

Evergreen Lake North Trail Funding Details

Evergreen Park & Recreation District has been awarded a \$100,000 grant from [Great Outdoors Colorado \(GOCO\)](#) to support completing an engineering analysis, feasibility study and planning process to create an accessible trail on the north side of Evergreen Lake.

A portion of the Evergreen Lake Trail between Upper Bear Creek Road and Evergreen Dam has been closed since spring 2016 due to unstable conditions (reopened **11/30/17**). The solution requires the securing of funds and coordination of a number of local and state organizations and agencies.

EPRD and other stakeholders involved are looking at the possible creation of a multimodal system to accommodate the growing number of trail users, with an ADA-compliant pedestrian boardwalk along the water's edge featuring push-outs for fishing and wildlife viewing, and a paved bicycle segment alongside Highway 74 on the north side of Evergreen Lake.

"The Evergreen North Lake Trail Planning Project provides vital infrastructure to local residents and the thousands of people who visit Evergreen each year. Whether they are strolling, hiking, riding a bike, pushing a stroller or propelling a wheelchair, this trail is a crucial link in the heart of our mountain community," says EPRD Executive Director Ellen O'Connor. "We are grateful to GOCO for investing in EPRD efforts to repair, and in fact enhance the north trail."

The grant was part of GOCO's new [Connect Initiative trail planning grant program](#), which provides funding for trail projects for design engineering and master planning to help them get shovel-ready for [construction grants](#) also offered through the Connect Initiative.

Funding Efforts

Since 2016, EPRD has amassed more than \$400,000 to use toward both short- and long-term solutions to improve the North Lake Trail, including EPRD matching funds. The first step, which is already underway, will be to assess current conditions and develop feasible repairs that could allow the trail to be reopened as soon as possible. The GOCO funds will be added to previous awards EPRD has secured:

- \$25,000 from the Colorado Division of Local Affairs (DOLA) to assist in the geotechnical, civil, geometric, drainage and structural engineering analysis to recommend short-term solutions to stabilize the site and long-term solutions for a multimodal transportation system
- \$12,500 from Evergreen Metropolitan District for the preliminary engineering study
- \$199,500 from the Colorado Department of Transportation's Transportation Alternatives Program for final design and engineering of a multi-modal transportation system that will improve the damaged portion and improve the trail to better accommodate both cyclists and walkers.

Engineering Study

The preliminary engineering study will include geotechnical, civil, geometric, drainage and structural engineering analysis to assess existing conditions. It will then make recommendations for short-term repair alternatives to stabilize the site and long-term improvement alternatives to provide a multimodal transportation system. The study will also make initial planning and design recommendations for the new trail. The TAP grant funds will then be used to complete design and ascertain construction specifications.

The GOCO grant will ensure EPRD can move forward with this highly-demanded but complex, multi-jurisdictional project between Denver Mountain Parks, the Colorado Department of Transportation, Evergreen Metropolitan District, Jefferson County and EPRD. The District aims to complete the planning process by early 2018.