

**ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION REQUEST**

Please email requests to the Mayor’s Legislative Team

at [MileHighOrdinance@DenverGov.org](mailto:MileHighOrdinance@DenverGov.org) by **3:00pm on Monday**. Contact the Mayor’s Legislative team with questions

**Date of Request:** 5/20/2022

Please mark one:  Bill Request or  Resolution Request

**1. Type of Request:**

- Contract/Grant Agreement     Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)     Rezoning/Text Amendment
- Dedication/Vacation     Appropriation/Supplemental     DRMC Change
- Other:

**2. Title:** (Start with *approves, amends, dedicates*, etc., include name of company or contractor and indicate the type of request: grant acceptance, contract execution, contract amendment, municipal code change, supplemental request, etc.)

Approves a cooperative agreement with Environmental Learning for Kids, a non-profit corporation engaged in programmatic activities for environmental education and stewardship, to manage, operate, and maintain the Education Center and adjacent outdoor open space area at Montbello Open Space Park in the Montbello neighborhood.

**3. Requesting Agency:** Denver Parks and Recreation

**4. Contact Person:**

Contact person with knowledge of proposed ordinance/resolution	Contact person to present item at Mayor-Council and Council
Name: Alaina McWhorter	Name: Jesus Orrantia
Email: <a href="mailto:Alaina.McWhorter@denvergov.org">Alaina.McWhorter@denvergov.org</a>	Email: Jesus.Orrantia@denvergov.org

**5. General description or background of proposed request. Attach executive summary if more space needed:**

Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) will manage, operate, and maintain the Education Center within the Montbello Open Space. ELK will provide environmental educational programming and stewardship projects to improve and maintain natural areas and resources and cultivate a passion in science, leadership and service in underserved Colorado youth that will benefit Denver residents and the goals of Parks and Recreation’s *Game Plan for a Healthy City*.

**6. City Attorney assigned to this request (if applicable):** Brian Martin

**7. City Council District:** District 8, District 11

**8. \*\*For all contracts, fill out and submit accompanying Key Contract Terms worksheet\*\***

*To be completed by Mayor’s Legislative Team:*

Resolution/Bill Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Entered: \_\_\_\_\_

## Key Contract Terms

**Type of Contract: (e.g. Professional Services > \$500K; IGA/Grant Agreement, Sale or Lease of Real Property):**  
Cooperative Agreement

**Vendor/Contractor Name:** Environmental Learning for Kids

**Contract control number:** PARKS-202263429

**Location:** 12680 East Albrook Drive, Denver, Colorado 80239

**Is this a new contract?**  Yes  No **Is this an Amendment?**  Yes  No **If yes, how many?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contract Term/Duration (for amended contracts, include existing term dates and amended dates):** Effective date +20 years

**Contract Amount (indicate existing amount, amended amount and new contract total):** N/A

<i>Current Contract Amount</i>	<i>Additional Funds</i>	<i>Total Contract Amount</i>
(A)	(B)	(A+B)
N/A	N/A	N/A

  

<i>Current Contract Term</i>	<i>Added Time</i>	<i>New Ending Date</i>
Effective date +20 years	N/A	Effective date +20 years

**Scope of work:**

ELK will manage, operate, and maintain the Education Center and adjacent outdoor open space area by providing 1) programming opportunities, 2) meeting space for public groups and community organizations, and 3) general maintenance, repair and replacements of improvements. ELK will provide environmental educational programming and stewardship projects to improve and maintain natural areas and resources and cultivate a passion in science, leadership and service in underserved Colorado youth that will benefit Denver residents and the goals of the Parks and Recreation’s *Game Plan for a Healthy City*. The partnership achieves Game Plan goals by enhancing park access, restoring urban open space, expanding environmental education and stewardship opportunities, and activating parks for community events and enhanced engagement. The Education Center and outdoor open space will provide gathering space for community events, programs and activities conducted for the benefit of children, families, partner organizations and sponsors interested in environmental education and stewardship efforts.

Developed in consultation with the Division of Real Estate, this cooperative agreement replaces the existing lease agreement to allow DPR direct oversight in the management and compliance of the agreement. The public purpose of this agreement is to provide for the construction and maintenance of the Education Center and open space, and related operations and activities for the use and benefit of Denver and the Montbello community. The city will benefit from a robust partnership focused on programming for Denver youth, the Montbello community, and the general public. DPR and ELK have partnered to restore Montbello Open Space and create a community hub for programs and activities serving the surrounding neighborhoods.

With funding from DPR’s Park Legacy and Lottery funds, the city appropriated \$1,500,000 for the design and construction of the Education Center, plus an additional \$750,000 for contingency. ELK also contributed \$1,500,000 to the design and construction of the Education Center, demonstrating their capacity to financially and programmatically serve the community. The capital improvement project of the Education Center is nearly complete. This agreement does not commit the city to additional capital improvement projects or funding for the Education Center or Montbello Open Space. Ongoing regular capital maintenance, as outlined in the agreement, is managed by DPR’s regular operating budget.

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**ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING for KIDS and the PARTNERSHIP:**

ELK has spent more than 26 years building an inclusive and diverse community of inspired environmental stewards in Colorado. ELK is an inclusive 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that develops inspired and responsible leaders through science education and outdoor experiences for underserved, urban youth ages 5-25, parents and caregivers. ELK offers several educational opportunities to learn and explore at schools, on field trips, and in Denver’s own backyard. Programs empower youth and their parents to explore the outdoors, prepare for higher education, and plan for careers in natural resources and environmental leadership. 86% of students served through ELK’s school programs qualify for free and reduced-price lunches and over 90% identify as a person of color, providing a significant opportunity to individuals without access to outdoor recreation and personal/professional development. Moreso, ELK has distributed over \$1,000,000 in college scholarships for its students to attend college. With an emphasis on exploring Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) through nature experiences, ELK is empowering the next generation of environmental stewards to achieve personal success while shaping the Denver landscape to be resilient in the face of a changing climate.

ELK opens doors for new opportunities by engaging and mentoring youth through programs that provide a real-life context for learning. Youth experience Colorado’s natural environment, increase their academic science skills, become involved in their neighborhoods and gain exposure to careers in natural resources and the green industry. They grow into stewards and engage members of their communities while cultivating positive educational values and work ethic to ensure high school and college graduation.

**Was this contractor selected by competitive process? NO If not, why not?:** ELK has successfully provided programmatic activities for environmental and stewardship efforts for the benefit and use of the surrounding communities. DPR does not have the resources alone to effectively operate, program, manage, or maintain the Education Center without ELK’s support. Through ELK’s ability to effectively engage the community, ELK is uniquely qualified in operating, programming, and managing the Education Center and adjacent outdoor open-space area. ELK has significantly invested capital in improvements to the Montbello Open Space Park and the design and construction of the new Education Center.

**Has this contractor provided these services to the City before?**  Yes  No

**Source of funds:** N/A

**Is this contract subject to:**  W/MBE  DBE  SBE  XO101  ACDBE  N/A

**WBE/MBE/DBE commitments (construction, design, Airport concession contracts):**

**Who are the subcontractors to this contract?** N/A

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