part of the project documentation. This information will in turn be made widely available to Basin Roundtables and the general public and will help promote the development of a common technical platform.

In accordance with the revised WSRA Criteria and Guidelines, staff would like to highlight additional reporting and final deliverable requirements. The specific requirements are provided below.

**Reporting:** The applicant shall provide the CWCB a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of the executed contract. The progress report shall describe the completion or partial completion of the tasks identified in the scope of work including a description of any major issues that have occurred and any corrective action taken to address these issues.

**Final Deliverable:** At completion of the project, the applicant shall provide the CWCB a final report that summarizes the project and documents how the project was completed. This report may contain photographs, summaries of meetings and engineering reports/designs.

**Engineering:** All engineering work (as defined in the Engineers Practice Act (§12-25-102(10) C.R.S.)) performed under this grant shall be performed by or under the responsible charge of professional engineer licensed by the State of Colorado to practice Engineering.

