



## The Garfield County Inspire Initiative Fact Sheet

### **What is the Inspire Initiative? Why are we involved?**

The Inspire Initiative is a new Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) initiative focusing on *influencing Coloradans, particularly kids, to appreciate, enjoy and take care of our great outdoors*. In October 2015, the LiveWell Garfield County Coalition was one of 19 Colorado communities selected to participate in Inspire. Following GOCO's recommendations, efforts will be focused on western Garfield County communities including Grand Valley (Parachute and Battlement Mesa), Rifle, Silt, and New Castle. In Spring 2017 LiveWell Garfield County will be eligible to apply for a total of \$1 to 5 million in implementation grants over a three-year period for projects in and around these communities. GOCO requires a 10% match for implementation grants.

### **Who are the local stakeholders involved in the Inspire Initiative Coalition?**

LiveWell Garfield County is the fiscal agent and convener of a broad coalition of groups with an interest in increasing youth access to the outdoors. The Inspire Steering Committee includes the municipalities of Grand Valley (Parachute and Battlement Mesa), Rifle, Silt and New Castle, Garfield County Libraries, Colorado Parks & Wildlife (Rifle Gap State Park), Garfield County School Districts Re-2 and Garfield 16, Aspen Community Foundation, Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers, and Fat City Farmers. The involvement of additional groups in our community coalition will be key to the success of the initiative. Children and teens will be involved through Youth Advisory Council(s).

### **What types of projects is the Inspire Initiative looking for?**

Inspire can fund a wide range of projects that give kids access to the outdoors, from capital projects to recreation programs. As you think about the opportunities in your community, start by identifying the gaps in access and outdoor engagement. What barriers can be overcome to reach underserved people or neighborhoods? Inspire can fund the following types of projects:

1. **"Backyard Hubs"** Backyard hubs are the places in your community where kids can have outdoor experiences within a ten minute walk of where they live and/or spend their time. These places can include parks, natural areas, playgrounds, community gardens, etc.
2. **Pedestrian/bike access to the "Backyard Hubs"** Inspire will build and enhance trails and other pathways that get kids safely from the local hub, neighborhood or school to the outdoor places in their community. Safe Routes to School is a good example.
3. **Programs and experiences from the backyard to the backcountry.** Inspire will fund outdoor education, recreation programs, and experiences for kids of every age. GOCO encourages partnerships with local State Parks. Examples of programs include: growing plants in a school garden, learning about plants and wildlife at a park, fishing at a state park, hiking or

biking to explore trails, hosting outdoor service learning projects or overnight camping excursions, and visiting public lands.

4. **Stewardship and internships for youth.** Provide service learning opportunities and internships that can lead to careers. A good example of this is Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteer trail projects.

#### **What is the timeline for Inspire?**

**December 2015 - March 2016:** Each community will begin to inventory the trails, sidewalks, playgrounds, gardens, and outdoor programs that could be good projects. In January/February 2016 we will schedule community visits to discuss potential projects in each location.

**April - May 2016:** The Youth Advisory Council(s) will begin to develop and hold meetings.

**June - July 2016:** Youth visioning sessions using creative methods to get input will take place at the library in each municipality in conjunction with the Summer Reading Program.

**August - December 2016:** Based on the youth visions, the coalition will begin to select projects in preparation for Spring 2017 grant applications.

**Spring 2017:** LiveWell Garfield County will apply for implementation grants from GOCO.

#### **How will the LiveWell Coalition select projects to apply for implementation grants?**

The LiveWell Garfield County Steering Committee will select projects to apply to GOCO for implementation grants. To ensure that projects are selected fairly and transparently, LiveWell will develop project selection criteria and a decision-making process. These guidelines will be available to groups interested in working with LiveWell to apply for implementation grants.

#### **Questions?**

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