

STAFF REPORT

DATE OF COUNCIL MEETING: JUNE 28, 2021 / AGENDA ITEM NO. 8

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Kit Newland, Director of Community Resources, 3030-987-7822

Subject: **RESOLUTION APPROVING JEFFERSON COUNTY OPEN SPACE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR A GRANT FOR BEAR CREEK TRAIL AND GREENBELT IMPROVEMENTS.**

SUMMARY STATEMENT: The Community Resources Department requests permission to authorize the City Manager to enter into two separate intergovernmental agreements (IGA) for two grants, Jefferson County Open Space (JCOS) and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), to fund improvements to the Bear Creek Trail and Greenbelt, located at 2800 S. Estes St.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The project includes the installation of over 12,000 linear feet of 3-6-foot-wide soft surface trail that would roughly parallel the existing concrete path through the 350-acre Bear Creek Greenbelt. The purpose of the trail is to alleviate congestion along the existing concrete trail by providing an alternative natural surface for walkers and runners. In addition to the soft surface trail construction, improvements will be made to the concrete trail by widening sections to 10 feet when feasible, by softening trail curves to extend sight lines and replacing damaged concrete to mitigate hazards. A new restroom facility will also be added, existing bridges replaced, and signage and wayfinding improved.

The City has been awarded grants from both JCOS and the LWCF, through the Department of Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), to contribute to the Greenbelt improvements. *A request for supplemental appropriation for both grants is also on Council's consent agenda tonight.*

The two grants are not sufficient to fund the entire project scope. The 2020-2021 Budget approved adequate City funds to match the grants and provide the necessary additional funding. Funding is planned to occur as follows:

| Bear Creek Trail Improvements | Grant Funds | City Matching Funds | Total Funds |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| JCOS Grant | \$1,920,312 | \$1,180,856 (incl LWCF grant) | \$3,101,168 |
| LWCF Grant | \$750,000 | | \$750,000 |
| Total Project Funding | \$2,670,312 | \$1,180,856 | \$3,851,168 |

BUDGETARY IMPACTS: If approved, the City would accept grant funds in the amount of \$1,920,312 (JCOS) and \$750,000 (LWCF). Adequate City funds of \$1,180,856 are included in the approved 2021 Tabor fund budget for this project.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Staff recommends approval of Resolution 2021-31.

ALTERNATIVES: City Council could deny approval, resulting in the grants being declined. Should Council take this approach, the City would be required to reduce the Bear Creek Trail project scope significantly.

PUBLIC OUTREACH: Extensive public outreach has occurred setting the stage for this integral project beginning with the 2016 adopted Lakewood Connectivity and Trails Assessment Report and public engagement effort that recommended improvements to the Bear Creek Trail. In 2019, Jefferson County Open Space led a public input process to develop the Jeffco Trails Plan, that subsequently recommended improvements to the Bear Creek Trail as a regional connector. Most recently, the City launched a community conversation about the project in 2020 at LakewoodTogether.org/BearCreekTrail. This site will be utilized throughout construction to keep the public informed of construction progress. In addition, regular neighborhood notification will occur via mail alerting residents of any construction impacts and detours on the trail.

NEXT STEPS: If approved, the Community Resources staff will sign grant agreements (IGAs) with both JCOS and CPW showing intent to receive and utilize the grant funds and proceed with construction of the scope of work identified in each agreement. Grant administration and reporting to both entities will be on-going throughout the project.

ATTACHMENTS: Resolution 2021-31
Intergovernmental Agreement with JCOS

REVIEWED BY: Kathleen E. Hodgson, City Manager
Benjamin B. Goldstein, Deputy City Manager
Alison McKenney Brown, City Attorney