

**PARK ADVISORY BOARD**

**Meeting Agenda**

**Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.**

**Centennial Hall, 200 S. Cascade, Colorado Springs**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Recommended Action</u>
1. <b>Call Meeting to Order</b>	Chair	
2. <b>Approval of the Agenda</b>	Chair	Approval
3. <b>Approval of Minutes</b>	Chair	Approval
4. <b>Introductions / Presentations</b>		
A. Volunteer Program Review: Friends of El Paso County Nature Centers	Theresa Odello/ Kelly Ann Blanchard	Information
B. 2025 Rainbow Falls Historic Site Annual Report	Theresa Odello	Information
5. <b>Citizen Comments / Correspondence on items not on the agenda</b> (limited to three (3) minutes unless extended by Chair)	Chair	
6. <b>Development Applications</b>		
7. <b>Information / Action Items</b>		
A. 2026 – 2027 Officer Elections	Chair	Endorsement
8. <b>Monthly Reports</b>	Staff	Information
9. <b>Board / Staff Comments</b>		
10. <b>Adjournment</b>		

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

Staff Present:

Jason Meyer, Interim Executive Director  
Sabine Carter, Administrative Coordinator  
Brian Bobeck, Division Manager - Park Operations  
Theresa Odello, Division Manager – Rec. & Cultural Services

Absent: John Wallace

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 change the presenter for item 4A to Joseph Johnson. Abriana Cuvelier seconded the motion. The motion carried 8 - 0.**
3. Approval of Minutes: **Jill Sevits made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 11, 2026. Jane Newman seconded the motion. The motion carried. 8 - 0.**
4. Introductions and Presentations:
  - A. **Pikes Peak Pickleball Association Donation**

Jason Meyer expressed his appreciation for a \$100,000 donation from the Pikes Peak Pickleball Association (PPPA) which will go towards the construction of new pickleball courts at Bear Creek Regional Park. The partnership with PPPA started around 2018 when the Association approached County Parks with the idea of including pickleball courts at Bear Creek Regional Park which, at the time, underwent a revamping phase of the sports courts. The group provided over \$100,000 towards the construction of the courts, the plaza and the shade structures. PPPA was essential in providing ongoing support at the courts and provided free lessons, round robin play etc. Joe Johnson, president of the PPPA and Jeff Jensen, treasurer, presented the County with a check of \$100,000. Chair Lachocki thanked the PPPA for the positive impact they had on the community.

5. Citizen Comments:

Allen Beauchamp, Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC) stated that he attended a City of Fountain Parks master planning session and highlighted that there are opportunities for the City of Fountain to connect to other County facilities/trails. Glenn Carlson, president, Trails and Open Space Coalition stated that some communities are actively exploring the idea of sales taxes dedicated for parks. Even in these economic times. He highlighted several items: A clean-up event in America the Beautiful park, the “Keep it clean COS” initiative and how to prevent trash and encourage recycling. Mr. Carlson stated that our region recycles at only half the rate of the national average. He also introduced TOSC’s new web tool MARLOW, which helps people explore parks and trails in the region.

Commissioner Bill Wysong congratulated Jason Meyer on his new role as interim executive director. He highlighted the importance of community involvement, partnership and synergy with local governments by groups like the Pikes Peak Pickleball Association, Trails and Open Space Coalition and many more.

6. Development Applications:

N/A

7. Information / Action Items:

**A. Park Asset Management**

Jason Meyer introduced the Parks Inventory and Condition Assessment Project. The El Paso County Strategic Plan, which can be reviewed on the El Paso County website, lists 4 strategic objectives: Infrastructure, Service Quality, Community Trust and Health & Safety. The Parks department is on the objective “Infrastructure” team along with Public Works, Facilities and Strategic Infrastructure Department (Facilities) and Digital Strategy (IT). This year we are focusing on data collection so we can move towards data-driven decisions regarding equipment life cycles, maintenance, construction/repair costs etc.

Marc Barraclough, Infrastructure Asset Manager with Public Works, provided his professional background and the background of the Asset Management and GIS team. He stated that one team member is spending one day a week at the parks department working on asset management. Cam Mowski, project manager with Matrix Design Group, presented the key leaders of his team followed by the framework of asset management. He introduced the scope of the project which includes asset management, conditions assessment and lifecycle planning. The project has already started and will be completed in six months followed by another presentation before the Park Advisory Board in September.

Marc Barraclough addressed questions by board members regarding the value of the project and the necessity to bring in Matrix Design Group for data collection. Jason Meyer stated that for the first time we will have a true understanding of the condition of our system and being able to look at life cycle costs for maintaining or replacing facilities and to be transparent with the taxpayers’ dollars, prioritizing critical needs items and to be smart about growth. This data will help us drive those decisions. Sunny Bryant, Deputy County Administrator, reiterated the importance of the work being completed by the Asset Management team across many County departments and the importance of the Matrix

Design Group assisting the team in collecting the many data points needed for the Asset Management team to do their job efficiently and in a timely manner.

**B. Park Advisory Board Membership Update**

Jason Meyer informed the board that Advisory Board members Jane Newman's and Janna Blanter's first term on the board is ending in May 2026. Both are eligible for reappointment.

**C. 2026 Park Advisory Board Tour**

Brian Bobeck announced that the Park Advisory Board traditionally conducts a tour of selected park sites in late spring. This year the Central District has been identified as a tour destination. The board pondered over several dates. May 1 was selected as the tour date.

**8. Monthly Reports:**

Jason Meyer reported on the June flood repairs: FEMA funds have been received for repairs on several locations across the regional park system. Woodlake Trail repairs are completed. Repairs are now shifting to Falcon Regional Park and the Fountain Creek Regional Trail. A large Colorado Springs Utilities project is underway right now along the Fountain Creek Regional Trail for powerline repairs. Once that project is wrapped up, we are starting our efforts to repair these trail sections. Hansen Trailhead is currently still in the design phase.

**9. Board/Staff Comments:**

Theresa Odello highlighted several upcoming events: The Chocolate Bunny Egg Hunt on April 4<sup>th</sup> at both Nature Centers, the Eggstravaganzza event which is a teen/adult Easter Egg Hunt at Fox Run Regional Park on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Odello also handed out information about the upcoming Volunteer Recognition Night and a quarterly newsletter.

**10. Adjournment:**

**Janna Blanter made a motion to adjourn. Jane Newman seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:49 p.m.**

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Jane Newman, Secretary

## El Paso County Park Advisory Board

### Agenda Item Summary Form

**Agenda Item Title:** Volunteer Program Review:  
Friends of El Paso County Nature Centers

**Agenda Date:** May 13, 2026

**Agenda Item Number:** #4 - A

**Presenter:** Theresa Odello, Division Manager, Recreation & Cultural Services and Kelly Ann Blanchard, Volunteer Program Coordinator for Friends of El Paso County Nature Centers

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

#### **Background Information:**

The Friends of El Paso County Nature Centers is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to support the two nationally recognized nature centers. The organization operates under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with El Paso County and is comprised of an executive board of elected officers and a general membership governed by official Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation. For more than 30 years, the Friends organization has provided both volunteer support and funding to enhance interpretive programs and services for El Paso County residents.

Volunteers are essential to the success and sustainability of the nature centers. Their contributions directly support daily operations, educational programming, and visitor services, and without their support, the County would not be able to offer the same level of programming or maintain current operating hours.

This presentation will highlight the work and accomplishments of volunteers in 2025 and provide an overview of the volunteer program, including its impact on service delivery and community engagement.

#### **Attachment:**

Volunteer Program Presentation



# The Friends of El Paso County Nature Centers **VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**



**EL PASO**  **COUNTY**  
COLORADO

**KELLY ANN BLANCHARD**

Volunteer Coordinator

Friends of El Paso County Nature Centers

[bcfcvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:bcfcvolunteers@gmail.com)



# VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

- **Front Desk**
- **Environmental Education**
- **Trailability**
- **Special Events**
- **Outreach**
- **Restoration Crew**
- **Other**





# RECRUITMENT

- **Walk-ins**
- **Referrals**
- **Idealist.org (formerly VolunteerMatch)**
- **Local and targeted**





# THE NUMBERS

- **76 active volunteers in 2025**
- **4,679 hours contributed by volunteers (195 days!)**
- **Value of \$155,764**
- **30 new volunteers in 2025**
- **Already welcomed 10 new volunteers in 2026**





# MORE NUMBERS



Desk docents and interpreters welcomed 61,571 visitors!



Trailability volunteers solo-led 70% of 88 hikes



Environmental Education volunteers helped to lead 477 field trips (7,673 students!)



Special Events volunteers assisted with 1,114 programs – 30,197 participants!



# RETENTION AND TRAINING



**January Jubilee**



**Flora & Fauna Walks**



**Planetarium  
Field Trip**



# VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION



- Annual Volunteer Dinner and Awards Night
  - Socializing
  - Live Music
  - Dinner
  - Awards Ceremony
- 70 volunteers and guests
- 38 volunteers with over 40 hours
- 3 volunteers over 200 hours
- Top volunteer = 390 hours
- Exemplary Volunteer Awardee: 25 years of service and more!





# VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

## Thank You!

A special thank you to our volunteers for everything they do.

The nature centers could not provide the same level of service to our community without them!



## El Paso County Park Advisory Board

### Agenda Item Summary Form

**Agenda Item Title:** 2025 Rainbow Falls Historic Site Annual Report

**Agenda Date:** May 13, 2026

**Agenda Item Number:** #4 - B

**Presenter:** Theresa Odello  
Division Manager - Recreation and Cultural Services

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

#### **Background Information:**

El Paso County assumed ownership and management of the Rainbow Falls Historic Site in 2010 and has continued to enhance and protect the site in partnership with the community.

Since 2021, operations have incorporated safety measures to address rockfall hazards while maintaining controlled public access. The 2025 season reflects continued operational stability, effective partnerships, and strong visitor engagement.

The attached presentation summarizes 2025 operations, including attendance trends, financial outcomes, operational highlights, challenges, and recommended improvements for the 2026 season.

#### **Recommended Action:**

Information Only



# Rainbow Falls 2025 Season Report



# Rainbow Falls Background

- Pre-2006 Owned by the Mansfield Development Corporation
- 2006 Manitou Environmental Citizen Action (MECA) initiates cleanups
- 2007 El Paso County and MECA agree to partner on restoration efforts
- 2010 Mansfield Development Corporation transfers the ownership to County
- 2011 Rainbow Falls Master Plan is completed / restoration projects begin
- 2013 County secures Transportation Enhancement Program Grant for the Rainbow Falls Access Improvement Project
- 2013 Major Flooding/CDOT subsequently completes significant repairs, including bank stabilization & access road/main trail
- 2015 County completes construction plans and bid documents for Rainbow Falls Access Improvement Project
- 2016 CDOT launches Manitou Avenue Bridge repairs / County completes FEMA-funded primitive trail repairs
- 2017 County / Stakeholders agree to change the classification of Rainbow Falls from a recreation area to a **historic site** with controlled access and operational hours
- 2019 Graffiti removed from natural surfaces
- 2021 Rockfall Incident near end of season
- 2024 Started partnering with Adventure Out West to provide shuttle service



# 2025 Season Overview

## Overview

- Open May through September, Friday to Sunday
- Continued mitigation for rockfall hazard
- Barricades maintained to restrict unsafe areas
- Public access safely preserved

## Operations & Partnerships

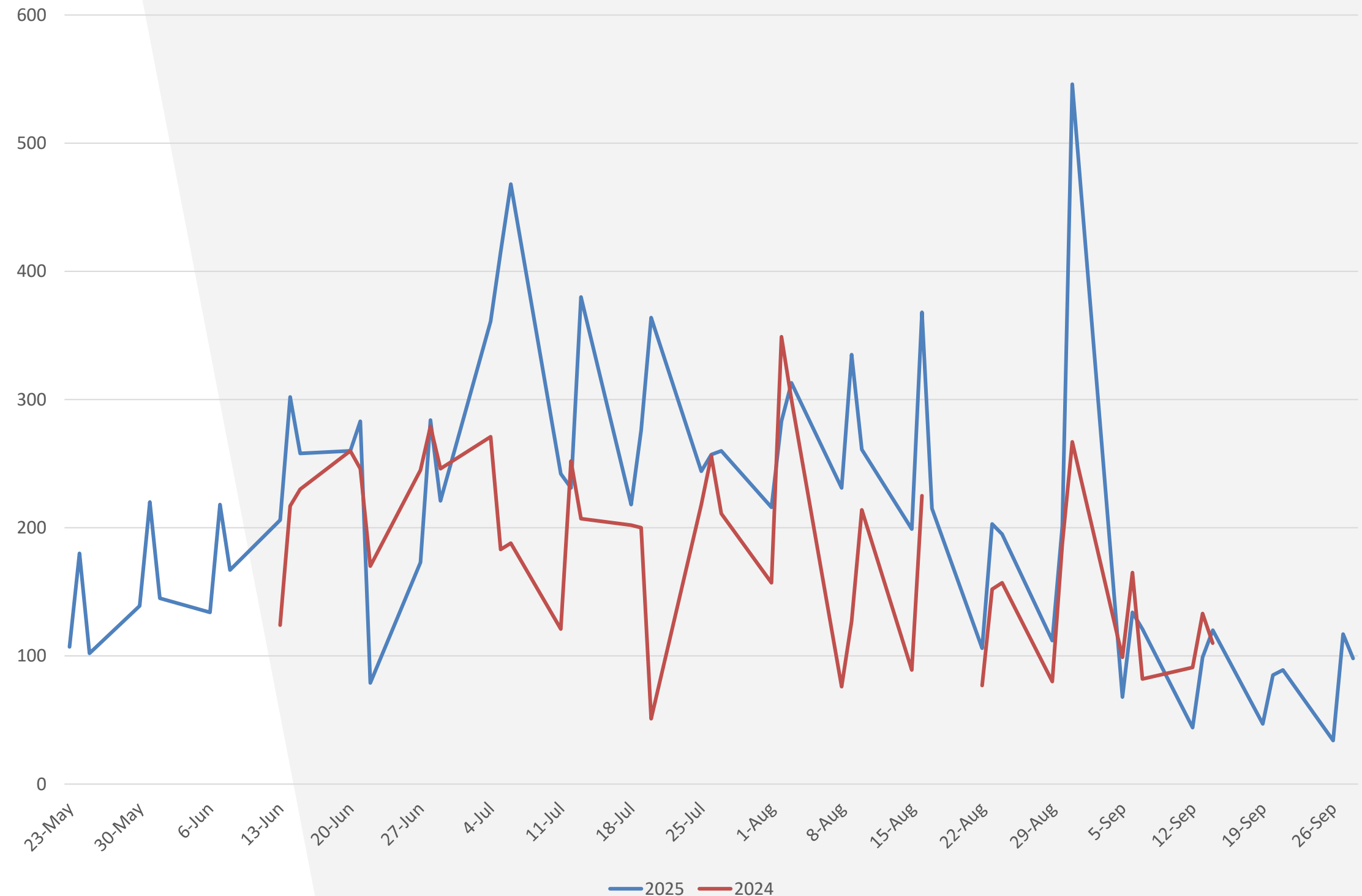
- Shuttle partnership with Adventures Out West (AOW)
- Shuttle reduced parking and traffic impacts
- Two on-site Interpreters
- Strong support from Park Operations staff





# Attendance

- **Total Visitors: 10,740**
  - **Shuttle Users: 7,352**
  - **Walk-in/Bike: 3,934**
- **Highest attendance month**
  - **July 3,716**
- **Consistent visitation**





# What Worked & Challenges

- What worked
  - Shuttle system was reliable and efficient
  - Visitor amenities improved (shade, seating)
  - Staff provided strong education and support
  - Park Operations team ensured site readiness and safety
  - AOW Partner in the Park
- Challenges
  - Walk-in access on unsafe roadway
  - Ongoing public perception
  - Supervision structure for staff

**ADVENTURES**  
OUT  WEST





# Next Steps

- **New Supervisor Role**
- **Continue coordination on roadway safety with Manitou Springs**
- **Evaluate small-scale programming opportunities**
- <https://youtu.be/XtYDTosFnCs>





**EL PASO**  **COUNTY**  
COLORADO

**THERESA ODELLO**

Division Manager – Recreation & Cultural Services  
TheresaOdello@ElPasoCo.com | 719.520.6981

**El Paso County Park Advisory Board**

**Agenda Item Summary Form**

**Agenda Item Title:** 2026 - 2027 Officer Elections

**Agenda Date:** May 13, 2026

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

**Presenter:** Chairperson

**Information:** **Approval: X**

**Background Information:**

The Park Advisory Board By-Laws includes the election of officers at the May meeting. The 2025 - 2026 officers include:

Chairperson -	Thomas Lachocki
Vice-Chairperson -	Vincent Prins
Second Vice-Chairperson -	John Wallace
Third Vice-Chairperson -	Janna Blanter
Secretary -	Jane Newman

Please find below an excerpt from the Park Advisory Board By-Laws regarding the election process:

**V. BOARD ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURES**

**A. Officers**

- 1. At the regular May meeting of each year, the Park Advisory Board shall meet and elect officers for the coming year. Officers shall serve from June through May.*
- 2. Election of officers shall be in accordance with Roberts' Rules of Order, Newly Revised, as said rules pertain to small boards and committees, or as otherwise directed by the Board of County Commissioners*
- 3. In case a vacancy shall occur in any of the offices, an election may be held at any regular meeting.*
- 4. The Chairperson of the Park Advisory Board shall preside at the meetings of the Board and shall perform the duties ordinarily performed by that office. The Chairperson shall be an ex-officio member of all committees appointed by the Park Advisory Board.*

5. *The Vice-Chairperson of the Park Advisory Board, in the absence of the Chairperson, shall perform all the duties of the Chairperson.*
6. *The Second Vice-Chairperson, in the absence of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson, shall perform all the duties of the Chairperson.*
7. *The Third Vice-Chairperson, in the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson and the Second Vice-Chairperson, shall perform all the duties of the Chairperson.*
8. *The Secretary, in the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson, the Second Vice-Chairperson and the Third Vice-Chairperson, shall call the meeting to order and preside until the immediate election of a chairperson pro tem.*
9. *The Secretary shall sign all recorded minutes of meetings that have been approved by the Park Advisory Board.*
10. *Ex-officio Secretary of the Park Advisory Board shall be the Community Services Director or his designee. Duties to include: preparation of the agenda, keeping a full and true record of all meetings, custodianship of all documents and written materials belonging to the Park Advisory Board, and issuance of notice of meetings.*
11. *The Chairperson, as needed, shall designate committees.*

**Recommended Motion:**

Move to elect \_\_\_\_\_ as the \_\_\_\_\_ for the Park Advisory Board for the 2026 - 2027 year.

## 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	Bid Development
Kyle Melvin	Homestead Ranch Regional Park Trail Improvements	Phase III trail improvements	Objective 1 - Infrastructure	Bid Process
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	Bid Development
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	Bid Development
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	In-Progress
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	Completed

## 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.	Objective 2: Respond to Growing Community	18%
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	Objective 1: Infrastructure	Planting May 9
Jessica Miller	Wayfinding Signs at FCNC	Design and install wayfinding signs on trails surrounding FCNC.	Objective 1 & 3: Infrastructure & Health & Safety	Current inventory completed.
Victoria Dinkel	Tiger Salamander Exhibit	Research, design, and install a permanent public exhibit of the Tiger Salamander.	Objective 2: Respond to Growing Community	Materials received: working with Facilities for instillation.
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.	Objective 2: Respond to Growing Community	In progress: big event on August 22.
Mary Jo Lewis	Bear Creek Exhibit	Coordinate the design, creation, and installation of A Closer Peek at Bear Creek: new exhibit.	Objective 2: Respond to Growing Community	Working on Phase 3: Design Development
Andschana Aljets	Fair Printed Material	Adjust Digital and Print communications timelines to allow for detailed review and editing across all communication channels.	Objective 2: Respond to Growing Community	Fair Guide info submitted to PIO.
Skye Bogle	Fair Website Updates	Streamline fair website to create a user-friendly experience and increase accessibility.	Objective 2: Respond to Growing Community	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.	Objective 2: Respond to Growing Community	In Progress: testing with one program.

Community Services Department							
Parks / Recreation & Cultural Services Divisions							
April 2026 Monthly Report							
<b>Facility Revenue Totals To Date</b>		2026				2025	2024
		<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	\$ 110,656	\$ 69,344		\$ 104,020	\$ 103,089
County Fair / Fairgrounds		\$ 301,000	\$ 139,472	\$ 161,528		\$ 133,495	\$ 143,958
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 481,000</b>	<b>\$ 250,128</b>	<b>\$ 230,872</b>		<b>\$ 237,515</b>	<b>\$ 247,047</b>
<b>Fundraising Revenue</b>		2026	2026			2025	2024
	<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	\$ 101,000	\$ (21,000)		\$ 106,500	\$ 107,500
Partners in the Park Program	Park Operations	\$ 45,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 15,000		\$ 17,500	\$ 47,500
Trust for County Parks	Park Operations	\$ 10,000	\$ 101,650	\$ (91,650)		\$ 9,973	\$ 6,195
Nature Center Fundraising	Nature Center Support	\$ 25,000	\$ 2,202	\$ 22,798		\$ 5,015	\$ 2,827
County Fairgrounds Support (Fairgrounds Corp)	Programming/Facility Support	\$ 40,000	\$ 70,000	\$ (30,000)		\$ 70,000	\$ 80,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 200,000</b>	<b>\$ 304,852</b>	<b>\$ (104,852)</b>		<b>\$ 208,988</b>	<b>\$ 244,022</b>
<b>Grant / 3rd Party Funding</b>		<b>Awarded</b>					
<b>Parks Division Reservations</b>		2026	2026	2026	2025	2025	2024
<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		59	2436	N/A	86	2997	15
April		381	10619	4.86	325	10789	287
May							
June							
July							
August							
September							
October							
November							
December							
<b>Total</b>		<b>452</b>	<b>14932</b>	<b>4.86</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>16305</b>	<b>327</b>

<u>Parks Facility Reservations</u>		2026	2026	2025	2025	2024	2024	
April		Rentals	Attendance	Rentals	Attendance	Rentals	Attendance	
<b><u>Bear Creek Regional Park</u></b>								
Archery Lanes								
Athletic Fields		27	1270	64	1983	29	1270	
Pavilions		41	1362	34	1299	27	1000	
Trails		2	190	2	245	9	32	
Vendor		6	60	5	18			
Tennis Courts								
Pickleball Courts		65	354	3	7	14	54	
<b><u>Black Forest Regional Park</u></b>								
Athletic Fields		11	395	6	180	5	150	
Pavilions		8	340	6	170	2	73	
Vendor		1	2					
Tennis Courts / Pickleball Courts		17	68	19	76	19	76	
<b><u>Falcon Regional Park</u></b>								
Baseball Fields		82	2601	90	3600	75	1680	
Athletic Field		30	960	13	585	9	360	
Vendor								
<b><u>Fountain Creek Regional Park</u></b>								
Athletic Fields		7	225			2	200	
Pavilions		22	809	21	777	15	817	
Trails		2	260	1	250			
Disc Golf Course		1	72					
Vendor		1	4					
<b><u>Fox Run Regional Park</u></b>								
Athletic Fields		36	1040	33	890	41	1025	
Gazebo								
Warming Hut								
Pavilions		15	462	16	591	9	340	
Vendor								
Trails								
<b><u>Homestead Ranch Regional Park</u></b>								
Pavilions		3	96	3	57	4	130	
Athletic Fields		1	30			1	100	
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>		3	19	4	33	6	29	
<b><u>Rock Island Trail</u></b>								
<b><u>Black Forest Section 16</u></b>								
<b><u>Rainbow Falls Historic Site</u></b>								
<b><u>Pineries Open Space</u></b>								
<b>Total Park Facility Reservations</b>		<b>381</b>	<b>10619</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>10761</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>7336</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		17	798	n/a	18	1225	22	1000
April		32	1375	n/a	15	1360	26	6873
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
<b>Total</b>		<b>123</b>	<b>4,431</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>5,495</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>9,028</b>
<u>Fairgrounds Facility Reservations</u>		2026	2026	2025	2025			
<b>April</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	20			
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 Advisory Board Meeting		1	15	1	80			
Calhan Posse Meeting		1	30	1	45			
Rental - Garza Kitchen		2	8					
Internal - Park Ops Interview		1	5					
4-H Swink Tag Pick Up/Drop Off		2	100					
<b>Grand Stands Building</b>				2	10			
Rental - Fire Prarie Salsa (S. Kitchen)		5	15					
Rental - Paradise Cafe (N. Kitchen)		7	22	1	100			
<b>Track</b>				1	25			
BST Test & Tune		1	50	1	20			
<b>Grounds &amp; Stable</b>								
<b>Livestock Arena</b>				3	900			
4-H Beef Blow N Go		2	200					
4-H Beef Showmanship		1	20	1	100			
<b>Whittemore - Fairgrounds</b>								
Rummage Sale		3	700					
4-H Dog Show		1	50					
<b>Small Animal Barn</b>								
4-H Rabbit/Cavy Rally		1	50					
<b>Arena</b>								
HPB - Mini Bull Event		2	200					
<b>Month Total Fair Facility Reservations</b>		<b>32</b>	<b>1,375</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1,360</b>			

<b>Vandalism Report</b>								
<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		184	855	168	995	234	1,009	
April		395	1,318	187	1,123	421	1,724	
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
<b>Totals</b>		<b>846</b>	<b>3,460</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>3,710</b>	<b>1094</b>	<b>4,819</b>	
		<b>2026</b>						
<b>April</b>		<b>Volunteers</b>	<b>Total Hours</b>					
Park Advisory Board		N/A	N/A					
Fair Advisory Board		5	10					
Fairgrounds Corporation		0	0					
Fair and Events Center		4	10					
Friends of the Nature Centers		145	475.27					
Adopt-A-Park / Trail / Volunteer Projects		241	823					
<b>Total</b>		<b>395</b>	<b>1,318</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		83	2772	4.97	95	2626	79	3920
April		164	13396	4.98	177	14160	172	4379
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
<b>Totals</b>	<b>800 / 21,000</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>18726</b>	<b>4.98</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>18664</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>11728</b>

		2026	2026	2026				
April	Facility	Programs	Attendance	Evaluation				
Trailability Training	FRRP	1	13					
Nature Adventures: Trees, Please!	FCNC	2	46	4.90				
2s & 3s Outdoors: Celebrate Seeds	FCNC	2	41	5.00				
Chocolate Bunny Egg Hunt	FCNC	3	460	5.00				
Outreach! PPSC Zookeeping Tech Panel	FCNC	1	80					
Theater Across Borders: Winnie the Pooh	FCNC	2	51					
Birthday Party	FCNC	2	54	5.00				
Restoration Crew	FCNC	1	5					
Program Room Rental	FCNC	2	46					
Homeschool Fridays: Discover Wetlands	FCNC	1	11	5.00				
Wings, Water, and Weel Being: Partners in the Outdoors Co	FCNC	1	20	4.80				
Outreach: Career Day at New Summit Charter Academy	FCNC	1	500					
Group Visit: Adult Care Group	FCNC	1	15					
Group Visit: Colorado College Classes	FCNC	3	42					
Group Visit: Discovery High School	FCNC	1	20					
Outreach: Catamount Institute Birding Field Trip	FCNC	1	23					
Group Visit: Evangelical Christian Academy	FCNC	1	22					
Awesome Arthropods	FCNC	3	47					
Walk the Wetlands	FCNC	46	757	5.00				
Discover the Wetlands	FCNC	19	320	5.00				
Group Visit: Foundations for Successful Living	BCNC	2	37					
Chocolate Bunny Egg Hunt	BCNC	4	800	5.00				
Education Program Trainings	BCNC	3	12					
Group Visit: Homeschool Group	BCNC	1	18					
Birding 102	BCNC	2	14					
Bear Creek Garden Association New Gardener Meeting	BCNC	1	38					
Restoration Crew	BCNC	1	27					
Trailability Training	BCNC	1	8					
Nature Explorers: Green is Great	BCNC	2	50	5.00				
Group Visit: Special Kids, Special Families	BCNC	1	17					
CO School for the Deaf and Blind Early Literacy Event	BCNC	1	30					
Bird Banding with Dr Ramos	BCNC	2	27					
Kids' Morning Out	BCNC	1	18					
Nature's Classroom- II/BCR	BCNC	2	26	5.00				
Birthday Party: All About Animals	BCNC	1	12	5.00				
Theater Across Borders- Winnie the Pooh	BCNC	2	74					
Little Wonders: Bees A'Buzz	BCNC	2	50	5.00				
Foothills Field Experience	BCNC	2	48	5.00				
Discover Bear Creek	BCNC	4	55	5.00				
Habitat	BCNC	12	173	5.00				
Incredible Insects	BCNC	19	255	5.00				
Homesteading Group	FEC	1	20					
BST Race Day	FEC	1	2117					
BST Monster Truck	FEC	2	6897					
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>164</b>	<b>13396</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	1709	1495	0	0				
April	913	1175	606	0				
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4438</b>	<b>4615</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>94</b>				

## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

### MONTHLY REPORT - APRIL 2026

#### General Updates:

1. Facility rentals have generated \$110,656, which is 61% of our annual \$180,000 revenue goal.

#### Special Events: March & April

1. Falcon Regional Park is hosting two youth baseball leagues this year. High Plans Little League and Falcon Youth Baseball started baseball and softball practice and games in March and April.
2. The Widefield Community Park hosted two disc golf tournaments with approximately 80 attendees at each event.
3. At the beginning of March, approximately 500 runners participated in a half-marathon that included the East trail system of Bear Creek Regional Park. The event started at the Penrose Event Center, traveled through Bear Creek Regional Park and headed north on the Pikes Peak Greenway trail and back.
4. Bear Creek Regional Park came alive this April with the annual Poker Run fundraiser! It was a unique sight as 100 riders and runners took to the east trails. The event featured horses, ponies, donkeys and goats on leashes, making for a truly memorable community event.



*Friends of the Equestrian Skills Course – Fundraiser Event – Bear Creek Regional Park*

5. Each April, ASU Alumni Association chapters and clubs throughout the nation host local Tillman Honor Runs in support of the Pat Tillman Foundation, honoring the legacy of former Sun Devil and Army Ranger Pat Tillman. The east trail system of Bear Creek Regional Park was host to this year's event and the feedback was so positive that the organizers already secured the location again for next year's run.
6. Youth sports started in April with hundreds of kids playing on the fields at all County Parks. The sport categories include soccer, flag football, volleyball, Lacrosse, frisbee, cheerleading and rugby.

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**PARKS DEPARTMENT**

2002 Creek Crossing Street | Colorado Springs, Colorado | 80905  
[www.elpasocountyparks.com](http://www.elpasocountyparks.com) | [parks@elpasoco.com](mailto:parks@elpasoco.com)

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### MONTHLY REPORT – APRIL 2026

#### El Paso County Fair: United We Celebrate -



We are pleased to share that we have exceeded our financial goal, with generous sponsors contributing a total of **\$101,000** in support of this year's County Fair. We are grateful for this strong show of community partnership.

Please join us for an exclusive **VIP Luncheon** at noon on opening day, **Saturday, July 11**, at the Fair and Events Center (366 10th Street, Calhan, CO 80808). We look forward to celebrating with you.

#### Adopt-A-Park/Trail Program -

We are proud to have **33 active volunteer groups** participating in our program. It is great to see these dedicated teams back in our outdoor spaces, supporting the care and stewardship of our parks and trails.

#### Great American Cleanup – Saturday, May 2

County Parks staff supported this effort through two materials pick-up events, crew leader training, and five organized clean-up events. Cleanup activities have taken place at the following locations:

- Bear Creek Dog Park
- Bear Creek Nature Center
- John Ceresa Park
- Fox Run Regional Park
- Black Forest Section 16

Thank you to all who continue to invest their time, resources, and energy into keeping our Parks and Trails safe and welcoming.

RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

MONTHLY REPORT - APRIL 2026

Programs & Special Events:

- As always, the (building) and trails at Bear Creek Nature Center were *hopping* during the annual **Chocolate Bunny Egg Hunt!** This beloved seasonal event gives participants the chance to meet live rabbits from 4H members, watch an educational puppet show about rabbits, and travel along the trails searching for eggs in a much more laid-back manner than typical egg hunts. Approximately 800 attendees enjoyed learning while celebrating the season at Bear Creek! Evaluation scores were 5/5 and feedback included “So awesome - we loved that each child had their own eggs & loved touching everything.” and “Egg hunts CAN be fun and injury-free. Finding specific eggs instead of rushing to get them all completely changes the atmosphere.”
- The birds are back in town and intermediate birders are taking their skills to the next level! With the help of Mary Wilson, Aiken Audubon member and birder extraordinaire, attendees sharpened their ID skills, dug deeper into bird behaviors and habitats, and explored more gear and field guide options in **this Birding 102 – Intermediate Birding class**. Attendees gathered for a 2-part program, starting with a Thursday evening lecture and then put their newly advanced birding skills to use on a beautiful Saturday morning at Bear Creek Nature Center.
- In partnership with a local theater troop, **Theater Across Borders**, Bear Creek Nature Center hosted a fun, family-friendly day with **Winnie the Pooh**. Through an interactive performance for families that included dancing, call-and-response, and a sing-along, attendees learned about the wonders of Winnie the Pooh and his adventures with Christopher Robin. With a craft and a hike under their belts, kids and parents alike left with smiles on their faces.
- Fountain Creek Nature Center also hosted **Theatre Across Borders** for their spring production **of Winnie the Pooh!** Families with children were delighted to join Christopher Robin and Winnie the Pooh for stories, crafts, and a hike. This cute, creative show, offered on two beautiful spring days, was very interactive and took place entirely outdoors, and included a hike. With the help of the nature trail, the sweet characters brought the “100-acre wood” to life!
- Fountain Creek Nature Center’s **Restoration Crew** got to work at this month’s workday! First, the team prepped the area that will receive dozens of new native plants at the May workday by pulling big rocks and weeds. Then, they went out to Milkweed Meadow to cut and pull invasive teasel, a plant that steals space and nutrients from the monarch’s favorite plant – Showy Milkweed! Thanks to their efforts, our native plants, and all the animals that depend on them and the people that appreciate them, are in for a great summer here!

## Outreach Events and Other Items:

- On Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, two new part-time interpretive staff started at **Paint Mines Interpretive Park** in Calhan. With backgrounds in history, archeology, and teaching, both new staff members bring tremendous passion and experience to their roles. Their training primarily focused on interpretive techniques, risk management, and general park information. On Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, the interpretive staff had their first shift at the park and they both confidently and comfortably stepped into their new roles, sharing interesting information and reminding individuals of park rules. They have made 606 visitor contacts in their first month at the park and are excited to start guided hikes during the summer.
- On Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 9 volunteers and 4 staff gathered at Fox Run Regional Park to be trained on facilitation of the **Trailability Program** that will be launching there this season. Some volunteers had previous experience facilitating the program and operating the Terrain Hoppers at Bear Creek or Fountain Creek Nature Center, and there were also many new faces. Every volunteer got to experience driving in the vehicle as well as using the detached joystick to pilot the vehicle for the rider. Thankfully, the forecasted winter weather held off, and everyone was able to learn about this amazing opportunity.
- Fountain Creek Nature Center hosted a field trip for the **Partners in the Outdoors Conference!** Partnering with Fountain Creek Watershed District, the experience for outdoor professionals was called **“Wings, Water, and Well-being”**. We discussed the flow of Fountain Creek and how it has shaped human history and bird migration. We looked for birds and even saw a Summer Tanager! Along the way we stopped for mindfulness activities and introspection time like haiku writing, sit spot time, and creek rock balancing.
- April was an exciting and high-energy month at the **El Paso County Fair & Events Center** as we officially kicked off Race Season and welcomed over 8,000 attendees across two days of Monster Truck events. We also held the first meeting of the new Fair Advisory Board, setting the stage for a strong year ahead. Youth and agricultural programming was in full swing with a Youth Bull Riding Clinic, Mini Horse Clinic, Beef Showmanship Clinic, dog and rabbit shows, and a variety of animal tag-ins and weigh-ins—all in preparation for the upcoming County Fair. The month also included a Community Rummage Sale, regular 4-H club meetings, community meetings, and ongoing activities across the grounds. With so much momentum building, the countdown to Fair is officially on!





**Special Events and Program Calendar**

**May 14 - June 10, 2026**

Date	Day of Week	Program	Location	Target Audience	Notes*	PAB Attend?
May 13	Wednesday	Nature Explorers: There's Trout in Them Hills	Bear Creek Nature Center	Children ages 4-5 with an adult	10-11:30am or 1-2:30 pm, \$3/person	
May 14-17	Thursday - Sunday	Pikes Peak Birding & Nature Festival	All Over EPC!	All Ages, best for adults and teens	REGISTRATION CLOSED	
May 16	Saturday	Auto Races	Fair & Events Center	All Ages	5-10 pm, www.bstpromotions.com	
May 18	Monday	Homesteading Group	Fair & Events Center	All ages	1-3pm, Free <a href="https://tinyurl.com/homest26">https://tinyurl.com/homest26</a>	
May 20	Wednesday	Little Wonders: Are you my Mother?	Bear Creek Nature Center	Children ages 2-3 with an adult	10-11:15am or 1-2:15 pm, \$3/person	
May 22	Friday	25 & 35 Outdoors: Mature's Buffet	Fountain Creek Nature Center	Children ages 2-3 with their families	10-11:15am, or 2-3:15pm, \$3 per person	
May 23	Saturday	Miller Moth Mayhem	Fountain Creek Nature Center	All Ages	10am-12pm, \$5/person	
May 23	Saturday	Rocky Mountain Women's Film in the Community Screening	Bear Creek Nature Center	All Ages	1-3pm, donation recommended rmwfilm.org	
May 23	Saturday	Rainbow Falls Volunteer Clean Up Day	Rainbow Falls Historic Site	Ages 7+	Registration TBD	
May 26-28	Tues-Thurs	Archery Camp	Bear Creek Regional Park	Ages 6-17	9am-12pm, \$115/child	
May 29	Friday	Homeschool Fridays: Awesome Arthropods	Fountain Creek Nature Center	Students in grades PreK-2 and their families	2-4pm, \$4/person	
May 30	Saturday	Birding by Ear	Fountain Creek Nature Center	Adults	9am-12pm, \$5/person	
June 1-5	Monday-Friday	Nature Camp: Nocturnal by Nature	Fountain Creek Nature Center	Kids entering grades 1-5	9am-3pm, \$155/child	
June 6	Saturday	Outreach Event: Get Outdoors Day	Prospect Lake	All!	9am-2pm, FREE	
June 6	Saturday	Outreach Event: Family Fun Day at the RMDRC	Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center	All!	10am-2pm, FREE	
June 8-12	Monday-Friday	Nature Camp: Nocturnal by Nature at Fox Run	Fountain Creek Nature Center	Kids entering grades 1-5	9am-3pm, \$155/child	
June 9-11	Tues-Thurs	Archery Camp	Bear Creek Regional Park	Ages 6-17	9am-12pm, \$115/child	
June 20	Saturday	Kite Festival	Falcon Regional Park	All Ages	Free	

\* Nature Center Members may receive an additional discount

## PARK PLANNING & PARK OPERATIONS DIVISIONS

### MONTHLY REPORT – APRIL 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. Design is on track for completion in May, with regulatory review in June, and construction starting in July.

**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. The project is progressing well with anticipated completion by late 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. Phase two was completed September 2025. The third,

and final phase of trail improvements include grading, minor trail realignments, drainage improvements, and other stormwater improvements within the park. The third phase is currently in the bid process with project construction being awarded May 2026.

**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. Repairs at Falcon Regional Park should be completed by June. Repairs to the Fountain Creek Regional Trail are on hold pending completion of a Colorado Springs Utilities powerline replacement project.

**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 underway and progressing towards completion in June.

**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. Vegetation removal was completed in March, Construction of the concrete trail was started on April 20<sup>th</sup> and will continue throughout the year.

**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. Facilities Contracting was awarded a contract to complete the civil work this summer. A separate scope of work for the fencing portion is being developed by staff.

**Trail Counter Program (2026)** – As part of a new trail counter program, six trail counters have been purchased and installed across all districts by Parks Operations staff. Planning staff provided a presentation to the Park Advisory Board in February. As of April 27, the counters have totaled over 82,000 trips.

**Development Application Reviews** – Staff reviewed **0** development applications for endorsement at the April 2026 meeting and provided 10+ internal administrative comments for applications reviewed during March 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 was launched in February with completion by the end of year. A presentation was provided to the Park Advisory Board in March. The project team will start visiting park locations to begin data collection in April.

**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 April. Seasonal staff training, irrigation audits and repairs, aeration and fertilization of irrigated turf areas, playground inspections, mowing operations, box blading of trails and lots, herbicide applications, park projects, and daily illegal camping checks were priorities during the reporting period.

The park team is in the process of renovating a large landscape bed in the pavilion area of Bear Creek Terrace. All existing plant material / wood mulch have been removed, and large boulders have been placed. A multi-stem maple tree and a variety of low water tolerant plants, as well as thirty-five tons of 1 ½" decorative rock mulch will be added during the next reporting period to complete the project.

Fountain Creek Watershed District held their annual Great American Cleanup supply, rain barrel pickup, and crew leader training at the Bear Creek Maintenance Shop on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Two hundred and twenty-five rain barrels were pre-purchased by community members, creating a very busy pickup event. Park staff accepted delivery of the rain barrels and offloaded the large pallets with our skid steer. Staff also made sure the facilities were organized for the pickup and helped post signage for the two-day event.

The Recreation and Cultural Services Division hosted the first Restoration Crew cleanup event of 2026 on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Twenty-seven volunteers attended the cleanup with efforts concentrated on habitat restoration, fire mitigation, and invasive species removal. Park staff provided support with removal of large debris piles and multiple bags of invasive plant species.

The Downtown team's priorities during the reporting period included irrigation audits and repairs, aeration and fertilization, herbicide applications, mowing operations, and landscape bed maintenance.

Downtown staff completed the main portion of a large landscape bed renovation at Centennial Hall and Pikes Peak Center. Staff removed the existing wood mulch and unwanted plant material, added multiple large boulders and twenty-five tons of 3/4" decorative rock mulch. The team will complete the project during the next reporting period when they add a contrasting variety of decorative rock mulch to the raised planting area.

### **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

The Fairgrounds schedule has increased significantly over the past month. Staff supported a large monster truck event that drew several thousand attendees. In addition, the Fairgrounds team continues to make progress on seasonal preparation tasks and has been actively refurbishing the onsite log cabin building.

The new Fairgrounds storage building construction is underway. The contractor has completed the building pad, performed necessary drainage improvements, and assembled the structure. Foundation adjustments remain before proceeding with electrical work and exhaust fan installation. The project is anticipated to be completed in May.

The parks team has been focused on spring maintenance activities, including irrigation adjustments, aeration, and fertilization. They also began procuring materials for improvements at Falcon Regional Dog Park to include trail surfacing material and pavilion benches. Installation is scheduled for early May.

Additionally, the team developed a scope of work for the Homestead Ranch Regional Park restroom remodel project. After meeting with selected contractors, bids are expected by May 1. The project will provide additional improvements to the restroom facility which will enhance the overall aesthetics, function, and visitor experience at the park.

## **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 majority of our focus has been transitioning from winter projects to spring water system start-up. The public water systems and bathrooms have been pressured up and opened for the season. All irrigation systems have been activated at Black Forest Regional Park and Fox Run Regional Park. We have completed an irrigation audit at Black Forest Regional Park. All sprinkler heads have been checked, adjusted, and leveled to ensure efficiency. All valves, lines, and sprinklers have also been GPS mapped, which is a substantial improvement. We have also completed spring aeration, fertilization, and soil amendments at Black Forest Regional Park.

In addition, the north district crew has been removing all pine needles from Black Forest Regional Park. All unwanted debris has been removed from the active use areas and the park perimeter. This project was completed with the assistance of several community service volunteers. There have been several trail repair projects completed throughout Fox Run Regional Park. Closing social trails and protecting the interior of the park trail system is a priority for the north district team this season.

The lake and gazebo renovation project at Fox Run Regional Park has continued to make substantial progress. The lake liner has been completed, Redi rock walls are being installed, lake perimeter irrigation is being trenched in, and the new ADA paths are being constructed. The lakes have been filled, and we are able to activate the irrigation system within the park. Concrete work, lake pavilion installation, new path lighting, and warming hut painting are scheduled within the next few weeks.

Our team assisted the Park Planning team with installation of four new trail counters to collect trail usage data within the north district properties. Currently, we can track trail use data at Black Forest Section 16, the Pineries Open Space, Fox Run Regional Park, and the New Santa Fe Regional Trail.

## **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 prioritized irrigation system startup and maintenance, trail maintenance, irrigated turf and native grass mowing, aeration and fertilization.

Our team is working hard to get the irrigation systems up and running for the season. Efforts include programming controllers, replacing and adjusting heads, raising valve boxes, and checking spray patterns. This effort will ensure our irrigation systems are working efficiently to provide aesthetically pleasing parks and landscapes.

Significant time was dedicated to replacing and repairing aging drainage infrastructure along the Fountain Creek Regional Trail. Our team replaced three non-functional drainage culverts near Stratmoor Valley Park. Other functional culverts along the same section of trail were cleaned and reinforced with riprap to prevent erosion. Additionally, trail surfacing material was added to several repaired trail sections.

Staff were able to complete significant improvements to the landscape features next to Duckwood Community Gardens. Trees and shrubs were pruned, weeds removed, and landscape mulch augmented.

Several projects at Fountain Creek Nature Center were completed to include installation of a new drip irrigation system for a native plant garden and the entire facility exterior was painted.

A large volunteer event was held at John Ceresa Memorial Park to remove trash and debris along the recently mitigated section of the creek. American Legion Post 38 volunteered to help beautify this stretch of creek. During the cleanup, an entire truckload of trash and debris was recovered.