



District Grant Final Report 2023-2024

This report must be completed and uploaded on matchinggrants.org within 30 days after completion of the project but no later than 2 years after the date of approval of the project. For scholarships, the report is due 30 days after payment of funds.

District Grant # P-4757

Rotary Club: **Greeley Centennial**

Project Title: **Poudre Learning Center Water Education**

Project Description:

1. **Is this a scholarship governor's grant report?** Yes No (If yes, go directly to line 16)
2. **Briefly describe the project.** What was done and where did the project activities take place?
Explain how the beneficiaries and other community members were involved?

Application Narrative: Poudre Learning Center Mission:

In cooperation with the Poudre Learning Center Board of Directors and staff, the Poudre Learning Center Foundation (PLCF) exists to recommend, promote and encourage community support for excellence in outdoor, experiential learning and education, and to provide funding for land stewardship, infrastructure projects and educational programming at the Poudre Learning Center (PLC). The PLCF was founded in 2015 to oversee fundraising efforts, and to establish an endowment to fund programming and site management for the PLC.

Founded in 1995, the Poudre Learning Center is affiliated with Weld School District 6 and the Eaton School District RE2, serving as these District's science, technology, engineering, math (STEM) center focused on experiential outdoor education, fostering an appreciation for and sense of stewardship of natural resources upon which residents and visitors to our community expect. PLC's vision and mission Statement is: "To awaken a sense of wonder and inspire environmental stewardship and citizenship by educating K-12 students through outdoor experiences and inquiry based learning." Prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the PLC campus hosted over 10,000 student visits annually. The PLC hosted around 5,000 this past year, and has expanded programs and infrastructure to expand services, anticipating 10,000+ students in 2023-2024. Additionally, countless residents and visitors use our campus to walk our trails, fish the pond, observe wildlife and find fulfillment and a sense of wellbeing in the great outdoors. PLC's open space also furnishes essential habitat for plants and wildlife throughout the year, in an area quickly

changing due to development, with an incomparable setting and spectacular views of the Front Range and the Cache la Poudre River Watershed.

Water supply/availability in Colorado is a serious and complex issue. The Colorado Water Plan encourages education on water issues as a tool for protecting and enhancing water management. A better understanding of hydrology by the public will bring better decisions on floodplain management and protection. As one of the leading agricultural counties in the United States it is imperative for community members to better understand the history, regulatory requirements, and priority in distribution of invaluable water resources. As part of a six-phase project, the PLC is constructing a multimodal outdoor classroom with hands-on interactive teaching tools to inform students about complex interactions of natural resources (soils, plants, water, and geology) formed where Greeley is located, and how they shape our current and future culture and economy. The outdoor classroom will be an attractive amenity, drawing visitors to our community. Greeley Centennial Rotary will support landscaping and ADA accessibility:

1. A 65-foot stream flume modeling hydrologic impacts and geomorphic constraints that influence stream and floodplain dynamics; including erosional, aggradational, and channel forming phenomenon
2. A raised platform with large rocks for a seating/active play area, metaphorically representing the Mummy Range, headwaters of the Cache la Poudre with an ADA accessible trail.

PLC's primary focus is K-12 students! Currently, the PLC is able to host approximately 10,000 students yearly. With building interest from schools and other groups we anticipate increasing use as the community re-engages as our community moves away from COVID restrictions. Additionally, we draw college students from the University of Northern Colorado, AIMS Community College and beyond. The campus is open to the public for individuals and groups seeking quality open space in Greeley to explore and recreate on.

Through our shared work, Greeley Centennial Rotary and the PLC will continue our long tradition of being a leader in building programs that engage the community on outdoor education/natural resources learning, teaching best management practices for natural resource management, and stewardship appreciation for the outdoors.

Describe the benefit to the community and/or improve lives:

This project will primarily support the area of focus of Rotary International of Education. Providing water education to K-12 students will increase understanding and problem solving capacity as water shortages continue to challenge the western United States.

Sustainability:

Members of our Greeley Centennial Rotary Club have a long-standing history and relationship with the Poudre Learning Center. The PLC has a strong network of volunteer support, in addition to financial support from numerous school districts in Northern Colorado, and organizations such as our own. The PLC is the flagship project of the Greeley Centennial Rotary Club.

Active Rotarian Involvement:

The Greeley Centennial Rotary Club continues to be active in collaborating with the Poudre Learning Center, and there are a few Rotarians who are members of the PLC Foundation Board. Our continued investment in the PLC and the proximity of the PLC to our community enables many Rotarians to provide active hands-on service and education in the ongoing operations at the PLC.

Total Project Budget: \$7,500.00

3. **How many Rotarians participated in this project?** 10 Rotarians worked on this project.
4. **What did they do? Please give at least two examples.** Rotarians coordinated efforts with this project from Greeley Centennial Rotary. This work included planning, communications, and organizing of materials and people. Additionally, this included the physical work and operation of machinery at the Poudre Learning Center. Multiple work party days were scheduled, completing the project in Spring 2024. Rotarians Chris Woodruff and Jen Gehrman supported through bookkeeping and record keeping.
5. **How many non-Rotarians benefited from this project?**

Staff from the Poudre Learning Center stated that the PLC currently supports around 7,000-10,000 school-aged students annually, hundreds of college students, and countless visitors who frequent the area as part of the Poudre River Trail system.

6. Who are the beneficiaries and what is the expected long-term community impact of this project?

The immediate beneficiary of this project is the Poudre Learning Center, and tens of thousands of school-aged students will benefit from this project in the years to come. Part of this project provided a handi-capped accessible ramp to the seating area, which also benefits the limited mobility community. The completion of this project is phase I of a three-phase project, all of which support the Bond Patio water education project. Water is an essential resource in the northern Colorado area, and educating our youth about the critical need for sustainable water usage will have a long-term impact beyond the PLC project and the Rotarians who have worked on it.

7. If a cooperating organization was involved, what was their role?

The Poudre Learning Center and Greeley-Evans School District Six are the cooperating organizations and beneficiaries of these grant funds. The PLC helped to ensure that the dollars were spent to fulfill the intent of the grant and ensure that phase I of the project was completed and that students and the community are provided access to this new area.

8. Income:

Income Source	Amount
Greeley Centennial Rotary Match	\$2,500.00
District 5440 Match	\$5,000.00
Total Project Income	\$7,500.00

9. **Expenditures:** (number receipts starting with 1 and indicate a receipt # (s) for each expenditure) (Do not include travel expenses)

Item #	Description	Total
1	Poudre Learning Center Water Education, Phase I (Cancelled Check)	\$7,500.00
Total Expenses		\$7,500.00

10. **Please explain any variance of more than 5% between the budgeted amount and the actual amount including the reason for the variance and why the alternative was chosen.**

N/A

11. Project score (5=strongly, 4=agree, 3= neutral, 2=disagree, 1=strongly disagree)

	Project Score	Comments
The overall project was successful	5	Completed with positive results.
The grant process worked well	5	5
My interaction with partner clubs was good	3	N/A
We achieved the results we expected	5	The project was beneficial to the PLC and the community it serves in the Northern Colorado area.

12. **Did you upload photos in your project on matchinggrants.org under the Photos tab?** Yes

13. **What worked well on this project and why?**

This project was successful as it helped to support the needs of a non-profit organization that provides an essential educational and recreational service to the Northern Colorado communities. Many Rotarians were engaged in this project, which was great for providing community service and camaraderie. The grant writing process is well understood and went well, too.

14. **What did not work well and how would you suggest improving it?**

Overall, the project went smoothly with no suggested improvements. We had to reschedule a number of work party dates due to weather and the health of our counterparts at the PLC; however, this was out of our control and did not keep the project from being completed within a year's time.

15. **How was this project publicized?**

A project completion presentation will be made with our Greeley Centennial Rotary club later this year as part of a twice annual update to club members.

16. Scholarship Governor's grant only N/A

Project Inventory

Please list all items provided in this grant that are over \$500 in value and are not expendable.

Item Purchased	Date of Purchase	Cost	Initial Destination/ Location	Comments
N/A				

By signing this report, I confirm that to the best of my knowledge these District Grant funds were spent only for eligible items in accordance with Trustee-approved guidelines, and that all the information contained herein is true and accurate. Receipts for all grant-funded expenditures are attached. I also understand that all photographs submitted in connection with this report will become the property of RI and will not be returned. I warrant that I own all rights to the photographs, including copyright, and hereby grant the District, RI and TRF a royalty free irrevocable license to use the photographs now or in the future, through the District and the world in any manner it so chooses and in any medium now known or developed. This includes the right to modify the photographs as necessary in the District's and RI's sole discretion. This also includes, without limitation, use on or in the web sites, magazines, brochures, pamphlets, exhibitions and any other promotional materials of the District, RI, and TRF.

Please attach all receipts or an invoice and a copy of the check used to pay the invoice. Funds over \$100 not used must be returned to the district grants treasurer.

Certifying signature of primary contact:



Date: **6/11/2024**

Print name: **Matt Thompson**