

# *Proclamation Recognizing The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of El Paso County Parks*

- WHEREAS,** El Paso County was experiencing significant population growth in the 1960s and citizens were becoming increasingly concerned about the lack of parks and open space; and
- WHEREAS,** the Board of County Commissioners approved a ballot measure in March 1971 for consideration by the citizens of El Paso County to establish an El Paso County parks system; and
- WHEREAS,** a “Committee for Parks” citizen group was formed to support the ballot measure and multiple community organizations endorsed the ballot measure; and
- WHEREAS,** on May 4, 1971, the El Paso County citizens overwhelmingly supported the ballot measure by a four to one margin; and
- WHEREAS,** County Parks has always focused on the following five principles to provide high quality and desired park services for County residents: acquire, develop, maintain, and preserve parks, trails and open space; provide responsible resource management for open space lands characterized by unique natural environments, provide natural and cultural history interpretation, education, and information services; support major community events and festivals that celebrate our heritage and culture, provide and manage tourism destinations and experiences; and
- WHEREAS,** the benefits of County Parks have included providing gathering places for community events, improving community health, enhancing wildlife habitat and the environment, preserving special places with unique environments, attracting tourism, and increasing property values; and
- WHEREAS,** as County Parks celebrates its 50-year anniversary in 2021, the park system has grown to 8,000 acres of parks and open space, 130 miles of trails, two award winning nature centers, and over 1,000 environmental education and recreation programs; and
- WHEREAS,** El Paso County Parks has and continues to benefit from the many community partners and volunteers that support the park facilities and programs; and
- WHEREAS,** El Paso County is very thankful for the elected leaders, advisory board members, staff and citizens who supported the establishment of the El Paso County park system and those that continue to advocate for the growth of our exceptional park system that has a significant positive impact on the quality of life for County residents.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** the Board of County Commissioners of El Paso County, Colorado, hereby proclaims its gratitude for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of El Paso County Parks and looks forward to the next 50 years.

**DONE THIS** 4<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021 at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

## **THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF EL PASO COUNTY, COLORADO**

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Stan VanderWerf, Chair

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Cami Bremer, Vice Chair

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Longinos Gonzalez, Jr., Member

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Holly Williams, Member

**ATTEST:**

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Carrie Geitner, Member

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Chuck Broerman  
County Clerk and Recorder