

## NATURITA PARK RIVER REVITALIZATION

### FINAL REPORT



Prepared for:

Colorado Water Conservation Board Water Plan Grant

Attn: Chris Sturm

DATE: June 22, 2022

**TOWN OF NATURITA**

Grant Amount \$40,000



Prepared By: Kathy Cooper

## **Introduction**

Our project was conceived from a Parks and Recreation Master Plan that GOCO funded for the Town of Naturita Park in 2018. Our park equipment and site improvements were very outdated. We are now in Phase I of that renovation. Your organization was brought up as a potential source of funding through the Nature Conservancy and the San Miguel River Coalition. The beautiful San Miguel River runs directly through our community. Public access is limited with one of those areas being at our park. In order to capitalize on this asset, the Town felt we should restore and beautify this area for the citizens and visitors.

## **Background**

When DHM Design first visited Naturita to begin work on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, they could not believe the potential for recreation and beautification that we had to offer. Creating better community access to the river by connecting it with the park was a high priority on the plan table. By closing Vera Ray Drive to make our river and park congruent, we can incorporate our finest asset. There were some areas of erosion and overgrown shrubs that are now improved by bioengineering, stepped boulders, landscaping, and areas for seating and getting to the water's edge. Our master plan includes 4 phases which will eventually upgrade everything from our ballfields, concession stand, bathrooms, more picnic shelters, trees, and basketball court to installing an outdoor stage for concerts. Phase I also included new playground equipment, a strider track and drainage features.

Our objective and goal would be to complete all 4 phases of the park renovation. The attached site summary describes the Master Plan. Phase I is in progress and we were able to add the perimeter trail around the park from phase II to the current project. For the river access specifically, the objective is to restore the area in such a manner that it is useful for all recreation types. We partnered with the Back Country Hunters and Anglers in 2019 to install a small boat launching site just East of the current improvements. This was immediately popular with our rafting community. Now, the rafters will have a beautiful place to picnic or just sit by the river to wait for their shuttle. This was not possible anywhere in town before and it put us on the map as an access point. We all know that increases visitors and economic activity.

## **Methods**

Immediately after being awarded the GOCO Planning Grant, we applied for another GOCO Grant to begin construction in 2018. We were not awarded that grant. We did not want to let our beautiful Master Plan that DHM Design had finished go to waste. The Town applied at the next GOCO cycle in 2019 for funds to begin Phase I of the renovation. We were awarded this grant and the leveraging began. With the help of our Town Attorney/Parks and Rec chairperson/grant writer, Sara Bachman, we started getting our in kind and cash matches gathered. The New Horizon Mine in Nucla was closing and they had beautiful boulders that were donated to us for our project. We even had a local contractor donate the trucks to haul them to Naturita. The abandoned BMX track had mounds of dirt that was donated to the Town by Montrose West Recreation. We applied for a San Miguel Power Association Sharing Success Grant as well as a Telluride Foundation Grant that garnered \$60,000 towards our cash match. We heard about a community build playground opportunity through KaBOOM! and applied for

an adventure course playground to add something for our older kids. That was installed in October of 2021. When we were choosing the other playground equipment, an offer came up to apply for a grant to reduce the cost by approximately \$92,000. We were awarded that grant! Colorado Parks and Wildlife happened to be offering a non-motorized trail grant during this, so we applied for our perimeter trail. It was re-directed to the National Park Service for a Land Water Conservation Fund project. That was and is a struggle, but our trail is under construction as we speak. When the contractor's bid came in, it was over budget, so we had to start cutting items and looking for more funding. We were awarded a grant from West End Pay it Forward Trust for enough funds to keep the playground water feature and the Town kicked in some funds for the site furnishings. We were not awarded a CDPHE grant for a shade sail, but we tried.

The CWCB funding of \$40,000 along with the Town of Naturita's match of \$40,000 covered:

- the boulder wall and cheek wall excavation, grading, and placement of 109 LF using a track hoe, mini excavator, and skid steer- \$47,793, (appx 65 boulders),
- 65 boulders -\$9750,
- transportation of boulders using rock truck -\$1685,
- erosion control along riverbank -\$732,
- placement of manufactured stone steps using a track hoe -\$8360,
- tree trimming along the river, (appx 40 hours with chain saw and dump truck) \$2400,
- irrigation, planting and staking of 5 lance leaf cottonwood trees- \$1490,
- irrigation and planting of 13 deciduous trees, -\$4310,
- upland seed mix for 2165 Sq Ft- \$1300,
- bollards and gate for closure of Vera Ray Drive -\$2180

**TOTAL:                \$80,000**

## **Results**

In order to capitalize on the San Miguel River in Naturita, our project wanted to incorporate an adjacent plot of land the Town owns to the West. We envision this as a future camping site for rafters or a day use area for river recreation. We were also cognizant of the single-track trails being constructed near Naturita when developing our plan. There are multiple ways our park could be the starting or ending point for these trails. Our boat launch is within 50 feet of the riverbank restoration. With our existing fishing pier built with a Fishing is Fun Grant years ago, we have a myriad of recreational uses at our fingertips. But we have never had an area that will actually be landscaped and inviting for the public to use. Everyone has always just put up with the brush and steep banks to get to the river.

## **Conclusions and Discussion**

Even though there are more phases of planned improvements, this project has opened the gates to potential ideas for our river. It all began with a coal mine closing that had some beautiful boulders they were willing to donate. We also had some key citizens that knew how important rivers that run through a town can be. By closing the road that was between our park and the river, we have extended the beauty, tranquility, and overall atmosphere of the park. Our objective for this to be a starting point has certainly been met. It will be sustained by good irrigation and erosion control plans. A whitewater park, pedestrian bridge and instream water features are part of phase 4 of the Master Plan. The access to those is now in place. Measurability will happen when it is open, and we receive positive comments from citizens and visitors.

One of the difficulties we encountered was that several tracks of land along our river had been in limbo regarding ownership until 2019. These would have made excellent places for a river walk trail along the San Miguel and would have been incorporated into our master plan and grant applications. Our Town Attorney had convinced the newfound owners to donate all this land to the town if we put a bench commemorating them along the trail. Word leaked out this was happening and one very strong minded person with property along the river, went door to door to all the other riverfront property owners and told them there would be nothing but drug users and needles on the trail. He also convinced the potential donors to withdraw their offer to the town. Needless to say, most all of that available land has now been quietly titled to the individual property owners that were contacted. That strong minded person was a member of our town council at the time. Lesson learned, not everyone wants a nice trail along their river.

When we got the National Park Service involved for funding our park perimeter trail, we had some issues convincing them we did not need a 404 permit or Nationwide Permit 18, as we were not changing anything in the river. The federal regulations for the grant also slowed down the project causing us to get an extension for our GOCO Grant. It narrowly missed our window to build the KaBOOM! Adventure Course as well. However, the amount LWCF was willing to give us made it worth it to be delayed and jump through extra hoops. Another difficulty is complaints from citizens regarding the closure of Vera Ray Drive. It was all done within the proper procedures, a public meeting and board vote but we still hear negative comments.

For our other phases at the park, our preference would be to pursue local or state money.

Our dream is to complete all of the Master Plan for the Park. An amphitheater, new pavilion, stage, sports plaza, field revitalization and concession stand are all on the books. There is plenty of room for continuance. One of the questions that arose was the capacity issue. There is not plenty of staff to apply for and manage the grants necessary to complete everything unless we continue to piecemeal the project. There would not be enough park staff right now to manage the expansion either. Naturita is a very small community, and we have limited coffers. Our sewer and water infrastructure are next on the list to be addressed. We are actively in that process as well.

Phase I of our Town Park is a welcome sight to a community that has not had a major facelift in many years. The benefits from this will be immediate and generational. We are eternally grateful to the Colorado Water Conservation Board for allowing us to achieve this and have a beautiful recreation addition for Naturita.



**COLORADO**

**Colorado Water  
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

## Colorado Water Conservation Board

### Water Plan Grant - Exhibit B

### Budget and Schedule

**Prepared Date: November 30, 2020**

**Name of Applicant: Town of Naturita**

**Name of Water Project: Naturita Town Park Recreational Access Project**

**Project Start Date: August of 2021**

**Project End Date: Sept. of 2022**

| Task No.     | Task Description   | Task Start Date   | Task End Date | Grant Funding Request | Match Funding   | Total           |
|--------------|--|-------------------|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1            | Design and permitting  | May of 2021       |               | \$7,580               | \$5,000         | \$12,580        |
| 2            | Construction of river access trail area and wading area        | August 1 - Dec 31 | Sept. of 2022 | \$1,920               | \$25,000        | \$26,920        |
| 3            | Habitat restoration and constructon of riverbank reinforcement | August 1 - Dec 31 | Sept. of 2022 | \$30,500              | \$10,000        | \$40,500        |
|              |  |                   |               |                       |                 | \$0             |
|              |  |                   |               |                       |                 | \$0             |
|              |  |                   |               |                       |                 | \$0             |
|              |  |                   |               |                       |                 | \$0             |
|              |  |                   |               |                       |                 | \$0             |
|              |  |                   |               |                       |                 | \$0             |
|              |  |                   |               |                       |                 | \$0             |
|              |  |                   |               |                       |                 | \$0             |
|              |  |                   |               |                       |                 | \$0             |
|              |  |                   |               |                       |                 | \$0             |
| <b>Total</b> |  |                   |               | <b>\$40,000</b>       | <b>\$40,000</b> | <b>\$80,000</b> |



## COLORADO

Colorado Water  
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

### Colorado Water Conservation Board

#### Water Plan Grant - Detailed Budget

Prepared Date: 6/22/2022

Name of Applicant: Town of Naturita

Name of Water Project: Naturita Town Park River Revitalization

#### Detailed Construction Cost

##### Task 1 - Design

| Sub-task                 | Unit | Quantity | Unit Cost | Total Cost | CWCB Funds | Matching Funds |
|--------------------------|------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|----------------|
| Site & Irrigation Design | LS   | 1        | \$ 7,580  | \$ 7,580   | \$ 7,580   |                |

##### Task 2 - Construction

| Sub-task  | Unit | Quantity | Unit Cost | Total Cost          | CWCB Funds       | Matching Funds   |
|---|------|----------|-----------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Site Grading  | LS   | 1        | \$ 1,685  | \$ 1,685            | \$ 1,685         |                  |
| Erosion Control   | LS   | 1        | \$ 732    | \$ 732              | \$ 732           |                  |
| Tree removal at river   | EA   | 5        | \$ 480    | \$ 2,400            |                  | \$ 2,400         |
| Boulders  | EA   | 65       | \$ 33     | \$ 2,170            |                  | \$ 2,170         |
| Place Boulder Wall (24" max. ht.);<br>material provided by Town               | LF   | 109      | \$ 436    | \$ 47,793           | \$ 24,203        | \$ 23,590        |
| Manufactured Stone Steps  | LF   | 40       | \$ 209    | \$ 8,360            |                  | \$ 8,360         |
| Turf upland seed mix  | SF   | 2,165    | \$ 1      | \$ 1,300            |                  | \$ 1,300         |
| Ballards and gate for road closure  | EA   | 1        | \$ 2,180  | \$ 2,180            |                  | \$ 2,180         |
| Cottonwood trees/Willow Stakes<br>/desidiuos trees(planting by<br>contractor) | EA   | 18       | \$ 322    | \$ 5,800            | \$ 5,800         |                  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  |      |          |           | <b>\$ 80,000.14</b> | <b>\$ 40,000</b> | <b>\$ 40,000</b> |
|   |      |          |           | \$ 80,000           |                  |                  |



**Colorado Water Conservation Board**  
**Water Plan Grant - Detailed Budget Estimate**  
**Fair and Reasonable Estimate**

Prepared Date:  
Name of Applicant:  
Name of Water Project:

**EXAMPLE A: Study or Project Coordination**

**Task 1 - [TASK NAME]**

| Sub-task                                       | Item   | Hourly Rate | # Hours | Sub-total   | Item Cost   | Item Quantity | Sub-total   | Total               | CWCB Funds | Matching Funds |
|--|--|-------------|---------|-------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------------|------------|----------------|
| Focus Groups                                   |  |             |         |             |             |               |             |                     |            |                |
|  | Participant Stipend                            |             |         | \$ -        | \$ 50.00    | 20.00         | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ 1,000.00         | \$ 250.00  | \$ 750.00      |
|  | Catering                                       |             |         | \$ -        | \$ 15.00    | 20.00         | \$ 300.00   | \$ 300.00           | \$ 75.00   | \$ 225.00      |
|  | Feedback Survey                                |             |         | \$ -        | \$ 0.50     | 20.00         | \$ 10.00    | \$ 10.00            | \$ 2.50    | \$ 7.50        |
|  | Staff Time                                     | \$ 40.00    | 10      | \$ 400.00   |             |               |             | \$ 400.00           | \$ 100.00  | \$ 300.00      |
| Develop Exhibit                                |  |             |         |             |             |               |             |                     |            |                |
|  | Exhibit Designer                               | \$ 50.00    | 100     | \$ 5,000.00 |             |               | \$ -        | \$ 5,000.00         |            |                |
|  | Staff Time Project Manager                     | \$ 50.00    | 30      | \$ 1,500.00 |             |               | \$ -        | \$ 1,500.00         |            |                |
|  | Staff Time Administrative                      | \$ 35.00    | 20      | \$ 700.00   |             |               | \$ -        | \$ 700.00           |            |                |
|  | Film Production (filming, editing, production) |             |         | \$ -        | \$ 5,000.00 | 1.00          | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 5,000.00         |            |                |
|  |  |             |         | \$ -        |             |               | \$ -        | \$ -                |            |                |
|  |  |             |         | \$ -        |             |               | \$ -        | \$ -                |            |                |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                   |  |             |         |             |             |               |             | <b>\$ 13,910.00</b> |            |                |
| <a href="#">Other Direct Costs (see below)</a> |  |             |         |             |             |               |             | <b>\$ 2,469.00</b>  |            |                |
| <b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>                           |  |             |         |             |             |               |             | <b>\$ 16,379.00</b> |            |                |

**Other Direct Costs**

| Item:                                   | Copies & Printing (Black & White) | Copies & Printing (Color) | Materials and Final Report Production Lump Sum | Lodging and Meals Per Diem | Travel Expenses (Airfare and Car Rental) Lump Sum | Mileage Miles | Total   |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|--|----------------------------|---|---------------|---------|
| Units:                                  | No.                               | No.                       |  |                            |   |               |         |
| Unit Cost:                              | \$0.10                            | \$0.50                    |  | \$ 100.00                  |   | \$0.535       |         |
| Project Initiation                      | 150                               | 100                       |  | 2                          |   | 400           | \$479   |
| Report, Conclusions and Recommendations | 150                               | 150                       | \$ 1,900                                       | 0                          |   | 0             | \$1,990 |
| Total Units:                            | 300                               | 250                       | 1,900  | 2                          | 0   | 400           |         |
| Total Cost:                             | \$30                              | \$125                     | \$1,900  | \$200                      | \$0   | \$214         | \$2,469 |

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan Grant - Detailed Budget Estimate

Fair and Reasonable Estimate

Prepared Date:  
Name of Applicant:  
Name of Water Project:

EXAMPLE B: Engineering

| Task 1 - Engineering                                    |                           |  |                          |                                    |           | Subcontracts          |   |           |               |            |                |
|---|---------------------------|--|--------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|---|-----------|---------------|------------|----------------|
| Sub-task  | Water Consultants         |  |                          |                                    |           |                       |   |           | Project Total | CWCB Funds | Matching Funds |
|   | Senior Principal Engineer | Senior Water Resources Engineer/Consultant | Water Resources Engineer | Geologist/ Water Resources Analyst | Subtotal  | Geotechnical Lump sum | Environmental and Cultural Resources Lump Sum | (Other)   |               |            |                |
|   | \$ 190                    | \$ 160                                     | \$ 130                   | \$ 100                             |           |                       |   |           |               |            |                |
|   | Estimated Hours           |  |                          |                                    |           | Cost per              |   |           |               |            |                |
| Project Initiation / Stakeholder identification         | 12                        | 32   |                          | 16                                 | \$ 9,000  |                       |   | \$ -      | \$9,000       |            |                |
| Water Rights Evaluation                                 | 24                        | 24   | 80                       | 30                                 | \$ 21,800 |                       |   | \$ 12,000 | \$33,800      |            |                |
| Geotechnical  | 24                        |  |                          | 36                                 | \$ 8,160  | \$ 27,000             |   | \$ 27,000 | \$35,160      |            |                |
| Permitting  |                           | 32   |                          | 40                                 | \$ 9,120  |                       |   | \$ -      | \$9,120       |            |                |
| Survey  | 4                         | 24   |                          | 8                                  | \$ 5,400  |                       |   | \$ -      | \$5,400       |            |                |
| Design of XXX   | 160                       | 60   | 100                      |                                    | \$ 12,640 |                       |   | \$ -      | \$12,640      |            |                |
| Preparation of construction documents (bid docs, specs) | 40                        | 10   | 30                       |                                    |           |                       |   |           |               |            |                |
| Project Management                                      | 20                        | 30   |                          | 24                                 | \$ 11,000 |                       |   | \$ -      | \$11,000      |            |                |
| Report, Conclusions, & Recommendations                  | 40                        | 54   | 16                       | 40                                 | \$ 22,320 |                       |   | \$ 3,000  | \$30,820      |            |                |
| Task 2 - ?  |                           |  |                          |                                    |           |                       |   |           |               |            |                |
|   |                           |  |                          |                                    |           |                       |   |           |               |            |                |
| TOTAL   |                           |  |                          |                                    |           |                       |   |           | \$146,940     |            |                |





# Naturita Town Park



LWCF 6(f)(3) Grant Boundary

0

350 Feet



|               |                    |                  |                      |
|---------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Official Name | Naturita Town Park |                  |                      |
| AKA Name      |                    |                  |                      |
| Past Name     |                    |                  |                      |
| Grant ID      | 08-01175           | Control Type     | Fee Simple Ownership |
| Acres         | 8.5                | Effective Date   | 09/24/2021           |
| PropID        | pending            | Termination Date | N/A: Perpetual       |

The Town of Naturita will construct a 3,000 linear foot (.5 mile) trail around the perimeter of the 10-acre Naturita Town Park located at 411 West 2nd Avenue. The proposed trail will be 6-feet wide for 2,450 linear feet and 10-feet wide for 550-feet. The project also includes drainage culverts, landscaping, shade shelters, benches, pet waste stations, trash/recycling receptacles, bike racks, picnic tables, signage, gate, access to the river including boulder walls, stone steps, planting of cottonwood and willow trees. -108.572291, 38.220795

|           |
|-----------|
| Signature |
| Print     |
| Date      |

Colorado Alternate State Liaison Officer

|           |
|-----------|
| Signature |
| Print     |
| Date      |

Project Sponsor: Town of Naturita

|           |
|-----------|
| Signature |
| Print     |
| Date      |

NPS Program Officer

February 2021 | P:\Statewide Programs\LWCF\Maps\2021 Maps\Naturita Perimeter Trail



Phasing in Town Park - Preferred Option



























