

Dear Inspire/Project Outdoors Stakeholders,

Thank you for being a part of the Great Outdoors Colorado planning grant to connect Northwest Fort Collins to the outdoors! The Coalition is excited to share an update on the project and next steps.

There is a lot to say, but if you don't read any further, the key message is that these folks will be connecting with you about next steps:

Places projects- Zoe Shark, Justin Scharton

In-school programs- Sue Schafer

After school programs-Nicole Stafford

6th grade- 12th grade programs (career pathways)- Diane Wendt and Rob Novak

Matching funds, final budgeting, writing implementation grant- Heather Young, Kerri Rollins, Zoe Shark

Project Update

The community engagement phase is wrapping up. Efforts included:

- Kick-off meeting (80 attendees)
- Teacher meeting (25 attendees)
- Youth Advisory Council (15 members)
- Environmental Education Providers meeting (32 people from 19 organizations)
- Surveys at B&G Club, Salud Health Center (17 in English, 9 in Spanish)
- Conversations with Boys and Girls Club staff
- Follow-up meetings with teachers, school staff, PSD Facilities, site visits to schools
- Youth survey created by and distributed by Youth Advisory Council (120 responses)
- Inventory of career pathways opportunities and follow-up discussions with providers
- Prioritization Open House 2/28 (over 100 attendees)

A detailed summary of outreach results is attached.

Here are the results of the recent Prioritization Open House and a suggested way forward (please add your thoughts).

Places in priority order (as ranked by participants) with notes about next steps:

1. **Putnam Learning Garden Enhancements**- confirm that no design work is required, include in implementation grant.

2. **Outdoor Classroom at Poudre HS**- better fit for City of FC Natural Areas Certification and Enhancement Fund, and/or Nature in the City, requires significant planning and potential federal permitting due to wetland means this is not as feasible as other projects to include in implementation grant. Work with school to use existing spaces to fullest potential through PSD outdoor coordinator.
3. **Learning Garden shared by Lincoln MS and B&G Club**- revisit to understand courtyard garden situation, explore including a garden in trail enhancement corridor.
4. **Outdoor Gear Library**- explore scale, where it would be housed, costs etc- likely include in implementation grant.
5. **Trail Connection from Lincoln to Poudre Trail**- include in implementation grant - needs engagement from Lincoln MS, B&G Club, stakeholders, Overland Mnt Bike Club, PSD, Nature in the City, Parks Planning, Safe Routes to School, FC Bikes focused on site-specific ideas such as garden and bike elements, then needs landscape architecture design, exploration of legal aspects, cost estimate etc.
6. **Enhance Trail Connection**- most opportunity for innovation, include in implementation grant, see above.
7. **Learning landscape and greenhouse at Irish**- support learning landscape clean-up and seating by connecting with Natural Areas service learning coordinator and other volunteer involvement. Unclear if greenhouse is supported by entire school community. Continue to explore other funding options.
8. **Sidewalks on Vine**- not feasible to include in implementation grant, continue to support the effort including advocating for a protected bike lane on Vine.
9. **Huidekoper Park** enhancements- not feasible at this time, work with B&G Club staff and outdoor coordinator to use existing space to fullest potential.

Way Forward:

- Discussions are ongoing between Coalition and Design Workshop (consultant on Project Outdoors) to arrange site visits and engagement for trail connection/enhancement. Stakeholders will be invited to engagement opportunity. *Nature in the City* program (Justin Scharton, Stephanie Kopplin) will likely manage the trail connection/enhancement project and preparing it for implementation grant.
- Follow-up to plan Gear Library specifics will begin soon, be in touch with Zoe Shark if you are interested in participating in further planning on this aspect.
- Follow-up with Putnam Elementary to confirm that no design/landscape architecture work is needed and refine cost estimate (Sue Schafer).
- Follow-up with each school about their projects and next steps.
- Follow-up with City of Fort Collins' Rob Mosby about sidewalks, Parks Planning about Huidekoper and trail connection.

PLACES contacts are Zoe Shark, Heather Young, and Nature in the City staff (Justin Scharton and Stephanie Kopplin).

Program Priorities

Coordinators are assumed as a requirement- open house participants may not have understood because coordinators ranked lower than programming. Ranking by open house participants is below:

1. In school programs (early childhood, high school, elementary school)
2. Pathways training for providers
3. Middle school programming (in-school and after school)
4. High School programming (after school and summer)
5. Middle school summer programming
6. PSD Outdoor Education Coordinator (see note)
7. Elementary school summer and after school
8. B&G Club outdoor coordinator(see note)
9. College age opportunities

Programs Way Forward: Pathways training for providers could be done without grant funding and is a more urgent need (2017 versus 2018-2020), so it is no longer being considered for implementation grant, but will likely occur in the fourth quarter of 2017 or early 2018 organized by CSU, City of Fort Collins Natural Areas, Larimer County Department of Natural Resources and anyone else interested. College age opportunities are recognized as a need, but GOCO has indicated that scholarship funding would not be eligible for implementation grant funding so alternate funding will be sought, perhaps as match.

Implementation grant programs and pathways priorities:

1. Coordinator for PSD to focus on in school programs (priority order: early childhood, high school, elementary school, middle school), funding for providers to do activities.
2. Coordinator housed at B&G Club to focus on afterschool and summer programming (priority order: high school, middle school, elementary school), funding for providers to do activities.

Next Steps: A draft sequence of in-school experiences is being created from ranking, programming proposals, and follow-up conversations. Similarly, sequence for after-school and summer is also being drafted and will be discussed with stakeholders.

Contact Sue Schafer and Nicole Stafford (K-5th grade) and Diane Wendt and Rob Novak (6th-12th grade).

Final Report and Implementation Grant (including Budgeting, Match and Writing)

GOCO requires a summary of the planning process in a final report, due July 26. The Coalition and Design Workshop will write this, starting as soon as possible.

The implementation grant application is quite complex and includes the elements below. If you/your organization is part of the implementation plan, the Coalition will ask you to write and budget the sections that apply to you.

- Three budget scenarios- 100%, 75% and 50%, each including:
 - Overall budget
 - Budget for each Places element
 - Budget for each Program offered
 - Budget for each Pathway opportunity
- Summary of vision, documentation of planning process, list of coalition members, list of youth advisors and their assignments, list of board of directors and key staff for each program provider.
- Narratives about the community, the hub, the coalition, the planning process, the barriers and motivators, description of current momentum, highlights and challenges of planning process.
- For each PLACES element:
 - Scope of project description
 - Barriers and solutions
 - Access
 - Timeline
 - Maintenance
 - Environmental checklist
 - Conceptual drawings
 - Site photos
 - Maps
- For each PROGRAM and PATHWAYS element:
 - How progs scaffold
 - Recruitment
 - Tracking and evaluation
 - Sustainability
 - CPW's involvement
 - Opportunity offered
 - Barriers and solutions
- Description of capacity needed to accomplish the project including job descriptions
- Resolution from City Council
- Completed and drafted legal governing agreements
- Letters of support
- Conceptual drawings

Match

The Inspire Implementation Grant requires 10% cash match in 2018-2020, so depending on grant proposal, we could be looking for up to \$300,000 in funds spent on Inspire-related projects that

are not funded by GOCO, but are funded by partners with real dollars (not in-kind). We don't anticipate any trouble documenting in-kind match funds. Kerri, Heather and Zoe are investigating potential funders and match opportunities. Matching ability will be considered when selecting projects for the implementation grant application.

Next Steps: Meetings, grant applications (to non-GOCO organizations) and other work to secure matching funds. Begin drafting grant language and budgets in April and May. Anyone interested in committing to some intense budgeting exercises is welcome to participate but we ask that you commit to the entire process, anticipated to be at least 10 hours a week, May-June. Draft application is due to GOCO for review June 26 with final draft due July 26. We plan to share the draft grant with anyone interested for comments on June 26 (the same time it is open for comments with GOCO).

Whew! This is a massive project! Thanks for reading and please contact us with questions.
Zoe