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PARK COUNTY

Office of Tourism & Community Development



For Immediate Release: Grant Awarded for Grassroots Bailey Project...

Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) announced yesterday that \$149,764 has been awarded to Park County for recreation facility enhancements at McGraw Park. Owned and maintained by the Park County Historical Society near the Bailey commercial center, McGraw Park is principally used to showcase historic structures from the pioneer period. Residents and tourists alike regularly use the park but public facilities are currently nominal. Goals of this project include upgrading existing facilities and adding new features to increase the park's functionality and charm. This, in turn, will increase the appeal of Bailey as a vacation destination.

The GOCO grant award is the culmination of research, planning, and fundraising by the Destination Bailey Committee, with support and guidance from the Park County Historical Society. According to a community-wide survey conducted by Destination Bailey between November 2008 and January 2009, McGraw Park is a very high priority and an important project to the Bailey community. Destination Bailey also hosted monthly public meetings to solicit ideas and recommendations from the community. This lengthy planning process revealed an acute need for new visitor attractions and recreation facilities in Bailey. During the course of these meetings it became obvious that Bailey's rich heritage is best symbolized by McGraw Park, and that its enhancement would serve as a catalyst for increased tourism, community revitalization, and family use.

As owners of the property, the Park County Historical Society has been developing plans to enhance McGraw Park for several years and their continued involvement is critical to the success of this project. Accordingly, Park County will secure an agreement with the Historical Society to provide project oversight and account for the expenditure of grant funds and in-kind donations. Many other individuals and organizations are also partners in this effort. The Platte Canyon Chamber of Commerce, Park County Tourism & Community Development Office, owners of Rustic Square, LLC, and IREA have all donated considerable cash toward to the project. Other local businesses and residents have collectively contributed over \$1,875 in increments of \$25 to \$750. Subsequent community fundraising events have yielded an additional \$3,900 for the project.

In addition to cash contributions, members of the Platte Canyon Chamber of Commerce have donated significant in-kind labor to the project. Destination Bailey has provided many in-kind hours toward research, community partner building, and grant application preparation. Docicoza Construction is serving as Prime Contractor for the project and will donate many different in-kind services during construction. Moore Lumber is providing discounted and donated construction materials. Bailey Garden Center is providing discounted and donated materials, as well as labor for landscaping. Steve Harrison is donating architectural design services for the restrooms. Finally, Pence Engineering is donating design and engineering services for the Keystone railroad bridge.

With matching funds and in-kind labor from the local community, award of the GOCO grant affords an immediate opportunity to build a small dock for fishing and "river watching," develop new barbeque and picnic areas, improve the existing loop trail, construct directional and informational paths, increase public safety on the Keystone bridge that spans the river, designate and improve the parking area, and provide public restroom facilities. These improvements build on Helen McGraw Tatum's original (1969) concept for McGraw Park, to showcase Park County's historic buildings and provide a hiking and picnic area in Bailey.

For more information about the GOCO grant award for facilities enhancements at McGraw Park, please contact the Park County Tourism & Community Development Office at 719-836-4279 or gnichols@parkco.us.