

**LET'S  
BE  
EPIC!**



**TO HELP CONNECT PEOPLE.**

**NEIGHBORS  
WITH NATURE :  
ERIE'S NATIVE  
PLANTING INITIATIVE**



**IN A DIVIDED WORLD.**



-  **SERVICE**
-  **FRIENDSHIP**
-  **COMMUNITY**



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[2. Is it FAIR to all concerned? Complete](#)

[3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS? Complete](#)

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## Overview: Complete

The Native Colorado Plants Planting Project is a collaborative effort between the Erie Rotary Club, the Town of Erie, and the Friends of Coal Creek aimed at restoring and beautifying public spaces along Coal Creek.

This project aligns with the Erie Rotary Club's EPIC Day of Service initiative, scheduled for May 19th. The project aims to enhance biodiversity, support pollinator communities, and engage the community in environmental stewardship.

## Mission Statement: Complete

Our mission is to cultivate a vibrant and resilient community in Erie by restoring and enhancing public spaces with native Colorado plants. Through collaborative efforts with the Erie Rotary Club, the Town of Erie, and the Friends of Coal Creek, we aim to promote biodiversity, support pollinator populations, and engage residents in environmental stewardship. By planting the seeds of change along Coal Creek, we strive to create a sustainable and welcoming habitat that fosters pride, connection, and well-being for generations to come.

**The Native Colorado Plants Planting Project aligns with The Four-Way Test in the following ways:**

### 1. Is it the TRUTH? Complete

The project aims to promote truthfulness by providing accurate information about the importance of native plants, pollinators, and community engagement in environmental stewardship. All communications and educational materials will be based on factual information to ensure transparency and integrity.

### 2. Is it FAIR to all concerned? Complete

The project ensures fairness by providing equal opportunities for participation and involvement to all members of the community, regardless of background or affiliation. Everyone is welcome to contribute to the project, and efforts are made to ensure inclusivity and diversity in all aspects of planning and execution.

### 3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS? Complete

The project fosters goodwill and strengthens friendships by bringing together diverse stakeholders, including Rotarians, scout groups, residents, and community organizations, to work towards a common goal. Through shared experiences and collaborative efforts, participants build connections, trust, and mutual respect, fostering a sense of unity and camaraderie within the community.

### 4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned? Complete

The project aims to be beneficial to all involved by improving the local environment, enhancing biodiversity, and promoting community well-being. By planting native plants and supporting pollinator populations, the project contributes to the health and resilience of ecosystems while providing educational opportunities and fostering a sense of pride and ownership among residents. Additionally, the project creates opportunities for personal growth, leadership development, and civic engagement, benefiting individuals and the community as a whole.

## Project Details Idea ▾

### Importance of Native Plants and Restoring Public Spaces: Idea ▾

Native plants play a crucial role in maintaining ecosystem health and biodiversity. They are adapted to local soil, climate, and wildlife, making them resilient and sustainable choices for landscaping and restoration projects. By planting native species, we can restore and enhance natural habitats, conserve water, and reduce the need for chemical inputs. Moreover, restoring public spaces with native plants improves aesthetics, recreational opportunities, and overall community well-being.

### Plants to be planted:

TBD

### Value of Pollinator Communities: Idea ▾

Pollinators, including bees, butterflies, birds, and bats, are essential for the reproduction of flowering plants and the production of fruits and seeds. They contribute to crop pollination, ecosystem stability, and biodiversity conservation. Planting native plants that provide food and habitat for pollinators is crucial for supporting these vital species. By creating pollinator-friendly habitats, we can ensure the continued health and resilience of ecosystems while promoting food security and agricultural sustainability.

### Need for Community Projects and Engagement: Idea ▾

Community projects like the Native Colorado Plants Planting Project foster a sense of ownership, pride, and connection among residents. By actively participating in environmental initiatives, community members can contribute to the preservation and enhancement of local ecosystems. Engaging volunteers from diverse backgrounds, including Rotarians, scout groups, and residents, promotes collaboration, education, and civic engagement. These projects not only benefit the environment but also strengthen social ties, build community resilience, and inspire future generations to become environmental stewards.

### Marketing and Awareness Plan: Idea ▾

Marketing and awareness efforts will commence in March and continue through April and early May to generate enthusiasm and participation for the project. Strategies will include

1. the creation of promotional videos and social media posts highlighting the importance of native plants and the upcoming project.
2. Development of informative brochures and handouts for distribution at town events and community gatherings.
3. Distribution of traditional press releases to local news outlets to garner media coverage and raise awareness.
4. Utilization of various communication channels, including email newsletters, website announcements, and signage, to reach a wide audience and encourage participation.

### Volunteer Engagement: Idea ▾

Volunteers are essential for the success of the Native Colorado Plants Planting Project. We are targeting 50 volunteers to be a part of this event on the planting day (not including the scouting group). Three groups of volunteers will be involved:

1. **Rotarians:** Rotarians will serve as coordinators, educators, and planters on the day of the project. They will provide guidance, support, and expertise to ensure the smooth execution of the planting activities.

2. **Scout Groups:** Boys and girls scout groups will participate in the project to learn about the local ecosystem and contribute to community service. Their involvement promotes environmental education, leadership development, and civic engagement among youth.
3. **Community Volunteers:** Residents from the greater Erie community are encouraged to join the project and support the efforts of the Rotary Club. Their participation fosters a sense of community pride, connection, and environmental stewardship.
4. **Friends of Coal Creek (TBD):**

By mobilizing diverse volunteers and stakeholders, the Native Colorado Plants Planting Project will make a meaningful impact on the environment while strengthening community ties and fostering a culture of sustainability in Erie.

### Volunteer Needs

- 1) Zeffy Sign Up Idea ▾
- 2) Waivers - before the day? Idea ▾
- 3) Waiver Check Day of Idea ▾
- 4) +50 Non-Scout Volunteers Idea ▾
- 5) Social Media Call for Volunteers Idea ▾

### Scout Volunteers

We have engaged with four Boy Scout packs and the local Girl Scouts, inviting them to join us in our native planting initiative along Coal Creek. Their contact information has been provided, and we are eagerly awaiting their participation. These groups will have the honor of kicking off the day, allowing them the first opportunity to contribute to the project and make a tangible impact on their community. By giving them a chance to get started before the rest of the resident volunteers arrive, we hope to maximize the efficiency and productivity of our efforts, ensuring that we accomplish as much as possible toward our goal of transforming public spaces into vibrant habitats for native Colorado plants.

1. Pack 62 Mike Newman [scouting@mrnewman.org](mailto:scouting@mrnewman.org)
2. Troop 62 Michael Guilkey [chavran@gmail.com](mailto:chavran@gmail.com)
3. Troop 49 Molly Sabatino [molly.scout49@gmail.com](mailto:molly.scout49@gmail.com) - Interested pending confirmation
4. Troop 62 is Curtis Havran at [chavran@gmail.com](mailto:chavran@gmail.com) - Interested pending confirmation
5. Girls Scouts of Colorado Website

### Education Engagement:

#### Plant Identification and Characteristics: Complete ▾

Providing education on native Colorado plants is essential for participants to understand the importance of planting indigenous species. A workshop or informational session prior to the event can cover plant identification, characteristics, and their roles within the ecosystem. Visual aids such as posters or handouts featuring common native plants along Coal Creek can aid in learning and recognition.

#### Ecosystem Interactions: Complete ▾

Educating volunteers about the interconnectedness of plants, pollinators, and other wildlife within the ecosystem is crucial. Understanding how native plants support pollinator populations and provide habitat for other species fosters an appreciation for the importance of biodiversity. Interactive activities or demonstrations can illustrate these concepts effectively.

**Planting Techniques and Best Practices:** Complete ▾

Guiding proper planting techniques and best practices ensures the success of the project. Workshops or demonstrations on planting depth, spacing, and watering requirements for native plants help volunteers make informed decisions during the planting process. Hands-on activities such as mock planting stations or guided practice sessions can reinforce learning and build confidence among participants.

**Environmental Stewardship and Community Engagement:** Complete ▾

Emphasizing the importance of environmental stewardship and community engagement fosters a sense of responsibility and ownership among participants. Discussions on the broader impacts of the project, such as improving water quality, enhancing recreational opportunities, and fostering community pride, inspire volunteers to become advocates for environmental sustainability. Highlighting the role of volunteers in achieving these goals reinforces their sense of purpose and encourages continued involvement in future initiatives.

**Education Needs**

- 1) Reading Materials? Idea ▾
- 2) Seedling Give-Aways for Scouts? Idea ▾

**Fundraising:**

**Fundraising Platform** Idea ▾

The Fund Raising Platform is provided the the EDoS.

**Commitment to the Annual Fund:** Idea ▾

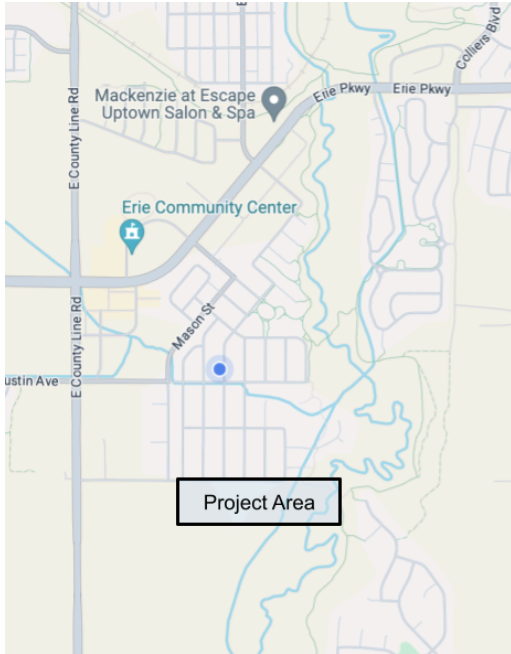
100% of the fundraising profits will be returned to the Rotary Annual Fund, attributed equally to each member of the Erie Rotary Club

**Budget:**

Item	Unit Cost	Total	Notes
Stone Marker (Rotary)	\$600	\$600	
Handout Plants (Scouts)	\$2-\$4	\$300	
Water	\$50	\$50	
Snacks	\$300	\$300	
Plants	\$25-\$50	\$3000	
Temporary Fencing	\$500	\$500	
Temporary Signage	\$300	\$300	
Printed Marketing Materials	\$200	\$200	
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$5250</b>	

Project Map:

City Map Idea ▾



Project Area Idea ▾



## Project Site **Idea** ▾

TBD

## Project Timeline (Pre): **Idea** ▾

Rotary Education: Casey will discuss the value of the Plants and Animals This project will support along the coal Creek.

- 1) Why we chose the site for the project
- 2) What is brought to the community
- 3) What the future might look like (if needed)

Site Preparation - Auger and Hold making 1-week prior **Idea** ▾

Site Preparation - Flag and Rope off Area 1-day prior or day of **Idea** ▾

Site Preparation - Plant Delivery - TBD **Idea** ▾

## Project Timeline (Day Of):

### Pre: Site Set Up **Idea** ▾

- a) Rotary Canopy and Flags
- b) Water and Snacks
- c) First Aid Needs
- d) Soil Amendment - Fertilizer
- e) Set up temporary fencing

### Phase 1: Scout Start **Idea** ▾

- a) Education (30-minutes)
- b) Planting (30-1 hour)

### Phase 2: General Volunteering **Idea** ▾

- a) Rotation(s)
  - i) Education, Safety, and Signatures (30 minutes)
  - ii) Planting Session (30-90 minutes)

### Breakdown: Site Clean-up **Idea** ▾

- a) Rotary Canopy and Flags
- b) Water and Snacks
- c) First Aid Needs



## Key Contacts:

### Erie Rotary Club and Charity

**Pre: Marketing and Promotion of the Event, Gathering Volunteer Commitments**

**Day of: Volunteer coordination and operations support on the day of the project.**

Kevin T. Taylor , Rotary President Elect, EPIC day of service Co-Chair - 303-502-0810 - [kevin@investmentwithinsight.com](mailto:kevin@investmentwithinsight.com)

Marty Noonan, Rotary Quartermaster, EPIC day of service Co-Chair - 314 605-7692- [kevin@investmentwithinsight.com](mailto:kevin@investmentwithinsight.com)

### Ongoing Maintenance of the Project Site

Kevin T. Taylor , Rotary President Elect, EPIC day of service Co-Chair - 303-502-0810 - [kevin@investmentwithinsight.com](mailto:kevin@investmentwithinsight.com)

Marty Noonan, Rotary Quartermaster, EPIC day of service Co-Chair - 314 605-7692- [kevin@investmentwithinsight.com](mailto:kevin@investmentwithinsight.com)

### Friends of Coal Creek

**Pre: Biological Expertise and Project Planning**

**Day of: Subject matter expert for Educational Aspects**

Casey Lyons, [friendsofcoalcreek@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofcoalcreek@gmail.com)

### Town of Erie - Open Space

**Pre: Biological Expertise and Project Planning, Materials**

Joel Brunger, trails superintendent, [jbrunger@erieco.gov](mailto:jbrunger@erieco.gov) - 303-926-2887 Cell: 303-917-3859|

**Day of: TBD**

TBD

## Social Media Ideas

**Social Media Idea (1):** Idea

[https://www.canva.com/design/DAF8V3f-38o/lbplpT6qw1aDerjmtGDPTA/edit?utm\\_content=DAF8V3f-38o&utm\\_campaign=designshare&utm\\_medium=link2&utm\\_source=sharebutton](https://www.canva.com/design/DAF8V3f-38o/lbplpT6qw1aDerjmtGDPTA/edit?utm_content=DAF8V3f-38o&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton)

**Social Media Idea (2):** Idea ▾

Talk about Plants Event Reminder

**Social Media Idea (3):** Idea ▾

Talk about Erie Rotary Event Reminder

**Social Media Idea (4):** Idea ▾

Talk about Friend of Coal Creek Event Reminder

**Social Media Idea (5):** Idea ▾

Day of!!!!

**Social Media Idea (6):** Idea ▾

Gratitude

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



## SUNDAY MAY 19TH

**5.19.24**

**LET'S BE EPIC!**



### We Need Help From You

#### Nature with Neighbors

- ✓ Help learn about pollinators and plant life along the Coal Creek
- ✓ Cultivate a vibrant and resilient community in Erie by restoring and enhancing public spaces with native Colorado plants.



**Sunday, May 19th, 2024**

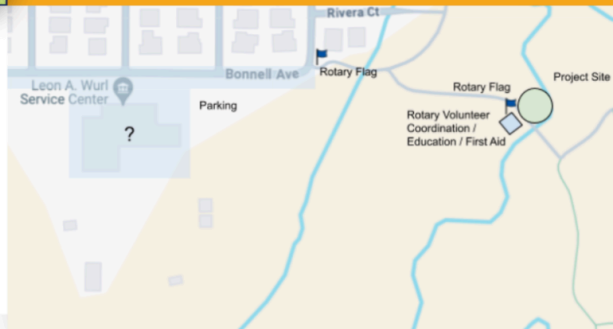
2 Hour shifts start At : 10:00am till 1:00PM

Coal Creek Open Space, South of Bonnell St.

**REGISTER NOW**



[rotarydayofservice.org](https://rotarydayofservice.org)



[Embargoed until March 1, 2024]

### **With Nature, with Neighbors: Erie's Native Planting Initiative Takes Root**

**Erie, Colorado - March 1, 2024** - With a shared vision of environmental stewardship and community pride, the Erie Rotary Club, in partnership with the Town of Erie and the Friends of Coal Creek, is excited to announce the launch of With Nature, with Neighbors: Erie's Native Planting Initiative. This collaborative effort aims to restore and enhance public spaces along Coal Creek with native Colorado plants, fostering biodiversity, supporting pollinator populations, and uniting residents for a common cause.

Set to coincide with the Erie Rotary Club's EPIC Day of Service on May 19th, 2024, the initiative seeks to transform open spaces east of the Leon A. Wurl Service Center into thriving ecosystems that reflect Erie's commitment to sustainability and environmental preservation.

"Our community is at the heart of this initiative," said Jolene McKenna, President of the Erie Rotary Club. "Nature with Neighbors is not just about planting flowers; it's about cultivating a deeper connection to our environment and to each other. Together, we can make a lasting impact for generations to come."

Volunteers from all walks of life are invited to join the effort. Friends of Coal Creek will provide leadership and expertise, scouting groups will engage in hands-on learning about local ecosystems, and community members will roll up their sleeves alongside Rotarians to plant seeds of change along Coal Creek.

"Within the ethos of "Nature with Neighbors" resides the spirit of togetherness and joint action." said, Justin Brooks Mayor of Erie "By joining hands to enrich our environment with native foliage, we don't solely embellish landscapes; we strengthen ties and lay the groundwork for Erie's flourishing future."

Through education, outreach, and grassroots action, With Nature, with Neighbors aims to cultivate a sense of pride, ownership, and environmental responsibility among Erie residents. Together, we can sow the seeds of a more sustainable and vibrant future for our community

If you would like to volunteer your time you can register here:

If you would like to financially support this initiative click here:

For more information about Nature with Neighbors: Erie's Native Planting Initiative and how to get involved, please contact Kevin T. Taylor at 303-502-0810 or [Kevin@investmentwithinsight.com](mailto:Kevin@investmentwithinsight.com).

#### **About the Erie Rotary Club:**

The Erie Rotary Club is a service organization dedicated to making a positive impact in the Erie community and beyond. Through various projects and initiatives, the club promotes service above self, fosters goodwill, and builds connections among community members.

#### **About the Town of Erie:**

The Town of Erie is a vibrant and growing community located along the Front Range of Colorado. Committed to sustainability and quality of life, the town strives to preserve natural resources, promote economic vitality, and enhance the well-being of residents.

#### **About the Friends of Coal Creek:**

The Friends of Coal Creek is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the natural beauty and resources of Coal Creek and its surrounding areas. Through advocacy, education, and stewardship, the organization works to promote environmental conservation and community engagement.

**Contact:**

Kevin T. Taylor at 303-502-0810 or [Kevin@investmentwithinsight.com](mailto:Kevin@investmentwithinsight.com).

Press Release (April): **Complete**

[Embargoed until April 1, 2024]

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Erie's Native Planting Initiative Gains Momentum as "Nature with Neighbors" Enters the Next Phase**

**Erie, Colorado - April 17, 2024** - *Nature with Neighbors: Erie's Native Planting* Initiative is picking up speed as it enters its next phase of planning and implementation. Spearheaded by the Erie Rotary Club and the Friends of Coal Creek, this community-driven project aims to transform public spaces along Coal Creek into vibrant and sustainable habitats for native Colorado plants.

The Erie Rotary Club will be putting more than \$5,000 in investments into the project along with over and expected 300 volunteer hours to bring this project to fruition. This will be the largest single project this club has ever accomplished and we look forward to continuing the push to bring this to more locations along the coal creek.

Building on the success of previous outreach efforts, the initiative is thrilled to announce several exciting developments as it continues to gain momentum:

**Community Engagement Events:** *Nature with Neighbors* will host a series of community engagement events throughout the event to educate residents about the importance of native plants and pollinators. These events will include interactive workshops, guided nature walks, and hands-on planting demonstrations, providing participants with the knowledge and skills needed to support the initiative.

**Partnership Expansions:** The initiative is pleased to announce new partnerships with local businesses and organizations committed to environmental stewardship. These partnerships will provide additional resources and support for the project, further enhancing its impact and reach within the community.

**Youth Involvement Initiatives:** With a focus on inspiring the next generation of environmental stewards, the initiative will launch youth involvement initiatives, including educational programs in local schools and youth-led planting projects. These initiatives aim to empower young people to take an active role in conservation efforts and foster a lifelong appreciation for nature.

**Volunteer Recruitment Drive:** *Nature with Neighbors* is actively recruiting volunteers from the Erie community to participate in planting events and other project activities. Individuals of all ages and skill levels are encouraged to get involved and make a difference in their local environment.

"We are thrilled to see the overwhelming support and enthusiasm for *Nature with Neighbors*," said Mary Noonan, Project Co-Chair for the Erie Rotary Club. "This project truly embodies the spirit of community collaboration and environmental stewardship. Together, we can create a lasting legacy of sustainability and biodiversity in Erie."

As the initiative moves forward, organizers are committed to ensuring that all residents have the opportunity to participate and contribute to the project's success. *Nature with Neighbors* invites community members to join in this transformative effort to enhance Erie's natural landscape and strengthen connections within the community.

For more information about With Nature, with Neighbors: Erie's Native Planting Initiative and upcoming events, please visit <https://eriecorotary.com/nature-with-neighbors/> or contact Kevin T. Taylor at 303-502-0810 or eriecorotary@gmail.com.

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**About the Friends of Coal Creek:**

The Friends of Coal Creek is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the natural beauty and resources of Coal Creek and its surrounding areas. Through advocacy, education, and stewardship, the organization works to promote environmental conservation and community engagement.

Press Release (May): **Idea**

[Embargoed until May 1, 2024]

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Nature with Neighbors: Erie's Native Planting Initiative Blossoms into Community Celebration**

**Erie, Colorado - May 1, 2024** - Nature with Neighbors: Erie's Native Planting Initiative is gearing up for a community-wide celebration of nature, sustainability, and community pride this month. This transformative project, led by the Erie Rotary Club and the Friends of Coal Creek, has captured the hearts and imaginations of residents as it enters its final phase of implementation.

As the initiative prepares for planting day on May 19th, excitement is building throughout the Erie community. With Nature, with Neighbors has become more than just a project; it's a movement that unites neighbors, empowers volunteers, and celebrates the natural beauty of Erie.

"We are thrilled to see the enthusiasm and support from the Erie community for Nature, with Neighbors," said Marty Noonan, Co-Chair for the Erie Rotary Club Project. "This project truly embodies the spirit of community collaboration and environmental stewardship. It's inspiring to see residents come together to make a positive impact on our local environment. This is why our local club in partnership with the broader Rotary has committed to a \$5,000 investment in our town"

The planting day festivities will kick off with a community breakfast and rally at the Leon A. Wurl Service Center, where volunteers will gather to receive their assignments and gear up for a day of planting native Colorado plants along Coal Creek. Throughout the day, participants will work side by side, digging, planting, and watering, as they transform public spaces into vibrant habitats for native flora and fauna.

In addition to the planting activities, the celebration will feature live music, food trucks, and family-friendly activities, creating a festive atmosphere of camaraderie and community spirit. Residents of all ages are invited to join in the fun and be a part of this historic event.

"We are proud to be part of a community that values sustainability and environmental stewardship," said Casey Lyons founder and director of Friends of Coal Creek. "With Nature, with Neighbors is a shining example of what can be achieved when neighbors come together to make a difference. I encourage all residents to join us on May 19th and be a part of this exciting initiative."

As Erie comes together to celebrate With Nature, with Neighbors, the initiative serves as a reminder of the power of community collaboration and the importance of preserving our natural heritage for future generations. Through collective action and shared vision, Erie is creating a legacy of sustainability and environmental stewardship that will endure for years to come.

For more information about With Nature, with Neighbors: Erie's Native Planting Initiative and how to get involved, please visit <https://eriecorotary.com/nature-with-neighbors/> or contact Kevin T. Taylor at 303-502-0810 or eriecorotary@gmail.com.

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**Things to remember:**

Chairs

Sunscreen

Cans of water and jugs of water

Pop ups

How to dress

Hats

Tunes

## **Rotary Grant Application Cover Letter:**

Dear Rotary District 5450 Grant Committee,

We are writing to request funding for the Native Colorado Plants Planting Project, a collaborative effort between the Erie Rotary Club, the Town of Erie, and the Friends of Coal Creek. Our project aims to restore and beautify public spaces along Coal Creek, enhancing biodiversity, supporting pollinator communities, and engaging the community in environmental stewardship.

### **Assessment of Community Needs:**

The Native Colorado Plants Planting Project addresses the community's need for green spaces and promotes environmental awareness and stewardship. Through partnerships and consultations with local nonprofits, residents, and our town's Open Spaces employees, we identified a desire for projects that enhance the natural beauty of Erie along our beloved Coal Creek. This project fosters a strong sense of community pride and connection to the environment and our natural spaces.

### **Development and Management of a Project Plan:**

Our project plan includes detailed timelines, budgets, and strategies for volunteer recruitment, plant selection, and educational outreach. We have assembled a project team comprising members of the Erie Rotary Club, the Town of Erie, and the Friends of Coal Creek to oversee the planning and execution of the project, ensuring that it aligns with community needs and goals.

### **Project Implementation:**

The Native Colorado Plants Planting Project will be implemented on May 19th, as part of the Erie Rotary Club's EPIC Day of Service. Volunteers will gather at designated planting sites along Coal Creek to plant native Colorado plants, guided by trained Rotarians and environmental experts. We will provide all necessary materials and resources to ensure the success of the planting activities.

### **Financial Stewardship of Grant Funds:**

Grant funds will be managed transparently and responsibly to maximize their impact on the project. We will maintain detailed records of expenditures and provide regular

updates to the grant provider on the progress of the project. Any unused funds will be returned to the grant provider or if below \$500 allocated to future environmental initiatives in Erie, and likely to begin the next tract of land we want to improve.

The Erie Rotary Club has set up a separate bank account to manage grant funds. All due transparency will be freely given by the club treasurer.

**Promotion of the Project through Rotary Signage and Publicity:**

We will promote the Native Colorado Plants Planting Project through Rotary signage and publicity channels to raise awareness and generate enthusiasm for the project. Rotary banners and signs will be displayed at planting sites, and press releases will be distributed to local media outlets to highlight the project's impact on the community. The social media and traditional media rollout is part of the project plan.

**Conclusion:**

The Native Colorado Plants Planting Project aims to create a sustainable and welcoming pollinator and animal habitat along Coal Creek, fostering pride, connection, and well-being within the community. We appreciate your consideration of our grant request and look forward to the opportunity to make a meaningful impact on the environment and the lives of residents in Erie.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Kevin T. Taylor President-Elect, Erie Rotary Club and Charity.

## Recapitulation:

...

## Media Sightings:

Hometown Weekley

<https://www.coloradohometownweekly.com/2024/05/13/erie-community-gears-up-to-plant-trees-for-the-nature-with-neighbors-a-native-planting-initiative-event/>

Daily Camera

<https://www.dailycamera.com/2024/05/13/erie-community-gears-up-to-plant-trees-for-the-nature-with-neighbors-a-native-planting-initiative-event/>

Times-Call

<https://www.timescall.com/events-calendar/#!/details/nature-with-neighbors-erie-pollinator-project/13412185/2024-05-19T10>


Fox 31

[https://kdvr.com/community-calendar/?\\_escaped\\_fragment\\_=/show/?ser=qno#!/detail/s/nature-with-neighbors-erie-pollinator-project/13412185/2024-05-19T10](https://kdvr.com/community-calendar/?_escaped_fragment_=/show/?ser=qno#!/detail/s/nature-with-neighbors-erie-pollinator-project/13412185/2024-05-19T10)

AllEvents.in


[https://allevents.in/erie/nature-with-neighbors/200026473673733?ref=footer-up-eventlist#google\\_vignette](https://allevents.in/erie/nature-with-neighbors/200026473673733?ref=footer-up-eventlist#google_vignette)

## Erie Park and Rec FB

 Erie Parks & Recreation  
5 days ago · 🌐

Pollinator Habitat Outreach Event this Sunday!

Sunday, May 19  
9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
East of Leon A. Wurl Service Center | 150 Bonnell Avenue  
E... See more



TODAY AT 9 AM  
**Pollinator Habitat - Outreach Event**  
150 Bonnell Ave, Erie, CO 80516, United States  
Shared to Erie Colorado

☆ Interested

**Follow Up Items:**

Write up a press release with post-execution stats and images. 42 Community Volunteers, 24 scouts, and parents, in addition to the FoCC and Rotary volunteers. We had several drop-ins, and people who just saw it on Facebook or at the town fair showed up and surprised us, a few registered volunteers also brought a spouse or friend. These are the numbers that we "know of".

Need to buy "take home plants" for the scouts that showed - 20 plants. Need Casey to tell us what the name of the plant is, we (Rotary/KT) will get them and get them delivered to the scouts.

Get out invites for the social (5/30), Rotary will grill up some brats and burgers, provide the fixings and sides, and have a drink (adult and kids) at the project site. Will need to have people bring chairs to sit on. We have 3 pop-up tents and tables to put out the food only.

Subject: Recap of the "Nature with Neighbors" Event and Next Steps

Dear Team,

I hope this message finds you well. I wanted to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of our recent "Nature with Neighbors" event. Special accolades go to Joel and his team from the town, as well as Casey and his team from the Friends of Coal Creek (FoCC), for their exceptional efforts and dedication. You both were so great at rolling with the surprises and keeping all of the volunteers engaged and focused on the project. I only heard good things about the two of you and how friendly and supportive you all were.

### **Event Recap:**

We had an incredible turnout, with 42 community volunteers, 24 scouts, and their parents participating alongside volunteers from the FoCC and Rotary. The Rotary expected 28 volunteers and 9 scouts as of 5/18. We were delighted by several drop-ins, including individuals who saw our event on Facebook or at the town fair, as well as some registered volunteers who brought a spouse or friend. We even had a pair of bikers just riding through that put down their bikes and picked up McLeod's to lend a hand. These numbers reflect the participants we are aware of, and the overall response was truly overwhelming. These pictures look great - the field was full!



### **Press Release:**

We (Rotary) needs to draft a press release highlighting these achievements, including post-event statistics and images to showcase the impact of our collective efforts.

### **Take Home Plants for Scouts:**

To show our appreciation for the scouts who participated, we need to purchase 20 "take-home plants." Casey, could you please provide us with the name of the plant? The Rotary team (Marty and I) will handle the procurement and delivery of these plants to the scouts.

### **Signage (Pending):**

We will connect with Joel Brunger to further the permanent marker to adorn the site. We have no timeline for this yet, but I think we built the right kind of credit to get something small, and permanent laid near that site.

### **A Fall Event:**

We will connect with Vinita to see what we have in grant money left and get something scheduled to revisit this in the fall. Casey - I hear you say the coming months are packed so we will let you attend to that, but I think we will have a few thousand leftovers we can create an extension on the grant to accommodate a second day of planting.

### **Upcoming Social Event:**

We are planning a social event on May 30th to celebrate our success and foster community spirit. We will send out invites and registrations (free) for the event. The Rotary team will be grilling brats and burgers, providing fixings and sides, and offering drinks for both adults and children. The event will be held at the project site.

#### Logistics:

- Rotary will provide all the food and drinks
- Attendees will need to bring their own chairs.
- We have three pop-up tents and tables to set up the food.
- Marty and I will connect with Lew and Kari (the membership team) to get an expected headcount.



If there is something we discussed out there as a follow-up item from this event that I forgot, let me know.

Thank you all once again for your hard work and commitment. Let's continue to build on this success and look forward to the upcoming social event.

Cheers,

# EDoS: Nature with Neighbors Project post-execution report

## Overview

The **EDoS: Nature with Neighbors** project aimed to create a community pollinator garden, enhancing local biodiversity and providing an educational and recreational space for residents.

The project, a collaboration between Friends of Community Conservation (FoCC), the Rotary Club, local scouts, and community volunteers, was meticulously planned and executed, resulting in an outcome that far exceeded expectations.

This report outlines the post-execution statistics, images, and details of the project, demonstrating how a well-organized community effort can achieve remarkable success and set a precedent for future initiatives.

## Volunteer Participation

The project saw a substantial volunteer turnout, exceeding initial expectations. The volunteers included:

- - ~42 Community Volunteers
- - 24 Scouts and Parents
- - Friends of Coal Creek Volunteers
- - Rotary Volunteers

Additionally, several individuals joined spontaneously, having learned about the project through Facebook or the town fair. Some registered volunteers also brought along spouses or friends. These numbers represent the volunteers we are aware of, and the actual count might be higher.

## Project Execution

The project wrapped up in approximately half the anticipated time, (major operations were coming in by about 11:35) showcasing the efficiency and dedication of the

volunteers. The combined efforts significantly accelerated the planting and setup processes.

## **Fundraising Success**

We will a report put together with Vinita on some numbers from this stage in the project, but the scope will likely expand per the success of this single day.

The fundraising efforts surpassed expectations:

- Corporate Donors: Two corporate donors contributed a total of over \$4000.
- Small Donors: Several small donors contributed an additional \$1300+.
- Matching Grant funds of \$2,625 have been received.

## **Budget Utilization**

The budget for the project was utilized more efficiently than anticipated:

- Plant Costs: The expenditure on plants was about half of the expected amount.
- City Contributions: The city covered the costs for fencing, mulch and soil, signage, and other essential items.

Much of the budget was consumed by items that can be reused in future projects of this nature. New water jugs and other hardware have been returned to the Quartermaster for future projects.

Nonreusable items, snacks, and food we will need for the social event will build goodwill and better friends, and build our reputation as a good group to volunteer for.

With the remaining budget, we are well-positioned to undertake a second, slightly larger-scale project in the fall.

## **Community and Town Response**

The town and community were highly impressed with the volunteer turnout and the project's success. This confidence has led to the town actively scouting for the next pollinator space, which is expected to be identified within the next eight weeks.

## Social Event

To celebrate the project's success and foster community spirit, a social event barbecue will be hosted on the project site on May 30th. The Rotary will provide brats and drinks, and dozens of community members have committed to attending.

## Follow-up Items

- **Scouts' "Take Home Plants":** Due to the high volunteer turnout, the scouts' "take home plants" were planted in the ground to maximize productivity. An order for giveaway plants will be placed tomorrow and delivered to the scoutmasters this week.
- **Informational Signage:** Orders for informational signs on the plants will be placed soon. We are also working with the town to approve a more decorative "Erei Rotary" sign to be placed at the project site.
- **Next Event Planning:** Planning for the next event in the fall has already begun.

## Post-Execution Statistics and Images

- - Total Volunteers: 66+
- - Total Funds Raised: \$5300+
- - Project Duration: Half the anticipated time

The overwhelming support from the community and efficient budget management have set a solid foundation for future projects. We look forward to continuing our efforts in enhancing community spaces and fostering environmental conservation.

Prepared by: **Kevin T. Taylor and Marty Noonan**

Date: 5/20/2024

EDoS: Nature with Neighbors Project Co-Chairs