



# Memorandum

**To:** Town Council  
**From:** Open Space and Trails Advisory Board  
Luke Bolinger, Director of Parks & Recreation  
**Date:** June 8, 2027  
**Re:** 2027 Trails and Natural Areas Fund (TNAF) Budget Recommendation

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Town staff and OSTAB are recommending the following appropriations from the Trails and Natural Areas Fund for the 2027 fiscal year:

## Capital Projects

- \$15,000 – Ag Lease Program Improvements
  - o Improvements to the Allan Farms agricultural ditch and Parshall flume are necessary to maintain reliable water measurement and delivery, reduce maintenance demands, and protect surrounding infrastructure and open space lands. Portions of the ditch have deteriorated over time due to erosion, sediment buildup, and vegetation encroachment, reducing flow efficiency and increasing the potential for water loss. Additionally, the original ditch alignment is inefficient in certain areas, limiting conveyance performance and creating ongoing maintenance challenges. The original Parshall flume has also partially deteriorated due to age and general wear and tear, necessitating replacement. The proposed improvements will help improve water conveyance efficiency and support the long-term operational reliability of the system. These upgrades are also important to ensure the Town can continue utilizing its Lower Boulder Ditch shares and providing irrigation water to the agricultural tenant farmer, supporting ongoing agricultural operations while helping maintain the property’s long-term agricultural productivity and stewardship goals.
  
- \$189,315 – Coal Creek North – Open Space Restoration
  - o The project location is north of Mount Pleasant Cemetery and west of the Collier's Hill neighborhood. All the work will take place on town-owned and maintained open space. The goal of the project is to restore the land to a better functioning native landscape. The restored property will ultimately need less mowing and less herbicide to maintain, reducing the overall maintenance burden/cost while improving the landscape integrity and function. In the long term, the project will provide much improved ecological services including:
    - Increased wildlife habitat
    - Increased native plant species diversity
    - Better overall aesthetics
    - Lower noxious weed infestation

- Reduction in prairie dog activity
  - Work started in the spring of 2026 and continue through 2029. Residents will see activity off and on depending on the season, weather, and the maintenance task. In the early to mid-stages of the project (2027–2028), residents may see large farm equipment operating on the site. The remainder of the project (2029) will be tackled with smaller riding equipment or hand-held equipment.
- \$2.2M – Coal Creek Reach 2 Trail Connection
  - The Coal Creek restoration and flood mitigation project (Coal Creek Reach 2 & 4) does not include the Coal Creek Reach 2 trail due to federal FEMA funding. The trail project was designed in conjunction with the creek restoration project. However, the construction is being contracted separately. The proposed Coal Creek Reach 2 Trail is a 10' wide concrete trail extending from Reliance Park to King Open Space through Northridge Open Space along the proposed Coal Creek alignment. The Trail project includes an option for a pedestrian bridge across the creek to connect to Erie Wetlands and also includes a multi-use sidewalk connection along the west side of E. County Line Road connecting to CW Bixler Blvd. The creek restoration project includes a new vehicle bridge along County Line Road which will allow for a trail underpass below E. County Line Road. The proposed Reach 2 Trail is approximately 1-mile of trail which is the last section to complete the entire 6.25-mile Coal Creek Trail corridor through Erie. Design and biddable construction documents were completed in 2026 and the 2027 requested funding is for construction of the trail, sidewalk connections, and pedestrian bridge.
- \$83,550 – Signage program
  - Disc Golf Course Hole Signage
    - Due to the Coal Creek Park Pedestrian Bridge and Colliers Hill Trail Connector construction projects, the existing disc golf course footprint at Coal Creek Open Space was impacted. These projects fragmented the current course layout, necessitating the redesign, reorientation, and reinstallation of several disc golf holes and tee pads. New signage will need to be developed and installed to orient users.
  - Multi-Purpose Trails at Coal Creek Open Space User Safety and Wayfinding Improvements
    - Project goals include installing three new signs at the main entry points to the multipurpose trail network at Coal Creek Open Space. These signs will include area rules and regulations, a trail map showing overall trail connectivity, and trail spur names to help users better understand and navigate the system. In addition, smaller flexible Carsonite signs will be installed throughout the trail network to identify trail spur names, provide directional information, mark merging points, and share other relevant safety and way finding information. These improvements are intended to better orient trail users, reduce confusion, minimize user conflicts, and improve overall trail safety within the trail network.

- Schofield Interpretive Signs
  - o A history intern was hired in 2026 to develop a comprehensive history of Schofield Farm. Part of the intern's work included content development for interpretive signs throughout the farm. This project includes 11 interpretive signs, one rules and regulations sign, and a map sign kiosk for the property. Informational signs around the property will enhance the visitor experience and provide a sense of place for this historic farm property.
- \$863,520 – Sunset Area Plan Phase 2a
  - o The Sunset Area Plan encompasses the area that includes Erie Singletrack, Sunset Open Space and Coal Creek Open Space west of the Erie Singletrack trails. The goal of the plan is to provide multi-use trail connections to the Sunset development and an east/west multi-use trail connection from the Coal Creek Trail to Weld County Road 5, providing connectivity for all abilities of trail users to complement the existing singletrack trails in the area. The plan will be implemented in phases and will ultimately connect the Coal Creek Regional Trail, the Erie Singletrack trailhead, the Sunset development, and the Westerly development, filling a gap in trail connectivity in this area of Town.
  - o Phase 2a - 10' wide concrete trail from the west end of Weld County Road 5 to the Coal Creek Regional Trail.
- \$15,000 – Trail connectors
  - o As a result of the proposed concrete connector trail linking the Singletrack Trails at Sunset Open Space to the regional Coal Creek Trail, several existing natural-surface trail segments within the Coal Creek trail network will need to be modified. The new concrete trail bisects multiple existing trail spurs, requiring realignment to maintain connectivity, improve trail flow, and reduce user conflicts. Parks & Recreation staff will reroute select natural-surface trail segments to reconnect the trail network while minimizing unnecessary crossings of the new concrete trail. This work will improve overall safety by reducing conflict points between users on the regional trail and users on the natural-surface trail system. Trail segments that are no longer needed will be reclaimed and restored with native grasses to support open space restoration and reduce long-term maintenance needs. Project materials will include small equipment rental, native seed, soil amendments, erosion-control materials, and fencing or closure materials to guide users through the updated trail alignments and protect restored areas during establishment.
- \$1,405,000 – Schofield Farm Redevelopment
  - o Funds requested in 2027 will assist in completing restoration of the original shed, brooder house, loafing shed, and remaining site improvements.

## **Operations**

- \$670,000 – Page property reimbursement (payment 1 of 5)
- \$115,000 – Consultation services

- Update 2019 Open Space Management Plan
- Page property study
- Surveys/appraisals
- \$27,000 – County Treasurers' Fees
- \$1,500 – Bank charges