

**COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

PARK OPERATIONS ~ JUSTICE SERVICES  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ~ VETERANS SERVICES ~ RECREATION/CULTURAL SERVICES

**Park Advisory Board**

**Meeting Agenda**

**Wednesday, December 14, 2022 – 1:30 p.m.**

**Fountain Creek Nature Center**  
**320 Pepper Grass Lane, Fountain, CO 80817**

<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Presenter</u></b>	<b><u>Recommended Action</u></b>
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>		
Volunteer of the Year	Chair	
5. <b>Citizen Comments / Correspondence on items not on the agenda (limited to five minutes unless extended by Chair)</b>	Chair	
6. <b>Development Applications</b>		
N/A		
7. <b>Information / Action Items</b>		
A. 2023 Action Plan	Todd Marts	Endorsement
B. Paint Mines End of Year Report	Ryan Dorough	Information

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

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

*Minutes of the November 9, 2022  
El Paso County Park Advisory Board Meeting  
Centennial Hall, 200 S. Cascade  
Colorado Springs, Colorado*

Members Present:

Ed Hartl, Chair  
Anne Schofield, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair (via  
TEAMS)  
Susan Jarvis-Weber, Secretary  
Terry Martinez, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chair (via  
TEAMS)  
Kiersten Steel  
Vincent Prins  
John Wallace  
Thomas Lachocki

Staff Present:

Todd Marts, Executive Director  
Brian Bobeck, Park Operations Division Manager  
Sabine Carter, Administrative Services Coordinator  
Jason Meyer, Planning Supervisor  
Ross Williams, Park Planner  
Greg Stachon, Landscape Architect  
Theresa Odello, Recreation & Cultural Services Manager  
Ryan, Dorough, Recreation & Cultural Services Program  
Planner

Absent: Lois Landgraf

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 Ed Hartl, Chair.
2. Approval of Agenda: **John Wallace made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Thomas Lachocki seconded the motion. The motion carried 8 - 0.**
3. Approval of Minutes: **Thomas Lachocki made a motion to approve the October 12, 2022, meeting minutes. Vincent Prins seconded the motion. The motion carried 8 - 0.**
4. Introductions and Presentations:  
  
N/A
5. Citizen Comments:  
  
Susan Davies, Trail and Open Space Coalition (TOSC) provided an overview of the Douglas County TOPS extension race which was approved by voters by 88%. TOSC is in talks with the Trust for Public Land to discuss grass roots efforts, campaigning, etc. for TOPS tax ballot items here in Colorado Springs and El Paso County.
6. Development Applications:
  - A. **Joyful View Subdivision**

Greg Stachon presented the Joyful View Subdivision and addressed a question by the board.

**Thomas Lachocki recommended that the Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners include the following conditions when considering and/or approving the Joyful View Subdivision: require fees in lieu of land dedication for regional park purposes in the amount of \$4,100. Vincent Prins seconded the motion. The motion carried 8 – 0.**

**B. Solace at Cimarron Hills Filing No.2**

Greg Stachon presented the Solace at Cimarron Hills Filing No.2 and addressed questions by the board.

**Vincent Prins recommended that the Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners include the following conditions when considering and/or approving the Solace at Cimarron Hills Filing No. 2 Final Plat: require fees in lieu of land dedication for regional park purposes in the amount of \$49,680, and urban park fees in the amount of \$31,320 will be due at recording of the final plat. Terry Martinez seconded the motion. The motion carried 8 – 0.**

**7. Information / Action Items:**

**A. Fox Run Regional Park Playground**

Greg Stachon provided an overview of the Fox Run Regional Park playground replacement project. County Parks recently renovated the Pine Meadows playground. The old playground equipment was removed, and new play structures were installed. In addition to renovating the playground, three ADA parking stalls were installed and the sidewalk leading to the playground was replaced. All new improvements were installed to meet ADA standards. The project was completed in August and received great reviews from the public.

**B. Water Lantern Festival Event Program Review**

Ryan Dorrough provided an overview of the Water Lantern Festival at Fox Run Regional Park. Approximately 600 people attended the festival along with food vendors, face painting and live music. The festival was well received by the community and plans for next year's event are already in place.

**8. Monthly Reports:**

Susan Jarvis-Weber inquired about Rainbow Falls. Todd Marts stated that Rainbow Falls Historic Site closed due to falling rocks on vehicles in the parking lot area. A professional assessment was made, and we are evaluating how to solve the problem. Moving parking is not possible because of the location of the falls. A shuttle system may be an option but needs to be investigated further.

Ute Pass Trail Grant: Jason Meyer stated that Ute Pass Trail project is a CDOT / federally funded project. Some federally funded project funds from other projects are returned to CDOT for various reasons and the Ute Pass trail project has been the recipient of some of

these funds. Construction of the trail is delayed until 2024 due to regulatory permit timelines and other hurdles. In the meantime, County Parks staff will pursue additional grants for this project.

9. Board/Staff Comments:

Mary Jo Lewis, Bear Creek Nature Center supervisor, provided an overview of the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Bear Run Fundraiser. This year's event took place on the East trail system of Bear Creek Regional Park this year and included 362 participants and 38 registered dogs. The event is now open to dogs due to the location change which also increased the number of participants. A bear yoga class, and a costume contest was also part of the pre-run activities. The fundraiser brought in over \$12,000 benefiting the Friends of the El Paso County Nature Centers. Theresa Odello highlighted several upcoming events to include a Holiday Craft & Vendor Fair, a Post-Gobble Wobble Fun Walk, Bear Creek by Candlelight and Nature Hikes with Santa.

10. Adjournment: **The meeting adjourned at 2:22 p.m.**

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Susan Jarvis-Weber, Secretary

## **El Paso County Park Advisory Board**

### **Agenda Item Summary Form**

**Agenda Item Title:** 2022 Volunteer of the Year  
**Agenda Date:** December 14, 2022  
**Agenda Item Number:** #4 - A  
**Presenter:** Ed Hartl, Chair, Park Advisory Board  
**Information:** X      **Endorsement:**

#### **Background Information:**

At the December meeting each year, the Park Advisory Board presents a Volunteer of the Year Award to a deserving volunteer who has contributed significantly to El Paso County Parks programs, services and / or facilities.

Previous winners include:

- 2007 – Ron Buchanan
- 2008 - Shirley Gipson
- 2009 - Char Nymann
- 2010 - L'aura Montgomery
- 2011 - Hank Hoover / Jim – Sally Austin
- 2012 - Rise Foster-Bruder
- 2013 - Rex Miller
- 2014 - Rampart Range Rotary Club
- 2015 - Shanti Toll
- 2016 - Sarah Kay
- 2017 - Marc Schendzielos
- 2018 - Randy Fiedler
- 2019 - Mark & Debbie Bibb
- 2020 - Lynn Wilson

The Park Advisory Board is pleased to present Eileen Somers as the 2022 Volunteer of the Year. Please find attached a proclamation honoring her services.

#### **Recommended action:**

Information only

# **Resolution**

**WHEREAS,** the El Paso County Park Advisory Board hereby acknowledges the exemplary volunteer services of Eileen Somers and has selected her for the 2022 El Paso County Parks Volunteer of the Year Award; and

**WHEREAS,** Eileen Somers has been an active volunteer at the Nature Centers for seven years volunteering over 400 hours each year; and

**WHEREAS,** Eileen Somers is a volunteer who is a jack of all trades and a master of them all at both Bear Creek and Fountain Creek Nature Centers. A regular at both front desks, Eileen warmly welcomes visitors and introduces them to the wonders of our hands-on exhibit rooms; and

**WHEREAS,** Eileen Somers knowledge of the local area and trails comes in handy when people need new places to hike or directions. Her heart is always open to visit with anyone who wants or needs a listening ear. Training and welcoming new volunteers is something Eileen can be depended on to do and do well. Our merchandise sales notably soar while Eileen is in charge; and

**WHEREAS,** Eileen Somers has been an important part of our Summer Nature Camps and Educational programs for many years. “Ms. Eileen” (or “Great Horned Owl”, her nature name) has imparted wisdom and knowledge to hundreds of children over the years. They, in turn, have become dear to her. Her kind manner has brightened the day of many children and uplifted our staff when the camp week got long; and

**WHEREAS,** Eileen Somers is a passionate ambassador and never misses an opportunity to introduce her friends, acquaintances and the public to the many programs and opportunities at the Nature Centers.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Park Advisory Board hereby expresses its appreciation to Eileen Somers for her volunteer service to El Paso County Parks and presents the 2022 Volunteer of the Year Award to Eileen Somers;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Resolution be recorded in the minutes of the El Paso County Park Advisory Board Meeting, and thereafter preserved as a tribute to Eileen Somers’s volunteer service, and an executed copy thereof be first read and then delivered to Eileen Somers.

**DONE THIS 9th day of December 2022, at Colorado Springs, Colorado.**

Park Advisory Board of El Paso County, Colorado

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ed Hartl, Chair, Park Advisory Board

**El Paso County Park Advisory Board**

**Agenda Item Summary Form**

**Agenda Item Title:** 2023 Action Plan  
**Agenda Date:** December 14, 2022  
**Agenda Item Number:** # 7 - A  
**Presenter:** Todd Marts, Executive Director of Community Services  
**Information:** **Endorsement:** X

**Background Information:**

The Park Advisory Board annually considers and / or endorses the upcoming year's Action Plan at the December meeting.

Please find attached the proposed 2023 Community Services Department Action Plan that includes specific objectives that will be completed by our respective divisions to address El Paso County's mission, vision and goals.

**Recommended motion:**

Move to endorse the 2023 Action Plan.





## Community Services Department

# 2023 Action Plan



## **INTRODUCTION**

The 2023 Community Services Department Action Plan includes specific objectives that will be completed by our respective divisions to address El Paso County's core principles, vision, purpose, values, and objective.

### **Core Principles**

1. **LOW TAXES -LOW COSTS**  
Our community prefers low taxes and limited government that focuses on providing essential and cost-effective public services.
2. **QUALITY PUBLIC SERVICES**  
To consistently deliver high-quality services, we standardize, innovate, measure, remove waste, continually improve, collaborate, and tell our story.
3. **TRUST THROUGH TRANSPARENCY**  
We build community trust by transparently publishing data and analytics on our finances, the condition of infrastructure, and our progress towards our strategic objectives.

### **Vision**

El Paso County will be a trusted regional leader known for excellence in county service delivery.

### **Purpose**

We provide essential public services to the Pikes Peak region in support of our residents, businesses, and communities, enhancing the freedom for all to thrive.

### **Values**

1. **SERVICE FOCUSED**  
We make a difference in our community by serving the residents of El Paso County.
2. **ACCOUNTABLE**  
We are responsive to community needs. We are good stewards of County resources.
3. **COLLABORATIVE**  
We foster a county government that works for all. We inspire employees to passionately give their best while leveraging community partnerships for the meaningful benefit of our residents.
4. **TRUSTWORTHY**  
We listen to our community and act with honesty and respect in our interactions with co-workers and those we serve. We adhere to laws, policies, procedures, and professional standards.
5. **TRANSPARENT**  
We are open, honest, and respectful in our work and communication.

## **CSU EXTENSION**

1. **Educate:** Engaged teaching, providing consultation, and technical assistance.
  - By providing onsite and online teaching, educational programming, and other non-credit courses of instruction; including technical assistance, evidence-based guidance, facilitation, consultation, and other services;
  - Make programs accessible to historically underrepresented individuals and groups.

*We will increase our audience/program participant diversity to better represent the county's demographics (Race, Ethnicity and Gender) and reach 80% parity representation.*

2. **Create:** Innovative and research-informed educational programs, products, presentations, services, materials, curricula, tools, applications, practices, demonstrations, and other resources that address priority community issues; Innovation and adaptation of educational content to meet the needs of diverse learners including traditionally underrepresented groups;
  - Evaluate and apply improvement measures, instruments, protocols, pilots, needs assessments, and analyses of educational programs, products, and services relative to intended efficacy and impact;
  - Explore qualitative and quantitative evidence of outcomes such as knowledge and behavior change and impact such as social, environmental, or economic change.

*We will demonstrate that 60% of program participants have gained knowledge, changed behavior and/or experienced a positive impact due to their involvement in CSU Extension programing.*

3. **Connect:** Community and partner co-created, inclusive engagement by;
  - a. Connecting diverse and historically underrepresented learners, clients, and volunteers to improve educational program, product, and service delivery, effectiveness, and impact;
  - b. Connecting diverse partners and stakeholders including advisory councils, advisory boards, elected officials, associations, other educational institutions, trade/professional groups, and government agencies to assess, understand, and meet identified individual, group, organizational, professional, and community needs;
  - c. Connecting donors, customers, contractors, foundations, county, and funding agencies to procure and sponsor additional resources and to account for and fulfill delivery requirements;
  - d. Developing and advising on policy and issue recommendations using science-based information;
  - e. Providing leadership, mentorship, facilitation, capacity-building, planning, service, and other meaningful engagement with county/area/region Extension offices, county government partners, program teams, professional associations, and task forces/committees.

*We will seek out 3-4 new partnerships to increase collaborations from the community and or stakeholders.*

## **ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION**

### **Household Hazardous Waste Facility (HHWF)**

#### **1. Upgrade The Entrance Gate to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility**

Determine the feasibility and requirements of a seeing eye to allow automatic open and close the main gate at the Environmental Division building located at 3255 Akers Drive. This will serve to enhance security and improve traffic flow and provide better entry and exit for customers and vendors.

#### **2. Update Waste Streams**

Develop 5+ candidates for waste streams that could be disposed of or recycled through the household hazardous waste facility over the next several years. Research vendor options and costs. Determine one for inclusion in 2024.

#### **3. Replace Vehicle 343**

Using funds from the El Paso County Solid Waste Disposal Site and Facility Users' Fund work with fleet management to procure a replacement for vehicle 343.

### **Natural Resources**

#### **1. Incorporate Remotely Sensed Data into Conservation Easement Monitoring**

Review the possibility of incorporating remotely sensed data into conservation easement compliance monitoring strategies. 1) identify the types of data and methods that are currently in use in land trust organizations, and 2) understand the benefits, challenges, and best practices in the use of these technologies. Pave the way for guidelines to take advantage of new technologies to improve land conservation efficiency.

#### **2. Update The Submittal Packet for Subdivision Reviews**

Review and modify the submittal packet for subdivision reviews. Update the language to encompass current requirements for Threatened and Endangered species, Migratory birds, and Wetlands. Collaborate with the County Attorney's office to ensure elements of the letter and requests are compliant with Federal Acts, State of Colorado Statutes and the El Paso County Land Development Code.

### **Noxious Weeds**

#### **1. Update the Weed Management Tracking Spreadsheet**

Review and update, the weed management tracking spreadsheet. This includes noxious weed management data from 2010 – 2022. Currently an access database which is no longer supported. All data must transition to excel, rekey the necessary items from previous years and incorporate new data moving forward.

## **RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION**

### **1. Fox Run Nature Center Fundraising**

Staff will spearhead the Fox Run Nature Center Fundraising campaign with a goal to raise three (3) million dollars by July 31, 2024. Raising these funds are essential for the success of the Fox Run Nature Center. To raise awareness of the Fox Run Nature Center and generate support, staff will also offer at least one program in Fox Run Regional Park per quarter, including a “Winter Fun at Fox Run” that will have over 100 participants.

### **2. Cub’s Corner Updates**

Continue Cub’s Corner updates and improvements. This exhibit at Bear Creek Nature Center is extremely popular and the seasonal rotations have been well-received by repeat visitors. Staff will utilize grant funds to enable further improvements by increasing seasonal offerings and overall aesthetic appeal.

### **3. Trailability Program Volunteers**

The Trailability Program is successful and is limited in offerings by not having as many volunteers to run the program. Staff will recruit at least six new volunteers and offer five targeted volunteer trainings. In addition, an Interpretive Trailability Guide will be created for each program site to help build site knowledge and confidence of volunteers guiding the program.

### **4. Ute Education Kit**

Coordinate various programs with nature center team members to utilize the Ute Education Kit that Bear Creek Nature Center has acquired through Colorado's Ute STEAM program. This includes field trip offering at Bear Creek Nature Center, a field trip offering to be used off-site at a school or similar establishment, a public program for all ages, and a themed Spring Break Camp.

### **5. Field Trip “Rainy Day” Programming**

Nature Center staff will develop “rainy day” indoor scavenger hunt plans for each of Bear Creek Nature Center’s field trip offerings. These can be utilized in the event of inclement weather during field trip programming as well as during nature camps and other public programming.

### **6. Wildlife Observation Blind**

Replace and update the interpretive displays at Fountain Creek Nature Center’s Wildlife Observation Blind to engage and welcome trail visitors. These Wildlife Observation Blinds are under-utilized due to the signs being outdated and the

broken telescope. Enhancing this area will encourage more visitors to stop and connect with their surroundings.

**7. Audible Trail Stops**

Update the nine audible trail interpretation stops at Fountain Creek Nature Center by replacing sound recording signage and finding a more permanent method to store and distribute the audio files for public use. These audible stops enable visitors to simply scan a QR code and listen to a pre-recorded interpretive message about where they are and the interesting natural elements around them.

**8. Host Year-Long Art Exhibit**

Partner with local artists and photographers to display their work on a rotating schedule at Fountain Creek Nature Center. Art will be for sale with a percentage of the revenue going to the Friends of El Paso County Nature Centers. The program will foster relationships with the many artists and photographers that visit Fountain Creek Regional Park.

**9. Update the Monarch Butterfly Exhibit**

The current Monarch Butterfly Exhibit at Fountain Creek Nature Center is widely popular during the hatching season. Interpreting the life cycle of monarchs is a major summer theme, and the updated exhibit will incorporate a safer and more convenient design as well as new art and information.

**10. Paint Mines Field Trip**

Design and offer a new field trip program to serve and meet CO State Standards for grades 3-7 at the Paint Mines Interpretive Park. This programming content will meet multiple Science education standards. The new program will be marketed to local teachers and school districts.

**11. County Fair Vendors**

Staff will update the Vendor Handbook and implement a vendor survey at the conclusion of the 2023 Fair. This will assist in vendor retainment and help to avoid confusion during the Fair. Online Vendor Registration will also be expanded, along with the registration form to clearly include electricity, weights, and booth size requirements.

**12. County Fair Programming**

Explore and revise the programming schedule to grow engagement and attendance and to offer more universal times and a fuller experience for visitors. Contests and advanced promotion of contests will be incorporated, and Swink Hall will be used for more programming, education, and engagement opportunities.

**13. County Fairgrounds Facility Improvements**

Explore options to improve the sound in the outdoor area and Grandstands for major entertainment nights and for the auto race events. Explore adding PA speakers inside the Grandstand building, which would be helpful in the case of emergency announcements and more.

**14. County Fair Marketing**

Grow County Fair Marketing to grow attendance and recognition for the annual County Fair. This will be done by expanding onsite media production with the County social media specialist, redesigning and simplifying the Fair Guide, growing 2023 theme implementation, and increasing monitor usage to include onsite experiences feed, targeted Sponsor ads, and to share fair programming.

**15. Non-Fair Programming**

Increase the number of non-fair program offerings at the El Paso County Fair & Events Center to further grow community use of the grounds. Options include both regularly held programming as well as special events. Ideas include opportunities for education, recreation, and large events.



## **PARK OPERATIONS DIVISION**

### **1. Update Park Maintenance Standards**

Having established maintenance and operations standards helps protect, preserve, and provide consistency in services throughout the County Park system. Staff will assess the current Park Operations Division manual and revise to be more user-friendly. During this process, maintenance standards will be updated into a concise format with recommended frequency and acceptable quality.

### **2. Develop New Capital Improvement Program**

El Paso County Parks (County Parks) currently manages a multi-million-dollar park system that includes approximately 8,000 acres of parkland, 145 miles of trails, 32 pavilions, 11 playgrounds, 23 restroom facilities, two nature centers, 2,500 acres of conservation easements, and numerous athletic facilities. County Parks also manages the El Paso County Fairgrounds and landscape maintenance at numerous County buildings.

The Capital Improvement Program is a guiding document to help ensure all facilities are well-maintained and that we make every effort to meet the parks and recreation needs of our citizens with the available resources. This is a critical management tool that looks at the next five years to help determine funding, major maintenance needs of existing facilities, new project design and development, land acquisition, and implementation schedule. The current format and process will be evaluated and updated to better align with increasing design / project costs, available resources and funding.

### **3. Ute Pass Regional Trail**

The Master Plan for the Ute Pass Regional Trail was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on October 15, 2015. The Ute Pass Regional Trail is a planned 11-mile trail corridor between Manitou Springs and the El Paso / Teller County Line. The trail has been developed in sections starting in 2003. Currently 4 miles of the trail remain in the Cascade / Chipita Park area. The Master Plan identified a preferred trail alignment for the trail that includes utilizing public right-of-way by following Chipita Park Road, Fountain Avenue, and CDOT frontage roads, before following French Creek and connecting to the existing Ute Pass Regional Trail. The trail will be concrete or asphalt along public roads and gravel along French Creek. A trailhead is planned within public right-of-way along Spring Street that will include parking, restroom facility, and various site amenities. El Paso County secured Federal Highway monies from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP) to fund the design and construction of a 3-mile segment between Winnemucca Road and Fountain Avenue by 2024.

### **4. County Fairgrounds Barn Replacement**

El Paso County updated the County Fairgrounds Master Plan in 2015 which identified existing facilities that need upgrades to improve functionality, protect infrastructure, and enhance user experiences. The proposed improvements included the removal and replacement of the small animal barns that are located west of Owens Livestock Arena. The existing, dilapidated



wooden barns will be replaced with a new 7,500 square foot barn. The anticipated project completion date is Spring 2023.

#### **5. Fox Run Regional Park Improvements**

Fox Run Regional Park is a 414-acre regional park located within Black Forest along Baptist Road. It is one of the most used parks in the County Park system featuring athletic fields, natural trails, playgrounds, and off-leash dog park. The Oak Meadows restroom has been closed for three seasons due to antiquated infrastructure and a compromised leach field. The project will focus on designing a new septic system for both Oak Meadows and Pine Meadows restrooms, improving guest experience by converting the restrooms from a Clivus composting system to flushable toilets, and ADA accessibility improvements.

#### **6. Black Forest Regional Park Improvements**

Black Forest Regional Park is a 385-acre regional park located northeast of Shoup Road and Milam Road. The park was severely impacted by the 2013 Black Forest Fire and recovery efforts have focused on forestry, drainage, and trail improvements. This project will shift efforts to the active use area by renovating the two tennis courts which are in poor condition and deemed beyond its functional life. The anticipated project completion date is Spring 2023.

#### **7. Homestead Ranch Regional Park**

Located at the edge of Black Forest, Homestead Ranch Regional Park includes 460 acres of diverse topography ranging from rolling, open meadows to tree-covered bluffs running the length of the park. This project will implement recommendations from the master plan update which was completed December 2022. It is anticipated that work will include trail upgrades, parking lot and drainage improvements, and forest management tasks.

#### **8. Fountain Creek Regional Park Parking and ADA Improvements**

Fountain Creek Regional Park is a 388-acre regional park located along Fountain Creek between the cities of Colorado Springs and Fountain. Portions of the asphalt roads and parking lots are in poor condition and need of repair. Work includes asphalt paving, patching, concrete curb and gutter replacement. Several sections of concrete trail need replacement due to heaving or settling. ADA ramps will also be installed to improve access within the park. The sidewalks and trails around the Fountain Creek Nature Center need upgrading to provide ADA accessibility. First part of the project consists of project design which will be followed by construction.

#### **9. Fox Run Nature Center Design**

Based on projected population growth and public surveys in the El Paso County Parks Master Plan in 2013, developing a nature center in northern El Paso County was identified as an objective. A feasibility study was completed in 2019 to analyze and evaluate location, potential partnerships/collaborations, public support, revenue sources, construction costs, and long-term maintenance and staffing. A Request for Proposals was issued in 2022 for the nature center design. This project includes building design, surrounding site design, utilities, and programming. Stakeholder and public outreach will be continuous throughout the duration of the project. Design is scheduled to launch in late 2022,

continue through 2023, with construction anticipated in 2024. A capital campaign will launch parallel to the design process to raise funds for the construction of the Fox Run Nature Center.

#### **10. Widefield Community Park / Crews Gulch Trail Paving**

The Crews Gulch Primary Regional Trail runs southwest to northeast from Ceresa Park and the Fountain Creek Regional Trail, northeast through Widefield Community Park, to its terminus at Fontaine Boulevard. While some of the trail is paved through Widefield Community Park, the section south of Quebec Street is currently gravel surfaced. The 2017 Widefield Community Park Master Plan identified the southern section of the Crews Gulch Trail as a candidate for concrete paving, thus allowing for more robust ADA accessibility through the park. El Pas County Parks was awarded a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to complete this project. The anticipated project completion date is late Summer 2023.

#### **11. Pineries Single-Track Trail Construction**

The Pineries Open Space Master Plan includes the development of two single-track trail loops. The first 8.5-mile trail loop was constructed by hand in 2019-2020 by the Mile High Youth Corps and Rocky Mountain Field Institute. The trail provides access to the north, east, and southern areas of the property. Since its opening, this trail has been heavily used by hikers, bikers, and equestrians. This project includes construction of a second single-track trail which will provide access to the southwestern portion of the property. This trail is identified in the master plan and totals approximately 3.5 miles. Following a similar approach to the first trail, this trail is planned to be constructed by the Mile High Youth Corps and Rocky Mountain Field Institute in 2023. Funding for this project comes from a pending Great Outdoors Colorado Grant which will fund the youth corps, with matching funds going to Rocky Mountain Field Institute to provide oversight, technical assistance, and training opportunities. El Paso County will provide matching funds to cover the cost of RMFI oversight and building materials.

#### **12. Paint Mines Interpretive Park Master Plan**

The Paint Mines Interpretive Park is in the northeast section of the County near Calhan with approximately 750 acres. The park features geological formations including spires and hoodoos that form through erosive action that creates incised gullies and colorful exposed layers of rock. The park includes a restroom facility, four (4) miles of trails, interpretive signage, and three (3) parking areas. In recent years the number of visitors to the park has increased leading to several management challenges which includes vehicle congestion, user-created social trails, climbing on the formations, and overall site degradation. In response to these challenges, the County completed two projects in 2020-2021 aimed at improving the existing parking areas, resurfacing existing trails, completing minor ditch and drainage improvements, and adding fencing and signage to guide park visitors. El Paso County is now looking to create a Master Plan which will build-upon these improvements and provide a long-term plan to manage park visitors while also protecting the formations.

## **El Paso County Park Advisory Board**

### **Agenda Item Summary Form**

**Agenda Item Title:** Paint Mines End of Year Report

**Agenda Date:** December 14, 2022

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

**Presenter:** Ryan Dorough, Recreation Program Planner

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

#### **Background Information:**

The Paint Mines Interpretive Park received heavy visitation and increased vandalism in 2020. Part-time Park Interpreters/Caretakers were hired in 2021 to address these problems and work three days a week on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from April through October. Please find attached a Power Point presentation that provides a summary of the visitation and programs in 2022.

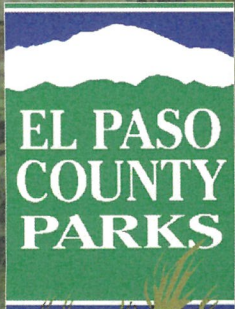
#### **Recommended Action:**

Information Only



# PAINT MINES INTERPRETIVE PARK

2022 REPORT



Presented by Ryan Dorough  
Recreation Program Planner



2022

# OVERVIEW



2 Interpretive Staff  
& 1 Volunteer

95

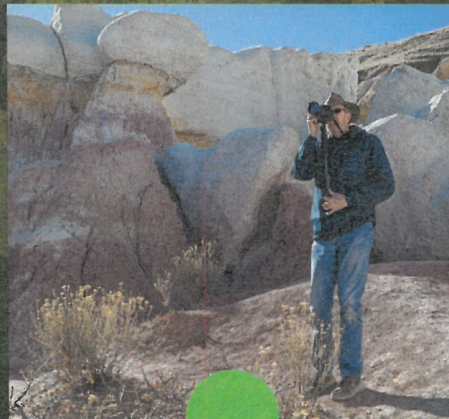
Days Spent at  
Paint Mines



Daily Logs  
Interaction Counts  
Donations



13 Organized Hikes





2022

# TRAIL COUNTS & INTERACTIONS

## Trail Counts (Main Lot) April - October

**39K**

In 2022

**59K**

In 2021

**34%**

Decrease

## Staff Interactions

**16.3K**

Interactions,  
~41% of visitors

**1.5k**

Extended  
Conversations

**9%**

Interested  
visitors

## Hike Attendance

**13**

Hikes  
Organized

**134**

Total  
Participants

**10**

Average  
Participants/ Hike





2022

# HIKE RESPONSES & DONATIONS



**Recommend to a Friend**  
**87.5%-Extremely Likely**



**Satisfaction with Interpreter**  
**9.8/10**



**Overall Satisfaction**  
**9.8/10**



"I very much appreciate the time the interpreters gave to make this a special hike for our troop."

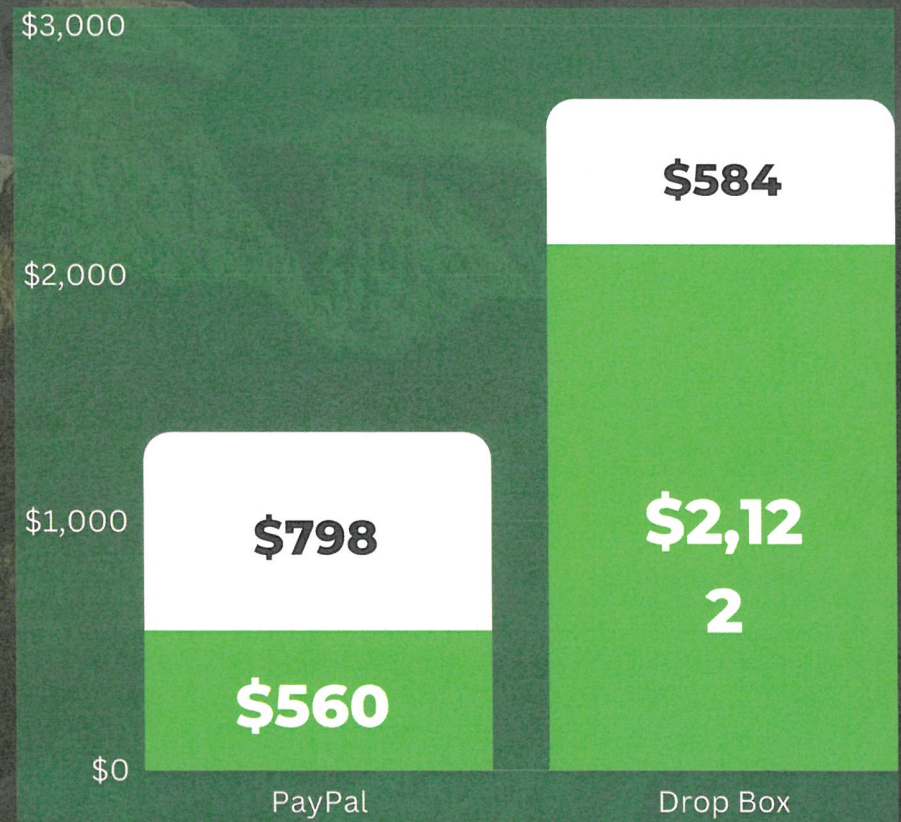
"Ken did a fantastic job making it accessible for kids as well as interesting for adults"

"The tour gave me more appreciation for the rock formations."

"They were so knowledgeable and they did a great job interacting with the kids at their level"



■ 2022 ■ 2021





# IDEAS FOR 2023



## Staff Hours Adjustment

Overlapping Shifts



## Website Update/improvement

Video, Staff, More Info...



## Sell Interpretive Hikes

Instead of Donations, Increase Marketing



## Bad Weather Projects

Continuing Ed, Program, Teaching Tools, Research



## Visitor Welcome Video

Info, Conduct, Rules, Website



## Fair Integration

Hike, Activity, Information



## School Field Trips

Meets CDE Standards





# THANK YOU

QUESTIONS?

**El Paso County Parks  
2022 Action Plan**

<b>Recreation / Cultural Services</b>	<b>Project Manager</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Status</b>
County Fair Vendor Handbook	Theresa Odello		Completed
County Fair Program Schedule	Theresa Odello		Completed
County Fair - "Fair Zone"	Theresa Odello		Completed
Trail Mobility Program	Theresa Odello		Completed
Pollinator Garden Upgrades and Education	Mary Jo Lewis	High	In Progress
Geology Field Trip	Mary Jo Lewis	High	
Visually Impaired Opportunities	Mary Jo Lewis	High	
Box Turtle Exhibit at Fountain Creek Nature Center	Jessica Miller	High	
Interpretive Signs FC Nature Center Trail	Jessica Miller	High	
Prehistoric Seasonal Exhibit	Jessica Miller		Completed
Transition to Electronic Forms	Jessica Miller		Completed
<b>Park Operations Division</b>	<b>Project Manager</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Status</b>
Update Park Maintenance Standards	Brian Bobeck	2023	
County Park Master Plan Update	Brian Bobeck	High	Completed
Homestead Ranch Regional Park Master Plan	Greg Stachon	High	Completed
County Park Signage and Site Furnishing Standards	Kyle Melvin	Ongoing	
<b>Capital Improvement Projects</b>	<b>Project Manager</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Status</b>
Bear Creek Regional Park Restroom Replacement	Jason Meyer	High	Completed
Kane Ranch Open Space	Greg Stachon		Completed
Santa Fe Open Space	Ross Williams		Completed
Fox Run Nature Center Design	Jason Meyer	High	Design
Fox Run Regional Park Playground (Pine Meadows)	Greg Stachon		Completed
Fox Run Regional Park Restroom (Oak Meadows)	Greg Stachon	High	Develop Bid for Design
Ute Pass Regional Trail Expansion	Jason Meyer	Medium	Design
Black Forest Regional Park Improvements	Brian Bobeck	High	Construction
Homestead Ranch Regional Park Improvements	Greg Stachon	2023	
Fountain Creek Regional Park Parking & ADA Improvements	Jason Meyer	Medium	Design
County Fairgrounds Barn Replacement	Brian Bobeck	High	Construction
Widefield Park / Crews Gulch Trail Improvements	Ross Williams	High	Design
<b>Community Outreach</b>	<b>Project Manager</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Status</b>
Northern Nature Center Capital Campaign	Theresa Odello	High	
Trail Ambassador Program	Dana Nordstrom		Complete

Community Services Department								
Parks / Recreation & Cultural Services Divisions								
November 2022 Monthly Report								
<u>Facility Revenue Totals To Date</u>		<u>2022</u>				<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	
		<u>Budget</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Balance</u>		<u>Totals to Date</u>	<u>Totals to Date</u>	
Parks Facility Reservation Revenue		\$ 180,000	\$ 237,406	\$ (57,406)		\$ 218,212	\$ 117,303	
County Fair / Fairgrounds		\$ 301,000	\$ 389,448	\$ (88,448)		\$ 357,437	\$ 86,090	
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 481,000</b>	<b>\$ 626,854</b>	<b>\$ (145,854)</b>		<b>\$ 575,649</b>	<b>\$ 203,393</b>	
<u>Fundraising Revenue</u>		<u>2022</u>	<u>2022</u>			<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	
	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Balance</u>		<u>Totals to Date</u>	<u>Totals to Date</u>	
County Fair Sponsorships	Fair Operations	\$ 75,000	\$ 105,000	\$ (30,000)		\$ 92,500	\$ 20,000	
Partners in the Park Program	Park Operations	\$ 45,000	\$ 65,000	\$ (20,000)		\$ 65,500	\$ 44,500	
Trust for County Parks	Park Operations	\$ 10,000	\$ 170,032	\$ (160,032)		\$ 92,381	\$ 56,000	
Nature Center Fundraising	Nature Center Support	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,288	\$ (288)		\$ 29,123	\$ 27,498	
County Fairgrounds Support (Fairgrounds Corp)	Programming/Facility Support	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ -		\$ 15,000	\$ 40,000	
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 195,000</b>	<b>\$ 405,320</b>	<b>\$ (210,320)</b>		<b>\$ 294,504</b>	<b>\$ 187,998</b>	
<u>Grant / 3rd Party Funding</u>		<u>Awarded</u>						
<u>Parks Division Reservations</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2020</u>	
<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Rentals</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Evaluation</u>	<u>Rentals</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Rental</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	
January	3	510	N/A	3	22	4	41	
February	5	446	N/A	5	233	12	879	
March	29	702	N/A	4	31	6	44	
April	271	8698	4.2	157	3892	0	0	
May	419	15932	4.5	423	11907	47	274	
June	504	22916	4.3	506	14571	294	2869	
July	515	22275	4.4	466	16225	309	6153	
August	391	21464	4.4	493	17007	259	7213	
September	363	19266	4.5	398	16048	284	10208	
October	211	11528	4.3	180	9846	176	4840	
November	9	129	N/A	14	467	11	199	
December								
<b>Total</b>	<b>2720</b>	<b>123866</b>	<b>4.37</b>	<b>2649</b>	<b>90249</b>	<b>1402</b>	<b>32720</b>	

<u>Parks Facility Reservations</u>		2022	2022	2021	2021	2020	2020	
<b>November</b>		<b>Rentals</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Rentals</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Rentals</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	
<b><u>Bear Creek Regional Park</u></b>								
Archery Lanes								
Athletic Fields								
Pavilions				2	120	2	34	
Trails				1	150	1	100	
Vendor								
Tennis Courts								
Pickleball Courts								
Vita Course								
Meeting Room		3	26	1	10	2	20	
<b><u>Black Forest Regional Park</u></b>				1	3			
Athletic Fields								
Pavilions								
Vendor								
Tennis Courts								
<b><u>Falcon Regional Park</u></b>								
Baseball Fields								
Vendor								
<b><u>Fountain Creek Regional Park</u></b>								
Athletic Fields								
Pavilions								
Trails								
Disc Golf Course		1	75	2	144			
Vendor		1	4	1	4			
<b><u>Fox Run Regional Park</u></b>				2	20			
Athletic Fields								
Gazebo								
Warming Hut								
Pavilions								
Vendor								
Trails				1	5			
<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>		4	24	3	11	6	45	
<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>9</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>199</b>	

<u>Fairgrounds Facility Reservations</u>		2022	2022	2022	2021	2021	2020	2020
<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		7	150	N/A	0	0	9	478
February		19	726	N/A	6	178	12	271
March		13	471	N/A	8	459	3	170
April		50	2781	N/A	20	1208	0	0
May		30	3791	N/A	16	1496	0	0
June		52	3529	N/A	12	1921	20	410
July		17	298	N/A	1	80	17	1,338
August		38	3496	N/A	26	3221	19	2291
September		42	5,523	N/A	54	4247	16	1850
October		28	1702	N/A	35	3241	18	913
November		17	460	N/A	13	4510	0	0
December								
<b>Total</b>		<b>313</b>	<b>22,927</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>20,561</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>7,721</b>
<u>Fairgrounds Facility Reservations</u>		2022	2022	2021	2021			
<u>November</u>		<u>Rentals</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Rentals</u>	<u>Attendance</u>			
<u>Swink Hall - Fairgrounds</u>								
Lions Club Meeting		2	60	1	20			
Fair Corp Meeting		1	10					
Calhan Cheerleading Practice		1	30					
Calhan Posse Mtg		1	20	1	20			
Independence Center		1	10					
4H Meeting		2	40	2	40			
Livestock Sale Committee		1	15					
Fair Advisory Board		1	24	1	30			
<u>Grand Stands Building</u>								
<u>Track</u>								
Test and Tune		1	6					
<u>Barns</u>								
<u>Livestock Arena</u>								
Calhan Auction Market Warm-Up		1	25	2	2000			
Dog Training (BWDS)		1	20					
<u>Whittemore - Fairgrounds</u>				4	2000			
Cornhole League		3	150					
<u>Arena</u>				2	400			
<b>Month Total Fair Facility Reservations</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4,510</b>			



<b>Vandalism Report</b>								
<b>Incident</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Cost</b>				
Vehicle damaged turf of Pine Meadows field	1/3/2022	Fox Run Regional Parks	North District	\$100				
Vehicle damaged turf of Oak Meadows field	1/3/2022	Fox Run Regional Parks	North District	\$100				
Discharged fire extinguisher, broken curtain rod	1/4/2022	Warming Hut - Fox Run	North District	\$300				
Vehicle drove through fence	1/24/2022	Baptist Trailhead	North District	\$100				
Vehicle damaged turf of Pine Meadows field	1/24/2022	Fox Run Regional Parks	North District	\$100				
Restroom broken into, toilet filled with trash / debris	1/24/2022	Baptist Trailhead	North District	\$50				
Illegal dumping (construction materials, car parts)	2/22/2022	Black Forest Regional Park	North District	\$50				
Graffiti damaged new tunnel mural, playground walls	2/14, 3/29	Widefield Community Park	South District	\$4,500				
Break-in at vacant house	3/3/2022	Pineries Open Space	North District	\$0				
Vehicle damaged turf on multi-use field	4/11/2022	Bear Creek Regional Park	Central District	\$100				
Fire set to playground slide, damaged lower section	4/27/2022	John Ceresa Park	South District	TBD				
Fire set to table and ripped out of pavilion	5/9/2022	McCrae	South District	\$2,000				
Vehicle damaged 5 sections of split rail fence	5/16/2022	Hanson Trail	South District	\$200				
Hand dryer destroyed	5/21/2022	Widefield Community Park	South District	\$500				
Restroom vandalized (door kicked in, E-lock broken)	6/1/2022	Widefield Community Park	South District	\$280				
Restroom vandalized (door kicked in)	6/3/2022	Fountain Creek Regional Park	South District	\$95				
Broken kios at Fallen Timber trailhead restroom	6/13/2022	Fox Run Regional Parks	North District	\$300				
Graffiti damaged on basketball court	6/15/2022	Stratmoor Valley Park	South District	\$200				
Graffiti damage on playground	6/17/2022	Fountain Creek Regional Park	South District	\$100				
Graffiti damage on ADA swing	6/17/2022	John Ceresa Park	South District	\$50				
Playground slide damaged	6/17/2022	Fountain Creek Regional Park	South District	\$100				
Graffiti damage on playground, pavilion	6/27/2022	Stratmoor Valley Park	South District	\$200				
Graffiti damage on fligh memorial	6/28/2022	Widefield Community Park	South District	\$50				
Graffiti damage on playground	6/29/2022	Stratmoor Valley Park	South District	\$30				
Restroom vandalized (faucets broken)	6/30/2022	Widefield Community Park	South District	\$80				
Restroom vandalized (broken light fixtures)	7/4/2022	Fox Run Regional Parks	North District	\$300				
Restroom vandalized (door frame bent to gain access)	7/15/2022, 7/26/2022	Widefield Community Park	South District	\$150				
Restroom vandalized (stall door broken off hinges)	7/28/2022	Fountain Creek Regional Park	South District	\$120				
Traffic sign vandalized (stop sign sprayed near Fallen Timber)	7/22/2022	Fox Run Regional Parks	North District	\$100				
Restroom vandalized (hairdryer pulled off wall)	8/20/2022	Widefield Community Park	South District	\$20				

Graffiti damage in tunnel	8/22, 8/31	Widefield Community Park	South District	\$40				
Graffiti damage in tunnel	9/2, 9/15, 9/23	Widefield Community Park	South District	\$60				
Six sections of fence damaged (stolen car chase)	9/20/2022	Fountain Creek Regional Park	South District	\$200				
Illegal dumping, homeless camp removal/clean-up	9/14/2022	Christian Open Space	South District	\$150				
Illegal shooting (.45 pistol bullet holes in playground structure)	10/6/2022	Stratmoor Valley Park	South District	TBD				
Illegal dumping (mattress and couch)	10/6/2022	Hanson Trail	South District	\$20				
Illegal dumping (appliances)	10/28/2022	Christian Open Space	South District	\$20				
Vehicle damaged turf	11/8/2022	Bear Creek Terrace	Central District	\$200				
			<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,965</b>				
<b>Volunteerism</b>		<b>2022</b>		<b>2021</b>		<b>2020</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		180	609	106	372	193	824	
February		60	327	100	468	234	1148	
March		118	682	159	713	110	552	
April		407	1,830	365	1,556	86	350	
May		491	2,021	425	1,579	96	500	
June		225	1,606	299	1,421	378	1765	
July		650	6,517	680	5,444	291	974	
August		303	1,676	283	1,581	240	669	
September		501	1,986	411	1,808	254	806	
October		440	1,624	556	2,408	609	1371	
November		337	1,207	324	1,021	208	618	
December								
<b>Totals</b>		<b>3712</b>	<b>20,085</b>	<b>3708</b>	<b>18,371</b>	<b>2699</b>	<b>9577</b>	
		<b>October 2022</b>						
<b>November</b>		<b>Volunteers</b>	<b>Total Hours</b>					
Park Advisory Board		9	35					
Fair Advisory Board		14	56					
Fairgrounds Corporation		5	20					
Fair and Events Center		0	0					
Friends of the Nature Centers		41	278					
Adopt-A-Park / Trail / Volunteer Projects		268	818					
<b>Total</b>		<b>337</b>	<b>1,207</b>					
<b>Programming</b>		<b>2022</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2020</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		29	452	5.00	25	218	45	755
February		37	952	4.99	27	230	47	2327
March		48	986	4.96	50	753	17	361
April		109	3003	4.98	58	1006	0	0
May		148	5401	4.95	84	1377	12	4439
June		76	1595	4.87	68	1361	40	888
July		106	28545	4.94	71	3601	74	1962
August		63	4195	4.97	58	3598	92	1221
September		102	2585	4.97	84	2074	78	868
October		140	4517	4.92	88	7709	95	1182
November		46	1923	4.94	38	1101	30	372
December								
<b>Totals</b>	<b>800 / 21,000</b>	<b>904</b>	<b>54154</b>	<b>4.95</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>23028</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>14375</b>

		2022	2022	2022				
November	Facility	Programs	Attendance	Evaluation				
Colorado Wildlife Detectives	BCNC	2	24	5.00				
Winter Adaptations	BCNC	12	190	5.00				
Outreach: Bear Run Costume Pick Up/ Fundraiser BBD	BCNC	1	300					
Bear Den Rental: Pikes Peak Library District Supervisor	BCNC	1	12					
Bear Creek 8th Annual Bear Run Fundraiser	BCNC	1	375					
Roundup Fellowship Adult Day Care	BCNC	1	10					
S'mores Under the Stars	BCNC	1	75	5.00				
Nature Explorers: Nature Math	BCNC	2	48					
Kids' Morning Out: Bear Aware	BCNC	1	20					
Overture Special Needs Adults	BCNC	1	13					
Little Wonders: Fall Feast	BCNC	1	27	4.90				
Birthday: Big Bears	BCNC	1	17	5.00				
Bear Den Rental: baby Birthday Party	BCNC	1	47					
Bear Den Event: Scott Lauther Foundation Event	BCNC	1	30					
Forest Bathing Walk	BCNC	1	10					
Walk the Wetlands	FCNC	4	94	4.50				
Discover the Wetlands	FCNC	4	69	5.00				
Nature Adventures: Bouncing Bobcats	FCNC	2	77	5.00				
2s & 3s Outdoors: Cottonwood Tales	FCNC	2	77	5.00				
Homeschool Fridays: Walk the Wetlands	FCNC	1	29	5.00				
Holiday Craft & Vendor Fair	FCNC	1	294	4.80				
Birthday Party: Walk the Wetlands	FCNC	1	20	5.00				
Birthday Party: Big Bugs	FCNC	1	24	4.90				
Program Room Rental	FCNC	1	30	5.00				
Private Group: SKIS Adult Care Group	FCNC	1	11					
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>46</b>	<b>1923</b>	<b>4.94</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	555	560	0	0				
February	626	529	0	0				
March	1201	1037	0	0				
April	1201	1102	1318	0				
May	1260	2075	2231	0				
June	1876	1459	2582	0				
July	1881	1342	2435	0				
August	1597	1232	2628	0				
September	1185	1088	2252	0				
October	1442	1190	2824	0				
November	<b>770</b>	<b>865</b>	0	0				
December								
<b>Totals</b>	<b>13594</b>	<b>12479</b>	<b>16270</b>	<b>0</b>				



**COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

PARK OPERATIONS ~ JUSTICE SERVICES  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ~ VETERANS SERVICES ~ RECREATION/CULTURAL SERVICES

**ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES  
MONTHLY REPORT**

SABINE CARTER, ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COORDINATOR  
DEBRA REID, ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISOR

**November 2022**

**General Updates:**

1. Facility rentals have generated \$237,406 which exceeded our \$180,000 annual goal by 31%.
2. Staff has been busy preparing for the upcoming reservation season which starts on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. We have been working with the Public Information Office to work on marketing materials that can be used through direct email to our existing customer base and for online marketing through social media which has been very successful in past years.

**Special Events:**

1. The Widefield Community Park was host to another disc golf tournament. Approximately 80 people took part on a cold Sunday.
2. Four commercial photography permits were issued in November for the Paint Mines Interpretive Park.
3. We have received event commitments for several large special events which will be held throughout our Parks system next year: We will be able to host:
  - ▲ The Human Society's "Pawtoberfest"
  - ▲ The Colorado Springs Down Syndrome's "Buddy Walk"
  - ▲ The APEX Cycling event
  - ▲ The "Pikes Peak Ultra" (International running event)
  - ▲ 5 disc golf tournaments, 5 orienteering events, 2 fundraiser running events
  - ▲ 2 Cross Country running events to include the Colorado State Championship and a Dog Frisbee competition.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**  
PARK OPERATIONS ~ RECREATION/CULTURAL SERVICES  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH**  
**Monthly Report – November 2022**

Dana Nordstrom, Community Outreach Coordinator

**Community Outreach**

1. **Partners in the Park:** We are grateful for our returning and new Partners in the Park this year! We will focus on Widefield Community Park, Fountain Creek Regional Park, Homestead Ranch Regional Park, and Falcon Regional Park in 2023. Please forward any potential partners to [dananordstrom@elpasoco.com](mailto:dananordstrom@elpasoco.com).
2. **El Paso County Fair:** El Paso County is once again planning for our 2023 Fair, **July 15-22**. The goal of \$80,000 is to help generate enough revenue to successfully operate the El Paso County Fair. Our core sponsors have been contacted and we have a NEW Presenting Sponsor, Ed Green Construction.
3. **Outreach News:** Staff has assisted with over 12 virtual volunteer events, 15 volunteer projects and welcomed 3 new Adopt a Park/Trail groups for a total of 32 this year. We consistently strive to expand opportunities to share with our community about the resources available in County Parks. We assisted in raising over \$235,000 through our Trust for County Parks.
4. **Friends Groups:** We currently have seven active Friends Groups which include Bear Creek Dog Park, Bear Creek Garden Association, Black Forest Section 16, Equestrian Skills Course, Friends of El Paso County Nature Centers, Fox Run Regional Park, and Fountain Creek Dog Park.
5. **Fox Run Nature Center:** Staff is actively engaged with TDG Architecture, coordinating Stakeholder Groups, Communications Plan, Website Design and Project Design. Staff is also meeting with The Suddes Group to create a fundraising campaign and engagement tool.

***We would like to thank you for your time and commitment to County Parks! Happy Holidays!***



COMMISSIONERS:  
STAN VANDERWERF (CHAIR)  
CAMI BREMER (VICE-CHAIR)



HOLLY WILLIAMS  
CARRIE GEITNER  
LONGINOS GONZALEZ, JR.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

PARK OPERATIONS ~ ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ~ VETERANS SERVICES ~ RECREATION/CULTURAL SERVICES

### Recreation & Cultural Services Division Monthly Report – November 2022

Submitted by Theresa Odello, Recreation & Cultural Services Division Manager

#### Programs & Special Events:

- Fountain Creek Nature Center is busy with **birthday parties**! Birthday kiddos were introduced to their party theme, either Big Bugs or Walk the Wetlands, with cute, funny puppet shows before hiking the trail with their naturalist guide and party guests. Even on chilly days, we are sure to find something amazing in nature. After their program time, guests enjoyed their cake, food, and presents in the beautiful Program Room overlooking Pikes Peak and the nature pond. Guests are frequently first-time visitors of the nature center and promise to come back!
- Fountain Creek Nature Center hosted it's largest **Holiday Craft and Vendor Fair** with 27 vendors spread throughout both the Program Room and Exhibit Room, attracting almost 300 visitors! Local artisans sold their homemade items including chokecherry jam, fruit spreads, honey, soap, salsa, jewelry, woodwork, knitting, and even dried mushroom figurines. Many guests popped by the front desk to thank us for hosting the event and to learn more about what we offer. Spirits were also high with vendors, many of whom are looking forward to the invite back next year!
- 2022 was a banner year for Bear Creek's **Annual Bear Run Fundraiser**! This year's event hosted the largest number of runners to date, with 362 human participants and 38 paid canine participants. In addition to the main event- the run along the beautiful trails of Bear Creek Regional Park dressed in bear suits- participants enjoyed spirited pre-run activities including a costume contest, bear yoga class, crafts, and engaging Sponsor and Partner tables. Speaking of Sponsors and Partners, the run benefit from great community support this year including Sponsors Black Bear Diner, X1039, Peaceful Warriors and Praxis Yoga. Partners included Comparion Insurance, The Pet Gal, Bear Creek Senior Living, and Mountain Equipment Recyclers and donors included Furry Friends, Pet Pantry, and Bon Pet Supply. This event fostered fun and community spirit while raising over \$12,000 for Friends of El Paso County Nature Centers. One runner's evaluation included the feedback, *"Loved the entertaining puns, costume contest, yoga and other fun aspects of the run. My first time to participate and plan on making it an annual event!"*
- Naturalists and park-goers often find themselves looking down at the ground but on November 15<sup>th</sup>, **Star Party** participants found themselves looking in wonder at the night sky above Bear Creek Nature Center. The **Colorado Springs Astronomical Society** braved the cold night to bring out telescopes looking deep into space to see the rings of Saturn, the Andromeda galaxy, and satellites! Seventy-five people pre-registered for this special nighttime event.



Participants warmed themselves by the fire and munched on s'mores as well. Despite the chill, participants said, "I've never seen the sky this dark in the Springs!" and "Our girl scout troop has been looking forward to this and can't wait to work more with the Colorado Springs Astronomical Society." This program was truly out of this world!

- Events moved indoors at the **El Paso County Fair & Events Center** as the colder weather moved in, however we kept busy hosting test & tunes, animal events to include dog scent work training with local dog clubs, and indoor horse riding. The Cornhole league continued to play hard and community meetings and 4-H groups met to plan for the upcoming season. Additionally, the Fair & Events Center recently added a community cheerleading group to our family of local community partners.

### Outreach Events and Other Items:

- How can we make our presentations stronger? Bear Creek Nature Center Interpreter Brenda McCreight learned about the power of a strong *theme* in her **Certified Interpretive Guide training class** the week of November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022. One take-away was that it takes time and thought to create a strong theme tied to Universal ideas such as survival, love, dignity, curiosity, and peace. To make presentations stronger, it's all about the *theme*! Brenda will use this knowledge to strengthen the many programs she creates and leads at Bear Creek Nature Center. Fountain Creek Nature Center's Interpretive Program Coordinator, Victoria Dinkel, also attended the training. Besides now being better skilled at guiding our visitors to have a deeper connection with nature, Victoria is now in a great professional organization with wonderful networking and advanced education courses!



Pictures from the Bear Creek Bear Run & The Fountain Creek Holiday Craft & Vendor Fair





### Special Events and Program Calendar

December 14, 2022 - January 11, 2023

Date	Day of Week	Program	Location	Target Audience	Notes*
Dec 14	Wednesday	Nature Explorers: Winter Wildcats	Bear Creek Nature Center	Ages 4-6 with caregiver	9-10:30am & 1-2:30pm/ \$3 per person
Dec 14	Wednesday	Rock Island Cornhole League	Fair & Events Center	Teens & Adults to Play All ages are welcome	6pm-10pm, \$10 per person
Dec 14	Wednesday	Geminid Meteor Shower Photography Workshop at Kane Ranch Open Space	Kane Ranch Open Space	Adults	10pm/ \$20 per person
Dec 17	Saturday	Bear Creek Nature Center Christmas Bird Count	Bear Creek Regional Park and Nature Center	Adults	8:30am-noon/ adults/ \$5 suggested donation
Dec 17	Saturday	Christmas Bird Count Tally Rally	Bear Creek Nature Center	Bird Count participants from Pikes Peak Region	5:00-7:00 p.m. / free potluck
Dec 17	Saturday	Nature Hikes with Santa	Fountain Creek Nature Center	Everyone! Ideal for children	10-11:30am & 1-2:30pm. \$5 per person
Dec 17	Saturday	Gingerbread Habitat Workshop	Bear Creek Nature Center	All ages	10:00-11:30 a.m./ \$20 per kit
Dec 17	Saturday	Lots of Knots	Bear Creek Nature Center	All ages	2-5pm, \$8 per person or \$7 military
Dec 17	Saturday	Eastern Plains Community Pantry Toy Giveaway	Fair & Events Center	Families who need help with gifts for their children this season	Noon - 2pm
Dec 21	Wednesday	Little Wonders: Fox & the Gingerbread Boy	Bear Creek Nature Center	children ages 2-3 with caregiver	10:00-11:15 a.m. & 1:00-2:15 p.m. \$3 per person
Dec 21	Wednesday	Rock Island Cornhole League	Fair & Events Center	Teens & Adults to Play All ages are welcome	6pm-10pm, \$10 per person
Dec 28	Wednesday	Rock Island Cornhole League	Fair & Events Center	Teens & Adults to Play All ages are welcome	6pm-10pm, \$10 per person
Jan 4	Wednesday	Rock Island Cornhole League	Fair & Events Center	Teens & Adults to Play All ages are welcome	6pm-10pm, \$10 per person
Jan 5, 6	Thursday and Friday	Nature Adventures: Resting Reptiles	Fountain Creek Nature Center	Children age 3-6 with an adult	10-11:30am / \$3 per person
Jan 7	Saturday	Lots of Knots	Fountain Creek Nature Center	All ages	2-5pm, \$8 per person or \$7 military
Jan 7	Saturday	Morning Hike and Campfire	Fountain Creek Nature Center	Everyone! Ideal for children	10-11:30am, \$5/person, \$4/member
Jan 10	Tuesday	Nature's Classroom: Colorado Wildlife Detectives	Bear Creek Nature Center	Children grades 3-5	1:00-3:00 p.m. \$4 per person
Jan 11	Wednesday	Rock Island Cornhole League	Fair & Events Center	Teens & Adults to Play All ages are welcome	6pm-10pm, \$10 per person
Jan 13	Friday	Bunco Party	Bear Creek Nature Center	Open to people age 13 and older	5pm, \$8 per person
Jan 14	Saturday	Queen's Clinic	Fair & Events Center	Potential Queens ages 10-22	9am-3pm, \$20 per person
					* Nature Center Members may receive an additional discount

**COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

PARK OPERATIONS ~ JUSTICE SERVICES  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ~ VETERANS SERVICES ~ RECREATION/CULTURAL SERVICES

**PARK OPERATIONS DIVISION  
MONTHLY REPORT  
NOVEMBER 2022**

**Parks Planning**

**Capital Project Management / Planning:**

**Bear Creek Regional Park Restroom** – Project for replacement of the main park restroom which includes design of the new building, engineering, cost estimating, and demolition plan of the old building. Tremmel Design Group (TDG) completed final design in December 2020. Raine Building was contracted for complete demolition and construction in April 2021. Demolition and pre-construction tasks were completed in 2021. Construction has been delayed several times due to material and contractor delays but was completed in October 2022.

**Black Forest Regional Park Tennis Courts** – The two existing tennis courts in Black Forest Regional Park are in the need of replacement due to age, playability, and safety concerns. County Parks has contracted with FieldTurf, LLC (Sourcewell Contract 060518-FTU) to remove the two existing tennis courts and replace with two new post-tension concrete tennis courts. The courts will also be lined for pickleball play. The project began with court demolition the last week of September. Concrete, fencing and temporary court striping will take place in 2022, with court surfacing being completed early 2023 once temperatures are favorable.

**County Parks Master Plan Update** – The 2013 County Parks Master Plan is currently being updated. The plan is a guiding document that works alongside other County plans to help maximize outdoor recreation opportunities such as parks, trails, long-term protection of open space and recreational programming. In addition, an infrastructure analysis will be completed to help identify and prioritize future needs regarding existing facility and park infrastructure. BerryDunn (formerly GreenPlay LLC.) was selected as the consultant and the goal is to complete the updates in 2022. The master plan update was presented at the August Park Advisory Board meeting. The first of two Planning Commission hearings was held on October 20, and the Board of County Commissioners reviewed the plan at an informal meeting on October 25. The final Planning Commission hearing is scheduled for December 1.

**Fountain Creek Nature Center Sidewalks**– The main sidewalk leading from the parking lot to the main entrance is does not meet ADA compliance. Additionally, the current storm drains are not adequately sized to convey stormwater. A contract with Baseline Engineering was awarded in August to complete design and specifications. Upon completion of the design a separate contract

for construction will be advertised with Baseline providing construction support services. Any residual project funds will be used to address sidewalk and parking lot issues around Duckwood Pond in Fountain Creek Regional Park.

**Fox Run Nature Center** – A request for proposals was issued in June 2022 seeking architectural and site design services for the new nature center located in Fox Run Regional Park. After a review of four submitted proposals, a team led by TDG Architecture was selected. A project kick-off was held in October and preliminary data gathering has begun. The El Paso County Commissioners allocated \$1 million in funding towards the project in November. Throughout the duration of this project, the public and key stakeholders will be engaged to inform design of the building, exhibits, and surrounding site. Design of the nature center is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2023.

**Fox Run Regional Park Oak and Pine Meadow Restrooms** – Project consists of renovating the Oak and Pine Meadow restrooms from a pit vault composting system to a flush system. The current pit vault composting waste systems will be removed, and a new on-site wastewater treatment system will be installed with new internal plumbing and fixtures. A consultant will be enlisted to provide design services for this project.

**Fox Run Regional Park Pine Meadows Playground** – This project includes the replacement of the playground structure at Pine Meadows with a new ADA compliant structure. In support of this project, new ADA compliant sidewalks and parking will also be installed. The contract was awarded to Ridgeline Construction. Work began in June and was completed in August.

**Santa Fe Open Space** - The master plan process has been completed with BoCC approval in March 2021. A contract for single-track trail corridor clearing and construction was awarded to Performance Recreation in September 2021. Construction has been completed and the grand opening was held on April 7, 2022. Two custom information kiosks and Partners in the Park signs have been ordered for installation at each entrance of the open space on the New Santa Fe Regional Trail.

**Ute Pass Regional Trail** - El Paso County was previously awarded two federal grants to fund design and construction of the remaining 3.75-mile segment of the Ute Pass Regional Trail. An Intergovernmental Agreement with CDOT was approved by the BoCC in April 2019. A revised scope of work was approved in 2022 to reduce the project to 1.5 miles to end at the intersection of US 24 and Fountain Ave. Stantec Consulting Services was selected to complete engineering and design of the Ute Pass Regional Trail. Permitting and regulatory approvals are ongoing. Review and coordination with several agencies are ongoing. A third grant was awarded to the County in 2022 and other funding options are being pursued. The final design package is scheduled to be completed in late 2022. Construction is planned for 2024.

**Other:**

**Development Permit Application Reviews** - Staff reviewed 0 development permit applications to be presented for endorsement at the November 2022 meeting and provided internal administrative comments for an additional 3 applications during November 2022.

**Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control and Greenway District** - Community Services Department Staff continues 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.

**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, operational, and planning applications. New regional park maps have been completed or are in process, and new and/or improved datasets have been received.

**Grants** – El Paso County Parks was awarded a \$145,000 Community Development Block Grant for the paving the Crews Gulch Trail through Widefield Community Park. A notice to proceed is anticipated in late summer or early fall 2022, with the project occurring soon afterward. A grant application was submitted to Great Outdoors Colorado in August to fund five weeks of work by the Mile High Youth Corps and Rocky Mountain Field Institute at Pinerias Open Space in 2023. Grant awards are anticipated in December 2022.

**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, and the Jackson Creek Parkway Corridor Plan.

### **Park Operations / Miscellaneous Projects**

#### **Central District:**

**Bear Creek Regional Park** – With the busy reservation season behind us and winter ahead, staff remained busy preparing the park for the cold temperatures. Winterization of all irrigation systems were completed, heaters checked, thermostats set, and snowplows and shovels are ready. Other completed responsibilities during November included trail and parking lot maintenance, landscape bed maintenance and improvements, playground inspections, tree limb and leaf cleanup, reorientation of pavilion signs, installation of two new basketball backboards and rims, paver installation at the Veteran Memorial, and assisting the Bear Creek Nature Center with multiple events.

On November 5<sup>th</sup> the Bear Creek Nature Center hosted its annual Bear Run event on the trails of Bear Creek East. A record number of participants attended the event this year and a great time was had by all. Park staff assisted with trail prep, signage installation, and additional checks on restroom facilities during the event.

Although the new restroom facility at Bear Creek Terrace is officially open, it was determined that with the late October completion and standard procedure, the facility would remain closed for the winter months and open when the reservation season starts in April. Landscape around the south and east side of the building are complete, with boulders, plant material, irrigation, and rock mulch needing to be added to the west side during the spring of 2023.

The Recreation and Cultural Services division is enhancing the trail system at the Bear Creek Nature Center. An addition to the Songbird portion of the trail system will allow visually impaired park visitors to walk this trail by a guided rope, receiving an audio recording of the eight interpretive signs along the way. The Central team is responsible for relocating four interpretive signs, installing twenty-five posts, and securing the rope to the posts. This project is underway and will be completed during the next reporting period.

With the assistance of EPSO Park Security, Central staff designated time monitoring, removing, and cleaning areas along the 8<sup>th</sup> St. corridor where illegal camping continues to be a concern. Activity in the area has increased and staff have been required to remove numerous campsites during the reporting period.

**Bear Creek Dog Park** – The Park continues to experience a large volume of guests and staff commits significant daily effort with trash removal and facility cleaning, while performing routine perimeter fence inspections.



**Rainbow Falls Historic Site** – The site is currently closed due to potential hazardous falling rocks in the parking area. The site will remain closed until further notice. Staff continues to monitor security cameras, remove trash, and monitor the site for new graffiti.

**Downtown Facilities** – The Downtown team remains busy with continuous property checks and trash collection. Irrigation systems at all properties have been winterized and the team's focus for the coming months will be landscape bed maintenance.

Park Operations, EPC Facilities, and TDG Architecture have met multiple times regarding new / improved parking at the Criminal Justice Center. This multiple stage project will increase parking availability at the facility and our staff will maintain oversight and provide input on changes made to landscape and irrigation portions of the project. There have been no new developments with this project during the reporting period.

**Ute Pass Regional Trail** – Staff removed trash and debris from trail corridors and trailheads, while continuing to monitor parking areas for illegal overnight use. Team members also spent time clearing multiple inches of washout from the sidewalk along Chipita Park Rd. and fixing damaged fencing in other areas along the trail system.

#### **East District:**

**County Fairgrounds** – All of the buildings and irrigation systems that are not heat protected have been winterized for the season. Staff is now turning their focus to our winter projects list and building maintenance priorities. The refurbishing of floors and touch up paint will begin in the coming months. We have blocked out some maintenance events on the Fairgrounds calendar to make this possible.

The team continues to support several events and rentals in the Whittemore and Swink Hall Buildings. With these two buildings being the primary buildings capable of hosting events over the winter months.

The barn replacement project is coming along well. The contractor had the concrete floor poured this month and they're finalizing the grades around the exterior of the building. The fire hydrant has been relocated and down spouts have been piped underground. The contractor plans to begin working on the assembly of the metal building in the coming days. It will be exciting to see the building going vertical. The construction team is working with Mountain View Electrical Association to schedule their crew to install a new transformer and provide the electrical service tap for the new barn.

The team was able to complete the breeze installation under the grandstands seating area. The area looks much cleaner. Minor adjustments will be made to accommodate the downspouts that release off the east side of the grandstands building. This is the final task, and this project will be complete.

**Homestead Ranch Regional Park** – Staff continues to meet with the forestry project team and the completed work is looking great. The contractor is planning on wrapping up the project in the next month.

The team was able to complete the winterization of the irrigation system at the park. Irrigation and the restrooms will be closed for the season and set to reopen in the spring.

After staff replaced the playground safety barriers, a contractor came through behind us and replaced several noncompliant playground panels. The playground is looking great, and we have received multiple compliments and praise for addressing the issues.

**Falcon Regional Park** – Staff was able to complete the final winterization of the irrigation system at the park.

The Counties Stormwater Inspector reviewed the site and had a few minor suggestions that our team addressed from phase two construction. The team removed more sediment from one of the check dams as well as cleaned out a box drain near the center of the park. While onsite the team also extended the width of the trail around one of the corners and repaired a few washouts. We will continue to monitor the area as the spring rains begin to ensure we don't have any other areas the need attention.

**Paint Mines Interpretive Park** – Park patrols, cleaning, and monitoring for vandalism are conducted daily.

**Rock Island Regional Trail** – Staff continues to monitor the park and trail for trash and vandalism.

**Palmer Divide Trail at Wood Lake** – Staff continues to monitor the park for trash and vandalism.

**Drake Lake Open Space** – The team completed a minor project at Drake Lake Open Space this month. We had a retaining wall at the site that continuously washed out due to runoff from the adjacent County Road. Staff spends considerable resources and time reconstructing the wall each time it falls. After an onsite review it was decided that removal was our best option. The East District team removed all the wall block and hauled in a few loads of fill dirt. The area has been regraded and seeded. This spring we will add additional seed and blanket to get vegetation reestablished. We will continue to monitor for any changes moving forward.

#### **North District:**

**General Information** – The North District team has winterized all irrigation systems. New communication boards were installed to all the irrigation controllers. These boards will provide more reliable communication with controllers and improve water management efficiency. A mainline reroute was also completed at Fox Run Regional Park. All bathroom facilities that are not heated have also been winterized for the season. We have shifted our priority to snow removal and winter improvement projects. Currently we have had two snow events that required plowing at CSC, Office of Emergency Services and Fleet. North District parks, trails and facilities continue to be inspected and cleaned daily. Wildland Fire continues their fire mitigation efforts within Fox Run Regional Park.

**Fox Run Regional Park** – Fallen Timbers has been closed for the season at Fox Run. This area has received extra attention this month because it will be the location of the new Fox Run Northern Nature Center. We are extremely excited at the opportunity to showcase the native environment and wildlife with the northern Colorado Springs community. It is sure to be a highly valued asset within our district in the future.

**Black Forest Regional Park** – The tennis court/pickleball replacement project continues to make progress. Weather has slightly delayed the initial concrete pour.

Additional sections of damaged split rail fence were replaced this month. The restrooms will stay open and available to the public for the winter.

**Pineries Open Space** – A new horse mounting block has been constructed and installed at the Pineries. It will provide a safe platform for citizens to mount their horses at a convenient location near the trailer parking. The restroom will continue to stay opened and maintained for the winter.

**Santa Fe Trailhead / Baptist Road** – A bike repair station donated by Scheels' has been installed at the Baptist trailhead location. It is another great location and will be appreciated by the community.

**Palmer Lake Recreation Area** – A bike repair station was also installed adjacent to the Santa Fe trail at the Palmer Lake Recreation Area. We appreciate Scheels contributions to help improve and provide a service to the North District.

#### **South District:**

**General District Information** – Staff completed winterizing irrigation systems, conducted snow removal from parks and County facilities, adjusted all light timer and automatic locks for the winter months, and completed irrigation and pump system repair / maintenance.

**Fountain Creek Regional Park** – Our team completed routine maintenance tasks to include mowing, irrigation checks, irrigation repairs, and native mowing. We waited a few more weeks than usual to complete irrigation blowouts due to the warmer weather and additional water requirements for the newly renovated athletic field. Barnhart Pumps continues to problem solve our irrigation system problems and is planning to make repairs before the start of the 2023 season. In addition, the district has been working with employees from the Chilcott ditch and annual maintenance tasks, sediment removal, and vegetation management along the irrigation ditch and regional trail.

Staff contributed to an ongoing winter goal of cutting back dead trees, limbs, and raising the trail canopy along the regional trail corridor. Staff chipped the old limbs and trees that have been discarded along the trail and trailhead.

**Widefield Community Park** – This month staff continued mowing operations and has seen a significant reduction in turf growth. Along with daily maintenance, our team completed irrigation blowouts in preparation for the colder months ahead. Staff also completed all limb removal and tree chipping in the park.

Staff continues to paint over graffiti in the Fontaine Tunnel and United Flight Memorial. With the quick response time, we seem to be reducing the frequency of graffiti in the park.

**Fountain Creek Nature Center** – Staff removed a leaning hazard tree along the trail and began cutting back dead trees and limbs and raising the trail canopy along the regional trail. Staff focused on chipping the old limbs and trees that have been discarded along the trail and trailhead.

Operations staff and Nature Center staff were happy to see a large turnout for the Jack-O-Lantern pumpkin carving event, with over one hundred pumpkins lighting the trail and providing a meal for local wildlife.

Tall Timbers Tree Service was contracted to complete forest mitigation around the wildlife observation pavilions so that visitors have a better view of the wetlands surrounding the Nature Center.

**Stratmoor Valley Park** – Staff focused on routine maintenance and completed winterizing the irrigation system. Staff removed illegal debris dumps, trash piles and cleaned up behind residential properties.

**Stratmoor Hills Park** – Staff focused on routine maintenance and snow removal at the park and the B Street bridge.

**Grinnell Boulevard** – Trash removal continues to be our primary focus during this reporting period.

**Crews Gulch Trail** – Our team continues to focus on removing trash that flows downstream due to stormwater runoff. Staff also removed and painted over graffiti under the railroad bridges.

**Ceresa Park** – Staff focused on routine maintenance, mowing, and removing fall debris. Staff added playground safety surfacing in high traffic areas of the playground and removed snow.

**Kane Ranch Open Space** – Our team completed routine trash removal and property inspections.

**Willow Springs Ponds** – Over the past few years, the water level has dropped during the summer months and our team is looking for supplemental water resources to help fill the ponds. Staff continues to monitor the receding water levels in both ponds.

Along with daily maintenance, staff continued to replace broken split-rail fencing and has made repairs to the parking lots from vehicle donuts. Staff made an ongoing winter goal of cutting back dead trees and limbs and raising the trail canopy along the regional trail. Staff chipped the old limbs and trees that have been discarded along the trail and trailhead.

**Clear Springs Ranch** – Staff performed routine maintenance and native trash removal and began cutting back dead trees and limbs and raising the trail canopy along the regional trail. Staff chipped the old limbs and trees that have been discarded along the trail and trailhead.

**Christian Open Space** – Efforts continue with illegal trash dump removal. The dump sites are large enough to require removal by equipment and dump trucks. Efforts have been made to frequent the area and to come up with preventative measures to deter future camping and illegal trash dumping.