



BENJAMIN HUSEMAN  
MAYOR

February 3, 2020

Chris Castilian  
Executive Director  
Great Outdoors Colorado  
1900 Grant Street  
Suite 725  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Castilian:

I would like to extend the appreciation of the Commerce City community and City Council for the vision of Great Outdoors Colorado when developing and funding the Generation Wild program! The GoWild Northeast Metro Coalition (GoWild NEMC) received one of the first six grants from the program nearly three years ago.

The Commerce City Parks, Recreation and Golf Department is proud to sponsor the GoWild NEMC with our twelve partners, we are the largest and most diverse Generation Wild coalition.

Our five government partners include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife at Barr Lake State Park, the City of Aurora, Commerce City and the City and County of Denver. Our seven nonprofit partners include Bluff Lake Nature Center, Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Denver, Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK), Groundwork Denver, Mile High Youth Corps, Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership, and the Urban Farm.

We work exclusively in the northeast Metro region in the neighborhoods of Commerce City, Northeast Park Hill, Montbello, and Northwest Aurora. Over 200,000 youth live and attend schools in these four neighborhoods. Our governments and nonprofit organizations are based in our communities and respond to the needs of each neighborhood.

The vision of the GoWild Northeast Metro Coalition is that every young person - wherever they live and regardless of resources - has abundant opportunities to connect and engage with the outdoors in ways that are inspirational, transformational, and meaningful to them and will cultivate a new generation of stewards of nature.

On behalf of the GoWild NEMC and Commerce City, we proudly present the enclosed report of our activities. As you will see, we have provided hundreds of jobs and thousands of programs to our neighborhood youth. From Commerce City youth enjoying their first horseback riding experience at The Urban Farm to snowboarding with the Suncor Boys and Girls Club to camping at the Aurora Reservoir with families from ELK and the Aurora Parks, Recreation and Open Space staff to Groundwork high school Green Teams working at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, we have excelled at programs, pathways, and partnerships.

Commerce City provides oversight of the GoWild NEMC cooperative agreement, GOCO grant contract and coalition partners through the project manager. We are very pleased to report great successes that could not have happened without the comradery and cooperation of all our coalition partners. As Trevor D. Richardson said, “We’re better together than we are apart.”

The GoWild NEMC is in the midst of the GOCO-funded strategic plan for the continuation of programs and pathways and greatly appreciate the opportunity to be eligible for future grant funding. Commerce City and the coalition look forward to the upcoming GOCO Workshop Resources & Strategic Plan Tour. Our collective goal is to continue our many activities to get youth and their families outdoors, both with GOCO funding and additional internal and external funds. With our GoWild NEMC successes, we know that continuing our programs and pathways is vital to our communities.

Many thanks for your generous support! Commerce City and the GoWild NEMC look forward to working together with the GOCO Generation Wild initiative in the future.

Respectfully,

Mayor Benjamin Huseman

