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Colorado Lottery announces 2026 Starburst Award winners
Projects across Colorado showcase how Lottery dollars support conservation, recreation, and community spaces.

PUEBLO, Colo.— The Colorado Lottery today announced the 2026 Starburst Award winners, recognizing 18 projects across the state that demonstrate outstanding use of Lottery proceeds in Colorado communities, marking a record-breaking year for both applications and awards.

Together, these projects represent more than \$65.5 million in total investments, supporting outdoor recreation, conservation, education, and community spaces used by Coloradans every day. From new and improved parks and trails to open space preservation and rebuilding communities after devastating fires, this year’s winners show how Lottery proceeds are put to work in communities of all sizes across Colorado.

“The Starburst Awards highlight projects that show the real impact of Lottery dollars across Colorado,” said Tom Seaver, Senior Executive Director of the Colorado Lottery. “These investments help protect our outdoors, strengthen communities, and ensure Colorado remains a great place to live and explore.”

Lottery proceeds are distributed through key partners, including Great Outdoors Colorado, the Conservation Trust Fund, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the Outdoor Equity Grant Program, and Building Excellent Schools Today, helping fund projects that might not otherwise be possible.

2026 Starburst Award winners:

1. [Enclave and Sunflower Parks](#) - Marshall Fire Park Rebuilds (Boulder County)
Revitalized two community parks impacted by the Marshall Fire to provide renewed outdoor spaces that support recovery, resilience, and everyday recreation.
2. [Children’s Park, Big Sagamore Park, and Little Sagamore Parks](#) - Marshall Fire Park Rebuilds (Boulder County)
Rebuilt three beloved neighborhood parks lost in the Marshall Fire, restoring safe, welcoming spaces for play, connection, and community healing.
3. [Haymaker Recreation Hub Enhancement Project](#) (Eagle County)

Rebuilt a closed pool and expanded it into a multi-use hub with biking and BMX amenities, increasing access and year-round use.

4. [Rico Town Park & Recreation Hub](#) (Dolores County)
Transformed a remediated brownfield into a multi-use park with year-round amenities, expanding recreation access in a small mountain community.
5. [Lobatos Bridge Outdoor Classroom and Recreation Enhancement Project](#) (Conejos County)
Expanded public access to the Rio Grande with a boat ramp, trail and outdoor classroom, increasing recreation and education opportunities in an underserved region.
6. [Nurtured by Nature](#) (Arapahoe County)
Supported at-risk youth through nature-based activities that promote mental health, reducing stress, and building connections to the outdoors.
7. [Colorado's Outdoors Strategy](#) (Statewide)
Created a statewide strategy aligning conservation, recreation and climate resilience efforts to guide coordinated investment and planning across Colorado.
8. [Rockin' S Ranch Conservation Easement](#) (Conejos County)
Protected a 301-acre working ranch, preserving agricultural land, wetlands, and wildlife habitat while preventing future development.
9. [Poudre River Regional Trail Initiative](#) (Larimer County)
Completed final segments of a 45-mile regional trail, connecting communities, and expanding safe, non-motorized recreation and commuting options.
10. [Billy Cordova Memorial Park](#) (Chaffee County)
Built an inclusive community park with accessible features and first responder elements, expanding recreation access and honoring a local hero.
11. [Cheraw Community Complex](#) (Otero County)
Transformed a long-vacant lot into a multi-generational recreation hub with diverse amenities for residents of all ages.
12. [Avenger Open Space](#) (Teller County)
Protected 120 acres of open space, preserving wildlife habitat and expanding access to trails and outdoor recreation.
13. [The Slab](#) (Pueblo County)
Restored a historic community basketball court with modern upgrades and public art, expanding access to safe urban recreation.
14. [Get Outdoors Day](#) (El Paso County)
Connected families to outdoor recreation through free, hands-on activities, reducing barriers and building lifelong outdoor engagement.
15. [Emerson Skate Park](#) (Mesa County)

Transformed a historic park into a skate-and-wheeled sports destination, expanding recreation opportunities for youth and the community.

16. [Stagecoach State Park Visitor Center](#) (Routt County)

Constructed a new visitor center to improve access, services, and overall experience at a high-use state park.

17. [Right Relationship Boulder](#) (Boulder County)

Connects Arapaho youth and elders to ancestral lands through outdoor activities, cultural education, and language revitalization.

18. [Logan County CSU Extension Outdoor Education Program](#) (Logan County)

Provides hands-on outdoor education and conservation programming for underserved youth in rural communities.

About the Colorado Lottery

Since 1983, the Colorado Lottery has returned more than \$4.6 billion to outdoor projects through Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), the Conservation Trust Fund, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). Once the GOCO proceeds cap is met, additional proceeds recipients include the Outdoor Equity Grant Program, Building Excellent Schools Today, Outdoor Recreation Industry Office, and other outdoor-related CPW funds. Proceeds from sales of Colorado Lottery games - Scratch, Powerball, Mega Millions, Colorado Lotto+, Millionaire For Life, Cash 5, and Pick 3 - enhance, protect, and improve parks, trails, recreation, wildlife, and open space in Colorado. For more information, visit coloradolottery.com.

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