



City of Glenwood Springs
101 West 8th Street
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601

Contact: Jenn Ooton
Public Information Officer
970-384-6404 (o)
970471-8684 (c)

NEWS RELEASE

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City Awarded \$200,000 EPA Brownfield Area-Wide Planning Grant

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, CO – The City of Glenwood Springs is pleased to announce that the City is one of 19 recipients of an EPA Brownfield Area-Wide Planning Grant, announced by the EPA on Jan. 5, 2017.

The \$200,000 grant will allow the City to create a strategy to tie together the Confluence Redevelopment, 6th Street Corridor Master Plan, 7th Street Beautification project and Two Rivers Park. Together with expert consultants and community stakeholders, the City will use this grant to develop an implementation plan to revitalize the brownfields located along the Colorado and Roaring Fork Rivers in the City's core, including a 5-acre site where the City's decommissioned wastewater treatment plant is located. The planning area covered by the grant also includes the 5-acre CDOT Engineering and Maintenance site across Devereux Road from Two Rivers Park and the 27.4-acre Holly Quarry site near the Iron Mountain Hot Springs/Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park.

The work will include an assessment of existing infrastructure assets and needed infrastructure upgrades to support intended reuses at the sites, including new mixed-use development, parking, and housing.

"Bringing together our planning efforts into a focused plan for the whole downtown and confluence area opens up tremendous economic opportunities for the city," Mayor Michael Gamba said. "We are pleased to be a recipient of an EPA Area-Wide Grant, which will further our efforts to create a vibrant, sustainable, regional destination along our two rivers and in our downtown."

The City will be working with the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), Chamber Resort Association, Community Builders, Colorado Brownfields Partnership, Colorado Mountain College, GlenX and Super School, Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park, and other stakeholders during the planning process.

"This is very exciting news," DDA Executive Director Leslie Bethel said. "The EPA Area-Wide Planning grant provides the kick-off for the 'Glenwood Springs Riverfront' as discussed and passed with the A&I tax. This plan will provide the incredible opportunity to weave together 7th Street improvements, 6th Street planning, the confluence of the two rivers redevelopment, and the enhancement of Two Rivers Park and shoreline."

Confluence Redevelopment

The 2003 Confluence Redevelopment Plan identified underutilized sites in the area where the Colorado and Roaring Fork Rivers meet and the desire to redevelop the Confluence Area for new housing, improved access to the river, and increased recreational opportunities. Earlier this year, the DDA received a grant for a Targeted Brownfields Assessment to assess the City-owned decommissioned

wastewater treatment plant site, which is a key site in the redevelopment area. The Confluence area provides the opportunity to expand the downtown area with additional uses enhanced by the incredible asset of two rivers.

6th Street Master Plan

Starting in January 2016, the City's Community Development Department and key business and community stakeholders began working with a Denver-based consultant to create a vision for the 6th Street Corridor. Over the next two years, 6th Street is expected to change dramatically as a result of the multi-million dollar project to demolish and realign the Grand Avenue-State Highway 82 Bridge over the Colorado River. The goal of the planning effort is to anticipate private development and public improvements that the Grand Avenue Bridge project will set in motion such as streetscape improvements, bike facilities, public parking, and neighborhood gathering areas. A draft of the 6th Street Master Plan is available at www.cogs.us/6thStreet.

7th Street Beautification

This project re-envision 7th Street as a festival street that is a magnet for City-wide economic development and creates a vibrant downtown gathering place on the south side of the Colorado River. The project will include reconstruction of 7th Street from the newly aligned Grand Avenue Bridge west to in front of the historic Amtrak Station (Glenwood Springs Train Station.) Two-way traffic will be maintained on the street while providing more room for outdoor dining and events. The City in October 2016 received a \$400,000 Garfield County Federal Mineral Lease District Grant and in December 2016 received an additional \$400,000 State Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Grant for the 7th Street project.

A Public Open House to discuss site design of 7th Street between Colorado Avenue and Blake Avenue will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Jan. 12, 2017, in the City Council Chambers.

Two Rivers Park

A design charrette was held in June 2016 to facilitate a community vision for the restoration of the Two Rivers Park and shoreline. Plans for the park include interpretive wayfinding signage, gathering spaces, and enhanced riverbank landscaping.

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