

**For Immediate Release**  
June 1, 2020



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**Colorado Lottery Recognizes Excellence in the Use of Lottery Funds  
with 2020 Starburst Award Winners**  
*Lottery proceeds pass the \$3.5 billion mark*

Pueblo, Colo. – Colorado Lottery Starburst Awards recognize excellence in the use of Lottery funds for community and conservation projects. For fiscal year 2020, 11 winning projects were chosen from across the state based on the creativity of the project, economic and social impact on the community, and whether the project achieved its goal. Colorado Lottery proceeds have reached \$3.5 billion.

Nearly \$5 million in Lottery funds are represented in these 11 projects. Lottery proceeds are distributed statewide through grants via Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), the Conservation Trust Fund (CTF), Colorado Parks & Wildlife, and Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST).

"With so many projects funded with Lottery dollars, it's sometimes easy to forget all the different types of outdoor projects that result from Lottery revenue," said Tom Seaver, director of the Colorado Lottery. "This year's Starburst Awards showcase the diverse uses of Lottery money -- ballfields, bike parks, playgrounds, riparian zones, and of course, massive land purchases. These Starburst awards demonstrate just a fraction of the ways Lottery dollars are going to work wherever and however Coloradans like to play."

Submissions include programs and projects such as parks, playgrounds, outdoor recreation facilities, land conservation, trail enhancement, open space acquisition, wildlife natural resource preservation, and public school improvements.

This year's 2020 Starburst Award winners, include:

- **City of Alamosa - Alamosa Riparian Park** - A result of a two-year effort by Western Rivers Conservancy, the City of Alamosa, GOCO and other partners, the 203-acre riverfront park was completed late 2019. The project conserves a mile of the Rio Grande river and creates new opportunities for recreation along its banks. The largest funder of the project, GOCO, ranked Alamosa Riparian Park as its number-one Open Space Project in 2018 and provided \$695,000 for the city to purchase the land. In addition, CTF gave \$20,000 to the project. [Photo](#)
- **City of Lafayette - Nature Kids Discovery Zone & Inspire Trail** - This capital project consists of an internationally recognized nature discovery zone on the campus grounds of Boulder Valley School District's Alicia Sanchez International Elementary School. The project creates a place where local children can explore and discover their natural surroundings in their immediate neighborhood. These two projects were funded by a collaboration of contributors, including a grant from GOCO for \$960,580. [Photo](#)





- **City of Thornton -** park provides multiple areas baseball fields in a growing community. The project was funded from multiple funding sources, including \$543,283 from CTF. [Photo](#)
- **City of Durango - Durango Softball Complex and Tennis Courts** – The redevelopment of a pre-existing three-field softball complex on the Fort Lewis College campus helped the City meet current standards. The project was made possible in part with a GOCO grant of \$350,000. [Photo](#)
- **City of Evans - Riverside Park** – Decimated by the floods of 2013, the park master plan called for restoring the floodplain, raising valuable park improvements out of the floodplain and removing landfill debris. Multiple grants were obtained, including a GOCO grant of \$99,997 for the master plan and \$80,253 for improvements to the trail system. [Photo](#)
- **City of Fort Morgan - Brenda Joy Bike Park** - GOCO funds of \$44,693 were invested in this 8,000-square-foot park and allowed for the installation of 16 different bike features installed adjacent to the skate park. [Photo](#)
- **Larimer County Dept. of Natural Resources - Poudre River Restoration and Resilience Project** - The Project transformed the reach of the Poudre River into a healthy and resilient ecosystem by using creative and innovative techniques to re-connect the river to its floodplain, create wetland and riparian habitat, improve flood resiliency, and promote natural river function. It was made possible in part with a GOCO Habitat Restoration grant in the amount of \$100,000. [Photo](#)
- **City of Pueblo - City Park Caboose Project** – This beloved caboose received a much-needed boost -- a grant from CTF of \$30,500 helped the City remove old, deteriorating wood decking and replace the deck with a larger colored concrete patio, new stairs and tables for the eating area. [Photo](#)
- **Southern Plains Land Trust - Heartland Ranch Preserve Expansion** – Helping bring the total square feet of the Preserve to 40 miles and 25,000 acres through three separate purchases, a total of \$1,310,700 of a GOCO Open Space grant played an important role in expanding the reserve to further land conservation, open space acquisition, and wildlife/natural resource preservation. [Photo](#)
- **Town of Avon - Destination Jump, Splash** – The project completed a goal to create a destination playground that offers the newest and most dynamic play features while utilizing the natural stream that flows through the playground site. The new playground was designed to engage youth and adults together in traditional play, non-traditional play and provide safe opportunities to interact with nature and stream flows. The project was made possible in part thanks to a GOCO grant of \$350,000. [Photo](#)
- **Foothills Park and Recreation District - Clement Park Inclusive Destination Playground** – The goal for the renovated and expanded play experience was to create a playground that is inclusive of all ages and abilities, while also creating a space that supports the art, music and performance events that occur at Grant Amphitheater. With its \$350,000 Local



Park and Outdoor Recreation  
built a unique, universally  
unincorporated Jefferson County. [Photo](#)



grant, Foothills Park & Recreation District  
accessible playground at Clement Park in

**About Colorado Lottery:**

Since 1983, the Colorado Lottery has returned more than \$3.5 billion to outdoor projects through Great Outdoors Colorado, the Conservation Trust Fund, and Colorado Parks & Wildlife. Proceeds from sales of Colorado Lottery games – Scratch, Powerball, Mega Millions, Colorado Lotto+, Lucky for Life, Cash 5, and Pick 3 – enhance, protect, improve parks, trails, and open space in Colorado. For more information, visit [coloradolottery.com](http://coloradolottery.com).

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