



MEDIA RELEASE

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THE CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION AWARDED SAFER STREETS GRANT

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. March 17, 2023 – The City of Grand Junction was awarded a \$555,000 Safer Streets Grant from the Colorado Department of Public Safety in the Division of Criminal Justice. The grant will be used for several improvements in the Parks and Recreation system including lighting upgrades at four city parks as well as providing secure storage containers for parks equipment. The lighting and storage will enhance the safety and usability of the parks while deterring vandalism and other crimes. The lighting and placement of the containers are expected to be complete this summer.

“The city is focused on ensuring the community’s parks are safe and comfortable, especially with increased use due to warmer weather that is right around the corner,” said Parks and Recreation director Ken Sherbenou. “This generous grant is just the most recent of our efforts to improve the parks with a particular focus on those that are historic and located in the heart of our city.”

The new lighting will provide safety, comfort, and extended activation opportunities for community members to help reduce trespassing, vandalism, and theft. Sixty LED lights will be upgraded or installed at Whitman, Columbine, Hawthorne, and Sherwood Parks. Four conex containers will provide secure storage of park equipment and help prevent vandalism and theft at Las Colonias, Matchett, and Columbine Parks as well as the city Shops and Park Operations office. These grant funds will implement Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles in the parks which have been proven to reduce crime.

The reactivation of these parks is outlined as a priority in the 2021 Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Master Plan for the parks and recreation system. [More information about the PROS Master Plan.](#)

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