



Project Summary Information

Project Title:

Applicant Organization(s):

Applicant Name(s):

Partner Organization (if applicable):

Partner Name (if applicable):

Amount Requested:

Estimated Total Project Cost:

Estimated Grant Period (years):

Brief Project Description (limit to space provided without expanding the text box; use 10 pt font)

The Resilient Together Project focuses on improving outdoor recreation and quality of life in Longmont's Kensington, Lanyon, and Spangler neighborhoods. These neighborhoods were identified as high vulnerability areas using tools like Colorado EnviroScreen, CDC's Social Vulnerability Index, and the City's Climate Risk Mapping. The project, shaped by community engagement, directly responds to residents' calls for cooling solutions, with water features, shaded gathering spaces, and swings being top priorities. The design phase began in November 2024, and construction is projected to be completed by the end of 2025. The project addresses the needs of underrepresented populations, including those living in poverty, non-English speakers, and older adults, who are at higher risk from extreme heat. While existing funding sources, including ARPA and Boulder County's sustainability tax, cover some project costs, an additional \$450,000 is needed to install a splash pad at Kensington Park, which was a highly requested amenity. Community-driven from the start, the project has actively involved residents in decision-making, ensuring the final designs reflect their preferences. Partnerships with ARPA and Boulder County are supporting the effort. Long-term, the project aims to build neighborhood resilience by providing cooling infrastructure that helps mitigate high temperatures, which are expected to worsen with climate change. By encouraging outdoor play and social interaction, the project will foster stronger community ties and promote a healthier, more active population, particularly in these disadvantaged neighborhoods.

Proposed Project

Resilient Together Project: Neighborhood Cooling and Community Building focuses on expanding outdoor recreation and improving quality of life. Its primary goal is to provide essential cooling amenities to residents of Longmont's Kensington, Lanyon, and Spangler neighborhoods.

Extreme Heat Risk and Community-Driven Project

Like many cities across the country, Longmont, Colorado has begun to feel the effects of a warming planet. Urban areas are susceptible to a phenomenon known as the urban heat island (UHI) effect, whereby highly developed, paved environments absorb solar radiation and heat throughout the day. Concentrated human activities like driving cars and running air conditioners also add heat to the environment and exacerbate UHI conditions.^{1,2} This means that urban environments are typically hotter than rural or vegetated surroundings. The effect of which is exacerbated by climate change and rising summer temperatures. Urban heat kills more people each year in the US than any other weather-related hazard.³ Heat can also cause non-lethal but disruptive symptoms including headache and fatigue; keep people indoors and away from daily activities; produce stress and anxiety; and interfere with quality of life.^{4,5} Potential impacts on local ecosystems, economies and infrastructure create additional layers of risk.^{6,7}

City Of Longmont Demographics

(from a recent study by EcoNorthwest):

- BIPOC population of 31 percent;
- Residents of Hispanic or Latino origin make up 23 percent of the total population;
- 46 percent of the population 25 years or older received a bachelor's degree or higher, and 38 percent received a high school diploma or attended some college;
- 20 percent of Longmont's population are under the age 18;
- 65 years or older compose 17 percent of the population;
- 8% of residents below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

Longmont's residents have elevated heat mitigation as a priority for community resilience. In 2020, a Climate Action Task Force composed primarily of community members from a broad cross-section of neighborhoods across the city brought forth a Climate Action Recommendations Report that was approved by City Council. The City of Longmont conducted multiple assessments to better understand the problem and available options to manage urban heat (including strategies that have and have not been tried in Longmont previously), and to offer directions for the future.

In 2023, the city partnered with CAPA Strategies (a climate risk consultant) for a Heat Watch Mapping Campaign, generating high-resolution heat data to map heat distribution across the city at different times of the day. In conjunction with the heat data, the Heat Watch campaign also conducted community engagement, that included a citywide survey, plus workshops and outreach events in three priority neighborhoods districts, and a ranking of possible cooling solutions based on

¹ Taha, H. (1997). Urban climates and heat islands: Albedo, evapotranspiration, and anthropogenic heat. *Energy and Buildings*, 25(2), 99–103. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0378-7788\(96\)00999-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0378-7788(96)00999-1)

² US Environmental Protection Agency (2024). Heat Island Effect. <https://www.epa.gov/heatislands>

³ National Weather Service (2022). Weather Fatalities 2022. Weather Related Fatality and Injury Statistics. <https://www.weather.gov/hazstat/>

⁴ CDC (2024). Heat Stress – Heat Related Illness. <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/heatstress/heatrelillness.html>

⁵ Rony, M.K.K. & Alamgir, H.M. (2023). High temperatures on mental health: Recognizing the association and the need for proactive strategies—A perspective. *Health Science Reports* 6(12), <https://doi.org/10.1002/hsr2.1729>

⁶ US Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (2024). Extreme Heat. <https://www.cisa.gov/topics/critical-infrastructure-security-and-resilience/extreme-weather-and-climate-change/extreme-heat>

⁷ US Environmental Protection Agency (2024). Climate Change Impacts on Ecosystems. <https://www.epa.gov/climateimpacts/climate-change-impacts-ecosystems#impacts>

community input. Residents of the most highly affected neighborhoods participated in these outreach events, sharing their experiences of heat, including attitudes, impacts, and coping strategies, as well as identifying community-informed cooling solutions.

The engagement through Heat Watch campaign involved 1,013 residents city-wide in a survey, including 113 from Lanyon, Spangler, and Kensington. The survey was available in English and Spanish. Approximately 20% of survey responses in these neighborhoods came from residents over 65 years old. 30% of respondents from the priority area identify as Hispanic and Latino. Overall residents experience a feeling of disruption when heat keeps them indoors and/or keeps them from spending time outdoors for recreation, exercise, dog walking, and general enjoyment.

Community Need

Although climate risks like extreme temperatures and poor air quality are present across the City of Longmont and their occurrence will likely increase due to climate change, the impact these hazards have on neighborhood districts varies drastically due to the presence of other vulnerabilities. Kensington, Lanyon, and Spangler neighborhoods have been identified as high-vulnerability areas based on the Colorado EnviroScreen, CDC's Social Vulnerability Index, and EPA's EJScreen. Colorado EnviroScreen, which helps identify areas in the state facing higher environmental and health burdens by analyzing various data, the higher the score the higher the burden. All block groups in Colorado are assigned a score from 0 to 100. Kensington, Lanyon and Spangler neighborhoods scores are one of the highest in the State of Colorado ranging from 86 to 97, indicating a very high environmental and health burden for the residents of these areas.

Historically, neighborhoods East of Main Street have been developed as housing for workers of the industries to be in walking distance of the manufacturing facilities and the railroad. Redlining maps increased disparities between these neighborhoods and the wealthier parts of town, making the housing of Spangler, Kensington and Lanyon neighborhood uninsurable.

The city prioritized these three neighborhoods initially through the ARPA process because:

- These neighborhoods are home to diverse and underserved populations. Poverty status has been determined for 6,506 out of 6,805 residents, 2,100 residents speak Spanish, and 112 are aged 65+ and speak only Spanish. Additionally, 1,582 residents are under 18 years old.
- Identified issues, including homelessness, violence, and criminal behavior in the parks, impact residents' willingness to use these public spaces.
- These communities were disproportionately impacted by COVID, experiencing higher case and death rates.
- As HUD-identified Qualified Census Tracts, these areas can utilize ARPA funds for community-based park solutions that build social capital, fostering resilience both post-COVID and against future climate threats identified through climate mapping.
- The project aims to revitalize the parks by increasing activity to address the decline in community connections and the rise in criminal behavior, which had driven people away from these vital public spaces.

Quotations from residents at Kensington:

- [Heat] limits outdoor activities;
- Cannot be active or be outside to take care of home;
- Choose not to go out to park with kids;
- Don't do things outside, sit in front of a fan;
- Isn't safe to keep windows open;
- Affording air conditioning [is a concern];
- House is way too hot especially in the evening and night [&] neighborhood isn't safe to keep windows open.

- Our approach follows the resilience model described by Daniel Aldrich, demonstrating that local neighborhood capacity and social capital are critical for recovery from challenges such as heat waves, floods, and housing crises.
- Climate Resilience mapping confirmed these communities are disproportionately affected by heat threats, making them ideal for a collaborative response to both COVID impacts and future climate challenges, focusing on building community-wide resilience.

Engaging Residents in Shaping Cooling Solutions

Targeted engagement occurred in these priority neighborhoods (Kensington, Spangler, and Lanyon), during which residents were asked to vote for a suite of seven potential cooling solutions. Options for solutions offered to residents to choose from covered a range of approaches identified by CAPA Strategies that are suitable for Longmont: Trees, Greenspace, Water Features, Shade Structures, Cool Pavement, Home Cooling Support, and Cooling Centers. All strategies have been implemented in other cities, including some that have already been tried locally. Many of these interventions have been established as best practices in the field of heat management.

144 residents from priority neighborhoods were engaged in four workshops, one of which was held in Spanish. Water features were among the top 3 priorities identified by the communities by vote, number one priority for Kensington Park, where residents prioritized water features, particularly a splash pad, as a communal gathering space and cooling amenity. The other two included home cooling support and the addition of trees, which are better suited to be addressed through other city programs and are being prioritized accordingly. Shade structures and green space were also among the top 5 features by vote and are a focus of this project.

Besides quantitative ratings and locations of desired solutions (see attached map of community votes for Kensington Park), great insights were obtained on qualities of the amenities. For example, residents requested shaded, circular gathering spaces, like a council ring, so they can share cold beverages and enjoy conversations on hot days together. This design has been incorporated into the project. Additionally, open conversation format of focus groups allowed for residents from Kensington area to request swings as a cooling amenity. Although swings were not identified by CAPA Strategies as a best practice in heat mitigation, it became clear that the swings were a very important amenity for the residents and were incorporated into the design.

These conversations with community, including input from underrepresented groups, have shaped the scope of this project. The project is centered on community involvement, with residents of the Kensington, Lanyon, and Spangler neighborhoods playing a key role in shaping the vision for their outdoor spaces.

Additionally, through an ongoing partnership and planning effort with Generation Wild facilitated by Thorne Nature Experience and Nature Kids/Jóvenes de la Naturaleza (NKJN) in collaboration with residents from these traditionally underrepresented neighborhoods, preliminary engagement data further underscores the importance of shaded community gathering spaces, swings, and water-based recreational facilities in these high need neighborhoods. NKJN collected over 355 surveys and conducted nearly a dozen focus groups. Gathering spaces, shade from pavilions, and water features were among the top features highlighted in community member responses. Although Generation Wild funding will not be available until January 2026, which is outside this project's timeline, Thorne Nature Experience is fully supportive of this project. Provided amenities will be assets to their future programming in the Longmont community and heavily utilized by program participants.

The efforts to include community members in every step of this project are actively progressing. In addition to the Heat Watch campaign, a conversation is ongoing in the Kensington neighborhood via

meetings with the Community & Neighborhood Resources (CNR) team of the city. CNR has collaborated with the Kensington community for over 30 years, but recent participation waned. An ARPA-funded initiative reengaged the neighborhood, growing its leadership team from three to seven members, engaging the Spanish-speaking community, and organizing activities like a waterwise garden, tree sale, trainings for leadership team, and movie night. The partnership strengthened, with ongoing conversations about needs, including heat impacts and cooling solutions. The most recent meeting was held on the 10th of October.

As the project moves into the design and construction phases, we will continue to solicit feedback and elevate the concerns and desires of the residents. The residents will participate in design and will be able to help select the design features and splash pad components, for example. The first design meeting with Kensington Neighborhood Group is scheduled in the beginning of January to discuss location of shade structure, best ages for the swings, and future of the existing volleyball court. Furthermore, we are planning to host two design charrettes one for children and another one for Kensington NGLA. Additionally, we will have a survey of the park users to vote on the specific amenities. This community-driven approach ensures that the final product is something that residents feel a sense of ownership over, increasing the likelihood that it will be actively used.

Kensington Neighborhood

Despite economic and social disparities, the Kensington Neighborhood fosters a strong sense of community, with Kensington Park serving as its heart. Known for its cultural diversity and a large Latino population, Kensington was the birthplace of Longmont's Cinco de Mayo festival, originally launched in response to gang activity in the early 2000s. The event grew so large it was relocated to a larger park, attracting thousands of visitors annually. Notably, it remains the only No Alcohol, No Smoking Cinco de Mayo event in Colorado and is the second-largest celebration of its kind in the state.

Kensington is home to Rocky Mountain Elementary and Columbine Elementary with a high percentage of low-income and Spanish-speaking students. 84.1% of the students at Columbine Elementary and 79.2% at Rocky Mountain Elementary are enrolled in free and reduced lunch program. Statewide average enrollment into free and reduced lunch program is 45.9%. The neighborhood has faced historical challenges, further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The crisis exposed deep inequities, such as language barriers, low income, unstable employment, and inadequate housing. These issues disrupted essential outreach efforts, limiting the ability to maintain communication, support neighborhood leadership, and foster connections—particularly in communities like Kensington that rely heavily on in-person engagement and cultural brokers.

Kensington has also faced significant safety challenges. In the early 2000s, following the tragic shooting of a young man, the community came together to address gang-related issues. This effort led to the creation of the GRIP (Gang Response, Intervention, and Prevention) program and championed public safety tax for the city, a dedicated funding source for police, fire, and emergency services. More recently, in August 2022, a gang-related shooting in the park tragically claimed the life of one adolescent and injured another, reigniting community concerns. Despite this, residents have demonstrated remarkable resilience in the face of adversity. As one community member stated, "This is a tragedy, but it will not define our neighborhood." Residents, particularly from the Latino community, were instrumental in advocating for park safety, addressing substandard housing, and building relationships with police. Kensington's culture of collective action and advocacy continues to drive efforts toward creating a safer, stronger, and more connected community.

The proposed park improvements will be transformative for Kensington, a neighborhood located in a Qualified Census Tract (QCT). An important aspect of this project is its commitment to equitable

access. The splash pad is designed to be inclusive, offering a water feature that is accessible to everyone, regardless of swimming ability or mobility challenges. Unlike traditional water features, the splash pad accommodates non-swimmers and individuals in wheelchairs, making it safe and enjoyable for people of all ages. Additionally, it will be free to access and conveniently located within 1 mile of 8,474 residents in the center of Kensington neighborhood, ensuring that this amenity is truly accessible to the entire community. The proposed enhancements will increase resilience, improve health and safety, and support mental well-being by providing access to green spaces essential for families and intergenerational, multicultural communities. The improvements, including shaded gathering areas and a splash pad, will help residents better cope with extreme heat and encourage outdoor activities that foster community connection. Additionally, by bringing more people and more families to the park, more eyes on the space will deter criminal activities. These investments will leave a lasting positive impact on Kensington and Longmont as a whole.

Project Scope

To achieve the full scope of this project, we have been building partnerships with a variety of stakeholders. We are currently in contract with a design-build vendor for a total project budget of \$1,195,200. Although the city assembled various funds, budget shortfalls and rising construction costs meant that not all desired amenities could be built. Prioritization based on resident input and costs led to the selection of two shaded gathering spaces, a swing, and a misting water feature. However, the additional \$450,000 required to install a splash pad at Kensington Park is outside of the current budget, prompting our request for supplemental funding from GOCO.

The design phase for this design-built project began in November 2024, with construction expected to be completed by the end of 2025. Since the majority of the funding for the project comes from ARPA, the project must adhere to the timelines of ARPA funding. The construction will need to be complete by the end of 2025. Receiving additional GOCO funding in March will allow us to use the services of the same contractor – DesignScapes – at the same cost as they provided in their bid for the splash pad - \$450,000. This will also permit us to stick to the proposed completion date by the end of 2025.

Resolution of support will be signed on 1/14/25 at the Regular Council Session meeting in the Consent Agenda. We will submit the resolution to GOCO the next day. We were not able to meet the required timelines for the only Council Meeting held in December of 2024.

Budget Narrative

The project has faced significant challenges from a budgeting and procurement standpoint. We first bid this project in March of 2024 with a budget just under a million dollars as a design-build procurement method. We did not receive any bids at all, even though over 100 entities downloaded our plan sets from bid net. After a few interviews with initially interested contractors, we heard a very similar message from all of them: the project is complex, requires engineering, permitting, lots of trades including plumbing and electrical, has three separate locations. According to contractors for this project to become marketable, the budget needed to be over 1 million dollars and timeline needed to extend to allow construction to happen through 2025.

We faced a critical situation, as ARPA funding, which accounts for the majority of the funding for the project, had to be fully obligated prior to the end of 2024. We have been able to reroute additional funding from Parks Capital Funding to support a 1 million project. To create additional incentives, some of the amenities were moved out of base bid and into value added options, construction schedule was extended to the end of the 2025, the deadline of ARPA funding expenditures. We also changed the procurement method to Best Value Approach, which shortens procurement timeline and allows for more creativity in proposed project solutions. We were able to advertise the project again

at the end of May with all these changes incorporated. We received 3 bids from qualified general contractors. All bids were aligned in pricing and included only base bid items, leaving a splash pad outside the project scope. Our hope to have contractors bidding against each other by providing more amenities for the parks users did not come to fruition. All three proposals were very close in pricing the base bid items, which showed the market price of installing these amenities in our community at that point in time. Sadly, the costs of construction were much higher than we anticipated. The biggest win for us and our constituents is that we will be able to invest ARPA dollars into our neighborhoods within the deadlines. We hope that GOCO will help supplement the short coming of increased construction costs and allow for the additional feature – a splash pad – to be added to the project.

Maintenance

The city has a maintenance plan in place to keep up the quality and condition of all proposed amenities. Specifically, regarding the splash pad, there are two existing splash pads at other areas of the city: at Sandstone Park (built in 2006, 3.7 miles away from Kensington Park) and Steven Day Park (built in 2005, 2.2 miles away from Kensington Park). Both amenities remain operational and are enjoyed by the public after close to 20 years of use.

Activation

The addition of Resilient Together amenities will significantly improve programming opportunities at Lanyon, Spangler, and Kensington Parks, creating a more dynamic and welcoming space for all ages. The neighbors along with the city 's Community and Neighborhood Resources and Parks Division will plan a celebration of the addition of the new amenities. After that city division and neighbors can program activities such as bilingual story time, resources fairs, movies nights, etc. The most recent movie night gathered 100+ residents.

Recreation department holds free outdoor fitness programs at these parks already and will be able to increase frequency and provide the service to more residents. With shaded gathering areas, residents can enjoy Yoga in the Park sessions in a comfortable environment, encouraging physical activity and mindfulness while staying protected from the heat. For families, group fitness classes will become more accessible, as parents can participate while their children safely enjoy the splash pad nearby. These amenities will make the park a hub for health, wellness, and connection, enhancing community engagement and ensuring the space is actively used year-round.

Intended Outcomes and Long-Term Benefits

Resilient Together Project aims to improve the quality of life in disproportionately impacted and disadvantaged neighborhoods by installing cooling solutions at Kensington, Lanyon, and Spangler neighborhoods. Encouraging outdoor play and community engagement, the project will foster stronger social ties and a healthier, more active population. Shaded gathering spaces, swings, and water features will help residents cope with extreme heat, which is already creating a barrier to accessing the outdoors, and is expected to worsen due to climate change. In the long term, the project will reduce heat island effects and enhance social connections. The requested supplemental funding of \$450,000 is essential to fully realize the community's vision for this project and provide the most vulnerable and traditionally underrepresented residents of Longmont with the cooling amenities they have clearly expressed a need for and genuinely deserve.

PROJECT BUDGET & DETAILS

APPLICATION SCOPE OF WORK

Source of Funds (CASH)	Date Secured	GOCO Funds	Matching Funds
		\$450,000.00	
City Of Longmont Capital Improvement Funds	01/2024		\$171,500.00
ARPA	2023		\$898,700.00
Boulder County Sustainability Tax	2023		\$125,000.00
Source of Funds (IN-KIND)			
[Applicant]			
[Partner Source]			
[Partner Source]			
	subtotal	\$450,000.00	\$1,195,200.00
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS			\$1,645,200.00

Use of Funds (CASH)	Description	GOCO Funds	Matching Funds	Total Funding
Design				
DesignScapes	Design		\$348,250	\$348,250.00
				\$0.00
Construction				\$0.00
DesignScapes	Swing Set and Safety Surfacing		\$248,650.00	\$248,650.00
				\$0.00
Construction				\$0.00
DesignScapes	Community Space Incl. Shade		\$217,900.00	\$217,900.00
				\$0.00
Construction				\$0.00
DesignScapes	Community Space Incl. Shade		\$269,950.00	\$269,950.00
				\$0.00
Construction				\$0.00
DesignScapes	Small scale water feature/misting		\$110,450.00	\$110,450.00
				\$0.00
Design & Construction				\$0.00
DesignScapes	Splash Pad	\$450,000.00		\$450,000.00
				\$0.00
Construction				\$0.00
vendor/service provider				\$0.00
	subtotal	\$450,000.00	\$1,195,200.00	\$1,645,200.00
Use of Funds (IN-KIND)	Description		Matching Funds	
Category				
vendor/service provider				\$0.00
Category				
vendor/service provider				\$0.00
Category				
vendor/service provider				\$0.00
Category				
vendor/service provider				\$0.00
	subtotal			\$0.00
		GOCO Funds	Matching Funds	
	subtotal	\$450,000.00	\$1,195,200.00	
TOTAL USE OF FUNDS*				\$1,645,200.00

* The Total Use of Funds must equal the Total Source of Funds in the section above.

OTHER LEVERAGED RESOURCES (OPTIONAL)

CASH OR IN-KIND	Description	Total Funding
Community Engagement During Design Phase		
City of Longmont	City staff time on planning, fascilitation, processing results	\$6,000.00
Printing and Suplies for Engagement		
City of Longmont	City printing and supplies	\$100.00
Celebration of New Amenities		
City of Longmont	City staff time on planning and facilitation	\$6,000.00
Food and Supplies		
City of Longmont	Purchase of food and supplies	\$400.00
	subtotal	\$12,500.00

TOTAL PROJECT VALUE	\$1,657,700.00
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GOCO % of project cost 27%
GOCO % of project value 27%

Grant Award Payments

For capital, planning, capacity, and stewardship projects GOCO prefers to disburse funds on a reimbursement basis with a single payment occurring when the project is completed; however, grantees can request one progress payment of up to 75% of the grant amount based on the work completed to date prior to full project completion with the remaining 25% paid upon full project completion as outlined in the scope of work. For land acquisition projects GOCO prefers to disburse funds for the acquisition and transaction costs as a single payment occurring at closing. For any additional project components, grantees can request one progress payment of up to 75% of the grant amount prior to project completion with the remaining 25% paid upon project completion. Will this create a barrier for project completion and would you like to discuss options for advanced and partial advanced payment?

Highlight Yes or No

Yes

No



COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE WILDLIFE REVIEW

The applicant is responsible for addressing any environmental impacts associated with the project, including securing all necessary permits, licenses, clearances, and environmental analysis necessary to comply with local, state, or federal law.

Applicant

Name: **Tatiana Parfenova**

Email: **tatiana.parfenova@longmontcolorado**

Title: **Sr. Project Manager**

Phone: **303.651.8587**

Please consult with your local Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW) District or Area Manager to complete the table below and associated narrative questions as appropriate.

CPW Representative

Name: **Joe Padia**

Email: **joe.padia@state.co.us**

Title: **District Wildlife Manager**

Phone: **303.906.3643**

☒ CPW representative, check this box if no significant environmental considerations exist and skip the remainder of the form.

Environmental Considerations	Not Applicable	Negligible Impacts	Minor Impacts	Significant Impacts	Insufficient Information
Plant/animal species of special concern; state/federal listed or proposed listed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unique or important habitat (<i>i.e. migration, winter-range, reproductive considerations</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unique or important aquatic habitat (<i>i.e. fish passage, spawning habitat</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water quality/quantity – surface and ground water considerations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stream flow characteristics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
River corridors/lakes/ponds/ seasonal water ways	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wetlands/floodplains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Storm water runoff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sedimentation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disturbances to neighboring properties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soil/erosion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Introduction or promotion of non-native species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental disturbances during construction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

MITIGATION Please describe any necessary mitigation measures under consideration for impacts exceeding negligible (consider alternative design or trail route system; screening users from wildlife area, protection of critical habitat, channeling use through less sensitive habitat areas; re-vegetation of disturbed areas and control of invasive species; management of users and related activities with signs, fencing, and education programs; consideration of runoff when selecting project materials, such as uncured concrete to encourage seepage; comprehensive storm water runoff plan).

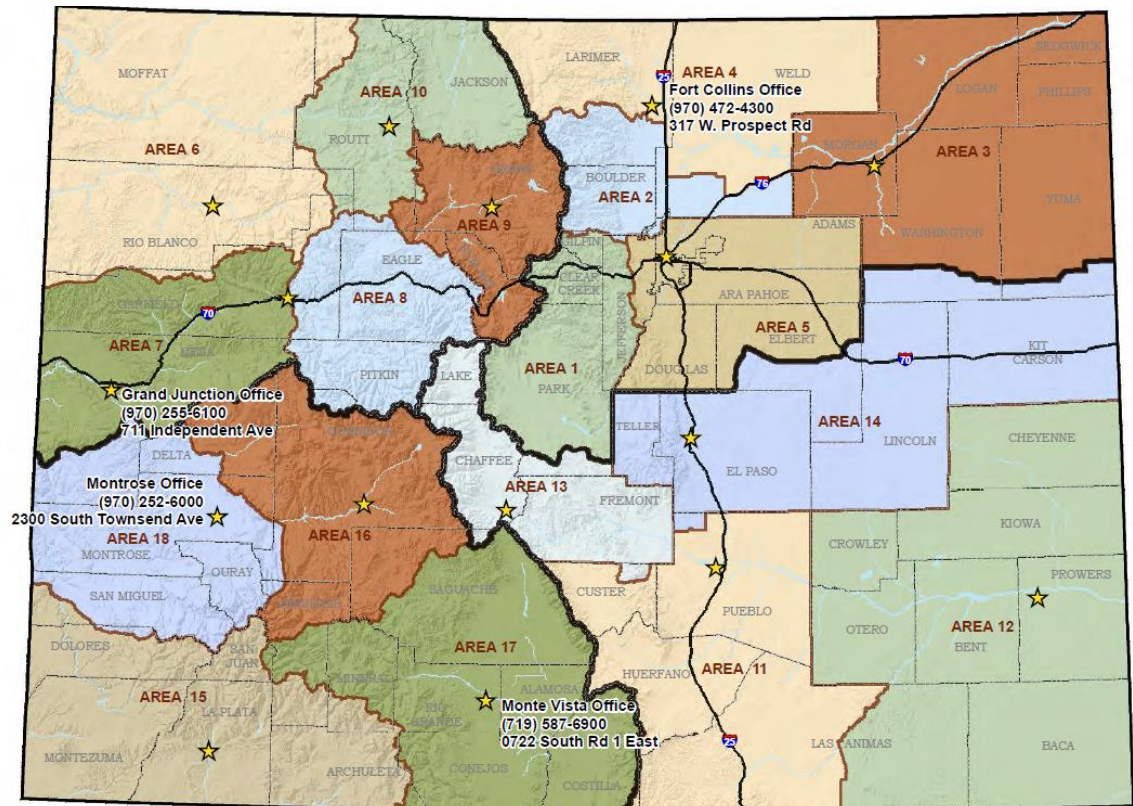


BENEFIT Please describe any anticipated positive impacts on wildlife and/or sensitive species (consider habitat improvement such as restoration of native habitat, wetlands restoration, erosion reduction, sediment reduction, river corridor clean-up, or plantings with a diversity of species and plant types for habitat restoration, and the reduction or elimination of non-native plant species; education of users through environmental education programs, opportunities for “watchable wildlife,” and wildlife impact monitoring).

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE The applicant is responsible for adhering to all applicable environmental compliance regulations including, but not limited to Migratory Bird Treaty Act; concurrence with US Fish and Wildlife Service if any federally listed species of concern exist in project area; Clean Water Act section 404; US Army Corps of Engineers 404 permits; raptor buffer guidelines and incorporation of CPW recommended wildlife best management practices; CO Senate Bill 40 (33-5-101-107, CRS 1973 as amended); Colorado Historical, Prehistoric and Archeological Resources Act.

Colorado Parks & Wildlife Contact Information and Map

Northeast Region				
	Area	Name	Email	Phone
1	Staunton State Park	Mark Lamb	mark.lamb@state.co.us	303.291.7241
2	Fort Collins	Jason Duetsch	jason.duetsch@state.co.us	970.472.4461 720.665.4858 (c)
3	Brush	Todd Schmidt	todd.schmidt@state.co.us	970.768.7830
4	Fort Collins	Jason Surface	jason.surface@state.co.us	303.472.4315
5	Denver	Matt Martinez	matt.martinez@state.co.us	303.291.7122
Northwest Region				
	Area	Name	Email	Phone
6	Meeker / Craig	Bill de Vergie	bill.devergie@state.co.us	970.878.6061
7	Grand Junction	Kirk Oldham	kirk.oldham@state.co.us	970.255.6178
8	Glenwood Springs	Matt Yamashita	matt.yamashita@state.co.us	970.947.2927
9	Hot Sulphur Springs	Jeromy Huntington	jeromy.huntington@state.co.us	970.725.6210
10	Steamboat Springs	Kris Middledorf	kris.middledorf@state.co.us	970.871.2842
10	or	Josh Dilley	josh.dilley@state.co.us	970.723.4625
Southeast Region				
	Area	Name	Email	Phone
11	Pueblo	Mike Brown	mike.brown@state.co.us	719.561.5303
12	Lamar	Todd Marriott	todd.marriott@state.co.us	719.336.6603 719.668.9241 (c)
13	Salida	Sean Shepherd	sean.shepherd@state.co.us	719.530.5526
14	Colorado Springs	Tim Kroening	tim.kroening@state.co.us	719.227.5218
Southwest Region				
	Area	Name	Email	Phone
15	Durango	Adrian Archuleta	adrian.archuleta@state.co.us	970.375.6770
16	Gunnison	Brandon Diamond	brandon.diamond@state.co.us	970.641.7069
17	Monte Vista	Rick Basagoitia	rick.basagoitia@state.co.us	719.588.8200
18	Montrose	Rachel Sralla	rachel.sralla@state.co.us	970.252.6010





Kensington Neighborhood Group

December 13, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

The Kensington Neighborhood group is pleased to express our strong support for the Resilient Together Project: Neighborhood Cooling and Community Building. We were one of the first neighborhoods in Longmont and this project is an important step in addressing some of the challenges our neighborhood faces today, especially the rising threat of extreme heat to many of our residents living in older homes.

The Kensington Neighborhood Group has partnered with the City of Longmont and participated in the Neighborhood Group Leaders Association (NGLA) for over twenty years to improve our community. The NGLA is a network of registered neighborhood groups that brings residents together to solve local problems and build stronger, more resilient communities using resources provided by the City. However, increasing modern challenges like heat waves and other climate-related issues require more resources to protect our neighborhood and maintain a strong sense of community.

The Kensington Neighborhood was identified by the City of Longmont as a priority area due to the diversity of our community and the difficulties many of our residents' face. Low-income families, children, and seniors here are especially affected by extreme heat, many don't have air conditioning at home, including the largest apartment complex Stonehenge, and there are few other cooling options available. The splash pad would be close to Stonehenge and provide respite from the heat. The proposed splash pad at Kensington Park will be a much-needed addition, providing a safe and fun way for residents to cool off in warmer months.

In addition to the splash pad, other planned improvements such as shaded gathering spaces will create more opportunities for neighbors to connect. These spaces will allow us to hold meetings, celebrations, and educational events, helping to build a stronger, more resilient community.

We believe the Resilient Together Project is a great investment in Kensington's future and aligns with the city's long-standing commitment to supporting neighborhoods. The additional funding of \$450,000 needed to complete the splash pad is essential to making this project a success.

The Kensington Neighborhood Group is proud to support this project and looks forward to seeing the positive impact it will have on our neighborhood. Thank you for considering this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Charlie Beck, Stephanie Beck, Ruth Dennhardt, Ann Morales, Ben Pfaff, Charlotte Pfaff, and Osvaldo Jane-Gomez

Kensington Neighborhood Group Leadership Team

12/11/2024

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Longmont Police Department, I am writing to express our strong support for the Resilient Together Project: Neighborhood Cooling and Community Building. This initiative is not only an investment in equitable outdoor recreation but also a critical step in enhancing public safety and strengthening community ties in Kensington, Lanyon, and Spangler neighborhoods.

Our department has a long history of collaboration with these neighborhoods. We opened the police substation at 600 Martin Street, providing a dedicated presence to foster safety and stability. Beginning in the early 2000s we partnered with residents to address gang-related activity through the Gang Response, Intervention, and Prevention (GRIP) program. These efforts were complemented by active neighborhood engagement to combat gang violence, address substandard housing conditions, and improve the overall quality of life for residents.

The Resilient Together Project builds on this legacy by reactivating neighborhood parks as vibrant, safe spaces for residents of all ages. Parks that are well-used by families, seniors, and children naturally deter criminal activity and reinforce positive social behaviors. The proposed splash pad and shaded gathering spaces at Kensington Park will not only provide relief from extreme heat but also attract a diverse group of residents to reclaim these public spaces as hubs of recreation and community connection. This will help mitigate issues such as loitering, vandalism, and other negative behaviors that arise when parks are underutilized.

We have witnessed firsthand the power of community-driven initiatives to transform neighborhoods. The engagement process for this project, which has prioritized the voices of residents, particularly those from traditionally underserved populations, is exactly the type of collaborative effort that fosters trust and long-term partnerships between residents and public agencies like ours. By creating spaces where neighbors can gather, interact, and form stronger connections, the Resilient Together Project aligns with our department's mission to build a safer, more connected Longmont.

We are confident that this project will have a lasting impact, not only by addressing the immediate need for cooling amenities but also by contributing to a safer, healthier, and more vibrant community. The requested \$450,000 in supplemental funding to install the splash pad at Kensington Park is essential to fully realize the project's potential and meet the expectations of residents who have invested their time and voices into this process.

The Longmont Police Department remains committed to supporting efforts that enhance the safety and well-being of all residents. We stand firmly behind the Resilient Together Project and urge you to approve the necessary funding to make this vision a reality.

MPO Sara Aerne

Neighborhood Resource Officer

City of Longmont | Department of Public Safety

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OFFICE 303-774-3696

250 Kimbark Street | Longmont, Colorado 80501





Friday, December 6, 2024

To the Board of Great Outdoors Colorado,

On behalf of Thorne Nature Experience, I am pleased to offer our enthusiastic support for the Resilient Together Project: Neighborhood Cooling and Community Building. As a partner in the Generation Wild initiative, we are deeply invested in creating opportunities for children and families in Longmont to connect with nature, play outdoors, and build strong community ties.

The need for the amenities outlined in the Resilient Together Project is strongly supported by our recent community engagement efforts in the City of Longmont. Although we are still processing the full engagement results, preliminary findings highlight the community's desire for more shade and water features in parks.

Among the 357 survey respondents, 287 identified shade and/or water as important features when asked, "What features are important to you when visiting a park?" The options provided were:

- Shade
- Places to sit
- Places to grill
- Walking and biking paths
- ADA-accessible features
- Sports fields and fitness courts for athletic purposes
- Jungle gyms and playgrounds for kids
- Water

Additionally, focus groups with children aged 3 to 17 further emphasized the importance of water features. Over 100 young participants were invited to draw, paint, and build models of parks where they would like to spend time. Many of their designs prominently featured water elements, underscoring their appeal and relevance to youth in our community.

The proposed amenities in the Resilient Together Project, including the splash pad, shaded gathering spaces, and additional park features, are transformative elements that will significantly enhance our ability to deliver outdoor programming. While we are still crafting our future programming together with the city of Longmont and many other partners, we see a great potential in implementing Resilient Together Project. These amenities align with our mission to inspire and engage the next generation of environmental stewards and can support a wide range of activities for families and children, particularly those in underserved neighborhoods like Kensington, Lanyon, and Spangler.



The splash pad, for example, can serve as a dynamic and interactive space for Generation Wild programs focused on water play and environmental education. Programs like *"Splash into Science"* could incorporate lessons on the water cycle, water conservation, and the importance of urban cooling solutions, allowing children to learn while enjoying safe and active play. Additionally, this amenity provides an excellent backdrop for family-oriented events designed to encourage outdoor recreation and social connection during the hot summer months.

We also anticipate a benefit of having a combination of amenities: a shaded gathering space as well as water play at one location at Kensington Park for hosting family engagement events, which will enable us to provide meaningful activities and comfort during summer months to participants of all ages. We know that the ability to participate as a family is crucial to building community engagement, particularly among historically excluded communities, while also deepening the experience and serving as a stepping stone to additional nature connection opportunities.

It is important to state that we know unequivocally from our Generation Wild work in Lafayette that when parks feature amenities specifically requested by the community, they are used. We have seen this both through initial Generation Wild capital projects including the nature play area at Sanchez Elementary and the un-reservable pavilions at Waneka Lake but also through the recent construction of our own nature center.

Beyond programming, the revitalization of these parks ensures that the families we serve will have safe, welcoming places to spend time outdoors, which is a cornerstone of building a lifelong connection to nature. The integration of community-driven design and culturally relevant features will help ensure that residents feel a sense of ownership and pride in these spaces, further encouraging their use and participation in our activities.

Thorne Nature Experiences is proud to be part of a collaborative effort to bring equitable access to outdoor recreation and environmental education to Longmont's most vulnerable neighborhoods. The proposed amenities of the Resilient Together Project will serve as vital resources for Generation Wild programming and other community-focused programs, creating opportunities for residents of all ages to connect with nature, their neighbors, and the broader Longmont community.

We wholeheartedly support the city's request for supplemental funding of \$450,000 to install the splash pad at Kensington Park and ensure the realization of this impactful project. Together, we can create vibrant, resilient spaces that inspire a lifelong love of the outdoors and foster a stronger, healthier community.

Sincerely,

Rachel Brett
Director of Community Partnerships
Thorne Nature Experience





December 10, 2024

Re: City of Longmont Application for Kensington Park

On behalf of the Longmont Community Foundation, I am pleased to express our enthusiastic support for the *Resilient Together Project: Neighborhood Cooling and Community Building*. This visionary initiative aligns seamlessly with the Foundation's mission to enhance the well-being of Longmont residents by supporting projects that prioritize equity, sustainability, and fostering strong community connections.

The *Resilient Together Project* addresses critical challenges facing our community, including the growing risks of extreme heat, social isolation, and inequitable access to quality public spaces. By focusing on the Kensington, Lanyon, and Spangler neighborhoods—areas identified as highly vulnerable by tools such as the Colorado EnviroScreen, the CDC's Social Vulnerability Index, and EPA's EJScreen—this project directly serves some of Longmont's most under-resourced and diverse populations.

We commend the city's extensive community engagement efforts, which ensure this project reflects the true needs and aspirations of local residents. The planned splash pad and shaded gathering spaces at Kensington Park are innovative cooling solutions and vital hubs for social connection. By involving underrepresented voices throughout the project's development—from surveys to design workshops—the city has created a vision that fosters inclusivity, ownership, and belonging for residents.

The *Resilient Together Project* will deliver both immediate and lasting benefits. Cooling amenities like the splash pad will provide relief during extreme heat events, while enhanced public spaces encourage recreation, reduce heat island effects, and strengthen social ties. This initiative exemplifies how thoughtful, community-driven design can contribute to a healthier, more resilient Longmont.

Additionally, the collaboration and resourcefulness demonstrated in funding this project are impressive. Leveraging ARPA funds, Boulder County's sustainability tax, and Parks Capital Funding reflects the city's dedication to delivering on its promises. However, the current budget gap for the proposed splash pad at Kensington Park poses a critical obstacle. We strongly support the city's request for an additional \$450,000 to ensure this essential amenity becomes a reality.

As a trusted advocate for Longmont's future, the Longmont Community Foundation believes the *Resilient Together Project* is a transformative investment in our city's equity, sustainability, and quality of life. We are proud to support this initiative and urge your approval of the supplemental funding necessary to complete it. Together, we can create a Longmont where every resident, regardless of background, has access to safe, inclusive, and vibrant public spaces.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Hozempa". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and a stylized "H".

Eric Hozempa

CEO

Longmont Community Foundation



CITY OF LONGMONT | Human Services/Children, Youth, and Families

December 5, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Longmont Youth Center, I am excited to express our strong support for the Resilient Together Project: Neighborhood Cooling and Community Building. This initiative is an incredible opportunity to enhance the well-being of the youth and families we serve by providing safe, engaging, and accessible outdoor spaces in neighborhoods that need them most.

The proposed splash pad at Kensington Park, located within a 10-minute walk for many of the youth we serve, is particularly exciting. Access to a water-based amenity like this is a game-changer for youth programming, offering opportunities for play, physical activity, and education in a fun and inclusive setting. During the summer months, we envision hosting 'Splash and Learn' events that combine water play with lessons on heat safety and environmental awareness, as well as family-focused evening gatherings to strengthen community bonds.

Beyond the splash pad, other features included in the Resilient Together Project, such as shaded gathering spaces, swings, and a misting feature, provide excellent opportunities for youth programming. These amenities create inviting locations for 'Art in the Park' workshops, fitness challenges, and leadership development activities. They also offer much-needed spaces where youth can safely connect with peers and mentors in a natural setting, promoting social and emotional development.

We know from our experience that access to safe, well-maintained, and vibrant outdoor spaces is essential to fostering positive outcomes for young people. The Kensington, Lanyon, and Spangler neighborhoods have long needed amenities that encourage outdoor recreation and provide relief from extreme heat. This project ensures that these needs are met, creating spaces that youth and families will enjoy and take pride in for years to come.

The Longmont Youth Center is proud to support this visionary project and looks forward to collaborating with the city to bring impactful programming to the new amenities. We fully endorse the city's request for supplemental funding of \$450,000 to complete the splash pad at Kensington Park, a vital component of this community-driven effort to revitalize public spaces and promote resilience.

Thank you for considering this transformative project that will benefit Longmont's youth, families, and the broader community.

Sincerely,

Hilda Zamora Hursh

Hilda Zamora Hursh, LCSW, LAC

Children, Youth, and Families Division Manager

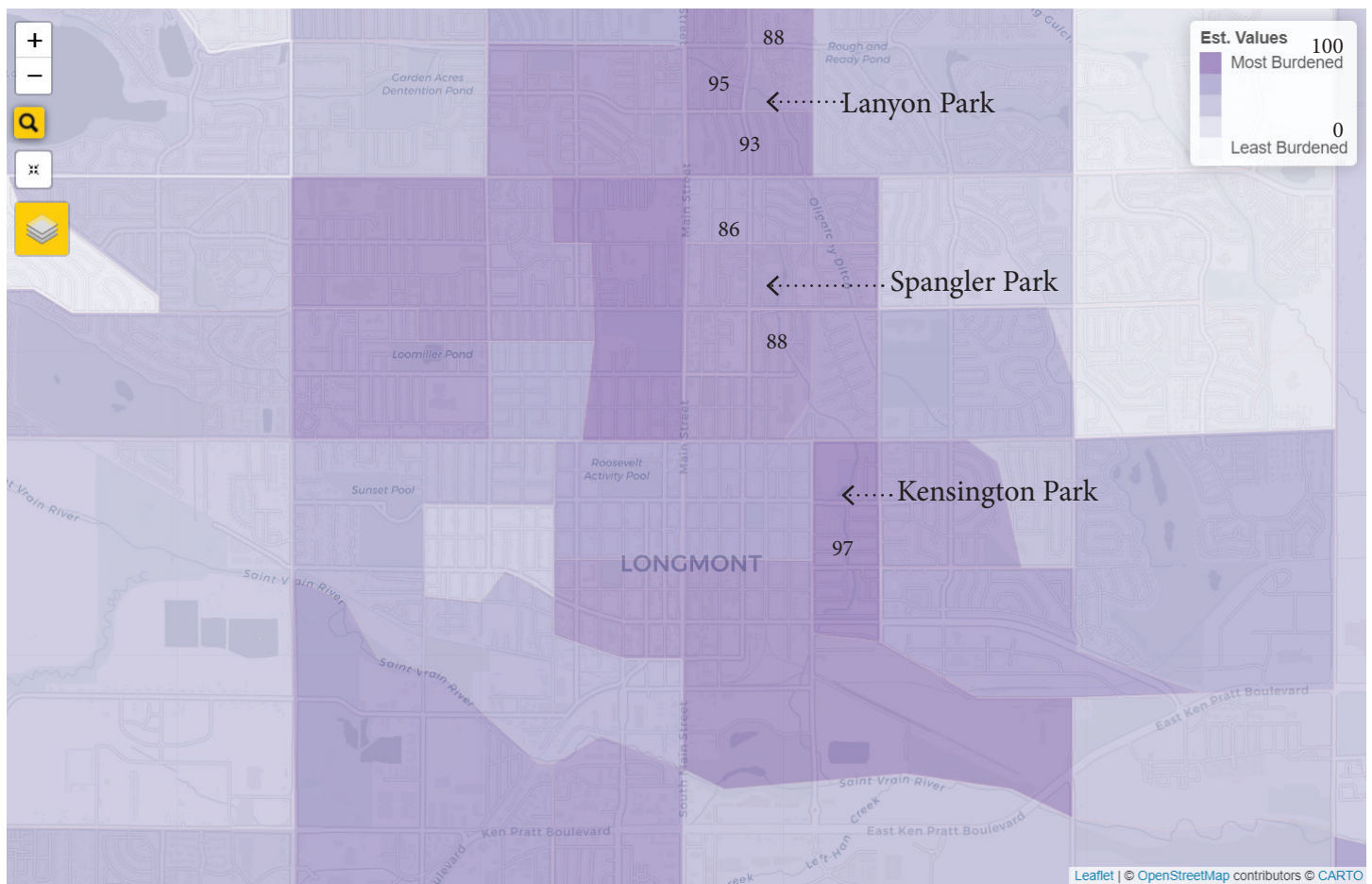
Longmont Youth Center

Colorado EnviroScreen Map. City Of Longmont.

Colorado EnviroScreen is an environmental justice mapping tool that uses population and environmental factors to calculate an “EnviroScreen score.” A higher EnviroScreen score means the area is more likely to be affected by environmental health injustice.

Colorado EnviroScreen does:

- Show which areas in Colorado are more likely to have higher environmental health injustices.
- Identify areas in Colorado where government agencies can prioritize resources and work to reduce pollution and other sources of environmental injustice.
- Provide information to empower communities to advocate to improve public health and the environment.
- Identify geographic areas that meet the definition of disproportionately impacted communities under Colorado law (House Bill 23-1233, C.R.S. § 24-4-109(2)(b)(II)).



EnviroScreen Score: The EnviroScreen Score combines population characteristics and environmental burdens. The score goes from 0 to 100, with the highest score representing the highest burden. The EnviroScreen score is a percentile, which is like a ranking. The number represents how many of the state’s counties, census tracts, or census block groups have a lower score than the area in question.

Kensington block group has an EnviroScreen score of 97. This means its EnviroScreen score is higher than 97% of all block groups in Colorado. In other words, 97% of block groups in Colorado are less likely to be affected by environmental health injustices than the block group of Kensington Park.



Digitized Map of community votes on cooling solutions at Kensington Park.



Left: “Grass to Garden: Kensington Park Turf Conversion” event of the Heat Watch Campaign. Residents voting for amenities and selecting their location on the map.

Below: Area of Kensington Park selected by a lot of residents as a good place for a water feature.



Right: Community Workshop of the Heat Watch Campaign. Residents voting for amenities and selecting their location on the map.

Below: The Kensington Park Unity Mural, created in the 80s with neighborhood children, highlights the area’s long history of community participation.





Left and Below: Drawings produced by 4-7 years old children during engagement Focus Group with families lead by Thorne Nature Kids with facilitation support by the city. The location is 1,000' away from Kensington Park. Interactive water features were part of most of the drawings. 8/16/2024



Right and Below: Playground models produced by high school children during Engagement Focus Group lead by Thorne Nature Kids with facilitation support by the city at the Longmont Youth Center. The location is 1,700' away from Kensington Park. Swings, shade structures, interactive water features were part of all designs. 10/08/2024



Total Project Budget	\$1,645,200.00
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