



From Grant to Groundwork: Funding Accessible Trails

Kristen Wilkinson, City of Greeley Natural Areas and Trails Division
Kelsey Devereaux, Every Body Outside Consulting



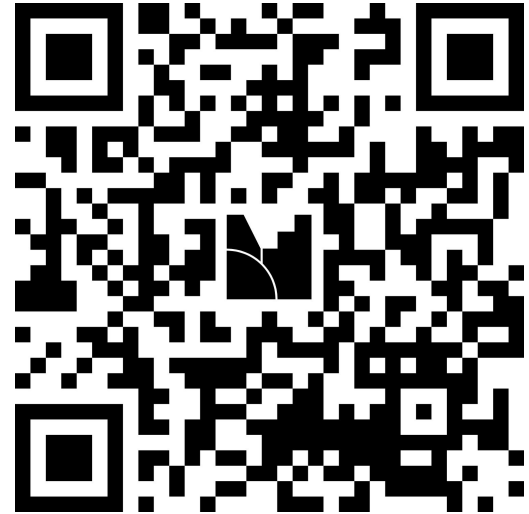
Objectives

1. Identify common barriers to advancing accessibility in outdoor spaces.
2. Share City of Greeley's solution using a Rails to Trails grant, a community task force, and accessibility consultants.
3. Discuss results of the audit plus lessons learned and the benefits of this collaborative approach



Mentimeter

What are the barriers
to creating accessible
trails in your area?



Introduction

Kristen Wilkinson

City of Greeley

- Environmental Planner for 4 years
- 14 years experience in natural resources and environmental education in Northern Colorado
- Newbie to accessibility work

Mentimeter



Introduction

Kelsey Devereaux, PT, DPT

Every Body Outside Consulting

- Physical Therapist for 10+ years
- Accessibility Workshop
- Trail Accessibility Audits
- Program Development

Mentimeter



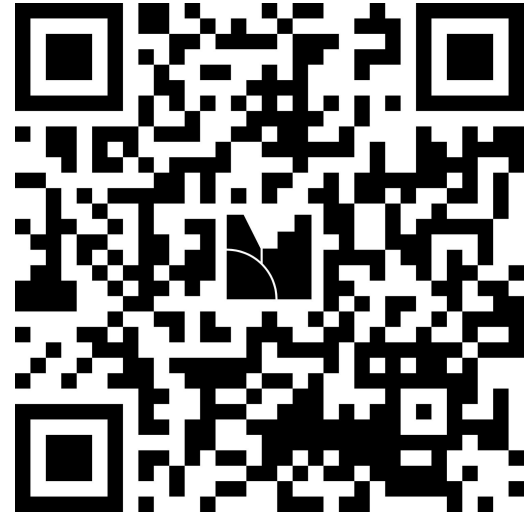


Do our spaces
reflect the whole
community?



Mentimeter

What are the barriers
to creating accessible
trails in your area?





**What do you think is
the biggest barrier to
creating accessible
trails?**

1

Funding

2

Knowledge/Resources

3

Terrain

4

Resistant Culture

Problem #1: Funding

- Most common barrier
- Opportunity to start small and build capacity
- Grants for assessment, community engagement, capital projects



Rails to Trails Grant: Eligibility and Timeline

- Trail Grant
- Open to non-profits, state, regional, local, and tribal agencies
- \$5,000-\$20,000
- Quick win projects or match for other grants
- Funds are private, can be used as match for federal funds
- Grants open in late spring, applications due in early summer, awards announced in September
- Projects must be completed and grant funds expended within one year of award date



Rails to Trails Grant - Goals

- Focus on trails that are for everyone
- Focus on equity and justice, reducing barriers to trail access
- Subscribe to newsletter to hear about grant opportunities



Rails to Trails Grant: Greeley Project

- Accessibility audit
- Task force
- Pilot project





Problem #2: Knowledge and Resources

“Nothing About Us Without Us”

- Relationship building with local organizations
- Reaching out to active community members
- Partnering with a knowledgeable consultant

Forest Service Trail Accessibility Guidelines (FSTAG)



RUNNING SLOPE	< 5%
CROSS SLOPE	< 5%
WIDTH	> 36 in*
OBSTACLES	< 2" height; gaps < 1/2"
SURFACE TYPE	Firm and Stable

Outdoor Accessibility Tool

SUMMARY SHEET - USER EXPERINCE - MOBILITY

Natural Area Audited: _____		Audited By: _____	
Requirements of Accessible User Experience		Audit Date: _____	
1	Parking		
2	Signs & Features		
3	Trails		
4	Facilities		
Parking			
	Requirement Description	Score	User Experience - Comments From Score Sheet
1	Dedicated number of accessible parking spots		
2	Parking area surface slope and material		
3	Width and length of parking spaces		
4	Parking spot marking i.e. painting, upright sign		
5	Ease of accessing the trail from the accessible parking spots		#REF!
6	Obstacles		
7	Drop-off space		

Methods - Community Engagement



- One classroom session and one session at a trailhead
- Used an accessibility checklist modeled after the OAT for feedback
- Total distance walk/rolled = 0.5 miles

Accessible Trail Checklist

- 1. Parking** - Are there enough accessible parking spots? Are the spots wide enough for ramps and lifts? Is the path from the parking lot easy to navigate?

2. Facilities

- **Bathrooms** - Is it easy to get to and use? Does it have what you need (ex. grab bars, hooks, etc)

- **Picnic Tables and/or Shelter** - Can you easily get to and use the picnic table?

- **Benches** - Is it easy to get on/off the benches? Would a different design work better for you? Are the benches placed in good spots?

3. Signs and Features

- **Trash Cans, Dog Bags, Maps and Brochures** - Are they easy to reach and use? Are they placed where you need them?

- **Trailhead Signs** - Does the sign have key info like a map, distances, features, and difficulty? Is there anything else that would be helpful to add?

- 4. Trails** - Does the trail feel accessible based on the slope, width, and surface? Are there enough places to rest? Is there anything you would add or change?

Recommendations for Community Engagement



1. Begin building relationships early
2. Budget for participant compensation
3. Choose a trailhead with both challenges and successes
4. Inform participants about features, weather, and physical effort



Results



Results - Parking







Results - Facilities











Results - Features





Ideal Signage

1. Nutritional Label
 - Running Slope
 - Cross Slope
 - Width
 - Trail Surface
 - Overall Difficulty Rating
2. Include information on Other Power Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMD)
3. Features are on map with distance

Results - Trails

- Trails
 - 14.6-14.9 miles met guidelines
 - Few obstacles





Results - Community Engagement

- We need to do better sharing information with our communities.
- Lack of public transportation is a big barrier.
- Safety concerns regarding off leash dogs and fast bikes.
- Benches should have backs to them and be spaced apart for a 15 min walk distance.
- Small projects and programs can make people want to get out more.

Lessons Learned



- Start Task Force recruitment early
- Anticipate 30-50% attrition, and recruit more people
- Most common obstacles involve maintenance needs
- Our expectations don't always match what the community needs

Summary

Problem

Funding Cuts
Inaccessible Trails
Lack Knowledge

Solution

Partner with
Disability Community
Rails to Trails Grant

Result

Correct Investment
for
Maximum Impact





Questions?



Contact Us

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Lived Experience Individuals and Organizations

- [STARS Steamboat Springs](#)
- [Disabled Hikers](#), Seattle based nonprofit
- [Topher Downham](#), Omni Accessible
- [Jenny Siegle](#), advocate and wheelchair user
- [Jim Mull](#), full time wheelchair user
- Gem Hubbard @[Wheelsnoheels](#)
- Quinn Brett @[Quinndalina](#)
- [Matthewandpaul](#)
- [No Barriers USA](#)
- [Paradox Sports](#)
- [ROMP global](#)
- Catarina Rivera @[Blindishlatina](#)
- [Outdoors for All](#)
- [CoorDown](#)
- Sassy Wyatt @[Sassywyattofficial](#)
- [National Ability Center](#)
- Bloom Jude Novak @[Howbloomrolls](#)
- [First Descents](#)
- Annijke Wade @[Geodesicdome](#)
- [High Fives Foundation](#)
- [Inclusive Outdoors Project](#)
- [Adaptive Adventures](#)
- [@cripplepunkalliance](#)
- [The Traveling Gnomes](#)
- [AlwaysChooseAdventures](#)
- [Foothills Gateway](#)



Grant Options

1. Rails to Trails Grant
2. Non-Motorized Trails Grant (Colorado specific)
3. Community Clean Transportation Assistance Program
4. Transportation Alternatives
5. Outdoor Equity Grant (Colorado specific)
6. Hartford Foundation with Move United
7. Trails Capacity Grant



Thank you!