COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Westminster, City of
Name of Water Project	Big Dry Creek 104th Avenue to Sheridan Boulevard Channel Restoration
Grant Request Amount	**$650,000.00**
Primary Category	$650,000.00
Watershed Health & Recreation	
Total Applicant Match	**$325,000.00**
Applicant Cash Match	$325,000.00
Applicant In-Kind Match	$0.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	**$325,000.00**
Mile High Flood District	$325,000.00
Total Project Cost	**$1,300,000.00**

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Westminster, City of
Mailing Address: 6575 West 88th Avenue, Annex Westminster CO 80031
FEIN: 846,000,726

Organization Contact: Andrew Hawthorn
Position/Title: Stormwater Utility Administrator
Email: ahawthor@cityofwestminster.us
Phone: 303.658.2428

Organization Contact - Alternate: Heather Otterstetter
Position/Title: Senior Engineer/Floodplain Manager
Email: hotterst@cityofwestminster.us
Phone: 3036582370

Grant Management Contact: Andrew Hawthorn
Position/Title: Stormwater Utility Administrator
Email: ahawthor@cityofwestminster.us
Phone: 303.658.2428

Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Heather Otterstetter
Position/Title: Senior Engineer/Floodplain Manager
Email: hotterst@cityofwestminster.us
Phone: 3036582370

Description of Grantee/Applicant

No description provided

Type of Eligible Entity

- [x] 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.
- [x] 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	38.891206
Longitude	-105.061667
Lat Long Flag	Precise coordinates: Project coordinates are readily definable and precisely define the location of the project
Water Source	Big Dry Creek
Basins	Metro
Counties	Jefferson
Districts	2-South Platte: Denver Gage to Greeley

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	
Type of Water Project	Construction / Implementation
Scheduled Start Date - Design	
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	1/1/2024

Description

The project entails restoring Big Dry Creek through Westminster City Park. The need for the project was identified in a 2007 City of Westminster Strom Drainage Study, a 2012 Major Drainageway Plan conceptual Design Report, and a 2018 City of Westminster Drainageway Study. Big Dry Creek in the project reach is characterized by high, vertical cut banks that are actively eroding. The City of Westminster evaluated the entire reach between 104th Avenue and Sheridan Boulevard and focused the design on a 0.9-mile reach, termed Phase 1.

The project goals include stabilizing the channel, reestablishing channel sinuosity, improving water quality and habitat, and improving the trail system through Westminster City Park. The project goals will be met by realigning the channel to reclaim the area with the water quality pond, constructing vegetated benches to support wetlands vegetation, constructing water quality ponds, reconnecting the floodplain, adding trails, crossings, and a boardwalk to connect the community to the creek, and incorporating education spaces. Revegetation will include plantings that support pollinators to create a “pollinator highway” through the park.
Where the channel will be realigned, a multistage channel section will be established to support a variety of vegetation zones. Riffles and pools will be incorporated in the proposed reach, for grade control and bed form diversity.

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)
4,958	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
	Length of Pipe, Canal Built or Improved (linear feet)
	Efficiency Savings (dollars/year)
	Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year)
26	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
100,000	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity

Other

Removes excess sediment contribution due to erosion from Big Dry Creek

Water Project Justification

The project will improve watershed health and habitat in the Big Dry Creek project reach. The project meets the following goals from the Colorado Water Plan (CWP) and South Platte Basin Implementation Plan (BIP):
- Thriving Watersheds (CWP) and Protect and Enhance Watershed Function (BIP): The project will improve the water quality and function by reconnecting the floodplain, creating riffles and pools to improve habitat and natural stream function, laying back and vegetating vertical cut banks to reduce erosion and create habitat, improving riparian habitat, and restoring and enhancing native vegetation.
- Vibrant Communities (CWP) and Protect and Enhance Recreational Attributes, Maintain and Promote Reuse, and Broaden South Platte Communications, Outreach and Education Programs (BIP): The project includes trails that will provide increased connectivity to the creek along with classroom/outdoor education spaces that offer platforms for nature and climate education; a demonstration garden will highlight native species and planting design that encourages water-wise choices that also create habitat.
- Resilient Planning (CWP) and Protect and Enhance Environmental Attributes (BIP): Climate education and nature play are put center-stage, climate resilience and habitat restoration are celebrated in the design, reconnecting the floodplain and incorporating vegetated benches. Riffle pool bed form diversity will allow the creek to adapt and respond to storm events without the further degradation of vertical banks.
- Robust Agriculture (CWP) and Maintain and Promote Reuse (BIP): The existing reclaimed water pond in City Park will be modified to meet State of Colorado requirements and promotes the reuse of water, preserving additional water for agricultural uses. The Westin Pond, which provides water quality and detention, has a permanent water surface without a water right. It will be removed and replaced with a vegetated pond that will no longer store water and will provide better water quality treatment.

Related Studies

City of Westminster 2018 Drainageway Study; April 17, 2019; Enginuity Engineering Solutions.
Big Dry Creek Major Drainageway Plan Conceptual Design Report; March 2012; Wright Water Engineers.
2007 City of Westminster Storm Drainage Study; 2007; Muller Engineering.

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

None