



Short-Term Projects 2026-2027 Grant Cycle Project Idea Worksheet

Please **thoroughly** review the project criteria at cwc.utah.gov before submitting your application. Then complete this worksheet and the questions found at the bottom of this page (and letter of support, if applicable) and send to Sam Kilpack at samantha@cwc.utah.gov no later than **February 10, 2026**.

Name of the project:	Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter: East Canyon Creek Restoration 2026
Location of the project:	Park City, Utah: Swaner Preserve on East Canyon Creek
Are you applying as an individual, or an organization? (Please list the name of the organization, if applicable)	Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter, Utah State University
Project contact person:	Rhea Cone
Project contact email address:	Rhea.cone@usu.edu
Project category (check all that apply) <i>*Please note your project is not required to encompass more than one category and will not be evaluated based on number of boxes checked</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation and transit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental protection <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation stewardship <input type="checkbox"/> Economic sustainability
What is the project's expected start date?	June 2026
What is the project's expected completion date?	November 2026
What is the estimated total cost of the project?	\$8,000
How much are you requesting from the CWC?	\$8,000
Have you reviewed your project with the appropriate authorities as outlined in the eligibility requirements , and received their support or approval? If so, please list the name, agency, and position of each person you have spoken to.	N/A
Does your project require any permits, and do you have those permits in-hand?	N/A
Do you have the above-mentioned permits in-hand?	N/A
Does your project require a NEPA?	No
IF YES: Has the NEPA been completed already, or can the NEPA and the project both be completed by June 2026?	
I have carefully reviewed this application for accuracy and completeness. I understand that late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes

Please use the space below to respond to the following questions:

- Briefly describe your idea. How will it implement transportation and transit solutions, protect the ecosystems that originate in the Central Wasatch, steward recreational access, and/or sustain the economic viability of the project area?
- Does this idea result in other benefits to the Central Wasatch and its users beyond what you have described above?



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1. Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter, an Extension site of Utah State University, seeks funding to continue the success of a multi-faceted restoration project on East Canyon Creek in the Snyderville Basin in Park City. Restoration work is ongoing, as part of 30+ years of Swaner Preserve's management of the area, and many partners working on East Canyon Creek as a whole include Trout Unlimited, Basin Recreation, Sageland Collaborative, Utah DWR, and members of the East Canyon Creek Watershed Committee. East Canyon Creek and its tributaries, including more than 4 miles that run through the protected Swaner Preserve property, provide vital habitat for the area's rich biodiversity. This stream reach was added to the 303(d) list of impaired waters in 1992 for not meeting its beneficial use of supporting cold-water aquatic fishes. A TMDL was created in 2000, outlining water quality and quantity issues such as erosion, stormwater runoff, and declining stream flows leading to increased levels of phosphorus and critically low levels of dissolved oxygen. The impacts of these impairments affect more than fish and wildlife alone. Downstream effects include impacts to a vibrant recreation community, agricultural users, and domestic use as water from the stream joins the Weber River and eventually the Great Salt Lake.

The proposed East Canyon Creek Restoration Project will continue successful work funded by the Central Wasatch Commission in 2025 to improve stream-side habitat and restore safe wildlife movement along a significant section of upper East Canyon Creek that is encompassed by the Swaner Preserve. This will be accomplished by:

- o (a) Finishing a project started in 2025 to remove a large quantity of old collapsing fencing which currently presents a safety hazard to wildlife and volunteers and is complicating restoration efforts.
- o (b) Planting native woody vegetation in the riparian area, focusing on vegetation that has demonstrated success establishing on East Canyon Creek.

This request will fund container trees and shrubs that will provide stream shading, reduce streambank erosion, and provide wildlife habitat. Volunteers will be enlisted for planting, providing a rewarding educational opportunity to give back to the community. Removal of extensive areas of degraded fencing will take place by Utah Conservation Corps (UCC) crews. Other costs related to the project, including staff time and supplies, use of Swaner vehicles, or additional plants will be made by Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter to support the project.

- o \$5,000 for one week contracting Utah Conservation Corps to remove the last of the old exclusionary fencing, about 2/3 of which, or 0.6 miles, was removed in 2025 on the banks of East Canyon Creek. Any remaining time for the crew after this task is completed would be used to remove invasive weeds, especially musk thistle, manually from the surrounding riparian area.
 - o \$500 for a 1-week rental of a dumpster to dispose of removed fencing.
 - o \$2,500 for purchase of native trees and shrubs in large (10-15 gallon) container pots. Fewer large diameter trees have proven more successful in past plantings versus a larger quantity of smaller plants (1-5 gallon).
 - o Species could include: Coyote Willow (*Salix exigua*), Peachleaf Willow (*Salix amygdaloides*), Yellow Willow (*Salix lutea*), Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), Wood's Rose (*Rosa woodsii*), Golden Currant (*Ribes aureum*), Narrowleaf Cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*) Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*), River birch (*Betula occidentalis*).
2. Users of the Central Wasatch will experience improved ecosystem health with the increased shading of East Canyon Creek and benefitted riparian habitat. Protection and stewardship of this area, high in the watershed, will



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also impact downstream users. East Canyon Creek flows from the snowmelt of the Park City ridgeline to East Canyon Reservoir, into the Weber River, and finally into the terminal Great Salt Lake. Past tree planting efforts by Swaner Preserve and other partners have shown overwhelming support from volunteers and folks looking for a way to give back to the community and participate in stewardship. The proposed area for restoration work is overlooked by the publicly accessible Stealth, Blackhawk, and Glenwild trails from the Spring Creek Trailhead, where volunteers are often frequent trail users and can observe their work from the trail.