

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE MEMORANDUM
#02-2021

DATE: January 11, 2021

TO: Honorable Mayor Meredith Leighty and City Council Members

THROUGH: Heather Geyer, City Manager 

FROM: Amanda J. Peterson, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture 

SUBJECT: CR-8 – Adams County Open Space Grant Resolution of Support for “A Sustainable Path to Northglenn’s Trails and Waterways”

PURPOSE

To seek approval of the attached resolutions supporting the submission of two grant requests to fund the planting of additional trees along the Farmers’ High Line Canal, Grange Hall Creek and Tuck Lateral corridors. This, the second of two proposed resolutions, will be submitted with the grant application for the Adams County Open Space Grant Program.

BACKGROUND

There are two opportunities each year to seek grant funding from Adams County Open Space (ACOS). Funding for these grants comes from the ACOS Tax, of which 68% is distributed through a competitive grant process. Adams County Resolution 99-1 and the ACOS Policies and Procedures manual outline eligible uses for these funds. The project that staff has developed, “A Sustainable Path to Northglenn’s Trails and Waterways,” fits well within the types of projects that are eligible for this particular grant opportunity.

ACOS funding was previously divided into two categories, active and passive. With the passage of Adams County ballot measure 1A this past November, those categories were eliminated, allowing any eligible project to be funded without a cap on active projects. Mini grants may be submitted in an amount not to exceed \$5,000; there are no funding request limits on the other grant types. In the past, the board has shown a preference to projects that don’t exceed a 50% request, however, more recently the board has been more receptive of requests up to the maximum allowable amount. This request will be submitted as a mini grant, in the amount of \$5,000.

If funding is awarded, the project will include planting trees throughout the Farmers’ High Line Canal, Grange Hall Creek, and Tuck Lateral corridors. Tree species, as well as the proposed planting locations, have been selected purposefully to replace the aging tree canopy (primarily Cottonwoods) that has been impacted by removals in recent years. Trees would be placed further from the ditch banks and closer to the trails so that even at full maturity they would not impede water flow through the ditches, create excess water demand from the ditches, or otherwise impede the maintenance access to the ditches. These trees would offer improved species variability, wildlife habitat for native species, and shade for trail users. They would not create a dense wall of vegetation that prevents maintenance access or safety concerns by blocking the line of sight between the ditch and the trail.

At least 50% in matching funds are required; this can be both cash and in-kind. At this time, a cash match in the amount of \$10,000 has been secured from the Northglenn Community Foundation – as the former parks foundation, supporting parks and recreation grant requests remains a part of its mission and annual budget. An additional cash match has been sought from the Farmers’ High Line Canal & Reservoir Company and SCL Health (requests pending); other community partners are still being sought.

An in-kind match has been secured from several community partners, including a local Girl Scout troop, the Rotary Club of Northglenn/Thornton, and the Adams County Master Gardener’s Association. They will provide volunteers to assist with planting and technical assistance. An additional in-kind match has also been sought from Bird Conservancy of the Rockies (request pending).

Approval of the resolution will serve as support for the application. A copy of the resolution will be included with the final application.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of the attached resolution in support of a grant application to ACOS for the “A Sustainable Path to Northglenn’s Trails and Waterways” project.

BUDGET/TIME IMPLICATIONS

ACOS grant applications are due by March 31, 2021. The proposed resolution, along with the full grant proposal, needs to be submitted to Adams County by that date.

Grants will be reviewed by the Adams County Open Space Advisory Board in April 2021, and staff will participate in presentations and respond to questions from the board in May. Funding decisions are generally made in June or July.

The City will be requesting \$5,000 in grant funding from ACOS, with a total project cost ranging from \$15,000 to \$45,000. The final project budget will vary based on the level of grant support and/or other community support that is secured. No City funding is anticipated to be used as a part of the cash match requirement; the City will include staff time dedicated to the project as an in-kind match.

STAFF REFERENCE

If Council members have any comments or questions they may contact Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture Director Amanda Peterson at apeterson@northglenn.org or 303.450.8950.

SPONSORED BY: MAYOR LEIGHTY

COUNCILMAN'S RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO.

No. CR-8
Series of 2021

Series of 2021

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A GRANT APPLICATION TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE ADAMS COUNTY OPEN SPACE FOR FUNDING FOR THE SUSTAINABLE PATH TO NORTHGLENN'S TRAILS AND WATERWAYS PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Path to Northglenn's Trails and Waterways Project will include planting trees throughout the Farmers' High Line Canal, Grange Hall Creek, and Tuck Lateral corridors to replace the aging tree canopy that has been impacted by removals in recent years; and

WHEREAS, the planting of trees will offer improved species variability, wildlife habitat for native species, and shade for trail users; and

WHEREAS, the Northglenn City Council believes the improvements will enhance wildlife areas, improve access to and maintenance of the waterways, and improve the City's trails, which are used by individuals of all ages and abilities; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to express its support of the submission of an Adams County Open Space Grant Application to obtain funding for the Sustainable Path to Northglenn's Trails and Waterways Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTHGLENN, COLORADO, THAT:

Section 1. The City Council of the City of Northglenn is in full support of submitting a grant application to Adams County Open Space to obtain funding for the Sustainable Path to Northglenn's Trails and Waterways Project.

DATED, at Northglenn, Colorado, this _____ day of _____, 2021.

MEREDITH LEIGHTY
Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

JOHANNA SMALL, CMC
City Clerk

COREY Y. HOFFMANN
City Attorney