

# SECTION I: *Cover Sheet*

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

<b>Organization Name:</b>	Common Outdoor Ground
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Ashley Quick
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	2124 Rainbow Ave.
<b>Phone:</b>	307-460-0133
<b>E-mail:</b>	commonoutdooground@gmail.com
<b>Web:</b>	https://www.commonoutdoorground.org/

**Type of Organization:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation/Arts and Culture	<input type="checkbox"/> Civic/Quasi-Governmental
<input type="checkbox"/> Social Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

**Requested Amount for FY23/24:** City \$3,000 County \$8,000

**Will this amount be used to leverage additional funds either through grants or other means?**

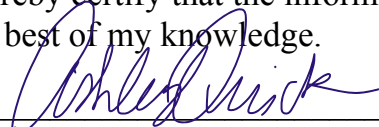
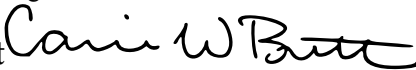
Yes  No

**If you marked YES, indicate the amount of additional funds that will be leveraged and note whether these are estimated or actual.**

\$20,000  Estimated  Actual

**Description of request:** Using the space below, *briefly* describe how your organization will use these funds and how the proposed program/project will benefit the community. ***A more detailed description is requested in Section III.*** Funding for general operating expenses in service of city and county-wide volunteer projects.

**Declaration:** I hereby certify that the information give in this application for Community Partner funding is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

<b>Agency Director</b>		<b>Ashley Quick</b>	<b>02/14/2023</b>
	Signature	Print Name	Date
<b>Board President</b>		Carrie W Bennett	2/13/23
	Signature	Print Name	Date

## **SECTION II: *Organization History***

### **Organizational History and Mission**

Provide a mission statement and brief history of your organization in Laramie and/or Albany County, including services provided to area residents.

Common Outdoor Ground (COG) is a community organization providing volunteer support for the sustainability of outdoor spaces in southeast Wyoming. Since 2018 we have completed nearly 50 projects, with over 600 volunteers working almost 3,000 volunteer hours. This labor is valued at over \$78,000. In 2022 alone we reopened 25 campsites at Lake Owen Campground, cleaned up more than 26 dispersed campsites in the Pole Mountain area, completed 9 miles of trailwork, and removed over a mile of fencing to improve migration coordinators.

Our projects increase access to recreation and leisure opportunities county wide, make our recreation areas more sustainable, promote a sense of community, and give people a greater sense of ownership over their public lands. We hope to apply as a community partner each year, and we have requested funds that will be utilized during the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

### **Organizational Structure**

List your officers and director(s), indicating their terms of office.

Our board members serve 3-year terms, with opportunity for renewal.

- Carrie Bennett - President
- Ken Cramer - Vice President
- Emily Parsons - Treasurer
- Willow Belden - Secretary
- Sara Ghezzi
- Sam Farstad

## **SECTION III: *Funding Request Justification***

Briefly explain how these funds will be used and why public funds are necessary to accomplish this goal.

Common Outdoor Ground works with community partners to develop a diverse, results-oriented portfolio of volunteer projects each season. We have grown from an entirely board-run organization in 2018 to hiring a salaried, half-time Program and Volunteer Coordinator in 2023. Requested funds will be used to increase our capacity to build diverse partnerships, promote volunteer opportunities, and execute projects. All projects take place on public land including City of Laramie public parks, Vedauwoo, Pilot Hill, Pole Mountain, and the Snowy Range. This makes public funds a necessary part of our fundraising strategy. Our projects not only increase access to recreation, but they also support the health, wellbeing, and character of our

community and its citizens. Our projects teach people about the ecosystem in which they live, stewardship, and outdoor skills.

In addition to maintaining our yearly programming and partners, in 2023 we aim to:

- Develop a series of youth-specific projects
- Complete 2-3 projects with in-town partners

We are in conversation with Big Brothers Big Sisters and Wyoming Equality to develop youth-centered volunteer opportunities that result in tangible outcomes, as well as dovetail with their programmatic goals such as mental health, suicide prevention, and career preparedness. Youth projects will help to build future generations of public lands stewards.

Our goal is to increase our in-town projects to 2-3 per season, and we are particularly interested in working in city parks and along the Greenbelt. We have found that in-town projects make our event portfolio more accessible to a more diverse audience, as well as allow us to expand our season into Spring and Fall.

We are working to diversify and increase our fundraising streams, with the eventual goal of hiring a full-time director as well as seasonal program interns. We are dedicated to sustainable and incremental growth that mirrors an increase in completed volunteer projects, and receiving Community Partner funding through the City of Laramie and Albany County will directly support this goal, as well as enable us to apply for more grants and create more new partnerships. The funding requested will help support an increase in the scope of our Program and Volunteer Coordinator Position for 2024, as well as hire a program intern during this fiscal cycle.

#### **SECTION IV: *Financial Information***

I have attached a Balance Sheet as of December 31st, 2022.

#### **SECTION V: *Fiscal Year Budget Information***

Common Outdoor Ground follows a calendar year funding cycle.

##### **Revenue**

City of Laramie, Community Partner Grant	\$3,000	Pending
Albany County, Community Partner Grant	\$8,000	Pending
County Rec. Board Grant	\$15,000	Pending
Forest Service MOU	\$15,000	Secured
Fundraising	\$10,200	Pending
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$51,200</b>	

**Expense**

Salary Expenses for ½ Time Program and Volunteer Coordinator	\$25,000	
Salary Expenses for Program Interns	\$10,000	
Tools & Equipment	\$7,000	
General Operating Expenses	\$5,700	
Marketing & Promotion	\$1,500	
Insurance	\$1,200	
Software	\$800	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$51,200</b>	

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Software	\$800	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$51,200</b>	

# Balance Sheet

## Common Outdoor Ground

As of Dec 31, 2022



ACCOUNTS	Dec 31, 2022
<b>Assets</b>	
<b>Cash and Bank</b>	
0011 CHECKING (427)	\$29,703.68
<b>Total Cash and Bank</b>	<b>\$29,703.68</b>
<b>Other Current Assets</b>	
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Long-term Assets</b>	
<b>Total Long-term Assets</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$29,703.68</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Payroll Liabilities	\$519.45
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$519.45</b>
<b>Long-term Liabilities</b>	
<b>Total Long-term Liabilities</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$519.45</b>



<b>Equity</b>	
<b>Retained Earnings</b>	
Profit for all prior years	\$17,547.42
Profit between Jan 1, 2022 and Dec 31, 2022	\$11,636.81
<b>Total Retained Earnings</b>	<b>\$29,184.23</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$29,184.23</b>