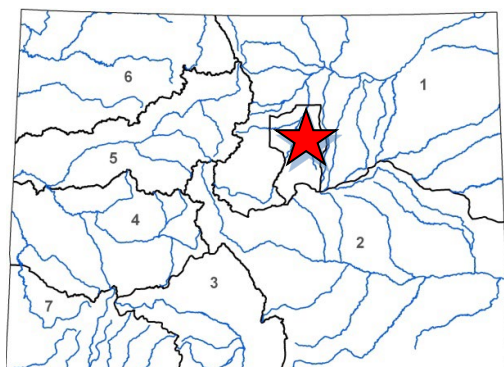


September 2023 Board Meeting

Water Plan Grant Application



L O C A T I O N	
County:	Jefferson
Drainage Basin:	Metro

D E T A I L S	
Total Project Cost:	\$209,812.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$96,187.00
Recommended amount:	\$96,187.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$113,625.00
Applicant Match:	\$0
Project Types:	Design & Construction/Implementation
Project Category:	Watershed Restoration & Recreation
Measurable Results: 10 acres of restored or preserved habitat; 50 Coloradans impacted by engagement activity, but the site will be used by countless more (17,978 people in 2022); expect planned sediment control basins will create new storage, but AF estimates are not available at this stage.	

The Majestic View Nature Center (MVNC) is a wetland conservation and restoration agency in Arvada with a focus on recreation and environmental education with two lakes, Oberon and Hayes, connected by wetlands and riparian habitat. These areas provide vital refuge for wetland-dependent wildlife but face threats from sedimentation, reduced water availability, and invasive species. These challenges impact ecological integrity and the diversity of wetland plant communities preferred by waterfowl, migratory birds, and resident wildlife. The need for this project was identified in the MVNC's 2022 Annual Report and MVNC's 2022 Strategic Recommendations.



Figure 1. Project area and NWR boundaries. Note the communities immediately adjacent to this valuable refuge.

Ducks Unlimited is requesting funding for the planning, design and construction of the MVNC project, with the overarching goal of enhancing habitat, implementing infrastructure to optimize water rights utilization, and fostering expanded and more impactful opportunities for outreach and education concerning water and wetlands. This project will restore 10 acres of wetland and riparian habitat at MVNC by installing water control structures, dredging, removing invasive species like Russian olive, and creating sediment control basins with shallow water wetlands. Restoration efforts will enhance habitat conditions, promoting healthy wetland plant communities and benefiting wildlife. Partners committed to collaboration are the Friends of Majestic View and City of Arvada's stormwater department.

Match funding will be secured through Colorado Parks & Wildlife Wetlands for Wildlife Program, North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Funding Recommendation: This project is recommended for full funding of the \$96,187.00 requested.



Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Ducks Unlimited
Name of Water Project	Majestic View Nature Center Restoration
Grant Request Amount	\$96,187.00
Primary Category	\$96,187.00
<i>Watershed Health & Recreation</i>	
Total Applicant Match	\$0.00
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	\$0.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	\$0.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	\$113,625.00
<i>Colorado Parks & Wildlife Wetlands for Wildlife Program</i>	\$43,725.00
<i>North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) Grant</i>	\$20,000.00
<i>National Fish & Wildlife Foundation</i>	\$49,900.00
Total Project Cost	\$209,812.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Ducks Unlimited	
Mailing Address: 2114 Midpoint Dr. Suite 1 Fort Collins CO 80525	
FEIN: 13,563,799	
Organization Contact: Courtney Massey	
Position/Title: Biologist	Email: cmassey@ducks.org
Phone: 971-791-1379	
Organization Contact - Alternate: John Denton	
Position/Title: Colorado Manager of Conservation Programs	Email: jdenton@ducks.org
Phone: (308) 258-4682	
Grant Management Contact: Courtney Massey	
Position/Title: Biologist	Email: cmassey@ducks.org
Phone: 971-791-1379	
Grant Management Contact - Alternate: John Denton	
Position/Title: Colorado Manager of Conservation Programs	Email: jdenton@ducks.org
Phone: (308) 258-4682	

Description of Grantee/Applicant

Wetland conservation and restoration agency

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 39.492669
 Longitude -105.055912
 Lat Long Flag
 Water Source Oberon Reservoir 1 & 2, as part of Farmers High Line Canal Operations (Decree CA60052)
 Basins Metro
 Counties Jefferson
 Districts 7-Clear Creek

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type Education
 Type of Water Project Design & Construction
 Scheduled Start Date - Design 9/1/2023
 Scheduled Start Date - Construction 8/1/2024
 Description

Majestic View Nature Center (MVNC) in Arvada is a hub of recreation and environmental education with two lakes, Oberon and Hayes, connected by wetlands and riparian habitat. These areas provide vital refuge for wetland-dependent wildlife but face threats from sedimentation, reduced water availability, and invasive species. These challenges impact ecological integrity and the diversity of wetland plant communities preferred by waterfowl, migratory birds, and resident wildlife.

This project will restore 10 acres of wetland and riparian habitat at MVNC by installing water control structures, dredging, removing invasive species like Russian olive, and creating sediment control basins with shallow water wetlands. Restoration efforts will enhance habitat conditions, promoting healthy wetland plant communities and benefiting wildlife.

The completed project will expand opportunities for education, recreation, and science at MVNC. It will be utilized for environmental education programs, community engagement events, and interpretation. Emphasis will be placed on inclusivity, accessibility, and serving diverse communities.

A partnership between DU and MVNC will drive the project, with contributions from community partners including Friends of MVNC and neighboring institutions. Through wetland habitat restoration and invasive species removal, the project will improve MVNC's ecological integrity, enhance water management efficiency, and provide valuable educational experiences for the community.

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)
	Length of Pipe, Canal Built or Improved (linear feet)
	Efficiency Savings (dollars/year)
	Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year)
10	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
30	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity

Other

In 2022, MVNC offered 352 programs that directly reached 17,978 people, indicating the project site will be used heavily and continually. In addition to providing new and stronger opportunities for education and interpretation centered on wetlands and water, the inclusion of tools like educational signs will ensure all visitors can learn about the conservation effort whether they participate in a formal program at MVNC or not. We expect at least 50 Coloradoans to be impacted through direct engagement, but the site will be used by countless more.

We expect our planned sediment control basins will create new storage, but AF estimates are not available at this stage.

Water Project Justification

This project supports the 2023 Colorado Water Plan and 2022 South Platte-Metro Basin Implementation Plan in that it will protect and enhance watershed function, environmental attributes, and recreation attributes.

Colorado Water Plan (CWP): The project aligns with the CWP's Thriving Watersheds Vision (CWP pgs. 204-207) and aims to achieve it through a comprehensive water resources planning approach. Its primary objectives are twofold: restoring wetlands and wildlife habitat to enhance ecosystem function, and preserving and strengthening

the recreational value of the property. To ensure success, the project fosters an engaged partnership by integrating DU's restoration expertise with MVNC's engagement capabilities and strong community ties. This collaboration is crucial for effectively addressing both ecological health and the needs of the local community. To work toward meeting future water needs and achieving thoughtful storage (CWP pg. 205), this project will use nature-based solutions (wetlands) to reduce erosion and sedimentation, rehabilitate MVNC's riparian system to improve habitat, and meet the needs of local users. Additionally, this work removes invasive phreatophytes (Russian olive), in line with the Thriving Watersheds vision (CWP pg. 206). According to the CWP, partner actions rely on effective engagement and education at different levels, as detailed on page 207. The plan classifies stakeholders into three categories: government, NGOs, and residents. This project actively works across all three levels and has been developed to align with the values of local stakeholders thanks to valuable insights gathered by MVNC staff and their community partners.

South Platte-Metro BIP Goal 6.A: Protect and improve water quality throughout the watershed (pgs. 32-35). In accordance with goal 6.A, the project will control erosion and sedimentation at MVNC, preventing further depth reduction of MVNC's lakes and protecting the Center's ecological integrity.

South Platte-Metro BIP Goal 7: Protect and enhance environmental attributes (pgs. 36-37). In line with goal 7, the project will implement strategies that protect and enhance environmental attributes for this socially and ecologically important habitat. Specifically, in accordance with strategy 7.A, the project will actively take measures to enhance wetlands and aquatic habitat. Additionally, in support of strategy 7.B, the project will implement actions aimed at promoting the well-being of wetland-dependent species and protecting state species of special concern, several of which have been observed at MVNC in recent years. Moreover, in accordance with strategy 7.C, the project will carry out initiatives to safeguard and enhance the conditions of wetlands and lakes, ensuring their functionality as vital waterfowl habitats.

South Platte-Metro BIP Goal 8: Protect and enhance recreational attributes (pgs. 37-38). While this is a relatively small-scale project, we believe the effort is in line with goal 8, protecting and enhancing recreational attributes, as the project will implement strategies to protect and enhance the recreational landscape and sensitive habitats at MVNC.

South Platte-Metro BIP Goal 11: Broaden South Platte communications, outreach, and education programs (pg. 39). In line with goal 11, our project will create new and stronger opportunities to expand on existing communications and outreach programs to improve knowledge and promote informed decisions about critical water issues and wetlands' role in addressing Colorado's water needs.

Related Studies

This proposal is responsive to the 2018 update to the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP), an international plan to conserve waterfowl and migratory birds of North America, and the studies that supported the plan's development. First established in 1986, the 2012 NAWMP revision recognized a need to reach new audiences and grow numbers of waterfowl hunters, conservationists, and citizens who enjoy and support wetlands and waterfowl conservation. The 2018 update builds upon this goal by directly calling for better integration of social science into planning and program delivery, highlighting a need to invest in identifying key geographic areas where best opportunities exist to meet the needs of waterfowl and people, and calls on the community to compel people to take action to conserve waterfowl habitat. The project proposed here aligns with this goal by delivering a two-pronged project that 1) restores important wetland areas for the benefit of migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife and 2) provides opportunities to engage new audiences through outreach and engagement efforts that utilize the restored landscapes.

This project has also been identified as a priority by the City of Arvada. In the summer of 2022, MVNC's Nature Center Specialist led a volunteer team on a study of water quality and biodiversity across the property. The study found that both Oberon and Hayes lakes have filled with silt and become shallower, several feet shallower in some locations. In late fall, water levels dropped to an average depth of less than 3 feet, creating concern for wildlife that rely on depth to survive hard freezes. Further information on the study is available in MVNC's 2022 Annual Report. MVNC's 2022 Strategic Recommendations provide strategic direction for the Center's next steps. The proposed project targeting MVNC's wetland and riparian system aligns with these strategic recommendations by targeting the following objectives: 1) Preserve and interpret core wildlife areas with multi-organizational projects and programs, and 2) emphasize the Majestic View Nature Center vision that focuses on the preservation of habitat with high conservational and educational value for opportunities to engage the Arvada community with its rich natural heritage. Our project will be vital to achieving these objectives as it will preserve habitat at MVNC and, through our partnership, open doors for new multi-organizational projects and programs centered on both restoration and community engagement. Site recommendations for MVNC's natural areas include shoreline mitigation through cattail removal, invasive species removal, and dredging MVNC's lakes. The activities proposed here target those site recommendations and assist in addressing the underlying factors that led to the sedimentation of the lakes in the first place.

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

DU is not aware of any TABOR issues that impact this application.