

Alma Foundation to purchase property for riverwalk along Middle Fork of the South Platte

Lynda James, Senior Correspondent | Posted: Friday, August 21, 2015 3:23 pm

Alma Foundation's grant application to the Land and Water Trust Fund (one percent county sales tax) was approved by Park County's Board of County Commissioners on Aug. 13.

The \$50,000 grant will help purchase a 5.85-acre property adjacent to a 14-acre parcel owned by the Town of Alma, which is north of the Alma Town Hall. The parcel being purchased will be deeded to the town.

The 14-acre parcel was purchased with a grant from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO).

The riverwalk along the Middle Fork of the South Platte River will be constructed on both properties.

The property to be purchased contains almost four acres of wetlands. The rest of the property is uplands and adjacent on the southern end to the historic Stone Church and the Alma Ladies Aid Building located on Main Street.

The riverwalk will meander along the river and wetlands, then up the hill to the Ladies Aid Building where parking is located.

The walk will be handicapped accessible and constructed of boardwalks and gravel walkways.

Interpretive signage will be placed in areas along the riverwalk to educate users about the Middle Fork, wetlands, flora and fauna, geology and mining in the area. Picnic tables and resting benches will be strategically placed along the riverwalk.

The Alma placer mine is across the Middle Fork east of the town's property.

Purchase price of the 5.85-acre parcel is \$92,000. Total project cost is \$96,000, including the appraisal, survey, mapping and legal costs.

Other contributors include Alma Foundation for \$12,000 and Park County Conservation Trust Fund for \$20,000, which are GOCO funds that are provided annually to each Colorado county.

The foundation is still seeking funding for the remaining \$10,000 to purchase the property.

The Town of Alma provided \$2,700 for the land survey and legal costs.

El Pomar Foundation provided \$1,500 for the appraisal.



Walk the river in Alma

This photo is looking upstream on the property to be purchased by the Alma Foundation for a riverwalk along the Middle Fork of the South Platte. The Park County commissioners approved using funds from the Land and Water Trust Fund (one percent county sales tax) to help purchase the property on Aug. 11. (Photo by Nancy Comer)

Once the parcel is purchased, the foundation will apply for a GOCO trails grant to construct the riverwalk.

Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative and the Bristlecone Montessori School will design and provide the interpretative signage.

The Center for Community Development and Pike Peaks Area Council of Governments are working with the foundation to design the riverwalk.

More information about the Alma Foundation may be found at www.almafoundation.org.

The property purchase is one of six projects that are being funded this year by the Park County Land and Water Trust Fund.

More information about the Land and Water Trust Fund, funded projects, grant application and funding criteria may be found at www.parkcountytrust.org.

Lynda James is the chair of Land and Water Trust Fund.