



**TOPS Working Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 4, 2014**

Members Present: Jason Alwine, PJ Anderson, Ian Kalmanowitz, Jeff Mohrmann, Jim Rees, Kirk Samelson Leslie Thomas, Becky Wegner

Members Absent: Paul Franco

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Liaison Present: Jackie Hilaire, Scott Hume, John Maynard

Alternates Present: Joe Lavorini

Staff Present: Chris Lieber, Karen Palus, Kurt Schroeder, Julie Lafitte

Ian Kalmanowitz brought the meeting to order at 7:32am.

Agenda Preview

There were no changes to the agenda as presented.

Announcements

Chris Lieber and Karen Palus present Ian Kalmanowitz a framed photograph in gratitude for his two terms of service on the TOPS Working Committee. Paul Franco is resigning from his position, and also will receive of photograph when he returns from his honeymoon.

June 21 events—

- Mountain Shadows Park, groundbreaking memorial and new playground
- Spruce Up the Springs in Ute Valley Park

June 28 events—

- Groundbreaking for Creekside/America the Beautiful Environmental Park
- Ribbon cutting at newly renovated Memorial Park Tennis Center and handball courts

July 15 event—

- Joint meeting w/ Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for review of draft Parks System Master Plan

Incline—

- Funding for repairs in place including money from FEMA, GOCO and Friends of the Incline
- Will take 3-4 months to complete, due to close in latter half of August; closure will be enforced with fines
- Working with Manitou since the Incline is a major source of seasonal revenue for them
- 2000/day on Incline on weekend days

Approval of Minutes

Motion – to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2014 meeting as written:

Jason Alwine/Leslie Thomas

Approved – Unanimous

Citizen Discussion

Bill Koerner, TOSC

- Announced that Waldo Canyon will be open on a seasonal basis, although the “season” hasn’t been defined. Could be a possible alternative for Incline users.
- Mentioned that Congressman Lamborn visited to express support for the reopening Severy Creek trail (partially owned by CSU, from PP Highway to Elk Creek area). A NEPA process could take up to two years, however.

Susan Davies, TOSC

- Announced a Spirit of the Springs work event at Stratton Open Space with the Friends of Stratton Open Space on June 7 to celebrate National Trails Day.

Jim Lockhart, Pikes Peak Sierra Club

- Announced that the Great March for Climate Change will stop in Colorado Springs on June 10, with a rally in Acacia Park. Expressed his appreciation of the Parks Department for expediting the event.

Stan Lebahn, Colorado Springs Cycling Club

- Expressed dismay over his perception that funds designated for trail development are being used for other expenses. Chris Lieber mentioned the subject of trail funds would be covered in the CIP Budget discussion.

Staff Report

Construction project updates:

- Memorial Park Tennis Center—
 - Tennis and handball courts almost finished
 - 4 acres of bluegrass removed
 - Facility improved with paint, signage and lighting.
 - Local tennis groups believe they will be able to tournaments, which will LART revenue
- Pikes Peak Greenway—repairs to southern section underway (south of S. Nevada)
- Cottonwood Trail—two pedestrian bridges set and in place, concrete pouring underway
- Playground projects—
 - MVP north playground complete
 - Memorial Park playground complete by June 28
 - 5 more over the summer (1 about every 25 days)
- Ute Valley—
 - Work proceeding on Master and Management Plans
 - Public meetings beginning this summer
 - More information at the next meeting

Questions from Committee:

- Status of Sinton Trail—
 - Closed between Centennial Blvd. and Garden of the Gods Rd. due to flood damage to drainage channel.

- Public Works Department is using FEMA funding to repair the channel; the trail has been their access road. It has been repaved and expected to open by mid-June.
- Other damaged sections are also Public Works is also repairing other damaged sections, working from the top of the watershed down.
- Status of Pikes Peak Greenway by Criterium Bicycle Shop—
 - Lots of cracks, willows growing through trail, etc.
 - Repairs have been delayed until after Labor Day due to special events and at the request of Criterium, with funding from PPRTA and federal Transportation Enhancement funds.
 - Cement trail from I-25 to connection with Cottonwood Trail with soft shoulders added where possible.
- Status of several trail connections on Cottonwood Trail—
 - Cottonwood Trail west of Vincent Rd. state trails: TOPS and FEMA funding will provide pedestrian bridge; construction will be in winter due to flooding concerns.
 - Cottonwood Trail adjacent to Current, Inc.: during construction of a new water line, Utilities has built an access road in the bottom of the small canyon. This has been used for the pedestrian bridge installation and will become part of the trail.
 - Cottonwood Trail at Academy Blvd: the pedestrian underpass under Academy will be the last piece of the project.

Action Item

2015 CIP Budget—Chris Lieber

The Committee is asked to give its recommendation for approval of this list by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. This CIP list will go to City Council as part of the 2015 budget process.

(continued next page)

CONSERVATION TRUST

<i>Current Fund Balance:</i>	\$2,336,690
<i>Estimate 2015 Revenue:</i>	\$4,662,000
<i>Total Funds Available for 2015 Budget:</i>	\$6,998,690

CONSERVATION TRUST



Sinton Pond



2015 Conservation Trust Fund capital improvement projects:

Park Maintenance	\$4,280,988
Park Water Contingency	\$1,000,000
Red Rock Canyon – Annual COP Payment	\$ 111,758
Skyview Sports Complex – Annual COP Payment	\$ 173,300
Maintenance of Outdoor Sculpture	\$ 15,000
RRC Landfill Monitoring	\$ 75,000
Sinton Pond Management Plan	\$ 10,500
Court Repair and Renovation (system-wide)	\$ 120,000
Monument Valley Historic Wall Repair	\$ 100,000
Playground Renovations	\$ 300,000
Emergency Repairs and equipment replacement	\$ 50,000
SUBTOTAL	\$6,432,146

PLDO

<i>Current Fund Balance:</i>	<i>\$4,745,911</i>
<i>Estimate 2015 Revenue:</i>	<i>\$ 800,000</i>
<i>Total Funds Available for 2015 Budget:</i>	<i>\$5,545,911</i>

No projects are recommended for PLDO funding at this time pending completion of the Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan

2015 GENERAL FUND CIP PARK PROJECTS

Currently Requested High Priority Projects:

Community Center Repair	\$ 50,000
Pioneers Museum Exterior Restoration	\$ 68,404
Roof Replacements	\$ 100,000
Pioneers Museum–HVAC Upgrades	<u>\$1,000,000</u>
Subtotal	\$1,218,404

Additional High Priority Needs:

Asphalt Repair and Replacement–Parking lots and Park Roads	\$ 547,000
Artificial Turf Fields	\$1,200,000
ADA Compliance – System wide	\$ 250,000
North Cheyenne Canyon Roadway and Drainage Replacements	\$ 625,000
Reducing Parks Water Footprint	\$ 100,000
Playground Structure Replacement	\$ 700,000
Roof Replacements	\$ 216,000
Trail Renovation and Repair	\$ 600,000
Venezia Community Park	\$1,250,000
Athletic Court Renovation and Replacement	\$ 360,000
Urban Wood Waste Recycler	\$ 490,000
Irrigation Renovation System Wide	\$ 140,000

TRAILS, OPEN SPACE AND PARKS (TOPS)

<i>Current Fund Balance:</i>	\$ 6,938,982
<i>Estimate 2015 Revenue:</i>	\$ 7,230,000
<i>Total Funds Available for 2015 Budget:</i>	\$14,168,982

2015 TOPS RECOMMENDATIONS

Open Space Projects: (Minimum of 60%)

Red Rock Canyon – Annual COP Payment:	\$1,005,817
Ute Valley Phase II:	\$2,800,000
Ute Valley Expansion MP Implementation & Stewardship	\$ 275,000
RRC MP Implementation and Stewardship	\$ 250,000
Open Space Acquisition	\$ 50,000
Management Plan Updates	
Bluestem Open Space	\$ 14,000
University Park	\$ 11,500
Stratton Open Space	\$ 15,000
Open Space Stewardship for TOPS Funded Open Spaces 3,320 ac. @ \$75 per acre	<u>\$ 249,000</u>

Open Space Subtotal **\$4,670,317**

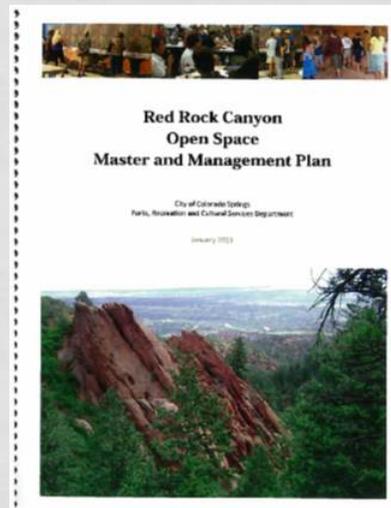
- *(56.1% of Cumulative Expenditures)
- *(Remaining Cumulative Balance projected for Open Space - approx.. \$4,066,000)

Ute Valley: Possible Projects

- Trail Development
- Wayfinding Signage/Rules and Regulations at the trailheads (updated with the HP property)
- Wayfinding Signage along the trails with trail names
- Interpretive Signage / Information
- Trailhead and access improvements
- Weed management / Forest health Management
- Other priorities identified in MP?

RRC: Master Plan Recommendations

- Interpretive Signage / Information
- Wayfinding signage
- Closure of social trails
- New Trail Construction
- Dog Off-Leash Area Improvements
- Forest Health Management
- 26th Street/White Acres Parking Facilities
- Sand Canyon Trailhead/Picnic Area – Planning and Design



Open Space Stewardship Projects:

Bluestem Open Space:

- Prairie Dog Management
- Trail Construction / Repair
- Perimeter Fencing
- Wayfinding/Interpretive Signage

University Park Open Space:

- Weed Management
- Wayfinding signage
- Trail Construction
- Social Trail Closure

Blodgett Open Space:

- Weed Management
- Revegetation

Corral Bluffs:

- Boundary Fencing / Signage

High Chaparral:

- Social Trail Closure
- Weed Management



2015 TOPS RECOMMENDATIONS

Trail Projects: (Maximum of 20%)

Rock Island Trail, Sand Creek to Constitution Phase II	\$ 129,147
Rock Island Trail, Pikes Peak Greenway to T-Gap	\$ 640,000
Cottonwood Trail, Austin Bluffs/Woodmen Underpass II	\$ 420,000
Cottonwood Trail, Vincent to Academy	\$ 235,000
Midland Trail – Columbia to Ridge Improvements and ROW	<u>\$ 230,000</u>
Trails Subtotal	\$1,654,147

*(19.1% of Cumulative Expenditures)

*(Remaining Cumulative Balance projected for Trails – approximately \$933,000)

2015 TOPS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Park Projects: (Maximum of 20%)

Park Maintenance (Difference between 6% and 15%)	\$ 650,700
Park ADA Improvements	\$ 150,000
Water Footprint Reduction (Irrigation replacement, Turf reduction, etc.)	<u>\$ 500,000</u>
Parks Subtotal	\$ 1,300,700

• *(19.4% of Cumulative Expenditures)

• *(Remaining Cumulative Balance projected for Parks - approximately \$642,000)

2015 TOPS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Open Space Subtotal	\$ 4,670,317
Trails Subtotal	\$ 1,654,147
Parks Subtotal	\$ 1,300,700
TOPS Administration 3%	\$ 216,900 *
Maintenance 6%	\$ <u>433,800</u>
Total TOPS Funding (all categories)	\$ 8,275,864

*(Includes 3% increase for pay for performance and 2% increase for benefits.)

The most significant change was the elimination of the Parks Water Contingency. That funding was reallocated to capital improvement projects that will result in water footprint reductions and water conservation measures, while the balance of funding will remain in the TOPS Parks Category.

There was an extended discussion of:

1. What counts as a capital expenditure?
2. Is maintenance part of the stewardship which is called for by the TOPS ordinance?

However, no firm conclusions were reached. (See motion below.)

Citizen Comments on Budget

Bill Koerner:

- TOSC pleased that water contingency was removed as it is not a capital improvement. Glad to see it used for water footprint reduction.
- Where is Rock Island greenway connection money? In 2013 budget, plus PPRTA money, plus grants. For acquisition. No funding requests for construction yet, probably 2016.
- Stewardship of open space:
 - Create a clear definition of “stewardship.”
 - Weed management is part of maintenance not stewardship.
 - What is future of TOPS program? TOSC in favor of extending, increasing; happy to help work on that.

Susan Davies:

- Be aware that pickleball and other groups will want money from the 20% for Parks

Linda Hodges:

- Thanked staff for eliminating the water contingency. Urged the Committee to “uphold the spirit of the ordinance,” i.e. that funds are for trails, trailheads, parking lots, bathrooms, and land, not maintenance.

Jim Lockhart:

- Reiterated that the water contingency was an improper use of funds.
- Strongly encouraged CSU to make conservation a core part of long term plans.

Motion – To accept the 2015 CIP Budget with the condition that a subcommittee consisting of two members and Chris Lieber be established to clearly define “stewardship” in terms of its relationship to the TOPS ordinance and to set stewardship criteria which will be used to give clearer guidance for funding priorities in the future.

Leslie Thomas/PJ Anderson

Approved – 8 to 1

Presentation Item

Parks Master Plan Update—Chris Lieber

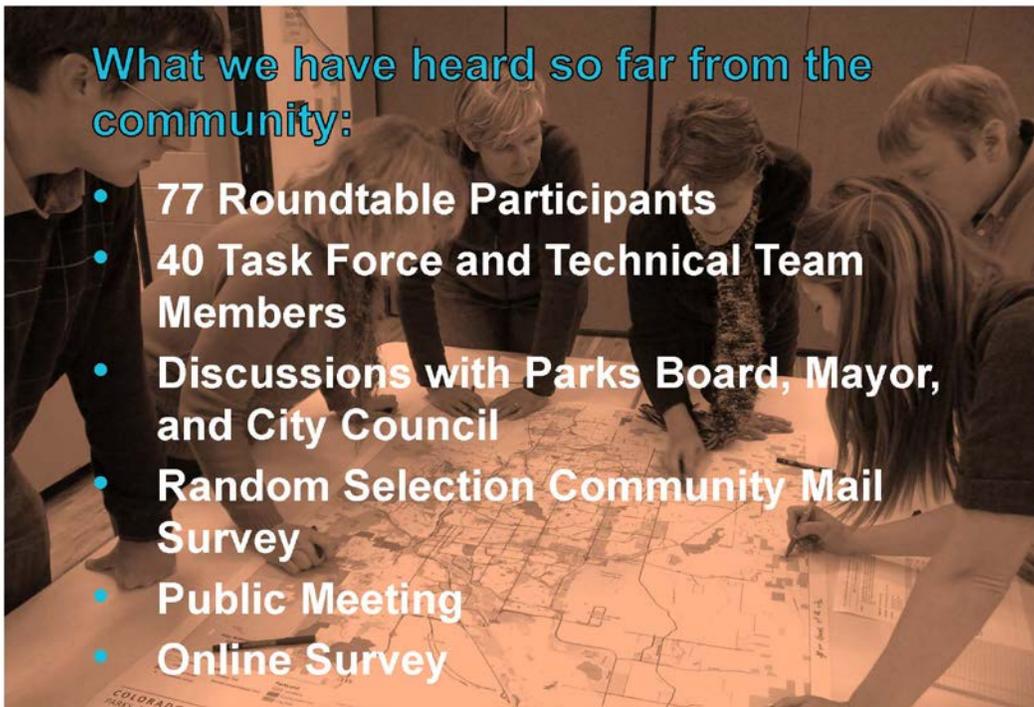
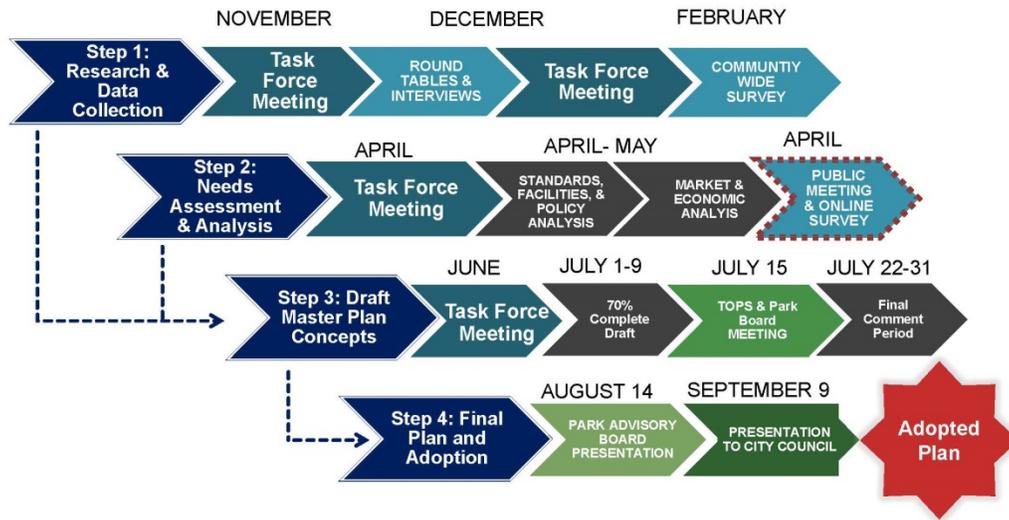
Joint City Council/PRAB meeting at 11:00 today to discuss survey results, major themes and vision of the Parks Master Plan so far.



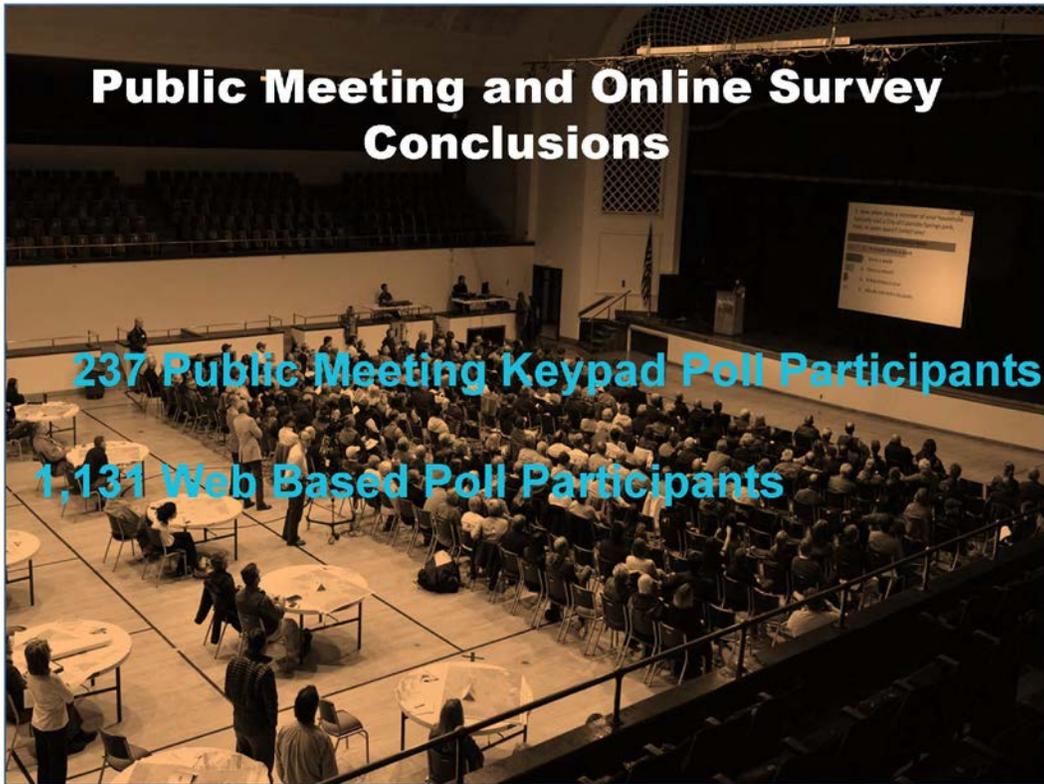
Parks, Recreation, Trails & Open Space Master Plan

June 4, 2014

PROCESS & SCHEDULE



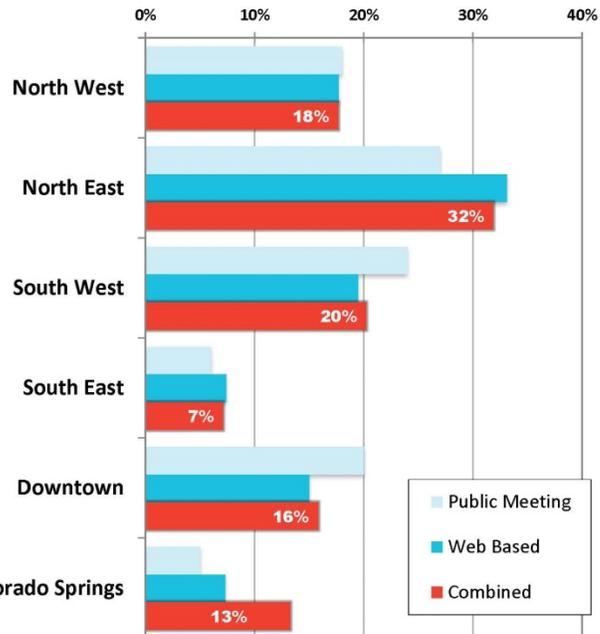
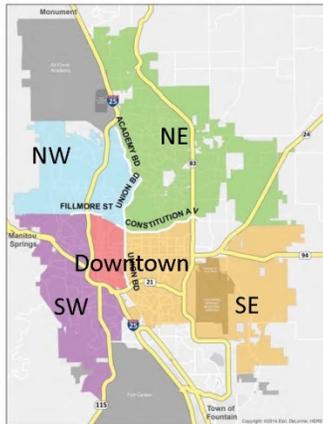
Public Meeting and Online Survey Conclusions



237 Public Meeting Keypad Poll Participants

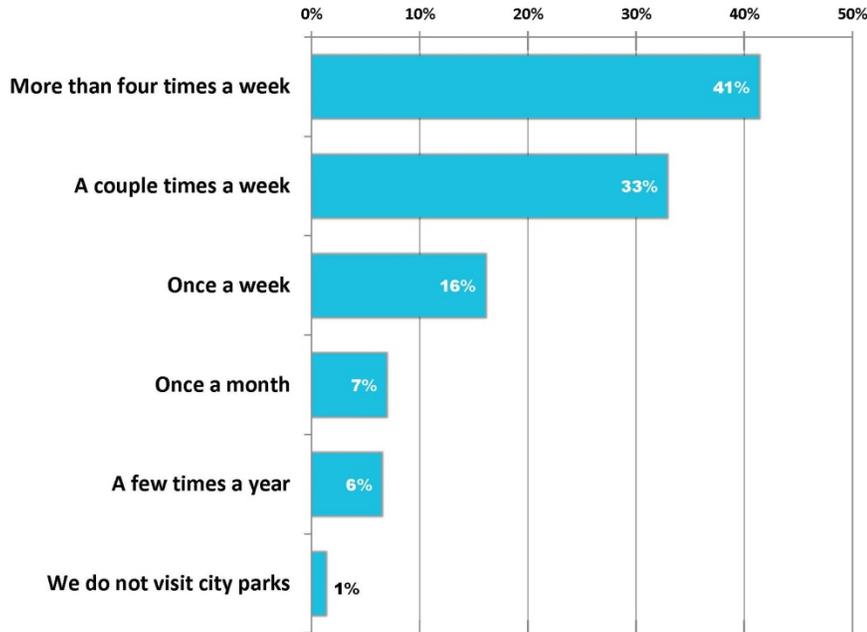
1,131 Web Based Poll Participants

1. In which part of Colorado Springs do you live? *(select one response)*

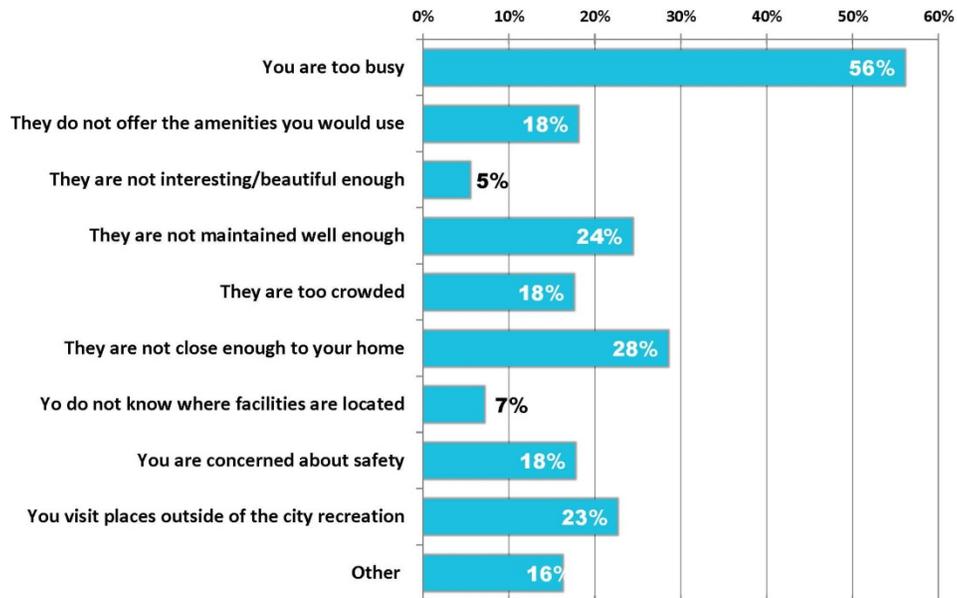


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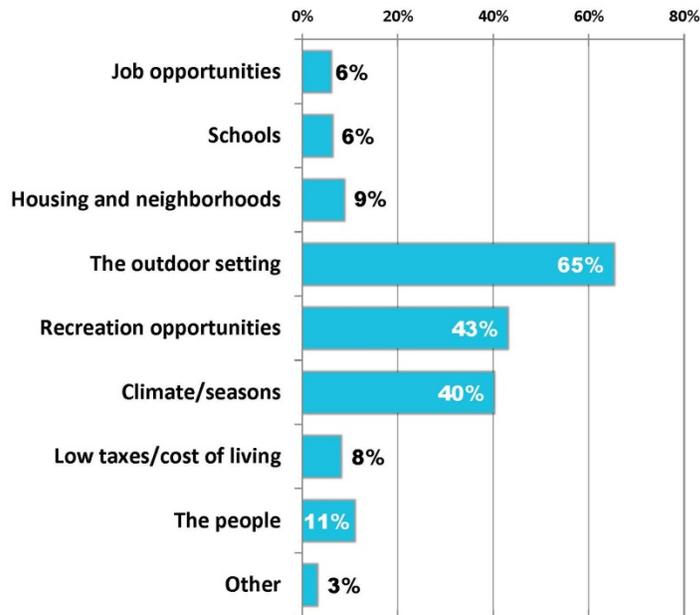
2. How often does a member of your household typically visit a City of Colorado Springs park, trail, or open space? *(select one)*



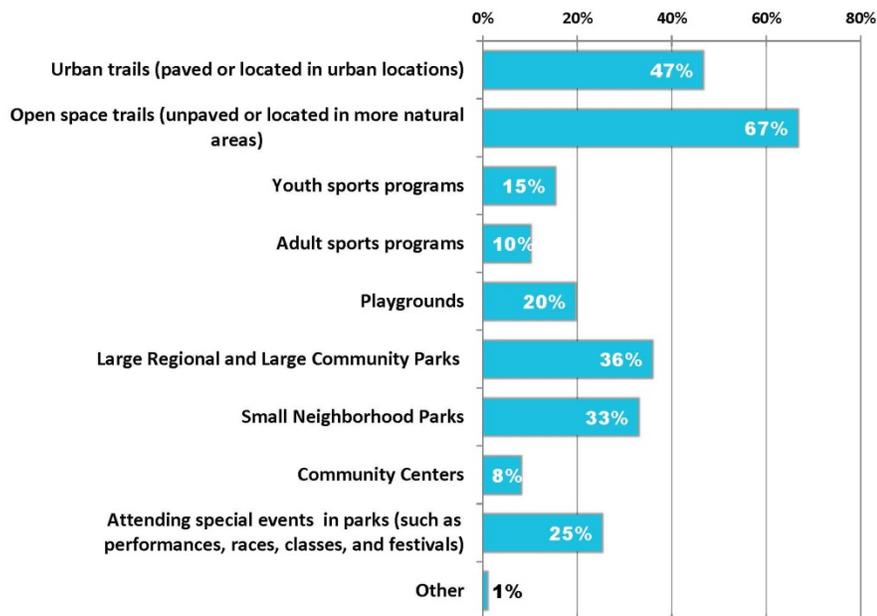
3. Which reasons best describe why you do not visit city parks, trails, or open space more often? *(select up to three)*



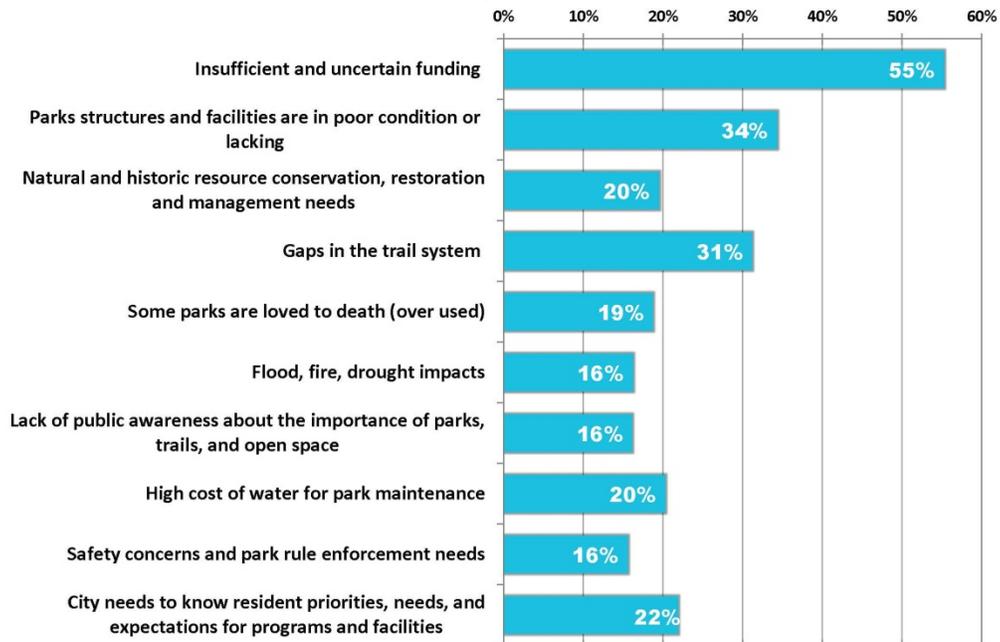
4. What are the two things you like most about living in Colorado Springs? *(select up to two)*



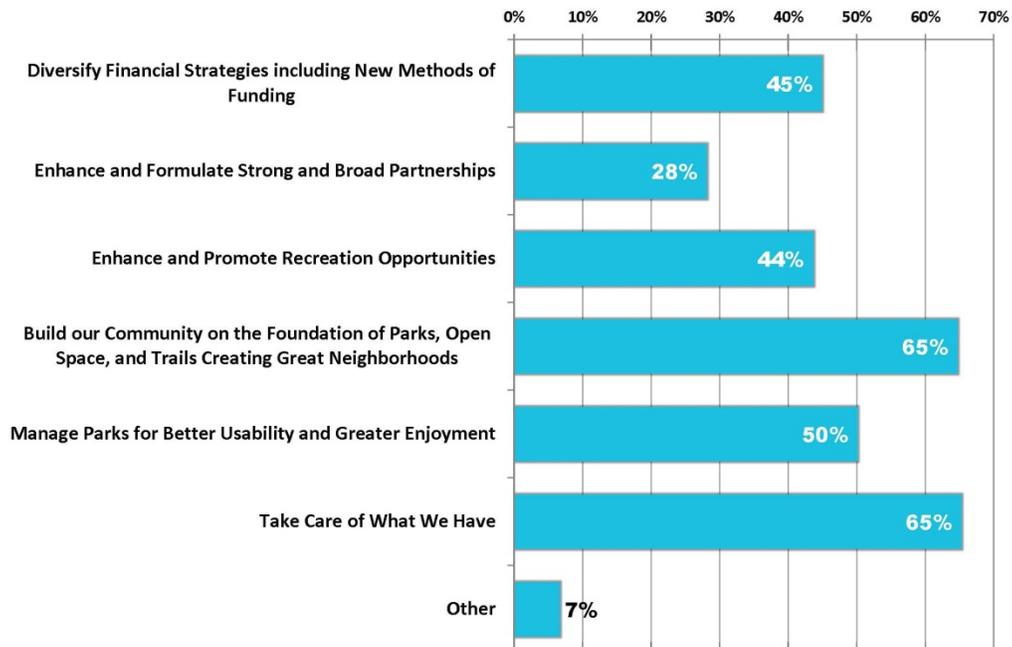
5. Which of these city programs or amenities does your household use most often? *(select up to three)*



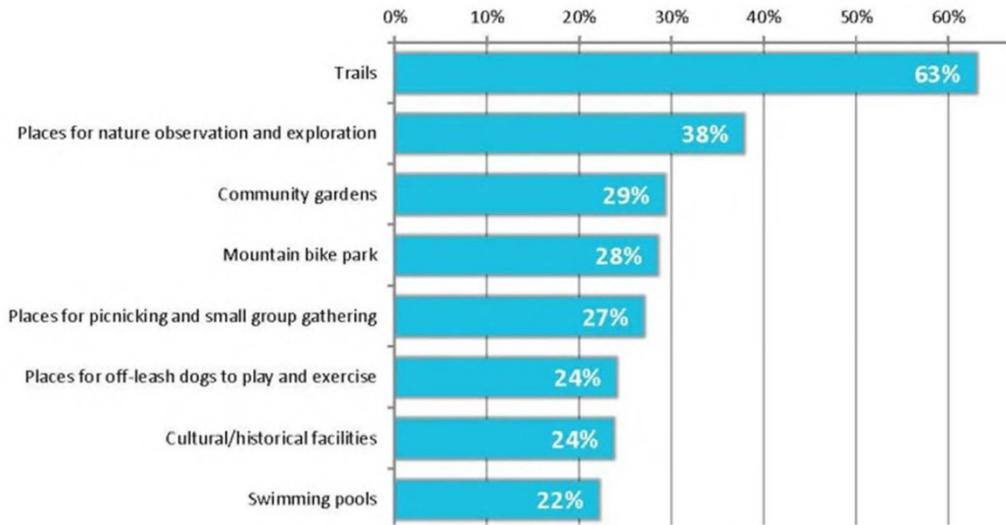
6. Which do you believe are the most important issues for the Master Plan to address? *(select up to three)*



7. Select the Key Themes that you support including in the Master Plan? *(select all that apply)*



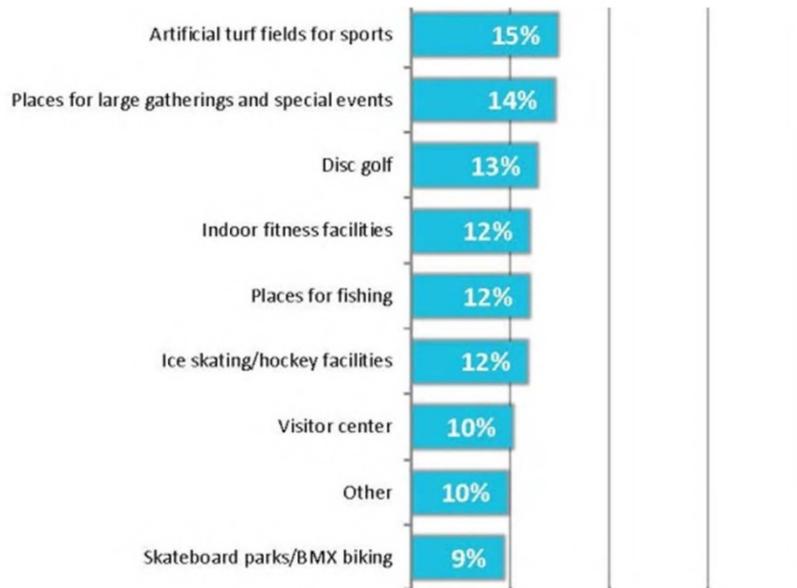
8. Which of these **facilities** should be a priority for the city to build or invest in the short term?
(select all that apply)



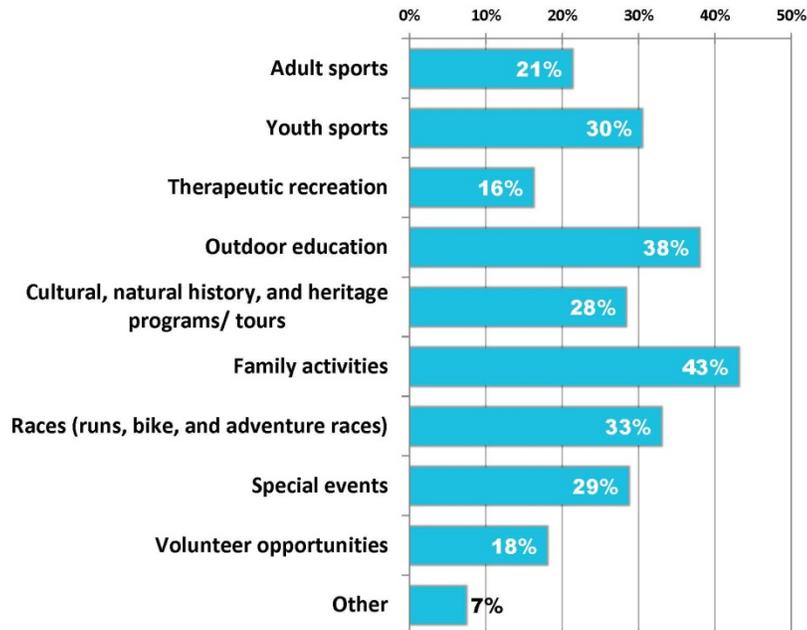
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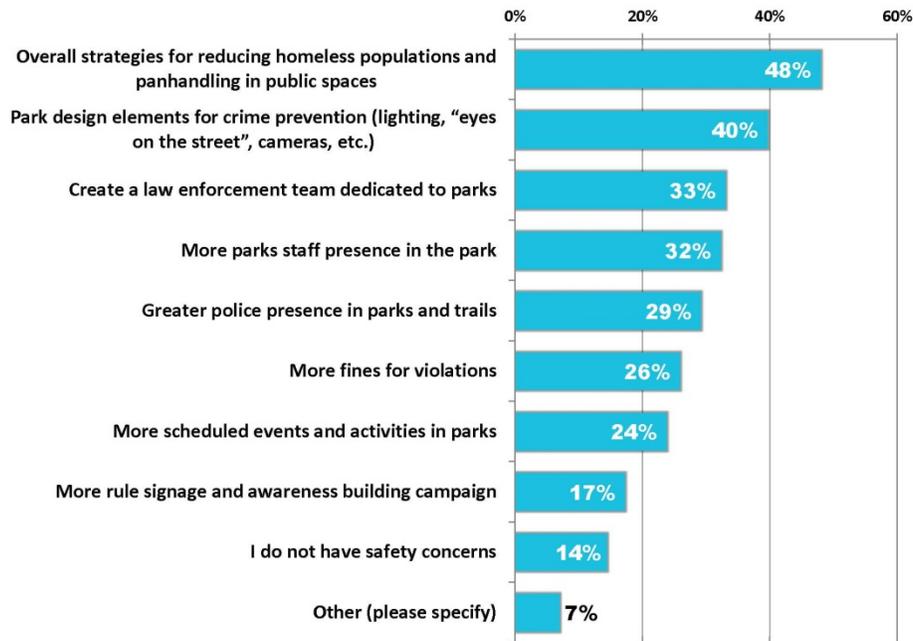
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(select all that apply)



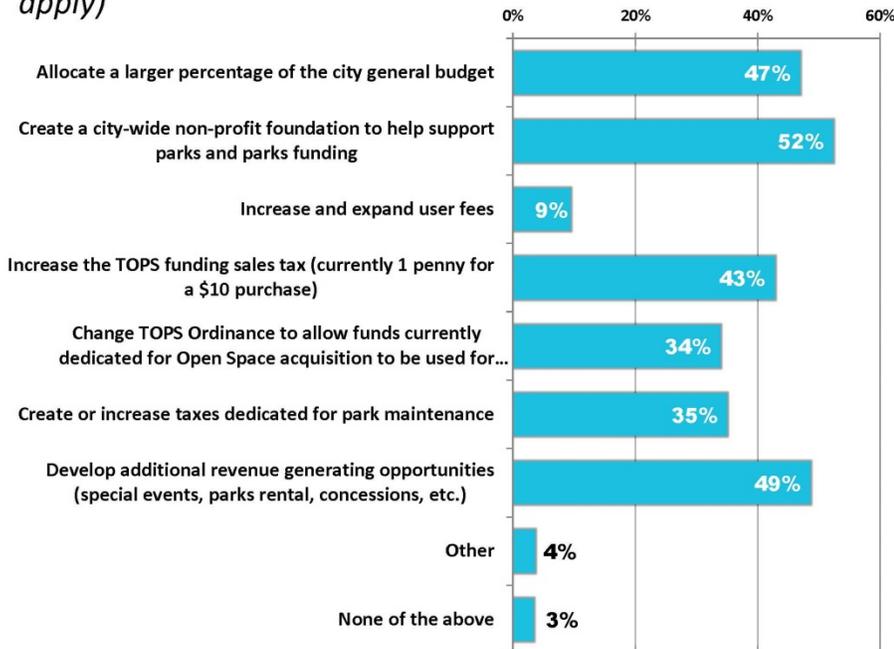
10. Which of these **programs** should be a priority for the city to expand or add? *(Rank your top 3)*



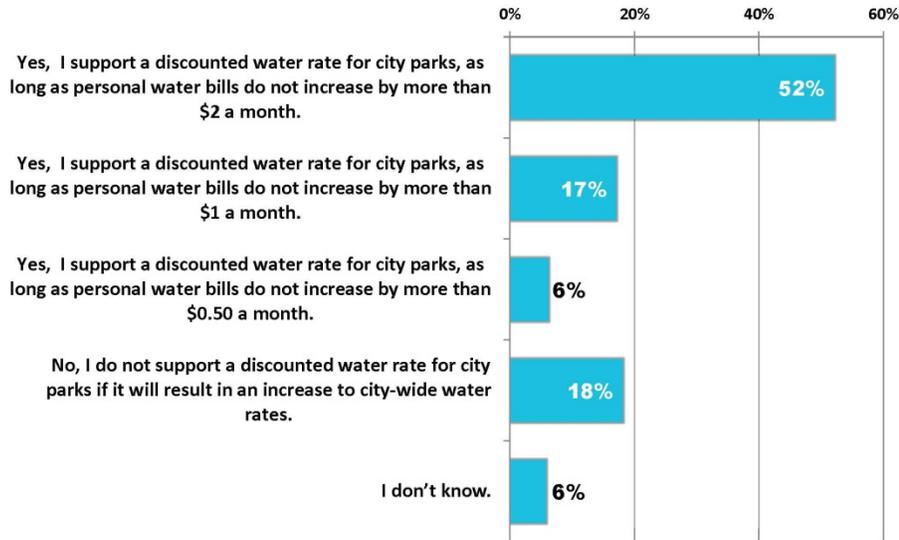
12. Which of these strategies to improve safety or park rule enforcement do you support? *(select all that apply)*



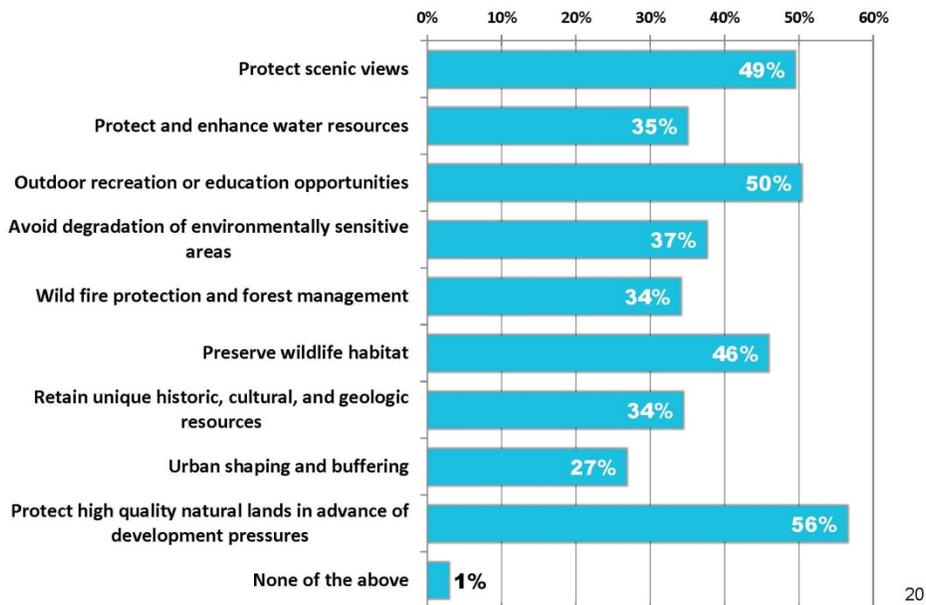
13. Which of these parks, recreation, open space, and trail funding mechanisms would you like to see used in the future? *(select all that apply)*



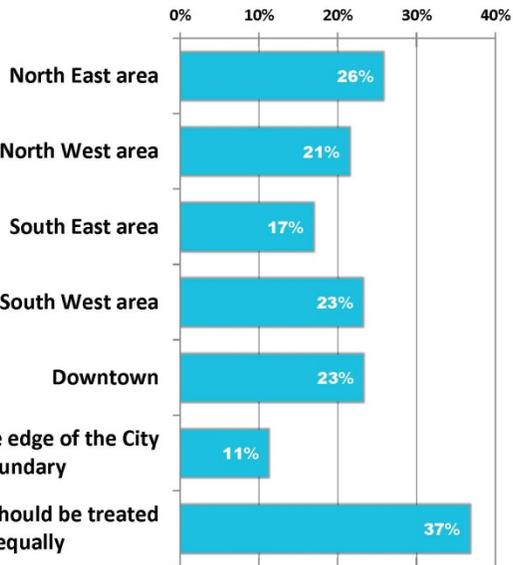
14. Would you support a discounted water rate for the City Parks Department irrigation water if it meant an increase in City-wide water rates resulting in an increase in the average homeowner monthly bill? *(select one):*



15. What are the most important reasons for the city to acquire open space lands in the future? *(select up to 5):*

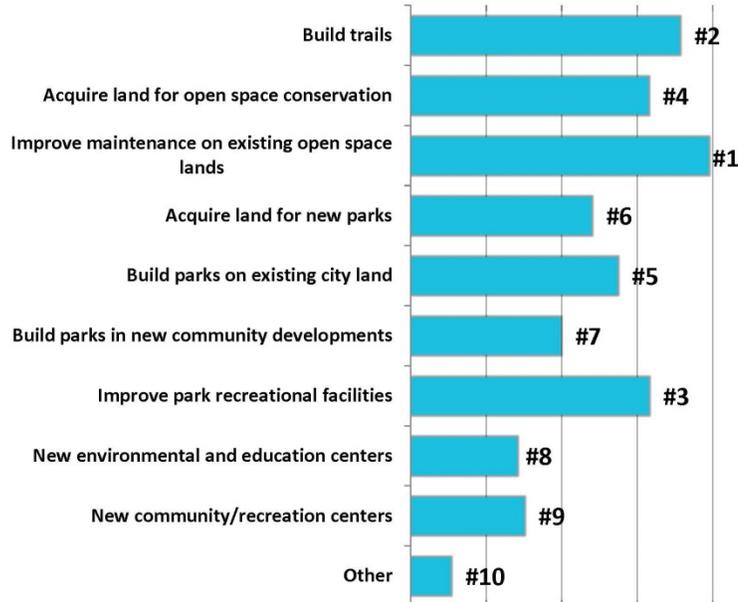


16. Is there a part of the city that more focus/money should be given for parks, recreation, programs, trails, and open space? (select up to two)

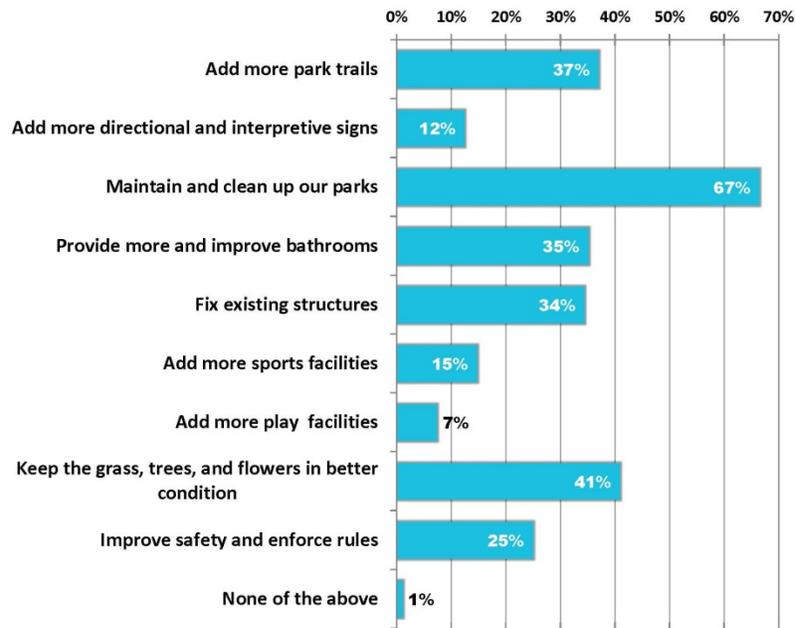


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17. Which of these do you think should be a city priority to invest in over the next 5 years? (select in rank order)



18. What are the most important improvements to existing parks that the city should undertake? (select your top 3):



Major Issues for the Master Plan to Address

1. Insufficient and uncertain funding
2. Parks structures and facilities in poor condition or lacking
3. Natural and historic resource conservation, restoration and management needs
4. Gaps in the trail system
5. Some parks are loved to death (over used)
6. Flood, fire, and drought impacts
7. Lack of public awareness about the importance of parks, trails, and open space
8. High cost of water for park maintenance
9. Safety concerns and park rule enforcement needed
10. City needs to understand resident priorities, needs, and expectations for programs and facilities

VISION

- Face our financial challenges
- Create a predictable and determined method to fund operations.
- Address deferred maintenance and improvements
- Address population growth and changing demographics with new parks, services, and recreation opportunities.

VISION

- Expand mountain and nature-based recreation opportunities
- Link trails to complete connections to recreation hubs such as the Legacy Loop and a Grand City Loop
- Fill the gaps in the city open space ring
- Create urban greenway opportunities for public open space and trails

VISION

- Promote tourism and economic development
- Strengthen safety and security
- Recognize the civic purpose of arts, culture and city design
- Champions of the outdoors; a city caring for nature and community health

Master Plan Key Themes

1. Take Care of What We Have
2. Diversify Financial Strategies including New Methods of Funding
3. Broaden, Enhance and Promote Recreation Opportunities
4. Build our Community on the Foundation of Parks, Open Space, and Trails Creating Great Neighborhoods
5. Continue Open Space Conservation in Advance of Development
6. Manage Parks for Better Usability and Greater Enjoyment
7. Enhance and Formulate Strong and Broad Partnerships

1. Taking Care of What We Have

Park Maintenance, Operations and Care

Overview: deferred maintenance, structural repairs and replacements

Recommendations:

1. Address the eminent structural failures with a capital cost plan
2. Seek a preferential water rate for parks irrigation
3. Increase turf care standards and repair/replace irrigation systems
4. Prioritize recreation facility repairs strategically based on community values (i.e. sports facilities, trails, indoor recreation facilities, playgrounds)
5. Comprehensively address the management and care needs of the natural environment and urban forestry



1. Taking Care of What We Have

Fulfilling the City's Commitment to Completing Parks

Overview: Budget constraints have delayed the completion of 5 parks. They are part of the inventory of "what we have"

Recommendations:

1. Re-evaluate individual park plans with neighborhood groups public engagement process to ensure park design plans match actual desires for use, allow for variation in park types and explore low-cost and low maintenance solutions
2. Create opportunities for volunteers to help build parks and install park amenities
3. Seek material donations from building supply companies
4. Apply for grants to fund park creation (health organizations, nature-based exploration parks)
5. Create more Friends Groups to address fundraising and volunteer needs for neighborhood parks



1. Taking Care of What We Have

Addressing Floods, Fires, and Drought

Overview: Address past impacts and prepare to mitigate future emergencies.

Recommendations:

1. Rebuild and open trails. Seek alignments with avoidance of hazards
2. Fire mitigation partnership with land managers, utility providers, and public safety officials, and State Parks
3. Work with natural resource managers of wildlife habitat to be balanced with management for fire, floods, and drought
4. Provide education and enforcement to address unintentional forest fire-starts and arson
5. Form stormwater, floodplain, and vegetation management partnerships with flood control districts, watershed managers, public works, ditch companies and other land managers
6. Change policies and implement to allow stormwater management lands to include trail and recreation use
7. Implement recommendations for greenway management
8. Reduce park dependency on water resources

3. Broaden, Enhance and Promote Recreation Opportunities

Proposed Trails and Improvements

Overview: well loved and well used trail system, focus on critical connections

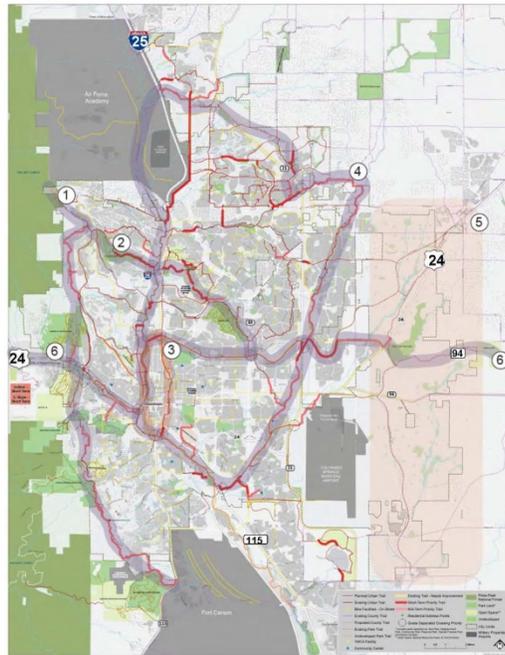
Recommendations:

1. Repair and maintain existing trail assets
2. Complete the Legacy Loop Trail
3. Complete the Grand City Loop
4. Complete critical grade separated crossings to enhance connectivity throughout the city
5. Visualize the East / West Connectors
6. Create a destination Mountain Bike center
7. Ensure a variety of trail tiers – primitive to urban are accommodated along the city's eastern edge
8. Create higher visibility with improved signage for the proposed loops

3. Broaden, Enhance and Promote Recreation Opportunities

Trails

1. Partnerships to Build on Destination Mountain Biking and Hiking Trails
2. Linking Parks to Peak
3. Legacy Loop
4. Grand City Loop
5. Eastern Recreational Trail Opportunities
6. East to West Connector



3. Broaden, Enhance and Promote Recreation Opportunities

Proposed Trails and Improvements

Summary of Candidate Corridors

Urban Trails	
Trail Status	Miles
Developed**	143.726
Needs Improvement	18.48
Undeveloped - Proposed**	161.43
Short Term	25.08
Mid Term	40.94
Long Term	95.41
Total	305.156
PARK TRAILS	
Closed Trail / Social Trail	2.14
Developed Park Trail	133.6
Undeveloped Park Trails	12.63
Total:	146.23

*Includes 15.6 miles within the Briargate and Norwood Special Maintenance Improvement Districts

**Includes 11.93 miles within the Briargate and Norwood Special Maintenance Improvement Districts of primarily long term priority trails. **Does not include 11.68 miles of El Paso County Trails within Bear Creek Regional Park

3. Broaden, Enhance and Promote Recreation Opportunities

Recreation Planning

Overview: keep up what's working, expand outdoor/nature focused activities, accommodate needs of changing demographics

Potential Recreation Opportunities by District:

<p>Northwest District</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disc Golf • Off-Leash Dog Park • Mountain Bike Park • New Community Park • Outdoor Education Center • Outdoor Sports Court • Skateboard Park • Community Garden • Pickleball 	<p>Northeast District</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Soccer Field • Playground • Disc Golf • Gathering Spaces • Building the Planned Parks • Special Events • Maintenance • Fishing Areas • Off leash Dog Park • Pickleball 	<p>Downtown District</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pickleball Courts • Outdoor Sports Areas • Maintenance/Safety Improvements • Community Garden/Center • Ice Arena • Swimming Facility • Disc Golf • Amphitheater • Off-Leash Dog Park
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3. Broaden, Enhance and Promote Recreation Opportunities

Recreation Planning

Overview: keep up what's working, expand outdoor/nature focused activities, accommodate needs of changing demographics

Potential Recreation Opportunities by District:

Southeast District

- Outdoor Sports Field
- Maintenance/Safety Improvements
- Disc Golf
- Pickleball
- New Community Park
- Fishing Area
- Community Center
- Mountain Bike Park
- Community Garden/Center

Southwest District

- Mountain Winter Sports
- Disc Golf
- Mountain Biking Park
- Maintenance/Rest rooms
- Outdoor Education
- Skateboard Park
- New Community Park
- Swimming Facility
- Rock Climbing

4. Continue Open Space Conservation in Advance of Development

Continue to build on the success of TOPS

Overview: Cornerstone of the community, make strategic acquisitions

Recommendations:

1. Continue to use TOPS funds for its primary role of land acquisition
2. Increase TOPS funding to achieve greater levels of funding support for maintenance.
3. Continue to educate the community on the achievements of TOPS and the role the program plays in park, trail and open space purchases and projects
4. Develop a strategy to renew TOPS and evaluate the threshold the public is *willing to be taxed in support of TOPS well in advance of the sunset.*



4. Continue Open Space Conservation in Advance of Development

Urban Greenways for Public Open Space & Trails

Overview: Allow for infill to occur in appropriate places, direct interior open space needs to greenway corridors

Recommendations:

1. Infill Open Space should be focused towards riparian corridors within the existing fabric of the community, expanding open space along these corridors and linking these areas together creates greenway corridors that serve stormwater needs, enhanced recreational trail experiences, and facilitates wildlife movement.
2. Targeted Corridors include: Black Squirrel Creek, Cottonwood Creek, Mesa Greenway (Park to Peak), Sand Creek, Fountain Creek (towards Manitou and towards Fountain)
3. Evaluate the Drainage Basin Planning / Regulations
4. Evaluate the effectiveness of the Creek Protection Overlay Zone

4. Continue Open Space Conservation in Advance of Development

Filling the Gaps in the Open Space System

Overview: preserve existing natural resources, focus on connectivity

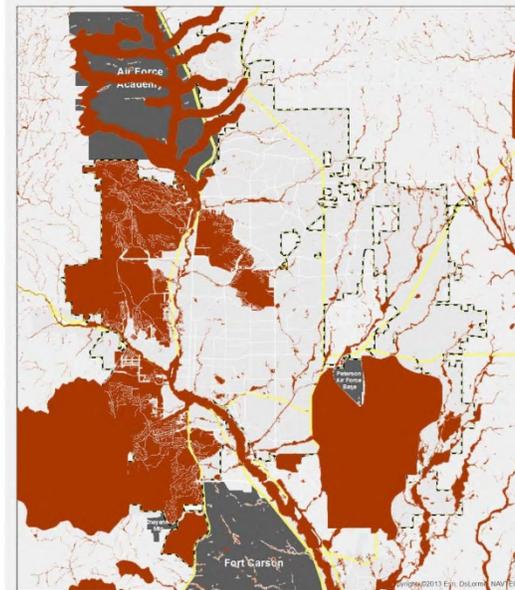
Recommendations:

1. Regional Coordination and continued use of multiple conservation strategies – including increased use of conservation easements
2. Focus areas include: Mountain Shadows, Austin Bluffs, Cheyenne Mountain, Rock Creek, Bluestem Prairie, and Jimmy Camp Creek/Corral Bluffs
3. Protect land around stream corridors with extended buffer lands where habitat has been maintained - Jimmy Camp Creek, Kettle Creek, Black Squirrel Creek

4. Continue Open Space Conservation in Advance of Development

Areas of High Quality Natural Resources Suitable for Nature Based Activity

- Identified in advance of development
- Associated with recreation and/or conservation
 - Wetlands
 - Riparian Areas
 - Floodplain
 - Biodiversity Areas
 - Wild Urban Interface
 - Cultural Resources



4. Continue Open Space Conservation in Advance of Development

Natural Areas Linkages

- Access with regional trails
- Serving people throughout the region

-  City Conceptual Open Space Network
-  Candidate Open Space Area
-  Candidate Greenway Corridor
-  El Paso County Candidate Open Space



4. Continue Open Space Conservation in Advance of Development

Filling the Gaps in the Open Space System

Summary of Candidate Areas

Candidate Area	Acres	Stream Corridor - Areas of Interest	Acres
Mountain Shadows	3,422	Fountain Creek	459
Austin Bluffs	334	Black Squirrel Creek	166
Bluestem Prairie	5,121	Cottonwood Creek	662
Mesa Valley	245	Kettle Creek	260
Jimmy Camp Creek / Corral Bluffs	4,326	Lower Jimmy Camp Creek	3,349
Rock Creek	155	Monument Creek	159
TOTAL	13,603	Pine Creek	151
		Sand Creek	2,398
		Smith Creek	409
		TOTAL	8,011

4. Continue Open Space Conservation in Advance of Development

Balancing recreation and natural resource protection

Overview: Palmer's spirit and legacy of conservation, pressure for more active uses

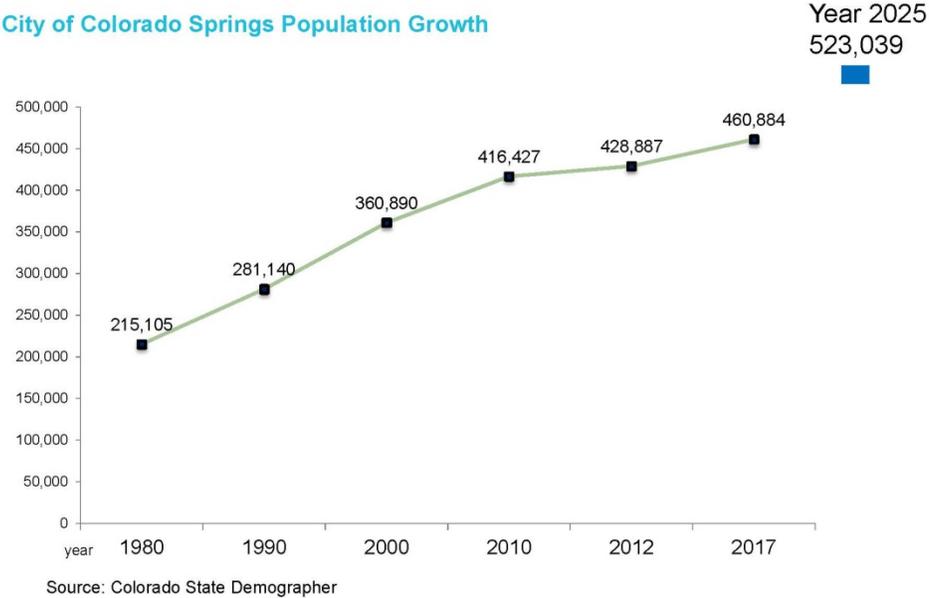
Recommendations:

1. Conservation and preservation remain the primary purpose for open space acquisitions, where possible provide trails for walking, hiking, biking and nature observation in a manner that does not degrade the natural environment
2. Evaluate existing park trails to ensure that loops of varying distances are provided for and connectivity is achieved on officially designated trails
3. Develop master plans for all open space
4. Use signage and informative campaigns to communicate rules and leave no trace ethics.



5. Build our Community on the Foundation of Parks, Open Space, and Trails Creating Great Neighborhoods

City of Colorado Springs Population Growth



5. Build our Community on the Foundation of Parks, Open Space, and Trails Creating Great Neighborhoods

Creating new parks within the development process

Overview: Current requirements for amount of parks are appropriate. The cost to the city to build and maintain parks is unsustainable.

Recommendations:

1. Create a new policy to address neighborhood park development costs by imposing an impact fee or requiring developers to complete park construction.
2. Quantify the financial benefits to residential and commercial development related to park access and infrastructure to make a case for why parks are good for our community.
3. Evaluate the appropriate amount of impact fee based on sustainable practices of benchmark communities and solicit input from developers to seek support in adoption of a new policy
4. Create a new development impact fee for regional sports facilities and regional and community parks.

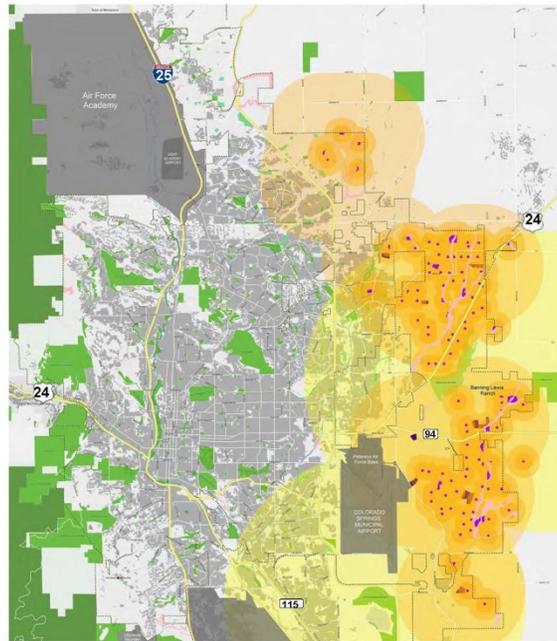


Master Plan Principles

Park Function and Size Hierarchy

- Created primarily through the land development process and dedication
- Connections from neighborhoods to parks through trail corridors and safe routes

- Future Neighborhood Parks
- Future Community Parks
- Future Open Space
- Future Neighborhood Parks - .25 Mile Buffer
- Future Neighborhood Parks - .5 Mile Buffer
- Future Community Parks - 2 Mile Buffer
- Regional Parks (Eastern) - 5 Mile Buffer

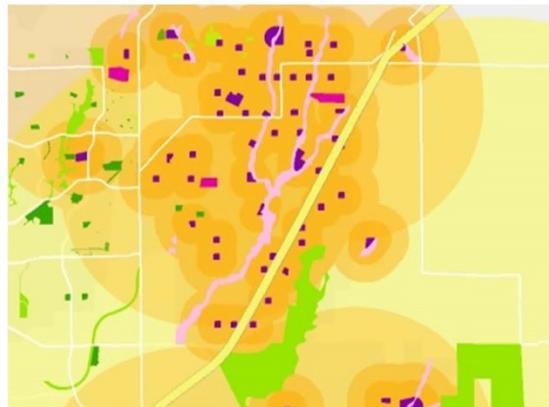


Master Plan Principles

Park Function and Size Hierarchy

- Foundation of great neighborhoods and community building

- Future Neighborhood Parks
- Future Community Parks
- Future Open Space
- Future Neighborhood Parks - .25 Mile Buffer
- Future Neighborhood Parks - .5 Mile Buffer
- Future Community Parks - 2 Mile Buffer
- Regional Parks (Eastern) - 5 Mile Buffer



6. Manage Parks for Better Usability and Enjoyment

Park Facility Improvements

Overview: Need to improve parks that are experiencing overuse, provide essential amenities, remove litter

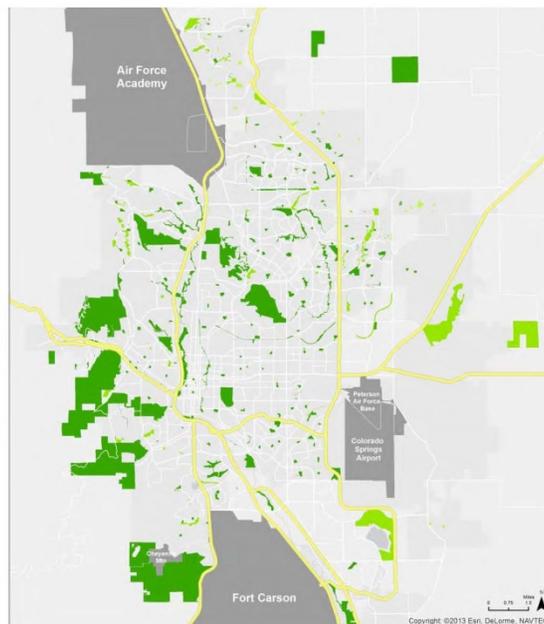
Recommendations:

1. Individual park evaluations include participation from the surrounding neighborhoods to plan for parks that address recreation needs.
2. Ensure that ADA access requirements and special needs of both old and young are accommodated
3. Build and reopen restrooms at trail heads and community and regional parks.
4. Prioritize maintenance of parks that are most in need of maintenance and that receive the most use (Acacia Park, Palmer Park, Memorial Park, Monument Valley Park) - improving these areas will provide visible changes that will help to generate community support

6. Manage Parks for Better Usability and Enjoyment

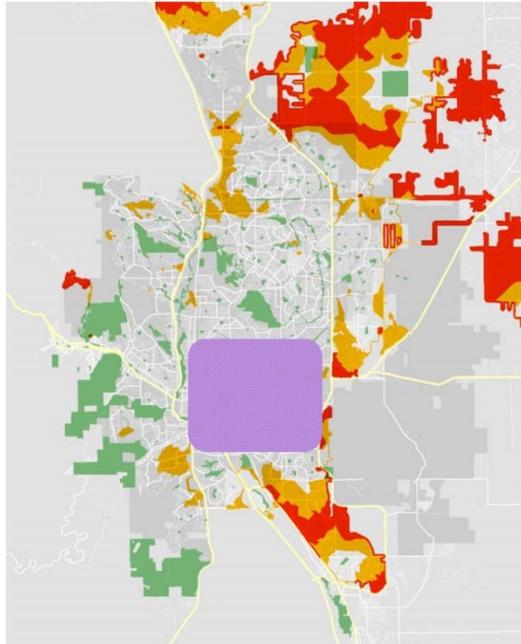
Existing Parks

- Individual Park Evaluations
- Facility Updates
- Management Policies



6. Manage Parks for Better Usability and Enjoyment

Areas of the city with service gaps or unique demographic characteristics require further evaluation for existing parks, facilities, and program needs



Parks, Recreation, Trails & Open Space Master Plan

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Information is available on website at springsgov.com/parks/masterplan.

Citizen Discussion

Bill Koerner:

- Extolled the plan as a very visionary concept for a trails system to connect open spaces.
- Commended everyone for a great plan.

Adjournment

Motion – To enter a Closed Executive Session to discuss land acquisition and sensitive negotiation strategies.

Kirk Samelson/Jason Alwine

Approved – Unanimous

The Working Committee entered a Closed Executive Session at 9:40am and finished at 9:47am. There being no further business, the Working Committee adjourned at 9:47am