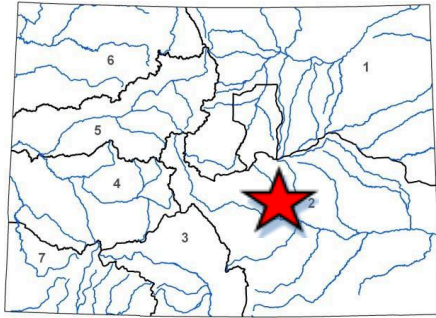




Water Plan Grant Program



| LOCATION | |
|------------------|----------|
| <i>Counties:</i> | El Paso |
| <i>Basin:</i> | Arkansas |

| DETAILS | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <i>Total Project Cost:</i> | \$199,789.00 |
| <i>Water Plan Grant Request:</i> | \$149,842.00 |
| <i>Recommended amount:</i> | \$149,842.00 |
| <i>Match Commitment:</i> | \$49,947.00 |
| <i>Grant to Match Ratio:</i> | 75/25 |
| <i>Project Type:</i> | Planning and Design |
| <i>Primary Project Category:</i> | Watershed Health & Recreation |
| <i>Measurable Result:</i> | 13,200 linear feet stream restored, 1 acres of restored habitat and 500,000 Coloradans impacted by engagement activity |

Pikes Peak Waterways, a nonprofit corporation, is seeking Colorado Water Plan grant funding to support the Stream Reach Plan-Monument Creek-MVP to ATB. The project is located on Monument Creek in Colorado Springs from Monument Valley Park to America the Beautiful Park. This project would build on the applicant's current Water Plan Grant to extend the geographic reach of planning efforts in Monument Creek. These two projects are a direct result of the 2022 Colorado Springs Creek Plan, developed as part of a partnership between Pikes Peak Waterways, the City of Colorado Springs, and Colorado Springs Utilities.

This project would develop a stream reach plan to restore the natural functions and overall riverscape of a 2.5-mile section of Monument Creek. The goal is to identify and develop projects and mitigative strategies to increase aquatic and riparian habitat, enhance and increase wetland habitat, address excess sediment loading, and identify potential fluvial geomorphic hazards. The project will also improve public access and recreational opportunities. The project is intended to produce a detailed inventory of the study reach, develop project designs, and conduct extensive outreach to stakeholders and the community.

The project advances the Colorado Water Plan and the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan by focusing on watershed health and recreation. It aligns with the Water Plan's goals for restoring riverine functions, improving water quality, enhancing habitat, and re-establishing floodplains. The project also supports the Water Plan's goals for climate adaptation, equity for economically disadvantaged neighborhoods, and natural hazard planning. Importantly, restoration of the creek will contribute significantly to environmental justice for economically-disadvantaged neighborhoods that are adjacent to the 3-mile study corridor as restoration of the Monument Creek riverscape has the potential to encourage and leverage an influx of private sector investment and renewal of adjacent neighborhoods with redevelopment oriented and focused on the creek.

Grant dollars would be used to develop the plan, which will include an extensive outreach program. The applicant will hold targeted workshops and outreach events throughout the planning process to gather input and feedback on resilient ecological restoration strategies. This input will help shape the riverscape vision and identify priority projects for the Stream Reach Plan.

The applicant and CWCB staff will work closely with partner agencies, including Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Division of Water Resources, to ensure that this planning process is as comprehensive as possible, avoids any injury to water rights and provides the most benefit possible to ecological communities. Further, the applicant will work closely with CWCB's Watershed Protection and Flood Mitigation section to ensure all necessary permitting and planning documents are incorporated into the final plan.

Project supporters include the City of Colorado Springs and Colorado Springs Utilities, who are formal partners in the effort.

Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends a Water Plan Grant award not to exceed \$149,842.00 to the Fountain Creek Watershed, Inc. d/b/a Pikes Peak Waterways for the Stream Reach Plan-Monument Creek-MVP to ATB.