



Legislation Text

File #: 19-602, **Version:** 1

A Resolution of Support for the City of Colorado Springs' Kettle Creek Property Open Space Grant Application to Great Outdoors Colorado

Presenter:

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Summary:

The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department ("Department") submitted a grant to the Great Outdoors Colorado ("GOCO") Open Space Grant program to assist with the acquisition of 153 acres of the Kettle Creek property. The \$1,000,000 request will contribute to acquisition costs estimated at \$5,885,500. The department is seeking a resolution from City Council in support of the application.

Background:

Increasing development in northeast Colorado Springs prompted the Department to actively pursue open space candidate areas, recognizing the importance of securing land for conservation before opportunities no longer exist. The landowner of the Kettle Creek property, Jovenchi, LLC, is receptive to the City's proposal for acquiring the property for open space and has committed to providing a minimum of 153 acres in support of open space and greenway preservation through a fee simple acquisition by the City.

Kettle Creek offers the first opportunity for the City of Colorado Springs to invest in open space conservation in the northeast, one of the fastest growing areas of the City. The property offers stunning views of Pikes Peak and the City's mountain backdrop to the west. The 2014 Park System Master Plan identifies it as a candidate open space property due, in part, to the beautiful Kettle Creek traversing the property; it is also identified by that plan as a candidate greenway. Kettle Creek offers important recreation opportunities and natural resource values including habitat preservation and trail connectivity. Furthermore, as a tributary to Monument Creek which is a critical riparian area for our region, Kettle Creek serves to stabilize the sedimentation, run-off and hydrologic patterns of this critical watershed. Although the City's Trails, Open Space and Parks ("TOPS") sales tax program has been in place for over 22 years, this proposed open space acquisition would be the first to occur in the northeast quadrant of the city.

Previous Council Action:

N/A

Financial Implications:

Through TOPS funding the City will provide \$4,885,500 as match funding in order to complete the acquisition. A supplemental appropriation to the TOPS fund will be brought to City Council when the

acquisition for the property is ready to move forward. The GOCO Grant funding is included in the TABOR calculation.

City Council Appointed Board/Commission/Committee Recommendation:

The Park, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board will vote on supporting the application to GOCO at their October 10, 2019 meeting. Unanimous support from the board is anticipated.

Stakeholder Process:

The 2014 Parks System Master Plan and the Colorado Springs Open Space Plan both identify Kettle Creek as a priority open space candidate area. Each plan sought community feedback, received organization endorsements from area partners, and received unanimous approval from both the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board and City Council.

Alternatives:

City Council may choose not to pass a resolution supporting the grant application. Doing so would limit the ability of the City to receive GOCO grant funds.

Proposed Motion:

Support the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services' Kettle Creek Property Open Space Grant Application to Great Outdoors Colorado.

N/A