



*Fall 2013 Local Government Planning Grant*

*Please note the Planning Grant application has changed.*

Hello:

The State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund (GOCO) is now soliciting grant applications from municipalities, counties, and park and recreation special districts for planning grant projects that are consistent with the purposes outlined for GOCO's local government funding.

GOCO encourages projects that are strategic and forward thinking in nature and directly relate to GOCO's Strategic Plan goals of incorporating trail access and connectivity, renovating and enhancing existing outdoor recreation facilities, identifying and planning for acquisition of local park lands, site specific planning for park development or improvement, and/or master planning for entities to include parks, outdoor recreation elements, and trails. The most competitive projects are those that are distinctly needed and demanded by the community.

Planning for identification or acquisition of open space is handled through GOCO's Conservation Excellence program. If your proposed project will include both open space and developed recreation planning, or if you're unsure as to which program to apply to, please contact me.

Entities applying for a Local Government Planning Grant are ***REQUIRED*** to contact GOCO staff prior to submitting an application. We strongly recommend that you review all materials prior to filling out the application. Please recognize that this is a very competitive process.

**Applications must be received in the GOCO office no later than Wednesday, August 28, 2013 at 5:00 PM.** Grant applications will be evaluated first on compliance with eligibility requirements and then on responses to selection criteria. The Board decision for this cycle is scheduled for December 10, 2013.

Please direct any questions about Planning Grants to Jake Houston at (303) 226-4517 or [jhouston@goco.org](mailto:jhouston@goco.org).

We are always looking to improve our application form and process, so if you have any suggestions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Jake Houston  
Local Government and Planning Programs Coordinator



## **PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION**

*MISSION: To help the people of Colorado preserve, protect, enhance, appreciate and enjoy our parks, wildlife, trails, rivers and open space through strategic grants, partnerships and leadership.*

**Applications Issued: June 5, 2013**

**Applications Due at GOCO by: August 28, 2013**

**Board Decision (Awards)\*: December 10, 2013**

*\*The decision date may change if the Board has to change its meeting schedule.*

## Section 1 – Instructions

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Applications MUST BE RECEIVED by GOCO prior to 5:00 p.m. on August 28, 2013. Mail to:

**Great Outdoors Colorado**  
**Attn: Planning Program**  
**303 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1060**  
**Denver, Colorado 80203**

PLEASE NOTE GOCO'S  
NEW MAILING ADDRESS

Please provide one original signed application, plus **five copies**.

Please **do not** bind your application or add dividers or tabs that will prevent GOCO from easily photocopying the application.

This application consists of three sections: the first section contains instructions for filling out the various parts of the application and completing the attachments (budget, timeline, etc.); the second section is the application form itself; the third section contains samples of the required attachments. The final application you submit to GOCO will include the documents listed below **presented in the following order:**

1. Completed Summary Form
2. Signed Resolution of Support from Governing Body
3. Draft Intergovernmental Agreement or other contract with project partner or a signed letter of support from the project partner. (if applicable)
4. Completed Budget Form
5. Completed Timeline Form
6. Responses to Selection Criteria Questions with appropriate attachments such as maps, photos, support letters (7 max), etc. (**Selection Criteria responses to be 7 pages**)

## Section 1 – Instructions

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### Eligibility Criteria

A project must meet all of the following criteria to be eligible for a Planning Grant

1. **Eligible Applicants:** Municipalities, counties, and parks and recreation special districts are the only entities eligible to apply for Planning Grants.
2. **Budget/Costs/Matching Requirements.** GOCO will not fund more than 75% of the proposed project's eligible costs. Of all the resources required to complete the proposed project, including the requested GOCO grant, **a minimum of 25%** must come from sources other than GOCO. Although total matching resources may include in-kind donations, **a minimum of 10%** of the total project costs must be a **cash match** from the applicant and/or partners. The maximum grant amount for Planning Grants is \$75,000.

For detailed information about the budget, eligible costs, and matching, see the Budget section below.

3. **Project Type.** The proposed project must support planning that is consistent with the purposes outlined for GOCO's local government funding. GOCO encourages projects that are strategic and forward thinking in nature and directly relate to an effort to develop a;

- Master Plan for entities to include parks, outdoor recreation, open space, identifying and acquiring local park lands and/or trails.
- Trail Plans with connections and access to trails, parks, open space and recreation and community facilities.
- Site Specific Plan for park development or redevelopment of a particular site.
- Updates to existing plans that are five years and older.

The project must result in a plan document that will be useful to the applicant in implementing new outdoor recreation opportunities, parks, land acquisition and/or trails that help accomplish GOCO's mission

4. **Timeline.** Work on the proposed project may not begin until after the grant has been awarded; therefore, the timeline should begin no sooner than the Board decision date (December 10, 2013). Grantees are allowed up to 24 months from the award date for completion. For more information on the Timeline, see the Timeline section below.

### Budget

GOCO will fund up to 75% of the proposed project's eligible costs. In other words, of all the resources required to complete the proposed project, including the requested GOCO grant, a minimum of 25% must come from sources other than GOCO. Although total matching resources may include in-kind donations, a minimum of 10% of the total project costs must be a cash match from the applicant and/or partners.

## Section 1 – Instructions

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**Eligible and Ineligible Costs.** The following table provides sample eligible and ineligible costs for a GOCO funded Planning project. *Not all eligible and ineligible costs are listed here.*

<b>Eligible Costs</b>	<b>Ineligible Costs</b>
Consultant costs	Grant writing or administration costs
Professional services, such as legal, facilitation, professional planning, etc.	Volunteer or Board member time
Costs that directly relate to the planning activity, such as inventories, design, GIS/mapping, printing, etc.	Future costs of land acquisition and facility development
Costs for public engagement such as public meetings, focus groups, surveys and web based outreach.	Cost of existing operations
Donation of the items above can be counted as in-kind match	Staff time or indirect costs
	Events, publications, advertising and/or similar event items for fundraising
	Donation of the items above may not be counted as in-kind match

**Eligible match:** All items in the budget must be eligible costs even if only matching funds, and no GOCO funds, are applied to them. If a cost is eligible for GOCO funding then it is also eligible to count as match; if a cost is ineligible for GOCO funding, it **may not** be counted as match.

### **In-kind contributions:**

In-kind contributions may include donated professional services. Any cost that would be eligible for GOCO funding but that is donated or discounted can count as an in-kind contribution. Examples of eligible in-kind contributions are donated meeting space for which the applicant would otherwise have to pay; a discounted rate from a consultant (for example, if the consultant typically charges \$100 per hour but charges you only \$90 per hour, the \$10 per hour difference is an in-kind contribution); and donation of professional services such as map production and printing.

Volunteer time or non-quantifiable, non-professional time **may not** be used as an in-kind contribution, but may be included as part of the Selection Criteria under “Support.” In addition, staff time and applicant-provided services are not eligible as an in-kind match. For example, time dedicated to the project by a staff planner, a staff GIS professional, or any other staff member is not eligible in-kind; nor is use of the applicant’s own meeting space.

## Section 1 – Instructions

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**Budget Form:** Complete and submit the Budget Form, using the Sample Budget as a guide. Also, please be sure to double check that the calculations presented in the budget are accurate and mirror the figures presented in the narrative. When completing your budget, be as detailed as possible.

Feel free to add rows and/or columns or otherwise manipulate the budget form to fit your particular project. The Excel version of the budget form includes formulas for totaling rows and columns and for calculating match requirements. Ideally, these formulas will automatically update when you add rows and/or columns. If they don't and you're not familiar with Excel, please contact us and we'll help you figure it out.

We know that budgeting, determining eligible/ineligible costs, documenting in-kind, and customizing Excel spreadsheets can get a bit complicated. We're here to help, so if you have any questions about GOCO's budget policies, requirements, or the budget form, please contact Jake Houston.

**If you are awarded a grant:** Once a grant is awarded, the grant amount cannot be increased, so any increases in the project cost must be covered with matching funds. If the cost of the project goes down, or if the project scope is reduced, the grant may be reduced proportionately.

### Timeline

The purpose of the Timeline is to encourage you to think about the various components of your project, the activities required to complete them, and how to fit all of them into the 24-month deadline. GOCO staff and outside peer reviewers will analyze your proposed timeline to ensure it includes the various tasks that our experience tells us should be part of your project and to see if it's reasonable given the scope of the project and the time allotted to complete it.

Complete the Timeline Form using the Sample Timeline as a guide. Remember that the project is to be completed within 24 months of the award date (by December 10, 2015). The tasks included in the Sample Timeline are common planning grant tasks; your project may or may not include all of them, and will likely include others not listed there.

GOCO encourages applicants to allow adequate time to complete the proposed project, so please be realistic about how long you think each task will take.

**If you are awarded a grant.** Please keep in mind that extensions and modifications must be requested in writing and approved in advance by GOCO. Projects not completed by the deadline are subject to GOCO's Overdue Grants Policy (available at [www.goco.org](http://www.goco.org) or by contacting us) and may be deauthorized.

## Section 1 – Instructions

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### **Resolution from Governing Body**

GOCO requires a signed resolution from the applicant's governing body to ensure that the applicant's ultimate decision-makers are aware of and support the application and recognize the financial requirements the grant creates.

Your application must include a signed resolution from the governing body with primary jurisdiction (e.g., city/town council, county commission, special district board of directors). Use the Sample Resolution as a guide. The resolution must demonstrate each of the following:

- **Support for the proposed plan**
- **Recognition of Need to Provide Matching Funds**

Please feel free to revise the Sample Resolution to fit your particular jurisdiction's requirements, customs, etc. for resolutions.

If you need to modify the language of the resolution and aren't sure it will meet GOCO's needs, please feel free to contact Jake Houston for assistance



GREAT  
OUTDOORS  
COLORADO

## Section 2 – Application – Summary Form

About the Applicant	
Name: <b>Town of Crested Butte, Colorado</b>	
Address: <b>PO Box 39 Crested Butte, CO 81224</b>	
Applicant Contact Name: <b>Jake Jones</b>	Title: Director of Parks and Recreation
Telephone: 970-349-5338	Email: <b>jjones@crestedbutte-co.gov</b>
Are you the primary contact for this grant: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
Do you currently have an open GOCO grant? If yes, provide your grant number(s): <b>NO</b> And, you are required to contact staff prior to completion of this application.	
About the Partner	
Name:	
Address:	
Partner Contact Name:	Title:
Telephone:	Email:
Are you the primary contact for this grant: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
About the Project	
Project Title: <b>Big Mine Park Master Site Plan</b>	
Grant Request (not to exceed \$75,000): <b>\$60,000</b>	Total Project Cost: <b>\$81,000</b>
Percent of overall match (% of total project cost): <b>26%</b>	Percent of cash match (% of total project cost): <b>26%</b>
County of Service: <b>Gunnison</b>	Service area covered by the plan: <b>Crested Butte Fire Protection District</b>
<p>Brief Project Description (In 250 words or less, answer the questions below):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the proposed plan, include all components:</li> <li>• Why is the plan needed? How will it improve the park &amp; recreation experience of residents?</li> <li>• Who will benefit from this plan?</li> </ul> <p>The Big Mine Park Master Site Plan will provide direction for the Town of Crested Butte to develop raw land at Big Mine Park and redevelop existing amenities that have outlived their usable life such as the skatepark or have exceeded capacity due to the success of growing programs. The two main objectives of the Big Mine Park Master Site plan are to 1) develop a prioritized list of park improvements as informed by a thorough public process and 2) complete design and engineering documents for future development.</p> <p>The Town of Crested Butte completed a Parks and Recreation Regional Master Plan (<i>Master Plan</i>) with GOCO assistance in 2010.</p>	

## Section 2 – Application – Summary Form

The Master Plan clearly recommended a site plan at Big Mine Park as a high priority for the Town due to the Park’s potential in some areas and need for renovation in others. The Big Mine Park location is important to the Crested Butte community because it is the home to several unique regional amenities and it is located in a section of Town that is not well represented with park space. A completed Master Site Plan and ultimately a finished park will benefit all of the residents of Crested Butte, the Upper East River Valley and our visitors from around the country and world.

### APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Verify that this application contains all of the following required documents **presented in the following order:**

- Signed Summary Form
- Signed Resolution from Governing Body
- Draft Intergovernmental Agreement or other contract with project partner or a signed letter of support from the project partner. (if applicable)
- Budget Form
- Preliminary Timeline Estimate
- Response to Selection Criteria Questions (a narrative provided on your own paper)
- Attachments to Selection Criteria:
  - Map(s) identifying the project location (Using Google Earth or Google Maps)
  - Site map, if applicable
  - Letters of support
  - Documentation of any opposition to the project, if applicable

All of the information presented on this summary form and throughout the application is true and accurate.

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(From applicant organization)

Printed Name and Title: \_\_\_\_\_

1. *What type of plan are you proposing (e.g. site plan, master plan, etc.)? Why is the plan needed? What outdoor recreational amenities, services, or activities is your community (neighborhood, region, etc.) lacking that the proposed plan will help you address? If applying for an update to a previous plan, present an explanation of the status of the current plan and how it is failing to meet community needs? Provide regional, local, and project area maps. (20pts.)*

The Big Mine Park is a historically significant site in the Town of Crested Butte as the former home of the largest coal mine and tipple structure in the Crested Butte area at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. As the cost of coal extraction soared locally, the country was shifting to electricity and heating oil as the main fuel source forcing the closure of the mine in 1952. The site became neglected until Colorado Fuel and Iron Corporation conveyed ownership to the Town of Crested Butte. In 1990, the Town turned the site into a park; now the location of the current Big Mine Ice Arena, Nordic Center, disc golf course, sledding hill, skate park and trails. The Town of Crested Butte has made great strides in the development of Big Mine Park in the past 24 years with the current amenities including the Big Mine Ice Arena (GOCO funded in 2011), which provided the ice skating and hockey communities a vastly improved facility. The successful development of these park amenities is driving the need to prioritize how to proceed with 1) identifying all the remaining needs at that location and 2) finish the park so that the public has a functional, year-round recreational resource.

With mountains of potential, Big Mine Park lacks proper planning and as a result, it is home to several well used and well loved year round amenities while lacking a cohesive vision for the future. Like a rubber band being stretched in several directions at once, the site is at its breaking point. Without a plan, the competing user groups will continue to advocate for additional amenities without the requisite planning required to make all of the facilities work together. There are many competing needs for the remaining space and for the precious little funding available for park development. With a master site plan, the Town can be certain to prioritize the build-out of Big Mine Park with comprehensive analysis and public input.

The need for a master site plan at Big Mine Park was identified as a high priority project in the GOCO funded, *2010 Town of Crested Butte Parks and Recreation Regional Master Plan (Master Plan)*. The *Master Plan* document identified that Big Mine Park and Town Park have master plans completed in the future. The issues facing Town Park are less urgent than those at Big Mine Park, thus we are pursuing a Big Mine Park Master Site Plan now. The *Master Plan* specifically states:

*“..it is highly recommended that both of these sites have a master plan completed that reflects the continuation and enhancement of current uses, as well as the expansion of any partnered facilities on either property. These master plans could lead to a significantly improved optimization of the limited spaces and diversity of usage each of these parks experience.”*

The Big Mine Park Site Master Plan will produce two primary deliverables; 1) a priority list for capital improvements at Big Mine Park based on public input and 2) design documents for those improvements. The intention of the Big Mine Park Master Site Plan is to have each component of park development prioritized and supported through public process and for each component to be as shovel-ready as possible from a design and engineering standpoint.

Big Mine Park benefits from being Crested Butte's only year-round recreation amenity. Located at 9000 feet in the Elk Mountain Range of western Colorado, Crested Butte receives an average of 200 inches of snowfall annually. When the rest of our park system is buried in snow, Big Mine Park is the hub of activity with constant use of the ice rink, nordic center and sledding hill.

The success of all these winter activities has caused tension and conflict inside the Nordic Center due to inadequate space for both the hockey program and the cross country ski program to co-occupy the small building during busy winter months. Every user of the facility, including travelling hockey teams and cross country skiers are impacted by the size of the facility. In addition, winter usage could be greatly enhanced with a refrigeration system for the ice rink, but the feasibility of that potential improvement needs to be considered along with all of the other needs of the park.

In the summer, we have identified several areas of challenge that need to be planned and designed including special event usage of the ice rink facility, the renovation of our aging skateboard park, landscaping for general passive park usage, disc golf course conflicts with adjacent property boundaries, preservation/interpretation of Big Mine Park's historic significance and the trailhead for the existing Green Lake Trail and proposed Crested Butte Perimeter Trail.

In addition, the western portion of the Town of Crested Butte is within the federally registered National Historic District. Having a well preserved historic district is a tremendous asset to our community; however, the Town was founded in the 1880s to support the local mines, not the families that exist here today. As a consequence, there is a large disparity of park space, including green grass between the "old" part of Town where the park is located and the "new" section of Town that has been developed largely in the past 30 to 40 years. One of the desired outcomes of the Big Mine Park Master Site Plan is to accomplish design level planning for active and passive park space in the currently undeveloped portion of Big Mine Park (see photos) and the improve the functionality of the existing park amenities.

- 2. What specific steps will you take to complete the planning process? Describe how you intend to engage the general public in the planning process. What particular user groups do you expect to benefit from the plan? What specific efforts will be taken to ensure those groups engage in the planning process? How many public meetings do you intend to hold? What will be done to ensure the general public attends? Will a professional consultant be hired? What tangible products do you intend to result from the planning process? (25pts)*

The public, staff and Town Council will be engaged at various levels throughout the planning process. The proposed steps are to first publish a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a qualified planning consultant to run the public input process and manage the technical components of the plan including design, engineering and cost estimation for each component. Once the consultant is hired, we will seek input on needs and priorities through an initial public meeting to gather general comments and feedback.

Next we will conduct leadership interviews with key members of the staff, council and community. Along with leadership interviews, we will host focus group meetings for the individual user groups in Big Mine Park. Those groups will include 1) nordic skiing, 2) hockey, 3) summer trail users, 4) skate boarding, 5) disc golf, 6) historic preservation and 7) arts/cultural special event providers. After the initial public meeting, leadership interviews and focus group meetings, we will host a second public meeting seeking input on the prioritized recommendations for capital development.

Once we identify the capital development needs, we will retain the appropriate engineers and designers to complete specific construction documents including conceptual drawings, blueprints and cost estimates. The end result of this planning process will be a site master plan that is backed up with design documents so that the Town of Crested Butte can continue to develop Big Mine Park as funding and partnerships become available.

The Town of Crested Butte has been very successful at engaging the public in previous Parks and Recreation planning as evidenced by the 2010 *Master Plan* process. In each case, the leadership, focus group and general public meetings were well attended. In addition, the response rate for the household survey conducted for the *Master Plan* was double what we needed for statistical validity. Furthermore, the Parks and Recreation Department works closely with all of the user groups on a daily basis. All of these groups see the need to create a plan for the site and will readily participate in focus group meetings to ensure their needs are being addressed.

In summary, the specific steps that we will take to complete the process are as follows:

- Step 1: Hire a consultant based on an RFP process to manage the public planning process and technical documents
- Step 2: Host a public meeting for initial comments and input on priorities
- Step 3: Conduct a leadership meeting with key staff, council and citizens
- Step 4: Conduct focus group meetings with individual user groups
- Step 5: Host a second public meeting to seek feedback on the prioritized list of capital improvements
- Step 6: Present a prioritized list of capital improvements to the Crested Butte Town council for support, comments and feedback
- Step 7: Hire technical experts for design and engineering of the technical components of the prioritized list of capital improvements

Step 8: Present the Big Mine Park Master Site Plan with design documentation to the Crested Butte Town Council for adoption

3. *Describe the need for GOCO funding of the planning process. How might the plan be affected if GOCO funding is not awarded now? How much of your planned cash match is secured? How much of it is yet to be raised and what are your plans for raising those additional funds? What is your “Plan B” if you are unable to raise those funds? Were partnerships utilized as part of this project? If cash or in-kind partnerships for this project were not possible, explain why. (15pts.)*

The Town Council allocated \$25,000 in the 2014 budget for planning at Big Mine Park, thus the entire cash match is secured for this plan. We are allocating \$20,000 of our cash for the project as matching funds and reserving \$5000 for design elements that can't be included in the grant such as the design for the Nordic Center warming house renovation. After hearing pleas from numerous user groups about their respective needs, it was decided that the best use of Town money would be to create a holistic and comprehensive plan to proactively address all the needs in Big Mine Park. The Town has a long history of working with partners in the Big Mine Park area and beyond.

The Big Mine Park Master Site Plan will not get done without GOCO's assistance. The Town's current ability to be the sole funder for park planning and development is severely limited due to the competing pressures on our Capital Fund. Capital Fund revenue comes from the Town's 1.5% Real Estate Transfer Tax which is already allocated for ongoing capital maintenance with small amounts of money available for planning and development. Funding assistance for planning and development of the parks has come from partnerships and grants for the past several years including the National Park Service's assistance with the *Perimeter Trail Plan*, graduate student assistance with the *Avalanche Park Campground Plan* and GOCO's assistance with the *Parks and Recreation Regional Master Plan*.

Our cornerstone partnership is with the Crested Butte Nordic Council (CBNC). CBNC operates and maintains the Nordic Center Warming House building in the winter. The Nordic Center serves as the base for the area's 55 kilometer cross country ski trail system and also the warming house for the hockey program. Although CBNC is not a cash partner in the planning process, they will be instrumental in the public input process and in the implementation of future capital improvements.

Without GOCO's support for planning, the Town Council may decide to reallocate the matching funds to another project or repurpose the Parks and Recreation staff to lead the public input process. It is also a possibility that the Town Council could direct staff to begin some level of capital development without a Master Site Plan for Big Mine Park. The Town Staff feels very strongly that the proposed planning effort the best possible path forward for long term success at Big Mine Park.

4. *Public Support/Opposition (10pts)*
  - a. *Who is supporting the development of this plan in ways other than cash or in-kind contributions? Include a maximum of 7 support letters/emails from users, user groups,*

*community members, volunteers, etc. No narrative is needed for part a. Points will be awarded based on the quality of the support letters submitted.*

Please see attached letters of support.

- b. Do you anticipate any future opposition that may impede implementation of this plan? Is it possible that neighbors, user groups, or other parties may object to the development proposed within the plan? What will you do to ensure that any current or future concerns are addressed?*

The Big Mine Park Master Site Plan has been discussed at several Crested Butte Town Council meetings and neither the staff nor the Council has become aware of any opposition to the proposed planning process or the future implementation of improvements at Big Mine Park. The location of Big Mine Park is in a dense corner of Crested Butte where most of the houses are small, historic, poorly insulated and close together. When Big Mine Park is busy with hockey games or special events, the nearest neighbors bear the burden of much of the noise and traffic associated with those activities. It is possible that neighbors will object to further development of Big Mine Park and every effort will be made to include those neighbors in the planning process.

- 5. After the plan is completed, what do you plan to do to ensure its successful implementation? What funding sources, **other than Great Outdoors Colorado** (internal funding sources, public or private foundations, or future partners such as municipalities or local businesses), do you have available or have you considered for implementation? When do you anticipate being able to begin plan implementation? (15pts.)*

Of course GOCO has played a huge role in recent park and planning projects, but the Town of Crested Butte has a wide array of other successful partnerships from throughout the state. Those partnerships include the Department of Local Affairs; Land and Water Conservation Fund; Colorado Department of Transportation; Gunnison County Metropolitan Recreation District; Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners along with foundation support from the Gunnison Valley Foundation; Gates Family Foundation and El Pomar Foundation. In addition, the Town has raised over \$200,000 from local citizens and businesses for recent park projects such as the Big Mine Ice Arena and the Tennis Court Renovation Project.

Specific to the implementation of the Big Mine Park Master Site Plan, we foresee several likely cash and in-kind partnerships including the Crested Butte Nordic Council and the hockey community for the renovation of the undersized Nordic Center Warming House, the skateboard community for the renovation of the aging skateboard park and the arts community for potential upgrades to the Big Mine Ice Arena for large cultural events. In addition, the Crested Butte Mountain Heritage Museum has expressed interest in assisting with the design and implementation of historic preservation and interpretation in Big Mine Park.

The Crested Butte Town Council has embarked on a dialogue with the Gunnison County Metropolitan Recreation District (GCMRD) Board of Directors regarding future funding opportunities for Parks and Recreational capital projects and maintenance. As a special district, GCMRD has the ability to introduce a ballot initiative that will engage the entire Upper East River Valley into the funding of Crested Butte’s parks and recreation facilities. As the regional provider of recreation programs and facilities, the Town and partners such as GCMRD are interested in involving the larger user base to fund future capital improvements and maintenance. The Council is also exploring a parallel process to increase park funding by investigating other funding mechanisms such as a dedicated sales tax increase or a local property tax mill levy. Because voters must approve any new tax, it will take much political will, public support and time before these funds become available.

6. *GOCO’s mission is “To help the people of Colorado preserve, protect, enhance, appreciate and enjoy our parks, wildlife, trails, rivers and open space through strategic grants, partnerships and leadership.” GOCO’s 2010 Strategic Plan identifies the following goals related to its mission:*

- a. Linkages between existing trails, parks, environmental education facilities, schools, and/or other community gathering centers.*
- b. Safe access to planned or existing outdoor recreation amenities.*
- c. Environmental education opportunities.*
- d. Acquiring urban parcels to provide close-to-home parks or other outdoor recreation amenities.*
- e. Encouraging youth and their families to spend time engaging in outdoor recreation.*

*Describe the specific ways in which this project meets GOCO’s mission and Strategic Plan. (15pts.)*

The Big Mine Park Master Site Plan will engage several of GOCO’s strategic goals. To begin, Big Mine Park provides a critical linkage for the conceptual Crested Butte Perimeter Trail (map included in **Exhibit A**). Big Mine Park is an important trailhead location for both the Green Lake Trail and the Perimeter Trail and has great potential for interpretive signage and historical exhibits. The Perimeter Trail will ultimately serve as a non-motorized hub of a wheel whose spokes consist of Crested Butte’s world class trail, park and open space systems. The concept plan was created in partnership with the National Park Service’s Rivers, Trail and Conservation Assistance Program.

Secondly, Big Mine Park has a rich cultural history as the location of the largest coal mine in the Crested Butte area. The cultural history is a critical component of our local environmental history and Big Mine Park is poised to tell a compelling story through cultural and interpretive components of the park plan.

Finally, Big Mine Park has approximately three acres of undeveloped park space that is not particularly inviting for youth and their families as evidenced by the photos in **Exhibit B**. Those acres are home to the disc golf course and some user created trails but not much else. Ultimately, the master site plan will produce a landscape plan that will be built around the needs of the community.

Currently, the western half of Crested Butte has only small pocket parks ranging in size from one-tenth of an acre to one-quarter of an acre. The eventual goal of creating developed green space at Big Mine Park will go a long way toward providing balance in Crested Butte’s park system for all residents.

Big Mine Park is Crested Butte’s diamond in the rough. In its current condition, the park is not able to meet either the needs of the Crested Butte community or the strategic goals of Great Outdoors Colorado. The Big Mine Park Master Site Plan will be the catalyst by which the park can finally utilize its full potential and advance the missions of the Town and GOCO.

