

# *Red Rock Canyon Open Space*

**Interpretive Plan**



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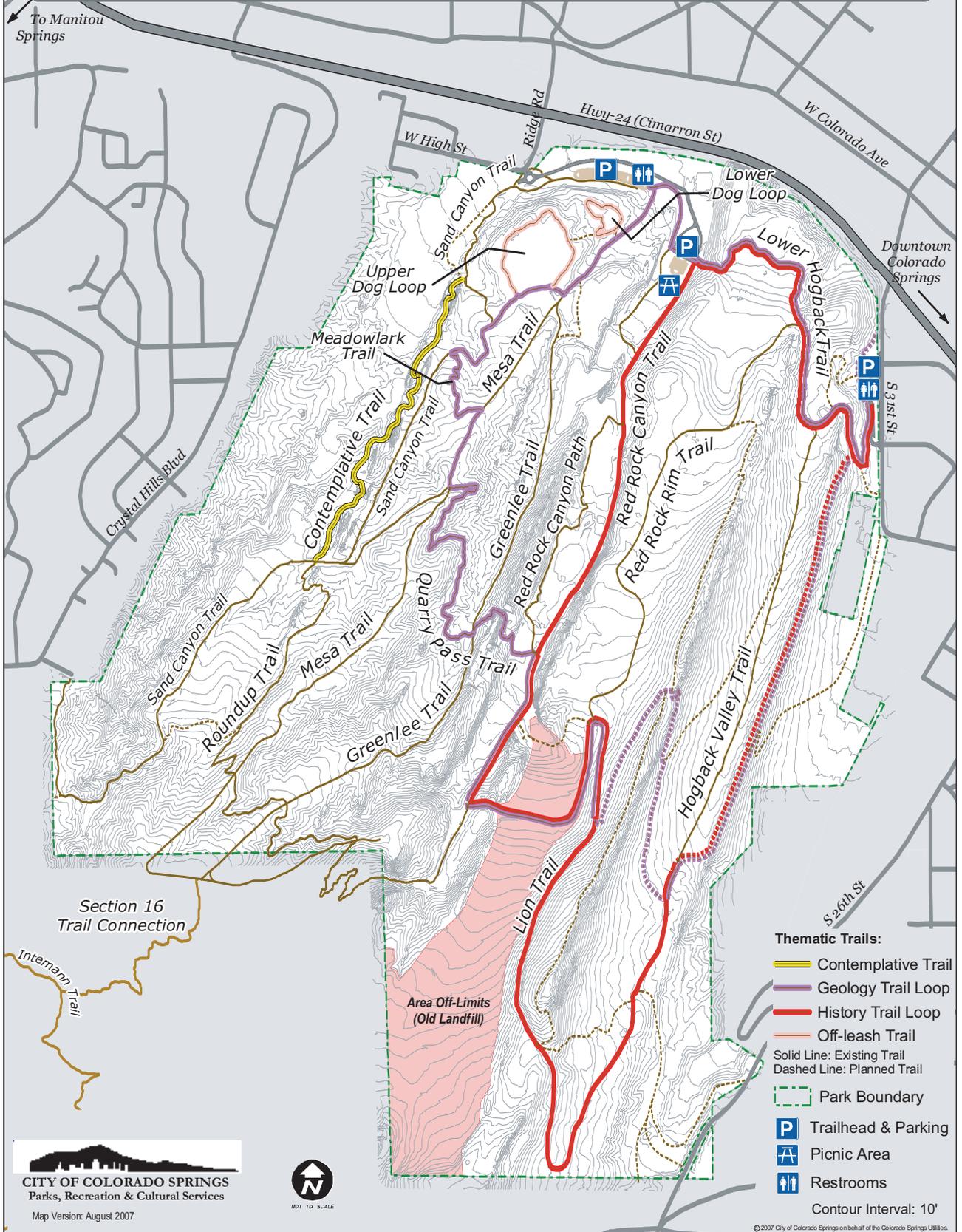
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**CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS  
 PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

# Red Rock Canyon: Master Planned Trails



CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS  
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services  
Map Version: August 2007



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# Introduction

Red Rock Canyon Open Space consists of 789 acres of land located on the western edge of Colorado Springs. It is situated at the interface between the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains. Here, a series of hogbacks expose layers of sedimentary rock that have been turned upward at the base of Pikes Peak. Canyons run between the hogbacks and provide shelter for a variety of plants and wildlife, while the rocks of the hogbacks form colorful backdrops of salmon, gold, and other shades.

Red Rock Canyon has hosted a variety of human endeavors over time. Among these are several quarry sites, where sandstone was extracted from the vertical fins and gravel mines in the valley portions of the eastern half of the property. A large landfill operation was closed and sealed off in 1986, at the southeast end of the property. Other

activities on the site included a campground and a number of mobile-homes sited throughout the lower portions of the property and along 31st Street.

Several ambitious plans in the past for resort development of the property never materialized. A large-scale model of the site showing high-rise towers, convention facilities, a golf course, and schematic drawings, are all that remain of this dream.

The site was in private ownership until 2003, when it was acquired by the City of Colorado Springs as open space. Acquisition was accomplished with funds from TOPS (Trails Open Space and Parks), GOCO (Great Outdoors Colorado), and conservation trust funds. The land was divided into five separate tracts, and each track has specific restrictions as to how it can be utilized.

*To see a world in a grain  
of sand,  
And a heaven in a wild  
flower,  
Hold infinity in the  
palm of your hand,  
An eternity in an hour.*

– William Blake



# Topography

The dominant topographic features of Red Rock Canyon are a series of ridges or hogbacks trending from north to south through the site. These are the result of bedded sedimentary rock strata that were upturned during the formation of the Rocky Mountains. Differential weathering of the strata has resulted in a series of ridges and valleys as the softer material eroded away. The third canyon in this series is known as Red Rock Canyon. It is the heart of the site and gives the property its name. Red Rock Canyon contains many of the site's unique cultural features, including large quarries cut into the sandstone ridge that forms the western wall of the canyon. A small cave is contained within the sheer sandstone of the eastern wall. The Bock Residence, with its associated outbuildings, ponds, and large lawn area, is located within the lower portion of Red Rock Canyon. Valleys between these ridges carry water from higher ground south and west of the site through the open space. Some of this water collects in reservoirs constructed by previous owners. In some places, the valleys are fairly steep in their northward descent towards Fountain Creek. There are five primary valleys on the property, each one a bit larger and more vegetated moving from east to west. The first two are not named at present, but the names Wild Horse and Gypsum may have been applied to them in the past. The next three are known today as Red Rock, Greenlee, and Sand Canyons.

Each canyon offers a different and unique experience for the visitor. The easternmost valley has mostly low vegetation, resulting in an open character that allows the eroded limestone rocks of the adjacent ridges to show prominently. This canyon and its ridges harbor some of the site's more unique flora.

Moving to the west across the site, the next canyon is the most altered of the four. Reportedly once deeply cut and densely vegetated along its bottom, it has been mined extensively for gravel and later filled in with a sanitary landfill. This operation ceased in 1986 and the landfill was sealed. Monitoring

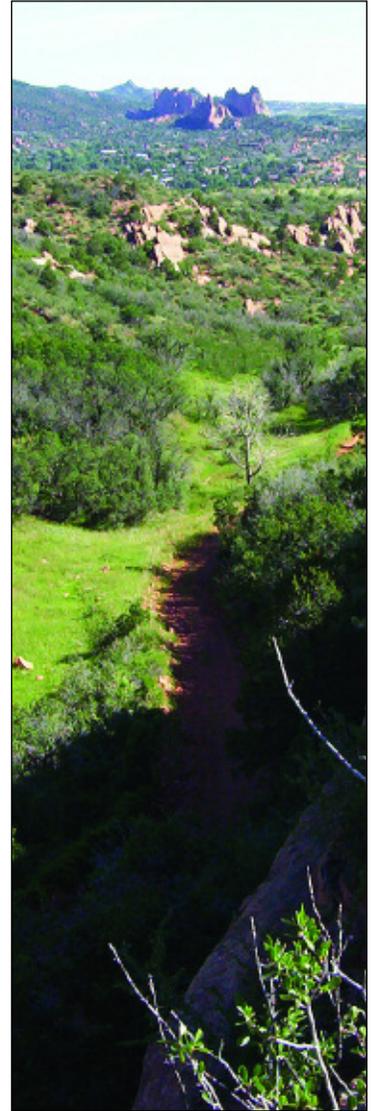
of the landfill and other restrictions are required until at least 2020. North of the landfill, gravel has been extracted and the area reclaimed with grassland vegetation.

The third canyon in this series is known as Red Rock Canyon. It is the heart of the site and gives the property its name. Red Rock Canyon contains many of the site's unique cultural features, including large quarries cut into the sandstone ridge that forms the western wall of the canyon. A small cave is contained within the sheer sandstone of the eastern wall. The Bock Residence, with its associated outbuildings, ponds, and large lawn area, is located within the lower portion of Red Rock Canyon. The core features of this structure, the rock walls and chimneys, will be preserved when the house is converted into an open air pavilion.

West of Red Rock Canyon is a rolling area with sandstone outcrops and ridges, known as Greenlee Canyon. West of that is Sand Canyon. Sand Canyon is the least disturbed of the canyons, and is densely vegetated along its bottom and sides. The west wall of Sand Canyon forms the boundary between the open space and Manitou Springs, and is a rugged collection of sandstone outcrops and dells.

Elevations on the site range from a low point of 6,130 located at the northeast part of the site, to a high point of 6,740 at the ridgeline on the hogback in the southeast part of the site. South and west of the site, the land rises steeply, culminating at the summit of Pikes Peak, approximately 9 miles away.

The natural topography has been significantly altered in many places on the property. Roads have been cut, diversions and conveyances for water have been constructed, and both mining and landfill operations have occurred. An area along the northern edge has been significantly altered by cut-and-fill operations that resulted in a steep cut bank paralleling the Highway 24 right-of-way, with a wide level plain on some 20 feet or more of fill in between the bank and the highway.



# History

According to an archaeological study prepared by Snyder, et al in February of 2004, the earliest evidence of human occupation of the Red Rock Canyon site comes from projectile points found there that appear to be from the Archaic Stage, which dates from 7000 years B.P. (before present) up to 250 AD. Archaeological evidence from the Garden of the Gods, a short distance north of Red Rock Canyon, dates to 6,000 B.P. Given the proximity to Fountain Creek and the abundance of deer and other wildlife found at Red Rock Canyon, it is likely that this site has offered food and shelter to humans throughout the habitation of the region.

The period from 100 AD until 1725 AD is known as the Later Prehistoric Stage.

Although the only official record of prehistoric use of the site is a small lithic scatter near the heart of the property, it is known that many American Indian tribes were present throughout the Pikes Peak region. The Jicarilla Apache and the Utes both

considered Pikes Peak and other nearby sites to be sacred.

In the late 1800s the canyons yielded building supplies used in the settlement of Colorado City and the communities of Colorado Springs, Manitou Springs, Fountain, and others. Gypsum and building sand were mined from the upper reaches of the site, and significant quarrying of the large ridge of sandstone running through the middle of the site occurred up until the very early 1900s.

A quarrying operation into the massive Kenmuir Sandstone formation was owned by the Greenlees of Denver. The Kenmuir Quarry site was a bustling operation, running seven days a week, and supporting offices, a boarding house, numerous cottages, and several buildings for machinery, livestock, shops, forges, etc. A rail line carried the quarried stone from Red Rock Canyon to be used in buildings throughout the region. The quarry closed in the early years of the 20th century due to declining demand, as building stone was replaced with concrete and steel.



Photo courtesy Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum

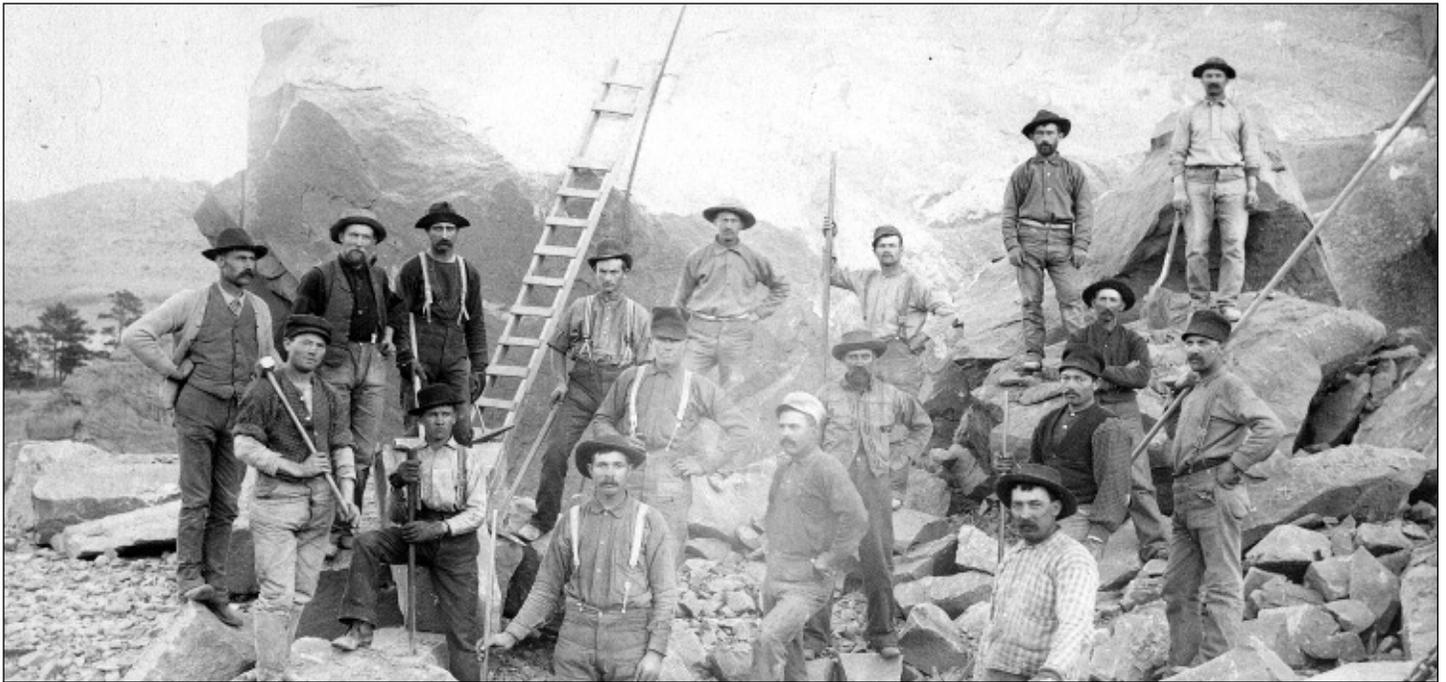


Photo courtesy Colorado Springs  
Pioneers Museum

On the eastern edge of the site was the Colorado-Philadelphia Reduction Company mill, which refined ore shipped in by train from the gold mines of Cripple Creek. Opened in 1896, it was the largest mill of its kind in the United States. It operated until competition from the newer and more modern Golden Cycle Mill nearby caused its demise in the early years of the 1900s.

The property now known as Red Rock Canyon was assembled in the 1920s and '30s by John George Bock. He first purchased land near the entrance to Red Rock Canyon and started Roundup Stables to offer horseback rides into the scenic canyons nearby. He eventually purchased several parcels from his neighbors, bringing his spread to a size of 650 acres.

The land that John G. Bock acquired had been severely altered from its natural state. It was pockmarked with mines and quarries and littered with the debris of a half-century of occupation and exploitation. Attempting to mitigate some of this damage, he began to construct water diversions, dams, and other structures to control runoff through the site.

John G. Bock willed the property to his two sons, John S. and Richard Bock, who continued to live there until the late 1900s. The younger Bocks constructed residences and outbuildings in the lower end of Red Rock Canyon. A landfill operation, campground, gravel

quarries, and mobile home rentals were some of the ventures by which they "lived off the land" in Red Rock Canyon. John S. eventually bought out Richard's share of the land. The City of Colorado Springs purchased the property from John S. Bock and set it aside for public use, enjoyment, and protection as Red Rock Canyon Open Space. Strong public support urged the City to take this course of action.

Red Rock Canyon was identified in the City's 1997 Open Space Master Plan for possible acquisition. Support from the Red Rock Canyon Committee, TOPS Working Committee, and Parks Board ultimately led to unanimous support on City Council for the protection of Red Rock Canyon.

Today Red Rock Canyon is heavily used by the public. A master plan for the site was approved in 2003. In accordance with this plan there are now over thirteen miles of developed trails open to the public with another 5 miles yet to come. Also, new parking lots are currently under construction to address the overwhelming demand. In 2007, the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department along with the Friends of Red Rock Canyon hosted a series of public meetings meant to guide the development and implementation of interpretive signs and other educational activities. This document is the result of that effort.

## Red Rock Canyon Master Plan Goals:

- Preserve, protect and enhance the natural, visual and cultural values of the property.
- Facilitate regional connections to trail and open space systems.
- Create a plan that is attainable within a reasonable period of time and budget and is sustainable over time.
- Foster a legacy of stewardship through experience and learning.
- Provide for recreational use and access compatible with the other goals of the Red Rock Canyon Open Space Master Plan.

*Climb the mountains  
and get their good  
tidings.*

*Nature's peace will flow  
into you as sunshine  
flows into trees.*

*The winds will blow  
their own freshness  
into you...*

*while cares will drop off  
like autumn leaves.*

– John Muir

## Interpretive Planning

# Red Rock Canyon Educational Series

The City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department, in collaboration with the Friends of Red Rock Canyon, initiated the interpretive planning process for Red Rock Canyon Open Space in 2007. The interpretive master planning team developed a series of public meetings to educate the community about the history, natural resources and abundant interpretive possibilities of Red Rock Canyon. Five evening events were held at the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum. They were publicized through press releases generated by the City's Public Communications office and widely distributed with the help of the Friends. The series was exceptionally well attended, with an average of 174 people participating in each event. The evening programs lasted two hours and featured two 30-minute lectures on that night's topic. This was followed by a discussion and public input session meant to guide the development and methodologies for interpretation. A summary of these discussions and the public's input follows.

## Project Principles

Guidelines for planning meetings and the Interpretive Master Plan were established and include:

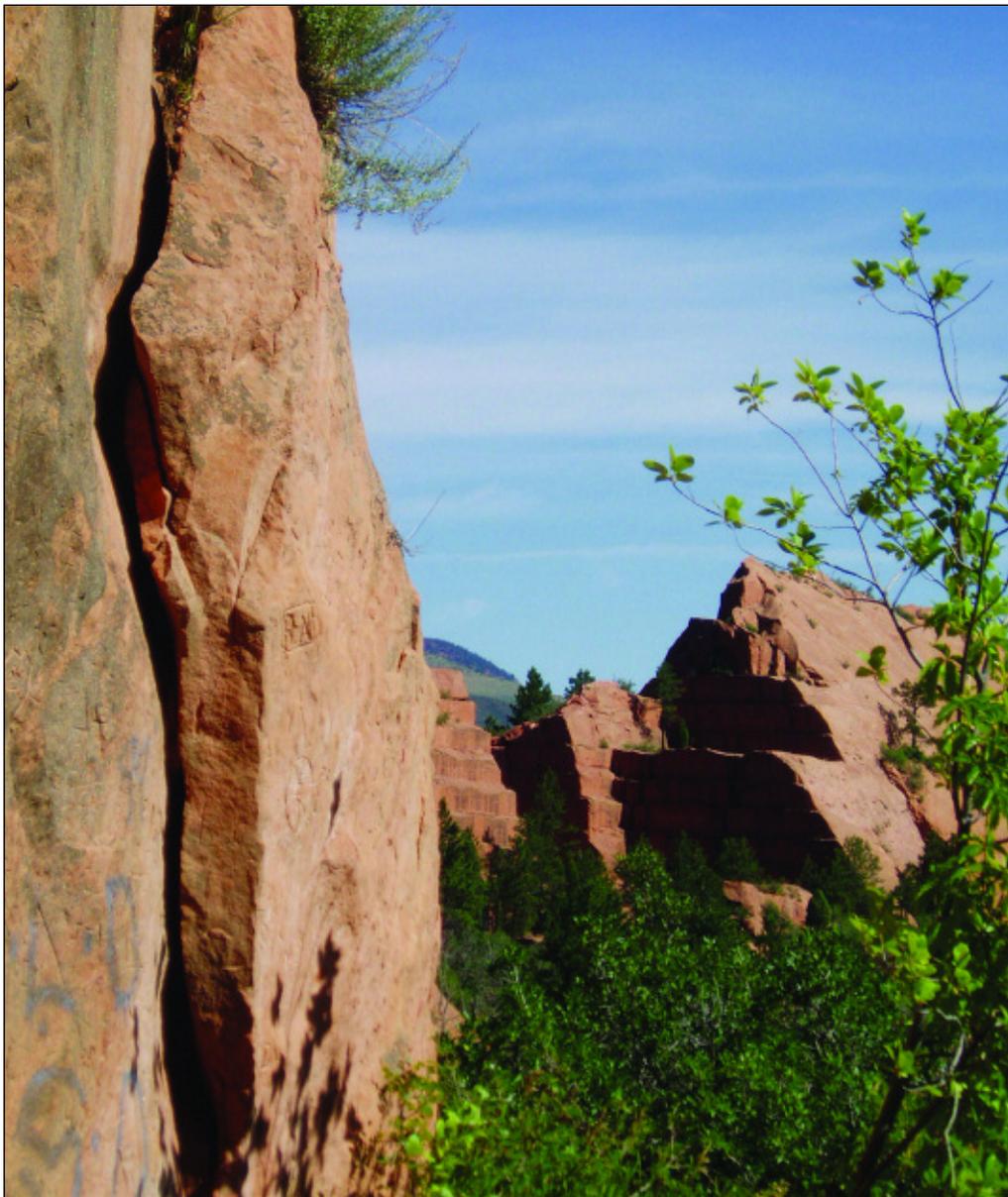
- ◆ The Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Master Plan must be consistent with the goals in the adopted Red Rock Canyon Master Plan.
- ◆ Because of City budget constraints, full implementation of the Interpretive Master Plan may be phased in over multiple years.
- ◆ The process to develop the Interpretive Master Plan is open to all who are interested and all voices will be considered equally.
- ◆ The Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board will make the final decision on the Interpretive Master Plan.

## Schedule of Sessions and Speakers

<b>July 12</b>	<b>History of Red Rock Canyon</b> "History Along the Hogbacks" – Don Ellis "Mills and Railroads" – Mel McFarland
<b>July 26</b>	<b>The Geology</b> "The Geology" – Mark Izold "The Paleontology" – Sharon Milito and Mike Poltenovage
<b>August 16</b>	<b>Native Cultures</b> "Archaeology of the Pikes Peak Region" – Bill Arbogast "American Indians of the Pikes Peak Region" - Celinda Kaelin
<b>August 23</b>	<b>The Biology of Red Rock Canyon</b> "Plant Ecology of Red Rock Canyon" - Don Ellis "Wildlife of the Pikes Peak Region" Wild Forever Foundation- Elaine Web and Annette Kohnert
<b>September 13</b>	<b>Interpretive Concepts</b> Presentation of responses from all sessions Presentation of innovative interpretive tools Discussion and deliberation

# ***Interpretive Topics of Significant Interest***

- ◆ **Geology**
- ◆ **History**
- ◆ **American Indian History**
- ◆ **Paleontology**
- ◆ **Preservation and protection of Red Rock Canyon Open Space**



# Verbatim Responses by Question

## **1** *What did you hear tonight that you believe is most important for Red Rock Canyon visitors to know?*

**Date:** July 12, 2007

**Subject:** History and Mills/Railroads



### **About the Canyon Itself**

- That it is a new open space we as citizens can shape and be a part of
- That the Canyon is open every day to be appreciated by all
- That the Canyon has a long and interesting history
- How fortunate we are to have this Park
- The importance of such a jewel for Colorado Springs to inherit
- That the project principles are being carried out with much care and cooperation
- The history of dinosaurs and fossils
- Past history
- The very interesting story of the place
- All of the information Don Ellis included in his talk—"History Along the Hogbacks"
- Most of the presentation was general to the Colorado Springs area and excellent for residents of Colorado Springs. Visitors to Red Rock Canyon, however, will probably be more interested in the specifics of Red Rock, e.g. the Bock House, etc.
- History of the mines and railroad are probably not known by most who visit

### **Geology**

- Geology
- Geology
- Geology of the area
- I am more interested in the geological history than the human history of this area. Hence the mills, etc. was not as interesting. I didn't know about the landfill issues

### **History**

- That there is a long history to the Canyon and how it was formed and the many uses of the rock
- That there is a long history to the Canyon
- History of the area
- The entire history of the Canyon. The significance of the quarries, the Indian history; significance of economic—early Colorado
- The history of the Indians, the quarries, the mills and railroads
- The history of the Bock boys and their family life. Plans of the hotel, golf course and what the family visioned for the property—luckily it is in the best interests of the public to all enjoy and protect this beloved, historic, beautiful area
- Historic importance
- History

### **American Indians**

- Native American history
- The existence of Native American structures
- Native American land uses
- Indian artifacts and dwellings
- Indian artifacts
- The bracelets and the carrion. I learned people have been in the area since ancient times and that there are sites still visible today of that early occupation of the area

### **Preservation and protection**

- Need for preserving for future
- That the area is not 'pristine' but has been reclaimed from industrial exploitation, and that it can still be improved
- Its vulnerability
- Need to preserve past history

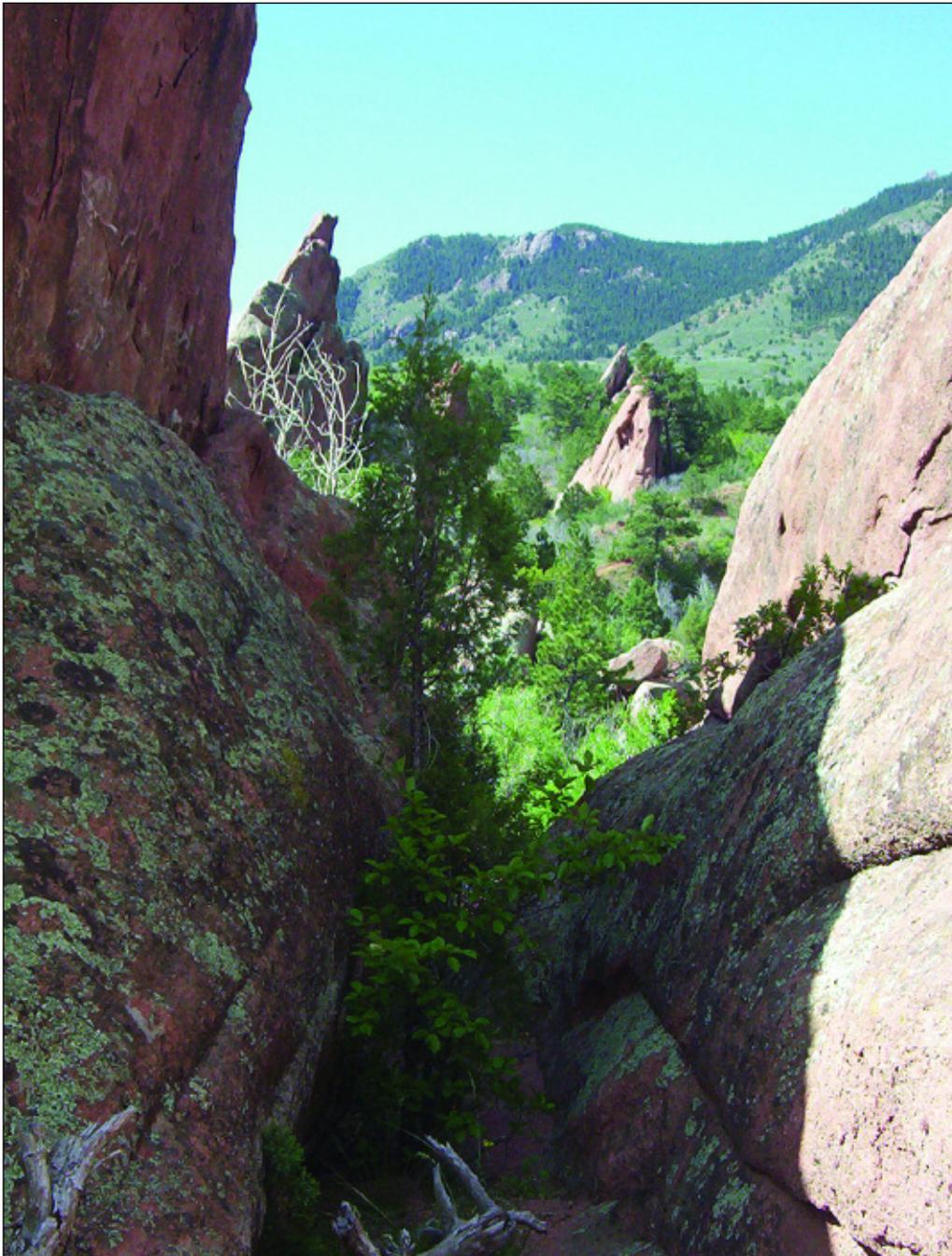
## Quarries

- History and operation of the quarries
- Where all the mills and quarries were and when they were in use
- Information about the quarries. Basically is the background and information about what I'm seeing as I hike

## Other

- The history, pre-history, the use—everything
- Everything—geology, archeology, history of 'modern' use of the land, etc.

- How the Park and its resources were utilized both by the Indians (most interesting) and later for settlement and development
- It is a work in progress, with an opportunity for input to the evaluation of the open space
- Man's impact on the area
- Archeological information
- Conversion of Bock House (immediate). That the City and Red Rock Foundation are both working together to make this area a first class recreational area
- Development of interpretive trails



*Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you.*

**– Frank Lloyd Wright**

# Verbatim Responses by Question

### 1 *What did you hear tonight that you believe is most important for Red Rock Canyon visitors to know?*

**Date:** July 26, 2007

**Subject:** Geology and Paleontology

#### Geology

- I enjoyed the history of what the world looked like during these periods
- Geologic history and how the rocks were formed to make the Park so beautiful and unique
- Geological history
- The variety of environments represented at Red Rock Canyon
- Geology of North America
- Comparison to the Grand Canyon

- Repeated coverage by seas
- Source of Pikes Peak. Guts of volcano
- Geologic history
- That Red Rock Canyon is an important part of the natural history of North America and planet earth and not just a pretty City park
- The amount of geologic history represented
- The geologic history
- Life adapts to geology
- That RRC is a very rich geologic area
- Very interesting. However, disappointed the Red Rock Canyon and tonight's speakers all proclaimed evolution / "billions of years" as fact. Evolutionary geology is still a theory! In fact, there is very strong evidence that the geologic and fossil records much better support a young earth, not old earth! People who visit Red Rock Park should hear this!
- The rich geologic history
- The geology
- The broad range of geologic history found in the park
- Geology
- The richness of the park in terms of the geologic record (as well as the natural beauty of the open space)
- Paleozoic / Mesozoic earth history
- The geology is fascinating
- Geology of Red Rock Canyon, especially pictures of the environment of deposition
- Geology
- The many cycles through sea, shore, and land that created the many different layers
- The fact that there is such a broad range of geology
- The multitude of geologic examples on site
- The age and ability to see the formation of this land
- Colorado Springs used to be quite



- close the equator
- Historical formation
- Environment
- Rich geology
- The fascinating story of geology immediately visible to visitors to Red Rock Canyon. The paleontological story is equally exciting but also problematic
- Geology
- How ridges formed
- The maps as they relate to timelines
- Picture interpretations of eras
- How much history is revealed, even more than the Grand Canyon
- The remarkable spread of time visible in the Garden of the Gods and Red Rock Canyon
- Program was very good. Information on the various periods and environments (photos you showed) would be good
- That we have rocks spanning 300 million years
- The age of the Canyon
- Recognizing time zones in rocks or what the land looked like during the time zones
- Just how old the Canyon is
- Span of time revealed—300 million years
- Overall age of the material
- How old the rocks are
- The geologic time connected to Colorado Springs. Using the artwork from Ancient Denvers is very helpful to understanding the paleo-environment
- Age
- Number of periods / years represented
- Long time span represented there
- The fact that Red Rock Canyon is comparable to Grand Canyon in its geologic importance—300 million years!!!
- The vast time expanse the rocks comprise
- The many different time periods showing stages of geologic formations
- The age span of the rocks / formations
- How old the formations are!
- Rock formations
- The huge amount of valuable rock examples—and how fortunate we are to have the park
- How fragile the rocks are
- I was pleased to hear about the

- different types of sandstone, etc.
- How much “history” the rocks contain
- Older rocks on west, newer on east

### **Interpretive program**

- Sign plots pointing out the important geology features (pictures, etc.) on them
- Trails with numbered stops
- We have a great resource that if well displayed could be of great economic value
- Plans for creating signs and interpretive information in the park. Communication avenues
- Variety of things to do, “endurances” of hikes
- The story of the tectonic phases and climate change. The age range of the park—show possibly using a trail, “Path through time” with signage telling of the formation and period of time
- I would like to have signs showing different types of sandstone at the park
- During the talks to visitors I think all the information should be about Red Rock Canyon, Garden of the Gods and a little about the ancestral Pikes Peak. Second talk—paleontology

### **History**

- The huge range of history that is exposed
- The history—the valuable knowledge and interesting facts that Colorado Springs holds
- History
- The various ways people have made use of the Canyon through the years—prehistoric to present

### **Paleontology**

- Rich paleontology
- Paleo-environment
- The animals, plants and paleo-history of the area
- The paleontology and paleo-environmental significance
- Depositional environments and associated paleontology
- The paleontology
- The paleontology of the area
- Paleontology of the park
- The fact that fossils, pre-historic animals are throughout the park



*To me a lush carpet  
of pine needles or  
spongy grass is more  
welcome than the  
most luxurious  
Persian rug.*

**– Helen Keller**

*July 12 - continued on next page*

*Nature teaches more  
than she preaches.  
There are no  
sermons in stones.  
It is easier to get a  
spark out of a stone  
than a moral.*

– John Burroughs

#### **July 12 - continued from previous page**

- Dinos done lived here
- The richness of the paleontology
- Paleontology
- The dinosaur and marine life previously existing in abundance all around the area
- The apparently vast number of fossil finds so far in the Park
- When I walk through the Red Rock Canyon I will look for fossil rock formations
- Fossil information
- The fossils found
- The fossils
- The fossils found in the rock formations
- Presence of fossils—all
- Details in numbers of fossils, etc. located in Red Rock Canyon
- Fossil origins in ancient seas at 280 million years ago. Still here (interpretive master plan necessary)
- Fossil indexing

#### **Preservation and protection**

- Visitors take pictures, look at fossils but leave only footprints in RRC so the beauty and amazement is there for future generations
- How necessary it is to not take any relics from the Canyon
- To stay on the trails and preserve what is there

- Importance of preservation
- For people not to steal the fossils in the rocks so younger generations may look upon them. I think that it is important to label and exhibit as much as possible so that people can learn
- Leaving fossils, rocks, plants in place
- That we represent such an enormous amount of scientific examples to study and preserve!
- The importance of appreciating Red Rock Canyon and not destroying formations by inappropriate climbing, etc.
- To leave fossils alone
- How to preserve everything for people to come see
- Don't take the fossils

#### **Other**

- We have a real treasure here
- Five shark species
- I would have liked to have seen the slides better. The screen was too low
- This park was almost developed without knowing what was there
- Friends of Red Rock Canyon website
- Hard to answer as people come to the park for a variety of reasons
- How many sets of Rocky Mountains have there been?
- Flora, fauna



## Red Rock Canyon Educational Series

# Verbatim Responses by Question

## 1 *What did you hear tonight that you believe is most important for Red Rock Canyon visitors to know?*

**Date:** August 16, 2007

**Subject:** Archeology and American Indians

### Archeology

- Overview of archeology
- People have been in this area over 11,000 years
- Ancient history
- Archeological periods represented in this area
- The length of time humans have been here
- The ages and places of the archeological digs
- Time periods—Bill's information
- Excellent presentation [on archeology]. Would like to learn more in greater depth

### Preservation and protection

- Continue to preserve
- Preservation
- That the area has been disturbed and so it's not in its earlier condition. Visitors need to be taught to respect the land
- Respect signs and trails, geology/ archeology of Red Rock Canyon Open Space

### American Indian History

- Native Americans had sacred sites in this area, near the Red Rock Canyon Open Space
- Pikes Peak is a sacred mountain to the Utes, including their creation story
- Overview of American Indians
- Indian forts on hogback
- How important Pikes Peak is to history of migration of Native Americans
- The tribes that probably occupied the Canyon over time
- What about the matate site that Don Ellis has a picture of? We need more information
- Indian history and lore
- I realize that inclusion of this topic is politically correct. However, the lack

of evidence of their [American Indian] presence can be construed as a sacred place OR that they weren't there to begin with

- That both Red Rock and Garden of the Gods are considered as one place to Utes, et.al.
- Tribe names and dates
- Would like to hear Jan Pettit or better yet, William Roth speak on the subject [of American Indians]. Also Austin Box, Aulden Naranjo and Jack Williams
- I love the stories of the Native Americans
- Indigenous people visited, but did not live in the area
- The fact that pre-Western Native American peoples lived in and around Red Rock Canyon for the past 12,000 years

### Other

- Connection to National Forest and lifestream of wildlife
- Trails built by volunteers (many people still think paid City workers build trails)
- Ecological significance / respect
- I liked all that I heard
- I would like to see information signs throughout Red Rock Canyon



*I will be the gladdest  
thing under the sun.  
I will touch a  
hundred  
flowers and not  
pick one.*

– Edna St. Vincent Millay

## Red Rock Canyon Educational Series

# Verbatim Responses by Question

### **1** *What did you hear tonight that you believe is most important for Red Rock Canyon visitors to know?*

**Date:** August 23, 2007

**Subject:** Wildlife and Biology

#### **Biology/Ecology**

- Native / non-native plants
- The ecological balance **MUST** be maintained in the Canyon. I knew this, but this program was a great reminder of that fact
- The diversity of plants in the area
- Specific identification of plants and animals and the ecosystem
- Ecology of the area—details about animals and plants and what is found there

#### **Interpretive program**

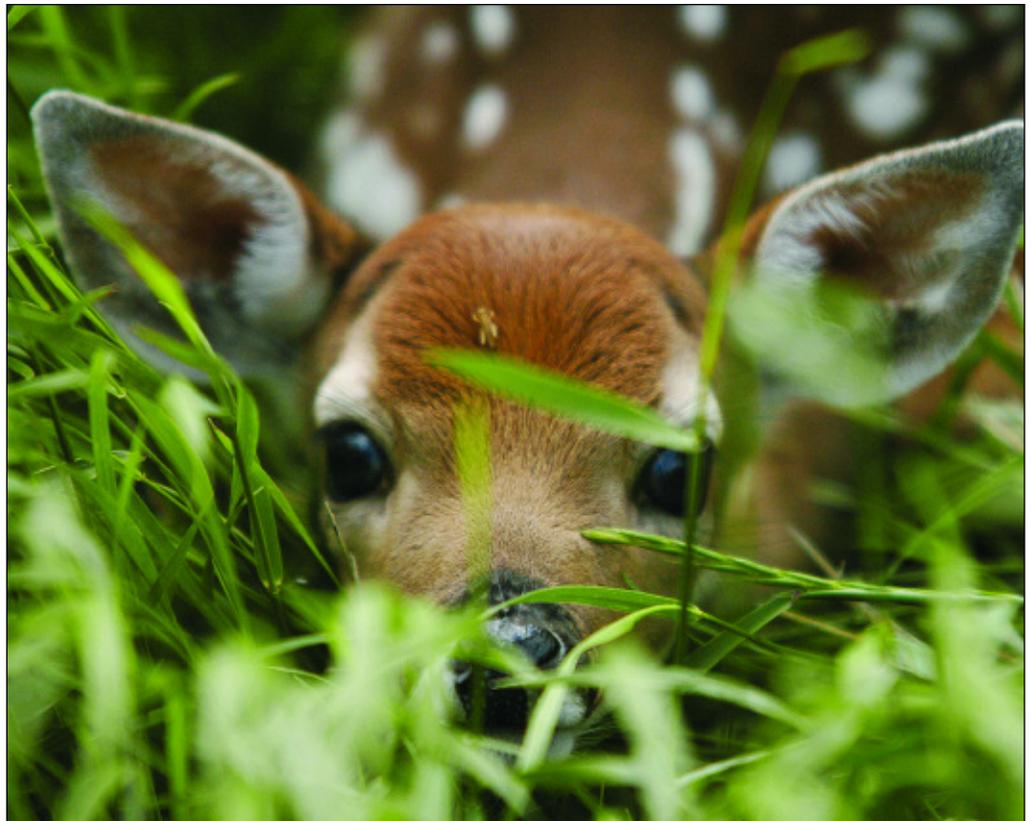
- Everything mentioned. Everything covered in all the lectures needs to be available for visitors to know
- Online available information site

#### **Preservation and protection**

- Preservation of native plants
- Preservation of habitat for animals and birds

#### **Wildlife**

- Fawns are not abandoned
- That a fawn by itself is not necessarily abandoned
- Do not feed the animals!
- Bull snakes eat rattlers!
- There are bear sitings!



# Verbatim Responses by Question

## 2

*What did you learn tonight that excited you most?*

**Date:** August 23, 2007

**Subject:** History and Mills/Railroads

### Bock House

- There is a plan to save the Bock House
- Bock House pavilion
- Early history of the park (and it's always fun to hear about the "developer's" big plans. Too bad that [Mr. Bock's model] wasn't left at the house / garage for viewing as is)
- That you are keeping some part of the Bock building
- Conversion of Bock House (immediate). That the City and Red Rock Foundation are both working together to make this area a first class recreational area
- That the Bock home will be an open-air pavilion

### History

- History
- Use of land through history
- All the history
- All the history related to the Canyon
- All of the information Don Ellis included in his talk—"History Along the Hogbacks"

### Geology

- Geologic history
- Geology
- History of the hogbacks
- That Garden of the God rock formations were once connected to Red Rock Canyon
- Geology, rock formations

### Gold Processing

- Five gold processing plants in the city
- Discussion of gold processing

### Quarries

- The early quarries
- Quarries
- I thought it was very interesting that some quarries got completely taken down
- Quarries
- Links of quarried stone to familiar

buildings like Redstone Castle

- Discussion of quarries
- The overall history of the area
- The quarrying background
- The stones in the quarry (redstone, lion and fountain), Dakota sandstone, limestone, etc. The interrelation between quarry, mills, railroads, growth of Colorado City

### American Indian History

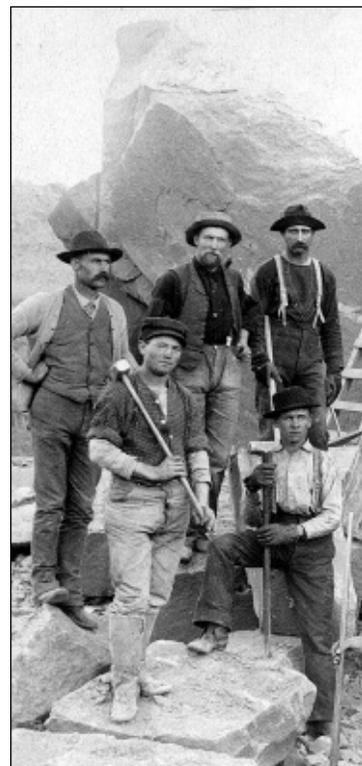
- The 'virgin' sites of artifacts—bracelets and crystals
- More Indian involvement than I was aware of
- Information about Indian activity in the area
- The wonderful old Indian sites can be found
- Indian artifacts
- Indian artifacts, etc.
- The existence of Native American structures
- The intricate uses by Native Americans
- Native American uses of this land
- For Red Rock Canyon specifically, the Indian background

### Preservation and protection

- The extent of reclamation—done and planned
- That the buildings will be utilized as much as possible preserving the sound architecture
- The preservation will increase

### Other

- No plans for a 'visitor center' in the park. No entrance fee in the future
- The human impact on the area
- Many more things to look for when hiking
- The walls built and the areas which may have been used as blinds or guard posts
- The importance of the many mills and railway's influence in the area



# Verbatim Responses by Question

## 2

*What did you learn tonight that excited you most?*

*I only went out for a walk and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in.*

– John Muir

**Date:** July 26, 2007

**Subject:** Geology and Paleontology

### Geology

- Knowing that the different formations are visible
- Geology—labeled slides pictures of Red Rock Canyon
- The rainforest north of Colorado Springs
- That Pikes Peak is an old volcanic magma chamber and that it came way up from deep within the earth
- The coming and going of inland areas
- That we were inland sea
- There used to be a rain forest three miles north
- How much geology / archeology is in Red Rock Canyon
- That the oldest rainforest was north of Colorado Springs
- That Pikes Peak was the interior of a volcano
- Rainforest in Monument
- Former sand dunes, ocean, inland sea and marine life
- Geology
- Rock formations
- I thought it was really interesting that one of the oldest rainforests was in Colorado
- Geology—current rocks; historical development
- That Pikes Peak is the core of ancient volcanoes
- Age and strata of rocks
- The extent of the geologic age in Red Rock Canyon
- The discovery that the reason the climate change occurred was due to the location of the continent relative to the equator at that point in time
- The mud cracks photo explained a format which I saw in Arches National Park
- The photo of Pangaea which showed position of North American relative to the equator
- The seas here
- Geology
- The widely varying environs
- The size of the Appalachians versus Rockies
- The many rock stages
- The knowledge to understand the geology of Red Rock Canyon
- The amazing formations in the park
- That the ocean area was here
- Fault lines shown were interesting
- Geologic history of area
- The tremendous range of observable geologic items, i.e. fossils, rock types, formations, etc.
- I enjoyed all of this. Ongoing and repeat presentations may be of interest to others
- Oldest rainforest few miles north of Colorado Springs
- Overflow of geology
- The history dating back to Pennsylvanian times that is all part of where we live
- Plate tectonics
- The many, many formations in the Canyon
- History of the wonderful rock formations, etc.
- I didn't realize that there was so much natural history available for viewing so close to the Springs
- The amount of geological time represented
- Length of the timeline showing in Red Rock
- Exposed 300,000,000 years of history
- Identifying the time zone
- The geological periods
- The whole content of time, age and mechanisms
- Age of area
- I think understanding how various foundations are representative of differing time periods is invaluable
- Age of Red Rock Canyon Open Space and a great timeline
- The space of geologic time represented

- Three hundred million year time frame
- Environment for different periods
- The age—300,000 years!
- Geologic time span of the park
- The story of the geologic history. The oldest rocks in the park are to the west. They were the bottom of several layers that were tipped up when the mountains rose

### **Interpretive program**

- The research and study being done in the Canyon that is connected to future instruction and display of Canyon finds
- Interpretive information and future plans for the park
- There is, in Colorado Springs, a geologic laboratory site; with visible cross-sections that are like a library. This usually takes miles of walking and mapping, plus interpretation
- That we probably walk past examples of things we saw tonight and don't recognize them for what they are (we will look more closely in the future)
- Teaching potential
- The possibility of a public exhibit
- The potential for a great place for school field trips to study geology that is close by and free besides Garden of the Gods
- Understanding the future possibilities for Red Rock Canyon

### **Paleontology**

- Paleontology—Sharon's pictures make me and my wife want to go there now!
- The paleontology
- The evidence of ancient life available
- Paleontology
- The paleontological aspect was very fascinating; all the samples with fossils were great
- The paleontology
- The presentation on paleontology really opened my eyes
- Evidence of paleontology in park
- The presentation on paleontology really opened my eyes
- The paleontological finds of Sharon Milito and Michael Poltenovage. The dilemma here is how to tell the story and still protect the resource
- The dinosaurs
- All the marine creatures
- Didn't know so many dinosaurs and marine creatures lived here
- Canon City dinosaurs

- Canon City "foot prints"
- That dinosaurs were in Red Rock Canyon and Colorado Springs. Wow!
- Dinos done lived here. If we lived here plenty of million years ago, we would all be eaten anyway
- Clams
- The existence of so many paleo-prints in the rocks in the Park
- The giant clams
- The numerous fossils found in Red Rock Canyon
- Fossils found
- Fossil record that is being discovered
- The amount of fossils available for viewing
- Six-foot clams protecting fish and hosting oysters
- Identifying the fossils
- Fossils available here at Red Rock
- Fossil finds
- Finding fossils!
- Fossils! I will look for them and be more aware of other interesting formations
- The slides and fossil examples
- That there are fossils in real rock
- Fossils at Red Rock Canyon
- Fossils
- To know there were so many fossils
- Fossils
- The large area of fossils
- The fossils
- Evidence of fossils in the park
- The fossils and information were fascinating
- Fossils
- Presence of fossils
- Fossil timelines
- The fossils in the park
- Fossils

### **Other**

- Photos of the area
- Progress to being an open and protected park
- Ongoing research
- Actually nothing new
- Number of folks interested in our new park
- How deeply involved our local talented people are
- Very interesting. Hope to walk in Red Rock tomorrow. Excellent discussion
- Everything!



# Verbatim Responses by Question

## 2

*What did you learn tonight that excited you most?*

**Date:** August 16, 2007

**Subject:** Archeology and American Indians

### Archeology

- That no subsurface investigations have been conducted yet—there is much yet to learn
- The number and quality of archeological excavations in the Pikes Peak area
- Carbon dating in Garden of the Gods
- Existence of hearths and rock out in the area

### American Indian History

- Different tribes in the area
- Indian forts on hogback
- The many Indian tribes of the region
- Where the different tribes were and are located now; how the tribes were split
- Ute connected linguistically to Anasazi
- Anasazi connected to Toltec
- Sixteen million bison; 1,640 horses were taken by Ute
- Shisoni came from Ute
- The nomadic quality of the earliest Indians. The variety of “tribes” who related to our area and the reasons for their shifting territories. The incredible shrinking Indian lands
- Indian lore—Ute creation story
- Indian origins and migrations of different tribes
- The spirituality of the native peoples as related to the red rocks—“mother earth”
- I liked the history of the Native American people
- That both Red Rock and Garden of the Gods are considered as one place to Utes, et.al.
- What impressed me the most (“excited” is the wrong word) is how very little we actually know—or are likely to know—about the details of that presence of these peoples in Red Rock Canyon

### Other

- Overall history
- All excellent
- It was all great
- All was very interesting



# Verbatim Responses by Question

## 2

*What did you learn tonight that excited you most?*

**Date:** August 23, 2007

**Subject:** Wildlife and Biology

### **Biology/Ecology**

- Definition of ecology
- That exotic and native plants will be controlled
- Inter-relationships between geology / plants / animals
- Different species of plants were interesting
- Presentation on plants, flora and the slides were great. Covered all areas. Don's so knowledgeable
- Don Ellis' slide show and talk
- Plant information
- Keeping the Park ecologically sound is the big goal

### **Interpretive program**

- Conversion of the Bock home into a pavilion

### **Preservation and protection**

- That there is a plan in place to make sure the Canyon is well preserved

### **Wildlife**

- Local wildlife foundation
- Learned that there is a wildlife rehabilitator

*I myself am quite absorbed by the delicate yellow, delicate soft green, delicate violet of a ploughed and weeded piece of soil.*

– Vincent van Gogh



## Red Rock Canyon Educational Series

# Verbatim Responses by Question

### 3

**Would you like to know more about this topic?**  
(This question was only asked at the July 12 session)

**Date:** July 12, 2007

**Subject:** Wildlife and Biology

### History and Mills/Railroads

Yes – 18

No – 0

### Comments:

- Everything
- General history of Utes and how they interacted with Red Rock Canyon
- Your scheduled programs seem to fill my needs
- I'll be here in two weeks
- Both parts of tonight's presentation
- Geology
- Definitely
- Your ongoing programs will be helpful
- More photographic documentation
- Am looking forward to lecture next week
- History of Canyon
- I would be willing to pay for an interpretive program on this or other subjects
- Why is the Canyon in the place it is?
- The very early history of the valley as far back as one can go with any kind of documentation photos
- Native American rock art and artifacts
- Interested in more petroglyphs or pictographs. Possible burial grounds
- I belong to the Red Rock Foundation—well informed
- I will stop off at Pioneers Museum for viewing more early photos
- I'll find it in the [Red Rock] Rag

*I love to think of nature as an unlimited broadcasting station, through which God speaks to us every hour, if we will only tune in.*

– George Washington Carver



# Verbatim Responses by Question

## 4 How would you prefer to receive the interpretive information?

**Date:** July 12, 2007

**Subject:** Wildlife and Biology

Interpretive signage on-site	33 mentions
Comments: Signs with a clear cover that could be removed to add updated interpretive information	
MP3 player	5 mentions
Web-based text and images	26 mentions
Cell phone	0 mentions
Printed materials	31 mentions

### Other

- Similar to Stonehenge in England. You can rent audio that is triggered by electronics near the area you are looking at
- Guided interpretive hikes on specific topics
- Self-guided walks where you purchase the booklet guide
- A compilation of all photographs and accompanying narration in one book / booklet would be great
- Printed materials for a small fee at the trailheads with maps, guides for self-education. Return at the end for recycling (similar to national parks in the 1980s)
- Yes, I would be willing to pay for information, programs and hikes
- Printed material: for sale at the site
- Not sure
- I would like to know more about the history of the Bock House!
- I would be most interested in the signage; however, if the use of MP3 player and web text and images would encourage usage by young people, it would be money well spent
- I am very interested in the geology / paleontology!
- Information / pictures presented in chronological order
- Thanks for working so hard on this project!
- I would pay money for interpretive walks, talks, etc. They could be based elsewhere and meet on-site. School programs could be run as well
- Would Friends consider fencing a large area for use with off-leash dogs?
- Like the idea of interpretive guide being available for a small fee.
- As a teacher of excited learners from the Renaissance Academy, I would love to be able to take them on field trips of discovery, particularly on the dinosaur / geologic elements. Hence, interpretive signage and hard copies / maps would help to insure information I gave was accurate. As a teacher, I like the idea of paying a small fee for interpretive guided tours for school groups – this would allow for incorporating ‘new’ information, controlling impact, offering accuracy



# Verbatim Responses by Question

## 4 How would you prefer to receive the interpretive information?

**Date:** July 26, 2007

**Subject:** Geology and Paleontology

Interpretive signage 86 mentions

Comments:

Need for hikers

Best for kids

MP3 player 11 mentions

Web-based text and images 58 mentions

Comments:

Absolutely!

Good for teachers

Cell phone 3 mentions

Printed materials 80 mentions

Comments: Shouldn't this be a community education project?

Chamber of Commerce, visitor center. Kiosks on-site

For sale—yes

### Other

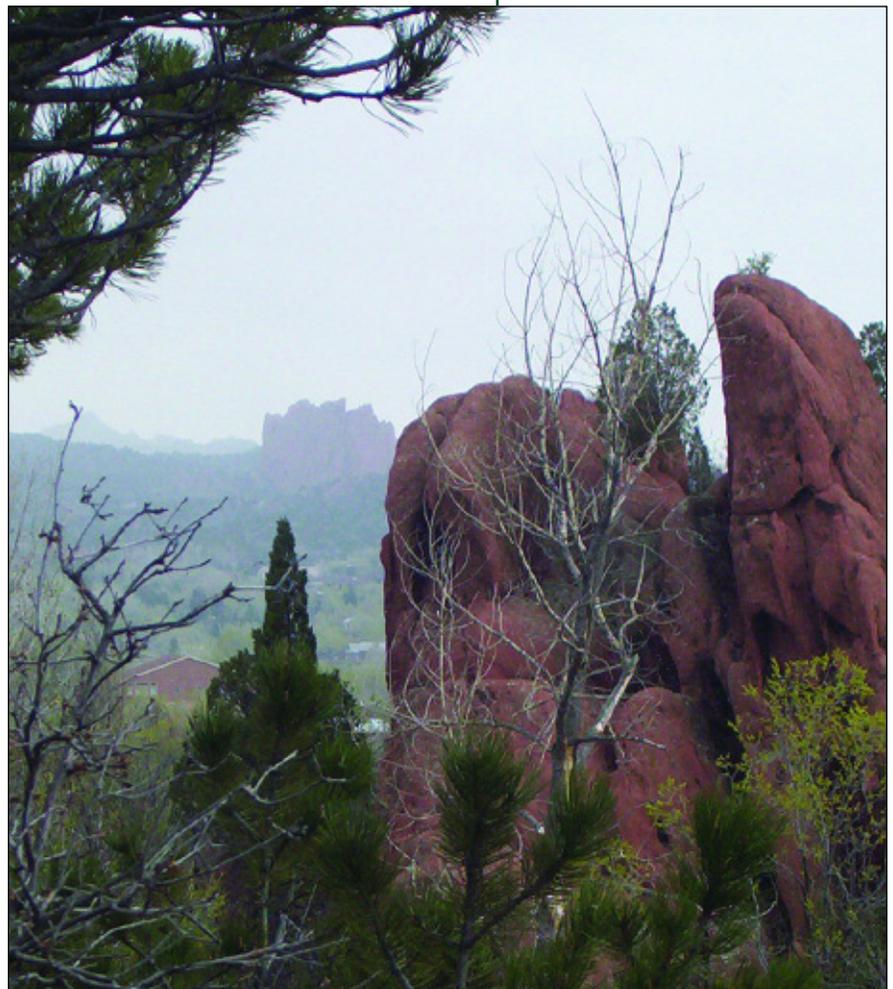
- Sell vials of volcanic ash (Mt. St. Helens does) to raise money
- Use plexi-glass to protect fossils
- Have guided tours
- You are on the right track
- Personalized, behind-the-scenes tours
- Hikes where participants can see fossils in the rocks
- AM / FM short-range transmissions not unlike highway information
- A program like this of the Garden of the Gods would be good
- Need to have a way to preserve items
- Guided walks
- Series in the Gazette would be nice
- As I walk through the Red Rocks please make lots of simple signs showing fossils and rock formations, not long explanations. Please don't take rocks from the Canyon and put them in museums
- Need to see the dinosaur footprints
- Bluetoothed to pocket PCs, for podcast audio / visual
- Perhaps e-books, Blackberry files
- Small numbered signs—before (not directly at) a site with a printed guide one buys or borrows at the Visitor Center. Don't put signs or other signage precisely at a fragile site (fossil or dinosaur footprint) because it draws vandalism. If before a bit
- people will need to read and look—less apt to see damage
- Build interpretive exhibits in the Pioneer Museum
- Interactive recreations of formations with a museum or visitors center that clearly connect Red Rock with each formation
- Guided tours with experts—geologists, paleontologists, etc.
- Videos—like Izold's presentation—improved!
- Computer / TV and 3-D show—as at Garden of the Gods Visitor Center
- Alliances with experts at UCCS, CC, PPCC, Denver Museum, etc.
- Field trips, etc.
- Numbered signs on the ground keyed to printed material
- Optional educational specific material, for example a scavenger hunt, observation-based inquiry
- Better trail markers!
- An east-west trail with the contacts labeled, a trip through time. How many years to a step? (I know it varies with deposition / erosion. Geologic time span is hard to grasp, however it is necessary in order to understand that the "solid earth" is not so solid)
- Paved trails seem to prevent freelance dirt paths from happening. May help protect fossils (railings?)

*The poetry of the earth is never dead.*

– John Keats

- Visitor Center
- Continued lectures
- Guided tours—docents?
- Also might explore performing these talks on an educational TV site, like the local school district or even a PBS program
- Continued publicity of outreach projects such as these lectures
- Pre-Cambrian in Section 16 should be tied in
- Comprehensive book
- I have seen several articles on the park but never knew where it was until the last article. I didn't know it was so close
- Will there be a bird list?
- A book would be nice
- Pamphlet with self-guided walks
- It would be most informative to have a small center to house movies such as the Garden of the Gods Center theater. Markers with descriptions of what to look for on your hike would be beneficial to classes and anyone interested in knowing. Donated money for benches along the trail every one or two miles could be made in memory of loved ones
- People, people, people. Please give us live people to tell us the story in the form of campfires, nature walks and presentations like these
- Guided (park) tours
- A natural museum in the Springs would be fantastic for the area
- Interpretive walks
- Way too much information for signs
- How about a rock garden (quarry?) destination for young children where they would have the opportunity to feel and climb on rocks representative of different types? This could be in a small park setting (rock benches for caretakers?). I think it would make the park enjoyable and visible for the 2 – 5 year-old range. Thanks
- MP3 could be downloadable from the website
- Fascinating—loved the enthusiasm and correlations to Plate Tectonics
- Site maps and pictures on trails
- CD of park and finds
- Not quite sure what is meant by signage. I like talks, a person with knowledge, a place I can gather with others, listen and ask questions. I learn best that way

- I would love to see detailed interpretive signage at the Bock house site telling the geologic story of RRC—much more actual detail than you get at Garden of the Gods. This could include 2 and 3 of Vol. 3, No. 6 of the “Red Rock Rag”. I would also recommend signage along the trails (a la those in Waldo Canyon) identifying specific rock formations. To avoid setting off a fossil hunt, the paleontology story is probably going to have to be handled in more general terms
- Interpretive signage should be at the trailhead and at the Bock house. I think signage along the trails would be too intrusive and would take away from the enjoyment of the natural surroundings



## Red Rock Canyon Educational Series

# Verbatim Responses by Question

### 4 How would you prefer to receive the interpretive information?

**Date:** August 16, 2007

**Subject:** Archeology and American Indians

Interpretive signage	22 mentions
MP3 player	3 mentions
Web-based text and images	12 mentions
Cell phone	2 mentions
Printed materials	14 mentions

#### Other

- Guided walks
- Anxious to read about recent history of Red Rocks Canyon
- Let the Indians build a medicine wheel for all people in Red Rock Canyon Open Space. The Garden of the Goddesses Club would like to do annual support and maintenance of a traditional medicine wheel. Please have Native American Elders do a sacred ceremony to activate the wheel and direct the building. Then the Club would take care of it. (If native Elders don't want to do it, we can guide the process)
- Please do these educational programs every year
- Afraid that signage could be vandalized
- I suspect this part of the Red Rock Canyon story is probably best told by an interpretive sign at a visitor center (or at the revamped Bock house) that simply tells a bit about these peoples and the fact they lived in the region. This would probably be a sign pretty much like the sign at the Garden of the Gods Visitor Center
- Map showing the geologic strata

**Date:** August 23, 2007

**Subject:** Archeology and American Indians

Interpretive signage	14 mentions
MP3 player	2 mentions
Web-based text and images	11 mentions
Cell phone	0 mentions
Printed materials	11 mentions



*The sun, with all those planets revolving around it and dependent on it, can still ripen a bunch of grapes as if it had nothing else in the universe to do.*

– Galileo

# Interpretive Methods

## Summary overview of Response Form Question #4: How would you prefer to receive the interpretive information?

	History/Mills	Geol./Paleo	Arch./Am.In.	Wildf./Biol.	Total
On-site signage	33	86	22	14	155
Printed materials	31	80	14	11	136
Web-based text and images	26	58	12	11	107
MP3 player	5	11	3	2	21
Cell phone	-	3	2	-	5

### Other methods mentioned:

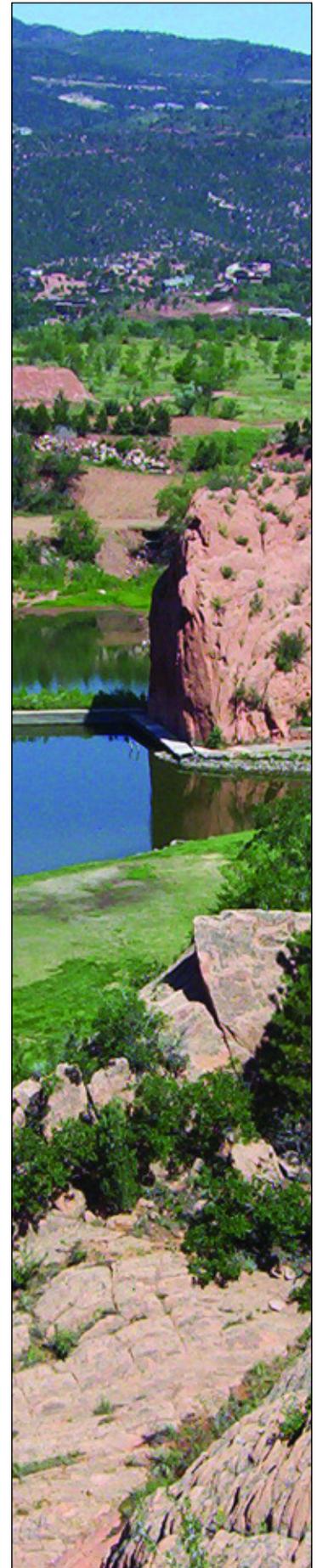
#### Personal interaction: 19

- Guided interpretive hikes on specific topics
- I would pay money for interpretive walks, talks, etc. They could be based elsewhere and meet on-site. School programs could be run as well
- As a teacher of excited learners from the Renaissance Academy, I would love to be able to take them on field trips of discovery, particularly on the dinosaur / geologic elements. Hence, interpretive signage and hard copies / maps would help to ensure information I gave was accurate. As a teacher, I like the idea of paying a small fee for interpretive guided tours for school groups – this would allow for incorporating ‘new’ information, controlling impact, offering accuracy
- Like the idea of interpretive guide being available for a small fee
- Have guided tours
- Personalized, behind-the-scenes tours
- Hikes where participants can see fossils in the rocks
- Guided walks
- Guided tours with experts – geologists, paleontologists, etc.
- Alliances with experts – geologists, paleontologists, etc.
- Field trips, etc.
- Continued lectures
- Guided tours – docents?
- People, people, people. Please give us live people to tell us the story in the form of campfires, nature walks and presentations like these

- Guided (park) tours
- Interpretive walks
- Not quite sure what is meant by signage. I like talks, a person with knowledge, a place I can gather with others, listen and ask questions. I learn best that way
- Guided walks
- Please do these educational programs every year

#### Technology: 10

- Similar to Stonehenge in England. You can rent audio that is triggered by electronics near the area you are looking at
- AM / FM short-range transmissions not unlike highway information
- Bluetoothed to pocket PCs, for podcast audio / visual
- Perhaps e-books, Blackberry files
- Videos – like Izold’s presentation – improved!
- Computer / TV and 3-D show – as at Garden of the Gods Visitor Center
- MP3 could be downloadable from the website
- CD of park and finds
- It would be neat to have an Internet walk-through of certain features with pictures and explanation of the geology and other history
- Also might explore performing these talks on an educational TV site, like the local school district or even a PBS program



# Verbatim Responses by Question

## 5 *Anything else? / Additional comments*

**Date:** July 12, 2007

**Subject:** History and Mills / Railroads

- Sometimes in the back it was a little difficult to hear!
- Please provide future speakers with a microphone
- Note: J. McFarland's presentation: had little to do with Red Rock Canyon; too slow; should use light pointer

**Date:** July 26, 2007

**Subject:** Geology and Paleontology

- Thanks for the program!
- Very interesting—thank you!
- You are on the right track—keep up the good work!
- Thank you. This was very interesting! I truly enjoyed it!
- Great turnout for a great presentation
- Could the dinosaur tracks be encased somehow so they could be shown to the public (and still be protected)?
- Stronger enforcement of Canyon rules, i.e. dog droppings
- Sounds great with your dreams and work
- Love it !!!!!
- It would be neat to have an Internet walk through of certain features with pictures and explanation of the geology and other history
- Great information
- Wonderful presentation! Good job! I am really excited that volunteers are taking the park beyond a set of trails
- PBS or local television educational programs about Red Rock Canyon
- I was disappointed with the paleontology. As a geology and paleontology professor I am shocked that such an important paleontology study is being conducted by amateurs
- Because of the number of people attending tonight and the interest, perhaps another venue would better—Centennial Hall?
- In a recreation area it could be a great challenge to preserve fossils, with such a variety of activity. Foxborough State Park serves as a good model by limiting—even prohibiting activities. Hope you can find a balance
- Thanks for the presentations
- I think this find is a great added attraction for tourists
- I hope that interpretive information will not conflict with the opportunity to enjoy hiking and the sheer beauty and pleasure of the open space
- I have not been to the park but would like to when it gets cooler. Are there signs to mark the trails or is it left to your imagination?
- Don't do reservations for next meetings. Either first-come-first-served or change the venue to Centennial Hall
- Thank you!
- Good presentation!
- So much information, so little time
- These are great seminars—thank you
- Keep up the excellent work
- Thanks for information session—look forward to rest of series
- How about a larger auditorium for future programs? Why leave anyone out?
- I got crabs from this lecture! I got cramps sitting in this chair. Have you ever tried sitting in one of these for 55 minutes straight? Thank you for reading this (or trying to read this). It's been fun!
- Provide better seating and larger presentation screen so those sitting / standing in rear can read the slides
- Very interesting!
- Would like to learn more on these subjects
- Red Rock Canyon is a wonderful park. I am glad it has been acquired and made available to us. I hope it can remain much as it is without a lot of development for various activities. Please keep it a place to just visit nature. The way it is is precious. Creating activities would be a mistake

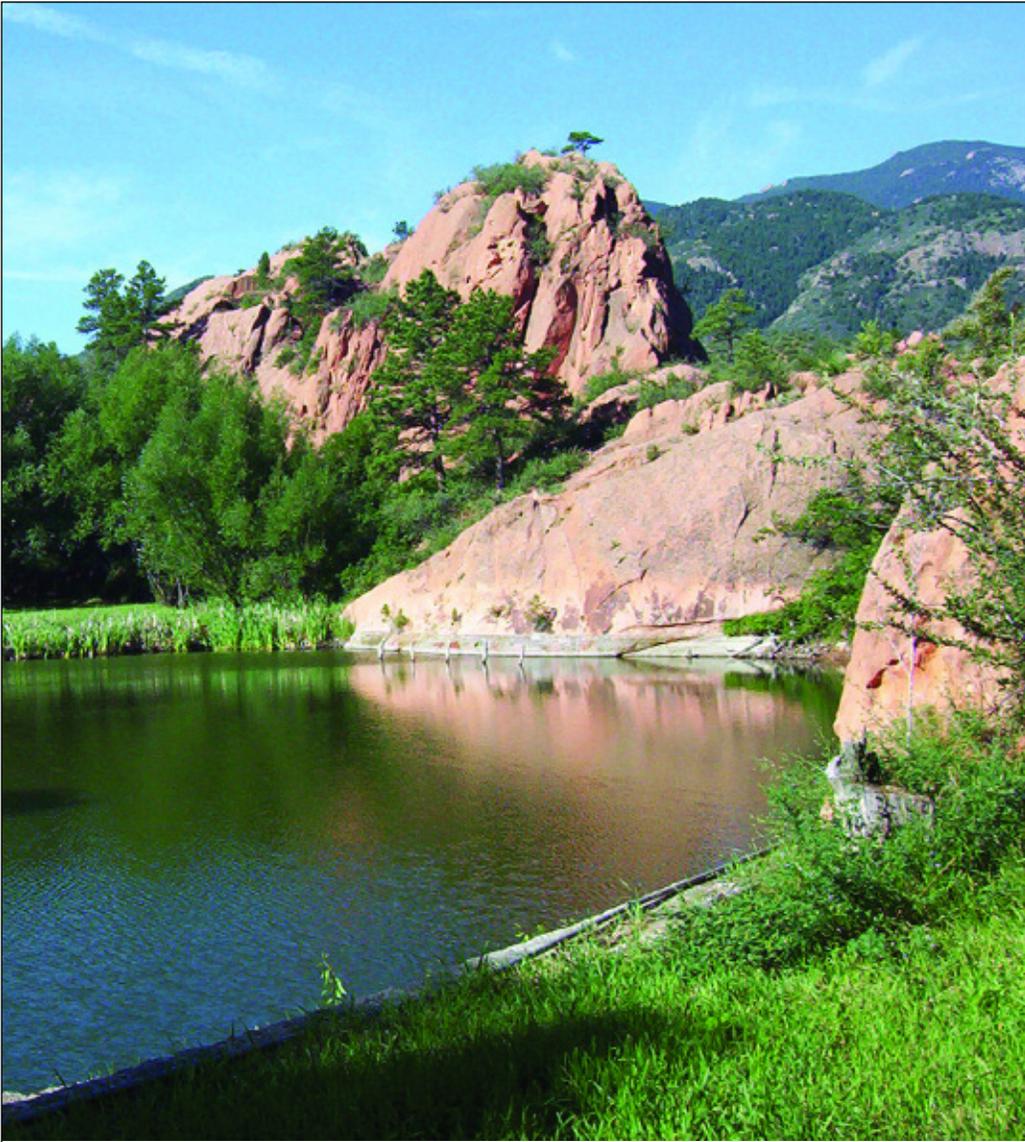
# Verbatim Responses by Question

## 5 *Anything else? / Additional comments*

**Date:** August 16, 2007

**Subject:** Archeology and American Indians

- More programs, please
- Very good presentations
- Please have someone focus the slide projector
- Thanks for doing these open houses
- Have write-up of more Native American myths
- Are all voices REALLY considered equally as stated in the project
- principles? I hope the City “walks its talk”
- Very interesting!
- Do the Red Rock Canyon Dig— sharing results with the community along the way!
- Respect for the earth as Native Americans did



# Verbatim Responses by Question

*When one tugs at a single thing in nature; he finds it attached to the rest of the world.*

– John Muir

## **5** *Anything else? / Additional comments*

**Date:** August 23, 2007

**Subject:** Wildlife and Biology

- Have the Audubon Society do a census of all the birds in Red Rock Canyon Open Space. Do it in the spring
- Keep up the good work!
- The first part of the program did not seem to relate at all to Red Rock Canyon—it was more about the Wild Forever Foundation (great organization) but the talk was boring
- It would have been nice to know more about the wildlife in Red Rock Canyon, not necessarily about WFF needs
- Thank you
- Distribute your information / literature also in Bear Creek and Fountain Park

### **General comments from one participant about the series as a whole**

#### ***What did you hear that you believe is most important for Red Rock Canyon visitors to know?***

From the presentations we have learned a great deal about Red Rock Canyon and have found it to be a special area for further educational field study in: history; geology; and archeology

#### ***What did you learn that excited you the most?***

- A.** The use humans made of the area historically. Loved the old photographs
- B.** Easy access to early layers of rock formations with evidence of life and climate long ago
- C.** How lucky we are that mining and landfill activities did not destroy everything. Field study will no doubt reveal more interesting and valuable information about the Pikes Peak Region

#### ***How would you prefer to receive the interpretive information?***

- Interpretive signage is necessary so others can be made aware
- Web-based text and images—optional
- No MP3 player
- No cell phone
- Printed materials available for sale through the City or local bookstores—possible

#### ***Other***

Trails should be laid out to be least intrusive and on contours easily maintained with protection of geological and archeological features being given the greatest priorities. A central display of signage is necessary to inform visitors of the value of preserving the area (in site) for future generations. Human activities permitted should not be in conflict with the area's importance for field study

# Notes from Full Group Discussion

**Date:** September 13, 2007

### ***Where is the best balance between illuminating points of interest and risking their destruction?***

- It's something that matters; provide up-close shots on a computer so people won't know where valuable things are located
- Any printed materials should refer to the website to see up-close shots of things

### ***Some people have expressed interest in having interpretive signs only at trailheads so they don't intrude on the natural surroundings. Others have said they would like signage near the points of interest.***

#### ***What do you think?***

- We need both – signs at a central location and at specific sites (for example, where formations join)
- Older people won't use high-tech media so you need some signs

- Big displays are good but signage on a geological trail is also good. There shouldn't be on-site signs for paleontology information - don't provide "roadmaps"
- Where the signs are located depends on the story you're telling
- The visitor center can set the tone and provide general information
- Use unobtrusive numbers on signs with brochures at trailheads so you can follow along
- Download information off the website
- The open air pavilion is a good place for brochures. Keep it simple. I like the idea of numbers keyed to sites. Using high-tech is good way to bring in youth but we have to remember some people are not into that
- Pick your message first and then pick your method, for example download historical information that's too much to provide on-site
- Allow people to buy brochures for 25 cents or have them free if they're brought back – there's a perceived value



# Small Group Responses by Topic

**Date:** September 13, 2007

### **Interpretive Topic: American Indian history**

#### **Priority subjects**

- Preserve all American Indian artifacts, e.g. pits, petroglyphs, ceremonial sites, wall used as forts
- History of Indian tribes, era they were here; is it a place where different tribes would meet?

#### **Methods**

- Put information about tribes on an interpretive sign without knowledge of exact location. Possibly sign could be located at Bock House
- All Indian artifacts to be displayed only on Internet with a story about their history. Close-up pictures only so no one can figure out exact location of these artifacts

- Signage – geologic layers should have signs next to layers but only a general sign in a proper location, should be used for artifacts so their location will not be known and disturbed

### **Interpretive Topic: Biology/Wildlife**

#### **Priority subjects**

- Preserve all American Indian artifacts, e.g. pits, petroglyphs, ceremonial sites, wall used as forts
- History of Indian tribes, era they were here; is it a place where different tribes would meet?

#### **Methods**

- Put information about tribes on an interpretive sign without knowledge of exact location. Possibly sign could be located at Bock House
- All Indian artifacts to be displayed only on Internet with a story about their history. Close-up pictures only so no one can figure out exact location of these artifacts
- Signage – geologic layers should have signs next to layers but only a general sign in a proper location, should be used for artifacts so their location will not be known and disturbed

### **Interpretive Topic: Geology**

#### **Priority subjects**

- Timeline
- Origin / source
- Identification of rock formations
- Geological map
- Interaction: geology and human use— where did the rock go?

#### **Methods**

- Signage – overview and site-specific
- Printed material
- Web and electronics

### **Interpretive Topic: History**

#### **Priority subjects**

- Use of the land - story of people
  - American Indians
  - Ownership history
    - Landfill
    - Commercial plans
  - Politics / citizenship



- Future citizen involvement, Friends of Red Rock Canyon
- Quarries – where operated and where rocks were used; how quarrying was done (science and technology engineering)
- Railroads to and in Canyon
- Trail history
- Blend personal (make connection to people) and fact

**Methods**

- Pamphlets
  - Overview (teaser) and trails
  - Topical, such as plants, American Indians
  - Twenty-five cents, recycle or buy
- Web – visual focus
  - Overall history
  - Significant events
  - Flash “movie” like CNN events
- Booklet
  - Numbering system
- iPod
- Garden of the Gods Visitor Center
  - May be pick-up point?
  - Part of same story

**Interpretive Topic: Paleontology**

**Priority subjects**

- Pictures on web only; leave for professionals
- Dinosaurs; kid focus—“This type of dinosaur lived in the same place as me.” Link with Woodland Park Dinosaur

**Methods**

- Pamphlets
- Tie into Garden of the Gods film – how much related and modified?
- Guided special tours with event fee run by Friends of Red Rock Canyon
- Display at Bock House

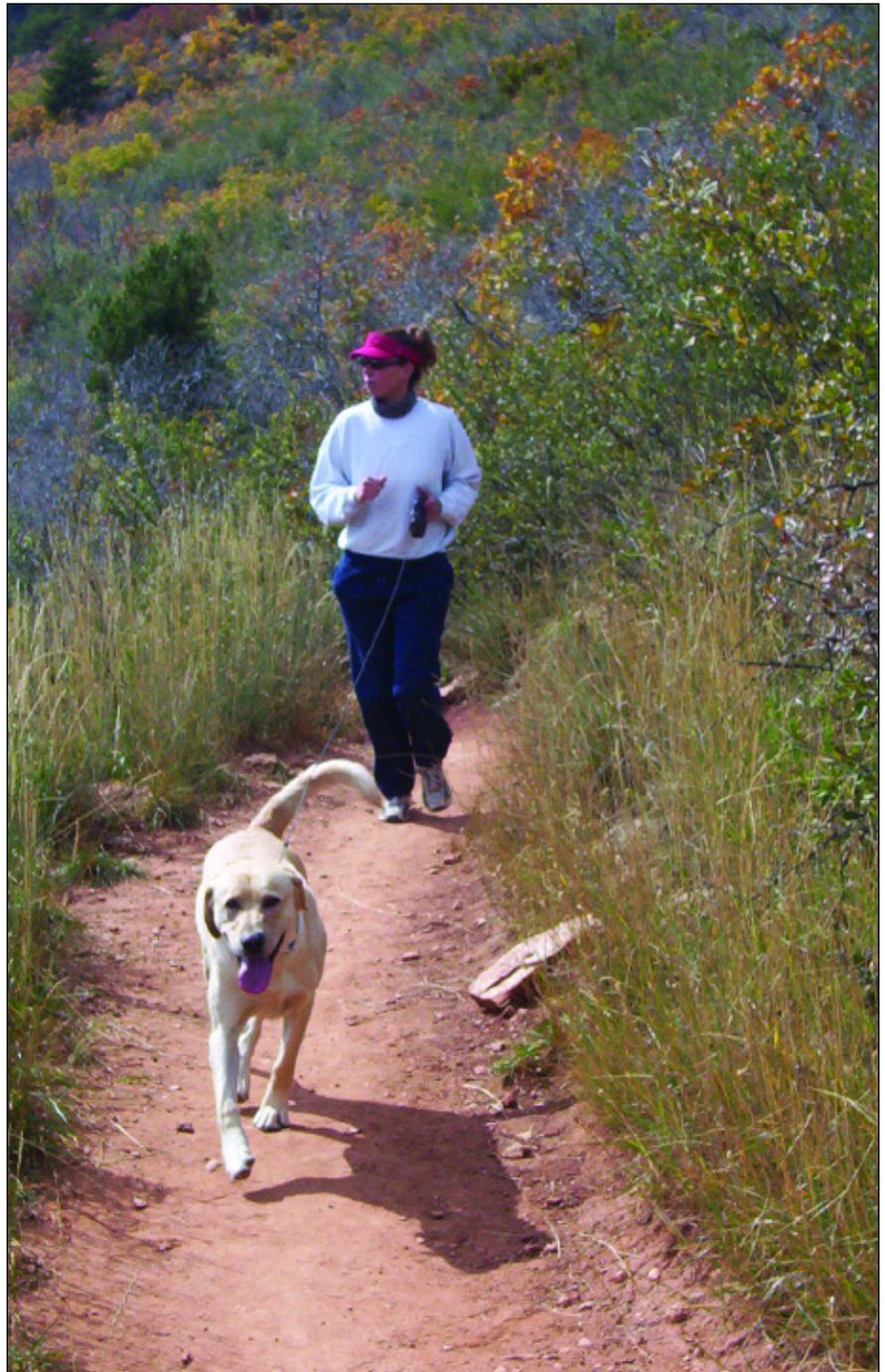
**Interpretive Topic: Preservation and protection of Red Rock Canyon**

**Priority subjects**

- Teach respect for open space
- Consequences of dogs off-leash
- How to protect the naturalness – to keep it in a natural state
- How to keep it like it is

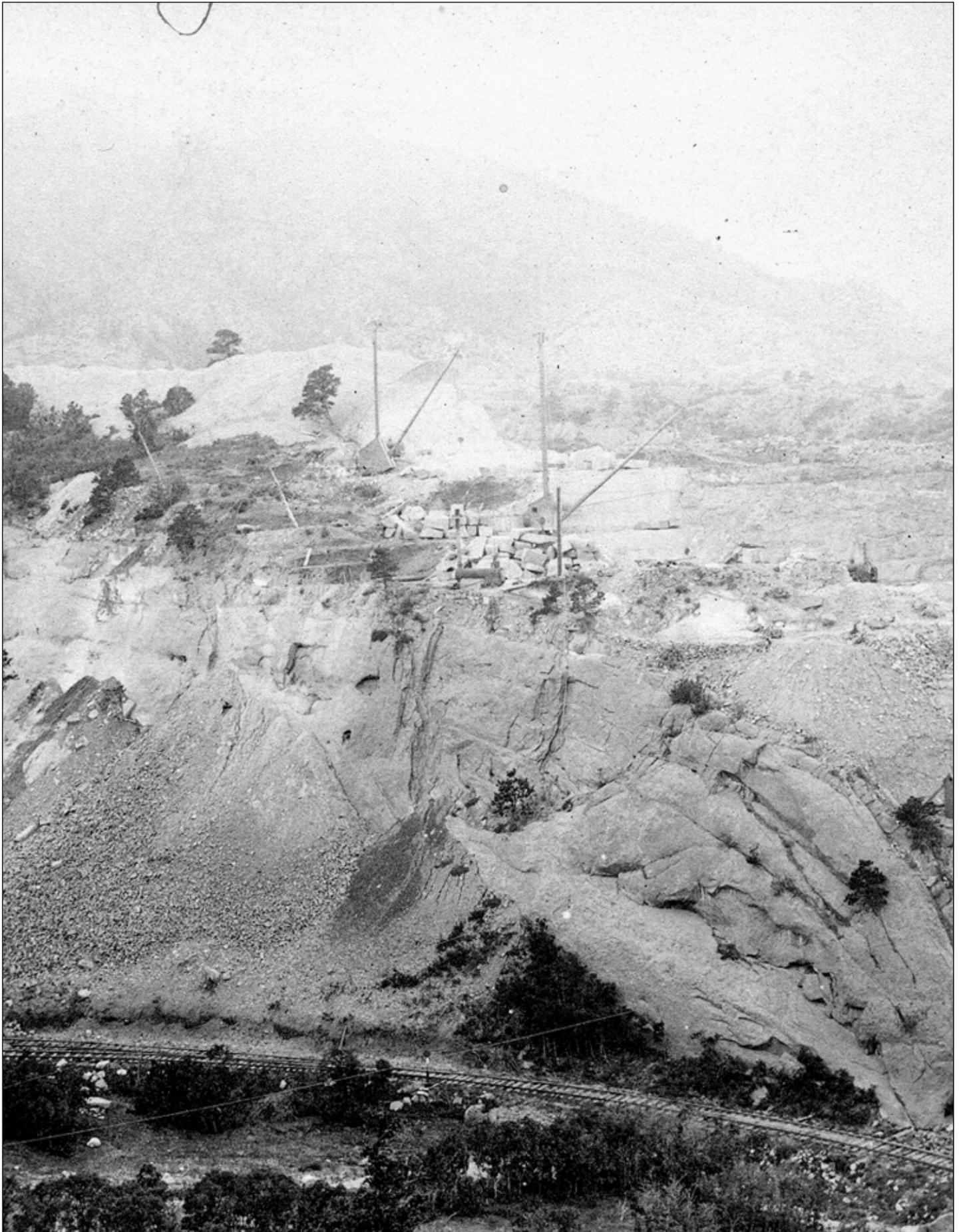
**Methods**

- Information for teachers to give to students
- Signage at a minimum; not invasive signage
- Rotating exhibit in open-air pavilion

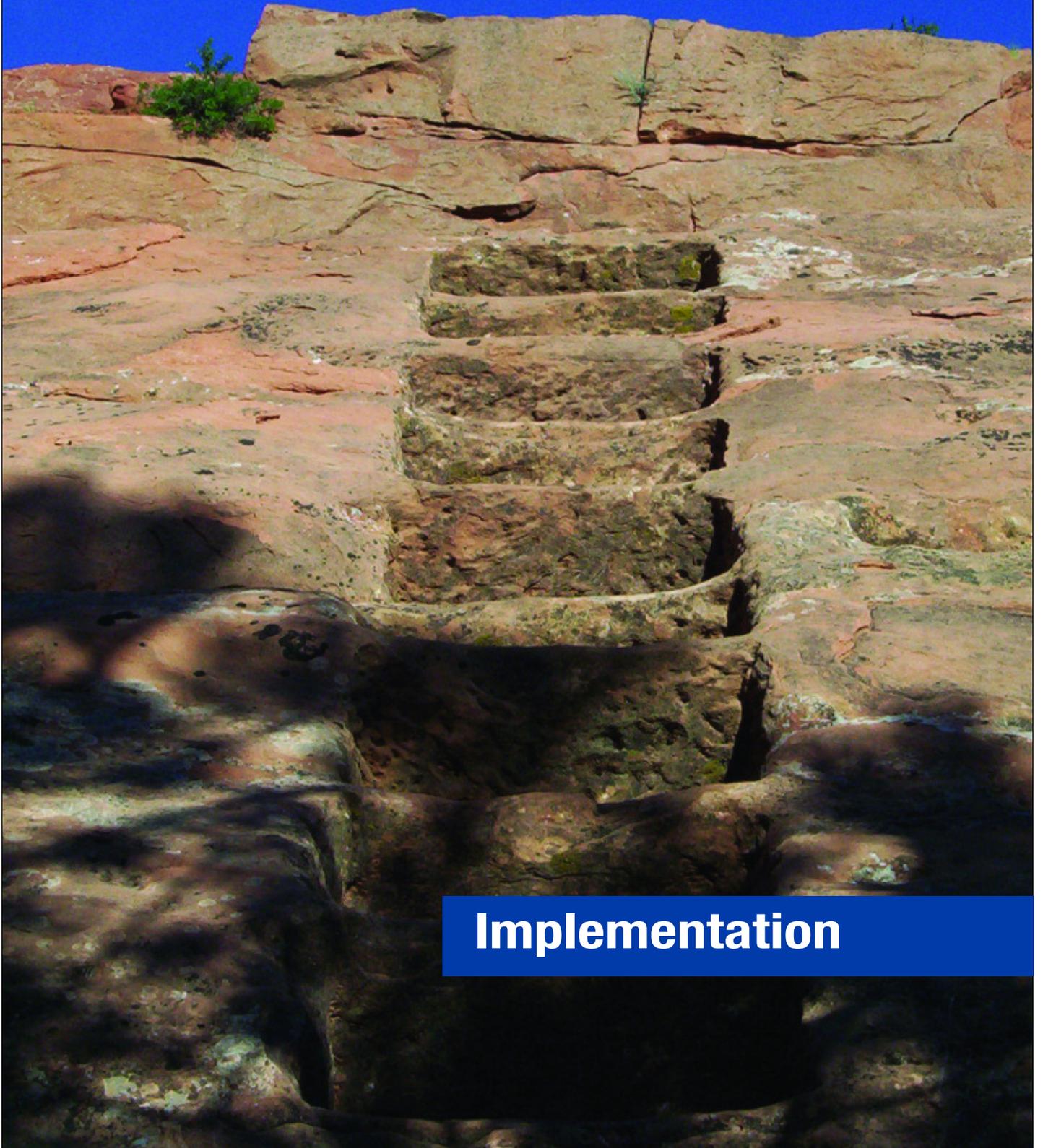


explaining in detail:

- Why not to create social trails
- Why keep dogs on leash
- Why not pick flowers; take photos instead
- Why not leave trash
- Explain flora and fauna
- Chart showing where to find certain plants and animals / wildlife
- Suggestion box – what to improve
- Keep methods simple
- Staff member on-site



# *Red Rock Canyon Open Space*



## **Implementation**

## Red Rock Canyon Interpretation

### *Statements of Significance*

The following statements capture the essence of Red Rock Canyon Open Space. They identify what is special about the area and why it is preserved for public use. These statements relate to the core interpretive concept for the open space as a natural and cultural crossroads that illustrates the interdependency between geology, paleontology, nature, and human history.

- ◆ 300 million years of geologic history are exposed in Red Rock Canyon Open Space, representing geologic processes such as sedimentation, uplifting, faulting, erosion and fossilization. Paleontological finds demonstrate extensive representations of plants, sea creatures and animals throughout ancestral times.
- ◆ The area is a north-south, east-west and altitudinal crossroads for flora and fauna. The resultant blending of ecosystems represents a variety of plants and wildlife throughout the open space. It serves as an important corridor between the urban wild land interface of Colorado Springs and the untrammled wild lands on the eastern flanks of Pikes Peak.
- ◆ The presence of water in the open space provides habitat for wildlife not found in more arid foothills environments.
- ◆ Red Rock Canyon is adjacent to US Forest Service property that greatly extends the biodiversity well beyond its boundaries.
- ◆ As a part of the extended landscape of Garden of the Gods Park to the north, Red Rock Canyon contains representations of human occupation from mid to late Archaic use by American Indians. This occupation occurred over an extensive period of time from pre-European contact to post-contact and included the Ute and a host of plains nations such as the Apache, Kiowa, Comanche, Lakota, Cheyenne and Arapaho.
- ◆ The close proximity of the open space to the Ute Trail and Ute Pass corridor made it a popular meeting place and staging ground for American Indians and early American explorers, trappers, gold seekers and settlers.
- ◆ After the founding of Colorado City and Colorado Springs, the area became an important resource for building materials quarried from the rock formations.
- ◆ Red Rock Canyon Open Space provides easy public access for a wide variety of recreational uses such as hiking, bicycling, horseback riding and picnicking.



# Red Rock Canyon Interpretation

## *Interpretive Goals*

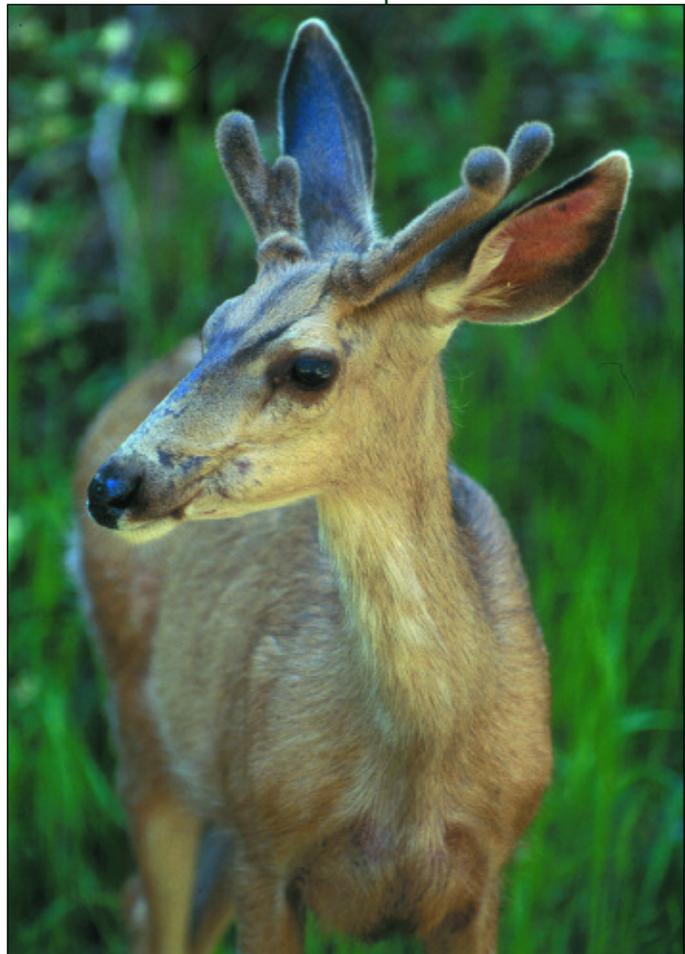
Red Rock Canyon Open Space is most widely used by local residents and, unlike Garden of the Gods, is not used as heavily by tourists. Community members use the site for a wide variety of recreational purposes and make regular return visits. This presents unique opportunities and challenges for interpretation. The intent of this plan is to encourage ongoing research into the natural and cultural history of the site and to utilize this research to provide a greater depth of interpretation using both traditional and none traditional methods. The goal is to reward repeat visitors with new and compelling information about the open space and to inspire an enthusiasm to learn more.

- ◆ Interpretative information and methods will balance the sometimes competing need for education and preservation, and will seek to impart a greater understanding and respect for the resource.
- ◆ Interpretative methods should complement the setting and not interfere with the natural experience.
- ◆ Information presented on-site should be easily updated, either seasonally or by theme.
- ◆ Basic information regarding orientation, wayfinding and rules and regulations should be clearly defined.
- ◆ All types of recreational activities in the open space should be clearly identified as to where they may be enjoyed.
- ◆ On-site interpretation should include information about where to learn more.

## *Multiple Levels of Interpretation*

A variety of message delivery methods are available for the diverse needs of current and future park visitors. They will be addressed in both on and off-site categories.

On-site opportunities involve traditional methods like interpretive panels and guided hikes. Off-site information may include web site downloads, Podcasts and print materials available at public distribution points.



# On-Site

The goal of on-site interpretation is to provide interesting information about the site while ensuring resource protection and keeping the site as natural as possible. The master planning process indicated a strong interest among the public in guided hikes and tours. These programs may be developed in the future depending on partnerships and funding; however, the current focus will be on creating interpretive text panels. These on-site interpretive methods should enhance the visitor's experience, and they are best implemented at two levels and styles of signage.

## **INTERPRETIVE LEVEL A - kiosks at parking lot and trailhead locations:**

**North Trailhead** (Hwy 24) 3 sign stanchions, 6 panels

At this main portal to the park, the trailhead kiosk should address:

1. Map, rules, regulations and safety.
2. The concept of interdependency or a crossroads of geology, flora & fauna, paleontology and human use.
3. Overview of the history of the land and how it became a park. Timeline format.

**East Trailhead** (31st St.) 2 sign stanchions, 4 panels

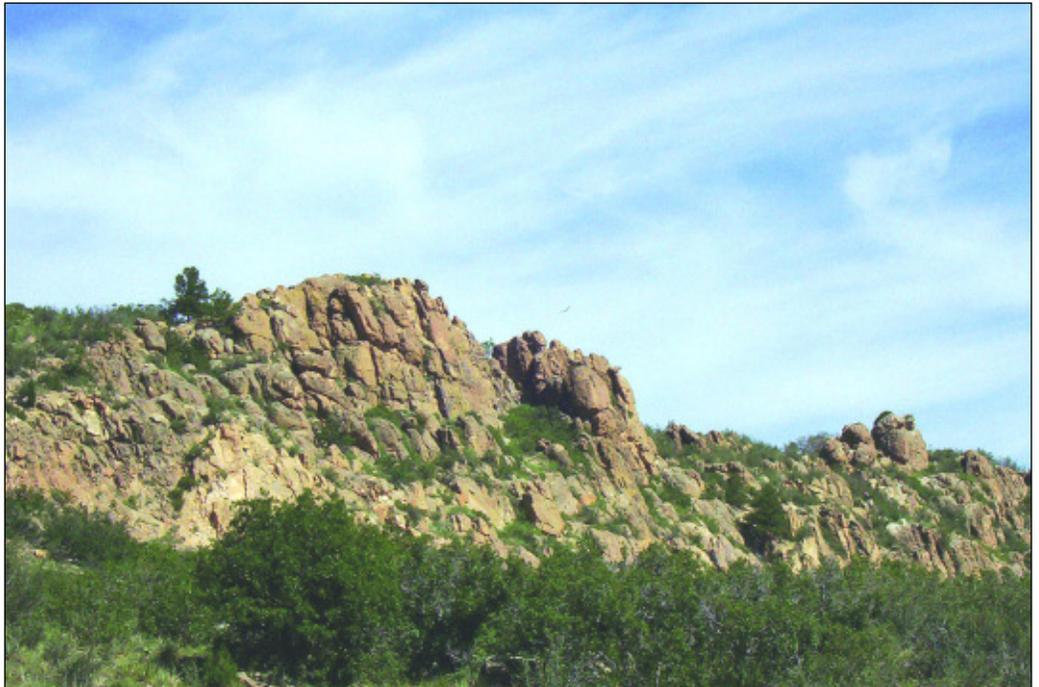
Somewhat smaller than the North Trailhead, this kiosk should address:

1. Map, rules, regulations and safety.
2. The human use of the area and how it has shaped the land.

**Southeast Trailhead** (26th St) 1 sign stanchion, 2 panels

This kiosk should address:

1. Map, rules, regulations and safety.
2. Crossroads concept.





# Red Rock Canyon Interpretation

## On-Site

### **INTERPRETIVE LEVEL B - Low-profile interpretive signs that are designed to be easily updated:**

This type of interpretive sign is intended to communicate to park users interested in learning more about the area while enjoying their outdoor experience. One or more signs will be placed at particular points of interest and explain the more stunning natural and man-made features. Each of these signs will touch on the four crossroads elements at different levels as dictated by their location. Sign locations will be carefully selected to impart detailed information about nearby features, but they will also be worded generally enough to protect those features while still protecting the natural resources and features of the area.

Each sign will touch on one major topic, a secondary related topic and a Fun Fact. Interpretive subjects may include:

#### **Geology** (multiple-panel grouping):

- Pages in Time - rock formations of the park
- Ancestral Rockies
- Inland sea
- More from Dr. Paul Groger's study

#### **Paleontology** (multiple-panel grouping):

- Fossil detectives - how we know what was here
- How quarreys have exposed more information
- More from the Milito/ Poltenovage study.

#### **Ancient Water**

- Ripple marks on the rocks
- The inland sea of long ago

#### **Plant Communities Today**

- Plant life that clings to rock
- Unusual species in the park
- Trees: cottonwoods, twisted juniper, etc.
- Human use and plants
- Microclimates
- More from Dr. Tass Kelso's report.

#### **Ancient Plants**

- Plant fossils that provide clues
- Animal species that fed on ancient plants

#### **Water Today - H2O in a Dry Climate:**

- How did this water get here?
- The pond's influence on species visiting the park

#### **Wildlife**

- Mule deer and other species feeding on shrubs in the park relationship, including access to water
- Natural corridor through section 16 from Pike National Forest into the park, predators follow
- Food chain and the habitat provided in the park
- Interesting species and survival
- Animals that live in and on the rocks

#### **Birds** (multiple-panel grouping):

- Summer residents and migratory patterns
- Winter residents and migratory patterns
- Mexican Spotted Owl
- Canada Geese
- Hummingbirds
- Water species
- Bird habitat on the rocks
- Birds of Prey
- Birdwatching

#### **The Bock House - Human Activity in the Park, Then and Now**

(multiple-panels):

- Early residents - evidence of occupation
- Ute Indians
- Explorers, homesteaders and white man culture
- The gold rush and mills in the area
- Quarrying - how they did it
- Quarries and the use of the stone removed
- Bock and other residents history
- Recreation today



## Off-Site

### *For more information...*

In addition to traditional on-site interpretation the master planning process indicated a strong interest in other, less traditional educational methods. The Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department may explore the following interpretive methods using current and emerging technology. These may also provide opportunity for revenue generation, sponsorships, advertising or other funding methods.

#### **Web Site Info and Downloads**

- Web stationary information with photos, graphics and illustrations
- Downloadable MS Word .doc or .pdf formatted information
- PodCast narrated information

#### **Printed Information**

- Red Rock Canyon Booklet: 4" x 9" multiple-page booklet that can be taken to the park or reviewed off-site