



Clear Creek County

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February 17, 2026

To the Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Review Committee,

On behalf of the Clear Creek County Board of County Commissioners, we are writing to express our strong support for the City of Idaho Springs and Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District's application to the GOCO Community Impact Program for Phase 2 of the Shelly Quinn Park Redevelopment.

As the governing body serving the residents of Clear Creek County, we have been closely engaged in and supportive of this project because it responds directly to documented community needs and represents a meaningful investment in outdoor recreation, equity, and long-term community vitality. Shelly Quinn Park is more than a neighborhood amenity — it is a regional asset that strengthens public health, fosters social connection, and expands access to safe, inclusive outdoor space for residents of all ages and abilities.

Shelly Quinn Park is a centrally located, publicly accessible site that serves residents of Idaho Springs and neighboring communities along the I-70 corridor, including Empire, Georgetown, Silver Plume, and Dumont, as well as the millions of visitors who travel through the area each year. The completion of Phase 1, largely accomplished in 2025, involved the construction of a skatepark, an expansion of parking, and the relocation of the performance stage. Phase 2 builds on the momentum of Phase 1 by completing the park as a cohesive, inclusive, and multi-generational community hub. Remaining improvements include an inclusive playground, flexible green space, multi-sport courts, restrooms, and parking that will allow the site to function safely and effectively for all users. Each element reflects real community engagement, demonstrated demand, and the shared goal of providing accessible, affordable, and year-round recreation opportunities.

From a County-wide perspective, this project delivers broad community benefit. It increases equitable access to recreation infrastructure in a mountain community where land and facilities are limited, supports youth and family programming, and creates a welcoming civic gathering space that strengthens community identity. The park also contributes to economic resilience by enhancing Idaho Springs' role as a gateway community along the I-70 corridor, encouraging longer visitor stays while improving quality of life for residents. These benefits align with Clear Creek County's priorities of public health, community cohesion, and sustainable regional recreation planning.

GOCO's support, at this time, is both necessary and time sensitive. A delay in funding would risk rising construction costs, loss of project momentum, and an incomplete park that falls short of the community's vision and prior investment. Securing GOCO funding in 2026 will be catalytic — leveraging existing commitments, strengthening regional access to outdoor recreation, and ensuring the successful completion of a project that is already well underway.

"Honoring Our Past, While Designing Our Future"

For these reasons, we strongly encourage GOCO to support the Shelly Quinn Park Redevelopment – Phase 2. This is a shovel-ready, community-driven project with clear outcomes, lasting impact, and significant public benefit for both residents and visitors across our region.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Clear Creek County Board of County Commissioners

Rebecca Lloyd, Chair

Jodie Hartman-Ball, Commissioner

George Marlin, Commissioner

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