

RESOLUTION NO. 29-26

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AN APPLICATION FOR A GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO (GOCO) COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT TO ASSIST WITH FUNDING THE COMPLETION OF THE RIVERFRONT TRAIL

Recitals:

Grand Junction's Riverfront Trail is a key component of the community's infrastructure. As a result of decades of effort from a wide variety of community leaders and organizations, the Riverfront Trail has steadily developed providing an array of amenities along the Trail for a variety of recreational and traveling users. The visionaries of One Riverfront foresaw *a string of pearls along the River*. That string anticipated a complete trail connecting Fruita, Grand Junction and Palisade with multiple *pearls* being developed along the Trail.

Within the City limits there is one gap in the Trail; that gap is between 27 ½ and 29 Roads near C ½ Road. In 2024, in a joint effort to close the gap between the City, Mesa County and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) purchased the final piece of property known as the Skinner property. With the acquisition and preparation of construction documents, which were grant funded in part by CPW, the Skinner property project is ready for construction.

The Riverfront Trail in general and the Skinner property project in particular demonstrate the importance of "long view" planning; because of effort of those dedicated to the Riverfront Trail numerous acquisitions have come together to complete the project with the ideal alignment. Specifically, in 2022, the trail segment from Las Colonias at the Eagle Rim Bridge was constructed along the Eddy with an easement dedicated to the City. At the same time, the City completed River restoration work along the Eddy property. There are five CPW owned properties along the alignment including the first acquisition to support this alignment that occurred in 1991. There is a short section of City right-of-way and three easements - Foster, Heinecke, and M & D – which have all been secured. The Skinner property acquired at a cost of \$1,665,000 which cost was shared by the City, Mesa County and CPW evidences the continuing commitment to completion of the Trail and once constructed the *string of pearls* in the City will be complete.


After due consideration, the Grand Junction City Council by and with the Resolution expresses its continuing support for the Riverfront Trail project and desires the City to submit a grant application to GOCO for construction funding for the Skinner property trail project, and if the grant is awarded, to enter into such further agreements as are necessary and proper to complete that project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION THAT:

1. The Recitals are incorporated herein with the City Council strongly expressing its support for the application to Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) to obtain funds needed to complete the trail construction project.
2. The City Manager is authorized and directed, as provided in this Resolution to work to finalize and timely submit such grant application.
3. If a grant is awarded, the City Council strongly supports the completion of the project and authorizes the City Manager to sign a grant agreement in a form acceptable to the City Attorney as grantee of Great Outdoors Colorado funding.

This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and adoption.

PASSED and ADOPTED this 1st day of April 2026.



Cody Kennedy
President of the City Council



ATTEST:


Selestina Sandoval
City Clerk