

Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
September 11-12, 2014
Agenda Item 13(h)

Applicant & Program Sponsor: The Greenway Foundation

Water Activity Name: 8th Avenue to 20th Street In-River, Recreation and Environmental Improvements and Floodplain Mitigation

Water Activity Purpose: Nonconsumptive

County: Denver

Drainage Basin: South Platte

Water Source: South Platte River

Total Amount Requested: \$450,000

Source of Funds: \$150,000 Metro Account; and \$300,000 Statewide Account

Matching Funds: Basin Account Match (\$150,000) = 33.3% of total grant request (\$450,000)
Basin Account & Applicant Match (cash: \$600,000) = 133.3% of total amount request
Applicant Match (\$450,000) = 50% of total project costs (\$900,000)
(refer to *Funding Summary/Matching Funds*)

Staff Recommendation:
Staff recommends approval of up to \$150,000 from the Metro Basin Account; and \$300,000 from the Statewide Account to help fund the project titled: 8 th Avenue to 20 th Street In-River, Recreation and Environmental Improvements and Floodplain Mitigation.

Water Activity Summary: This design will continue to build on the legacy of multi-objective river access, recreational enhancements and environmental and habitat improvements that are the key elements of the River North (RINO) and River South (RISO) Greenway master plans and the subsequent South Platte River Vision Implementation Plan (SPRVIP) and Confluence Park master plan. If approved by the CWCB, this WSRA grant will progress the RINO, RISO, Confluence Park and SPRVIP multi-objective recreation and habitat improvements from conceptual design to 60 Percent design for a portion of the South Platte River between 8th Avenue to 20th Street.

The design effort will focus on validating design criteria, preparing preliminary design drawings and specifications, preparing 60 percent design documents and identifying required permits for river improvements in the following reaches described in the SPRVIP: Sun Valley Riverfront Park, Gates Crescent Park, Fishback Landing Park, Elitch Gardens/Centennial Gardens, Confluence Park, Commons Park and the river corridor downstream to 20th Street. Specific improvements target non-consumptive needs including multi-use river access facilities, channel bank modifications to provide additional habitat, and modification of existing drop structures to provide state-of-the-art boating and fishing experiences, as well as enhanced aquatic and terrestrial habitat through the length of the reach, tubing, wildlife enhancements, and pool and riffle habitat, as well as floodplain mitigation in this urban environment.

This project represents a portion of the SPRVIP and is identified in the Metro Basin Needs Assessment Report (March 2011) addressing non-consumptive needs, specifically targeting habitat restoration, recreation and floodplain mitigation improvements. In addition, it addresses the extensive deposition of sediment in the mile reach upstream of Confluence Park to 8th Avenue that contributes to an increase in the 100-year floodplain compared to the 2012 LOMR. This 60 percent design will provide the level of detail required to develop more accurate construction cost opinions, which will be used to identify and secure the funding that will be required to construct this project.

Discussion:

No additional discussion is required.

Issues/Additional Needs:

No issues or additional needs have been identified.

Threshold and Evaluation Criteria:

The application meets all four Threshold Criteria

Tier 1-3 Evaluation Criteria:

Tier 1: (a) The proposed improvements will integrate multi-objective recreation, habitat and floodplain mitigation enhancements that will benefit the Front Range community and one of the most densely-populated areas in the State of Colorado.

(b) This water activity will best leverage existing funding commitments, use of public and private resources and will result in constructed improvements. Because of the momentum and broad community support associated with the River Vision Implementation Plan, currently being constructed upstream of this reach, this project is an ideal candidate for implementing nonconsumptive improvements in the South Platte River through Denver.

(c) This project helps implement the South Platte River Greenway as identified in the SWSI 2010 (June 2011) Metro Basin Report Basinwide Consumptive and Nonconsumptive Water Supply Assessments.

Tier 2: (d) WSRA funds are necessary for successful completion of the project and further leveraging of local monies. A significant investment has been expended to date to develop this South Platte River vision, as portrayed in the RINO, RISO and RVIP plans.

(e) Project stakeholders (The Greenway Foundation, the City and County of Denver and the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District) have already secured \$450,000 in matching funds. The amount of matching funds far exceeds the 25 percent requirement; in fact, the committed matching funding is 100 percent of the grant request.

Tier 3: (f) This project helps sustain open space and recreational needs by improving and preserving river corridor access.

(g) n/a

(h) n/a

(i) This project will maximize benefits by providing more continuous habitat diversity within the South Platte River in Denver and build on the work CWCB has funded associated with this project over the last three years.

(j) CWCB participated in the development of the RISO plan and design of recreation and habitat improvements (at Grant Frontier, Pasquinel's Landing and Overland Pond parks). The Greenway Foundation has successfully applied WSRA Grant money to associated projects along the river corridor, and this effort is complimentary to the Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund and other efforts undertaken by the CWCB Stream and Lake Protection Section, and the Watershed and Flood protection Section.

Funding Summary/Matching Funds:

	<u>Cash</u>	<u>In-kind</u>	<u>Total</u>
WSRA Metro Account	\$150,000	n/a	\$150,000
WSRA Statewide Account	\$300,000	n/a	\$300,000
City & Co of Denver & Urban Drainage & Flood Control District	<u>\$450,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$450,000</u>
Total Project Costs	\$900,000	\$0	\$900,000

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.