

**PARK ADVISORY BOARD**

**Meeting Agenda**

**Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.**  
**Centennial Hall, 200 S. Cascade, Colorado Springs**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Recommended Action</u>
<b>1. Call Meeting to Order</b>	Chair	
<b>2. Approval of the Agenda</b>	Chair	Approval
<b>3. Approval of Minutes</b>	Chair	Approval
<b>4. Introductions / Presentations</b>		
A. Pikes Peak Pickleball Association Donation	Jason Meyer/ Wendy Venturella	Information
<b>5. Citizen Comments / Correspondence on items not on the agenda</b> (limited to three (3) minutes unless extended by Chair)	Chair	
<b>6. Development Applications</b>		
<b>7. Information / Action Items</b>		
A. Park Asset Management	Jason Meyer/ Marc Barraclough/ Cam Mowsky	Information
B. Park Advisory Board Membership Update	Jason Meyer	Information
C. 2026 Park Advisory Board Tour	Brian Bobeck	Information
<b>8. Monthly Reports</b>	Staff	Information
<b>9. Board / Staff Comments</b>		
<b>10. Adjournment</b>		

*Minutes of the February 11, 2026  
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, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair  
Janna Blanter, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chair  
Jane Newman, Secretary  
Bryan Williams  
Andrew Dwyer  
Jill Sevits  
Abriana Cuvelier

Staff Present:

Todd Marts, Executive Director  
Sabine Carter, Administrative Coordinator  
Brian Bobeck, Division Manager - Park Operations  
Jason Meyer, Division Manager - Park Planning  
Theresa Odello, Division Manager – Rec. & Cultural Services  
Dana Nordstrom, Outreach Coordinator  
Ross Williams, Senior Parks Planner  
Ashlyn Mathy, Parks Planner  
Andschana Aljets, Special Events Supervisor  
Kyle Melvin, Park Operations Manager  
Adam Robertson, Central District Supervisor  
Jamie Haas, South District Supervisor  
Ben Dumakowski, North District Supervisor  
Scott Meyer, Construction Project Manager  
Adam Baker, East District Supervisor  
Jessica Miller, Fountain Creek Nature Center Supervisor  
MaryJo Lewis, Bear Creek Nature Center Supervisor

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: **Janna Blanter made a motion to approve the meeting agenda with a request to modify the agenda to allow for comments from Commissioner Bill Wysong (adding agenda item 4D). Jane Newman seconded the motion. The motion carried 9 - 0.**
3. Approval of Minutes: **Vincent Prins made a motion to approve the January 14, 2026, meeting minutes with a name spelling correction request. Bryan Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried. 9 - 0.**
4. Introductions and Presentations:
  - A. **Todd Marts Retirement Proclamation**

Chair Thomas Lachocki, on behalf of the El Paso County Park Advisory Board expressed his sincere appreciation to Todd Marts for 31 years of public service with the El Paso County Nature Centers, the County Fair and the El Paso County Parks Department in his

role as Executive Director. The Chair and Vice Chair read the proclamation for the retirement of Todd Marts into record and highlighted his many accomplishments which were applauded by the board and the many meeting attendees. Todd Marts expressed his gratitude to the entire parks teams, past and present, and stated that he is proud to have been involved and being a part of the department. Mr. Marts stated that it has been his greatest honor to be a public servant.

**B. 2025 Partners in the Park**

Todd Marts introduced the 2025 Partners in the Park. Partners in the Park is an opportunity for local businesses and/or citizens to make a lasting impact. With an annual contribution of \$5,000 over three years, partners receive a dedicated sign in the park, a pavilion rental, and a featured spotlight on El Paso County social media platforms, demonstrating their commitment to outdoor spaces. This support is an investment in the beauty and accessibility of County parks while strengthening community connections. Mr. Marts showed a video highlighting the powerful impact of these partnerships and handed out plaques to the attending Partners. Mr. Marts thanked Dana Nordstrom for working with the Partners in the Parks and for fostering great relationships with these sponsors.

**C. 2025 Nature Center Snapshot**

Theresa Odello presented the annual Nature Center Snapshot, offering a comprehensive, high-level overview of the programs, services, and community impacts achieved in 2025. The Snapshot serves as a year-round communication tool, illustrating the breadth and scope of work completed by staff and volunteers. It highlights measurable community impact and supports grant applications and partnership development efforts. Several board members expressed their appreciation for the exceptional programs offered by the Nature Centers. They also shared positive reflections on the programs they attended, noting the meaningful difference these initiatives make within the community.

**D. Comments by Commissioner Bill Wysong**

Commissioner Bill Wysong provided public comments on the retirement of Parks Executive Director Todd Marts. Commissioner Wysong remarked that when the right leaders are put in place, miracles happen. Leadership is providing the opportunity for your people/staff to excel. Commissioner Wysong stated that this philosophy exemplifies Mr. Marts' leadership. Throughout his tenure, Mr. Marts established a strong foundation for success for his team, as well as for Partners in the Parks and other community stakeholders. His leadership fostered an environment of collaboration, growth, and achievement that will continue to benefit the organization moving forward.

(The board recessed for group pictures and refreshments.)

(Chair Thomas Lachocki moved Citizen Comment item 5 to follow item 7A)

**6. Development Applications:**

N/A

7. Information / Action Items:

**A. Trail Counter Program**

Ashlyn Mathy provided an overview of the Trail Counter Program. Mrs. Mathy's presentation outlined the program's past, present, and future, including details on the newly acquired trail counters. It described the capabilities of the counters, how the data can be used by staff, and the reasons these specific devices were selected. The presentation also explained the importance of trail counter data in supporting park planning and informed decision-making. Staff chose the Eco-Counter ReCyclo (EVO) Post model for their long 2-year battery life, real time data and it also eliminates site visits from staff to retrieve the data. Mrs. Mathy addressed questions from board members; a) The counters do not have cameras or AI features. They function on infrared technology. They are geared to count users and in which direction they are going. b) The counter locations can be moved based on the date that was received and the subsequent established needs at other locations. Board member Jill Sevits pointed out that this program can be very beneficial for future grant applications by providing hard data backing up these applications. The trail counters will be installed at a height of 80 centimeters which will be able to count every trail user to include small children. The new 6 counters have a cost of \$29,030. The EVO counters are also used by the City of Colorado Springs which makes date sharing a possibility as well as uploading date to a public space and viewing date from other jurisdictions.

5. Citizen Comments:

N/A

8. Monthly Reports:

Todd Marts stated that staff will report on planned celebrations for the 250/150/50 year celebrations at future Park Advisory Board meetings.

Vincent Prins asked why the basketball and baseball rentals at the Whittemore building at the Fairgrounds are so high. Andschana Aljets, Special Events Supervisor, who also lives in Calhan, CO, made great connections with the local community to utilize the indoor facility for youth sports in the wintertime.

Board member Andrew Dwyer inquired about the pros and cons of paving parking lots at parks and nature centers. Todd Marts stated that a pro is that a formalized paved lot will sometimes double the parking spaces since drivers usually park within the lines. It can also help with stormwater and drainage. Staff will carefully select which sites have the greatest need for paving and would benefit the most.

9. Board/Staff Comments:

Board member Vincet Prins shared with the board that his family regularly attends the programs being offered by both nature center and listed the programs they recently were able to enjoy.

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Board member Abriana Cuvelier stated her appreciation to the volunteers and the Friends of the El Paso County nature centers. She recently attended the ‘Taproom Takeover’ at Mash Mechanix, a fundraiser for the nature centers and recognized the amount of work and passion that goes into an event like this.

Chair Thomas Lachocki shared that the application for Sentinel Landscape has been submitted. Sentinel Landscape is a collaboration between the Department of Defense, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Interior, with the mission to provide matching funds to local jurisdictions to purchase land that is strategically important to military installations. Once approved the three departments can provide matching funds for land purchases, preserving larger pieces of land as open spaces.

Theresa Odello provided the board with the new Spring program event guide featuring the ‘Eggstravaganza’ event, a night-time easter egg hunt which has turned into a great date-night idea for adults.

In closing, Todd Marts stated how important the Parks Advisory Board is and that this current board is the most hands-on and involved that he has event seen and expressed his gratitude for the board’s public service.

10. Adjournment:

**Janna Blanter made a motion to adjourn. Jane Newman seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:09 p.m.**

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Jane Newman, Secretary

**El Paso County Park Advisory Board**

**Agenda Item Summary Form**

**Agenda Item Title:** Pikes Peak Pickleball Association Donation  
**Agenda Date:** March 11, 2026  
**Agenda Item Number:** #4 - A  
**Presenter:** Jason Meyer, Interim Executive Director  
Wendy Venturella, Pikes Peak Pickleball Association  
**Information: X**                      **Endorsement:**

**Background Information:**

Pikes Peak Pickleball Association will be presenting a \$100,000 check to El Paso County Parks for construction of additional pickleball courts in Bear Creek Regional Park.

This is part of the larger Bear Creek Regional Park Sports Courts project that will include demolition of the four tennis courts; installation of two new tennis courts and three pickleball courts; new plaza and seating area; replacement of the archery range; and expanded and paved parking lot.

**Recommended Motion:** Information

**El Paso County Park Advisory Board**

**Agenda Item Summary Form**

**Agenda Item Title:** Park Asset Management  
**Agenda Date:** March 11, 2026  
**Agenda Item Number:** #7 - A  
**Presenter:** Jason Meyer, Interim Executive Director  
Marc Barraclough, Infrastructure Asset Manager  
Cam Mowsky, Matrix Design Group  
**Information:** X      **Endorsement:**

**Background Information**

As part of the Larger El Paso County Strategic Plan, Objective #1 Infrastructure, El Paso County Parks is partnering with the Department of Public Works and Matrix Design Group to complete a comprehensive Park Inventory and Condition Assessment. This presentation will provide an overview of the project and showcase planned 2026 work.

**Recommended Motion:**

Information



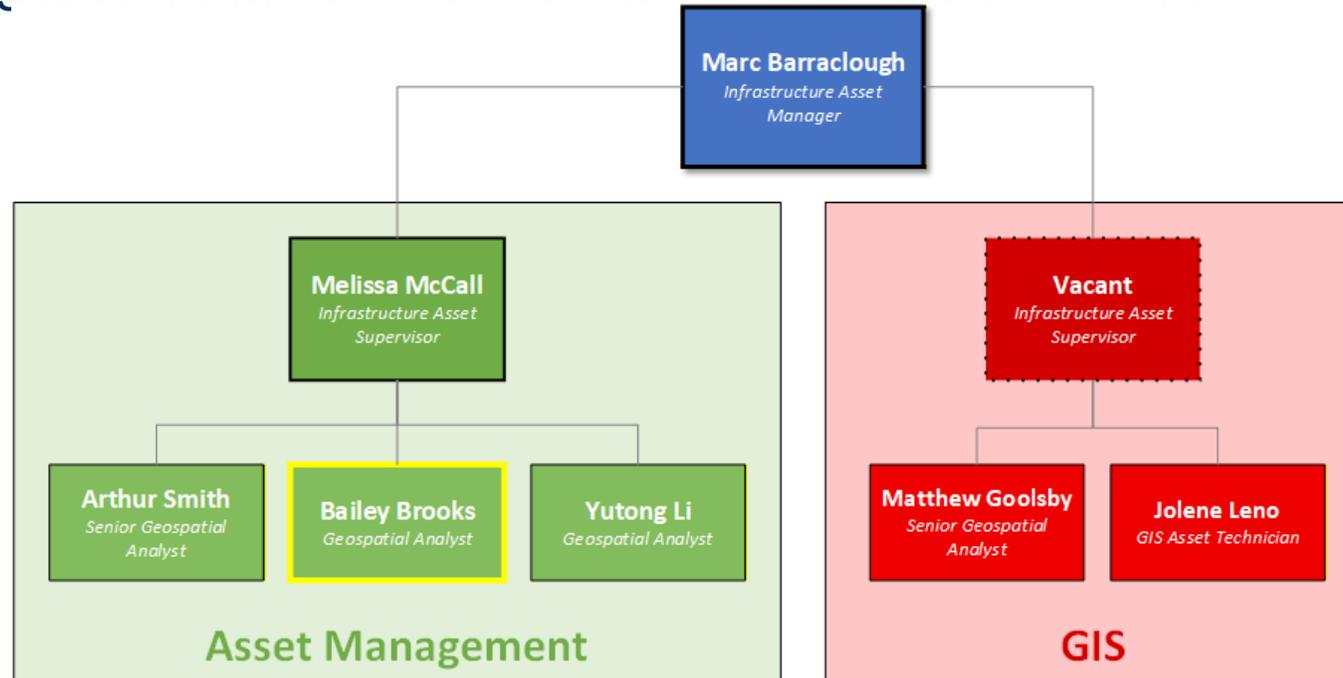
# Parks Asset Management Support

11 March 2026



# Introduction

- Marc Barraclough, Infrastructure Asset Manager, El Paso County - Dept. of Public Works
- Started with El Paso County in October 2024
- Manage DPW's Asset Management System (AMS) and Geographic Information System (GIS)

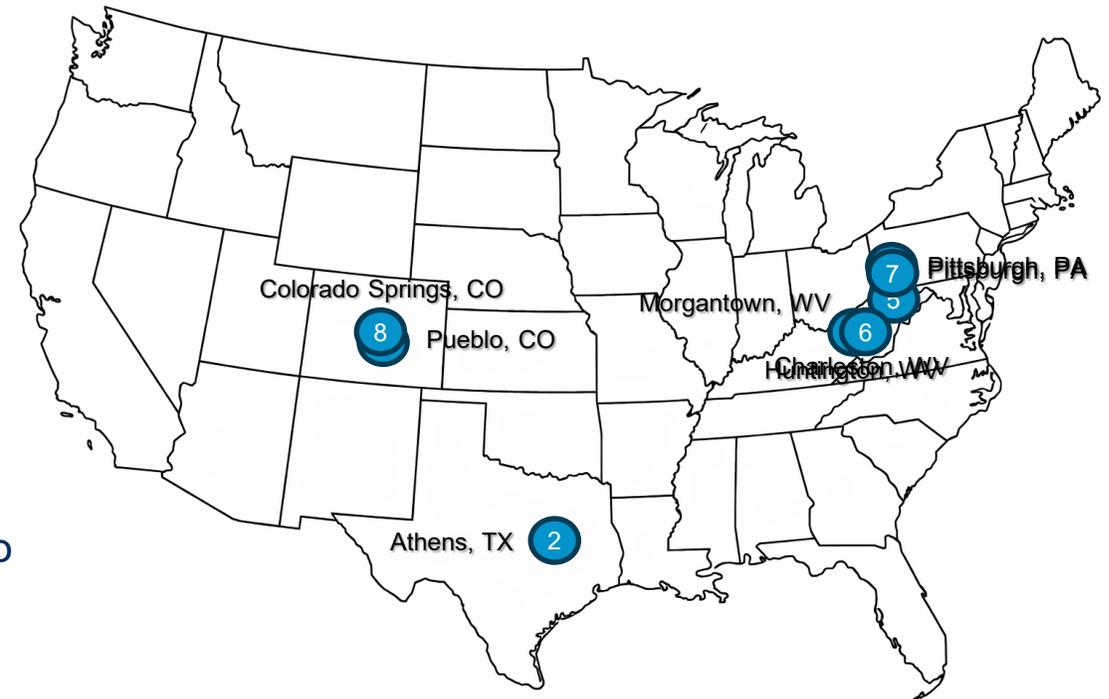




# Professional Background

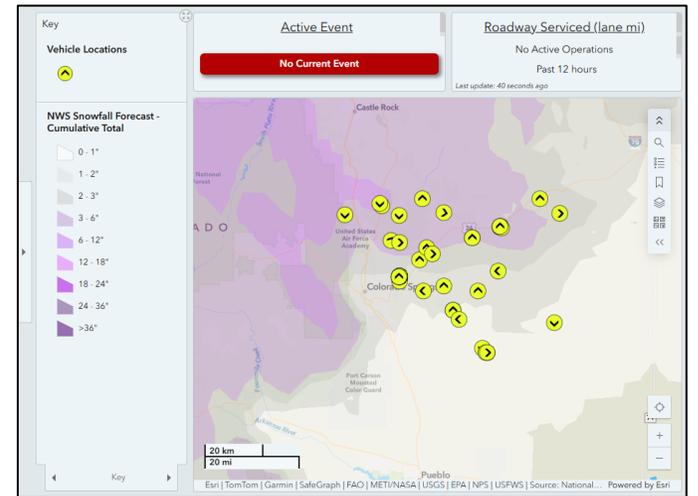
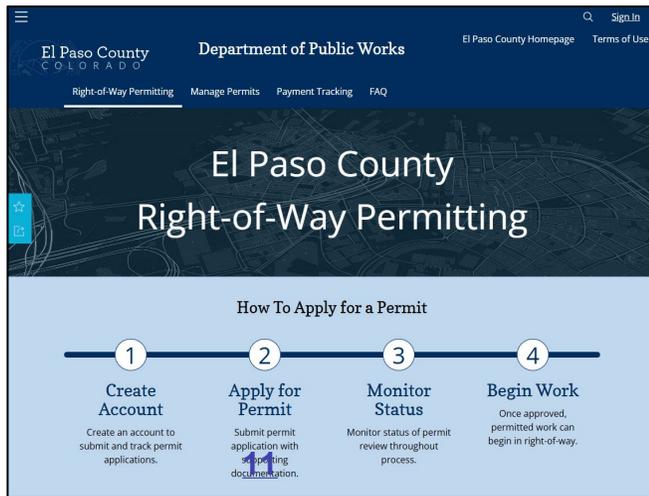
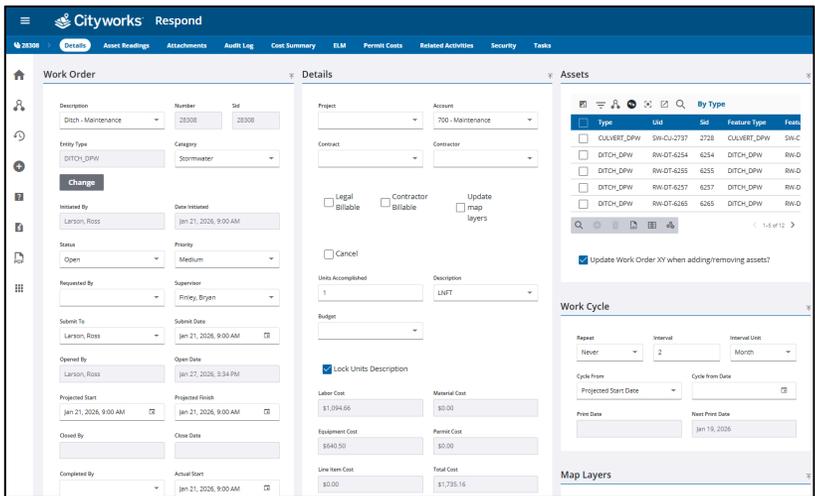
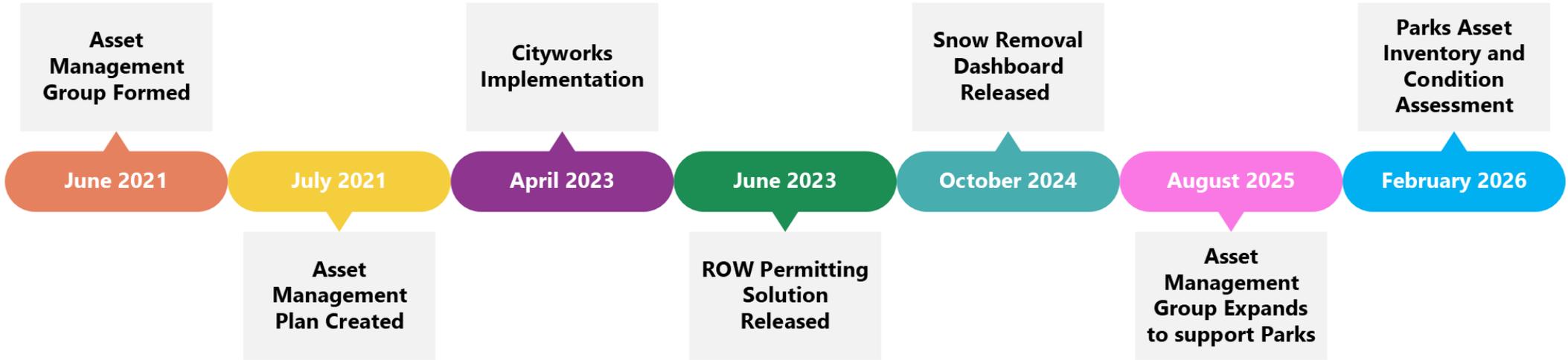
25+ years as a mapping professional

- 1 Pueblo, CO: Born – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade
- 2 Athens, TX: 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade
- 3 Huntington, WV: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – College
- 4 Pittsburgh, PA: University of Pittsburgh / Allegheny Power
- 5 Morgantown, WV: West Virginia University
- 6 Charleston, WV: West Virginia DEP
- 7 Pittsburgh, PA: EQT Corporation / Argo
- 8 AI Colorado Springs, CO: Sanborn Geospatial / El Paso County





# AM/GIS Team Background





# Asset Management Support



System  
Configuration



Reports/Dashboards



Maps/Apps



Training and User  
Support



System Administration



Policy and Governance



Data Management



Automation and Process  
Improvement

# Parks Inventory & Condition Assessment



March 11, 2026



# Key Leaders



**Cam Bowsky, PE**  
Project Manager



**James McMurray, AICP**  
Deputy Project Manager



**Chris Martin, GISP**  
Principal in Charge



**Joshua Eldridge**  
Environmental & Ecological  
Services



**Jeff Lasker, PE**  
Inventory & Assessment  
Task Lead

# SAMP / TAMP History

## Asset Mgt Highlights

- 2024 Data Analysis
- No field data collection
- Major gaps discovered
- Current project was the natural progression

**Table 2: Parks Inventory List of Asset Descriptions**

Parks Asset Descriptions		
• Turf Mowing Area	• Secondary Regional Trail - Crushed Limestone	
• Native Grass Mowing Area	• Bench	
• Steps	• Parking Lot	
• Other	• Light	
• Horseshoe Pit	• Picnic Table	
• Disc Golf Pad	• Water Access, Developed	
• Internal Park Trail - Native Soil	• Water Fountain	• Historic Feature
• Internal Park Trail - Crushed Limestone	• Picnic Table Grill Combo	• Fitness Area
• Sign	• Disc Golf Basket	• Water, Open - Dredge Costs
• Road	• Fence	• Tennis Court
• Turf Mowing Area - Irrigation Replacements	• Landscape Beds	• Storage
• Primary Regional Trail - Crushed Limestone	• Sidewalk	• Diamond Field
• Curbing	• Passive Node	• Baseball Field
• Grill	• Disc Golf	• Equestrian Facility
• Disc Golf Hole	• Dog Park	• Adventure Course

**Table 4: El Paso County Parks Ages & Conditions**

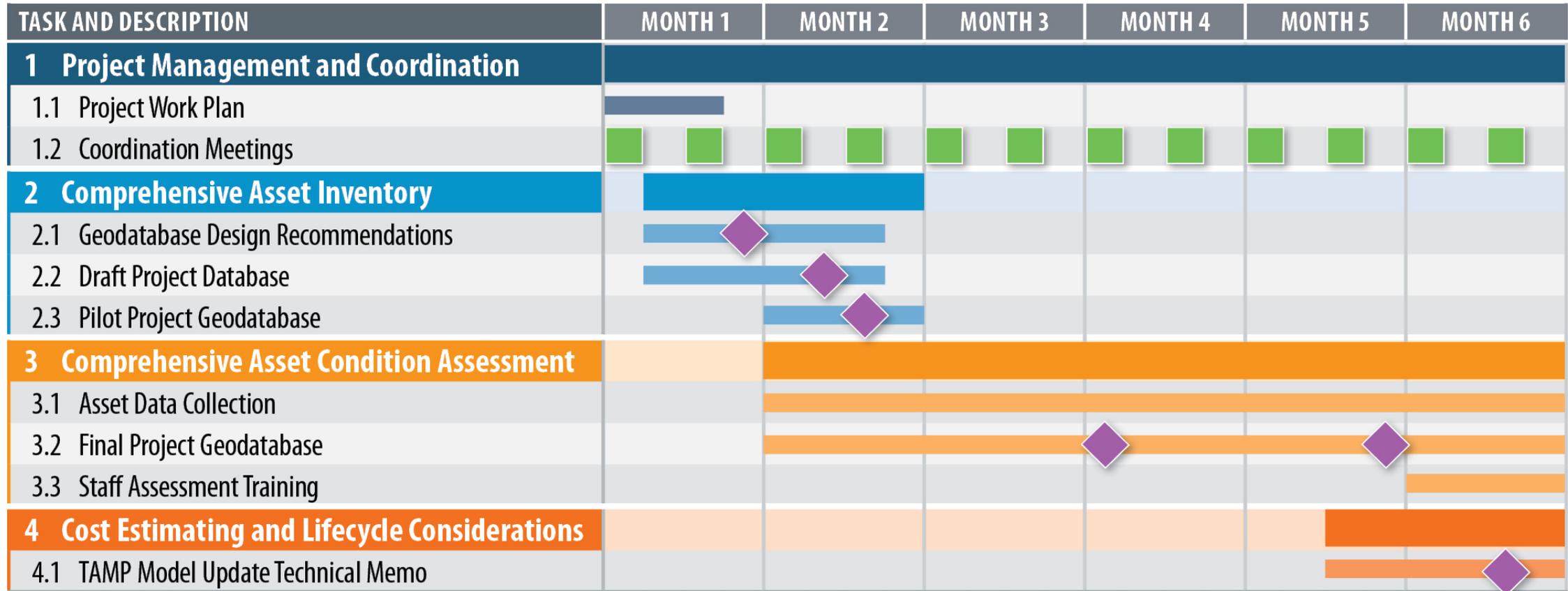
Park Name	Average Age	Average Condition Index
Bear Creek Regional Park	52	57.79
Black Forest Regional Park	47	56.92
Black Forest Section 16	27	78.60
Cherry Creek Regional Trail	4	54.00
Clear Spring Ranch Open Space	23	83.43
Crews Gulch Regional Trail	52	74.67
El Paso County Fair and Events Center	27	55.48
Falcon Regional Dog Park	8	54.00
Falcon Regional Park	8	57.21
Forest Lakes Regional Trail	2	54.00
Fountain Creek Regional Park	32	80.81
Fountain Creek Regional Trail	32	72.60
Fountain Creek Trail	32	61.50
Fox Run Regional Park	39	55.92
Homestead Ranch Regional Park	50	57.45
Jimmy Camp Creek Regional Trail	24	54.00
John Ceresa Memorial Park	24	64.86
Jones Park Open Space	9	54.00
Kane Ranch Open Space	2	81.56
New Santa Fe Regional Trail	37	57.29
Paint Mines Interpretive Park	27	55.79
Palmer Divide Regional Trail (PDRT)	20	Planned Not Constructed

# Scope



# Schedule

## Notional Schedule



**Milestones:**



Meeting



Deliverable

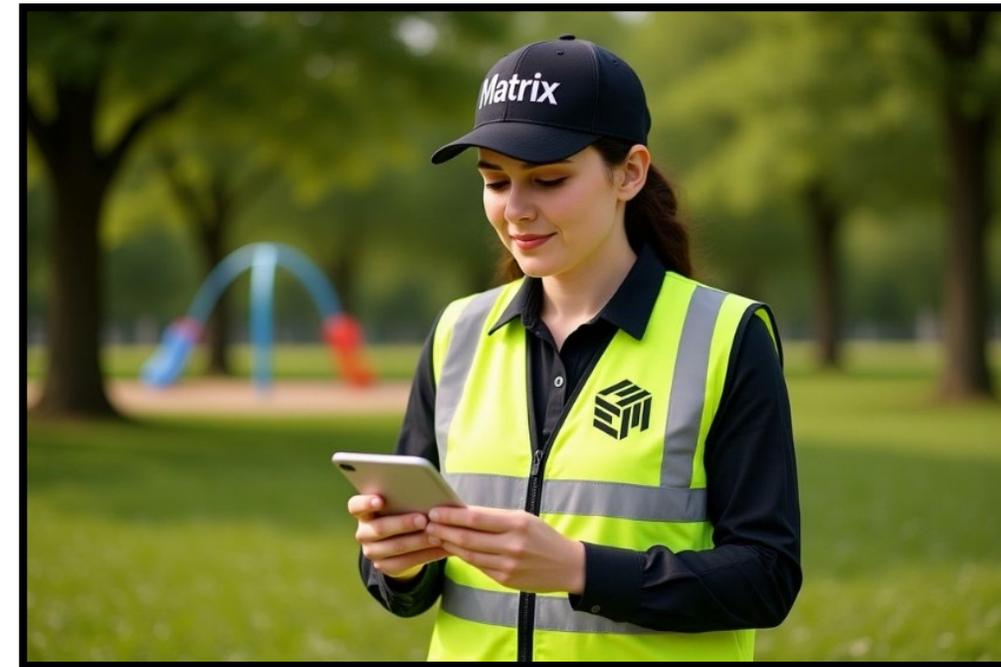
# Data Collection

The collage shows several key components of the data collection system:

- Map Interface:** A Google Maps-style interface with a search bar and a 'Map Info' button. A table of 'Evaluations' is overlaid on the map, listing evaluation titles, # of findings, initial inspection dates, and evaluation numbers.
- Report an Issue Form:** A form titled 'Report an Issue' with the instruction 'Select an icon below to identify an issue.' It features icons for Agriculture, Arts and Culture, Biking, Environment, Flooding, Parks and Recreation, Retail, Walking, and Safety.
- Facilities Data Table:** A table titled 'Crestview Facilities' showing 47 records. It includes filters for 'Record Updated' (Today, Yesterday, Last 7 days, Last 30 days, This Month, Last Month, Specific Range) and 'Status' (Inspected, Partial, Not Inspected). The table lists facility details such as status, title, update time, update by, photos, and address.

Event Date	Bulk Update	Evaluation Title	# of Findings	Initial Inspection	Evaluation Number
2025-11-12		CS845 Thrissness Elementary	23	2025-11-12	PR25-001818
2025-11-12		CS847 Sage Canyon Elementary	23	2025-11-12	PR25-001817
2025-11-11		CS845 Clear Sky Elementary	22	2025-11-11	PR25-001816
2025-11-11		CS840 Paganore Elementary	20	2025-11-11	PR25-001815
2025-11-11		CS837 Stearns Hawk Elementary	26	2025-11-11	PR25-001814
2025-11-10		CS845 Timber Trail Elementary	15	2025-11-10	PR25-001813

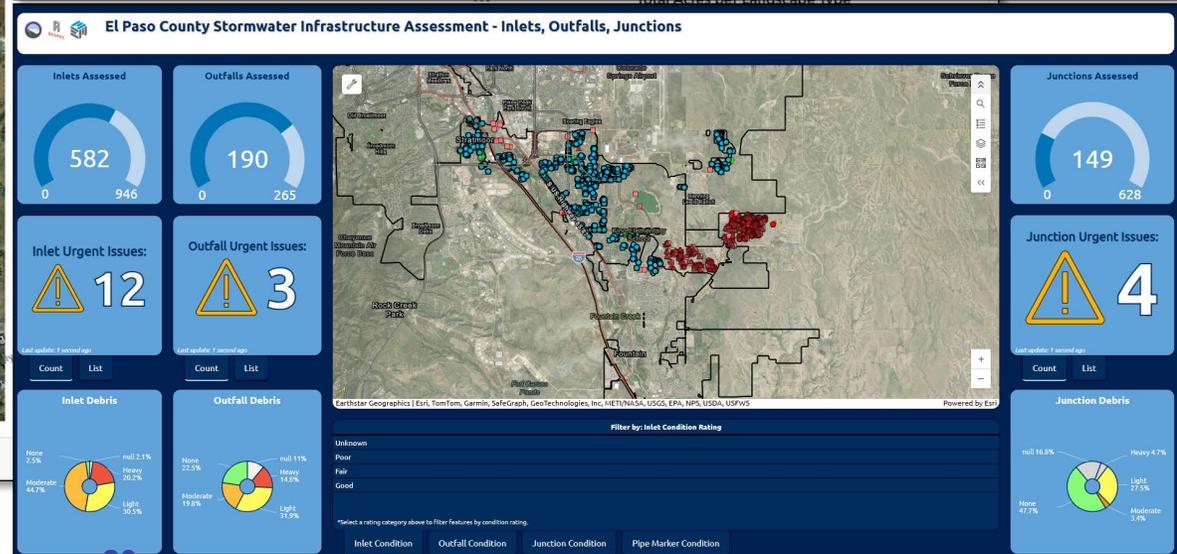
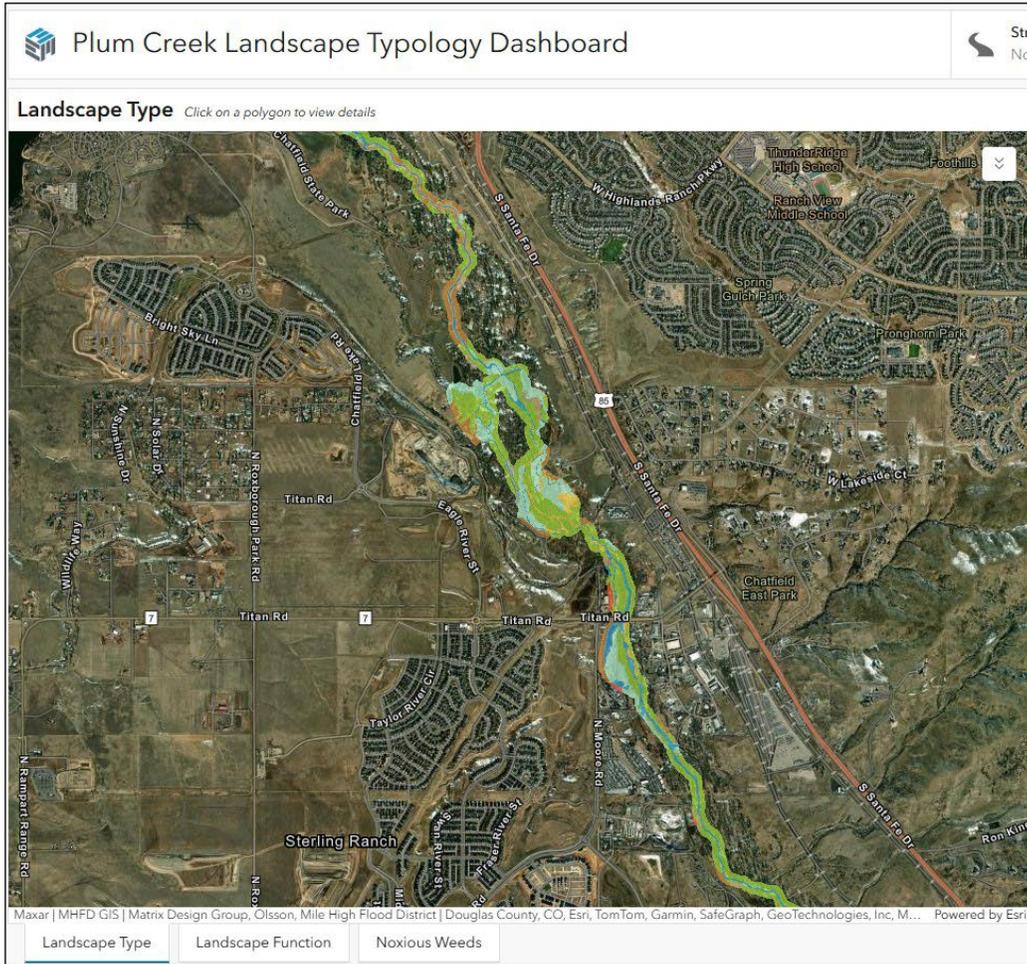
Status	Title	Updated	Updated By	Title Photos	Facility Address
Inspected	Spanish Trail Park - Restrooms	3/30/2021, 2:48:21 PM	Cameron Bowsky		205 Stillwell Blvd
Inspected	Department of Public Services - Storage Shed	3/30/2021, 11:05:00 AM	Chris Martin		715 N Ferdon Blvd
Inspected	John McMahon Environmental Education Center - Barn	3/30/2021, 10:37:50 AM	Chris Martin		130 Butler Cir



# Mapped Landscape Typologies



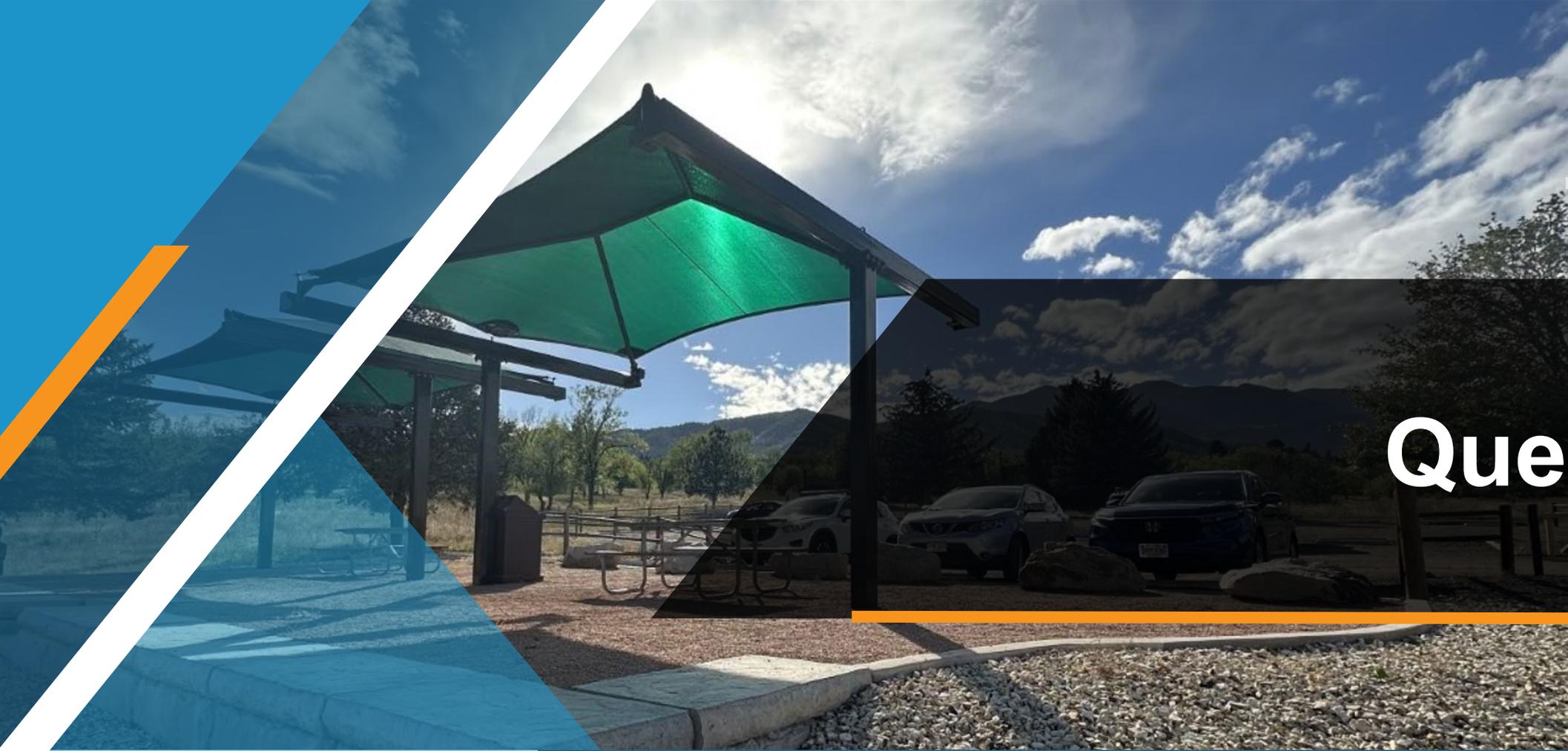
# Project Updates



# Next Steps

- Geodatabase Gap Analysis
- Preliminary Collection Planning





# Question

**El Paso County Park Advisory Board**

**Agenda Item Summary Form**

**Agenda Item Title:** Park Advisory Board Membership Update

**Agenda Date:** March 11, 2026

**Agenda Item Number:** # 7 - B

**Presenter:** Jason Meyer, Interim Executive Director

**Information:** X                      **Endorsement:**

**Background Information:**

- Janna Blanter's first term will end May 2026. Janna is eligible for reappointment for a second term.
- Jane Newman's first term will end May 2026. Jane is eligible for reappointment for a second term.

Attached please find the current Park Advisory Board roster.

**Recommended motion:**

Information item

**Park Advisory Board Memberships**

<b>Thomas Lachocki</b> 1st Term August 2022 – August 2025 2nd Term August 2025 – May 2028	<b>District 5</b>	<b>Position: Chair</b>
<b>Vincent Prins</b> 1st Term August 2022 – August 2025 2nd Term August 2025 – May 2028	<b>District 4</b>	<b>Position: Vice-Chair</b>
<b>John Wallace</b> 1st Term August 2022 – August 2025 2nd Term August 2025 – May 2028	<b>District 1</b>	<b>Position: 2nd Vice Chair</b>
<b>Janna Blanter</b> 1st Term June 2023 – May 2026	<b>District 3</b>	<b>Position: 3rd Vice Chair</b>
<b>Jane Newman</b> 1st Term June 2023 – May 2026	<b>District 2</b>	<b>Position: Secretary</b>
<b>Jill Sevits</b> 1st Term November 2025 – October 2028	<b>District 3</b>	<b>Position: Member</b>
<b>Andrew Dwyer</b> 1st Term June 2025 – May 2028	<b>District 3</b>	<b>Position: Member</b>
<b>Bryan Williams</b> 1st Term June 2025 – May 2028	<b>District 6</b>	<b>Position: Member</b>
<b>Abriana Cuvelier</b> 1st Term November 2025 – October 2028	<b>District 2</b>	<b>Position: Member</b>
<b>Bill Wysong</b>	<b>Council Member, Board of County Commissioners</b>	<b>Position: Commissioner Liaison</b>
<b>Jason Meyer</b>	<b>Interim Executive Director, Parks Department</b>	<b>Position: Staff Liaison</b>

**Board size:** 9 members

**Term length:** 3 years

**Term limit:** 2 terms

**Regular Meeting Time & Location:** 2nd Wednesday of every month at 1:30 p.m., Centennial Hall, 200 S. Cascade, Colorado Springs, Colorado

**El Paso County Park Advisory Board**

**Agenda Item Summary Form**

**Agenda Item Title:** 2026 Park Advisory Board Tour  
**Agenda Date:** March 11, 2026  
**Agenda Item Number:** #7 - C  
**Presenter:** Brian Bobeck, Division Manager – Park Operations  
**Information:** X      **Endorsement:**

**Background Information**

The Park Advisory Board traditionally conducts a tour of selected park sites in late spring. The tour is typically conducted from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

In 2025, the Park Advisory Board tour was in the East District. The following districts are potential tour opportunities for 2026:

- Central District

We would also appreciate your feedback on potential Friday dates in May:

- May 1
- May 8
- May 15

**Recommended Motion:**

Information

## 2026 ACTION PLAN

### PARK OPERATIONS DIVISION

Project Lead	Action Item	Description	Strategic Plan Objective	Status
Brian Bobeck	Fox Run Regional Park Pond and Gazebo Renovation	Renovate ponds and gazebo per engineered design	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	Construction
Brian Bobeck	Fox Run Regional Park Irrigation Design	Assessment and design of new irrigation system to replace aging infrastructure	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	
Kyle Melvin	Homestead Ranch Regional Park Trail Improvements	Phase III trail improvements	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	
Kyle Melvin	Park Pavilion Repair & Painting – Phase 1	Repair and paint park pavilions in Bear Creek Regional Park	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	
Adam Baker	Homestead Ranch Regional Park Restroom Improvements	Clean, seal, epoxy restroom floors	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	
Adam Baker	Falcon Regional Park Dog Park Improvements	Install gravel and picnic tables in existing shade structure	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	
Jamie Haas	Fountain Creek Nature Center Landscape Improvements	Install new irrigation and landscape	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	In-Progress
Jamie Haas	Fountain Creek Regional Park Improvements	Replace wood fence around Duckwood trailhead parking lot	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	
Scott Myers	Fox Run Regional Park Irrigation Controllers	Relocate irrigation controllers from basements of Pine Meadows and Oak Meadows restrooms	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	
Scott Myers	Playground Rules Signs	Install / Update playground rules signs at all County playgrounds	Objective 4 - Health and Safety	In-Progress
Adam Robertson	Pikes Peak Center Landscape Bed Renovation	Convert two existing landscape beds from wood mulch to gravel	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	
Adam Robertson	Bear Creek Regional Park Landscape Improvements	Renovate the north landscape bed at the intersection of 21st Street and Argus	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	
Ben Dumakowski	Fox Run Regional Park Signage Improvements	Update and consolidate Stella Road entrance signage	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	
Ben Dumakowski	Fox Run Regional Park Dog Park Improvements	Install double gates for utility vehicle access	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	In-Progress

## 2026 ACTION PLAN

### PARK PLANNING DIVISION

Project Lead	Action Item	Description	Strategic Plan Objective	Status
Jason Meyer	Asset Management Plan	Park system facility condition index & assessment	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	Contract Signed
Ashlyn Mathy	Land Development Code Update	Participating in Land Development Code Update	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	In Progress
Jason Meyer	FEMA Project- Falcon & Fountain Creek Trail	Advance FEMA funded projects at Falcon Regional Park and Fountain Creek Regional Trail	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	Scoping
Jason Meyer	FEMA Project- Hanson Trailhead	Select concept and advance design of Hanson Trailhead	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	Design
Jason Meyer	Ute Pass Regional Trail Phase 2	Construction between Winnemucca Road and US 24	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	Project Kickoff 2/5
Jason Meyer	Bear Creek Regional Park Sport Courts	Renovate the Tennis courts, add pickleball courts, Replace the Archery Range, and expand the parking lot	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	Procurement
Ross Williams	Fountain Creek Regional Park Well Replacement & Pond	Well replacement, pond dredging, lining, new irrigation, sidewalks	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	Scoping
Ross Williams	Pineries Open Space Phase 2	Construction of equestrian parking lot	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	Scoping
Ashlyn Mathy	Black Forest Section 16 Trailhead	Complete expansion of the trailhead parking	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	Procurement
Ashlyn Mathy	Trail Counter Program	Install automated trail counters in six regional parks	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	In Progress
Ross Williams	Willow Springs Ponds Rehabilitation	Research water rights, start concept plan	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	Scoping
Ross Williams	Paint Mines Formation Protection	Installation of fencing, barriers, wayfinding, and trail improvements	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	Scoping
Ross Williams	E-Bike Policy Update	Update E-Bike Policy	Objective 1 – Service Quality	In Progress
Ashlyn Mathy	Fountain Creek Regional Trail at Southmoor Drive	Enhancements to the Fountain Creek Regional Trail at Southmoor Drive	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	In Progress
Jason Meyer	Ring the Peak Trail	Ring the Peak Trail Development	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	In Progress

## 2026 ACTION PLAN

### RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

Project Lead	Action Item	Description	Strategic Plan Objective	Status
Theresa Odello	Leave No Trace	Train 50% of staff and volunteers in LNT and explore steps toward Nature Center certification.	Respond to Growing Community	13%
Andy Talley	Native Plants Garden at FCNC	Design, purchase, and plant native plants in the ADA re-build area, with the help of volunteers and BGC Grant	Infrastructure	Irrigation work completed: planting May 9
Jessica Miller	Wayfinding Signs at FCNC	Design and install wayfinding signs on trails surrounding FCNC.	Infrastructure & Health & Safety	Inventory completed of current signs.
Victoria Dinkel	Tiger Salamander Exhibit	Research, design, and install a permanent public exhibit of the Tiger Salamander.	Respond to Growing Community	Future exhibit location selected.
Kylee Taylor	50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	Work to plan, coordinate, and execute a year-long celebration of Bear Creek Nature Center's 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary.	Respond to Growing Community	In progress.
Mary Jo Lewis	Bear Creek Exhibit	Coordinate the design, creation, and installation of A Closer Peek at Bear Creek: new exhibit.	Respond to Growing Community	Working on Phase 2: Concept Development
Andschana Aljets	Fair Printed Material	Adjust Digital and Print communications timelines to allow for detailed review and editing across all communication channels.	Community Trust (improved communications)	First draft of master schedule under review.
Skye Bogle	Fair Website Updates	Streamline fair website to create a user-friendly experience and increase accessibility.	Respond to Growing Community	In progress: 50% completed
Theresa Odello	Recreation Registration Software	Assist with ease of participant registration by rolling out a new registration module, to include staff training and implementation.	Service Quality & Respond to Growing Community	In Progress: testing with one program.

Community Services Department							
Parks / Recreation & Cultural Services Divisions							
February 2026 Monthly Report							
<b>Facility Revenue Totals To Date</b>		<b>2026</b>				<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
		<b>Budget</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Balance</b>		<b>Totals to Date</b>	<b>Totals to Date</b>
Parks Facility Reservation Revenue		\$ 180,000	\$ 37,678	\$ 142,322		\$ 52,883	\$ 44,854
County Fair / Fairgrounds		\$ 301,000	\$ 85,065	\$ 215,935		\$ 35,035	\$ 25,599
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 481,000</b>	<b>\$ 122,743</b>	<b>\$ 358,257</b>		<b>\$ 87,918</b>	<b>\$ 70,453</b>
<b>Fundraising Revenue</b>		<b>2026</b>	<b>2026</b>			<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Balance</b>		<b>Totals to Date</b>	<b>Totals to Date</b>
County Fair Sponsorships	Fair Operations	\$ 80,000	\$ 91,500	\$ (11,500)		\$ 15,500	\$ 92,500
Partners in the Park Program	Park Operations	\$ 45,000	\$ 17,500	\$ 27,500		\$ 7,500	\$ 30,000
Trust for County Parks	Park Operations	\$ 10,000	\$ 800	\$ 9,200		\$ 4,390	\$ 2,819
Nature Center Fundraising	Nature Center Support	\$ 25,000	\$ 1,308	\$ 23,692		\$ 721	\$ 2,127
County Fairgrounds Support (Fairgrounds Corp)	Programming/Facility Support	\$ 40,000	\$ 70,000	\$ (30,000)		\$ -	\$ 80,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 200,000</b>	<b>\$ 181,108</b>	<b>\$ 18,892</b>		<b>\$ 28,111</b>	<b>\$ 207,446</b>
<b>Grant / 3rd Party Funding</b>		<b>Awarded</b>					
<b>Parks Division Reservations</b>		<b>2026</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Year to Date</b>		<b>Rentals</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>Rentals</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Rental</b>
January		1	1000	N/A	10	1626	10
February		11	877	N/A	11	893	15
March							
April							
May							
June							
July							
August							
September							
October							
November							
December							
<b>Total</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>1877</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>2519</b>	<b>25</b>

<u>Parks Facility Reservations</u>		2026	2026	2025	2025	2024	2024	
<u>February</u>		<u>Rentals</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Rentals</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Rentals</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	
<b><u>Bear Creek Regional Park</u></b>								
Archery Lanes								
Athletic Fields								
Pavilions								
Trails		1	300	1	300	3	324	
Vendor								
Tennis Courts								
Pickleball Courts								
Vita Course								
Meeting Room		2	13	4	22	7	98	
<b><u>Black Forest Regional Park</u></b>								
Athletic Fields								
Pavilions								
Vendor								
Tennis Courts / Pickleball Courts								
<b><u>Falcon Regional Park</u></b>								
Baseball Fields								
Athletic Field								
Vendor								
<b><u>Fountain Creek Regional Park</u></b>								
Athletic Fields								
Pavilions		5	250	1	300			
Trails		1	300			1	300	
Disc Golf Course								
Vendor		1	4					
<b><u>Fox Run Regional Park</u></b>								
Athletic Fields								
Gazebo				1	150	1	150	
Warming Hut				1	20	1	20	
Pavilions								
Vendor								
Trails								
<b><u>Homestead Ranch Regional Park</u></b>								
Pavilions								
Athletic Fields								
Trails								
<b><u>Palmer Lake Recreational Area</u></b>								
Palmer Lake Santa Fe Trail								
<b><u>New Santa Fe Trail</u></b>								
Monument Trail Head New Santa Fe Trail								
Baptist Road Santa Fe Trail								
AFA Santa Fe Trail								
Vendor - Santa Fe Trailheads								
<b><u>Paint Mines Trail</u></b>		1	10	1	1	2	6	
<b><u>Rock Island Trail</u></b>								
<b><u>Black Forest Section 16</u></b>								
<b><u>Rainbow Falls Historic Site</u></b>				2	100			
<b><u>Pineries Open Space</u></b>								
<b><u>Total Park Facility Reservations</u></b>		<b>11</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>893</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>898</b>	

<u>Fairgrounds Facility Reservations</u>		2026	2026	2026	2025	2025	2024	2024
<u>Year to Date</u>		<u>Rentals</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Evaluation</u>	<u>Rentals</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Rentals</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
January		48	1,393	n/a	40	1745	17	385
February		26	865	n/a	24	1165	19	770
March								
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
<b>Total</b>		<b>74</b>	<b>2,258</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>2,910</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>1,155</b>
<u>Fairgrounds Facility Reservations</u>		2026	2026	2025	2025			
<b>February</b>		<b>Rentals</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Rentals</b>	<b>Attendance</b>			
<b>Swink Hall - Fairgrounds</b>								
Lion's Club Meeting		1	50	1	25			
Jr. Livestock Committee Meeting		1	20	1	20			
4-H Hitch'N'Post Meeting		1	20	1	20			
4-H Club Meeting		1	20	1	20			
Fair Corporation Meeting		1	5	1	20			
Ballroom Party - Rental		2	210	1	250			
4-H Creation Station		1	50	1	100			
<b>Grand Stands Building</b>				1	50			
<b>Track</b>				1	15			
<b>Grounds &amp; Stable</b>				1	15			
<b>Livestock Arena</b>				1	75			
4-H Mini Horse Clinic		2	30					
4-H Beef Tag-In		1	30	1	25			
<b>Whittemore - Fairgrounds</b>				1	25			
FCCLA Bingo Fundraiser		1	200	1	75			
Youth Basketball		4	80					
Youth Baseball		10	150	9	180			
<b>FSB Pavilion</b>				1	250			
<b>Arena</b>								
<b>Month Total Fair Facility Reservations</b>		<b>26</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1,165</b>			
<u>Vandalism Report</u>								
<b>Incident</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Cost</b>				
Graffiti removal, repainting	1/6/2026	Crew Gulch Tunnel	South District	\$500				
Graffiti removal, repainting	1/7/2026	Fontaine Tunnel	South District	\$500				
Graffiti removal, repainting	1/13/2026	Fontaine Tunnel	South District	\$500				
Graffiti removal, repainting	1/21/2026	Fontaine Tunnel	South District	\$500				
Graffiti removal, repainting	2/3, 2/12	Fontaine Tunnel	South District	\$1,000				
Graffiti removal, repainting	2/3, 2/12, 2/26	Crews Gulch Tunnel	South District	\$1,750				
Carving, Graffiti removal on trees	2/16/2026	Willow Springs Park	South District	\$250				
			<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>				

<b>Volunteerism</b>		<b>2026</b>		<b>2025</b>		<b>2024</b>		
<b>Total for Year</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Volunteers</b>	<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>Volunteers</b>	<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>Volunteers</b>	<b>Total Hours</b>	
January		149	717	131	779	167	827	
February		118	570	149	813	272	1,259	
March								
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
<b>Totals</b>		<b>267</b>	<b>1,287</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>1,592</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>2,086</b>	
		<b>2026</b>						
<b>February</b>		<b>Volunteers</b>	<b>Total Hours</b>					
Park Advisory Board		N/A	N/A					
Fair Advisory Board		10	15					
Fairgrounds Corporation		5	5					
Fair and Events Center		6	20					
Friends of the Nature Centers		30	228.5					
Adopt-A-Park / Trail / Volunteer Projects		67	301					
<b>Total</b>		<b>118</b>	<b>570</b>					
<b>Programming</b>		<b>2026</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Totals for Year</b>		<b>Programs</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>Programs</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Programs</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
January		43	1134	4.99	41	846	48	1434
February		49	1424	4.98	39	1032	49	1995
March								
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
<b>Totals</b>	<b>800 / 21,000</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>2558</b>	<b>4.99</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>1878</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>3429</b>

		2026	2026	2026				
February	Facility	Programs	Attendance	Evaluation				
Nature Adventures: Art in Nature	FCNC	2	62	5.00				
2s & 3s Outdoors: Perfect Pairs	FCNC	2	53	4.90				
Drawing Winter Trees in Ink	FCNC	1	14	5.00				
Intro to Wildlife Tracking	FCNC	1	17	5.00				
Adult Bird Club: Class	FCNC	1	14	5.00				
Adult Bird Club: Field Trip	FCNC	1	14	5.00				
Program Room Rental	FCNC	2	35					
Birthday Party	FCNC	2	36	5.00				
Outreach: STEM Night at Stratton Meadows Elem	FCNC	1	120					
Group Visit: Pheonix Volunteers & Girl Scouts	FCNC	2	33					
Todd Marts Retirement Party	BCNC	1	65					
Birthday Party: All About Animals	BCNC	1	11					
Birthday Party: Dinosaur Discovery	BCNC	1	18					
Outreach: Bighorn Sheep Day	BCNC	1	303					
Nature Explorers: Coy-oyotes	BCNC	2	50	4.90				
Aiken Audubon Meeting & Stellar Care Group Visit	BCNC	2	42					
Disability Etiquette Training with Independence Ctr	BCNC	1	36					
Winter Birds Watercolor Class	BCNC	1	15					
Bear Den Rental: Baby Shower	BCNC	1	40					
Little Wonders: Coats of a Different Color	BCNC	2	50	5.00				
Exhibit Room Volunteer Exploration Training	BCNC	1	11					
Puppet Theater	BCNC	1	35					
Teen Camp Assistant Gathering	BCNC	1	10					
Discover Bear Creek	BCNC	4	52	5.00				
Habitat	BCNC	3	42	5.00				
Winter Adaptations	BCNC	7	102	5.00				
In-Class: UTE	BCNC	1	15	5.00				
Winter Waterfall Viewing: Rainbow Falls	RF	1	94					
Homesteading Group	FEC	1	20					
Cupid is Stupid: Valentine's Day Trivia	FEC	1	15					
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>49</b>	<b>1424</b>	<b>4.98</b>				
<b>Visitor Contacts</b> <i>(does not include programs)</i>	<b>Bear Creek Nature Center</b>	<b>Fountain Creek Nature Center</b>	<b>Paint Mines Interpretive Park</b>	<b>Rainbow Falls Historic Site</b>				
January	786	821	0	0				
February	1030	1124	0	94				
March								
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1816</b>	<b>1945</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>94</b>				

## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

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### MONTHLY REPORT - FEBRUARY 2026

#### **General Updates:**

1. Facility rentals have generated \$37,678, which is 20% of our annual \$180,000 revenue goal.

#### **Special Events:**

1. The Pikes Peak Road Runners continued their “Winter Series” running series in February. 2 running events with a total of 600 runners participated in events at Bear Creek Regional Park and the Fountain Creek Regional trail.
2. Staff is working with many local organizations on disc golf tournaments (2), running events, dog agility events and equestrian events. Many local schools and sports organizations have also scheduled field trips and day camps at County Parks.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Monthly Report – March 2026

Community Outreach:

Colorado State University (CSU) Extension is once again spearheading the Duckwood Community Garden initiative at Fountain Creek Regional Park this year.

Additionally, CSU Extension will conduct a garden cleanup day in collaboration with Fountain-Fort Carson High School students, fostering community involvement and environmental stewardship.

As part of this effort, we are collaborating with a local gardening organization to host a Community Garden Event in June. This event will feature educational demonstrations, donated seedling starts, and a plant swap—engaging community members and showcasing the garden’s impact.

These events aim to bring together local gardeners, volunteers, and enthusiasts to cultivate a shared appreciation for sustainable gardening and community engagement.

El Paso County Fair: United We Celebrate:

2026 marks the 250th anniversary of America and the 150th anniversary of Colorado. We are proud of all the moments that made us who we are. The 2026 Fair theme is "United We Celebrate," honoring this historic celebration and the moments that have made us. Celebrate with us and learn more at [ELPASOCOUNTYFAIR.COM](http://ELPASOCOUNTYFAIR.COM)

**MOMENTS THAT MADE US**

In 2026, the United States will celebrate 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and Colorado will mark 150 years of statehood. Combining these historic events also provides us with a term that may prove a mouthful – *Sesquicentennial!*

These milestone twin anniversaries invite us to reflect on our shared history, celebrate our communities, and look to the future together.

The **Moments That Made Us** social media campaign invites community members to share photos and stories that capture the experiences, traditions, and milestones that shaped who they are today. Whether it's a family memory, a moment of service, or a personal achievement, these stories help tell the collective story of our County, our State, and our Nation.

By sharing the moments that made us, we celebrate how far we've come, honor what we've accomplished together, and look ahead to a future rooted in unity and shared history.

We invite you to be part of this shared celebration by submitting your **Moments That Made Us**. Photos and stories can be sent directly to [epcpio@elpasoco.com](mailto:epcpio@elpasoco.com). Your moments may be featured on social media and displayed as part of a community timeline during the El Paso County Fair. Your contribution helps preserve our collective history and inspires connection across generations.

Join us in celebrating our past, present, and future, one moment at a time.

Great news! We've hit our financial goal, with generous sponsors committing an impressive \$91,500 toward this year's County Fair!

***Mark your calendars for an exclusive VIP Luncheon at noon on opening day, Saturday, July 11, at the Fair and Events Center (366 10th Street, Calhan, 80808). You won't want to miss it!***

#### **Community Events:**

- April Stools Day at Bear Creek Dog Park  
Saturday, April 4
- Great American Cleanup  
Saturday, May 2  
County Parks staff will host two materials pick-up events, crew leader training, and two cleanup events. For additional information, please visit:  
<https://www.fountain-crk.org/great-american-cleanup/>

## RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

### MONTHLY REPORT - FEBRUARY 2026



#### Programs & Special Events:

- Fountain Creek Nature Center offered an **Intro to Wildlife Tracking** program for ages 10-15, taught by guest instructor Shane Cote. Thirteen children, along with several of their parents, learned the basics of animal tracking. They looked at a variety of track examples and discussed other clues to look for, such as trails, browse, scat, and beds. They listened to recordings of animal sounds. He then took the children on a hike where they found real examples of animal tracks and signs along the trail. The program was well received and enjoyed by all including our very own Nature Interpreter, Andy.



- Fountain Creek Nature Center teamed up with local artist Saraiya Kanning to offer a program called **Drawing Winter Trees in Ink**. Beginning indoors, the group learned different techniques and strokes to create a variety of shades, shadows, and textures on the page with just pen. The group then went outside to the trail where they practiced their new talent and quietly appreciated the stillness of each unique branch.



- Fountain Creek Nature Center's **Adult Birding Club** met for their last evening class and morning field trip in February. For the past year, 14 birders met monthly to slowly learn techniques to identify hundreds of Colorado's bird species. After each class, they met at trails and open spaces across the County to practice identifying by sight and sound in real time, enjoying the social, physical, and physiological benefits along the way. Over 12 field trips they saw 123 species of birds. On their last outing, at Kane Ranch Open Space, they were treated to THREE Great Horned Owls! We look forward to seeing these fully-fledged birders on our trails!



- Teen Camp Assistants are integral to the success of Bear Creek and Fountain Creek's Nature Camp programs. These young volunteers help keep the camp groups engaged and safe. They also act as wonderful role models for younger campers while they gain experiences in leadership, teamwork, and environmental education. To keep this valuable group of young volunteers connected during the non-camp season and to show our appreciation for them, the nature centers offered a **'Teen Camp Assistant Party'** on Saturday, February 28.



Ten Teen Camp Assistants joined nature center staff for an enjoyable afternoon gathering that included pizza and snacks (if you feed them, they will come!), sun viewing with CO Springs Astronomical Society, hiking, games, and puppetry. We will continue to offer these gatherings periodically in non-summer months to stay connected with the Teen Camp Assistants.

- Feathers in flight, Bear Creek is filled with delight! Fifteen budding and advanced artists flocked to Bear Creek Nature Center to learn with Mary Wilson about birds, birding, and painting birds, at a class called **Bird Watercolors!** With a birding walk under their belts to learn about anatomy, light and shadows, and color, attendees chose a bird to paint under Mary's instruction. Artists then did a gallery walk to showcase their artwork at the end of the program with a variety of birds highlighted.



- Front desk volunteers are the unsung heroes of the El Paso County Nature Centers: the first face the public sees when walking in, answering questions and calls, and assisting staff with many projects. Ten of our volunteers attended the first **Exhibit Exploration Training** led by staff to explore best practices for connecting Nature Center visitors with the exhibits and resources available at Bear Creek Nature Center. After seeing examples by staff, volunteers had time to practice their own skills and share with the group how they'll be interpreting exhibits in the future. We can't wait to see the example they set as they engage with visitors and share their new knowledge and skills.



### **Outreach Events and Other Items:**

- Our partnerships allow for some great outreach opportunities, and **Big Horn Sheep Day** really Rams that feeling home. Having a table set up on prime real estate in the Garden of the Gods Visitor Center on a day that saw around 4,000 visitors, was great cross-promotion for El Paso County's Nature Centers. Talking about the iconic Big Horn Sheep & making headbands with paper horns on them was a big hit, and it was fun to see the event space slowly fill with hundreds of kids (and some adults) all wearing colorful horns!



- February was a month of variety at the **El Paso County Fair & Events Center**, filled with youth activities, community programs, and private events. The facility hosted the FCCLA Fundraiser, 4-H Beef Weigh-In, Mini Horse Clinic, and Creation Stations, supporting local youth education and agriculture programs. Basketball and baseball practices kept the grounds active 4-5 days/week, alongside community meetings and our popular "Not-So-Valentine's" Trivia Night. The month also included multiple private rentals, from Ballroom Night to family celebrations, highlighting the Events Center's continued role as a year-round community gathering place.



**Special Events and Program Calendar**

**March 12 - April 8, 2026**

Date	Day of Week	Program	Location	Target Audience	Notes*
March 13	Friday	2s & 3s Outdoors: Meltdown!	Fountain Creek Nature Center	Children ages 2-3 with a caregiver	10-11:15am, \$3 per person
March 13	Friday	2s & 3s Outdoors: Meltdown!	Fountain Creek Nature Center	Children ages 2-3 with their families	2-3:15am, \$3 per person
March 14	Saturday	Build a Coyote with Bricks & Minifigs	Bear Creek Nature Center	Ages 6+	10-11:30am, \$25 per kit
March 14	Saturday	Pi Day Hike - Math in Nature	Bear Creek Nature Center	Ages 6+	1-2:30pm, \$5/person
March 14	Saturday	Board Game Expo	Fair & Events Center	All ages	10-4pm, Free
March 16	Monday	Homesteading Group	Fair & Events Center	All ages	1-3pm, Free
March 18	Wednesday	Nature Explorers: Towhee Tap Dance	Bear Creek Nature Center	Children ages 4-5 with an adult	10-11:30am or 1-2:30 pm, \$3/person
March 20	Friday	Homeschool Fridays: Walk the Wetlands	Fountain Creek Nature Center	Children in grades Pre-k through 2nd with a caregiver	2-4pm, \$4 per person
March 21-22	Saturday-Sunday	Beekeeping School with Pikes Peak Beekeepers Association	Bear Creek Nature Center	Adults	8:30am-3:45pm, \$75/person
March 23-27	Monday-Friday	Spring Break Nature Camp	Fountain Creek Nature Center	Children in grades 1-5	9am-3pm daily, \$165/child, sold out
March 25	Wednesday	Little Wonders: Snouts & Sniffers	Bear Creek Nature Center	Children ages 2-3 with an adult	10-11:15am or 1-2:15 pm, \$3/person
March 28	Saturday	Puppet Theater	Bear Creek Nature Center	All ages	1-2pm, suggested donation
April 3	Friday	Nature Adventures: Trees, Please!	Fountain Creek Nature Center	Children ages 3-6 with a caregiver	10-11:30am, \$3/person
April 3	Friday	Nature Adventures: Trees, Please!	Fountain Creek Nature Center	Children ages 3-6 with a caregiver	2-3:30am, \$3/person
April 4	Saturday	Chocolate Bunny Egg Hunt	Fountain Creek Nature Center	Ages 2+	9am, 1am, & 1pm, \$6/child
April 4	Saturday	Chocolate Bunny Egg Hunt	Bear Creek Nature Center	Ages 2+	9am~11am~1pm~3pm, \$6/child with 2 free adults
April 4	Saturday	Auto Races	Fair & Events Center	All Ages	5-10 pm, www.bstpromotions.com

\* Nature Center Members may receive an additional discount

## PARK PLANNING & PARK OPERATIONS DIVISIONS

### MONTHLY REPORT - FEBRUARY 2026

**Bear Creek Regional Park Sports Courts** – This project will revitalize a popular area of the park by addressing critical needs and improving public amenities. Of the four existing tennis courts, two are closed and the remaining two are in disrepair; these will be replaced with six new pickleball courts and two new tennis courts. The archery range will be refurbished within its current configuration, while the parking lot will be expanded and paved to improve access. Additionally, the plaza area will be upgraded with new site furnishings, creating a more welcoming and functional space for visitors.

**Fountain Creek Regional Park Pond and Paving** – The Duckwood pond serves as the main irrigation source for Fountain Creek Regional Park and is in need of improvement due to its age. The surrounding sidewalks are also in need of assessment to ensure compliance with ADA standards. This project will start with a design phase to look at the pond and surrounding area, then proceed with a construction phase. This project will assess the pond liner, well pump, shoreline, and surrounding pathways in 2026.

**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 2025. The RFP for construction was advertised and responses received in August 2025. Project was awarded to Timberline Building Systems. Construction began in October 2025 with anticipated completion June 2026.

**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 for \$796,165. The design project started in May and will take approximately 18 months. Concept plans were delivered and are currently being reviewed by the project team in late 2025. The team has chosen a preferred concept and is working towards a preliminary design. Once the preliminary design is completed a presentation will be given to the Park Advisory Board.

**Homestead Ranch Regional Park Trails and Drainage** – The Homestead Ranch Regional Park Master Plan (2022) identified the need to improve the condition of trails and site drainage. Since then, trail improvements have been completed in phases, with the most recent being completed in Sept, 2025. The third, and final phase of trail improvements will be completed in 2026 and includes grading, minor trail realignments, drainage improvements, and other stormwater improvements within the park.

**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. The Woodlake Trail repairs were completed in August 2025. Repair efforts will now shift to Falcon Regional Park and then Fountain Creek Regional Trail.

**Paint Mines Interpretive Park Fencing Project** – Following recommendations from the 2024 Paint Mines Interpretive Park Master Plan, over 4,800 linear feet of new post and dowel fencing was installed within the park in 2025. The next planned improvement includes construction of low-profile post and chain fencing along the trails within the formations themselves. The fencing will be designed and installed to ensure the trails are demarked while limiting visual impacts to the formations.

**Pineries Open Space** – The Pineries Open Space Phase II Improvements Project includes development of an equestrian parking lot near the outbuildings at the main trailhead as outlined in the Pineries Open Space Master Plan. The current parking lot will be converted to accommodate standard vehicle parking only. Supporting site furnishings and necessary utilities will also be installed. If funding allows, improvements to the outbuildings will be completed to support maintenance operations. The Phase II Construction Document Update is currently in the procurement phase.

**Ute Pass Regional Trail** – El Paso County was previously awarded three federal grants between 2019-2022 to fund design and construction of a 1.5-mile segment of the Ute Pass Regional Trail from Winnemucca Road to Hwy 24. Stantec Consulting Services was selected to complete engineering and design of the Ute Pass Regional Trail. Permitting, regulatory approvals, and coordination with several agencies was completed in 2025.. AA Construction was selected to construct the trail in 2026. Work will begin in February and be completed by December.

**Black Forest Section 16 Trailhead Parking Lot Expansion-** This project involves the expansion of an equestrian parking lot, including the addition of equine amenities, gates, and signage. State Land Board approval for the parking lot expansion has been obtained. Staff are currently developing the project's design documents and will continue with the next phases of the project process.

**Trail Counter Program (2026)** – As part of a new trail counter program, staff have acquired six trail counters that will be installed across all districts by Parks Operations staff. Planning staff are preparing a presentation scheduled for February that will outline additional information regarding the program and its long-term goals.

**Development Application Reviews** – Staff reviewed 0 development applications for endorsement at the March 2026 meeting and provided 10+ internal administrative comments for applications reviewed during February 2026.

**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 and Matrix Design Group to perform a comprehensive inventory and condition assessment of the entire regional park system. This project is scheduled to begin in February with completion by the end of year. Once the project is launched, a presentation will be provided to the Park Advisory Board with additional project milestone updates planned in 2026.

**Fountain Creek Watershed 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** – The Park Planning Division is applying for a Community Development Block Grant to pave in concrete approximately 775 feet of the Crews Gulch Regional Trail from the Park's primary entrance at Drury Lane to Bella Vista Lane. Awards will be announced in May 2026.

**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, Vollmer and Shoup Road Roundabout Design, North Calhan Highway Expansion Design, 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 February. Tree and landscape bed pruning, playground inspections, transportation of equipment to and from Fleet for maintenance and preparation for the upcoming growing season, leaf and debris removal, park projects, posting of stage two fire restrictions, and daily illegal camping checks were priorities during the reporting period.

Front Range Arborists were contracted to mitigate an eighteen-acre parcel on the east side of Bear Creek Regional Park. This is a very common area for illegal campsites and has suffered from beaver damage over the past few years. Front Range staff will be removing fallen and damaged trees, masticating underbrush, and treating stumps to prevent regeneration. This work will enhance site lines for park employees and security staff while performing daily homeless checks. Mitigation efforts will also decrease the available locations for campsites and improve the overall forest health. An additional five and a half acres were added to this project; all work was completed during the reporting period. Staff assisted with the project by adding wire mesh to the mature trees, acting as beaver deterrents, and collecting uncovered trash throughout the project areas.

The Pauper's Cemetery at the corner of Lower Gold Camp and 21<sup>st</sup> St received an upgrade during the reporting period. Law Fence was contracted to remove the old wooden fence and install a new metal ornamental enclosure. Park staff secured the bottom of the fence perimeter with metal edging and added weed control fabric and rock mulch to the interior. Staff recently installed a new directional sign to the Bear Creek Nature Center and banner frame, removed an old split rail fence, and pruned the overgrown corner pinyon pine trees. Once received and installed, the addition of new Pauper's Cemetery signage will complete the project.

The Recreation and Cultural Services Division hosted a winter waterfall viewing event at Rainbow Fall Historic Site on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Although the "falls" were not quite in their normal spectacular frozen winter viewing state, patrons were provided access for an off-season visit to the site and was well received by the public. Park staff assisted by clearing the entrance area, trail, and securing portable restroom service.

The Downtown team's priorities during the reporting period included landscape bed pruning and winter watering of trees and plants throughout their properties.

### **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 – Rentals and events at the fairgrounds have been minimal, allowing staff to focus on completing projects. With the recent warm weather, the team scraped, painted, and numbered the open-air horse stalls. Staff also repainted and sealed the cleaning closet floor in Swink Hall. After experiencing paint failure last year, the floor was sealed following painting to help improve its durability.

The team is developing a Scope of Work for a new storage building being installed at the fairgrounds. The facility will house fuel, chemicals, paint, and hand tools currently stored in the shop. This project will free up workspace for the maintenance team and relocate various materials to a dedicated building.

The fairgrounds hosted several events, including weekly youth sports practices in the Whittemore Building, a ballroom party and 4-H club meetings in Swink Hall, and the first Beef Tag-In event of 2026 in the Livestock Arena Building.

The Parks team continued forestry work at Homestead Ranch Regional Park, focusing on tree thinning, ladder fuel reduction, and canopy lifting in select areas. The team also cleaned and organized the shop to prepare for the upcoming growing season.

### **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 lake and gazebo renovation project at Fox Run Regional Park has been the highest priority project within the north district. The project continues to make substantial progress due to exceptional planning, communication, and weather. We continue to meet with the contractor and project manager every two weeks for status updates and implement any changes needed to the design. Final grading, concrete, and lake liner installation will be completed within the next three weeks. We anticipate being able to fill the lakes with irrigation water by mid-April.

We have completed the Fox Run maintenance building interior painting. The bathrooms, breakroom, main shop area, and office are all finished. It has provided a clean look and allowed us to expand on the 5-S workplace organization system. We were able to consolidate and organize many of the shop supplies that we have onsite.

In addition, the north district crew has been removing all the pine needles from Fox Run Regional Park. We have been using our newly acquired buffalo turbine blower pulled behind our UTVs. The new equipment has increased efficiency dramatically transforming a multi-month task into a multi-week task. All unwanted debris has been removed from the active use areas and the park perimeter.

There is a large forestry project underway in Pineries Open Space. We are in the process of treating approximately 75 acres along the southern perimeter of the property. The project area was burned during the 2013 Black Forest fire. The trees are being masticated and chipped onsite. It is a welcomed project providing mitigation as well as improving the aesthetics and health of the property.

### **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 working on 5S workplace organization, general parks cleaning, equipment maintenance, and forest thinning.

Our team focused on thinning fuel loads at the north end of Willow Springs Ponds. The primary focus was to thin undergrowth, remove deadfall, and cut hazard trees and limbs. This was done to give the area not only a cleaner look, but to reduce fuel loads. All cut trees were treated to prevent regeneration. Our team also spent time removing older unused picnic tables and trash cans. Crews focused on removing trash, trimming low hanging/hazard branches, and repairing fences.

We have contracted with an arborist vendor to perform forest mitigation work in John Ceresa Memorial Park up to Widefield Community Park. The crew is working very efficiently, and the change is very noticeable. The work is being done to clean up dead, fallen, and hazard timber, as well as fuel reduction. The work should be completed by the first week of March. Additionally, the crew will be working on removing a few more large hazard trees in John Ceresa Park.

Our team also spent significant time cleaning and painting graffiti and other vandalism in Widefield Park and the Crews Gulch area. We have had a noticeable uptick in the amount of vandalism in both park areas. Staff also spent several days painting, removing, and sanding areas of graffiti and carvings in trees. The incidents were reported to Parks Security and increased patrols will be taking place.