



COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Groundwork Denver
Name of Water Project	Riparian Restoration and Monitoring in Lower Bear Creek
Grant Request Amount	\$93,588.00
Primary Category	\$93,588.00
<i>Watershed Health & Recreation</i>	
Total Applicant Match	\$15,183.00
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	
	\$15,183.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	
	\$0.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	\$85,529.00
<i>Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO)</i>	
	\$85,529.00
Total Project Cost	\$194,300.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Groundwork Denver
Mailing Address: 3280 N. Downing Street, Unit E Denver CO 80205
FEIN: 710,909,556

Organization Contact: Cindy Chang
Position/Title: Executive Director Email: grants@groundworkcolorado.org
Phone: 303-455-5600

Organization Contact - Alternate: Jessica Swindon
Position/Title: Director of Water Program Email: jessica@groundworkcolorado.org
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Grant Management Contact: Cindy Chang
Position/Title: Executive Director Email: grants@groundworkcolorado.org
Phone: 303-455-5600

Description of Grantee/Applicant

Nonprofit Organization

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	39.000000
Longitude	105.000000
Lat Long Flag	Other: Coordinates based on other boundaries or locations
Water Source	Lower Bear Creek (Water Body Identification (WBID): COSPBE02; Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 12: 101900020809)
Basins	South Platte; Colorado
Counties	Denver
Districts	9-Bear Creek

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	Environmental
Type of Water Project	Construction / Implementation
Scheduled Start Date - Design	5/1/2024
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	7/1/2024

Description

Groundwork Denver (GWD) requests funding to engage 32 youth and 250 community members in 10 volunteer events focused on repairing the structure and function of the riparian ecosystem along an 8-mile stretch of Lower Bear Creek used as a pedestrian trail, with the goal of restoring its natural resilience and preserving its function for both humans and the environment. GWD will also conduct monitoring twice per month to assess the project's impact on ecosystem health, including water quality and streambank stability. GWD will implement approaches identified in the stakeholder-led Lower Bear Creek Watershed Plan and engage diverse stakeholders, including partners and disproportionately impacted communities, in project planning and implementation. Partners, including South Suburban Parks and Recreation, Denver Parks and Recreation, the City of Sheridan, and Colorado River Watch will ensure the project's technical feasibility, while watershed residents will receive education about watershed health and engage in both planning and implementing riparian restoration projects.

The prioritized area lacks a sufficient natural buffer to remain both resilient to storm events and accessible for recreation. Removing debris and invasives, reinforcing buffers in the riparian areas, and re-planting native species will support habitat re-development and improve the creek's resilience.

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)
42,240	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)
160	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
15,100	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity
Other	
	No additional measurable results provided

Water Project Justification

The project supports the goals of the Colorado Water Plan Grant in numerous ways. First, aligned with the Water Plan's vision for Vibrant Communities (page 178-191), the project will engage diverse stakeholders, including disproportionately impacted communities historically excluded from environmental remediation efforts, in education and action in pursuit of facilitating a broad One Water Ethic inclusive of all relevant stakeholders. Second, aligned with the Healthy Lands priority of the Vibrant Communities vision, the project will support "holistic planning for urban landscapes that improve quality of life" by facilitating safe access to waterways for disproportionately impacted communities and engaging these communities in planning and implementing stream habitat restoration and watershed protection. Third, aligned with the Water Plan's vision for Thriving Watersheds (page 204 – 207), the project will identify and implement nature-based solutions to support watershed health while rehabilitating streams to improve riparian and aquatic habitat, reduce erosion, and meet both human and environmental needs. Further, by repairing stream banks and riparian health along a recreational trail, the project will increase access to recreational activities for disproportionately impacted communities living in surrounding neighborhoods, particularly in the City of Sheridan and Denver's Harvey Park South neighborhood, which are home to 15,100 residents. Finally, the project will support invasive species removal and the re-planting of native species, furthering the restoration of a thriving watershed. All efforts will also help protect clean water supplies for downstream water users by creating a buffer and increasing natural filtration systems that minimize toxins entering the waterway.

The project also addresses challenges identified in and supports the goals of the South Platte Basin Implementation plan. First, the project addresses impacts to water quality resulting from urbanization (Volume 2 page 41), including creating buffers to filter out toxins resulting from stormwater runoff that degrades water quality and aesthetics of riparian habitats, as well as minimizing invasive species and facilitating safe human presence along streambanks that supports both riparian health and safe recreation activities for disproportionately impacted communities. Second, by educating and engaging watershed residents, including monolingual Spanish-speakers, in education, planning, and implementation, the project addresses the "lack of

readily available and widespread public education around land stewardship” (Volume 2 page 41). Third, supporting Goal 6 (Volume 2 page 84), the project seeks to “protect and enhance watershed function by identifying, assessing, and implementing actions, programs, and measures that seek to minimize adverse effects on the prioritized areas” by directly engaging in invasive species removal, replanting native species, and cleaning up trash, thereby creating a buffer for filtration, as well as monitoring their effectiveness in mitigating the presence of pollutants and nutrients. Further, the project supports “diverse projects that improve water quality in coordination with public agencies” by furthering Groundwork Denver’s (GWD) coordination with partners, including the City of Sheridan, Denver Parks and Recreation, South Suburban Parks and Recreation, and Colorado River Watch. GWD will also share collected data with the National Water Quality Data Portal and the Colorado Data Sharing Network. Fourth, the project supports Goal 7 (Volume 2 page 88) by continuing to “develop, promote, and apply best management practices, tools, and methodologies to adequately assess what is needed to maintain, increase, or enhance general river health, riparian habitats, water quality, impacts associated with temperature and other pollutants, and riverine connectivity,” specifically stormwater impacts. Further, the project “identifies, assesses, and implements actions, programs, and measures that aim to promote restoration, recovery, and sustained support of riparian plant communities” through multiple approaches. Fifth, supporting Goal 8 (Volume 2 page 90), the project seeks to continue to “develop, promote, and apply best management practices, tools, and methodologies to adequately assess what is needed to maintain or improve recreational opportunities derived from water related ecosystems throughout the South Platte Basin” by “identifying strategies for responsible stewardship of landscape that provide recreational opportunities and access to open space,” as well as supporting “efforts to improve management to protect public lands for future generations.” Finally, the project seeks to “identify, assess, and implement actions, programs, and measures that aim to protect and strengthen local outdoor recreation economies derived from recreational water uses while protecting sensitive habitat” by supporting “the development of consistent and comprehensive metrics for measuring and reporting resource impacts;” “supporting sustainable recreation opportunities and public access;” and fostering sustainable collaboration and relationships among relevant stakeholders to ensure project completion. The project will also seek to identify where and the extent of recreational pursuits’ conflict with sensitive habitats.

Related Studies

Related studies include:

1. The Lower Bear Creek Watershed Plan:

<https://coloradowater.squarespace.com/s/Lower-Bear-Creek-Watershed-Plan-2014.pdf>

2. New Analysis of Green Infrastructure Suitability in Bear Creek Watershed:

<https://groundworkcolorado.org/new-analysis-of-green-infrastructure-suitability-in-bear-creek-watershed/>

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

N/A