



What is Grand PLACES 2050?

Grand PLACES 2050 is a coalition of local government entities, nonprofit groups, state and federal land managers, and businesses. We focus on Grand County's PLACES - people, land, access, conservation, ecosystems, and sustainability. Grand PLACES 2050 collaborates to protect and conserve natural and cultural resources while providing equitable access and a quality outdoor recreation experience for current and future generations.

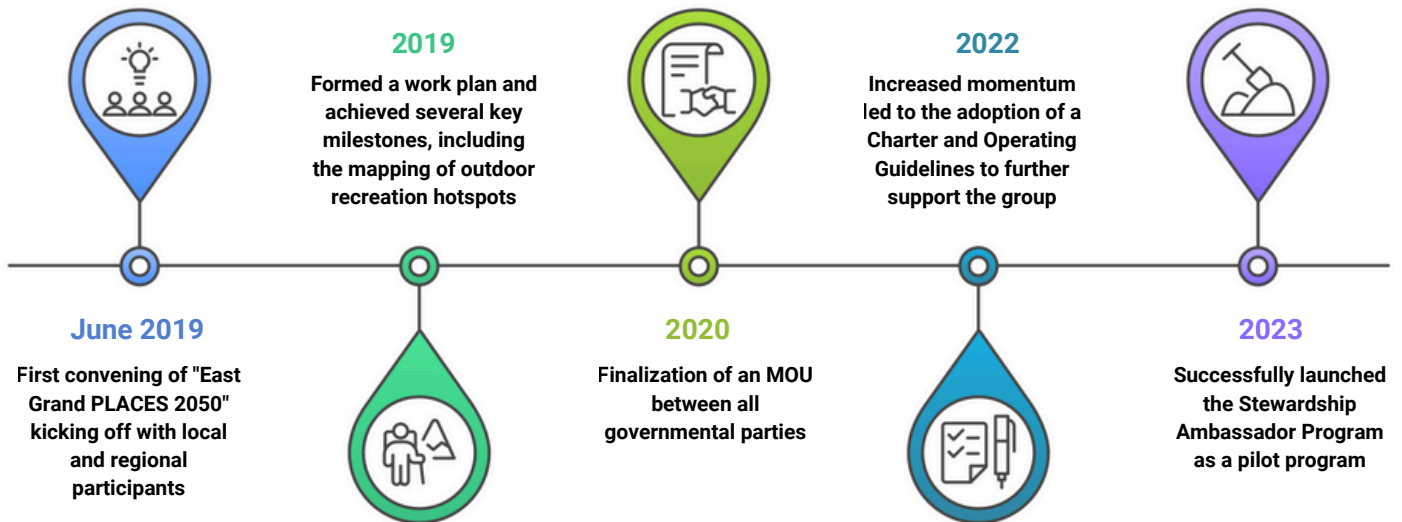
Our Vision

Grand PLACES 2050 strives to become a model coalition that sustainably manages our natural and cultural resources in balance with quality outdoor recreation experiences.

Where We Came From:

A Brief History

Grand PLACES 2050 was formed out of a desire to collaboratively address the rapid growth and demand for outdoor recreation in the region.



June 2019

Leaders from Winter Park Resort, the Town of Winter Park, and the Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forest provided guidance to think through timely questions:

How do we capitalize on the growing outdoor recreation economy? How do we deal with human resource and other constraints? How can we blur jurisdictional boundaries and proactively create solutions to these issues? And finally, how can we move forward?



What We've Been Doing:

2024 Highlights

Collaborative Stewardship Efforts on National Public Lands Day (NPLD)

2024 was the 30th celebration of public lands in Grand County, and to commemorate this landmark, GP2050 members helped organize and implement 13 different volunteer projects. The day's activities culminated in a community celebration, complete with educational booths and appearances from various public land mascots who cheered on the volunteers' efforts. This annual event provided an opportunity for people who recreate on public lands to give back to the valuable recreational spaces that they cherish most deeply.



Did you know?

Over 300 Grand County participants took part in GP2050 partner-led projects in 2024, which totaled to:



15 miles of river stewarded

Over 1,000 pounds of trash removed



Over 1,600 volunteer hours (~\$50,000 in total value)

Bureau of Land Management Wolford Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Play Area (Kremmling)

Rebuilt buck & rail fencing around the boundary at the Wolford OHV Play Area, and completed trash cleanup in the region (below)



Colorado River Cleanup (Kremmling)

Completed trash cleanup both on and off the river near Kremmling (left)

Colorado Parks & Wildlife - Windy Gap Reservoir (Granby)

Removed and repaired fencing, conducted vegetation management (including weed spraying and vegetation trimming), and completed trash cleanup

Fraser River Cleanup (Fraser-Winter Park)

Cleaned up trash along both shore areas of the Fraser River between Fraser and Winter Park with Headwaters River Journey and Trout Unlimited volunteers (right)

Rocky Mountain National Park (Grand Lake)

Completed trail reroute work on the Green Mountain Trail near Kawuneeche Visitor Center outside of Grand Lake

Town of Fraser

Collected native seeds for future reseeding projects



Town of Grand Lake

Removed old decking materials for the pier at Point Park, and replaced with new materials

Town of Winter Park

Completed trail maintenance and turnpike building in the Confluence Park area (left)



Town of Hot Sulphur Springs

Removed 1,000 feet of barbed wire fence, a hazard and barrier to wildlife, in Himebaugh Gulch (above)

Town of Grand Lake/Continental Divide Trail Coalition

Helped brand the downtown boardwalk with the CDT (Continental Divide Trail) blaze



U.S. Forest Service Stillwater Pass Area (Grand Lake)

Built buck and rail fencing as part of the East Troublesome fire recovery work in the Grand Lake area

Headwaters Trails Alliance (across from Winter Park Resort)

Reworked the boardwalk over a water pipe on the Challenger Discovery Loop (above)



Berthoud Pass Cleanup

Collected trash along the Pass roadway with Friends of Berthoud Pass volunteers (above)

Stewardship Ambassador Program



Building on the momentum and successes of the Stewardship Ambassador Program over the past two years, the Grand PLACES 2050 coalition has continued to infuse its collective energy into sustaining and growing this program in 2024. The program utilizes collaboratively developed messaging to deploy both paid and volunteer ambassadors to locations with high public visitation across Grand County. These ambassadors work together to support the common goals of providing sustainable outdoor recreation education and sharing local information with the recreating public. In 2024 alone, this program reached over 45,000 people and over 800 youth.

Program Firsts to Celebrate in 2024



Hired a **full-time, year-round** Coordinator to lead the program, who worked closely with the U.S. Forest Service to train five paid ambassadors to provide public lands information to visitors across the county.

- This increase in capacity allowed the ambassadors to add new locations at Grand Lake, to broaden participation in youth education programs, and to host well-attended off-trail public events.



Delivered the first-ever multiagency public lands day training for frontline employees across Grand County with over 50 public-facing businesses and organizations attending (below).



Looking ahead to 2025, existing and new Ambassadors will be continuing to serve the public's increasing desire to see more education and outreach efforts taking place at trailheads and other popular recreational destinations throughout the county. To date, the program has made over 100,000 contacts at multiple locations, and it has proven to be an essential tool to communicate with visitors and community members on public lands and beyond.

Additional Conservation Wins

- In July 2024, the U.S. Forest Service Grand Lake OHV Trail Crew partnered with Stay the Trail (STT) Colorado to promote responsible OHV use in the Stillwater Pass OHV area. STT and the OHV crew set up a booth in the Idelglen OHV staging area and spoke with the public to reinforce and highlight responsible OHV use. They also handed out educational materials, brochures, and OHV maps in an effort to modify and mitigate the irresponsible use that can damage resources on public land (middle).



- The Town of Hot Sulphur Springs completed a new Comprehensive Master Plan and land use code in November 2024. The plan focused on identifying important values of the town's citizens, which include maintaining its small-town, rural character and planning for managed growth that reflects these values.

Where We Are Going

Strategic Action Plan in the Works



Starting in Fall 2025, Grand PLACES 2050 is excited to be working with a consultant on creating a 5-year Strategic Action Plan, which will serve as a critical foundation to guide our group's next achievements.

In addition to launching this planning process, we are also pursuing additional funding to support key efforts, such as continuing to supply the Stewardship Ambassador Program with part-time, paid ambassadors, as well as equipping the collaborative with regular meeting facilitation services.

Looking Ahead

2025 and Beyond



As Grand PLACES 2050 strives to address the long-term challenges and opportunities associated with the recreation-based economy in Grand County, we look forward to keeping you updated about our journey, including outreach opportunities to help shape and inform future on-the-ground implementation projects.

Please follow along on the webpage below for updates on our Strategic Action Plan and how you can be involved: <https://www.co.grand.co.us/1546/Grand-PLACES-2050>

Participating Organizations

Grand PLACES 2050 is composed of the following members and partner organizations:



For more information on Grand PLACES 2050, visit: <https://www.co.grand.co.us/1546/Grand-PLACES-2050>

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