



Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	City of Steamboat Springs
Name of Water Project	Bear River Park Trailered River Access Design and Engineering Project
Grant Request Amount	\$80,000.00
Primary Category	\$80,000.00
<i>Watershed Health & Recreation</i>	
Total Applicant Match	\$320,000.00
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	\$320,000.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	\$0.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	\$0.00
Total Project Cost	\$400,000.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: City of Steamboat Springs
Mailing Address: PO Box 775088 Steamboat Springs CO 80477
FEIN: 846,000,721

Organization Contact: Gary Suiter
Position/Title: City Manager Email: gsuiter@steamboatsprings.net
Phone: 9708718240

Organization Contact - Alternate: Ginger Scott
Position/Title: Email: gscott@steamboatsprings.net
Phone: 970-871-8215

Grant Management Contact: Gary Suiter
Position/Title: City Manager Email: gsuiter@steamboatsprings.net
Phone: 9708718240

Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Julie Baxter
Position/Title: Water Resources Manager Email: jbaxter@steamboatsprings.net
Phone: 9708718267

Description of Grantee/Applicant

No description provided

Type of Eligible Entity

- ☐ Public (Government)
☐ Public (District)
☒ Public (Municipality)

- ☐ Ditch Company
- ☐ Private Incorporated
- ☐ Private Individual, Partnership, or Sole Proprietor
- ☐ Non-governmental Organization
- ☐ Covered Entity
- ☐ Other

Category of Water Project

- ☐ Agricultural Projects
Developing communications materials that specifically work with and educate the agricultural community on headwater restoration, identifying the state of the science of this type of work to assist agricultural users among others.
- ☐ Conservation & Land Use Planning
Activities and projects that implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning.
- ☐ Engagement & Innovation Activities
Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts. Please fill out the Supplemental Application on the website.
- ☒ Watershed Restoration & Recreation
Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation.
- ☐ Water Storage & Supply
Projects that facilitate the development of additional storage, artificial aquifer recharge, and dredging existing reservoirs to restore the reservoirs' full decreed capacity and Multi-beneficial projects and those projects identified in basin implementation plans to address the water supply and demand gap.

Location of Water Project

Latitude	40.499490
Longitude	-106.861970
Lat Long Flag	Precise coordinates: Project coordinates are readily definable and precisely define the location of the project
Water Source	Yampa River
Basins	Yampa/White/Green
Counties	Routt
Districts	58-Upper Yampa River

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	Municipal
Type of Water Project	Design / Engineering
Scheduled Start Date - Design	4/1/2023
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	
Description	The City of Steamboat Springs will complete the design and engineering for the Bear River Park project, which will include a trailered boat access to the Yampa River. The completed project will provide the only access of its kind in Steamboat Springs, creating an easy entry point at a designated site that is safe, minimizes user conflicts and prioritizes the health of the river.

Measurable Results

New Storage Created (acre-feet)
 New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive
 Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)
 New Storage Created (acre-feet)
 Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
 Efficiency Savings (dollars/year)
 Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year)
 Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)
 Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms or water sharing agreement (acre-feet)
 Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
 Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity

Other

This project would address a need for trailered river access in Steamboat Springs and Northwest Colorado, improving safety, river health and recreation opportunities.

Water Project Justification

This project supports the Yampa White Green Basin Implementation Plan in that it will protect riparian habitat along the riverside shore and will support a needed type of recreational access to the river (trailered boat access) in an environmentally friendly way.

Colorado Water Plan – This project is the first step to creating a trailered public access to the Yampa River in Steamboat Springs, by completing the design of Bear River Park. The project addresses the vision of “Thriving Watersheds” in the 2023 DRAFT Colorado Water Plan by addressing the action to “Increase Access to Recreational Opportunities.” Our project will increase recreational opportunities, specifically access to boating on the Yampa River, by providing a publicly available and safe access point. The project also meets the goal from the 2016 Colorado Water Plan of “Watershed Health, Environment and Recreation” by “protecting and enhancing river-based environments and recreational opportunities that support local and statewide economies, and are important for the enjoyment of current and future generations of Coloradans.” The design of the trailered access is part of a larger project for design of the entire Bear River Park – which will include a grading plan and green infrastructure that will work to protect the health of the Yampa River.

Basin Implementation Plan – The project meets the goal within the Yampa/White/Green Basin Roundtable Basin Implementation Plan to “Quantify and protect environmental and recreational water uses” at locations identified in the non-consumptive needs study of the YWG BRT. Currently boaters do not have a designated trailered access to the river in Steamboat Springs. This results in many users not being able to access the river in this area, and others entering the river at non-established sites, which can be hazardous and cause damage to the riverbanks and natural areas adjacent to the river and core trail. The project protects non-consumptive water uses without any change of water right use. It protects by safely improving access to recreational users, who in turn enjoy and are educated in the Yampa by understanding the relatively natural flows that exist in our system and not many others. The current situation restricts users because only people or groups (guides) who can afford to pay for river access end up on the river. People who cannot, end up not accessing the river, or doing so in unsafe ways. This project will be the critical next step (design) to providing an established trailered boat access on the Yampa River, ultimately creating a designated location which concentrates use to one area and minimizes impacts to the river.

Education Action Plan – This access will be used by groups who provide water education to the community. Friends of the Yampa (FOY) will use the access point to provide education based float trips, youth camps, and

educational talks, and it will be a location where FOY will assess user experience for the Yampa River Scorecard Project. In addition, having designated access points allow education through interpretive signage regarding safety and river etiquette. Signage can also emphasize the fact that undesignated areas can have eroded banks which can be dangerous to users, and can cause increased damage to the banks and environment. The Yampa/White/Green Basin Roundtable's 2021 Education Action Plan identifies critical topics for education and outreach including educating on the recommendations from the Yampa Integrated Water Management Plan which contains a goal of improved recreational boat passage.

Related Studies

This project will assist with the CWCB's mission to conserve, develop, protect and manage Colorado's water for present and future generations. The project helps meet the goals of the Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund which promotes improved recreation and accessibility throughout Colorado.

The project formalizes river access site and thus is supported by the Yampa River Structural Master Plan, and is outlined specifically in the Parks, Open Space, Trails & River Master Plan, and the Bear River Park Master Plan.

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

The City of Steamboat Springs "debruiced" in 1997, so TABOR will not affect this project or grant.