

**COLORADO**Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan**Water Project Summary**

Name of Applicant	Fountain Creek Watershed Flood Control and Greenway District
Name of Water Project	Southmoor Drive Channel and Floodplain Restoration Phase II
Grant Request Amount	\$702,266.00
Primary Category	\$702,266.00
<i>Watershed Health & Recreation</i>	
Total Applicant Match	\$702,266.00
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	\$702,266.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	
Total Other Sources of Funding	\$0.00
Total Project Cost	\$1,404,532.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Fountain Creek Watershed Flood Control and Greenway District
Mailing Address: PO Box 26373 Colorado Springs CO 80936

Organization Contact: Allison Schuch

Position/Title: Executive Director

Phone: 719-650-7474

Email: fountainckdist@gmail.com

Organization Contact - Alternate: Jordan Witteveen

Position/Title: Administrative Assistant

Phone: 7047639876

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Grant Management Contact: Allison Schuch

Position/Title: Executive Director

Phone: 719-650-7474

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Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Jordan Witteveen

Position/Title: Administrative Assistant

Phone: 7047639876

Email: fcwdaa@gmail.com

Description of Grantee/Applicant

Authority - Water authority or water and wastewater authority

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 38.734873
 Longitude -104.734348
 Lat Long Flag Precise coordinates: Project coordinates are readily definable and precisely define the location of the project
 Water Source Fountain Creek
 Basins Arkansas
 Counties El Paso
 Districts 10-Fountain Creek

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type

Type of Water Project Construction / Implementation

Scheduled Start Date - Design 10/5/2024

Scheduled Start Date - Construction 12/9/2024

Description

The Fountain Creek Watershed District (District) proposed Phase 1 of the Southmoor Drive Channel Stabilization and Floodplain Restoration project (Project) to mitigate erosion of the eastern bank, provide slope stability along this segment of Fountain Creek, and reconnect the channel/floodplain complex promoting riparian vegetation and streambank habitat. The mass wasting of the bank is undercutting Southmoor Drive, resulting in its closure in 2020, ongoing endangerment of properties on top of the bank, and disconnection of the channel from the floodplain and overbanks.

The District is proposing Phase 2 of this project, which includes increased project costs associated with the project design and construction due to external project review, impacts of landownership agreements, and storm events. During landowner coordination, a key landowner declined permission to build a portion of the Fountain

Creek Regional Trail (Trail) on their property and conduct floodplain grading west of the creek. Engineering redesign is required to accommodate this change, including realignment and pavement of the trail, stabilization of the western Project slope, and import of fill materials. Major storm events in the summer of 2023 exacerbated erosional conditions on site and are anticipated to have reduced the amount of available fill from the project site.

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)
2,200	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)
20	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
300,000	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
Other	
No additional measurable results provided	

Water Project Justification

The Phase 2 Southmoor Drive Project requires additional funding due to several critical factors including changes to project costs associated with the project design and construction due to external project review, impacts of landownership agreements, and storm events. These changes have resulted in a project with a higher cost than initial project scoping and estimations identified. Despite these obstacles, this project aligns directly with the Watershed Health and Recreation grant category and will deliver significant benefits to the watershed, the surrounding community, and for those downstream.

Cost Escalations and Project Adjustments

-Changes to Project Elements

It was determined additional bank protection measures should be installed to protect Southmoor Drive and the stabilized cut-bank. This included the design of Terrace Toe Protection to be placed behind the toe wood bend protection, developed in Phase 1. The Terrace Toe Protection provides bank stabilization in the event that the toe wood becomes compromised, protecting the constructed slope and the overall project investment.

-Landowner Agreements

Grading and the placement of the Fountain Creek Regional Trail (Trail) are adjusted as part of the Phase 2 design. A key property owner declined the permission to complete grading and trail work on their property resulting in design repercussions.

The site grading was modified to remove the property from the proposed project area. This change impacts the quantity of fill available onsite. It is now anticipated that the project will require the import of fill. Further detail is discussed in the Scope of Work.

The Trail was moved from the top of the slope to the bottom, placing it within the floodplain. At the request of the trail owner, El Paso County, the trail will now be paved to reduce future maintenance costs.

-Recent Storm Events

Recent severe storms have worsened erosion, sedimentation, and bank instability, requiring expanded stabilization efforts and additional material imports to restore the channel effectively. Further discussion is

provided in the Scope of Work.

Alignment with Colorado Water Plan Objectives

-Watershed Health

Riparian Habitat Restoration: Phase 2 will restore native riparian vegetation, improving biodiversity and providing critical habitat for wildlife. This meets the Plan's focus on enhancing ecosystem health. US Army Corps of Engineering Section 404 permitting has been completed which supports this objective and places monitoring and success requirements on project outcomes.

Erosion and Sedimentation Control: By stabilizing the channel and reducing sediment loads, the project will improve downstream water quality, directly supporting healthy and sustainable waterways.

-Resilient Infrastructure

The project includes innovative design elements to withstand future high-flow events, protecting the investment and reducing long-term maintenance needs. Through the Phase 2 introduction of the Terrace Toe Protection, this project aims to provide a more resilient site than previously proposed.

Stabilization efforts will mitigate flood risks, safeguarding nearby infrastructure and public safety.

-Recreation and Community Engagement

Access and Recreation: Improved riparian areas will create opportunities for community members to enjoy and learn about the benefits of healthy waterways via a new alignment of the Fountain Creek Regional Trail. This is a major migratory flyway for hundreds of bird species and other wildlife that use this critical channel.

Public Engagement: The project will engage local partners, residents, and volunteers through the development of an interactive educational exhibit at the nearby Fountain Creek Nature Center. The exhibit explains the reasoning behind the project, overviews the design, and describes the challenges associated with working in such a dynamic environment.

-Request for Additional Funding

The additional funding will ensure that Phase 2 can fully realize its potential by addressing current and future challenges. With this grant, we can stretch limited dollars to achieve lasting, measurable improvements in watershed health and recreation, directly supporting the objectives of the Colorado Water Plan.

We are committed to delivering a high-quality project that benefits the watershed and the community for decades to come.

Related Studies

Watershed Assessment of River Stability and Sediment Supply (WARSSS), March 2017

Fountain Creek Corridor Floodplain Management Opportunities Study (FMO), December 2019

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

N/A