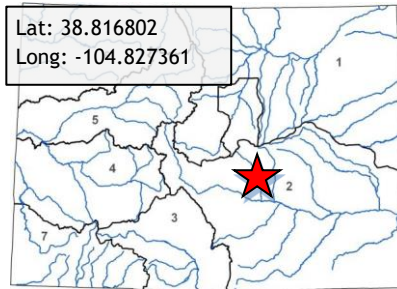


**COLORADO**Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

**Tejon Street Wetland Riparian Restoration
Year One, Inc. DBA Mile High Youth Corps**

March 2023 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Application

L O C A T I O N
County: El Paso
Drainage Basin: Arkansas

D E T A I L S	
<i>Total Project Cost:</i>	\$106,042
<i>Water Plan Grant Request:</i>	\$21,910
<i>Recommended amount:</i>	\$0
<i>Other CWCB Funding:</i>	\$0
<i>Other Funding Amount:</i>	\$84,132
<i>Applicant Match:</i>	\$0
<i>Project Type(s):</i>	Construction
<i>Project Category:</i>	Watershed Health and Recreation
<i>Measurable Result:</i>	2,904 LF of Stream Restored/Protected, 14 Acres of Preserved/Restored Habitat

Project Overview: This application is focused on the removal of invasive phreatophytes along 14.54 acres of the Pikes Peak Greenway, along Fountain Creek. This project aims to increase the Fountain Creek channel capacity, decrease flood danger and improve wildlife habitat along the focus reach. Throughout the field season of 2023, a small group of Mile High Youth Corpsmembers will work under the supervision of the City of Colorado Springs' forestry staff to remove invasive woody and herbaceous plants along the focus reach with chainsaws and herbicide applications.

The City of Colorado Springs will act as the cooperating project partner and take the lead on planning, organizing and implementing the project, and will continue to maintain and monitor the area after the project is complete. Removal and management techniques will be guided by El Paso County's and City of Colorado Springs' respective management plans. While the need for invasive species management throughout El Paso County has been identified in the El Paso County Noxious Weed Management Plan, the specific project area targeted in this application has not been identified in previous planning documents. This project area was not included in previous mapping efforts or identified through a stakeholder-planning process.

The goals of this project are directly aligned with those of the Thriving Watersheds focus area in the 2023 Water Plan. This proposed project works towards providing a positive impact on the riparian zone of Fountain Creek, a heavily impacted watershed, through invasive phreatophyte removal while also providing effective long-term management of the area with the support of the City of Colorado Springs.

Funding Recommendation: This project is not recommended for funding as it did not meet Water Plan Grant guidelines for project grants.



Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Year One, Inc. DBA Mile High Youth Corps
Name of Water Project	Tejon Street Wetland Riparian Restoration
Grant Request Amount	\$21,910.00
Primary Category	\$21,910.00
<i>Watershed Health & Recreation</i>	
Total Applicant Match	\$0.00
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	\$0.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	\$84,132.00
<i>Colorado Watershed Assembly</i>	\$20,000.00
<i>City of Colorado Springs</i>	\$64,132.00
Total Project Cost	\$106,042.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Year One, Inc. DBA Mile High Youth Corps
Mailing Address: 1801 Federal Boulevard Denver CO 80204
FEIN: 841,182,631

Organization Contact: Jeslin Shahrezaei
Position/Title: Senior Director of Development & Communications
Phone: Email: jeslins@mhyc.net

Organization Contact - Alternate: Antonio Barreiro
Position/Title: Email: antoniob@mhyc.net
Phone:

Grant Management Contact: Jeslin Shahrezaei
Position/Title: Senior Director of Development & Communications
Phone: Email: jeslins@mhyc.net

Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Jeslin Shahrezaei
Position/Title: Senior Director of Development & Communications
Phone: Email: jeslins@mhyc.net

Description of Grantee/Applicant

Mile High Youth Corps addresses the educational and employment needs of Denver's youth while connecting them to their community and the outdoors.

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 38.816802
Longitude -104.827361
Lat Long Flag
Water Source Fountain Creek
Basins Arkansas
Counties El Paso
Districts 10-Fountain Creek

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type Environmental
Type of Water Project Construction / Implementation
Scheduled Start Date - Design 9/1/2023
Scheduled Start Date - Construction
Description
MHYC will partner with the City of Colorado Springs' Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services to eliminate invasive species along 14.54 acres of the Pikes Peak Greenway (PPGW) which runs along Fountain Creek. This project will increase the Fountain Creek channel capacity, decreasing flood danger and improving wildlife habitat.

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)
2,904	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet) Efficiency Savings (dollars/year) Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year)
14	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	
No additional measurable results provided	

Water Project Justification
<p>The proposed project directly supports the Colorado Water Plan action area of “Thriving Watersheds.” Through the implementation of invasive species removal to release native vegetation, this project will provide a positive impact on “local environment and recreation, watershed health, forest health, wildfire mitigation, wildlife and aquatic species protection” As described under the Thriving Watersheds category. Section 6-34 of the draft 2023 Colorado Water Plan, under “Wise Water Use”, states that:</p> <p>“Invasive phreatophytes (deep-rooted, water intensive vegetation like Russian Olive and Tamarisk) and other invasive species can fundamentally alter stream channels and systems by preventing floodplain connectivity, creating sediment deposition, altering the nutrient cycles of riparian areas, and consuming large amounts of water. Local removal efforts can complement stream or riparian improvements but large-scale efforts to remove these species requires effective management across jurisdictions.”</p> <p>The proposed invasive species project will directly work towards accomplishing effective management of these phreatophytes, leading to a healthier forest and watershed.</p>

Related Studies
<p>This project directly addresses CWCB’s focus area of Ecosystem Health. The watershed protection and restoration activities undertaken through this project will complement CWCB’s Colorado Healthy Rivers Fund objectives, as well as CWCB’s Wildfire Ready Watersheds objectives.</p>

Taxpayer Bill of Rights
<p>N/A</p>