



EL PASO COUNTY

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AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Date: Tuesday, September 24, 2024 Item No. 6.j.

To: Board of County Commissioners

From: Todd Marts, Executive Director - El Paso County Parks & Community Services/Jason Meyer, Planning Division Manager - Community Services Department

Agenda Wording: Resolution to Approve a grant submittal for the Fox Run Canopy Walk to Colorado Parks and Wildlife for Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund.

SUMMARY (including information on budgeted matters)

The Parks and Community Services Department requests consideration and/or approval of a grant application to Colorado Parks and Wildlife for the Fox Run Canopy Walk.

BACKGROUND (including information on budgeted matters)

Parks and Community Services has launched an ambitious project to construct a nature center in Fox Run Regional Park. This project is comprised of three components. The Fox Run Nature Center building, The Fox Run Canopy Walk, and the construction of a trail network with associated road decommissioning and forest restoration. In support of the Fox Run Nature Center project, Parks and Community Services is seeking LWCF funds to construct the Fox Run Canopy Walk.

The Fox Run Canopy Walk will be an educational hub for hands-on learning, outdoor exploration, accessibility, and stewardship. The canopy walk starts with an observation tower that will allow access to the forest canopy. The observation tower will feature an externally wrapped staircase and elevator providing ADA access. From the tower, an elevated ADA-compliant canopy walk will extend from into the forest, terminating into the adjacent hillside. From this location, an ADA-compliant trail meanders back to the observation tower, allowing visitors to experience the entire forest ecosystem from the tree canopy down to the forest floor.

Final design and cost estimates are due at the end of 2024. Construction is anticipated to start in late 2025 with opening in 2026. The Fox Run Canopy Walk project is estimated to cost \$3 million. Parks and Community Services has committed \$1.75 million for this project and is currently

completing a capital fundraising campaign against this commitment. With the \$1.25 million from LWCF, this project would be fully funded.

At the time of this preliminary application, Parks and Community Services is awaiting guidance from the National Park Service regarding procurement and contracting requirements. Depending on the advice provided, Parks and Community Services may shift this request to focus on recreational trail development, associated roadway decommissioning, and subsequent forest restoration.

The Parks and Community Services Department requests consideration and/or approval to submit the attached grant application to Colorado Parks and Wildlife for Land and Water Conservation Trust. If successful, a grant award and grant agreement will be forthcoming in FY 2025.

ESTIMATED TIME FOR PRESENTATION

minutes/hours

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Business Year:	2024	Subject to TABOR? NO
Fund:		
Funding Amount:	\$0.00	
Increase to original adopted Budget	\$0.00	
Net Cost to County:	\$0.00	
Total Project Cost:	\$0.00	
Vendor Information		

ATTACHMENTS

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