



Memo

To: City Council

From: Melanie Kilpatrick, Parks & Recreation Project & Events Manager

Date: August 12, 2025

Re: Craig River Park – Project Status & Marketing Update

Executive Summary

The third construction season for the instream improvements of the Craig River Park has remobilized with the associated USACE permit allowing for in-river work starting August 1st. The City executed a takeover agreement on July 25, 2025, with Philadelphia Indemnity Insurance Company (Philly), the surety for the original YRCP Schedule A contractor Diggin' It River Works (DIRW). DIRW abandoned the project through voluntary default and termination on April 16, 2025. Philly collaboratively stepped up to finish the project under the takeover agreement and has secured Anson Excavating & Pipe as their subcontractor to complete the Schedule A contract with an updated project completion date of October 2025.

Anson Excavating is simultaneously working to complete YRCP Schedules B & C, originally awarded to them for the upland improvements at Craig River Park. Progress achieved over the summer can be viewed as images included within the attachments section of this report. With active upland and in-river construction occurring at the diversion site/Craig River Park, the City has advised the public to avoid the in-river construction zone between Pebble Beach and Loudy Simpson, as well as to avoid the upland access areas--- please no walk-in/drive-in traffic off of the golf course access road (CR184).

With the mini grant secured from AGNC, the City is working with Marketing Alliance to promote the Craig River Park in preparation for substantial completion of the project in October 2025. The Craig River Park will be promoted as a recreational asset and quality-of-life attraction to assist in recruitment of new business and industry to the area. Active promotion of the Craig River Park additionally supports the City of Craig and our efforts to attract new residents, visitors, commerce and recreation/tourism-related businesses. Examples of the drafted Craig River Park collateral can be viewed within the attachments section.

Background / History

The vision for the Yampa River Corridor Project is to create a cohesive park system along the Yampa River just south of Craig. The cornerstone feature of the Yampa River Corridor Project is the Craig River Park. The Craig River Park involved replacement and reconstruction of the City of Craig's existing degraded municipal water intake diversion dam to include two navigable whitewater recreation drop structures with associated fish passage structures. This critical infrastructure project provides a multitude of benefits including a sustained municipal water supply for the City of Craig. Onshore amenities are also being constructed adjacent to the in-channel water feature to create the beginnings of an integrated river park complex--- the Craig River Park. The implementation of the Yampa River Corridor Project and the Craig River Park largely supports economic stimulus, resilience and diversification for Craig/Moffat County--- a massive win for both partners!

The Yampa River Corridor Project aligns with infrastructure objectives/strategies outlined within the Moffat County Vision 2025 Transition Plan prepared in 2020 by Keystone Policy Center in partnership with El Pomar Northwest Regional Council. The Yampa River Corridor Project fits our long-term Transition Strategy with goals to improve quality of life for locals while attracting more visitors and residents through improved infrastructure and planning. The project additionally aligns with priority community goals and masterplan recommendations outlined in the 2019 City Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Master Plan prepared by Logan Simpson. The Parks & Recreation Master Plan incorporated broad public outreach/engagement feedback sourced through a variety of open houses, online surveys, stakeholder interviews and focus group meetings. Lastly, the project is consistent with strategies and community feedback defined within the 2016 Moffat County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), 2018 Moffat County & City of Craig Business Opportunity Toolkit, and 2020 Moffat County Tourism Strategic Plan.

Fiscal Impact

BUDGET: The project budget to date is reflected below---

YAMPA RIVER CORRIDOR PROJECT

Yampa River Corridor Project Budget						
Budget Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total Project
Engineering Expenses	\$ 132,604.00	\$ 155,453.00	\$ 217,613.45	\$ 393,861.89	\$ 389,466.66	\$ 1,288,999.00
Construction Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 121,401.75	\$ 2,129,157.62	\$ 2,066,812.80	\$ 4,317,372.17
Total Expenses	\$ 132,604.00	\$ 155,453.00	\$ 339,015.20	\$ 2,523,019.51	\$ 2,456,279.46	\$ 5,606,371.17
Engineering Funding	\$ 151,662.68	\$ 73,646.00	\$ 72,691.32	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 513,000.00
Construction Funding	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 95,000.00	\$ 677,916.00	\$ 4,778,998.00	\$ 5,551,914.00
Total Funding	\$ 151,662.68	\$ 73,646.00	\$ 167,691.32	\$ 827,916.00	\$ 4,843,998.00	\$ 6,064,914.00
	\$ 19,058.68	\$ (81,807.00)	\$ (171,323.88)	\$ (1,695,103.51)	\$ 2,387,718.54	\$ 458,542.83

FUNDING SOURCES: The City of Craig committed up to \$658,656 towards the construction phase of the project with the following match partners and committed contributions---

- EDA \$3,315,342
- Moffat County \$150,000
- Trapper Mine \$30,000
- NWCO Parrotheads \$10,000
- Office of Just Transition \$397,915
- Friends of the Yampa \$65,000
- Yampa River Fund \$50,000
- RLF Open Rivers Fund \$30,000
- CO Housing & Finance Authority \$50,000
- Great Outdoors Colorado \$600,000
- YWG Basin Roundtable \$100,000
- CO State WSRF \$100,000

RETURN ON INVESTMENT: Construction of the Yampa River Corridor Project was supported with a grant award from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) in the amount of \$3.3 million in August 2022. The EDA grant includes 3 project business beneficiaries which accumulatively commit to hiring 83 FTE's and \$10,500,000 in matching

private investment across 9-years post project construction. The economic impact literature on whitewater parks and activity overwhelmingly cites research by K.H. Cordell et al (1990), which established regional economic multipliers of 2.00 and 2.03 for the economic impact of water-based recreation expenditures on local economies. Using the more conservative multiplier, we estimate that these direct hires and new investment will stimulate a total of 249 new jobs and \$31.5 million in new private investment in the community across a range of business sectors.

Community Outreach & Feedback

Collaborator Ken Brenner presented on the Craig River Park on behalf of the Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable at the Inter-Basin Compact Committee (IBCC) meeting in Grand Junction on June 25th. The presentation slides can be viewed within the attachments section.

With active upland and in-river construction occurring at the diversion site/Craig River Park, the City of Craig has advised the public to avoid the in-river construction zone between Pebble Beach and Loudy Simpson, as well as avoid the upland access areas with no walk-in/drive-in traffic off of the golf course road (CR184). This messaging has been coordinated with the following project partners--- Moffat County Sheriffs Department, KRAI/Shannon Lukens, Good Vibes River Gear, Friends of the Yampa, and MCTA.

Lastly, the City is tentatively looking at an October ribbon cutting event to celebrate the substantial completion of the overall Yampa River Corridor Project and the Craig River Park to include the community, project supporters and funding partners. Resources Legacy Fund has reached out and offered event coordination support along with a small amount of budget support for the event.

Attachments

- [Craig River Park Progress Images](#)
 - [IBCC Craig River Park Presentation Slides](#)
 - [Craig River Park DRAFT Marketing Collateral Examples](#)
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Prepared By:

Melanie Kilpatrick
Parks & Recreation Project & Events Manager