



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
COLORADO'S FIRST

Board Summary Report

Date: July 9, 2019
To: Board of County Commissioners
Through: Shannon Carter, Open Spaces and Intergovernmental Relations Director
From: Sandy Bottoms, Grants Program Specialist
Subject: 2019 Open Space Grant Award Recommendations

Request and Recommendation

Request BoCC approval of the 2019 Open Space Grant Award Recommendations as follows: fund the 10 highest ranked standard grants, one small grant, and one planning grant totaling \$4,405,594, as presented in the attached 2019 Open Space Grants ranking sheet. This item was heard by the BoCC at a study session on July 8, 2019.

Background

In accordance with the Arapahoe County Open Space Resolution, 12% of Open Space Sales and Use Tax revenue is invested in Arapahoe County communities through a grants program. Each year incorporated municipalities and special districts that provide outdoor recreation services are invited to submit proposals for eligible open space, park, and trail projects. An evaluation team made up of OSTAB members and County staff review the grant applications and make recommendations to the BoCC regarding the approval, conditional approval, or denial of each application. Since 2005, the County has invested nearly \$36 million in grant funding in more than 200 projects across the County.

In September 2018, the BoCC approved an allocation of \$4 million for the 2019 Open Space Grant cycle. In March 2019, the BoCC added \$500,000 to the allocation after a previously awarded grant project fell through, bringing the total grant funding available for 2019 to \$4.5 million.

The grant categories for 2019 are as follows:

- Standard Grant Awards: \$100,001 to \$500,000, 25% total project cost minimum cash match
- Small Grant Awards: \$1,000 to \$100,000, 10% total project cost minimum cash match
- Planning Grant Awards: \$1,000 to \$100,000, 10% total project cost minimum cash match

Links to Align Arapahoe

Optimize Use of Financial Assets
Improve Park, Trail, and Open Space Opportunities
Improve Communication and Stakeholder Input
Improve Customer Experience
Enhance Quality of Life

Discussion

By the application deadline of April 12, 2019, 11 agencies submitted a total of 17 eligible grant proposals (14 standard grants, 2 small grants, and 1 planning grant) requesting a total of \$6,072,344, with total matching funds of more than \$12 million.

After an initial staff review to confirm eligibility, a team of evaluators consisting of seven OSTAB members and four County staff members reviewed the applications, participated in a group tour of the proposed project sites, and individually ranked each grant proposal based on specific objective criteria including project scope, need and urgency, matching funds provided, the applicant's ability to complete the project on time and within budget, supporting documentation, and the applicant's capacity to maintain the completed project site. Finally, individual evaluator rankings were averaged to produce a final ranking (see attachment).

Based on the final ranking, OSTAB and staff initially recommended funding 13 proposals, including the highest ranked 11 standard grant proposals, one small grant proposal, and one planning grant proposal, totaling \$4,905,594. This recommendation required adding \$405,594 in joint project funding from the Open Space Acquisition & Development Fund to the available funding pool, to be applied to trail projects in keeping with the parameters of the Fund.

On July 3, 2019, the City of Aurora withdrew its proposal for Canterbury Park Renovation due to the loss of a major funding and implementation partnership. This resulted in a need to redesign the proposed site improvements, conduct additional public outreach, and make significant changes to the proposed project's scope and budget. City and County staff determined that withdrawal of the proposal from consideration was appropriate given the circumstances.

Due to this withdrawal, the revised recommendation is to fund the 10 highest ranked standard grant proposals (#2 through #11 on the attached ranking sheet), one small grant proposal, and one planning grant proposal, totaling \$4,405,594. This recommendation utilizes funding from the \$4.5 million allocated from the Grants Fund for the 2019 grant cycle. Additional funding from the Acquisition & Development Fund is not necessary to support this recommendation.

If the funding recommendation is accepted, the 3 lowest-ranked standard grant projects will remain unfunded. One small grant proposal is not recommended for funding at this time due to concerns about project readiness.

Grant awards totaling \$4,405,594 are recommended for the following projects:

Standard Grants:

- \$445,000 to City of Aurora for **Tollgate Crossing Neighborhood Park**
- \$500,000 to City of Englewood for **Romans Park Tennis and Playground Improvements**
- \$337,500 to City of Greenwood Village for **Greenwood Gulch Trail Undercrossing at Orchard Road Construction**
- \$350,000 to Arapahoe Park and Recreation District for **Copperleaf Trail Implementation Phase I**
- \$372,060 to Arapahoe Park and Recreation District for **Stanford Hills Open Space Trail Phase II**
- \$500,000 to City of Cherry Hills Village for **John Meade Park Redevelopment**
- \$500,000 to Arapahoe County Recreation District for **Dove Valley Regional Park Irrigation System Replacement**
- \$500,000 to City of Littleton for **Harlow Park Improvements**

- \$298,034 to City of Littleton for **Options Secondary at Whitman School Playground Renovation**
- \$414,000 to City of Sheridan for **Chase Park Renovation and Expansion**

Small Grant:

- \$99,000 to Town of Bennett for **Future Park Phase II**

Planning Grant:

- \$90,000 to City of Littleton for **Reynolds Landing Phase II Park Improvements**

Alternatives

Recommend approval, conditional approval, or denial of each grant project.

Fiscal Impact

12% of annual revenue from the Arapahoe County Open Space Sales and Use Tax is dedicated to funding grants pursuant to the County Open Space Resolution. The fund balance exceeds the \$4,405,594 recommended.

Concurrence

On June 24, 2019, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board (OSTAB) and Open Spaces staff discussed the results of the grant evaluation process and made a joint recommendation to the BoCC (attached). On July 3, 2019, the City of Aurora withdrew its proposal for Canterbury Park Renovation, resulting in the revised funding recommendation presented in this report.

Attorney Comments

None

Reviewed By

Sandy Bottoms, Grants Program Specialist
Josh Tenneson, Grants and Acquisitions Manager
Shannon Carter, Open Spaces and Intergovernmental Relations Director
Tiffanie Bleau, Assistant County Attorney
Janet Kennedy, Finance Director

Attachments

Resolution
OSTAB Recommendation to the BoCC
2019 Open Space Grants Ranking Sheet (revised July 3, 2019)

RESOLUTION NO. _____ It was moved by Commissioner _____ and duly seconded by Commissioner _____ to approve the 2019 Open Space Grant Award Recommendations, funding the 10 highest ranked standard grants, one small grant, and one planning grant, totaling \$4,405,594, as listed below:

Standard Grants:

- \$445,000 to City of Aurora for **Tollgate Crossing Neighborhood Park**
- \$500,000 to City of Englewood for **Romans Park Tennis and Playground Improvements**
- \$337,500 to City of Greenwood Village for **Greenwood Gulch Trail Undercrossing at Orchard Road Construction**
- \$350,000 to Arapahoe Park and Recreation District for **Copperleaf Trail Implementation Phase I**
- \$372,060 to Arapahoe Park and Recreation District for **Stanford Hills Open Space Trail Phase II**
- \$500,000 to City of Cherry Hills Village for **John Meade Park Redevelopment**
- \$500,000 to Arapahoe County Recreation District for **Dove Valley Regional Park Irrigation System Replacement**
- \$500,000 to City of Littleton for **Harlow Park Improvements**
- \$298,034 to City of Littleton for **Options Secondary at Whitman School Playground Renovation**
- \$414,000 to City of Sheridan for **Chase Park Renovation and Expansion**

Small Grant:

- \$99,000 to Town of Bennett for **Future Park Phase II**

Planning Grant:

- \$90,000 to City of Littleton for **Reynolds Landing Phase II Park Improvements**

The vote was:

Commissioner Baker, ___; Commissioner Conti, ___; Commissioner Holen, ___; Commissioner Jackson, ___; Commissioner Sharpe, ___

The Chair declared the motion carried and so ordered.



OSTAB Recommendation

Date: June 24, 2019
To: Board of County Commissioners
From: Open Space and Trails Advisory Board (OSTAB)
Subject: **2019 Open Space Grant Award Recommendations**

OSTAB Recommendation: After reviewing grant proposal evaluation results and rankings as an action item on this date, OSTAB and County staff recommend to the BOCC approval of funding for the 2019 grant cycle as follows: fund the 11 highest ranked standard grants, 1 small grant, and 1 planning grant, totaling \$4,905,594, as presented in the attached 2019 Open Space Grants ranking sheet. This funding recommendation includes \$4.5 million allocated for the 2019 grant cycle and \$405,594 from the Open Space Acquisition & Development Fund.

Motion by: Dala Giffin

Seconded by: Grider Lee

Vote: 6_ Yes
 0_ No
 0_ Absent and Excused
 0_ Abstain

FIND YOUR SPACE

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**2019 Open Space Grants
Ranking Results and Funding Recommendations (revised July 3, 2019)**

Final Rank	Applicant	Grant Request	Cash Match	Total Project Cost	Project	Average Evaluator Ranking
Standard Grants						
4	City of Aurora	\$500,000	\$3,837,494	\$4,337,494	Canterbury Park Renovation	3.27
2	City of Aurora	\$445,000	\$705,600	\$1,150,600	Tollgate Crossing Neighborhood Park	4.09
3	City of Englewood	\$500,000	\$200,000	\$700,000	Romans Park Tennis and Playground Improvements	4.27
4	City of Greenwood Village	\$337,500	\$112,500	\$450,000	Greenwood Gulch Trail Undercrossing at Orchard Road Construction	4.64
5	Arapahoe Park and Recreation District	\$350,000	\$284,343	\$634,343	Copperleaf Trail Implementation Phase I	5.36
6	Arapahoe Park and Recreation District	\$372,060	\$124,020	\$496,080	Stanford Hills Open Space Trail - Phase II	5.64
7	City of Cherry Hills Village	\$500,000	\$1,901,353	\$2,401,353	John Meade Park Redevelopment	5.70
8	Arapahoe County Recreation District	\$500,000	\$4,064,787	\$4,564,787	Dove Valley Regional Park Irrigation System Replacement	6.67
9	City of Littleton	\$500,000	\$380,000	\$880,000	Harlow Park Improvements	8.09
10	City of Littleton	\$298,034	\$100,000	\$398,034	Options Secondary at Whitman School Playground Renovation	8.27
11	City of Sheridan	\$414,000	\$138,000	\$552,000	Chase Park Expansion and Renovation	8.82
12	South Suburban Park and Recreation District	\$300,000	\$100,000	\$400,000	Cherry Knolls Park Ballfield Renovation	11.90
13	South Suburban Park and Recreation District	\$276,750	\$92,250	\$369,000	Foxridge Park Improvements	12.20
14	City of Centennial	\$500,000	\$193,864	\$693,864	Orchard Road Trail	13.40
Standard Grant Funding Recommended		\$4,216,594				
Small Grants						
1	Town of Bennett	\$99,000	\$11,000	\$110,000	Future Park Phase II	1.00
X	South Suburban Park and Recreation District	\$90,000	\$10,000	\$100,000	Littleton's Labyrinth	Not Recommended
Small Grant Funding Recommended		\$99,000				
Planning Grants						
1	City of Littleton	\$90,000	\$10,000	\$100,000	Reynolds Landing - Phase II Park Improvements	1.00
Planning Grant Funding Recommended		\$90,000				
Total Funding Recommendation		\$4,405,594	* Funding to support this recommendation is available from the Open Space Grants Fund (\$4.5M allocated for 2019 grant cycle)			