

NATURE'S EDUCATORS

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Nature's Educators is a 501c3 educational wildlife program licensed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, CO Parks and Wildlife, and the USDA to house and care for non-releasable birds, herptiles, invertebrates, and some mammals for educational programming. We travel the entire state of Colorado as well as the surrounding states giving programs on conservation, respect of wildlife, and how every individual can help birds in the wild! We have presented for DFO multiple times. In 2021 we gave 1200 outreach programs! Since we were founded in 2008, we have never owned our own property and been able to be open to the public. At the end of 2021, we were able to purchase a little under 9 acres in Florence, Colorado! We will be building out aviaries and flights that the public will be able to visit - finally! Guests will have the opportunity to see our raptors in our excellent enclosures (we have been told by FWS and CPW that our current facilities are the nicest in the state). We will be able to host programs on site as well as continue doing our outreach.

We have been offered to rent space from Colorado Healing Acres at the property next door to this new one which is where we have a small nature center and classroom to which we offer public programming. We are incredibly excited to being the build out of the space next door. Not only will we have our nature center and aviaries, we will also have an amphitheater, biome experience, hiking trails, a riparian habitat exhibit, and more! What we plan to build does not currently exist anywhere in Colorado.

Our goal for this grant would be to acquire funds to build the trails and purchase the signs along those trails. The trails will be for all ages and will be ADA. There will be signage along the trails showcasing what birds, plants, and other wildlife can be seen in the area and how we can help! DFO supports education and getting folks interested in bird watching....we hope these trails and this new facility will get locals interested, but also attract guests from all over the state!

The trail building will take place at lot 9 (address TBA) off Victory Lane in the Sumo Village Complex in Florence, Colorado. Currently, Fremont County has no nature center - so we are the only ones! (See attached map).

We hope to complete the trails during the months of March and April in 2022. We plan to use the tractor CO Healing Acres lets us borrow, but also arrange a team of passionate volunteers! We hope to create, order, and install signs by the end of April.

Our educational methods for this trail project are fairly straightforward in that we will be able to cater to multiple age groups and demographics! This area is severely lacking in science education and again, had no access to a local nature center before we came. We plan to have our signs in English and

Spanish as we are one of the only wildlife outreach programs in the state that offers programming (virtual and in-person) in multiple languages. There will be pictures, simple bullet points, and we will be adding sponsors/donors names on the signs. We plan to have these signs:

Bird Watching Tips and Tricks

Raptors of the Area

Songbirds of the Area

Wildlife you can Spot

Native Plants

Mountain Ranges

Riparian Habitats

Conservation and How You Can Help!

Proposed Budget:

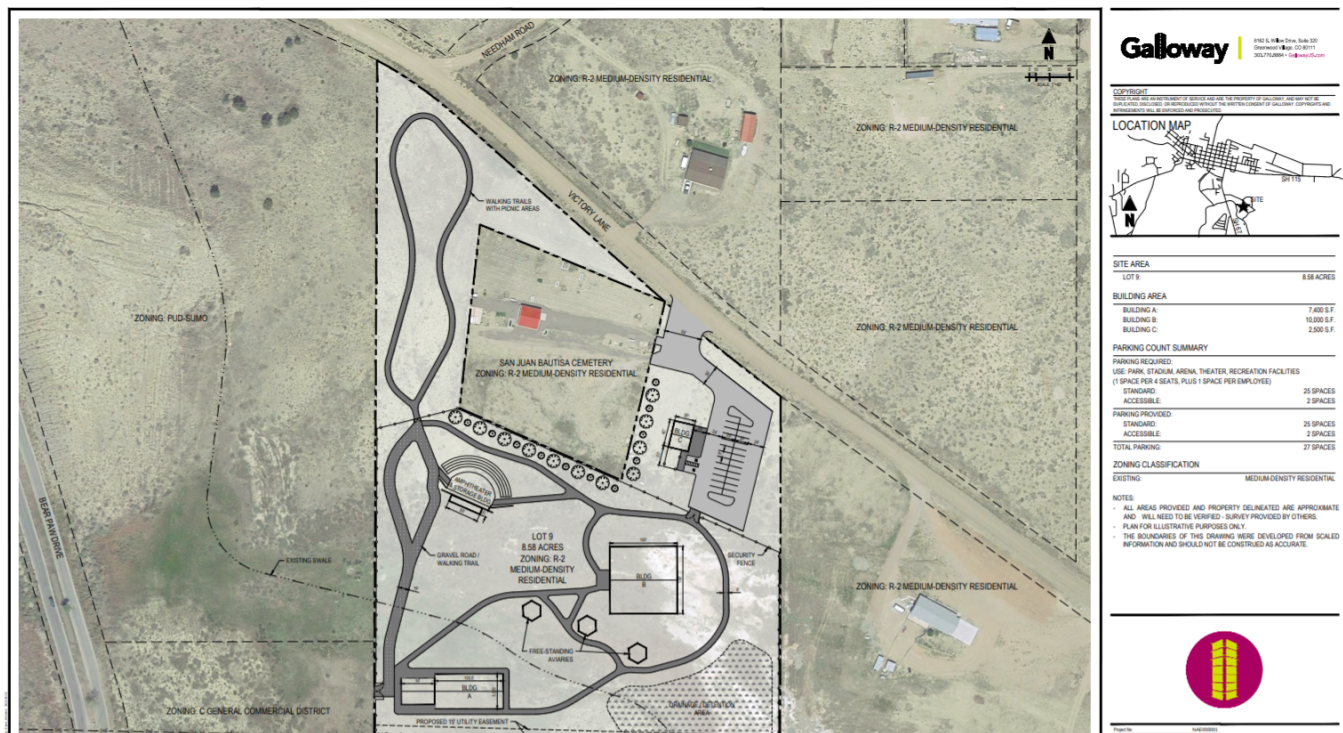
Tractor Fuel - 30 gallons of diesel at \$3.33 - \$100

Road Base - 100 tons at \$28 a ton including delivery fee - \$2800

Composite Wood Benches - 8 at \$295 \$2360

Signs - approx \$200 each so \$1600

Approximate Total would be: \$6860



We would be absolutely grateful for any amount of a grant to help us in our efforts to create something unique in Colorado and on the Front Range. Thank you so much for your time, consideration, and all you do for birds!