

City of Cañon City Receives GOCO Grant

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District Receives Large GOCO Grant

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Christmas arrived early this year when the Great Outdoors Colorado Board recently awarded \$749,500 in lottery funds for several projects in Fremont County. The grants include a \$500,000 grant to complete the Riverwalk Trail system from the Arkansas Riverwalk to the Tunnel Drive Trail, a \$174,500 grant for improvements in Harrison Park and a \$75,000 grant to develop a site plan for the Hogbacks Open Space and Recreation Area.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the city to complete an important part of the area's riverwalk trail system," said Cañon City Administrator Steve Rabe. "The community has wanted to construct this segment — now being done in honor of longtime Parks Director John Nichols — for some time now. GOCO funds are making it a reality."

According to a press release, Cañon City will use the funds to construct 1.5 miles of trail from the Arkansas Riverwalk Extension Project, linking the Arkansas Riverwalk to the Tunnel Drive Trail system. The funds will also be used to purchase and install a pedestrian bridge and complete other site work. In turn, the link provides connections to the Rockies Trail Corridor and the American Discovery Trail, a release said.

The Cañon City Area Metro Recreation and Park District will use its funds to install new playground equipment, build a restroom facility and a picnic shelter, build a sand volleyball court, resurface a basketball court and add two skate rails in Harrison Park that was acquired by the district in 2006, a press release said. Developing a detailed site plan for the 500-acre Hogbacks Open Space and Recreation Area will include identifying trails and opportunities to develop open space and outdoor recreation for the community on the western side of Cañon City.

According to the release, the planning process will include extensive stakeholder meetings and input.

This year, GOCO granted more than \$24 million to aid 55 projects in 32 counties across Colorado, the release said.

A result of a citizens' initiative that passed with 58 percent of the voters in 1992, GOCO awards grants to local governments and land trusts, as well as makes investments through the Colorado Division of Wildlife and Colorado State Parks.

According to the release, GOCO has awarded \$3.2 million to projects in Fremont County since 1994.

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