



January 4, 2021

Great Outdoors Colorado Board Members  
1900 Grant Street, Suite 725  
Denver, Colorado 80203

RE: Commerce City Resilient Communities Grant Application

Dear Board Members:

On behalf of the City of Commerce City's City Council, I am pleased to provide this letter in support of the Commerce City Resilient Communities grant application.

We understand the application contains a two part request:

- Commerce City Park Ranger Program in collaboration with Adams County Open Space
- Urban Green Spaces Volunteer Investment Project with Bluff Lake Nature Center and Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership

COVID-19 brought hundreds of new users to our parks, trails and open spaces. While greater use of our park system is positive; greater use and new users, also present challenges. We believe the Park Ranger Program is important in our community providing for resource protection, education and outreach as well as enhanced visitor safety and enforcement of park rules and regulations. The park ranger program is a collaboration with Adams County Open Space providing for the opportunity to share resources and personnel within our City and Adams County.

The Park Ranger will work closely with another new and recently funded position in the City, a Community Navigator, to work with users of our parks, trails and open spaces regarding available community resources. We are just beginning this holistic approach to helping individuals in need while educating all users regarding parks, trails and open space education, stewardship, etiquette and rules and regulations.

At the December 21, 2020 City Council meeting, our Parks, Recreation & Golf Department Director presented the holistic concept of the new parks, trails and open space outreach program. City Council unanimously supported the concept, need for Park Ranger and Community Navigator positions, and further recognizes the need to expand the program in the future given our growing community.

The Urban Green Spaces Volunteer Investment Project through Bluff Lake Nature Center and Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership provides additional opportunities for the City of Commerce City by helping to recruit individuals, families and groups to participate in volunteer projects encouraging stewardship within our outdoor spaces.

Thank you for allocating Great Outdoor Colorado funding for the Resilient Community grant cycles and for recognizing the immediate need for these programs. We appreciate your time and consideration of our City's application.

Respectfully,

Benjamin A. Huseman  
Mayor

