



PARK ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, September 10, 2025 – 1:30 p.m.
Centennial Hall, 200 S. Cascade, Colorado Springs

<u>Item</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Recommended Action</u>
1. Call Meeting to Order	Chair	
2. Approval of the Agenda	Chair	Approval
3. Approval of Minutes	Chair	Approval
4. Introductions / Presentations		
A. 2025 County Fair Review	Andschana Aljets	Information
B. Paint Mines Interpretive Park Fencing Project	Ross Williams	Information
C. 2025 Creek Week Summary	Dana Nordstrom	Information
5. Citizen Comments / Correspondence on items not on the agenda (limited to three (3) minutes unless extended by Chair)	Chair	
6. Development Applications		
A. The Commons at Falcon Field Filing No. 3 – Final Plat	Ashlyn Mathy	Endorsement
7. Information / Action Items		
A. Joint City / County Park Advisory Board Luncheon	Todd Marts	Information
B. 2026 Capital Improvement Program	Todd Marts	Endorsement

PARKS DEPARTMENT

2002 Creek Crossing Street | Colorado Springs, Colorado | 80905
www.elpasocountyparks.com | parks@elpasoco.com

<u>Item</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Recommended Action</u>
8. Monthly Reports	Staff	Information
9. Board / Staff Comments		
10. Adjournment		

PARKS DEPARTMENT

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*Minutes of the August 13, 2025
El Paso County Park Advisory Board Meeting
Centennial Hall, 200 S. Cascade
Colorado Springs, Colorado*

Members Present:

Thomas Lachocki, Chair
Vincent Prins, Vice Chair
John Wallace, 2nd Vice Chair
Janna Blanter, 3rd Vice Chair
Jane Newman, Secretary
Bryan Williams
Andrew Dwyer

Staff Present:

Todd Marts, Executive Director
Sabine Carter, Administrative Coordinator
Brian Bobeck, Division Manager - Park Operations
Theresa Odello, Division Manager – Rec. & Cultural Services
Jason Meyer, Division Manager – Park Planning
Ross Williams, Senior Parks Planner
Ashlyn Mathy, Parks Planner
MaryJo Lewis, Bear Creek Nature Center Supervisor

Absent: Jeremy J. Chatelain

The following minutes are a summary of the proceedings. A recording is available upon request at the El Paso County Parks Administration Office.

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Thomas Lachocki, Chair.
2. Approval of Agenda: **Vincent Prins made a motion to approve the meeting agenda.** Janna Blanter seconded the motion. The motion carried 7 - 0. The board members received a handout of two public email comments submitted by citizen Carol Beckman and Cory Sutela, Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates. Comments attached.
3. Approval of Minutes: **Jane Newman made a motion to approve June 11, 2025, meeting minutes.** Vincent Prins seconded the motion. The motion carried. 7 – 0. (The board approved the June meeting minutes due to the board not meeting in July).
4. Introductions and Presentations:

A. Outdoor Pikes Peak Initiative Vision Plan

Becky Leinweber provided a PowerPoint presentation of the Draft of the Outdoor Pikes Peak Initiative Vision Plan. The mission of the organization is: To strengthen the outdoor recreation industry for the Pikes Peak region through leadership and collaboration. The final vision plan will be released at the State of the Outdoors on August 19, 2025. Chair Thomas Lachocki stated that our community is very fortunate to have you and your organization pulling all these people together. This has and will have a profound impact on the quality of life here for generations to come. Todd Marts also highlighted the Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance and the Outdoor Pikes Peak Initiative. He stated that ‘Ring the Peak’ and the ‘Outdoor Pikes Peak Initiative’ are going to be transformational for our community.

B. Happy Trails Fundraiser Event

Mary Jo Lewis presented the upcoming Happy Trails Fundraiser Event. Happy Trails is the annual signature fundraising event benefiting the El Paso County Nature Centers. Held each Fall, Happy Trails draws approximately 125–150 attendees and consistently raises more than \$9,000 annually - generating over \$140,000 since its inception. This year's event will be held at Bear Creek Nature Center on Friday, September 12, 2025, from 6:00p.m.–9:00 p.m. Themed as "*The Hoot-enanny*", guests are encouraged to wear western attire with a bird-themed twist.

5. Citizen Comments:

6. Development Applications:

A. The Retreat at Prairie Ridge Filing No. 4 Final Plat

Ross Williams presented The Retreat at Prairie Ridge Filing No. 4 Final Plat.

Vincent Prins endorsed the following El Paso County Parks Department comments, recommendations, and requirements as they relate to the Retreat at Prairie Ridge Filing No. 4 Final Plat: require fees in lieu of land dedication for regional park purposes in the amount of \$56,560 and urban park purposes in the amount of \$33,936 to be paid at time of the recording of this Final Plat. An Urban Park Lands Agreement may be an acceptable alternative to urban park fees provided the agreement is approved by the County and executed prior to recording of this Final Plat. Janna Planter seconded the endorsement. The motion passed 7 – 0.

7. Information / Action Items:

A. Santa Fe Open Space Phase II Trail Construction Project Summary

Ross Williams presented the Santa Fe Open Space and addressed questions by board members. The Santa Fe Open Space features 1.75 miles of singletrack trail contained within the 60-acre property, leaving only 0.30 miles of the master planned trail yet to be constructed. In June 2025, a trail crew from Rocky Mountain Field Institute worked closely with El Paso County Parks planning staff to lay out and construct the last portions of trail. These two new trails, the Corral Loop and the Mount Herman Overlook Trail, opened to the public in late June, bringing the total trail system mileage up to 2.1 miles.

B. Electrical Assisted Bicycles

Todd Marts stated that today's meeting is the first step in the official kick-off to a County e-bike policy. Today's presentation is very similar to what was presented to the County Commissioners at an informal meeting. The next steps will be the public input process, consider all public input, review proposed rules and revise. Present the final rules to the

Park Advisory Board for endorsement/consideration followed by a presentation to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration for approval.

Currently, Class I and Class II Electrical Assisted Bicycles may use El Paso County Parks Primary and Secondary trails up to a maximum speed of twenty miles per hour. These rules do not account for regional trials that are in Palmer Land Conservancy Conservation Easements where e-bikes are not allowed. Mr. Marts presented the following proposals:

PHASE 1

Class 1 Electrical Assisted Bicycles with clearly displayed class designation are allowed on all El Paso County Trails that allow bicycles except trails within Conservation Easements.

- Trails that do not allow bicycles will be posted as prohibited. The current trails that do not allow bicycles are the trails adjacent to the nature centers and Paint Mines Interpretive Park.
- Conservation Easement property includes the Pineries, Santa Fe Open and Kane Ranch Open Spaces, Jones Park Open Space and Bear Creek Regional Park.

Phase 2

Class 1 Electrical Assisted Bicycles with clearly displayed class designation are allowed on all El Paso County Trails that allow bicycles. except Trails within Conservation Easements.

- Trails that do not allow bicycles will be posted as prohibited. The current trails that do not allow bicycles are the trails adjacent to the nature centers and Paint Mines Interpretive Park.
- Parks will coordinate with Palmer Land Conservancy to revise the Conservation Easements to allow Class 1 Electrical Assisted Bicycles.

Rules all Phases will include:

- Class 2 and Class 3 e-bikes and all other motorized devices will be prohibited on all El Paso County Trails.
- Trail Users shall operate all bicycles in a safe manner which is reasonable and prudent under the conditions with due regard to the width, grade, curves, corners, traffic, and all other attendant circumstances of the trail.
- Operators of Electrical Assisted Bicycles shall at all times yield the right-of-way to pedestrians, equestrians, conventional bicycles, wildlife and uphill traffic.
- Observance of Trail, Open Space and Park Hours and Closures: Trails, Open Space, and Park Users shall not trespass upon the parkland after hours or during partial or full closures as posted at the trailhead/s and park kiosks or signs.

Vincent Prins asked if the City's stands on e-bikes align with El Paso County. Mr. Marts stated that it is close. The city will not allow e-bikes on certain trails, but the ideal outcome is to allow Class 1 e-bikes on all trails that currently allow bicycles. Janna Blanter asked what the Palmer Land Conservancy's position on e-bikes is. Todd Marts stated that they expressed to him that they consider e-bikes motorized. Certain State statutes are argumentative to that position.

Public Comments:

Jeff Cooper spoke in support of Todd Marts' presentation to allow Class 1 e-bikes where bicycles are currently allowed. Mr. Coopers position is that a ban on Class 1 e-bikes is a ban on seniors. Seniors are buying e-bikes at a rate of 2:1. Mr. Cooper stated that Class 1

e-bikes are regulated in the federal government under the Consumer Product Safety Division as a bicycle.

Keith Thompson, executive director with the Colorado Springs Mountain Bike Association stated that a Class 1 e-bike is a bicycle and is in full support of the County's approach to allow Class 1 e-bikes on trails where bicycles are allowed. A Class 1 e-bike is only 5 to 10 lbs. heavier than a regular bike and does not present any additional safety concerns for any other user than a normal bike would. The organization cares deeply about the conservation easements held by the Palmer Land Trust. Data put forth by the USDA, the US Forest Service and the National Park Service shows that a Class 1 e-bike shows no more impact than a normal bike would.

Alan Beauchamp, community engagement coordinator with Trails and Open Space Coalition, also expressed his support on the County's position to allow Class 1 e-bikes on all trails where bicycles are allowed and expressed his support to align the City and County e-bike policies. This will minimize the confusion for users, ensure consistent enforcement, promotion safe and responsible usage and support multi-jurisdictional trail networks.

Becky Leinweber, executive director, Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance spoke to the alignment with the City's new e-bike policy and the importance of a regional approach and the tourism and economic opportunities this creates. Her position is to make our regional trail systems work better for everyone. A consistent e-bike policy across jurisdictions paired with user education.

Kent Drummond also expressed his support for the County's position to allow Class 1 e-bikes on all trails where bicycles are allowed. He stated that e-bikes are a technological innovation to propel the rider forward a bit easier. He shared a photo showing himself, his son and his granddaughter on top of Pikes Peak finishing the recent 'Cycle to the Summit' event together.

Vincent Prins stated that he appreciates Todd Marts' leadership and the consensus on the e-bike topic from all groups speaking today during this first phase. John Wallace brought up that Class 1, 2 and 3 are almost indistinguishable and legislating the differences in machinery is not enforceable. Thomas Lachocki asked Mr. Marts if he could talk about what the position of City Parks and other organizations is regarding Class 2 bikes. Mr. Marts stated that there will be an Open House where this discussion would be more suited due to the complexity of the issue. Andrew Dyer asked if under the current rule other electric vehicles like one-wheels or electric skateboards are prohibited in parks. Mr. Marts confirmed that they are prohibited.

8. Monthly Reports:

John Wallace inquired about the construction barriers at the Black Forest Regional Park restrooms. Brian Bobeck stated that there have been interior improvements made to the restroom and there has been a delay with a few fixtures which kept the bathrooms closed a little longer than anticipated. Vincent Prins congratulated staff on reaching 92% revenue in facility rentals.

9. Board/Staff Comments:

Theresa Odello stated that her staff will bring a Fair presentation to the board next month.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

She encouraged the board to attend the upcoming Happy Trails fundraiser event and highlighted the Paint Mines guided field hikes which will take place twice per month. She also highlighted an event educating the public on the history of Fountain Creek which will be held at the Fountain Creek Nature Center and the Honey Harvest Day being held at the Bear Creek Nature Center featuring honey harvest demonstrations.

10. Adjournment:

Janna Blanter made a motion to adjourn. Jane Newman seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

Jane Newman, Secretary

Sabine Carter

From: Carol Beckman <quibus42@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2025 11:43 AM
To: Parks; Sabine Carter; Todd Marts
Subject: e-bikes on trails

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- This is a personal email address.
- This is their first mail to some recipients.

Mark Safe

Report

El Paso County Digital, Strategy & Technology (DST)

Please forward to the county parks board members.

Thanks.

Hi, county parks board,

I want to comment on the proposal for e-bikes on trails.

For park and open space trails (typically dirt, single-track), it is important to note that Colorado Springs Parks does not allow e-bikes on park and open space trails.

<https://coloradosprings.gov/Ebikes>

"E-bikes of all classes are not permitted on City of Colorado Springs open space properties." CS Parks has opened up the possibility, but have provided no timeline on when they might actually allow e-bikes on open space and park trails. If the goal is to match policies with city parks, then county parks should not allow any e-bikes on park and open space trails. Jones Park is obviously an exception since it allows dirt bikes on some trails, so allowing all e-bikes on all county trails that allow motorcycles would make sense. It should also be noted that Forest Service classifies all e-bikes as motorized, so e-bikes are allowed on all Forest Service motorized trails, but not on nonmotorized trails. Jones Park is completely surrounded by Forest Service land.

For regional trails, changing to only class 1 e-bikes is a step backward. Class 2 e-bikes are currently allowed on county regional trails.

<https://epc-assets.elpasoco.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/Parks/Park-Rules-and-Regulation-Update-Sept.-2024-B.pdf>

"6.7: ELECTRICAL ASSISTED BICYCLES: Class I and Class II Electrical Assisted Bicycles may use El Paso County Parks Primary and Secondary trails up to a maximum speed of twenty miles per hour. "

Regional trails are important not just for recreation, but also for commuting. Bikers feel safer on trails vs roads. Encouraging people to bike to work, and for other needs, like going out to a restaurant or store, reduces car traffic and congestion, reduces pollution, and improves health for the riders. Class 2 bikes can be more practical for commuting (people arrive at work less sweaty, for instance), so allowing class 2 bikes on regional trails is important. Class 3 bikes should also be allowed on regional trails. They also are good commuter bikes. The presentation says:

"The rider is the cause of conflict on the trails not the device (e-bike / mountain bike/road bike/bmx/etc.)."

If that is true for class 1 riders, it is true for class 2 and class 3 riders.

The presentation also says:

"Class 1 E-bikes require the user to pedal and therefore do not classify as motorized."

This is also true for class 3 e-bikes. Just because class 3 can go 28 mph does not mean the rider will go that fast. Again, if it is the rider, not the equipment, then class 3 e-bikes should be allowed on regional trails.

At this point, e-bikes should not be allowed on park and open space trails, except for motorized trails in Jones Park. Please keep class 2 e-bikes on regional trails, and allow class 3 on regional trails, also.

Thanks,
Carol Beckman

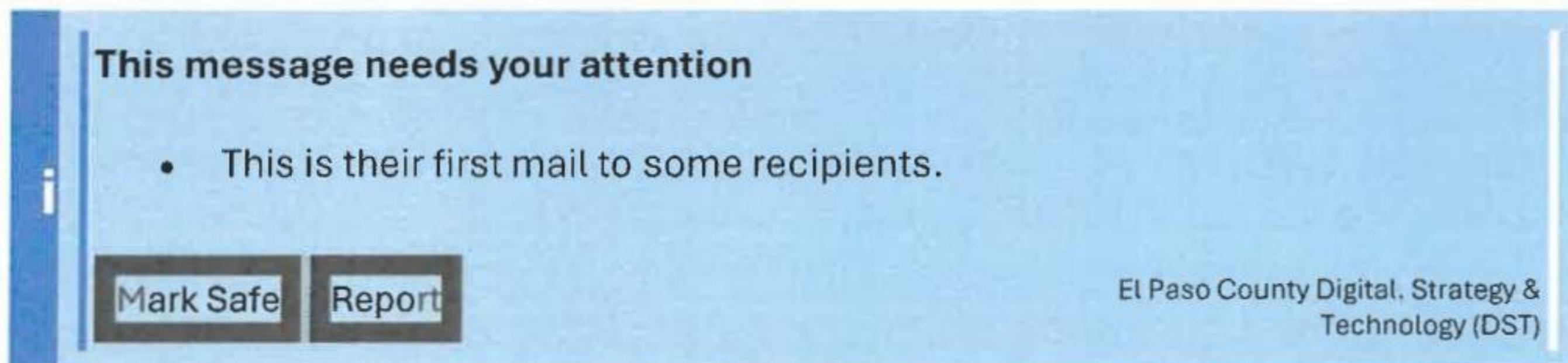
Sabine Carter

From: Cory Sutela <csutela@medwheel.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2025 8:53 AM
To: Parks
Cc: Todd Marts; Steven Klaffky; MedWheel AdvocacyTeam; MedWheel Board President; Ross Williams; Thomas Lachocki
Subject: medwheel comments on el paso county parks ebike changes
Attachments: 2025-08-12 MW statement to El Paso County Parks about ebike policy.pdf

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Hi Todd and team,
I'm sorry I can't join today's conversation about ebikes due to a conflicting appointment.
Please accept the attached comments and suggestions, and confirm that you will share them with the parks board. We look forward to ongoing conversations on this topic.

I would like to specifically ask for the county's legal team opinion on the point about 'motor vehicles' vs motorized use. This is a commonly misunderstood point that leads to confusion on this topic. "Motor vehicle" is a specific term referring to devices that are registered and licensed. Clearly ebikes are not 'motor vehicles', but they are 'motorized' and hence cannot be used where motorized use is prohibited (and is the reason why a modification to Conservation Easements is required if ebikes are allowed on certain properties). This is the nuance I shared with you by phone on Monday and I apologize if it wasn't clear at that time.

Since this is an item in the staff presentation, I would appreciate it if you can share the legal opinion from the county on this with me and with the parks board prior to today's discussion - is that possible?

Thank you for your attention,
respectfully,
Cory



MEDWHEEL.ORG

MEDICINE WHEEL TRAIL ADVOCATES

Cory Sutela, Executive Director

csutela@medwheel.org

1.719.204.3445 he/him

www.medwheel.org Facebook Instagram YouTube Strava

MedWheel is a chapter of IMBA Local, and a member of the [Colorado MTB Coalition](#)

501(c)3 charity E.I.N 20-5765291 PO Box 2543, Colorado Springs, CO, 80901

Building and maintaining trails in the Pikes Peak Region since 1991

Recommendations for Thoughtful E-Bike Integration on El Paso County Trails

On behalf of Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates, we are grateful for the opportunity to continue our long-standing partnership with El Paso County. Since 1991, our mission has been to **build, share, and protect inspiring trail experiences** in the Pikes Peak region. We are excited to work together to help shape a thoughtful e-bike policy that expands access and enhances the trails that heal and connect our community.

MedWheel sees e-bikes as a powerful tool for connecting more people to the restorative power of our trails. For years, we have advocated for the responsible expansion of e-bike access, and we are thrilled to support this positive step forward.

As we craft this new policy, **clear and consistent language is essential** for public understanding. We want to offer our support in clarifying a common point of confusion surrounding e-bike classifications.

- While state and federal laws correctly distinguish e-bikes from "motor vehicles" (a legal term related to registration, licensing, and safety testing), it's important for our policy to acknowledge they are "**motorized**" by definition, as they contain a small electric motor. This distinction is critical, particularly when considering trails protected by **Conservation Easements that prohibit motorized use**.
- All three classes of e-bikes use a motor limited to 750W. Class 1 and 3 both require pedaling to engage the motor (with cutoff speeds of 20 and 28mph respectively), while Class 2 has a throttle option. Recognizing these nuances helps create a policy that is both accurate and easy for trail users to understand.

For over six years, our community has successfully integrated Class 1 and 2 e-bikes on regional trails like the Bear Creek regional trail. Both classes limit the motor speed to 20mph. This shared-use model has been a positive example of expanding access, without documented issues. We see this as a foundation to build upon and **encourage continuing this successful shared-use model**, which provides vital transportation and recreation connections for so many.

To ensure a smooth and successful expansion of e-bike access, Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates suggests the following approach:

1. **Adopt** the clear, standard e-bike class definitions shown on page 69, to create consistency for all users.
2. **Establish** clear trail categories (e.g., Regional, Primary, Secondary) so the public can easily understand where different uses are permitted. Note that some county trails also allow motorcycle use - we need to improve clarity on which uses are allowed, where.
3. **Create** a supportive framework of education and enforcement to foster a culture of responsible riding.



4. **Explore** trail use modifications, such as directional routes in key areas like The Pineries, to enhance flow and minimize user conflict.
5. **Maintain** Class 1 and 2 e-bike access on regional trails, building on years of successful shared use.
6. **Honor** all Conservation Easements by ensuring e-bike access is only permitted where these legal agreements have been specifically updated to allow for it.
7. **Provide** a clear, accessible, and consistently updated map showing which uses are allowed on all county trails.
8. **Commit** to ongoing monitoring and data gathering, building in the flexibility to adapt trail access in the future to best serve the community and protect our natural resources.

Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates is committed to working alongside El Paso County to create a trail system that is welcoming, sustainable, and inspiring for everyone. By embracing a thoughtful, clear, and phased approach to e-bike integration, we can protect our precious natural spaces while opening the door to adventure and well-being for more of our neighbors.

Thank you for your consideration and partnership.

El Paso County Park Advisory Board

Agenda Item Summary Form

Agenda Item Title: 2025 County Fair Review

Agenda Date: September 10, 2025

Agenda Item Number: #4 - A

Presenters: Andschana Aljets, Fair & Events Center Supervisor

Information: X **Endorsement:**

Background Information:

The 2025 El Paso County Fair celebrated our 120 year Spudtacular Journey. From our humble beginning as a Potato Festival, to the county fair we know today the El Paso County Fair is the county's largest event that celebrates our history and heritage and is an opportunity to celebrate community and achievements of youth in our County. Each year the Fair staff provide a post fair report to the Fair Advisory Board, the Fairgrounds Corporation, the Board of County Commissioners, and to the Park Advisory Board.

The attached presentation highlights the efforts and successes of this year's El Paso County Fair.

Recommended Action:

Information Only

EL PASO COUNTY



A SPUDTACULAR JOURNEY

Celebrating 120 Years of Fair

JULY 12 - 19 | CALHAN, CO

Presented By



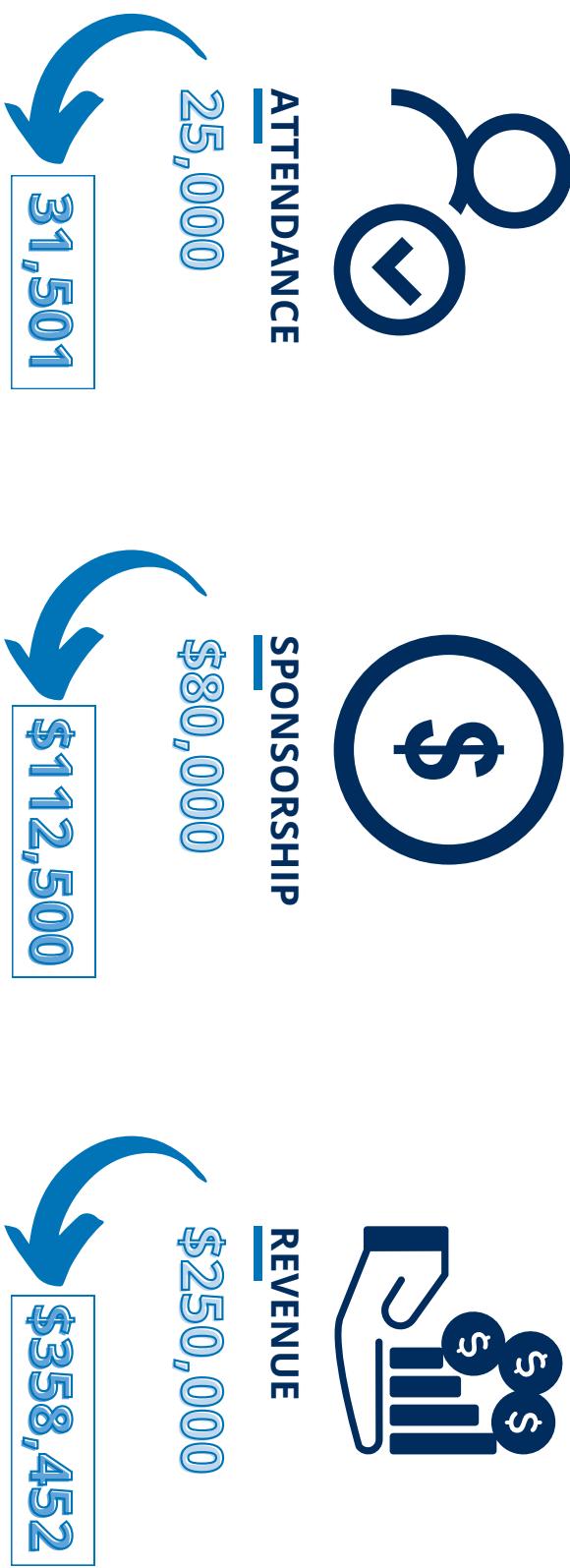
ED GREEN
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WWW.ELPASOCOUNTYFAIR.COM

2025 FAIR OVERVIEW

In 2025, we proudly celebrated **120 years of the El Paso County Fair** with the theme **A Spudtacular Journey**. Through a comprehensive and strategic marketing communications plan, we maximized our available resources to generate strong awareness, community engagement, and partner visibility.

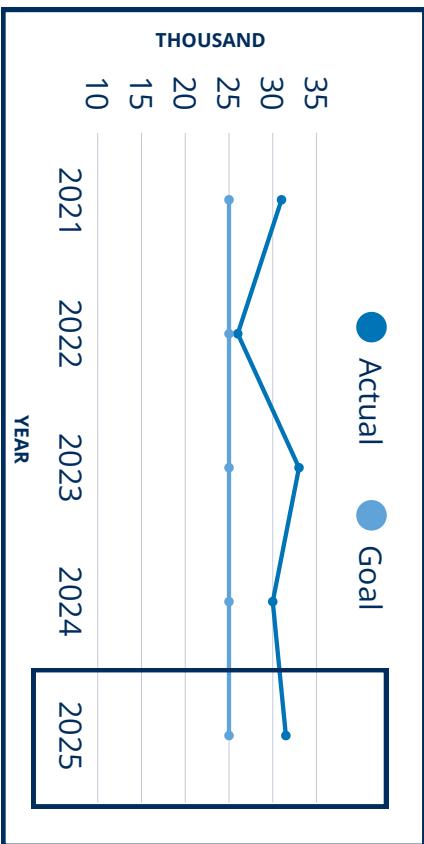


2025 FAIR COMPARISON

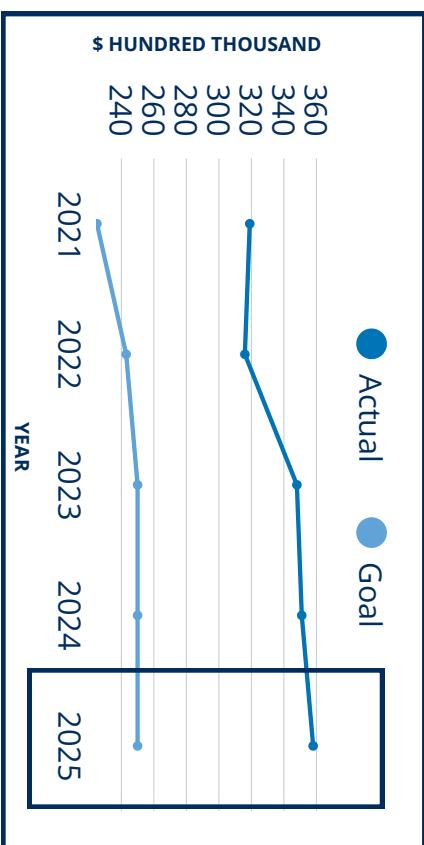
Data Driven Decisions

We are committed to being accountable by being good stewards of County resources. Our marketing initiatives maximize our budget and ensure we are doing what we can to raise event awareness and participation.

ATTENDANCE



REVENUE



2025 FAIR IMPACT

Once again, we are proud to report measurable success. Our efforts reached thousands of residents and visitors, amplifying the impact of the Fair and demonstrating the value of public events that celebrate culture, connection, and service.

63.7 Million Impressions
\$1.7 Million Publicity Value

2025 FAIR PARTNERSHIPS

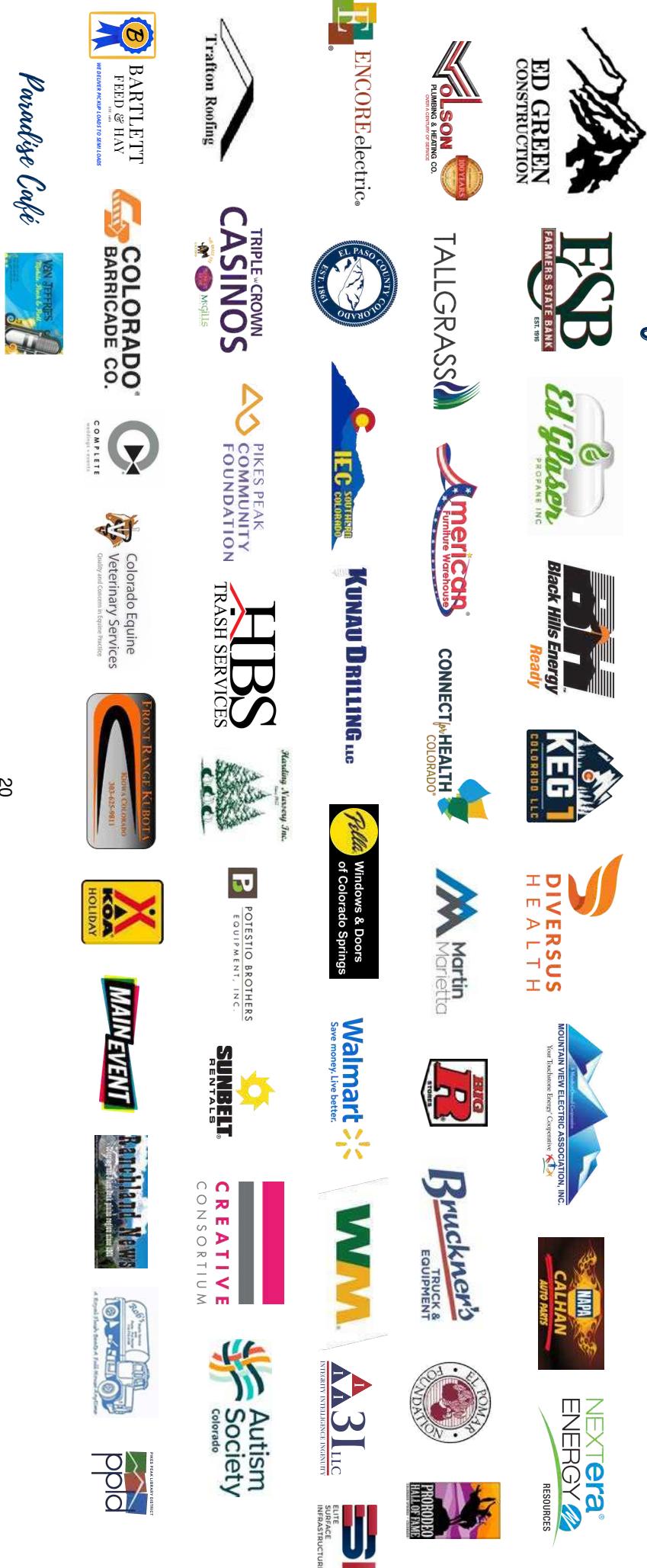
We proudly partner with over **50 local businesses and organizations** to make our Fair successful. In 2025, we gained **5 new partners** and captured over **\$112,500 in cash sponsorships** and over **\$150,280 of in-kind value**.

We honor our partnerships by providing transparency in reporting through a event partner summary report capturing an overview of the event and specifics on our goals and achievements.



2025 FAIR PARTNERSHIPS

Monetary & In-Kind Value Partners



2025 FAIR PROGRAMMING

Youth Development & Agriculture



273 Exhibitors
1595 Fair Entries

656 Animals

A survey of **111 4-H youth** showed that over **92%** believe **4-H** is a place where you get to **teach others** what you learned, you get to **do things**, you are encouraged to **plan for your future**, you get a chance to **be a leader**, and **help your community**.

EL PASO COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



2025 FAIR PROGRAMMING

Youth Development & Agriculture

Youth participating in market livestock projects facilitated through the 4-H program and FFA had the opportunity to sell at the El Paso County Junior Livestock Sale.

119 Lots Sold for a Total of \$402,350

6,011 Pounds of Protein Donated

62 LOTS WERE DONATED TO THE SPRINGS RESCUE MISSION THROUGH PROTEIN 4 HELPING OTHERS (P4HO) EQUATING TO NEARLY \$32,000 IN RETAIL VALUE



El Paso County Fair

We appreciate your continued support and advocacy of the largest, longest-running El Paso County-produced event.

EL PASO COUNTY FAIR | JULY 12 - 19
A SPUDTACULAR JOURNEY
Celebrating 120 Years of Fair

EL PASO COUNTY



A SPUDTACULAR JOURNEY

Celebrating 120 Years of Fair

JULY 12 - 19 | CALHAN, CO

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El Paso County Park Advisory Board

Agenda Item Summary Form

Agenda Item Title: Paint Mines Interpretive Park Fencing Project Summary

Agenda Date: September 10, 2025

Agenda Item Number: #4 - B

Presenter: Ross Williams, Senior Parks Planner

Information: X **Endorsement:**

Background Information:

In recent years, through the power of social media and online travel websites, the number of visitors to Paint Mines Interpretive Park increased dramatically, leading to several management challenges which include vandalism, vehicle congestion, user-created social trails, climbing on the formations, and overall site degradation. Approved by the El Paso County Board of County Commissioners in December 2024, the Paint Mines Interpretive Park Master Plan contained final recommendations to construct new fencing within the park in a continuing effort to provide guidance to visitors, while providing an extra layer of protection for the fragile formations and surrounding prairie environment. In preparation for the final phases of fencing and formation protection, this phase of the project involved the installation of 2- and 3-rail wooden post and dowel fencing, as well as the modification of existing 3-rail fencing.

Attachment:

Paint Mines Interpretive Park Fencing Project Presentation

Recommended Action:

Information Only

PAINT MINES INTERPRETIVE PARK PHASE II FENCING PROJECT

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Project Overview

- **PROJECT DESIGN**

- December 2024: Paint Mines Interpretive Park Master Plan was officially adopted by the El Paso County Board of County Commissioners.
- The Master Plan included additions and modifications to the existing post and dowel fencing as preparation for future fencing and formation protection.

- **PROJECT FUNDING**

- Lida Hill Grant
- Trust for County Parks Funds

- **PROJECT CONSTRUCTION**

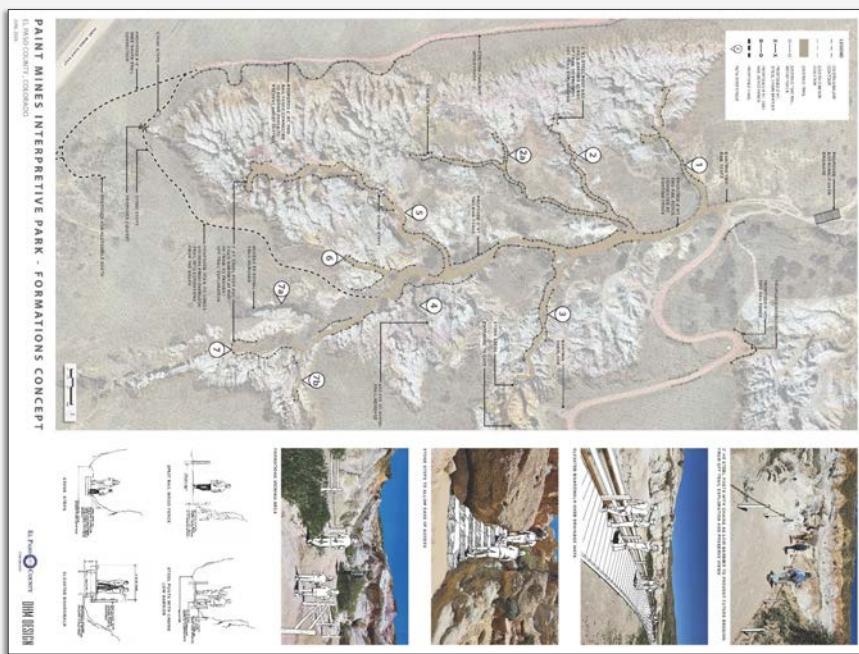
- July-August 2025: Contract Equipment Operators (CEO) awarded \$64,000 contract for the modification of the original post and dowel fencing and construction of additional fencing sections.
- The site is now ready for the final "bollard and chain" fencing that will designate pedestrian paths within the formations themselves.



Paint Mines Master Plan

- **PAINT MINES MASTER PLAN**

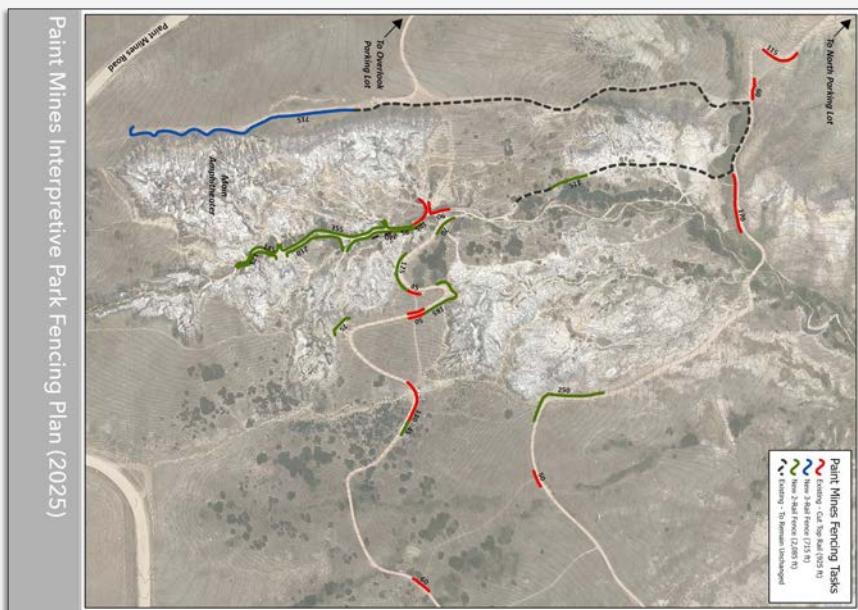
- The Paint Mines Interpretive Park Master Plan identified numerous areas for the installation of new fencing, whether 2- or 3-rail wooden post and dowel fencing, or steel bollard and chain sections.
- Post and dowel is used for visitor safety and guidance along major trails and pathways, as well as social trail prevention.
- Bollard and chain sections will be used for visitor guidance and preservation of the fragile formations.



Paint Mines Fencing Plan



- **FENCING PLAN**
 - Blue lines (715 ft) indicate new 3-rail post and dowel fencing, which was focused on the western ridgeline above the formations.
 - Red lines (925 ft) indicate existing 3-rail post and dowel fencing that was modified to 2-rail.
 - Green lines (2,085 ft) indicate new 2-rail post and dowel fencing.
 - Top rails removed from existing 3-rail fencing were retained and used as rails in the new 2-rail fencing sections.

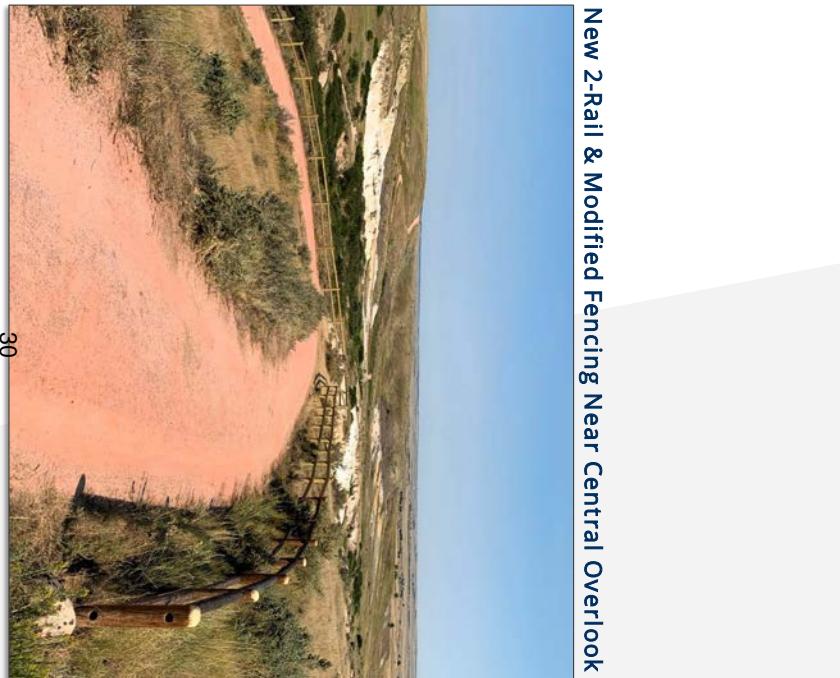




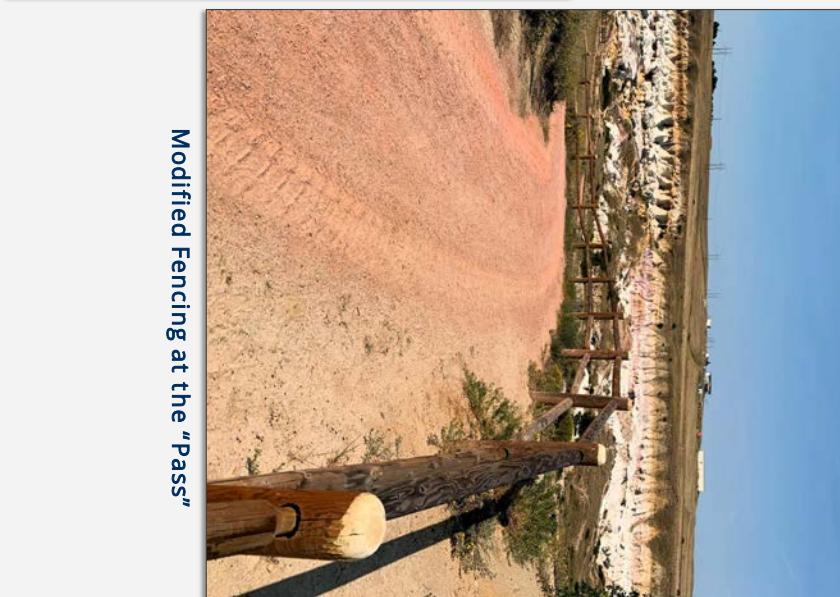
New 3-Rail & Modified Fencing



New 3-Rail Fencing Along Western Ridgeline



New 2-Rail & Modified Fencing Near Central Overlook

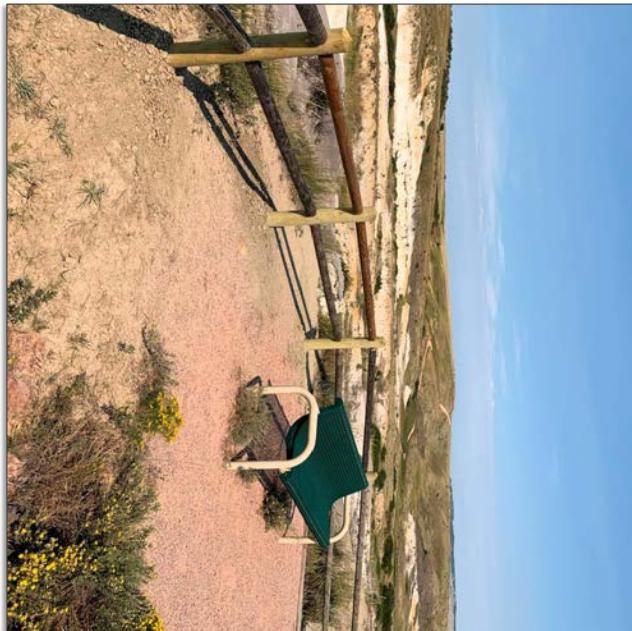


Modified Fencing at the "Pass"

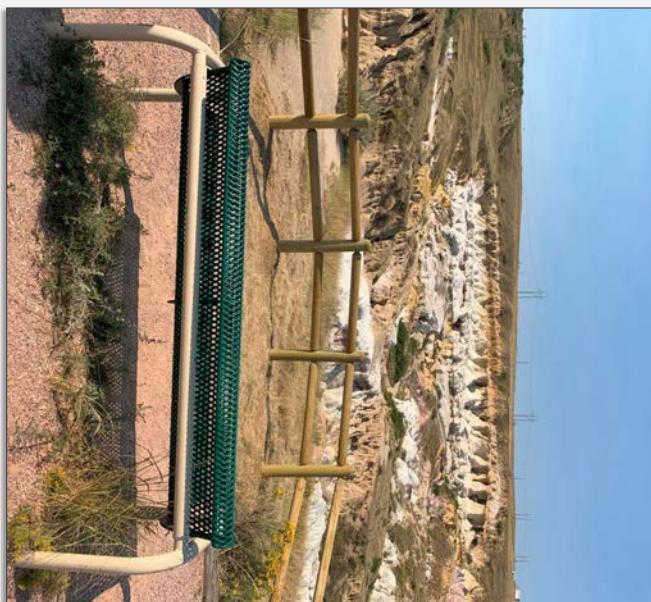


New 2-Rail Fencing

New 2-Rail Fencing at Eastern Overlook



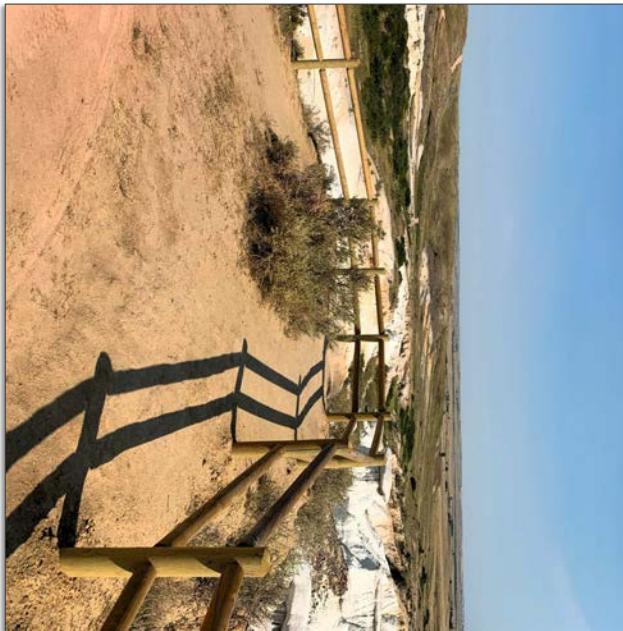
New 2-Rail Fencing at Central Overlook



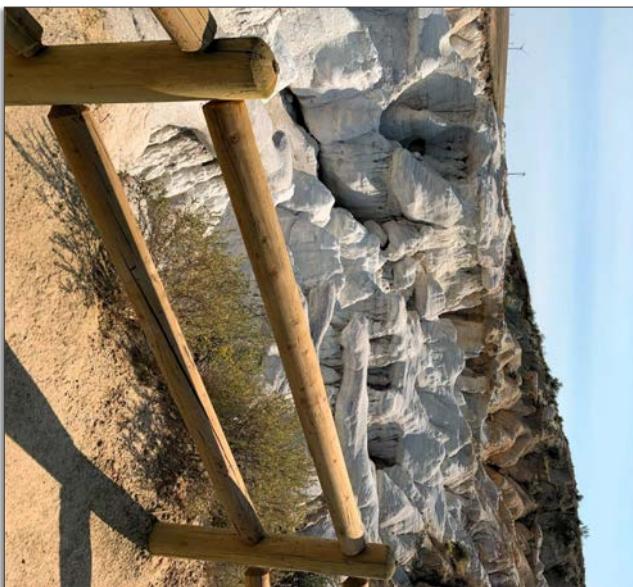


Overlook Protection

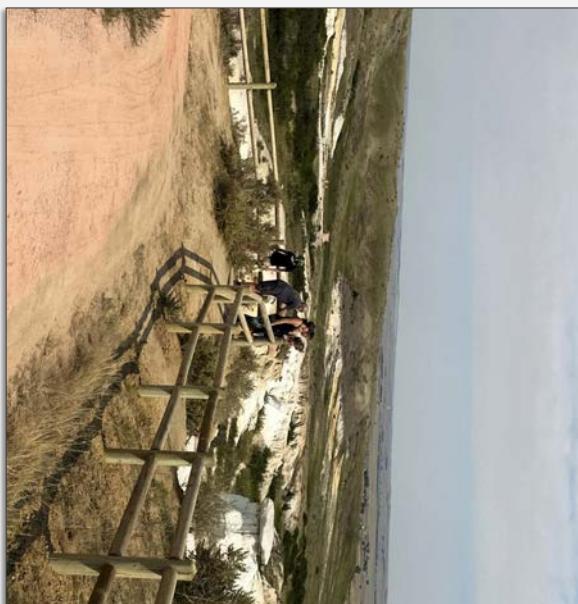
New 2-Rail Fencing at Central Overlook



New 2-Rail Fencing at Central Overlook



Family at Central Overlook





Side Canyon Entrances



Side-Canyon Entrance Along The Boulevard



Side-Canyon Entrance Along The Boulevard



Amphitheater Entrance Along The Boulevard



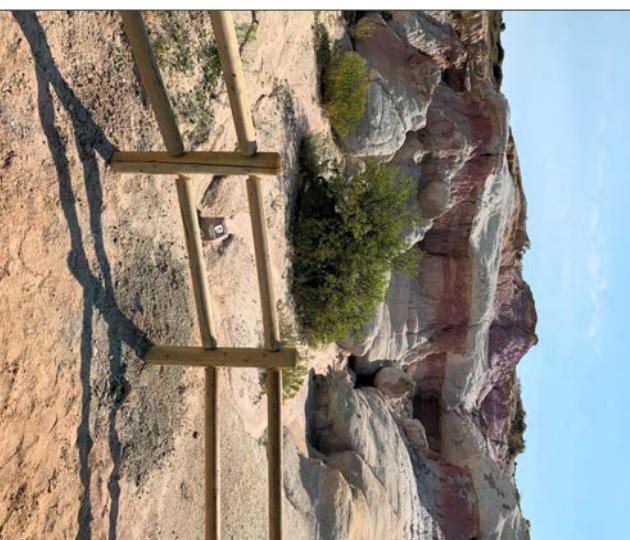
Boulevard Fencing



New 2-Rail Along The Boulevard



Formation Protection Along The Boulevard



Formation Protection Along The Boulevard



COLORADO

ROSS WILLIAMS

Senior Parks Planner – El Paso County Parks
RossWilliams@ElPasoCo.com | 719.520.6984

El Paso County Park Advisory Board

Agenda Item Summary Form

Agenda Item Title: 2025 Creek Week Summary

Agenda Date: September 10, 2025

Agenda Item Number: #4 - C

Presenters: Dana Nordstrom, Community Outreach Specialist

Information: **Endorsement:**

The Fountain Creek Watershed District, in partnership with many community organizations—including El Paso County Parks—announces the 12th Annual Creek Week Cleanup, taking place September 27 – October 5, 2025.

Creek Week is Colorado's largest cleanup event, giving volunteers the chance to take part in activities, programs, and events that reduce litter and debris in our waterways. Together, we can protect our creeks, safeguard drinking water, and enhance wildlife habitat.

We invite community members of all ages to volunteer their time and energy to help make a difference. Your support is essential in continuing this valuable effort that inspires stewardship and strengthens our connection to the natural world.

This year's Creek Week Kick-Off will be held on September 27 at Fountain Creek Nature Center, with the closing celebration at Bear Creek Nature Center. Cleanup opportunities are also available at Fox Run Regional Park, Bear Creek Dog Park, the Santa Fe Regional Trail, and many other watershed locations.

Pick a Date. Pick a Location. Pick it Up.

Recommended Motion:

Information item



**CREEK WEEK 2025 PRESENTATION
FOR EL PASO COUNTY**

1



FCWD Mission

To serve as stewards of the Fountain Creek Watershed, working collaboratively to protect, restore, and sustain its health. Through innovative watershed management, inclusive engagement, and partnership-driven solutions, we strive to inspire a shared commitment to the long-term resilience and vitality of our watershed and its diverse communities.

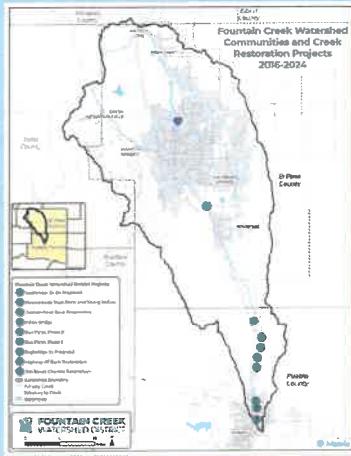
Protect and enhance the health of the Fountain Creek Watershed

2

1

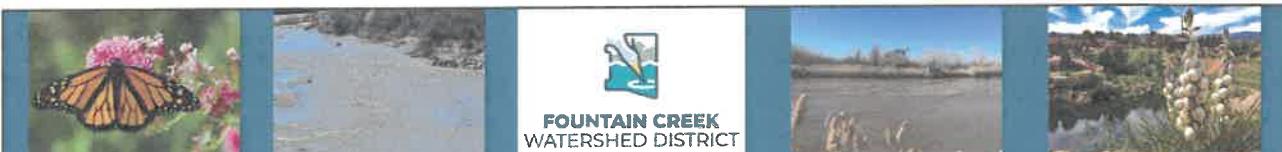


DISTRICT EFFORTS – HAPPY 16TH BIRTHDAY!



- Established by State Legislature in 2009
- 23 plans and studies
- 22 restoration projects
- Robust suite of outreach/education programs
- Projects funded by C.S. Utilities
(\$50M 1041 permit for SDS)
- Supported by 9 member governments
- No sustainable funding

3



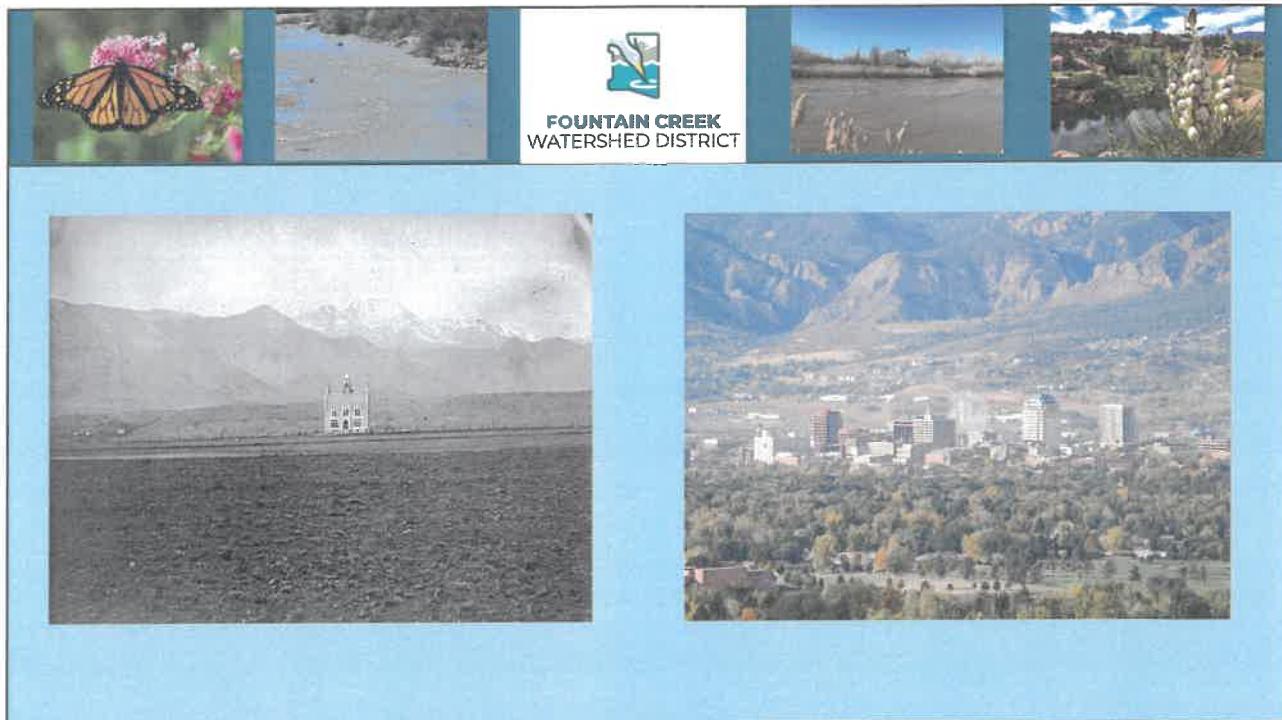
Snapshot of the Fountain Creek Watershed



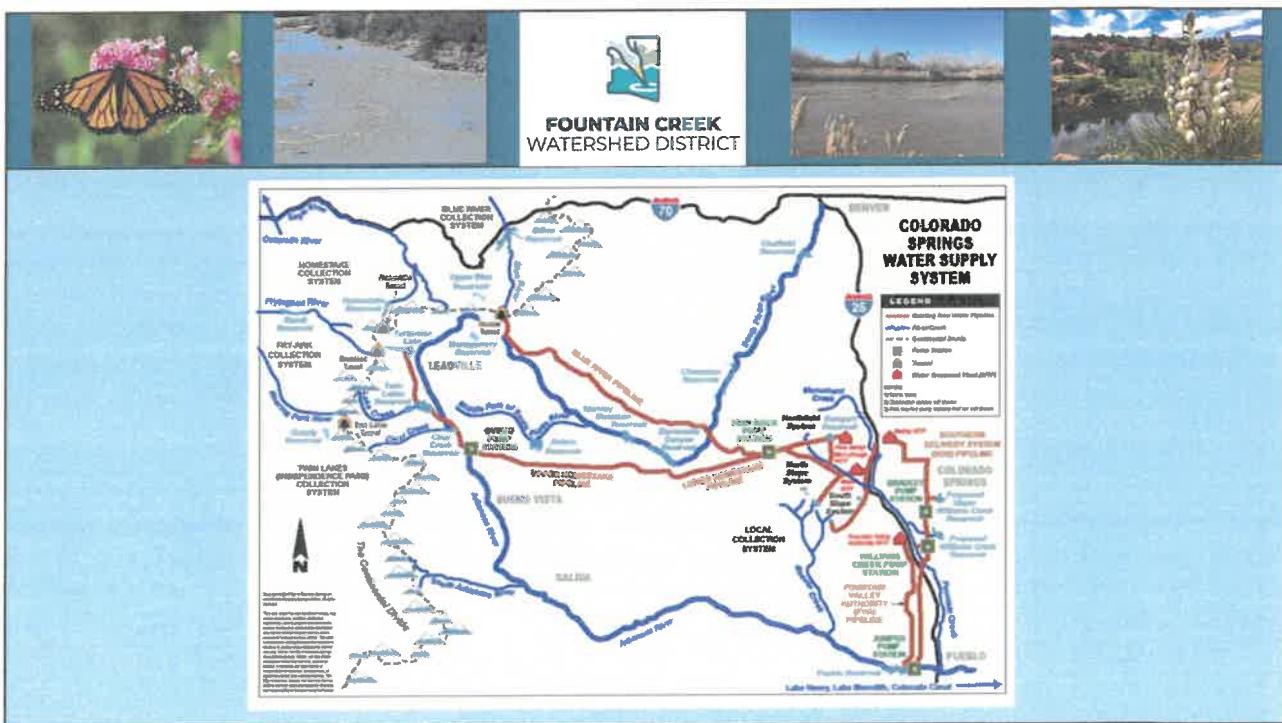
- 927 square miles of land and water
- Two counties, eight municipalities
- Elevation change from 14,115' to 4,695' over 71 miles
- Extremes in slopes, soil types, temperature, precipitation, ecosystems and multitudes of water uses
- Second most studied watershed in the US
- One of the most erratic in the country

4

2



5



6

3



Watershed Risks

- Population growth
- Drought
- Post-fire conditions
- Wildfires
- Urban canopy
- Sedimentation/erosion
- Stormwater pollution
- Increased impervious surfaces
- Habitat fragmentation
- Water quantity
- Invasive species
- Increasing frequency/severity of storms

7

Colorado

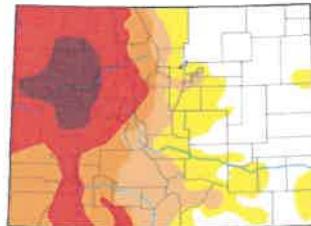
Map released: Thurs, August 21, 2025
Data valid: August 19, 2025 at 5 a.m. EDT

Intensity

None
 D0 (Abnormally Dry)
 D1 (Moderate Drought)
 D2 (Severe Drought)
 D3 (Extreme Drought)
 D4 (Exceptional Drought)
 No Data

Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Authors:
[Lindsey Johnson](#), National Drought Mitigation Center
 Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Authors:
[Troyer, Debbie](#), National Drought Mitigation Center




Fountain Creek...
Predictably Unpredictable



8

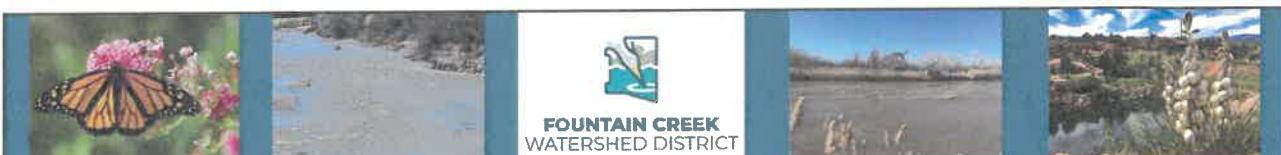
4



District Management

- **Board of Directors – all Jurisdictions Represented**
Member governments contribute General Fund \$ based on population size
 - Terry Hart, Chair
 - Jessica Mills, Lower Arkansas Water Conservancy District, Vice Chair
 - Tamara Estes, City of Fountain, Secretary
 - Miles Lucero, Pueblo County
 - Nancy Henjum, City of Colorado Springs
 - Bill Wysong, El Paso County
 - Mark Aliff, City of Pueblo
 - TBD, Small Municipalities (Monument, Palmer Lake, Green Mountain Falls, and Manitou Springs)
 - Dr. Barr, Pueblo County Landowner
- **Monetary Mitigation Fund Advisory Committee**
- **Technical Advisory Committee**
- **Citizen Advisory Group**

9

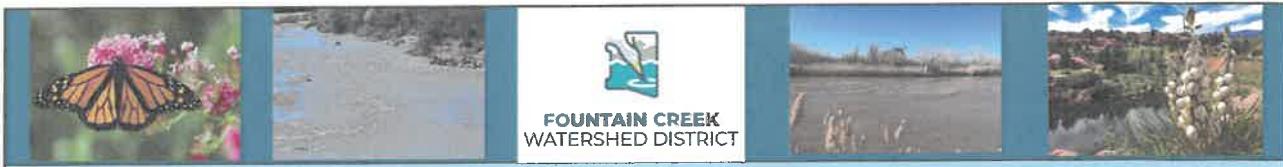


OUTREACH AND EDUCATION



- **Creek Week: 11 years, 24K+ participants, 175+ tons removed**
- **Great American Cleanup**
- **FC Brewshed Alliance: Liquid Lectures, Special Brews**
- **Children's Water Festival**
- **Scoop the Poop Events**
- **Fishing Derbys**
- **Native Plant Promotion**
- **Wild and Scenic Film Festival**
- **Pollinator Parties**
- **Rain Barrel Sale**
- **Presentations**

10



El Paso County Support - 11 years of Partnership!

- Grant funding to secure tool trailers
- Space in BC Maintenance Shop for supplies
- Material pickup events for GAC and CW
- Creekside Room for Crew Leader Training
- Nature Center and EPC Parks cleanups
- Rain barrel sale pickup site
- Educational programming






11

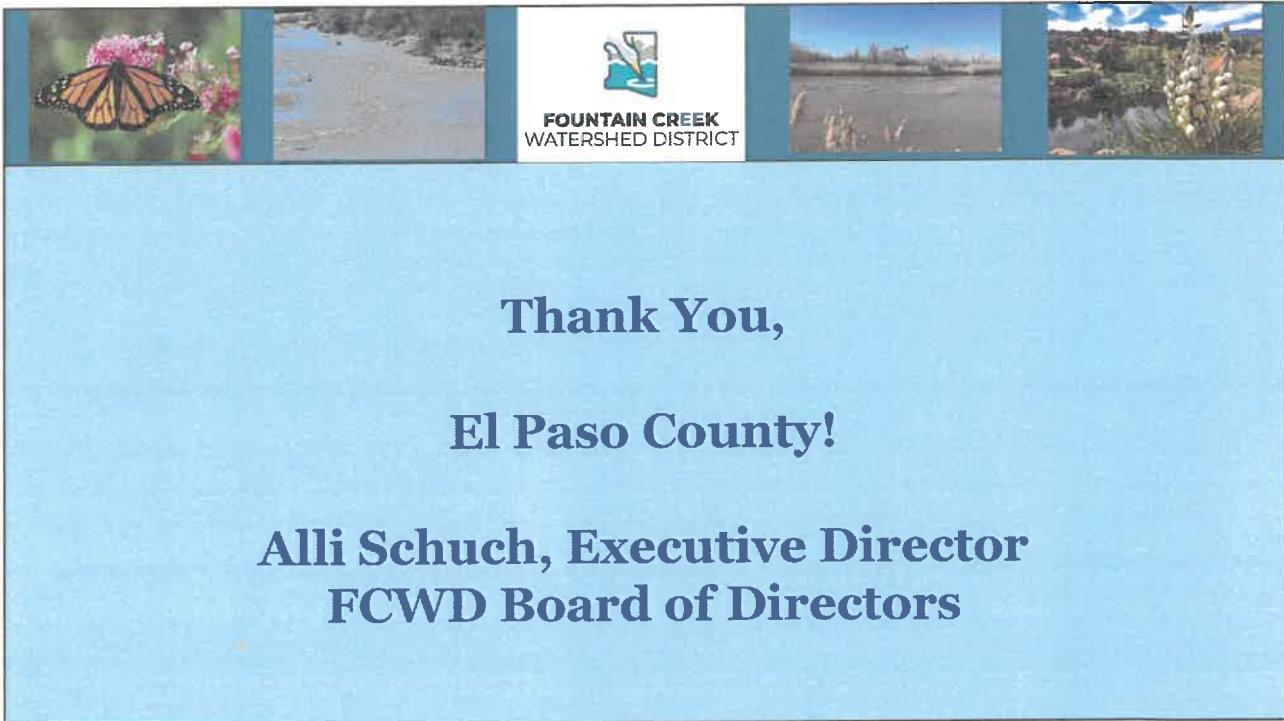


Creek Week 2025

**Over 50 public events to choose from
Pick a Date, Pick a Location, and Pick it Up!**




12



**Thank You,
El Paso County!**

**Alli Schuch, Executive Director
FCWD Board of Directors**

El Paso County Park Advisory Board

Agenda Item Summary Form

Agenda Item Title: The Commons at Falcon Field Filing No. 3 – Final Plat

Agenda Date: **September 10, 2025**

Agenda Item Number:

Presenter: Ashlyn Mathy, Parks Planner

Information: **Endorsement:** X

Background Information:

The Commons at Falcon Field Filing No. 3 consists of 89 single-family lots totaling 17.7 acres, with lots ranging from 3,515 to 4,690 square feet. These lots are zoned RM-12 (Residential Multi-Dwelling) for moderate density single-family attached and detached and low-density multi-dwelling development. The property is located at the southeast of the Judge Orr Road and U.S. Highway 24 intersection, in the Northeast part of El Paso County. This project is linked to the previously approved Preliminary Plan, The Commons at Falcon Field, in September of 2024. This project is proposing the replatting Tract G of The Commons at Falcon Field Filing No. 1 final plat, which is still under review by El Paso County Planning and Community Development Department. Once this final plat is approved, subsequent filings of The Commons at Falcon Field can move forward in the standard review and hearing process.

The 2022 El Paso County Parks Master Plan shows no parks, trails, or open space directly impacted by the proposed subdivision. The nearest major park or open space facilities are Drake Lake Natural Area (1.81 miles northeast) and Falcon Regional Park (3.65 miles northeast), and the nearest trails are the Rock Island Trail (0.25 miles southwest).

The proposed plan proposes 89 residential lots with tracts proposed for various uses including utilities, open space, and drainage. El Paso County Parks staff strongly encourages and recommends that one of the tracts is used for an active use park space. The nearest active use parks are Falcon Regional Park (open to the public), which is 3.65 miles away, a park located in Sterling Ranch being 4.09 miles away (Sterling Ranch Rd and Laguana Niguel Way), and a park provided by Woodmen Hills within a neighborhood being 2.05 miles away (Lambert Rd and Kingston Heath Rd).

Various parks located in other neighborhoods are typically provided by HOA's or Metro Districts and may limit who can use the parks. Due to this, Parks staff encourages an active use park with a playground to be included in this filing because it is beneficial to include amenities for families and children who will live within this neighborhood.

Staff Recommendation:

The Park Advisory Board endorses the following El Paso County Parks Department comments, recommendations, and requirements as they relate to the Commons at Falcon Field Filing No. 3 Final Plat: (1) Require fees in lieu of land dedication for regional park purposes in the amount of \$44,945, and urban park purposes in the amount of \$26,967. (2) El Paso County Parks Department Staff strongly encourages an active use park to be placed within one of the tracts to benefit the proposed residential lots. An urban

park lands agreement may be an acceptable alternative to urban park fees provided the agreement is approved by the County and executed prior to recording this Final Plat.

**Development
Application
Review
Form**



EL PASO COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT

Parks Planning - Park Operations

Recreation and Cultural Services - CSU Extension Office

August 26, 2025

Subdivision requirements referenced in Section 8.5.2 of the El Paso County Land Development Code. Fees are based on average land values within designated areas. See El Paso County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) Resolution for fees established on an annual basis. The Park Advisory Board meets the second Wednesday of each month, 1:30 p.m., BoCC Auditorium, second floor of Centennial Hall, 200 South Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs.

Name:	The Commons at Falcon Field Filing No. 3	Application Type:	Final Plat
PCD Reference #:	SF-25-024	Total Acreage:	17.70
Applicant / Owner:	Owner's Representative:	Total # of Dwelling Units:	89
Falcon Field, LLC	Drexel, Barrell & Co.	Dwelling Units Per 2.5 Acres:	12.57
Proterra Properties	Mr. Tim McConnell, P.E., President	Regional Park Area:	4
1864 Woodmoor Drive, Suite 100	101 Sahwatch Street, Suite 100	Urban Park Area:	3
Monument, CO 80132	Colorado Springs, CO 80903	Existing Zoning Code:	RM-12
		Proposed Zoning Code:	RM-12

REGIONAL AND URBAN PARK DEDICATION AND FEE REQUIREMENTS

Regional Park land dedication shall be 7.76 acres of park land per 1,000 projected residents, while Urban Park land dedication shall be 4 acres of park land per 1,000 projected residents. The number of projected residents shall be based on 2.5 residents per dwelling unit.	The EPC Land Development Code defines urban density as land development of higher density and intensity which is characteristically provided with services of an urban nature. This category of development includes residential uses with densities of more than one dwelling unit per 2.5 acres.
--	--

LAND REQUIREMENTS	Urban Density (>= 1 Dwelling Unit Per 2.5 Acres):	YES
Regional Park Area: 4	Urban Park Area: 3	
0.0194 Acres x 89 Dwelling Units =	Neighborhood: 0.00375 Acres x 89 Dwelling Units =	0.33
Total Regional Park Acres: 1.727	Community: 0.00625 Acres x 89 Dwelling Units =	0.56
	Total Urban Park Acres:	0.89

FEE REQUIREMENTS	Urban Park Area: 3	
Regional Park Area: 4	Neighborhood: \$119 / Dwelling Unit x 89 Dwelling Units =	\$10,591
\$505 / Dwelling Unit x 89 Dwelling Units =	Community: \$184 / Dwelling Unit x 89 Dwelling Units =	\$16,376
Total Regional Park Fees: \$44,945	Total Urban Park Fees:	\$26,967

EL PASO COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT COMMENTS

The Park Advisory Board endorses the following El Paso County Parks Department comments, recommendations, and requirements as they relate to the Commons at Falcon Field Filing No. 3 Final Plat: (1) Require fees in lieu of land dedication for regional park purposes in the amount of \$44,945, and urban park purposes in the amount of \$26,967. (2) El Paso County Parks Department Staff strongly encourages an active use park to be placed within one of the tracts to benefit the proposed residential lots. An urban park lands agreement may be an acceptable alternative to urban park fees provided the agreement is approved by the County and executed prior to recording this Final Plat.

Park Advisory Board Action:

9/10/2025



Drexel, Barrell & Co.

August 3, 2025

Engineers/Surveyors

Colorado Springs
Lafayette

101 Sahwatch St, Suite 100
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
719 260-0887
719 260-8352 Fax

El Paso County Planning & Community Development
Attn: Ryan Howser
2880 International Circle
Colorado Springs, CO 80910

RE: Letter of Intent - The Commons at Falcon Field Filing No. 3 PCD File No: SF

Mr. Howser

Please accept this letter of intent and the enclosed supplemental material as Drexel, Barrell & Co's Final Plat submittal for The Commons at Falcon Field Filing 3, on behalf of PT Falcon Field, LLC and Proterra Properties.

Project Location & Description

The property is located directly southeast of the Woodmen Road and U.S. Highway 24 intersection. The property covers two parcels 4307000001 (33.14-acres) and 4307200015 (24.53 acres), both currently zoned CR (Commercial Regional), RS-5000 and RM-12 (Residential). With the exception of one single-family residence, accessed off Rio Lane to the north the property is currently vacant. The existing topography slopes generally from north to south and southwest. The northernmost parcel (4307000001) contains an area of Zone A Floodplain designation. A CLOMR has been approved to modify the floodplain and a LOMR application will address the revision after construction.

The Commons at Falcon Field is a proposed mixed use commercial and residential development. A final plat for the entire property – Filing No. 1 – is currently in the review process with El Paso County. Tracts F&G are identified on the Filing No. 1 Final Plat for future residential use. Filing No. 2 is a replat of Tract F of Filing No. 1 and is specifically related to the RS-5000 residential area with 74 lots proposed over 18.9-acres. Filing No. 3 will replat Tract G as the RM-12 residential area with 89 lots proposed over 17.7-acres.

The site is currently bounded to the north and northwest by commercial uses. The properties to the east and south are generally large lot residential area, including the area to the north of Rio Lane. The proposed residential uses to the east and south will provide for appropriate buffers and transitional uses along the edges of the property.

Preliminary Plan

The preliminary plan for The Commons at Falcon Field was approved for 169 residential lots and 8 commercial lots on September 12, 2024. The proposed 95 residential lots, approved with the Preliminary Plan for Filing No. 3 has been reduced to 87 lots with this submittal.

Site Drainage

The site will be overlot graded as part of The Commons at Falcon Field Filing No. 1 development. Development of this filing will include roadway construction and utility installation along with upgrade of the full-spectrum extended detention facility along the southern boundary to its ultimate developed condition. The detention facility will provide for detention and water quality for the majority of the site runoff prior to discharge to the south following historic drainage patterns. Runoff not conveyed to the detention facility will be treated for water quality prior to discharge from the site by a proposed grass-lined swale along the eastern boundary. The detention facility and the swale will be owned and maintained by the Falcon Field Residential Metropolitan District No. 2.

Site Traffic

Traffic will access the subdivision primarily via the new E. Woodmen Road extension, to be installed as part of The Commons at Falcon Field Filing No.1 development. This traffic will be directed southwest along Retail Row Street to the main subdivision access point, and additional access point will be provided at Pinto Pony Road in the southeast corner of the site.

Project Justification

The proposed application is supportive of future development and considerate of the effects on the general health, welfare and safety of neighborhoods in the immediate and downstream neighborhoods that have impact from growth in the area. Supportive development reports and land use applications have been provided to address the proper mitigation of any impacts the development may have in the area. These studies in addition, look at the capacities of existing streets, public facilities and the like, to lessen the potential burden of the proposed development moving forward.

Land Development Criteria for Approval

Per section 7.2.1.D.3.f in the Land Development Code, this project meets the following criteria:

1. *The proposed subdivision is in general conformance with the goals, objectives, and policies of the Master Plan*

This request is in general conformance with goals, objectives and policies of the County's Master Plan Vision for creating strategic areas for development that create complete communities with necessary housing and commercial opportunities. The preliminary plan was found to be within general compliance and this Final Plat is consistent with that plan.

2. *The subdivision is in substantial conformance with the approved preliminary plan.*

This subdivision is in substantial conformance with the approved preliminary plan. The overall Commons at Falcon Field development is planned to be subdivided into multiple filings to improve the economics of developing the site in its entirety. At

this time three separate filings are proposed for the commercial area and separate residential areas.

This area of Falcon, specifically the Highway 24 corridor is identified in the Your El Paso Master Plan as a suburban residential priority development area. This Final Plat is in conformance with the goals of the Plan and the approved Preliminary Plan to meet corridor improvement plans for growth and access to goods and services in the area. The proposed use addresses a development intent envisioned to be a strong growth node for good and services east of Highway 24. Proper buffering and transitional uses aim to preserve, protect and enhance the adjacent rural character in the area.

3. *The subdivision is consistent with the subdivision design standards and regulations and meets all planning, engineering, and surveying requirements of the County for maps, data, surveys, analyses, studies, reports, plans, designs, documents, and other supporting materials.*

This subdivision has been designed to meet all County planning, engineering, and surveying requirements, ensuring it supports responsible development, protects public safety and infrastructure, and maintains consistency with County design standards and regulations.

4. *Either a sufficient water supply has been acquired in terms of quantity, quality, and dependability for the type of subdivision proposed, as determined in accordance with the standards set forth in the water supply standards [C.R.S. § 30-28-133(6)(a)] and the requirements of Chapter 8 of this Code, or, with respect to applications for administrative final plat approval, such finding was previously made by the BoCC at the time of preliminary plan approval.*

The proposed subdivision is located within the Woodmen Hills Metropolitan District (WHMD) and a supportive Will Serve Letter noting the District's ability to serve the proposed development with water and sanitary sewer service in an efficient manner with the current infrastructure has been provided. A finding of sufficiency was found with the approved preliminary plan.

5. *A public sewage disposal system has been established and, if other methods of sewage disposal are proposed, the system complies with state and local laws and regulations, [C.R.S. §30-28-133(6) (b)] and the requirements of Chapter 8 of this Code.*

The proposed subdivision is located within the Woodmen Hills Metropolitan District (WHMD) and a supportive Will Serve Letter noting the District's ability to serve the proposed development with water and sanitary sewer service in an efficient manner with the current infrastructure has been provided.

6. *All areas of the proposed subdivision, which may involve soil or topographical conditions presenting hazards or requiring special precautions, have been identified and the proposed subdivision is compatible with such conditions [C.R.S. §30-28-133(6)(c)].*

A geotechnical study has been completed and included with this submittal. Geological hazards present at the site include: artificial fill; hydrocompaction; potentially expansive soils; seasonal and potentially seasonal shallow groundwater; areas of ponded water; springs; unstable slopes and floodplain.

Groundwater monitoring is underway and potential mitigation measures will be incorporated into the final design.

7. Adequate drainage improvements complying with State Statute [C.R.S. §30-28-133(3)(c)(VIII)] and the requirements of this Code and the ECM.

Efforts are underway to address a floodplain map revision and formal CLOMR/LOMR to address channel improvements. A full-spectrum extended detention facility will be located at the south boundary of the subdivision to provide for detention and water quality for the majority of the site runoff prior to discharge to the south via historic drainage patterns. Runoff not conveyed to the detention facility will be treated for water quality prior to discharge from the site by a proposed grass-lined swale along the eastern boundary. The detention facility and the swale will be owned and maintained by the Falcon Field Residential Metropolitan District No. 2.

8. Legal and physical access is or will be provided to all parcels by public rights-of-way or recorded easement, acceptable to the County in compliance with this Code and the ECM.

The final plat(s) for each of the proposed phases will establish legal and physical access to all parcels. Legal access to the development will be provided off Highway 24 at the Woodmen Road intersection. Access to this subdivision will be via the Filing No. 1 Retail Row Street and by connection to the existing Pinto Pony right-of-way to the southeast.

9. Necessary services, including police and fire protection, recreation, utilities, and transportation system, are or will be available to serve the proposed subdivision.

Water and Sanitary Sewer service will be provided by Woodmen Hills Metropolitan District. Mountain View Electric Association Inc., and Colorado Springs Utilities will provide electric and natural gas service to the subdivision respectively. All have provided will-serve letters for the subdivision.

10. The final plans evidence to show that the proposed methods for fire protection comply with Chapter 6 of this Code;

Falcon Fire Protection District will provide fire protection and emergency services and have provided a will-serve letter for the property.

11. Off-site impacts were evaluated and related off-site improvements are roughly proportional and will mitigate the impacts of the subdivision in accordance with applicable requirements of Chapter 8

Offsite impacts are anticipated to be minimal, and have been discussed with adjacent affected landowners. Utility connections and drainage improvements will be constructed within established easements.

12. Adequate public facilities or infrastructure, or cash-in-lieu, for impacts reasonably related to the proposed subdivision have been constructed or are financially guaranteed through the SIA so the impacts of the subdivision will be adequately mitigated.

The Subdivision Improvements Agreement (SIA) and related Financial Assurance Estimate (FAE) addresses all concerns related to financial guarantees/construction of infrastructure and public facilities.

Common spaces in this subdivision, including the proposed detention facility will be owned and maintained by the Falcon Field Residential Metropolitan District No. 2.

13. The proposed subdivision meets other applicable sections of Chapter 6 and 8;

This subdivision meets the noted sections.

14. The extraction of any known commercial mining deposit shall not be impeded by this subdivision [C.R.S. §§ 34-1-302(1), et seq.]

A Notice to Mineral Estate Owners has been provided to the County, attesting that no mineral estate owners were found.

Contact Information

Drexel, Barrell & Co., a full service engineering and surveying firm, represents the property owners. Following is the contact information for all parties.

Owner/Developer:

Falcon Field, LLC
Proterra Properties
1864 Woodmoor Drive, Suite 100
Monument, CO 80132

Consultant:

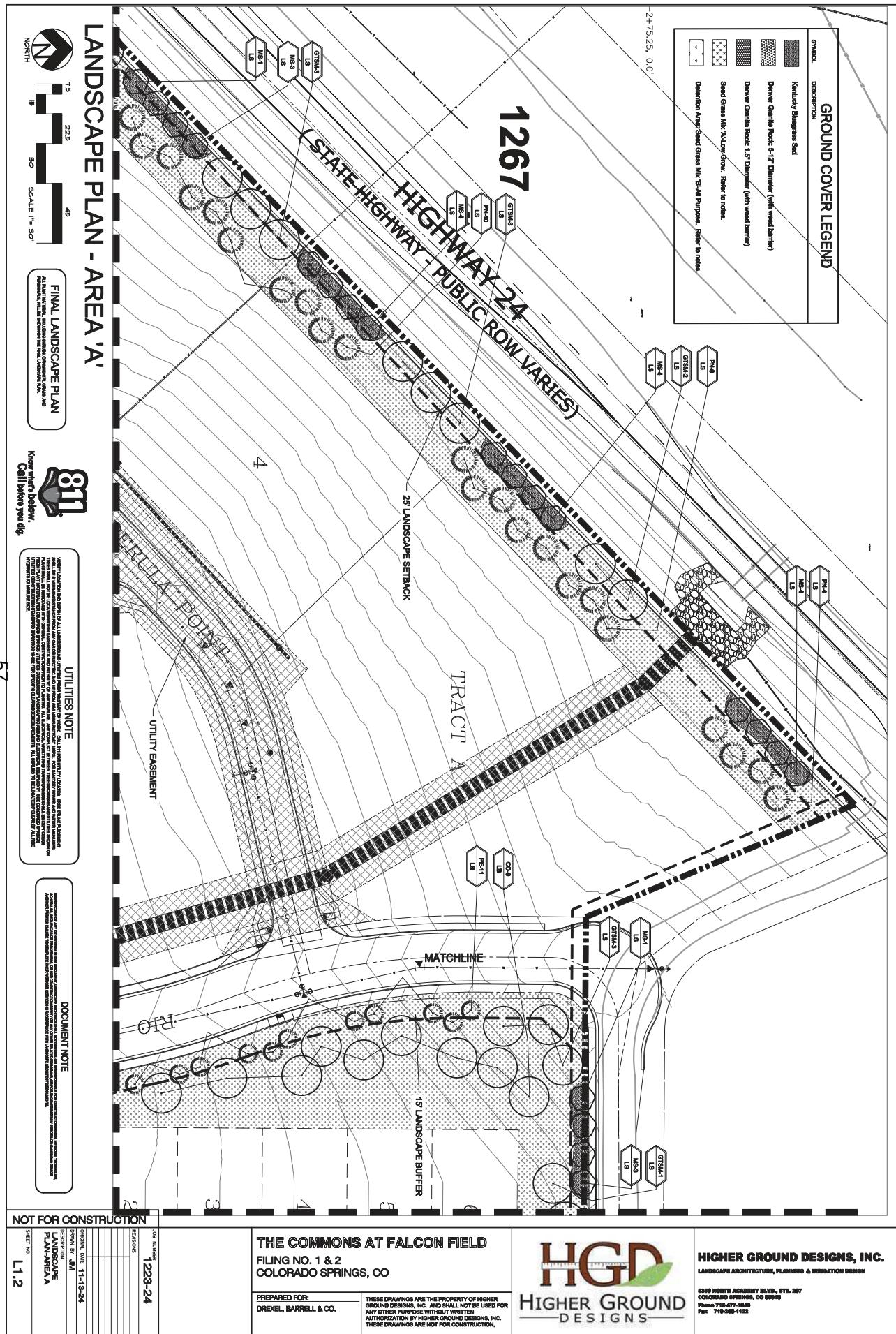
Drexel, Barrell & Co.
Mr. Tim McConnell, P.E., President
101 Sahwatch Street, Suite 100
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
719-260-0887 phone
tmcconnell@drexelbarrell.com

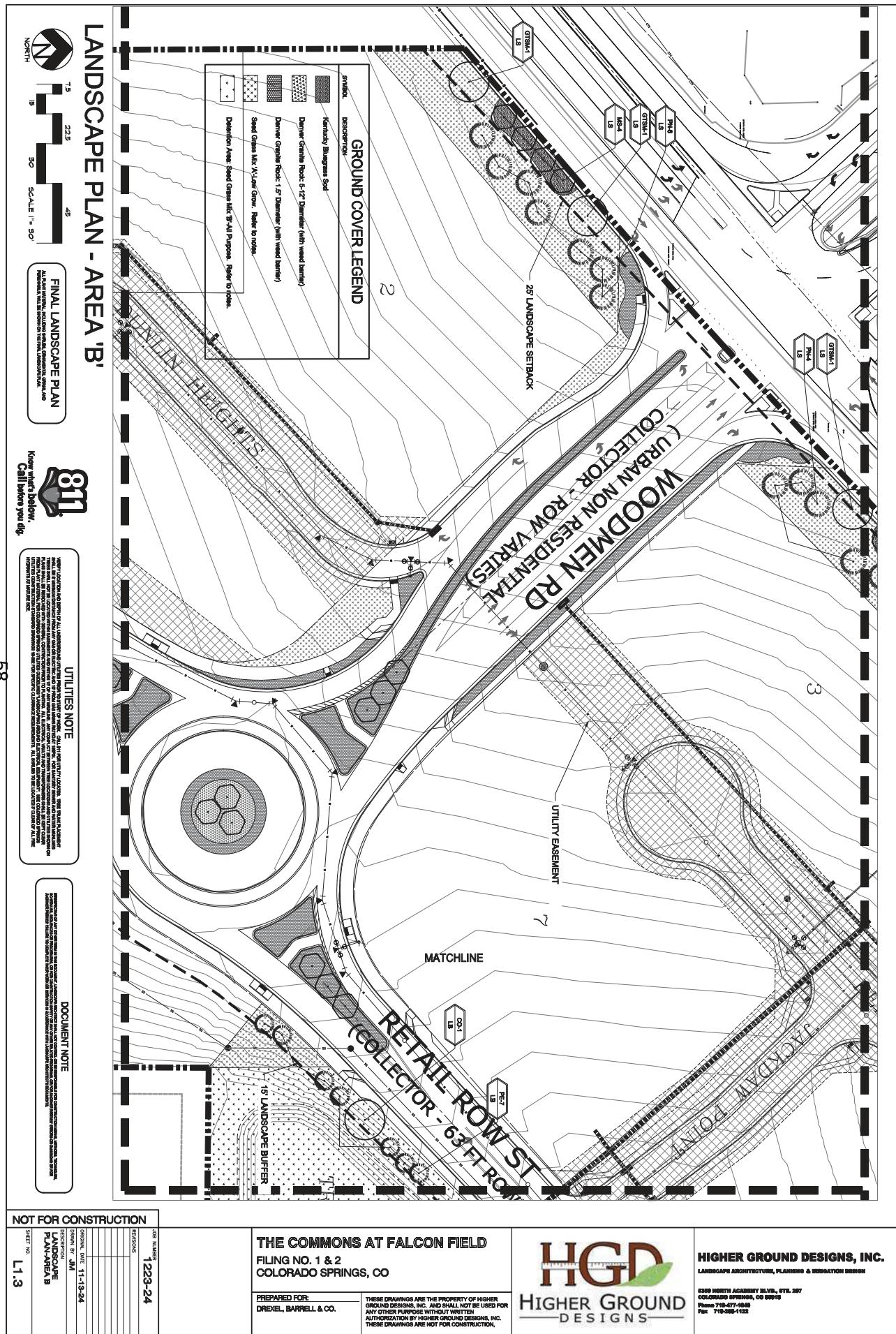
We trust you find our application for the Commons at Falcon Field Final Plat acceptable. We look forward to working with the County in processing the application and submittal package. Please call if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim D. McConnell".

Drexel, Barrell & Co.
Tim D. McConnell, P.E.
President





LANDSCAPE PLAN - AREA 'D'



FINAL LANDSCAPE PLAN



Call before you dig

UTILITIES NOTE

1310

REPRODUCTION OF ANY OTHER FORM IN THIS DOCUMENT, WHETHER IN PART OR IN WHOLE, WITHOUT THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE CONTRACTOR, IS PROHIBITED. THIS DOCUMENT IS FOR CONSTRUCTION USE ONLY. IT IS NOT A CONTRACT. FOR A CONTRACT, PLEASE REFER TO THE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS.

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION		REVISIONS
		12223-24
DRAWN BY: JM		ORIGINAL DATE: 11-19-24
DESCRIPTION: LANDSCAPE PLAN-AHEAD		
SHEET NO.	1.5	

**THE COMMONS AT FALCON FIELD
FILING NO. 1 & 2
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO**

PREPARED FOR:
DREXEL, BARRELL & CO.

PREPARED FOR:
DREXEL, BARRELL & CO.

THESE DRAWINGS ARE THE PROPERTY OF HIGHER GROUND DESIGNS, INC. AND SHALL NOT BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE WITHOUT WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION BY HIGHER GROUND DESIGNS, INC. THESE DRAWINGS ARE NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION.

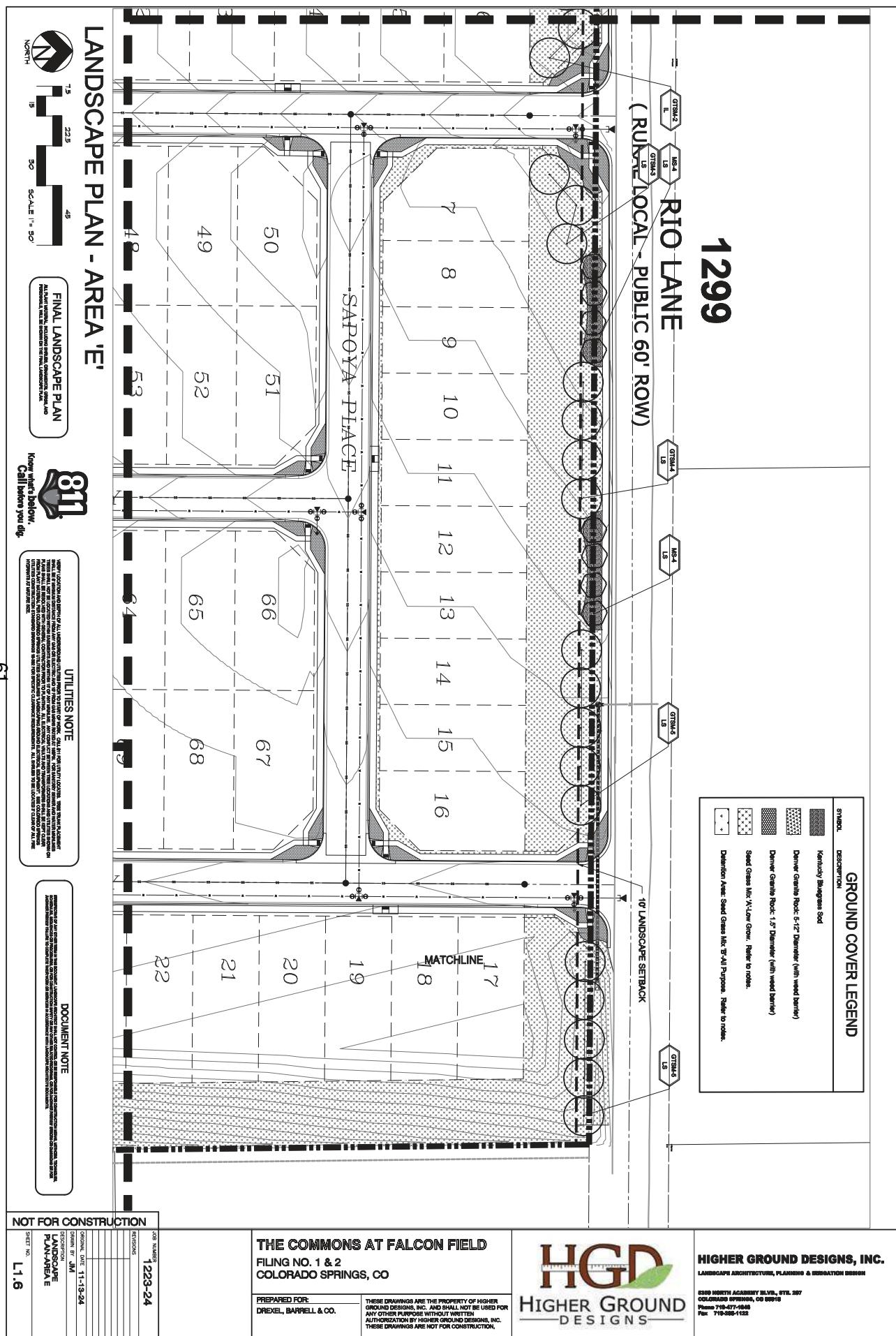


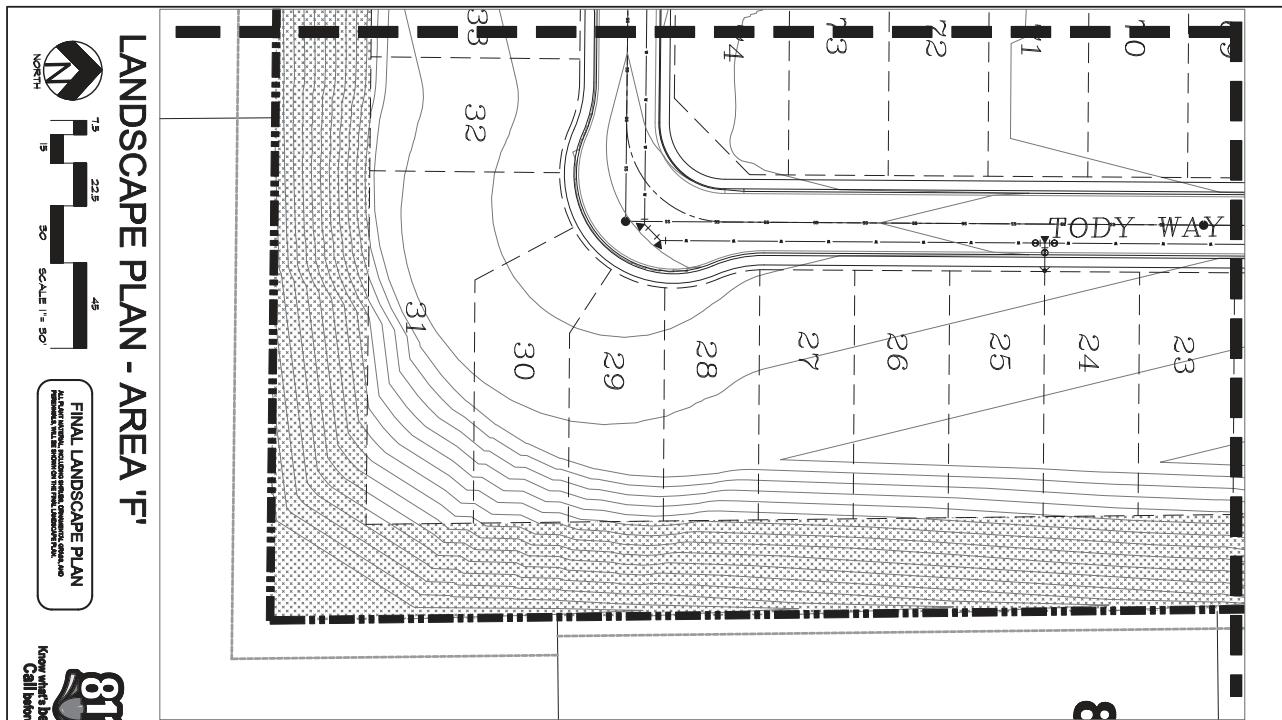
HIGHER GROUND DESIGNS, INC.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING & IRIGATION DESIGN

5350 NORTH ACADEMY BLVD., C
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80916
Phone 719-577-1646
Fax 719-595-1122

80





LANDSCAPE PLAN - AREA 'F'

FINAL LANDSCAPE PLAN

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Known Before
Call Before you dig.

UTILITIES NOTE

DOCUMENT NOTE

GROUND COVER LEGEND	
SYMBOL	DESCRIPTION
	Kentucky Bluegrass Seed
	Denver Gravel Rock: 5/12" Diameter (with weed barrier)
	Denver Gravel Rock: 5" Diameter (with weed barrier)
	Submit sample to owner prior to ordering material
	Seed Grass Mix: 1/4" Low Grow. Refer to note.
	Submit spec to owner prior to ordering material
	Submission Amt: Seed Grass Mix: 1/4" Low Grow. Refer to note.
	Submit spec to owner prior to ordering material
	Project Existing Tree
	Remove Existing Tree
	Shrub Edge: See notes

PLANT SCHEDULE						
Symbol	Abv.	Quantity	Botanical Name	Common Name	Native Size W.H.	B.B. Planting Size
	CO	13	Celtis occidentalis	Honeyberry/Chokeberry	307 x 407 307 x 407	1-12" cal. 1-12" cal.
	ME	32	Malus 'Spring Snow'	Spring Snow Honeyberry	307 x 407 307 x 407	1-12" cal. 1-12" cal.
	OS	34	Malus 'Evereste'	Autumn Fire Honeyberry	267 x 345 267 x 345	3" B.B. 3" B.B.
	PE	30	Prunus emarginata	Philadelphus	15x15 15x15	6" H. 6" H.
	PN	33	Prunus emarginata	Autumn Fire	26x34 26x34	6" H. 6" H.

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION	
JOB NUMBER	123-24
REVISONS	
ORIGINAL DATE	1-11-13-24
DRAWN BY	JAM
DESCRIPTION	
LANDSCAPE	
PLANT AREA	
PREPARED FOR:	THE COMMONS AT FALCON FIELD FILING NO. 1 & 2 COLORADO SPRINGS, CO
SHET NO.	L-1.7



HIGHER GROUND DESIGNS, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING & DESIGNATION DIVISION

1500 NORTH ACADEMY BLVD., STE. 207
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80916
Phone 719-577-1660
Fax 719-595-1122

INSTALLATION NOTES

SEEDING NOTES

מכתבו של מילר לברנשטיין

EROSION CONTROL BLANKETS OR BERM ON SEEDED SLOPES RECOMMENDED FOR A VARIETY OF USES

IMPACTED PLANTING AREAS:

ULTRA-LUMINOSITY 100%
MAGNETIC COMPACTOR FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC CONTROL. BRIGHTEN OR DARKEN. ADJUSTABLE TO 100% BRIGHTNESS. USES BRIGHTENING FILTERS OR LENSES.
BRIGHTENING CONTROL BUILT IN. SWIVEL CORD. NEW MICROFILM LENS. SWIVEL BLADEFIT WITH PHOTOGRAPHIC FILTERS ON BOTH SIDES.

A cartoon owl wearing a hard hat and holding a pencil, with the text "Know what's below. Call before you dig." written next to it.

UTILITIES NOTE

DOCUMENT NOTE

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

ONGOING MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SOD AND GRASS LAWN
WELL ESTABLISHED LAWN WILL BE A HEAVY, WELL-ROOTED, EVEN-COLORED, FREE OF WEEDS, OPEN JOINTS, BARE SPOTS, AND SURFACE IRREGULARITIES.
NOW SCODDED LAWN AS SHOWN IS TOO BROWN TO CUT WITH MOWER SET AT 2" HEIGHT. DO NOT CUT MORE THAN 1/3 LENGTH OF THE GRASS AT ANY ONE MOWING. DO NOT KNOW LESS THAN 2" OFF WHEN GRASS IS WET. REMOVE ALL HEAVY GRASS CLIPPING IMMEDIATELY AFTER MOWING.

FOR SODDED MEADOWS

WHERE THE USE OF URGE AND
HAND.

III. REMOVE ALL HAMM, STONES AND EXTRAMURUS MATERIAL OVER TWO (2) INCHES IN DIAMETER FROM THE SITE.

C. APPLY THE FOLLOWING MEASURES: SOFTLY CLASS 1, NEWTONS FOR 100 KG CLOTH MATERIAL AT A RATE OF 4 CLAMS/YARDS FOR A SET OF 1000 FT. LINEAR FEET. THIS IS EQUIVALENT TO A DEPTH OF 4 INCHES.

WHERE THE USE OF LARGE MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT IS DIFFICULT, SHALL BE WORKED WITH SMALLER EQUIPMENT OR BY HAND.

MAINTENANCE NOTE

HIGHER GROUND DESIGNS, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING & IRRIGATION DESIGN
3300 NORTH ACACIAHILL BLVD., STE. 207
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80918
Phone 719-477-1040
Fax 719-595-1122

The logo for Higher Ground Designs features the letters "HGD" in a large, brown, serif font. A small, blue, horizontal ruler graphic is positioned behind the "G". To the right of "HGD" is a green, stylized leaf graphic. Below "HGD", the words "HIGHER GROUND" are written in a smaller, brown, sans-serif font. A horizontal line extends from the end of "HIGHER" to the end of "DESIGNS", which are written in a slightly smaller font.

THE COMMONS AT FALCON FIELD
FILING NO. 1 & 2
201 SPRUCE SPRINGS, CO

PREPARED FOR:
DREXEL BARBELL & CO.

PREPARED FOR: THESE DRAWINGS ARE THE PROPERTY OF HIGHER GROUND DESIGNS, INC. AND SHALL NOT BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE WITHOUT WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION BY HIGHER GROUND DESIGNS, INC. THESE DRAWINGS ARE NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION.

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION	
REASONS	
ORIGINAL DATE	11-13-24
DRAWN BY	JMA
LANDSCAPE NOTES	
SHEET NO.	L1.8
1223-24	

El Paso County Park Advisory Board

Agenda Item Summary Form

Agenda Item Title: Joint City / County Park Advisory Board Luncheon

Agenda Date: September 10, 2025

Agenda Item Number: # 7 - A

Presenter: Todd Marts, Executive Director

Information: **Endorsement:**

Background Information:

The City of Colorado Springs and El Paso County Park Advisory Boards annually conduct a joint meeting/luncheon to provide updates and discuss collaborative projects.

The 2025 meeting will be held on **Wednesday, October 1 from Noon – 1:30 p.m.** at the Fountain Creek Nature Center, 320 Pepper Grass Lane, Fountain, CO 80817. A light lunch will be provided.

Recommended motion:

Information item

El Paso County Park Advisory Board

Agenda Item Summary Form

Agenda Item Title: 2026 Capital Improvement Program

Agenda Date: September 10, 2025

Agenda Item Number: #7 - B

Presenter: Todd Marts, Executive Director

Information: **Endorsement:** X

Background Information:

The Park Advisory Board annually considers and / or endorses the upcoming Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The CIP includes proposed capital improvement projects for the upcoming year. Final determination of the projects may vary based on the final adopted budget.

Please find enclosed the 2026 CIP for consideration and / or endorsement.

Recommended motion:

Move to endorse the 2026 Capital Improvement Program.

EL PASO  **COUNTY**
COLORADO



EL PASO COUNTY PARKS
2026
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP)

Introduction

El Paso County Parks (EPC Parks) currently manages a multimillion-dollar park system that includes approximately 8,000 acres of parkland, 145 miles of trails, 33 pavilions, 15 playgrounds, 23 restroom facilities, 2 nature centers, 2,500 acres of conservation easements, and numerous athletic facilities. EPC Parks also manages the El Paso County Fairgrounds and landscape maintenance at numerous County facilities.

It is critical that EPC Parks utilizes a systematic approach to ensure all facilities are well-maintained and that we make every effort to meet the parks and recreation needs of our community within our available resources.

The CIP is key for physical improvements and development of parks, trails, open space, and public facilities throughout the park system. The motives behind the CIP are to improve safety, accessibility, and the quality of life through continuous maintenance and upkeep of current assets, parkland acquisition, and ongoing development of new park properties and facilities as our community grows.

To achieve the above goals, EPC Parks develops a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) which identifies available funding and needs. The CIP is a fluid document, updated annually, to reflect changes in priorities, opportunities, and circumstances. A general guideline for EPC Parks capital improvement is having a useful life of more than five years with a value more than \$25,000. The final CIP will be determined with the 2026 Adopted Budget.





Project Prioritization Methods

County Parks utilizes the following criteria to determine the timeline and funding priorities for the respective Park projects:

Risk management

Project will reduce the potential of injury to facility users.

Citizen needs

Project has received high rankings on citizen surveys or other demonstrated citizen input processes.

Funding

Project that can be completed from available funding sources will be given a higher priority.

Timing

Project that are part of a phased improvement program that requires the phases be completed in sequence.

Critical function

Projects that must be completed for a critical function within a respective facility (American with Disabilities Act issues, irrigation, restrooms) will be given priority over non-critical function projects.

Manpower reduction

Project will reduce the manpower to maintain the respective facility.

Aesthetics

Project will improve the overall aesthetics of the facility.

Long-term stability

The project will improve the long-term stability of the respective facility which will in turn, reduce ongoing maintenance.

Address overall county goals

Project addresses County objectives in the County's Strategic Plan.

Funding Sources

Regional and Urban Park Fees

Regional and urban park fees are paid by developers during the land development process to support new or enhanced park and recreation facilities to address population growth in respective areas of the County. Please see Appendix B and C for additional information on regional and urban park fee funds.

County Capital Improvement Funds

El Paso County secured \$750,000 annually beginning in 2021 to support park projects.

Conservation Trust Funds

El Paso County receives approximately \$1.4 million annually to maintain the County's Park system. Most of the funds are used to support employee salaries and ongoing maintenance efforts. Any remaining funds are used to support capital projects.

Grants / Fundraising

El Paso County Parks aggressively pursues funding from federal, state and local funding sources and collaborative efforts between other governmental jurisdictions, private organizations, and citizens.



2026 CIP Timeline

June - August:	CIP review and funding
August:	Finalize CIP list for Park Advisory Board presentation
September:	Present proposed CIP to Park Advisory Board for review and endorsement as recommendations to Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) / County Administration. Funding for CIP projects are included in the upcoming County budget.
December	BoCC approves budget for upcoming year

El Paso County Parks
2026 Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Projects - New & Ongoing	Description / Comments	Funding Sources	Funding Amount
Fox Run Regional Park Improvements	Pond and Gazebo Improvements	RPF, UPF, GF, CTF	\$1,300,000
Fox Run Nature Center	Construction	TPF, RPF, CTF, GF	\$11,000,000
Homestead Ranch Regional Park Improvements	Trail and Drainage Improvements	RPF	\$150,000
Fountain Creek Regional Park	ADA Improvements, Sidewalk / Parking Lot Improvements	UPF, TPF	\$260,000
Ute Pass Regional Trail - Phase 2	Trail / Sidewalk	GF	\$500,000
Santa Fe Open Space	Meadows / Blodgett Peak Overlook Trail	CTF	\$50,000
NRCS Projects at Willow Springs Ponds & Duckwood Trailhead	Construction	TPF, EF	\$3,077,672
FEMA Projects - Woodlake, Falcon, Drake Lake, Fountain Creek	Design/Construction	TPF, EF	\$1,005,185
FEMA Projects - Hanson Trailhead	Design/Construction	TPF, EF	\$1,178,636
Black Forest Section 16 Trailhead	Design/Construction	UPF	\$75,000
TOTAL			\$18,596,493

Funding Sources
RPF - Regional Park Fees
UPF - Urban Park Fees
GF - El Paso County Capital Improvement Funds
CTF - Conservation Trust Funds
TPF - Third Party Funds (Grants, Fundraising, Donations, etc.)
EF - El Paso County Emergency Funds



ACTION PLAN

PARK OPERATIONS DIVISION

Project Lead	Action Item	Description	Strategic Plan Objective	Status
Brian Bobeck	Fox Run Regional Park Pond and Gazebo Renovation	Project design and bid construction to renovate the ponds and wedding gazebo that has exceeded useful life along with structural issues	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	Construction Contract Award
Adam Robertson	Bear Creek Dog Park Restroom Renovation	Clean, paint, repair entire restroom facility, replace fixtures as needed	Objective 1 - Infrastructure Objective 4 - Health & Safety	Completed
Adam Robertson	Park Administration Building Landscape Renovation (Phase 1)	Remove vegetation, convert irrigation system, install retaining wall and mow curb, complete plant design and install, gravel mulch	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	On-Hold
Adam Baker	Homestead Ranch Regional Park Trail Resurfacing	Resurface northeast loop of regional trail, tie into trail segment completed in 2024	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	Construction
Adam Baker	El Paso County Fairgrounds Flagpole Relocation	Relocate flagpole at south entrance of Fairgrounds	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	Completed
Ben Dumakowski	Fox Run Regional Park - Pine Meadows Landscape Renovation	Renovate landscape beds in parking lot and near restrooms	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	Completed
Ben Dumakowski	Ice Lake Trailhead Fence Replacement	Replace damaged fence at Ice Lake Trailhead	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	Bid Development
Jamie Haas	Fountain Creek Regional Park Basketball Court Restoration	Correct drainage issues around court, paint court lines, adjust backboard and rims as needed	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	In-Progress
Scott Myers	Black Forest Regional Park Parking Lot Maintenance / Handrail Repair	Fog seal, crack seal, repaint parking lines, repair / replace ADA handrails	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	Completed
Kyle Melvin	HRP Fire Mitigation (COSWAP)	Complete forest fuel reduction efforts to protect against wildfire	Objective 4 - Health & Safety	Completed
Kyle Melvin	John Ceresa Memorial Park Playground Replacement	Replace outdated and unsafe playground with a fun, safe, and accessible structure	Objective 1 - Infrastructure Objective 4 - Health & Safety	Completed

PARK PLANNING DIVISION

Project Lead	Action Item	Description	Strategic Plan Objective	Status
Jason Meyer	Asset Management Plan	DPW/Parks Hire Asset Management Specialist	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	In-Progress
Jason Meyer	Asset Management Plan	Park system facility condition index & assessment	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	In-Progress
Ashlyn Mathy	Land Development Code Update	Participate in Land Development Code Update	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	In-Progress
Jason Meyer	Advance Recovery Projects	Advance NRCS projects across the park system	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	Completed
Jason Meyer	Advance Recovery Projects	Advance FEMA funded project across the park system	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	In-Progress
Jason Meyer	Ute Pass Regional Trail	Complete final design and advance construction efforts	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	Design Completed - Bid Scope
Jason Meyer	Fox Run Nature Center	Complete engineering, design, and capital fundraising campaign	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	In-Progress
Jason Meyer	Fountain Creek Sidewalks & Paving	Sidewalk and paving improvements to Duckwood Active Use Area	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	Status pending
Jason Meyer	Fox Run Restrooms	Renovation of Oak and Pine Meadows Restrooms	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	In-Progress
Ross Williams	Black Forest Section 16 Trailhead	Complete expansion of the trailhead parking	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	Status pending
Ross Williams	E-Bike Policy	Coordinate with all park divisions to establish a new E-bike Policy and implement.	Objective 2 - Service Quality	In-Progress
Ross Williams	Fountain Creek Nature Center Entrance	Complete construction of new ADA compliant entrance ramp	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	Completed
Ross Williams	Paint Mines Fencing	Complete installation of wood fencing	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	In-Progress
Ross Williams	Crews Gulch Paving	Complete paving of Crews Gulch Trail (CDBG Grant)	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	In-Progress
Ross Williams	Santa Fe Open Space	Complete new trail construction	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	Completed

RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

Project Lead	Action Item	Description	Strategic Plan Objective	Status
Theresa Odello	Health and Safety Classes	Offer 4 or more health and safety classes for employees and to the public, to include First Aid, CPR, AED, Sensitivity, Youth Mental Health First Aid, and Disability Awareness.	Objective 4: Health & Safety	Completed
Mary Jo Lewis	BCNC Exhibit	Redesign corner exhibit to create "A Closer Peak at Bear Creek" exhibit and have the RFP created by this due date.	Objective 1: Infrastructure	Completed
Jessica/Andy Miller	FCNC Restoration Crew	Coordinate at least one volunteer day per quarter to tackle restoration/conservation projects at FCNC.	Objective 2: Service Quality	Completed
Jessica Miller	FCNC Introduction Kiosk	Update and create new signs for the introduction kiosk at FCNC.	Objective 3: Community Trust	Final stages: need to place order
Victoria Dinkel	Underserved Audience Programming	Work with a community partner to create, market, and schedule at least 4 programs to engage individuals in an underserved community.	Objective 2 - Service Quality	Completed
Andschana Aljets	Fair & Events Center Communications	Increase community awareness through social media by posting at least once per week, and redesign website for easier navigation by March 1.	Objective 3: Community Trust	Completed
Kylee Taylor	BCNC Restoration Crew Expansion	Expand the Restoration Crew to include trail maintenance. Work with volunteers and partnerships and coordinate efforts with Park Operations Division.	Objective 1: Infrastructure	Completed
Skye Bogle	Creative Arts Fair Program	Experience, Learn and Research Creative Arts processes during 2024 County Fair. Compile a list of judges, community partners, and resources that can improve the Program. Implement at least 5 changes to the program based on this research and connection for the 2025 El Paso County Fair.	Objective 2 - Service Quality	Completed

Community Services Department
Parks / Recreation & Cultural Services Divisions

August 2025 Monthly Report

Facility Revenue Totals To Date						
	Budget	Current	Balance	2024	2023	
Parties/Facility Reservation Revenue	\$ 180,000	\$ 187,412	\$ (7,412)	\$ 188,995	\$ 229,719	
County Fair / Fairgrounds	\$ 301,000	\$ 228,570	\$ 72,430	\$ 408,139	\$ 268,650	
Total	\$ 481,000	\$ 415,982	\$ 65,018	\$ 597,134	\$ 498,369	
Fundraising Revenue						
	Purpose	Goal	Amount	Balance	Totals to Date	Totals to Date
County Fair Sponsorships	Fair Operations	\$ 80,000	\$ 112,500	\$ (32,500)	\$ 112,500	\$ 100,500
Partners in the Park Program	Park Operations	\$ 45,000	\$ 70,000	\$ (25,000)	\$ 92,500	\$ 75,000
Trust for County Parks	Park Operations	\$ 10,000	\$ 55,942	\$ (45,942)	\$ 48,083	\$ 22,165
Nature Center Fundraising	Nature Center Support	\$ 25,000	\$ 13,035	\$ 11,965	\$ 17,808	\$ 15,885
County Fairgrounds Support (Fairgrounds Corp)	Programming/Facility Support	\$ 40,000	\$ 70,000	\$ (30,000)	\$ 80,000	\$ 70,000
Total	\$ 200,000	\$ 321,477	\$ (121,477)	\$ 350,891	\$ 283,550	
Grant / 3rd Party Funding						
	Awarded					
Parks Division Reservations						
	2025	2025	2025	2024	2023	2023
<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Rentals</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Evaluation</u>	<u>Rentals</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Rentals</u>
January	10	1626	N/A	10	1072	11
February	11	893	N/A	15	898	15
March	86	2997	N/A	15	292	51
April	325	10789	4.3	278	7613	299
May	482	17943	4.1	491	16030	448
June	614	20929	4.5	635	23181	552
July	579	19616	4.32	579	20387	594
August	442	19278	4.67	502	21409	445
September						
October						
November						
December						
Total	2549	94071	4,378	2525	90882	2415

<u>Parks Facility Reservations</u>		2025 Rentals	2025 Attendance	2024 Rentals	2024 Attendance	2023 Rentals	2023 Attendance
<u>August</u>							
<u>Bear Creek Regional Park</u>							
Athletic Lanes		8	16	1	10		
Athletic Fields		45	2460	46	2665	51	3170
Pavilions		113	5843	124	6930	122	6561
Trails		4	960	2	850	2	650
Vendor		4	16	14	36	10	44
Tennis Courts				1	2	1	4
Pickleball Courts				14	98	30	216
Vita Course					10	57	5
Meeting Room						32	6
<u>Black Forest Regional Park</u>							
Athletic Fields		2	200	1	100	5	320
Pavilions		28	1127	28	1104	24	1086
Vendor							
Tennis Courts / Pickleball Courts		17	60	12	45	4	16
<u>Falcon Regional Park</u>							
Athletic Fields		6	450			2	200
Pavilions		47	2048	40	2009	43	2001
Trails							
Disc Golf Course		2	132	4	405	1	95
Vendor		7	26	2	8	1	4
<u>Fox Run Regional Park</u>							
Athletic Fields				19	590	20	700
Gazebo					13	1561	13
Warming Hut					8	137	10
Pavilions				83	3985	76	3557
Vendor						75	3729
Trails						2	6
<u>Homestead Ranch Regional Park</u>							
Pavilions				16	636	55	533
Athletic Fields						12	345
Trails							
<u>Palmer Lake Recreational Area</u>							
<u>Palmer Lake Santa Fe Trail</u>							
<u>New Santa Fe Trail</u>							
Monument Trail Head New Santa Fe Trail							
Baptist Road Santa Fe Trail							
AFA Santa Fe Trail							
Vendor - Santa Fe Trailheads							
<u>Paint Mines Trail</u>							
Rock Island Trail				4	64	6	59
Black Forest Section 16						9	203
Rainbow Falls Historic Site							
Pioneer's Open Space							
Total Park Facility Reservations				442	19278	502	21409
						445	22024

		2025	2025	2025	2024	2024	2023	2023
		Rentals	Attendance	Evaluation	Rentals	Attendance	Rentals	Attendance
January		40	1,745	N/A	17	385	8	173
February		24	1,165	N/A	19	770	14	735
March		18	1,225	N/A	22	1000	12	1160
April		15	1360	N/A	26	6873	18	7161
May		20	1572	N/A	26	4657	23	4150
June		29	733	N/A	50	6639	17	4490
July		18	890	N/A	8	415	13	280
August		26	363	N/A	10	685	12	3689
September								
October								
November								
December								
Total		190	9,053		N/A	178	21,424	117
Fairgrounds Facility Reservations								
August								
Swink Hall - Fairgrounds								
4-H Club Leader Meeting		1	20	1	30			
Lion's Club Meeting		1	50	1	10			
Jr. Livestock Committee Mtg.		1	20	1	20			
Fair Advisory Board Meeting		1	30	1	20			
4-H Hitch'N Post Mtg.		1	20	1	20			
Grand Stands Building								
North Kitchen - Paradise Café		6	20	1	250			
South Kitchen - Cluckin Chicken		4	16					
South Kitchen - Fire Prairie Salsa		5	13					
Track								
Grounds & Stable								
Camping & Horse Stalls		1	4	2	150			
Livestock Arena								
4-H Mini Horse Arena Workout		2	20	1	15			
Whitemore - Fairgrounds				1	170			
FSB Pavilion		2	100					
Callan Ranch Club 4-H Club		1	50					
Arena								
Month Total Fair Facility Reservations		26	363	10	685			

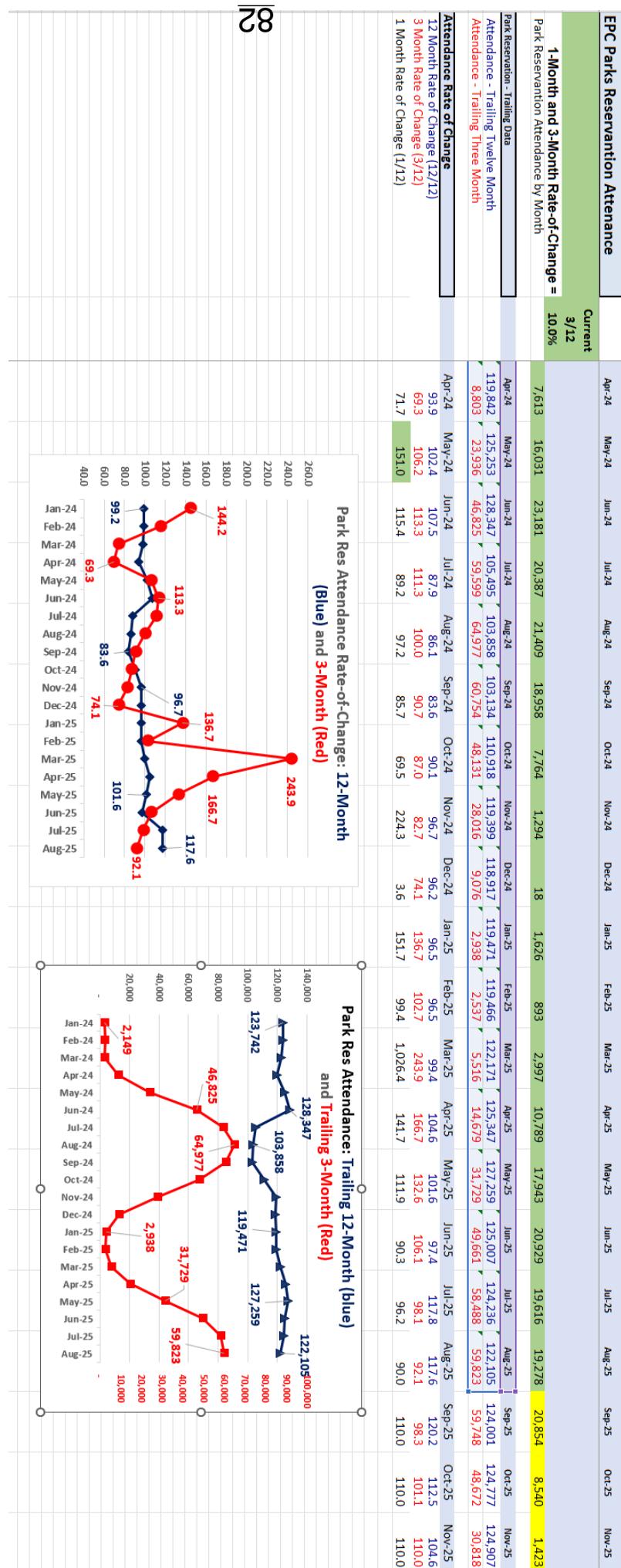
<u>Vandalism Report</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Incident				
Rear tires on County trucks units 902, 904 punctured	12/27/2024	Park HQ Parking Lot	Central	\$600
Restroom mirror broken	2/1/2025	Warning Hut Restroom	North	\$250
Graffiti removal	2/1, 2/17, 3/6	Carp Lake Tunnel	South	\$600
Graffiti removal	2/17, 2/24, 3/9	Crews Gulch Tunnel	South	\$600
Graffiti removal at multiple sites	3/10/2025	Rainbow Falls Tunnel	Central	\$2,540
Graffiti removal at multiple sites	4/3/2025	Carp Lake & Crews Gulch Tunnel	South	\$2,000
Illegal dumping clean-up	4/30/2025	Maxwell St. & S. Academy	South	\$4,100
Illegal dumping clean-up (dog park)	7/24/2025	Falcon Regional Park	East	\$500
Gate damage	7/29/2025	Maxwell Street & S. Academy	South	\$500
Illegal dumping	7/30/2025	Stratmoor Valley	South	\$500
		Total		\$12,190

August	Facility	2025		2025	
		Programs	Attendance	Evaluation	
Fire Mitigation and Preparedness	FRRP	1	35	4.75	
Paint Mines Guided Hike	PMIP	2	29		
Bunco	BCRP	1	14	4.92	
Nature Adventures: Becoming Invisible	FCNC	2	64	5.00	
2s & 3s Outdoors: Jump Around	FCNC	2	33	5.00	
Outreach: Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Research Center	FCNC	1	250		
Program Room Rental	FCNC	5	155		
Nature After Dark	FCNC	1	25	5.00	
Adult Birding Club: Clas & Field Trip	FCNC	2	28	5.00	
Art Girls Night Out	FCNC	1	30	5.00	
Monarch Magic	FCNC	1	37	5.00	
Trillability Program	FCNC	9	24	5.00	
Nature Camp: Cattail Kids	FCNC	1	30	5.00	
Group Visit: Adult Care Group	FCNC	3	36		
Awesome Arthropods	FCNC	3	33	5.00	
Discover the Wetlands	FCNC	2	31	5.00	
Bear Den Rental: One Year Old Birthday Party	BCNC	1	30		
Trillability	BCNC	5	8		
Group Visit: Foundations for Successful Living	BCNC	1	12		
Kids Night Out: Summer Celebration	BCNC	1	22		
Nature Explorers: Weather	BCNC	2	50	4.90	
Sustainability Series: Natural Dyes w Flying Pig	BCNC	2	12		
Group Visit: Our House	BCNC	1	20		
Outreach: Cheyenne Mountain Run	BCNC	1	106		
Scout: Brownie Bug Badge	BCNC	1	10	5.00	
Little Wonders: Dragonflies	BCNC	2	50	5.00	
Honey Harvest & Pollinator Day	BCNC	1	300	4.90	
Discover Bear Creek	BCNC	2	25	4.90	
Habitat	BCNC	2	30	5.00	
Incredible Insects	BCNC	2	30	5.00	
Colorado Wildlife Detectives	BCNC	2	48	5.00	
Cornhole League	FEC	2	30		
BST Auto Races	FEC	2	4197		
Homesteading Group	FEC	1	20		
80s Trivia & Musical Bingo with Cluckin Chicken	FEC	1	75		
TOTALS		69	5929	4.97	

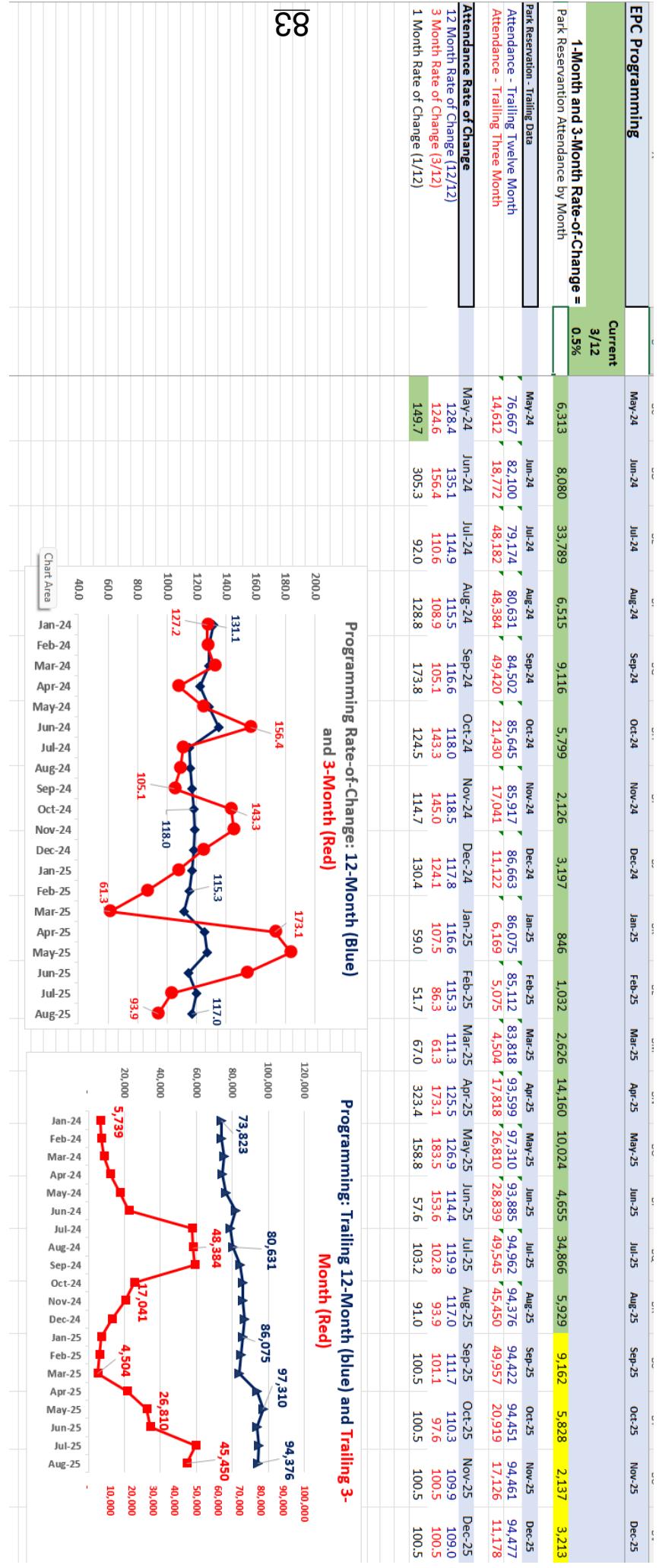
Visitor Contacts (does not include programs)	Bear Creek Nature Center	Fountain Creek Nature Center	Paint Mines Interpretive Park	Rainbow Falls Historic Site
January	645	566	0	0
February	837	620	0	350
March	1541	1210	0	0
April	1270	927	1704	0
May	1634	1523	3467	748
June	2316	1727	2033	2730
July	2514	1842	2683	2621
August	2290	1450	3773	3238
September				
October				
November				
December				
Totals	13047	9865	13660	9687

Rate of Change & Trailing Data – Park Reservations

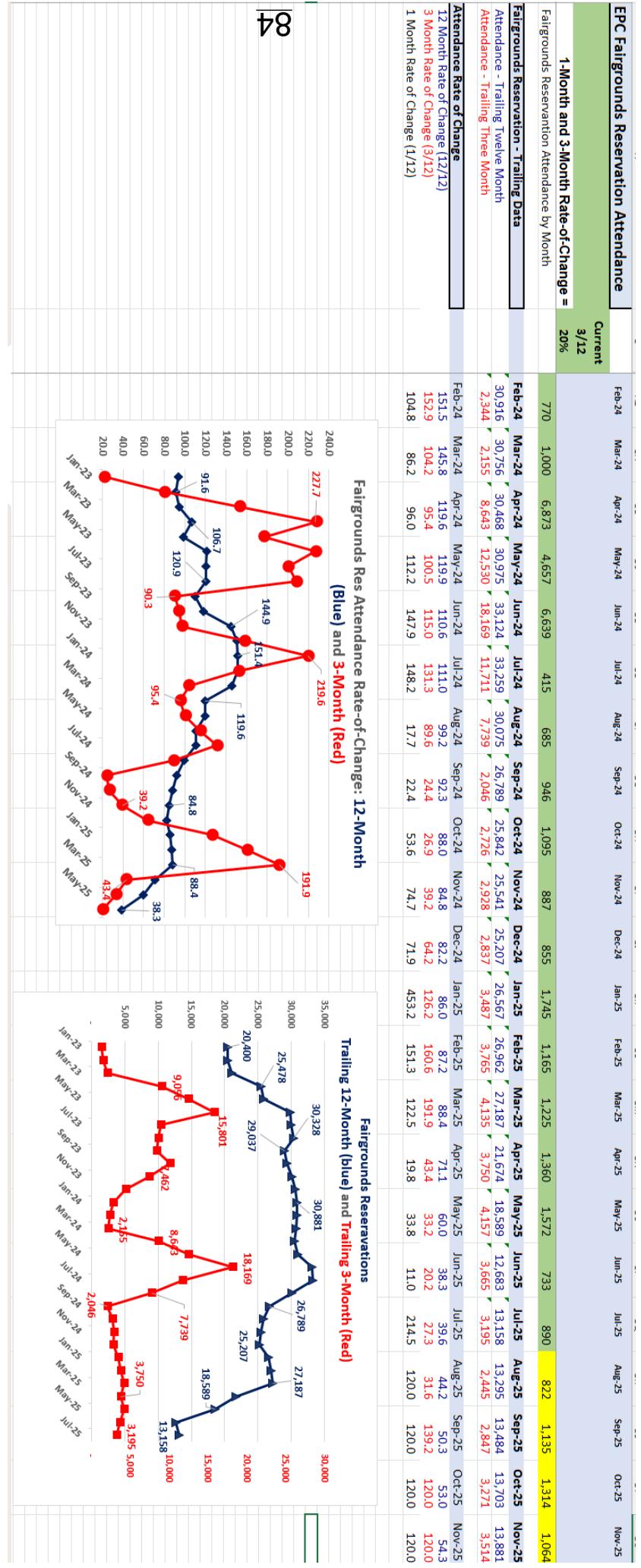
82



Rate of Change & Trailing Data – Programming



Rate of Change & Trailing Data – Fairgrounds Reservations Attendance



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
MONTHLY REPORT

AUGUST 2025

General Updates:

- ❖ Facility rentals have generated \$187,412 which exceeded our annual \$180,000 goal by 4.1%.

Special Events:

1. The 14th annual 'HEARS 5K Race/Walk' took place on the east trail system of Bear Creek Regional Park. 150 people attended this year's fundraiser. HEARS is a 30+ year old all-volunteer non-profit that provides new hearing aids to low-income residents of El Paso County.
2. The Cheyenne Mountain Stampede (Pre-State) XC race was held in August. 46 teams from across Colorado started. Start and finish, as well as all event festivities were held on the Penrose Event Center grounds. This is the Pre-Race to the XC State Championship. The events draw several thousand people each year and are a large contributor to local tourism.



Cheyenne Mountain Stampede (Pre-State) XC race

PARKS DEPARTMENT

2002 Creek Crossing Street | Colorado Springs, Colorado | 80905
www.elpasocountyparks.com | parks@elpasoco.com

3. The US Taekwondo Center invited members and the public to their annual club celebration at Black Forest Regional Park. Several hundred people enjoyed self-defense demonstrations, field games, soccer and volleyball tournaments.
4. 6 commercial photograph permits for commercial/engagement photography were issued for the Paint Mines Interpretive Park.
5. Several permits were issued to local businesses and organizations to include bounce houses and other inflatables at their events. Several food trucks also received vendor permits to sell at our regional parks.

PARKS DEPARTMENT

2002 Creek Crossing Street | Colorado Springs, Colorado | 80905

www.elpasocountyparks.com | parks@elpasoco.com



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Monthly Report – August 2025

Happy Trails BBQ Fundraiser: The Hoot-enanny!

Friday, September 12 | 6:00–9:00 PM

Bear Creek Nature Center | 245 Bear Creek Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80906

Join us for the 16th Annual Happy Trails BBQ Fundraiser in support of the Friends of El Paso County Nature Centers. This lively western-themed evening features:

- Santa Maria-style tri-tip from Buffalo Gals Catering
- Fine wine, craft beer & spirits
- Decadent desserts from local businesses
- Live music & dancing under the stars
- Owl encounters with our wildlife ambassadors
- Interactive stations hosted by Nature Camp leaders

All proceeds benefit nature center programs and camp scholarships—helping us connect more children, families, and underserved communities to the wonders of the outdoors. Your participation matters. This fundraiser is critical to sustaining these programs, and we can't do it without you. Please secure your spot today! Contact Mary Jo Lewis at 719-520-6388 for reservations.

El Paso County Fair: Celebrating 120 Years of Tradition!

We are excited to share some wonderful news from this year's County Fair! Not only did we surpass both our revenue and attendance goals, but we also expanded our community impact through a new partnership with

4-H, FFA, and the nonprofit **Protein 4 Helping Others**.

Highlights include:

- **119 lots sold** at the El Paso County Junior Livestock Sale, totaling **\$402,350.00**
- **6,011 pounds of protein donated** to the Springs Rescue Mission, valued at nearly **\$32,000.00** in retail value

These achievements show that the County Fair is not just an event—it's a powerful force for good, supporting youth, strengthening community partnerships, and making a meaningful difference across our region.

2025 Creek Week Cleanup: September 27th - October 5th

The Fountain Creek Watershed needs helping hands!

PARKS DEPARTMENT

2002 Creek Crossing Street | Colorado Springs, Colorado | 80905

www.elpasocountyparks.com | parks@elpasoco.com

It's common for trash and debris to end up in waterways, clogging drainage systems, impacting wildlife, affecting water quality, and ruining the view of our natural landscapes.

Be part of the largest watershed-wide clean-up in the state of Colorado! Creek Week volunteers clean up litter along creeks, trails, parks, or open spaces throughout the watershed. We invite individuals and groups (such as families, clubs, schools, and neighborhoods) to form a Creek Crew. Get outdoors, get active, and get busy creating positive change for your community and those living downstream.

For more information, go to www.fountain-crk.org.

MONTHLY REPORT: AUGUST 2025

Programs & Special Events:

- It was a sweet day on August 23rd at our annual **Honey Harvest & Pollinator Celebration Day**! Over 300 folks buzzed around to enjoy honey products from The Honey Cottage and ice-cream from Josh and John's, learn about bugs of all types from Cronk Art and the Xerces Society, and gather information about pollinator gardens from The Broadmoor Garden Society. The Pikes Peak Beekeeping Association, as always, made this event what it is by demonstrating honey extraction throughout the day and giving visitors the ability to get hands-on (and a bit sticky!) by trying the process themselves. Thanks, too, to Toyota for being one of our sponsors.



- Bear Creek Nature Center forged a new programming partnership in August, offering a **Sustainability Series Natural Dyes and Paper Making Workshop** with Flying Pig Farm in Manitou Springs. Participants met at Flying Pig Farm to gather plant materials that are grown there and make their own paper, then wrapped up the multi-day workshop at Bear Creek Nature Center by pressing plant materials into their homemade paper. This was an opportunity to support Friends of El Paso County Nature Centers and Flying Pig Farm while offering a unique program that combined nature and arts.



- Our events are typically during regular business hours, and are very popular, but one program shakes things up while maintaining popularity is **Kid's Night Out**. Parents drop children off after hours for a night of fun. The kids always have a blast - games, hikes, food, and maybe just a bit of sugar. Our most recent event theme was **Summer Celebration**, enjoying all things summer. We discussed how and why seasons happen, and why the days are longer and warmer in summer. Participants then enjoyed cooking hot dogs, summer fruits, and of course, roasting marshmallows for s'mores. The kids then visit the creek to learn about life in the creek and play in the water. The evening ended with calming stargazing.



- On August 29th, **Bunco Night** was held at Bear Creek Nature Center. Players gathered for five lively rounds of Bunco. As always, players included a mix of returning participants and new faces, creating a fun and welcoming atmosphere. Prizes for the highest score, lowest score, and most Buncos were awarded at the end of the evening. This time, the winners were delighted to choose from a fun card game, a themed snack box, or the traditional seasonal candle.
- Fountain Creek Nature Center's wetlands are a serene, beautiful place at dusk, and the wildlife changes at night. Guests of the **Nature After Dark** program learned about the nocturnal and crepuscular animals of the park and what adaptations they have that help them excel at in-the-dark activities. When the sun had



set, they took a guided hike around the trail watching bats, listening to cicadas, and finding so many spiders! Everyone loved the evening serenity and appreciated the unique creatures that hide in the darkness and were inspired to help them by turning lights out at night.

- Fountain Creek Nature Center hosted **The Arc of the Pikes Peak Region** recently for a 'Girls' Night Out'. Teens and young adults with developmental disabilities gather once a month for an evening of socializing and skill building to help with the transition into adulthood. In August, they met at FCNC to learn more about nocturnal animals and enjoy an evening walk around the nature loop. One participant enjoyed the use of our Terrain Hopper, and all families enjoyed spending time in nature together.



- Fountain Creek Nature Center's **Monarch Magic** program was at full capacity this year, enjoyed by all ages from toddlers to seniors. Before the outdoor activities we all learned about the life cycle of the monarch, how we can help in conservation, and their cultural significance through the time and space of North America while also making Day of the Dead inspired monarch masks. Outside, the group combed through milkweed meadow where we were able to find 4 large monarch caterpillars giving the opportunity to teach about the rearing and tagging efforts we and others perform for the endangered species.



Outreach Events and Other Items:

- On July 31, the El Paso County Guided hikes at **Paint Mines Interpretive Park** continue to grow in popularity. This month, two guided hikes were held, with a total of 29 participants enjoying the formations and prairie ecosystem. Interpreters led engaging discussions and answered participant questions throughout the hikes about the local flora, fauna, and geology while also showcasing historic artifacts. Several of these artifacts were recently placed into Riker mounts, marking the first time they have been available for public viewing. The program series will continue through October, offering visitors more opportunities to explore and learn about this special park resource.
- On a late summer evening at Fox Run Regional Park, 35 attendees gathered for a community presentation **on fire mitigation and preparedness**. Representatives and speakers from the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, Monument Fire Department, Black Forest Fire Department, the Sheriff's Wildland Fire Unit, the Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management, and the El Paso County Planning Division shared strategies and resources for fire safety. Commissioner Bill Wysong was also in attendance for the 2-hour session, which concluded with a meet-and-greet segment. The presentation wrapped up with a loud round of applause, showing participants' appreciation for such a valuable program.
- August was a lively month at the **El Paso County Fair & Events Center**, filled with community connection and exciting activities. Auto Races returned to the track, while weekly cornhole and community meetings kept the grounds buzzing with regular gatherings. We also saw an increase in vendors utilizing our commercial kitchens to prepare their products for sale, a great boost for local entrepreneurs. Fair Staff hosted a Musical Bingo and Trivia Night, complete with a food truck, laughter, and plenty of community fun. During our monthly Fair Advisory Board meeting, the Jr. Livestock Sale Committee proudly reported another record-breaking year for the 2025 Fair Jr. Livestock Sale, showcasing the dedication of our youth and strong community support. The month also included the Fair Advisory Board Workshop, where members came together to review successes and identify opportunities for improvement to make future fairs even better.





Special Events and Program Calendar

September 10 - October 8, 2025

Date	Day of Week	Program	Location	Target Audience	Notes*
September 6	Saturday	Restoration Crew	Bear Creek Nature Center	Adults or ages 14 and up with adult	9am-12pm, Free
September 9	Tuesday	Cornhole League	Fair & Events Center	Teens & Adults to Play; All ages welcome	6-10pm, \$10/person
September 11	Thursday	2s & 3s Outdoors: Bye Bye Birdie	Fountain Creek Nature Center	Children ages 2-3 with an adult	2-3:15pm, \$3 per person
September 12	Friday	2s & 3s Outdoors: Bye Bye Birdie	Fountain Creek Nature Center	Children ages 2-3 with an adult	9-10:15am, \$3 per person
September 13	Saturday	Fall Bird Count	Fountain Creek Nature Center	Best for adults	7:30-11:00am
September 13	Saturday	Paint Mines Guided Hike	Paint Mines Interpretive Park	All Ages	9:30-11:30am, \$5/person
September 15	Monday	Homesteading Group	Fair & Events Center	All Ages	1-3pm, Free
September 16	Tuesday	Cornhole League	Fair & Events Center	Teens & Adults to Play; All ages welcome	6-10pm, \$10/person
September 17	Wednesday	Nature Explorers - Birding for Tots	Bear Creek Nature Center	Children ages 4-5 with an adult	9-10:30am or 1-2:30 pm, \$3/person
September 20	Saturday	Sustainability Fair	Fountain Creek Nature Center	All	Free! 10am-2pm
September 20	Saturday	Fall Harvest Festival at Gold Hill Mesa	Bear Creek Nature Center	All ages	11am-2pm/ Free to attend, children's activity wristbands available for purchase
September 20	Saturday	Auto Races	Fair & Events Center	All Ages	5-10 pm, www.bstpromotions.com
September 23	Tuesday	Cornhole League	Fair & Events Center	Teens & Adults to Play; All ages welcome	6-10pm, \$10/person
September 24	Wednesday	Little Wonders - An Apple a Day	Bear Creek Nature Center	Children ages 2-3 with an adult	9-10:15am or 1-2:15 pm, \$3/person
September 25	Thursday	Nature's Classroom Homeschool Field Trip- Foothills Field Experience /	Bear Creek Nature Center	Ages 5-11	1-3pm, \$4 per person
September 26	Friday	Homeschool Fridays: Awesome Arthropods	Fountain Creek Nature Center	Children grades Pre-k - 2nd with an adult	\$4 per person, 2-4pm
September 26	Friday	Kid's Night Out - Cosmic Quest	Bear Creek Nature Center	Ages 7-11	5-9pm, \$25/person
September 27	Saturday	Creek Week Cleanup	Fountain Creek Nature Center	All	Free! 9am-12pm
September 27	Saturday	Birds & Beans - Beginner Birding Class	Bear Creek Nature Center	All ages	7:30-9am, \$5/person
September 27	Saturday	Paint Mines Guided Hike	Paint Mines Interpretive Park	All Ages	9:30-11:30am, \$5/person
September 27	Saturday	Bear Creek Dog Park Clean Up	Bear Creek Regional Park	All ages	9-11am, Free
September 27	Saturday	Fall Demolition Derby	Fair & Events Center	All Ages	3-8pm, \$15/person, Pit Pass \$25/person www.elpasocountyfair.com
September 30	Tuesday	Cornhole League	Fair & Events Center	Teens & Adults to Play; All ages welcome	6-10pm, \$10/person
October 2	Thursday	Nature Adventures: Predators in the Park	Fountain Creek Nature Center	Children ages 3-6 with an adult	2-3:30pm, \$3 per person
October 3	Friday	Nature Adventures: Predators in the Park	Fountain Creek Nature Center	Children ages 3-6 with an adult	9-10:30am, \$3/ person
October 3	Friday	Rummage Sale	Fair & Events Center	All Ages	10-4pm, Free
October 4	Saturday	Late Bloomers	Fountain Creek Nature Center	All, best for Adults	\$5 per person, 10am-12pm
October 4	Saturday	Rummage Sale	Fair & Events Center	All Ages	10-4pm, Free
October 4	Saturday	Restoration Crew	Bear Creek Nature Center	Adults or ages 14 and up with adult	9am-12pm, Free
October 4	Saturday	Rocky Mountain Women's Film Festival Film Screening	Bear Creek Nature Center	All ages	1-3pm, Free, donations accepted
October 7	Tuesday	Cornhole League	Fair & Events Center	Teens & Adults to Play; All ages welcome	6-10pm, \$10/person

* Nature Center Members may receive an additional discount



COMMISSIONERS:
CARRIE GEITNER (CHAIR)
HOLLY WILLIAMS (VICE-CHAIR)

BILL WYSONG
COREY APPLEGATE
LAUREN NELSON

EL PASO COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT

PARK OPERATIONS ~ PARK PLANNING ~ RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

PARK PLANNING DIVISION & PARK OPERATIONS DIVISION

MONTHLY REPORT AUGUST 2025

Park Planning Division

Capital Project Management / Planning:

Crews Gulch Regional Trail Paving Project – The Crews Gulch Primary Regional Trail runs southwest to northeast from Ceresa Park and the Fountain Creek Regional Trail, northeast through Widefield Community Park, to its terminus at Fontaine Boulevard. The 2017 Widefield Community Park Master Plan identified the southern section of the Crews Gulch Trail as a candidate for concrete paving, thus allowing for more robust ADA accessibility through the park. El Paso County Parks was awarded a 2022 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to complete this project, and the newly paved trail section was completed and opened to the public in late July 2023. EPC Parks was awarded a 2024 \$195,000 Community Development Block Grant to complete the second phase of the paving project in 2025. Elite Surface Infrastructure has completed constructing the 8' concrete trail, ADA accessible pedestrian ramps, curb, gutter, and bench access. The project was completed in late August 2025.

Fountain Creek Nature Center Sidewalks – The main sidewalk leading from the parking lot to the main entrance does not meet ADA compliance. Additionally, the current storm drains are not adequately sized to convey stormwater. El Paso County completed the design of this project in 2022-23. El Paso County Parks was awarded a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for this project in July 2023. A contract was awarded to CMS of Colorado Springs, and pre-construction meeting was held June 3rd, 2024. Demolition and construction began in October 2024 and was completed in late April 2025 with the final installation of the guardrails and benches. CDBG project closeout has been completed and the contract has been closed. This project is complete.

Fountain Creek Regional Park Paving and Sidewalks – Several parking lots and sidewalks within the Duckwood active-use area are showing signs of disrepair. This project includes various paving, patching, concrete curb and gutter, and ADA improvements. Parks staff met on-site with the Facilities ADA team in March and will develop a scope of work. A professional engineering firm will be contracted to assess the sidewalks and make recommendations to ensure ADA compliance from the dog park, Duckwood pond, and pavilion area. This work is anticipated to be completed in fall 2025 with construction planned in 2026.

Fox Run Nature Center – TDG Architecture was selected to provide professional architecture, site design, and engineering for the Fox Run Nature Center in June 2022. Regular design meetings and public engagement have continued to inform the design of the nature center. Key design milestones include Conceptual design completed in 2022; design development completed in 2023; and final design,



regulatory and permitting in fall 2024. Public and key stakeholder engagement was launched in 2023 and is ongoing. This includes interviews, public meetings, and attendance at community events (28). There are also sign postings, and a project website that is updated to keep the public informed. Fundraising is ongoing and is approximately \$5.5 Million, which includes \$2.5 Million from El Paso County, \$1.25 Million from grants, and \$1.75 from foundations and individuals.

Fox Run Regional Park Oak and Pine Meadow Restrooms – This project involves renovating the Oak and Pine Meadow restrooms from a pit vault composting system to a flush system. The current pit vault composting waste systems will be removed, and a new on-site wastewater treatment system will be installed with new internal plumbing and fixtures. The project design was completed by Design Edge in 2023. Bids for construction were received in May 2024, and a contract was awarded to IS West. Construction began in early July with substantial completion achieved in December. IS West completed punch list items in April 2025. OWTS inspection and testing was completed in May, and the restrooms were opened to the public. A second OWT inspection will be completed in September.

Fox Run Regional Park Pond and Gazebo Renovation – The wedding gazebo located in Fox Run Regional Park is beyond its useful life with varying structural issues. The project consists of improvements to the two ponds, a new wedding gazebo that will be relocated to the pond edge and closer to the existing amphitheater, various site improvements such as grading, drainage, ADA parking and accessibility to the new gazebo and existing restrooms, and trail improvements around the ponds. El Paso County Parks contracted with Matrix Design to develop design and construction documents. Final drawings and specifications were received in May. The RFP for construction was advertised in July and responses received in August 2025. Project award and contract are in-process.

Hanson Trailhead (FEMA) – FEMA awarded El Paso County funds to complete the design and engineering for repairs at Hanson Trailhead. A scope of work was developed and advertised in December 2024. Four proposals were received in January with a contract awarded to Olsson in April for \$796,165. The design project started in May and will take approximately 18 months.

Homestead Ranch Regional Park Trails and Drainage – The Homestead Ranch Regional Park Master Plan identified the need to improve the condition of trails and site drainage. This is the second phase of planned trails and drainage improvements. The project includes grading, minor trail realignments, drainage improvements, and other stormwater improvements within the park. Timberline Trailcraft was contracted for the trail improvements with anticipated completion September 2025.

June 2023 Flood Repairs (FEMA) – El Paso County received FEMA funds to complete repairs at several locations across the regional park system. This includes the Woodlake Trail, Falcon Regional Park, and Fountain Creek Regional Trail. An IFB to complete trail resurfacing of the Woodlake Trail was issued in March. Integrated Wall Solutions was selected and completed the project in August at a cost of \$140,001.

Paint Mines Interpretive Park Fencing Project – Following recommendations from the 2024 Paint Mines Interpretive Park Master Plan, approximately 2,800 feet of new 2-rail post and dowel fencing will be installed at the approaches to the main formation area, while another 2,065 feet of existing 3-rail post and dowel fencing will be modified to 2-rail. Contract Equipment Operators (CEO) was awarded the contract, and the fencing project was completed in late August 2025.

Pineries Open Space – El Paso County Parks has been awarded a seven-week GOCO / Mile High Youth Corps grant to construct a 2-mile natural surfaced singletrack trail in the southwest corner of the open space property. In support of the project, El Paso County has contracted with Rocky Mountain Field Institute to provide project management and technical assistance. A site visit was held in July and the work is scheduled to be completed between July and September. This trail will create an approximate 3.75-mile loop in addition to the existing 8.5-mile loop. In addition to trail construction, a forest mitigation project is underway to clear the trail corridor and address other dead-standing and pine beetle areas. RMFI/MHYC, with assistance from North District Park Operations staff, have completed the trail and associated puncheons and bridge. The trail is officially open at this time, with only wayfinding signage left to install.

Santa Fe Open Space Trail Construction Project – The 2024 Capital Improvement Program identified a project to commence in summer 2025, which will involve the construction of approximately 0.35 mile of singletrack trail on the open space's northwest side, as well as to an overlook on the open space's southern boundary. Trail corridor forestry work has been completed, and Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI) has been chosen to complete the trail work, which will also include the construction of crib steps and a puncheon/boardwalk. RMFI completed the project in June 2025 and two park benches were installed in July 2025.

Ute Pass Regional Trail – El Paso County was previously awarded two federal grants to fund design and construction of the remaining 3.75-mile segment of the Ute Pass Regional Trail. An Intergovernmental Agreement with CDOT was approved by the BoCC in April 2019. A third grant was awarded to the County in 2022. A revised scope of work was approved in 2022 to reduce the project to 1.5 miles to end at the intersection of US 24 and Fountain Ave. Stantec Consulting Services was selected to complete engineering and design of the Ute Pass Regional Trail. Permitting, regulatory approvals, and coordination with several agencies are ongoing. The final design package was completed in early 2025. Procurement is planned in Fall 2025 with construction to be completed by Winter 2026.

Other:

Development Permit Application Reviews – Staff reviewed two development applications for endorsement at the September 2025 meeting and provided internal administrative comments for an additional three applications during August 2025.

Asset Management – El Paso County, in support of the County-wide strategic plan objectives, has launched on an asset management plan. As part of the effort, El Paso County Parks will be working with the Department of Public Works to hire an asset specialist, and to hire a consultant to perform a comprehensive inventory and condition assessment of the entire regional park system. Onboarding of the Asset Specialist is ongoing. The RFP for the inventory and condition assessment is being finalized and will be asterisked in Fall 2025 with work anticipated to continue through 2026.

Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control, and Greenway District – Staff continue to serve on the Technical Advisory Committee. The committee helps develop and implement watershed restoration and enhancement projects. The district has launched the greenway master plan and staff is participating as a stakeholder. A portion of the Fountain Creek Regional Trail was realigned as part of a bank stabilization and creek alignment project at Southmoor Drive north of Camping World.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) – Staff is working with the County Information Technology Department to expand El Paso County Parks' use of GIS for data collection, asset management, operational, and planning applications. New regional park maps have been completed or are in process, and new and/or improved datasets have been developed and set into production.

Grants – County Parks revised a \$1.25M Colorado Parks and Wildlife grant for the Fox Run Nature Center. Great Outdoors Colorado informed the County that the \$1.5M request for the nature center would not be considered in this current grant cycle.

Interdepartmental Coordination – Staff is representing County Parks and providing technical assistance for several projects to ensure compliance with the El Paso County Parks Master Plan and to support advancement of multi-modal opportunities. This includes the Peyton Drainage and Transportation Master Plan, Eastonville Road design project, South Powers Extension Study, the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG) Active Transportation Plan, Jackson Creek Parkway Corridor Plan, and the El Paso County Land Development Code update.

Park Operations Division

Central District:

District Properties - Bear Creek Regional Park, Bear Creek Dog Park, Bear Creek Nature Center, Rainbow Falls Historic Site, landscape maintenance at eleven (11) County facilities, Ute Pass Regional Trail, Jones Park Open Space

Monthly Summary – Central staff continued their daily efforts to keep all properties clean and safe during the month of August. Monitoring of irrigation system usage, native and irrigated turf mowing operations, herbicide applications, tree pruning, landscape bed maintenance, playground inspections, box blading trails and parking lots, and daily illegal camping checks were priorities during the reporting period.

The Central team bid farewell to PMT I Corbin Crowder. Corbin was part of the team for five years and recently moved on to other life ventures. We wish him the best; he will be missed by our staff. In his absence, along with a vacated seasonal position, the short-staffed Park team have been busy fulfilling the necessary day-to-day operations during the reporting period.

Jordan Rowe, the weekend PMT-Part Time employee within the Central District was selected by panel members to take over as the new PMT I. Jordan provides a strong work ethic and great attention to detail and we all look forward to having him on our full-time staff.

Rainbow Falls Historic Site is currently open to the public and staff have increased their monitoring visits to check for graffiti, remove trash, and provide any additional assistance or maintenance needed.

Recreation and Park Operations staff collaborated in their efforts to construct a new tent providing patrons with a means to get out of the elements while visiting the park.

The Downtown team's priorities during the reporting period included irrigated and native turf mowing operations, bed maintenance, tree pruning, and non-selective herbicide applications.

The Metro Jail north entrance landscape bed is being renovated by the Downtown team and is close to completion. MowCo LLC was contracted to remove all existing plant material and six inches of soil and amend in four inches of new class A topsoil. The Downtown team added boulders, pruned trees, installed new drip irrigation and plants, and will be adding decorative rock mulch in the coming weeks.

East District:

District Properties – El Paso County Fair and Events Center, Falcon Regional Park, Falcon Regional Dog Park, Homestead Ranch Regional Park, Paint Mines Interpretive Park, Rock Island Regional Trail, Drake Lake Open Space, Palmer Divide Trail at Wood Lake, Heritage Ranch Open Space, Latigo Trails Open Space, Falcon Vista Open Space, Peyton Pines Open Space, Forest Green Open Space

Monthly Summary – The Fairgrounds team resumed normal operations following the County Fair. The team's focus this month was getting back to supporting rentals and Fairgrounds events. Our team assisted with support for two auto races, several community meetings and a few smaller rentals.

The Fairgrounds team worked on a few minor repairs following the County Fair. We had some damage to one of the walls in Swink Hall and a couple of broken floor tiles. The team was able to patch the wall and replace the floor tiles. This team continues to work on the summer tasks list as we move towards cooler weather.

The Parks team was able to focus more on the details of getting our parks back into top form following the Fair. We are set to begin aeration and fertilization in the coming weeks.

The team noticed damage to the handrail on the floating dock at Homestead Ranch Regional Park and removed it for repairs. The dock is temporarily closed while repairs are made.

The Parks team spent a few days working on cleanup operations of a drainage tunnel that goes under Woodmen Rd. The team had to cut back vegetation and reestablish proper storm drainage flow. The area has been cleaned up for now as we are determining a long-term solution to this problem area.

Two projects that kicked off this month were the resurfacing project at the Palmer Divide Trail at Woodlake (FEMA) and a trail resurfacing project at Homestead Ranch Regional Park. The Woodlake project is complete, and the Homestead Project has moved into the surfacing phase as the drainage work is now finished. We look forward to having the Homestead project completed soon. Both projects will improve the safety and function of the trail system.

North District:

District Properties - Fox Run Regional Park, Fox Run Regional Trail, Black Forest Regional Park, Black Forest Section 16, Pineries Open Space, Palmer Lake Recreation Area, Santa Fe Open Space, New Santa Fe Regional Trail, Baptist Road Trailhead, Forest Lakes Regional Trail, Cherry Creek Regional Trail

Monthly Summary – The north district focused on irrigation audits, drainage maintenance, road repairs, and landscape bed maintenance during this reporting period. We have conducted three irrigation audits this month and have identified several issues before they became a problem. The north district crew has replaced all irrigation heads that were not functioning properly. The multi-use fields at both Fox Run Regional Park and Black Forest Regional Park have never looked better due to diligent repairs and high-quality fertilizer applications.

North district staff performed several repairs to drainage structures and roads throughout all properties. There was a large storm event that impacted most of the drains, roads, parking lots, trails, and pavilions. The clean-up process has been ongoing with continued precipitation, but all properties are being maintained with safety and function in mind.

The team also addressed a large section of the New Santa Fe Trail in Monument that was impacting a senior living center. Trail material was brought in, the slope of the trail was adjusted, and we installed erosion control to prevent potential flooding to their facility.

The restroom remodel was completed at Black Forest Regional Park. The bathroom remodel features new interior/exterior paint, toilets, countertops, mirrors, flooring, partitions, roofing, and gutters. It is a nice addition to the park and blends in with the natural setting.

The restroom holding tanks at the Pineries Open Space, Fox Run trailhead, and Fallen Timbers at Fox Run were all pumped this month. This routine maintenance helps improve the function and cleanliness of the facilities.

South District:

District Properties - Fountain Creek Regional Park, Fountain Creek Dog Park, Fountain Creek Nature Center, Fountain Creek Regional Trail, Clear Springs Ranch, Christian Open Space, Willow Springs Park, John Ceresa Park, Crews Gulch Trail, Kane Ranch Open Space, Stratmoor Hills Park, Stratmoor Valley Park, Schreder Open Space, Widefield Community Park, Grinnell Boulevard

Monthly Summary – The South District team spent time performing trail maintenance, 5S cleaning practices, general parks cleaning, irrigation repairs, gate installation, and landscape maintenance. Native mowing operations are in full swing and will continue throughout the summer.

Staff spent a significant amount of time working on irrigation repairs. There were several irrigation heads that were not working correctly, as well as valve issues throughout the park properties. We also worked on changing out nozzles on irrigation heads to ensure more consistent coverage. This will lead to more even watering across turf areas. A large amount of time has been spent at Widefield Community Park this month making adjustment to irrigation heads, replacing heads, adjusting run times, and flushing valves. Also, the team repaired a broken lateral supply line in John Ceresa Memorial Park. We continue to monitor and adjust heads on a routine basis.

Our team dedicated time to fine tune John Ceresa Park following a playground project and ADA accessibility project. Trees were trimmed, mowing, vegetation management, as well as many other tasks. Also, the weeds were removed from the ballfield, and the infield material was graded. A new rock bed was installed between the basketball court and the new ADA sidewalk to eliminate inefficient irrigation and unnecessary mowing. The restroom facility was painted to cover multiple graffiti tags. There have been significant improvements made to the park over the last several months with more improvements coming soon.

The team accomplished multiple projects focused on trail improvements. Efforts include general trail maintenance, trail clearing, trail rebuilding, trail reinforcement, and tree clearing. Crews worked hard to trim trees throughout the trail corridor to improve visibility and to provide clear passage.