



Consultants in Natural Resources and the Environment

University Park Open Space Management Plan



Prepared for—

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Plan Preparers

This management plan was completed as a collaborative effort between Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department, Palmer Land Trust, the ERO consulting team, and the Colorado Springs community. The ERO consulting team consisted of:

- ERO Resources Corporation: Project lead and natural resources
- Tapis Associates: Trails and recreation
- Kezziah-Watkins: Public process and facilitation

This plan was adopted by the City of Colorado Springs Parks and Recreation Advisory Board on March 10, 2016.

Summary

University Park Open Space is a 74.6 acre property in north-central Colorado Springs, between North Nevada Avenue and Academy Boulevard, immediately adjacent to the University of Colorado – Colorado Springs campus. The property primarily consists of two large meadows at the bottom of a broad valley that are surrounded by scrub and forest-vegetated slopes. The ridgelines and mesa tops surrounding the valley are dominated by residential subdivisions, underscoring the importance of the property as a community buffer, scenic resource, and a local destination for outdoor recreation.

This Management Plan is intended to provide the City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department with a framework for management and stewardship of the property over the next five years. This Management Plan was completed based on existing documentation, field assessments, stakeholder meetings, and community input. This plan provides broad guidance and specific resource management strategies to achieve the following goals:

1. **Vegetation** – Protect and enhance the quality, diversity, and health of native plant communities
2. **Wildlife** – Protect and enhance wildlife habitat on the property
3. **Visitor Use, Trails, and Infrastructure** – Manage trails and visitor use facilities to provide high-quality recreation experience and to meet stormwater maintenance requirements, while protecting natural resource values

The *Introduction* provides a background on the property, the process, and relevant planning and policy guidance. The *Existing Conditions* section outlines the natural resources, visitor uses and amenities, and management context of the property. The *Resource Management Plan* section provides general guidance on several key issues, including: noxious weed management, forest management, vegetation management, trail and access management, and utility road access and management. It outlines the recommended timing and priority of specific management strategies. This section also outlines recommended resource monitoring actions.

This Management Plan not only satisfies the requirements of the deed restriction on the property, but also provides a blueprint for proactive management of open space resources over the next five years.

Introduction

Location and Background

University Park Open Space consists of 74.6 acres located in north-central Colorado Springs. The property is located about 3 miles north of downtown Colorado Springs, between North Nevada Avenue and Academy Boulevard, immediately adjacent to the University of Colorado – Colorado Springs campus. The property is part of a complex of open space land and is nearly surrounded by Austin Bluffs Open Space, and is typically referred to and managed as part of that complex (Figure 1). The property primarily consists of two large meadows at the bottom of a broad valley that are surrounded by scrub and forest-vegetated slopes. The ridgelines and mesa tops surrounding the valley are dominated by residential subdivisions, underscoring the importance of the property as a community buffer, scenic resource, and a local destination for outdoor recreation.

The University Park Open Space property was acquired in 1999. The land where University Park now lies was once slated for an office/research park and housing development and zoned as R HS (Residential Hillside), but development did not occur. For several years, residents have used University Park for passive recreation. Evidence of this use consists of undesigned trails that are present on the Property as well as on surrounding open space areas. The City stated in its grant application to Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) that the “most essential issue in preserving this land is to establish this area as a buffer...if not conserved and developed, the surrounding land loses much of its value as wildlife habitat and passive recreation area”. Secondary reasons for the property acquisition included the Property’s functions as a nongame wildlife habitat, community separator, and urban open space.

Most of the funding for the purchase came from the then recently-passed Trails, Open Space, and Parks (TOPS) sales tax in Colorado Springs. As a requirement of the GOCO funding, a deed restriction/covenant

was placed on the property, which is to be monitored and enforced by the Palmer Land Trust, a private land conservation organization. University Park Open Space is owned by the City of Colorado Springs and is managed by the City’s Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department.



Ponderosa pine/Gambel oak woodland on University Park Open Space

Vision and Goals

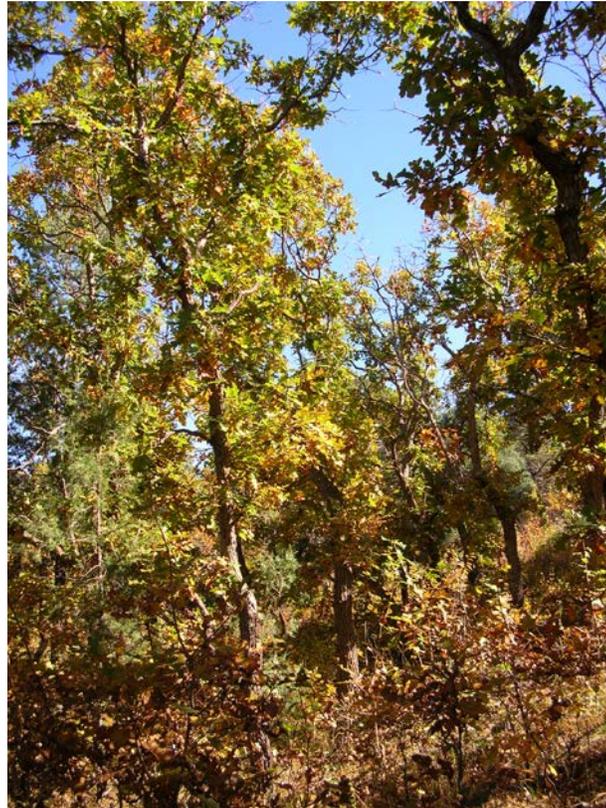
Vision Statement

University Park Open Space contains an enclave of native meadow and forest habitat as part of a complex of open space land that protect the unique bluff and mesa formations in north-central Colorado Springs. The property serves as a neighborhood buffer, wildlife habitat, and aesthetic resource for the city, while also providing the surrounding community with easily accessible opportunities for outdoor recreation. As part of a complex of open space land, the property is managed to maintain and improve these values.

Goals

The following goals for the University Park Open Space provide a philosophical foundation on which to base the implementation of this Management Plan. These broad goals provide the basis for management actions related to specific resources.

1. **Vegetation** – Protect and enhance the quality, diversity, and health of native plant communities
2. **Wildlife** – Protect and enhance wildlife habitat on the property
3. **Visitor Use, Trails, and Infrastructure** – Manage trails and visitor use facilities to provide high-quality recreation experience and to meet stormwater maintenance requirements, while protecting natural resource values



Gambel oak thickets provide valuable wildlife habitat

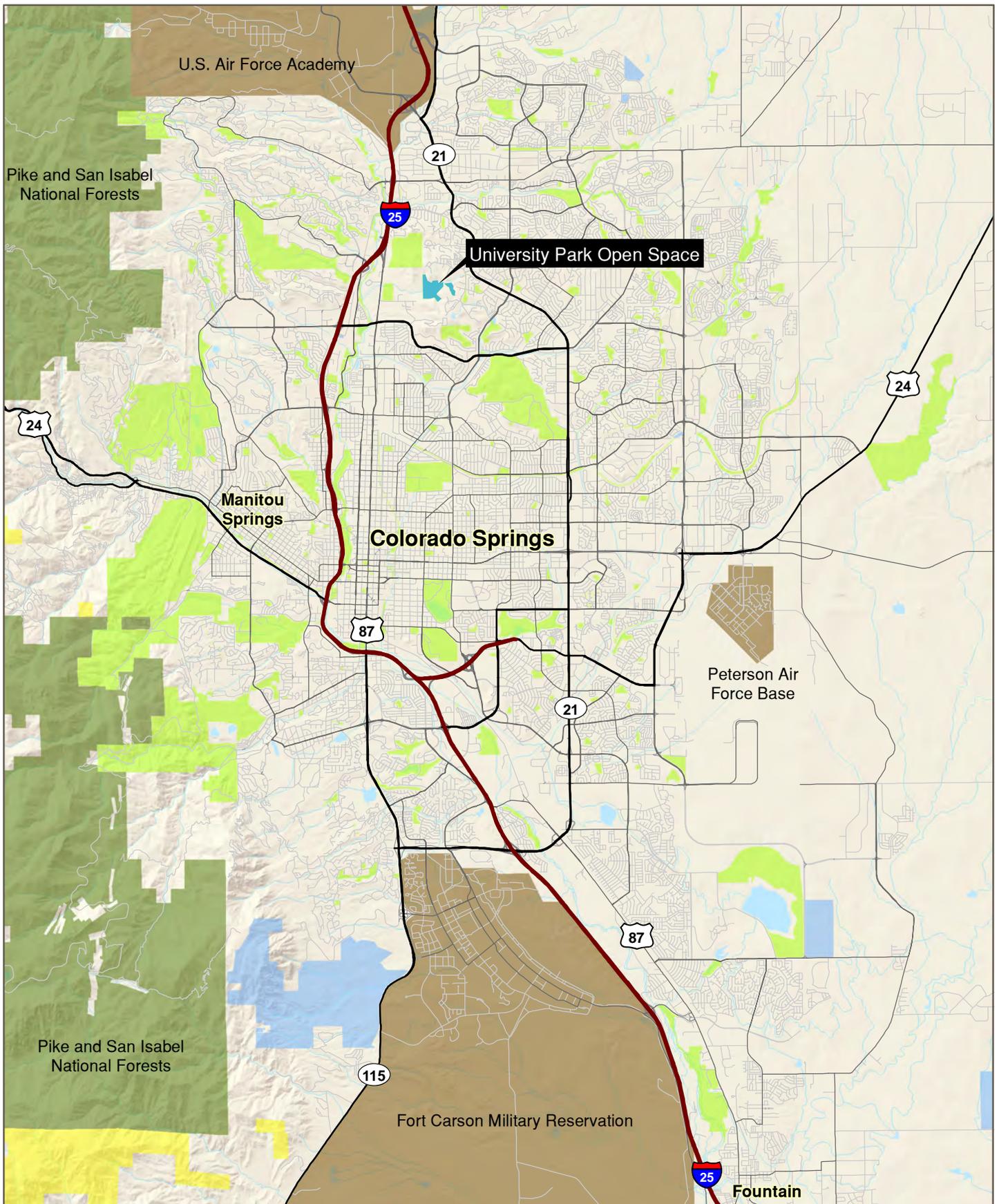


Figure 1. Location

- Parks and Open Space
- Bureau of Land Management
- Department of Defense
- State of Colorado
- U.S. Forest Service



Plan Givens

The following “givens” represent existing guidance and decisions that are non-negotiable and set the parameters for the decision making-process and implementation of this management plan.

- The City’s Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department is legally responsible for design, maintenance, operations and management of University Park Open Space. All elements of the University Park Open Space Management Plan must conform to the Colorado Springs Parks Rules and Regulations Ordinances.
- University Park Open Space is subject to the requirements and restrictions of the TOPS Ordinance.
- The planning process will respect the terms and conditions of existing utility easements and the deed restriction on the property. Any proposed changes to the deed restriction must be approved by the Colorado Springs Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, the Palmer Land Trust, and Great Outdoors Colorado.
- The City Public Works Department and Colorado Springs Utilities will continue to be allowed access to the property in order to monitor and maintain their infrastructure.
- Implementation of the Management Plan will occur as funding allows.
- Groups and individuals interested in the property are encouraged to help develop the best possible Management Plan; all voices will be equal in the decision-making process.
- The recommended University Park Open Space Management Plan will be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for approval.

Planning Process

The City of Colorado Springs hired a consultant team lead by ERO Resources Corporation in August 2015 to undertake the planning process and to develop this management plan. The planning process proceeded in three phases:

1. **Phase One: Information Gathering:** The initial step included personal interviews with individuals who have a history of involvement and familiarity with the property.
2. **Phase Two: Public Process:** Based on the issues identified by the community and by analysis of existing conditions on the property, draft management strategies were developed and were reviewed with and discussed by the community at a workshop on December 8, 2015. Necessary adjustments were made to the strategies, based on community responses.

The draft Management Plan was offered for community review both online during a period of 14 days from February 5, 2016 to February 19, 2016.

3. **Phase Three: Approvals:** The recommended Management Plan was reviewed by the TOPS Working Committee on March 2, 2016, and approved by the Parks Advisory Board on March 10, 2016.

A more detailed summary of community and stakeholder input is provided in Appendix B.

Plan Guidance

Deed Restriction Language

In 2000, the City of Colorado Springs established a Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (e.g., “deed restriction”) for University Park Open Space. The purpose of the deed restriction (Appendix A) is to preserve and protect in perpetuity the open space values of the property.

Prohibited acts listed in the deed restriction include construction of buildings or other structures, subdivision, mining, paving and road or trail construction, dumping of trash, and commercial or industrial activity. A 2007 amendment clarified that road or trail construction can be permitted if it has been included in an approved land management plan or is approved by the Palmer Land Trust. In addition, the property must be managed in accordance with an approved land management plan.

Colorado Springs Park System Master Plan

Recommendations from the 2014 Colorado Springs Park System Master Plan that are relevant to management of the property include the following:

- Comprehensively address the management and care needs of the natural environment and open space lands such as erosion control, invasive species, forest management and wildfire.
- The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department should work to eliminate and/or control noxious weeds on park and open space properties as a part of ongoing maintenance. Develop a citywide integrated weed management plan to help effectively and efficiently control weeds.
- Comprehensively address natural resource management and urban forestry through the creation of annual maintenance tasks as part of a long-term natural resource management approach.
- Increase trail maintenance and address the negative impacts of rouge or unplanned trail creation.
- Work with natural resource managers of wildlife habitat to balance wildlife needs with management for fire, floods and drought.
- Identify and re-route trails that are susceptible to frequent damage from flooding
- Improve wayfinding by installing signs and maps at key junctions in the trail system and identifying parking locations.
- The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department should establish a policy allowing for programmed events/activities within open space lands as long as the natural and cultural resource values are not impacted.
- Work with Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) to identify CSU lands that have natural value for use as open space and seek a partnership to jointly manage these lands to conserve their natural values. Determine if public assess might be possible on these lands for recreation purposes.
- Develop master plans for all open space properties which address appropriate access and connectivity with neighboring properties, resource sensitivity, existing resources and opportunities for resource enhancement and restoration. Plans should be created

and updated for all properties or groups of properties within a contiguous area with progress tracked over time.

- Communicate park rules and “Leave No Trace” ethics to the public through the use of signage and informational campaigns.
- Signs in the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services system should clearly indicate rules, regulations and expectations of usage to maintain quality of facilities and prevent harmful behaviors that would negatively impact the natural or programmatic features of the parks and trails.
- Enforcement should include ticketing for infringements to the established dog leash law.

Previous Planning Documents

The following previous planning documents were reviewed in the preparation of this management plan:

- Management Plan for Austin Bluffs (University Park) Open Space (2003)
- Conservation Interest Monitoring Report – University Park Open Space (2014)

Purpose of the Management Plan

The purpose of this management plan is to guide resource management at University Park Open Space and to identify priorities for the next five years. More specifically, this plan is also intended to achieve the following objectives:

1. Articulate the overall resource management goals for the property
2. Document existing conditions and resource management issues on the property
3. Identify and prioritize strategies to address resource management issues and maintain the overall integrity of resources on the property
4. Document the agreed-upon goals, strategies, and priorities for resource management on the property that are commonly understood by visitors, stakeholders, and the surrounding community
5. Provide an implementation and monitoring plan for Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services staff, Friends groups, and volunteers

In addition, this management plan fulfills the requirement under paragraph 3 of the deed restriction, which states:

“The Property shall be operated and managed in accordance with a land management plan, prepared by Declarant (City) and reasonably approved by Land Trust (Palmer Land Trust)... (The land management plan) ...shall be updated every five years and submitted to Land Trust and the Board (GOCO) for Approval as set forth therein.”

Existing Conditions

Geographic Setting

University Park Open Space is located in north-central Colorado Springs, about 2.5 miles north of downtown between North Nevada Avenue and Academy Boulevard. The property is located in portions of Sections 20 and 21, Township 13 South, Range 66 West. The property is bounded by Austin Bluffs Open Space on all sides, except for the west side which is bounded by the University of Colorado – Colorado Springs campus.

The property is located in a broad valley at the foot of the unique mesa topography that is characteristic of northern Colorado Springs, about one mile east of Monument Creek and three miles east of the Front Range escarpment. Elevations range from about 6,350 feet at the western edge, to about 6,500 feet at the southernmost point.

Geology

University Park Open Space is located at the base of the Pulpit Rock Formation of Upper Cretaceous and Paleocene origin; while lower portions of the property are comprised of younger units consisting of alluvial and colluvial deposits (Thorson 2011; Thorson, Carroll and Morgan 2002).

Soils

The Natural Resources Conservation Service has mapped one soil type on University Park Open Space. The Travessilla-Rock outcrop complex (8 to 90 percent slopes) is a moderately erosive and unconsolidated sandy loam (NRCS 2015).

Water Resources

One primary drainage crosses the property from east to west, fed primarily from street runoff from the east. A city-owned stormwater detention pond is located just off of the property in this drainage, within Austin Bluffs Open Space.



The sandy nature of soils along trails on University Park Open Space

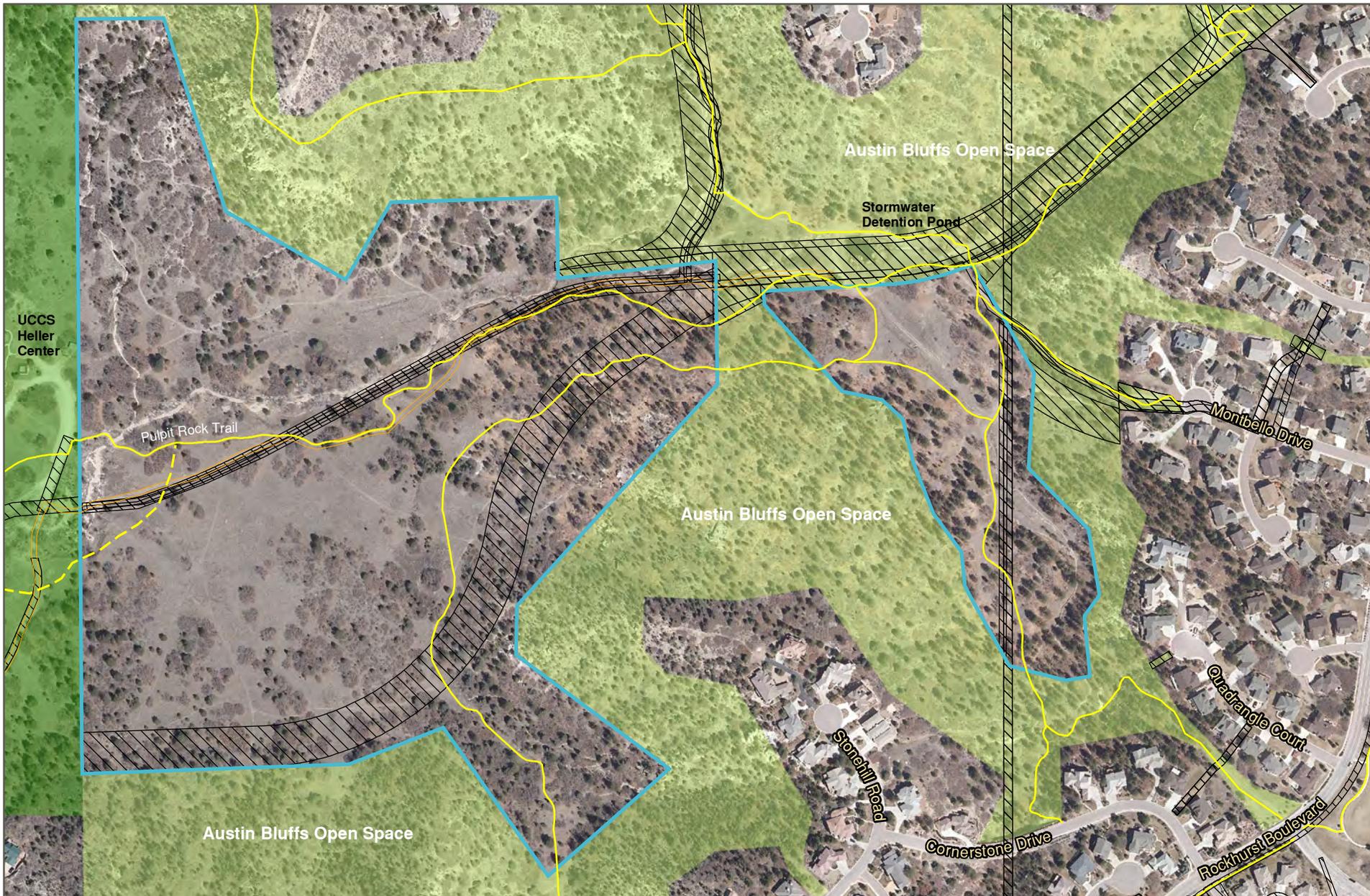


Figure 2. Existing Conditions

- University Park Open Space
- Other Parks and Open Space
- University of Colorado - Colorado Springs
- Designated Trail
- Proposed Trail
- Utility Easement
- Public Works Access Road



CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS

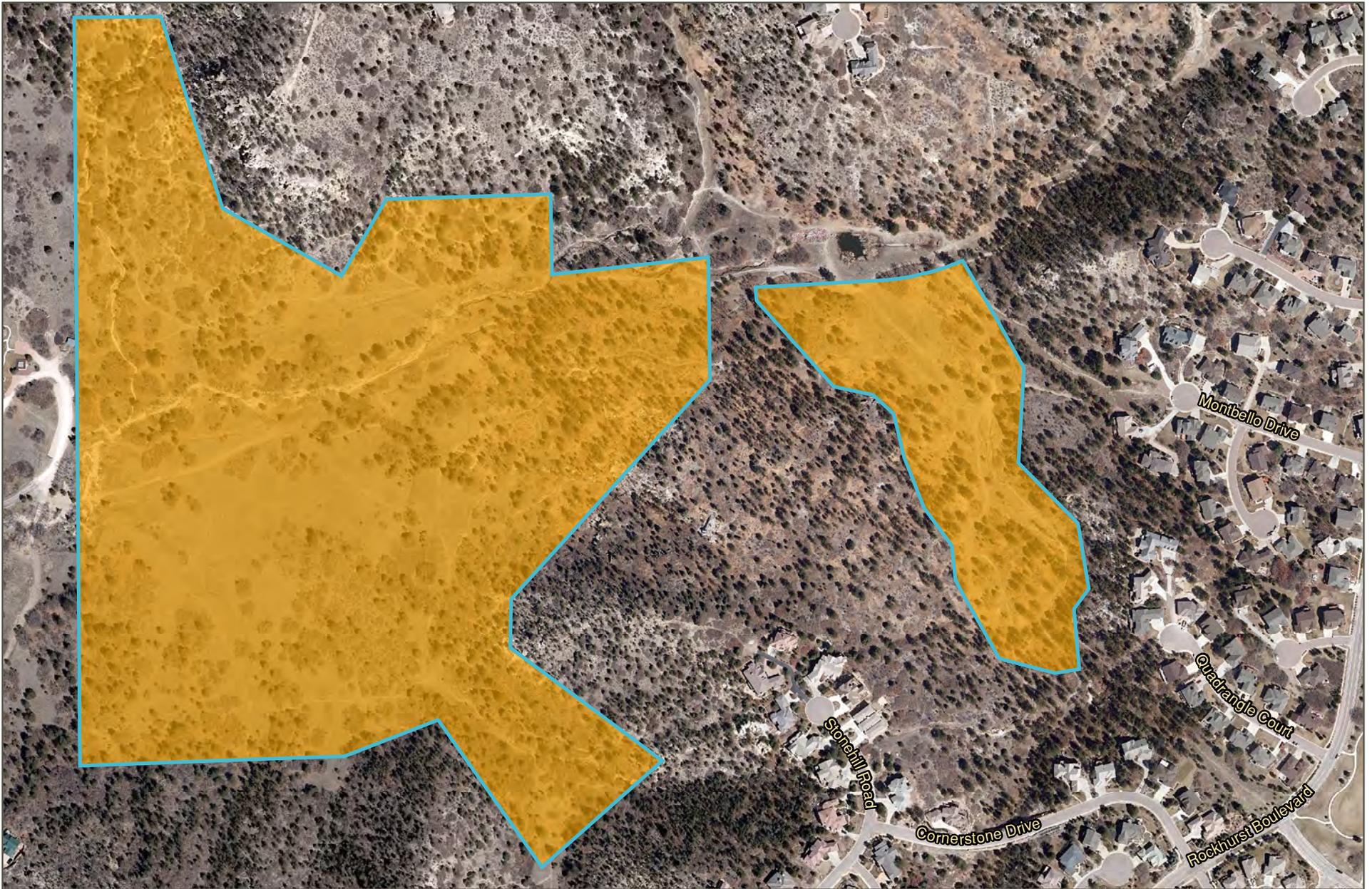


Figure 3. Soils

 University Park Open Space

Soils

 Travessilla-Rock outcrop complex, 8 to 90 percent slopes



Vegetation Resources

Native Plant Communities

University Park Open Space is dominated by two open grassland meadows surrounded by scrubland and pine forest communities. Plant communities are shown on Figure 4 and are described below.

Foothills Grassland

The foothills grassland community is found within the lower elevations of University Park Open Space, and is dominated by native prairie grasses such as blue grama, big bluestem, and prairie sandreed. The grasslands are interspersed with cluster shrub species – primarily Gambel oak and mountain mahogany. Both grasslands gently slope uphill to the east where they transition into shrubland and forest communities.



Foothills grassland community within lower elevations on the open space

Foothills Shrubland

The upper slopes of the property consist of a foothills shrubland community, dominated by thickets of Gambel oak, mountain mahogany, and skunkbush interspersed with piñon pine, Rocky Mountain juniper, and ponderosa pine. The understory consists of small shrubs, cactus, and grasses such as blue grama, little bluestem, and other native and introduced species.

Ponderosa Pine Woodland

The upper margins of the property, along the south and eastern edges, transition into a ponderosa pine-dominated woodland community. This woodland is generally dominated by ponderosa pine, but includes both piñon pine, and Rocky Mountain juniper.

Riparian Forest

The narrow ephemeral drainage that crosses the property supports a sparsely-vegetated riparian forest community. This community consists of narrowleaf cottonwood, plains cottonwood, willow, Siberian elm, and chokecherry.

Rare Plant Species and Communities

No rare or listed plant species or communities are known to occur on the property (USFWS 2015, CNHP 2001).

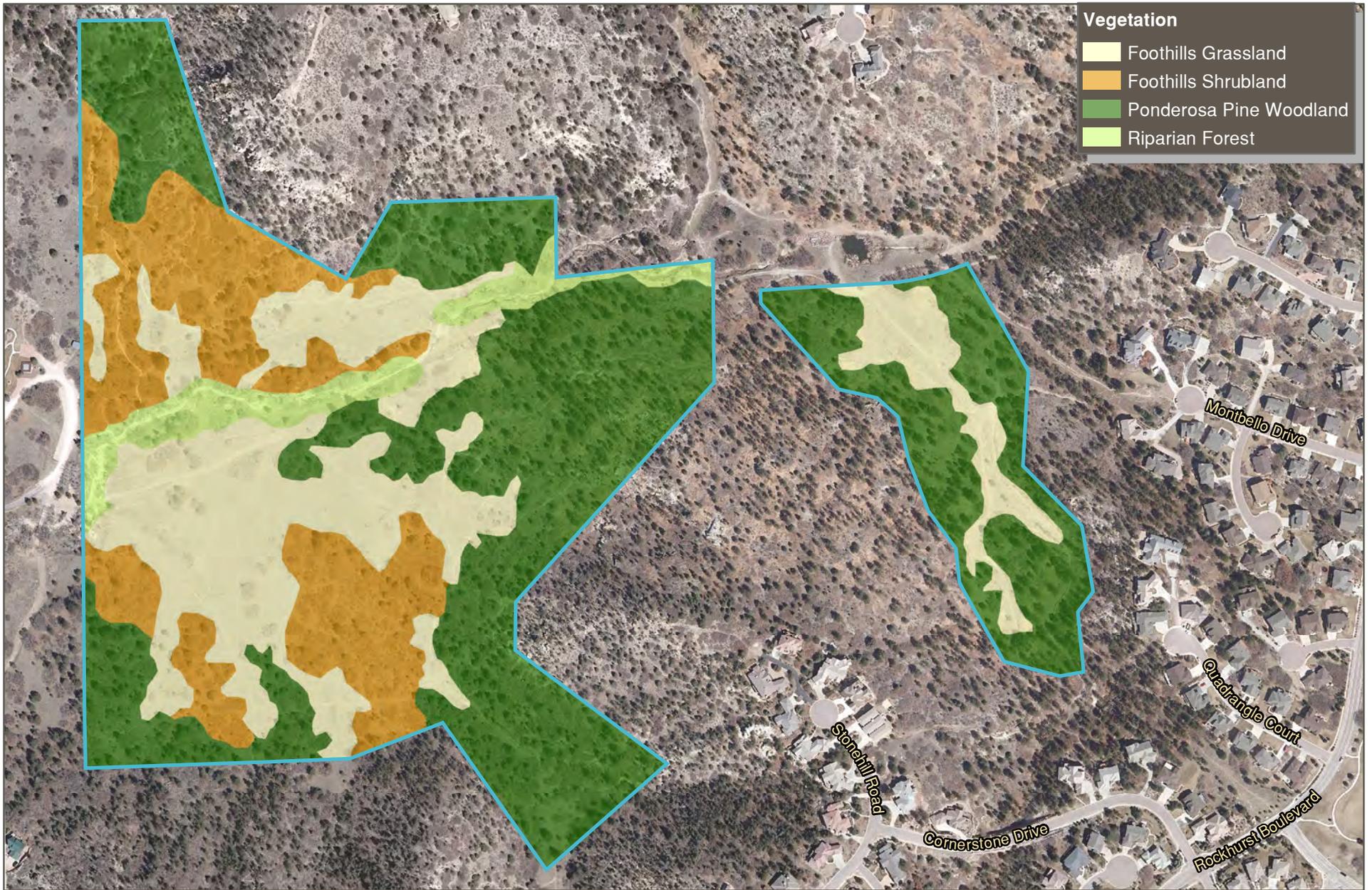


Figure 4. Vegetation

 University Park Open Space

Noxious Weeds

Several noxious weed species are present on University Park Open Space, based on field observations by city staff and by ERO in 2015. The Colorado Noxious Weed Act classifies noxious weeds into three lists: List A species are mandated for eradication, List B species are targeted for weed management efforts to stop their continued spread, and List C species should be managed by effective weed management approaches based on local government priorities.

All completed noxious weed mapping is shown in Figure 5. Twelve noxious weed species are known to occur within University Park Open Space, eight of which are considered to be management concerns (because they are B-listed species). There are no known List A species on the property.

List B Weed Species

- Bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*)
- Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)
- Chinese clematis (*Clematis orientalis*)
- Diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*)
- Leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*)
- Musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*)
- Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*)
- Yellow toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*)

List C Weed Species

- Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*)
- Common burdock (*Arctium minus*)
- Common mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*)
- Field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*)

Wildlife Resources

Common Wildlife

As part of a complex of open space in the Austin Bluffs area, the property supports an enclave of native habitat for wildlife surrounded by urban development. This habitat supports a variety of wildlife species that are common in the region, including mule deer, coyote, fox squirrel, cottontail rabbit, and other mammals. Reptiles include garter snake, rattlesnake, bullsnake, and several species of lizard. Bird species include red-tail hawk, northern flicker, black-capped chickadees, mountain bluebirds and broad-tailed hummingbirds.

Threatened and Endangered Species

Federally threatened and endangered species are protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). Significant adverse effects to a federally listed species or its habitat require consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under Section 7 or 10 of the ESA. Candidate species are not yet listed as threatened or endangered, but may be listed in the future.

The USFWS indicates that there are several threatened or endangered wildlife species with potential for occurrence in El Paso County. However, based on the site visit, the property does not contain suitable habitat for any listed species (USFWS 2015).

Cultural and Historical Resources

The Colorado Cultural Resource On-line Database Compass, provided by the Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP), was used to conduct a search of cultural resources for University Park Open Space. This database contains information on documented federal or state studies or findings regarding any cultural resources. According to the search, no sites are located on University Park Open Space (OAHP 2015). Although no sites were identified through the OAHP search, a cultural resource (pedestrian-level) survey for University Park Open Space has not been conducted. Thus, other cultural or historic resources may occur on the University Park Open Space.

Adjacent Land Uses

Current adjacent land ownership and uses surrounding University Park Open Space include the following:

Austin Bluffs Open Space

The smaller eastern enclave of the property is entirely surrounded by the city's Austin Bluffs Open Space property, while the larger western section is surrounded by the Austin Bluffs Open Space on three sides.

University of Colorado Colorado Springs

The property is bounded to the west by land owned and managed by the University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS) as its "North Campus." The Heller Center complex is located adjacent to the property. The Heller Center is a former residence that is used for art exhibits, seminars, and special events. The 2012 UCCS Master Plan provides a framework for extensive development of the North Campus area, primarily for athletic fields and facilities. Under the plan, the eastern portions of the campus adjacent to the University Park Open Space property would continue to be maintained as campus open space (UCCS 2012).

Visitor Use and Improvements

Trails

As part of the overall Austin Bluffs complex, University Park Open Space includes an extensive network of both designated and undesignated trails. Trail use is dominated by visitors from nearby neighborhoods and the UCCS campus. This pattern of use has likely contributed to the establishment of multiple undesignated "rogue" trails to create multiple trail loops on the property and adjacent open space.

Designated trails include a primary regional trail connection adjacent to the main drainage, which extends west from Rockhurst Boulevard down through the property toward the UCCS property and Nevada Avenue to the west, eventually reaching the Pikes Peak Greenway Trail. Other designated trails follow the lateral drainages to the north and south to connect to the

surrounding neighborhoods. Prolific creation of rogue trails have created extensive secondary loops and shortcuts throughout the property and on the adjacent open spaces. Except for the regional trail, the designated trail system evolved from rogue routes on the property. Some of the rogue trails are in good condition and function as primary system trails, while others are in poor condition or are in unsustainable locations.

Both designated and rogue trails contain unsustainable stretches including: poor alignment, too steep of grade, poor construction for the soil conditions, trails in drainages and trails on service roads. These conditions result in trail shortcutting, trail widening, trail entrenchment, trail braiding (at wet/muddy sections), a proliferation of non-system rogue trails and ongoing maintenance requirements. In addition, poor alignment and construction of both system and rogue trails create erosion, impact to the vegetation, visual impact and wayfinding confusion.



Soil conditions and trails through drainages has led to severe erosion in areas

There are no official trailheads on the University Park Open Space, though there are

several nearby access points associated with Austin Bluffs Open Space. An informal trailhead is located on the western edge of the property, where the primary designated trail crosses onto UCCS property. This informal gateway is signed as open space. There are several parking spots associated with the UCCS Heller Center at this location, but these spots are not intended to be open to the public.

A new regional trail connection has been planned for the western edge of the University Park Open Space, extending south of the Heller Center and across UCCS property to reach Nevada Avenue. This trail is anticipated to be constructed in 2016, at which time existing trail access to the UCCS Heller Center area will be closed.

Interpretive and Wayfinding Signage

Wayfinding signage on the property is very limited, and is mostly located at the trail entry points to the east. Additional signage can be found on the surrounding open spaces adjacent to the University Park Open Space. A small entry sign is located on the western edge of University Park Open Space near the UCCS Heller Center. Visitors rely on their memory from previous visits to navigate the trail system. There are no interpretive signs on University Park Open Space.

Resource Management Plan

Implementing this Management Plan will require identification and prioritization of management actions to accomplish the objectives and goals. These prioritized management actions should continue to be reviewed on an annual basis to determine yearly work programs budget and staff constraints. Implementation of the Management Plan also needs to be balanced with other resource needs throughout the open space system. Many of the management actions will be implemented within the first few years, while others will take many years to accomplish. Some management actions are ongoing, some are short-term, and others are long-term, representing considerable investments of time and energy.

Resource Management Issues

Resource management issues are specific occurrences or situations, such as land use practices, visitor use, or noxious weed infestations that can compromise the conservation values of the property. Based on the site visits and public input during this process, management issues for University Park Open Space are listed below and addressed with management actions.

<p>Vegetation Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noxious weed management • Weed inventory and control <p>Forest Health Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire mitigation projects • Forest composition and structure • Pest management <p>Visitor Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of “wildness” and character of the property • Balance of preservation of natural resource and use 	<p>Trail Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail/trailhead wayfinding • Designated (system) trails • Rogue (non-system) trails • Trail location (e.g., drainages and poor soils) • Shortcutting • Trail condition (e.g., erosion and widening) • Connections <p>Dog Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off-leash dogs: natural resource and visitor impacts • Potential dog waste and dog waste bags
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All of these issues were considered during the management planning process. However, not all issues are directly addressed by the proposed management strategies. Some issues (e.g., trail system) are more appropriately addressed as part of a separate Master Plan process, while others did not warrant a management response at this time.

Discussion of Key Management Issues and Strategies

Noxious Weed Management

Prioritization of weed management efforts is based on several factors. Attempting to control all the non-native species present within the University Park Open Space can be overwhelming and ultimately unsuccessful, so it is important to develop a strategy to ensure the most efficient use of resources. This type of strategy is built upon two principles. First, instead of managing against weeds, the philosophy is to manage for the desired target species and communities within University Park Open Space. With this spirit, the species that have been identified as

management concerns are those that have the potential to threaten the survival of native communities. Second, to minimize the total, long-term weed control workload, the Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department will act to prevent new infestations and contain the spread of plants with expanding ranges. Prioritization of weed management efforts considers legal mandates, weed biology, and species distribution.

In addition to legal mandates and weed biology, the existing distribution of weeds within University Park Open Space is of primary importance in prioritizing weeds for management activities (Figure 5). The analogy of a wildfire has often been used to describe the spread of noxious weeds. Using this analogy, small, isolated patches of weeds are generally considered a higher priority for control activities than large, well-established infestations. Small, isolated patches are easier to eradicate because there is a smaller distribution of plants, smaller seed bank, less-developed root system, and potentially, a desirable vegetation community. The Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department also notes species that are not yet within University Park Open Space, but are found nearby and could be problems if they spread to the property. The weed management program includes regularly monitoring University Park Open Space for these species in order to quickly detect and eliminate them if they ever do appear.

With this monitoring in mind, higher priority will be given to:

- Weeds with a specific management status designation of elimination
- Weed species that are new or relatively rare to the region or University Park Open Space
- Species not well established in surrounding areas
- Small infestations of species known to be highly invasive
- Infestations likely to spread because of location (e.g., road sides, trail sides, drainages, or wind breaks) or management activities (e.g., trail work or forest treatments)
- Infestations adjacent to or likely to spread into areas containing conservation targets
- Edges of large infestations

Lower priority will be given to:

- Large, well-established infestations for which there is little potential for eradication on University Park Open Space
- Species that are well established in surrounding areas and thus provide a constant seed source to University Park Open Space
- Species confined to disturbed areas
- Species that are easier to control relative to others

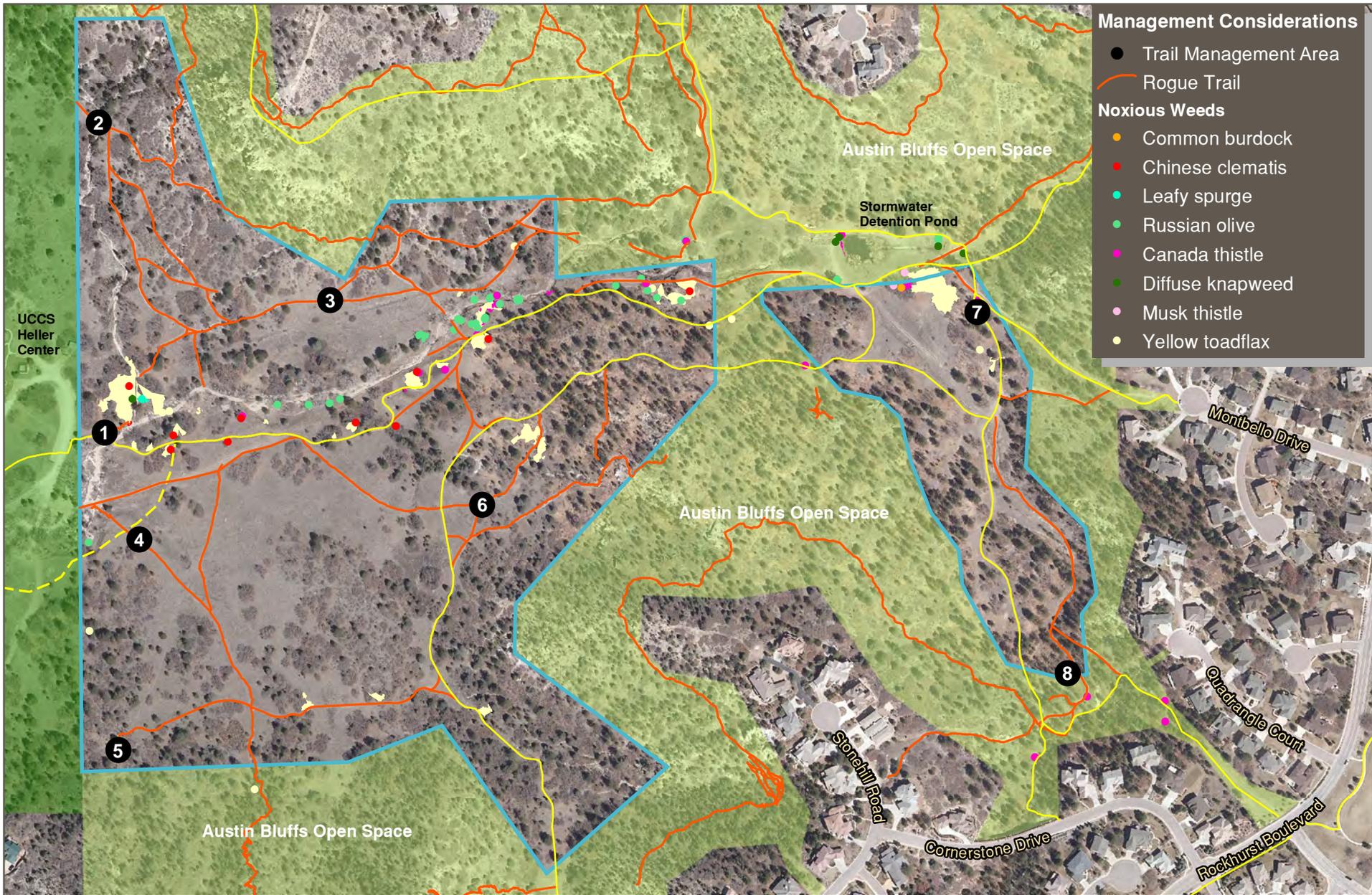


Figure 5. Management Considerations

- University Park Open Space
- Other Parks and Open Space
- University of Colorado - Colorado Springs
- Designated Trail
- Proposed Trail



Vegetation Management

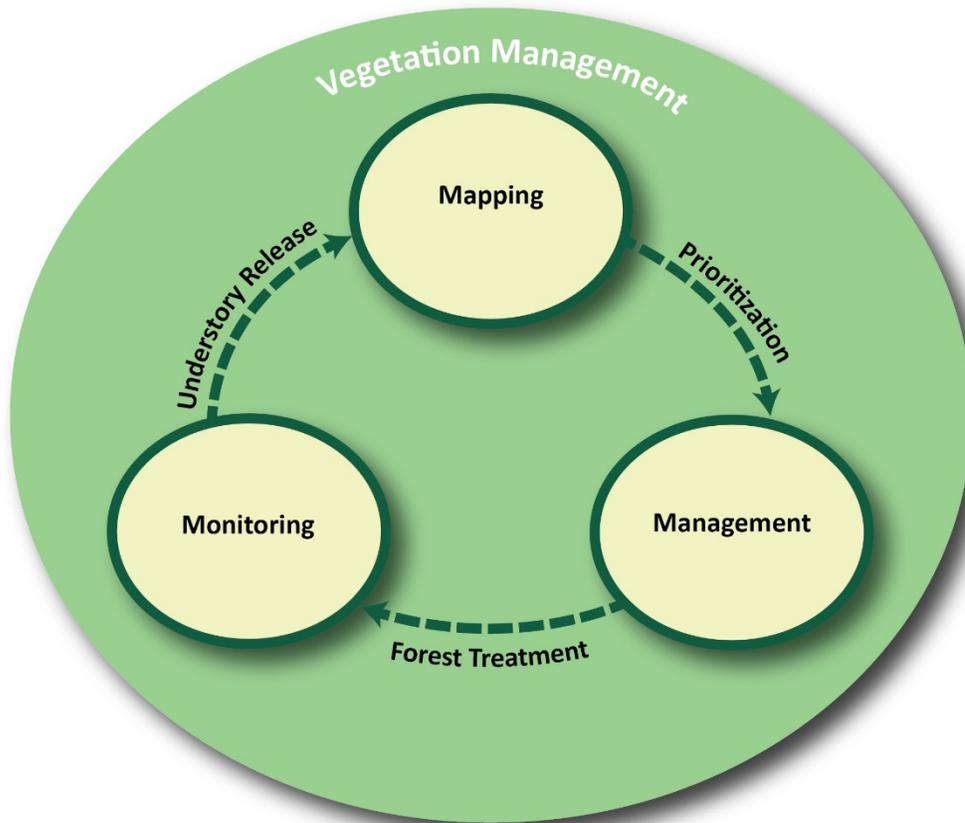
Thinning and other treatments on University Park Open Space can restore ecological integrity in the ponderosa pine forest that is at risk of unnaturally severe crown fires and disease outbreaks. Such treatments can promote the survival and recruitment of native plant and animal species, but they also represent a significant disturbance that can allow noxious weeds to spread. Noxious weeds, as previously discussed, can cause significant ecological problems. Mitigating their impact must be a high priority during the planning and implementation of restoration treatments.

Most noxious weed species prefer disturbed areas for colonization. For this reason, restoration sites are a highly suitable place for noxious weed migration and proliferation. Severe soil disturbances, including those caused by restoration thinning, may provide an ideal colonization site for these opportunistic species and result in profound changes in understory vegetation.

Leaving forests untreated, though, is not an effective means of dealing with noxious weeds. Severe wildfires, such as those that have occurred in many overly dense ponderosa pine forests in the region, can promote the spread of many noxious weed species. When carefully planned and implemented, restoration treatments that prevent severe fires can help prevent the spread of noxious weeds.

Considering the land-use history of University Park Open Space, concentrations of invasive seeds may be present within the seed bank at sites where disturbances such as construction, road building, seeding, livestock grazing, and logging occurred in the past. Present-day disturbance (e.g., new home or trail construction) in these locations could encourage their emergence from the soil seed bank, and it may be impossible to avoid the colonization of noxious weed species. The graphic on page 20 provides a visualization for vegetation management, specifically an approach of how to integrate noxious weed management with forest treatments (e.g., thinning), or even trail restoration. The steps shown in the graphic are outlined below.

- **Mapping.** The planning process for forest treatments (e.g., thinning) should include an inventory of existing plant species located on and near the treatment site. Where possible, areas heavily infested with noxious weeds should not undergo treatments until the infestations have been controlled.
- **Prioritization.** Where invasive exotics are present in treatment areas on University Park Open Space, thin areas without infestations first, and control existing populations of noxious weeds — otherwise noxious weeds will spread into areas that are currently weed free. Ensure that heavily trafficked sites, such as roads, trail corridors, staging areas, and potential log landings (if any), have no noxious weeds present.



- **Management.** Control noxious weeds before work begins on the ground. If noxious weeds are present in only small numbers in or around the treatment site, it may be feasible and is certainly advisable to eradicate them before any **forest treatment** work begins. A little bit of control before any soil disturbance occurs can avert the need to do a lot of control later on.
- **Monitor.** The prevention of colonization by noxious weeds does not end when on-the-ground forest management activity is complete. The removal of portions of the tree canopy will promote an **understory release** with the potential to increase the density of noxious weeds. Monitoring after treatment is vital and should be done annually. Include intermediate targets, rather than only end targets, in order to ensure that restoration objectives are being met along the way.

Regardless of the best efforts at prevention, some noxious weeds likely will appear following forest treatments. Some are more of a problem than others. For example, common mullein may invade forest management sites on University Park Open Space following treatment. Common mullein tends to be replaced during the course of successional changes within a few years, although viable seeds may remain plentiful in the soil seed bank. Other more aggressive species (e.g., diffuse knapweed) on University Park Open Space may persist and spread unless managed. It is much easier to remove invasive plant infestations when they are small. A few hours spent dealing with weeds soon after thinning, and before plants reach the reproductive stage, can avert larger infestations later.

Trail and Access Management

University Park Open Space includes a network of designated and rogue trails, with a range of quality and condition. Trails and access patterns cross boundaries between University Park Open Space, Austin Bluffs Open Space, Pulpit Rock, and UCCS land. The overall layout and circulation of trails needs to be considered in a future master plan that incorporates these multiple properties. In the interim, ongoing management of problematic rogue trails needs to continue to prevent trail widening and braiding, to manage erosion and to protect habitat resources. The following general strategies are recommended to maintain and improve the trail infrastructure and visitor experiences on the property:

- Monitor the development and use of undesigned rogue trails on the property to understand the extent of rogue trails and the reasons they are created (i.e., desired connection or avoidance of other problem areas)
- Consistently and aggressively close problematic rogue trails, using fencing, signage, vegetation or visual obstructions as appropriate to limit continued use
- Complete trail maintenance and improvement projects, including small reroutes, concurrent with rogue trail closure to provide visitors with a clear and positive experience on designated trails and to discourage the creation of new rogue trails

While the overall trail and facility layout and circulation is to be comprehensively evaluated in a future master plan for the property and surrounding open space lands, this management plan includes several specific recommendations to address these issues in the interim. The following trail system maintenance and management priorities should be implemented in the near term, prior to and concurrent with a master planning process. These focus areas and points are listed below and are shown on Figure 5.

1. Close and reclaim existing designated and rogue trails accessing west boundary after regional trail is completed
2. Stabilize or reroute and reclaim arroyo crossing to create a sustainable trail tread and minimize continued erosion and braiding
3. Improve drainage and sustainability of contour trail in this area with drainage improvements, grade dips, and minor reroutes
4. Close, reroute, and consolidate trails in the meadow to create a single, well-designed and sustainable trail connection
5. Close and reclaim. rogue trails in southwest corner of the property
6. Close and reclaim rogue trails
7. Close, reroute, and consolidate trails along east meadow to improve experience and sustainability
8. Close and reclaim steep and erosive trails

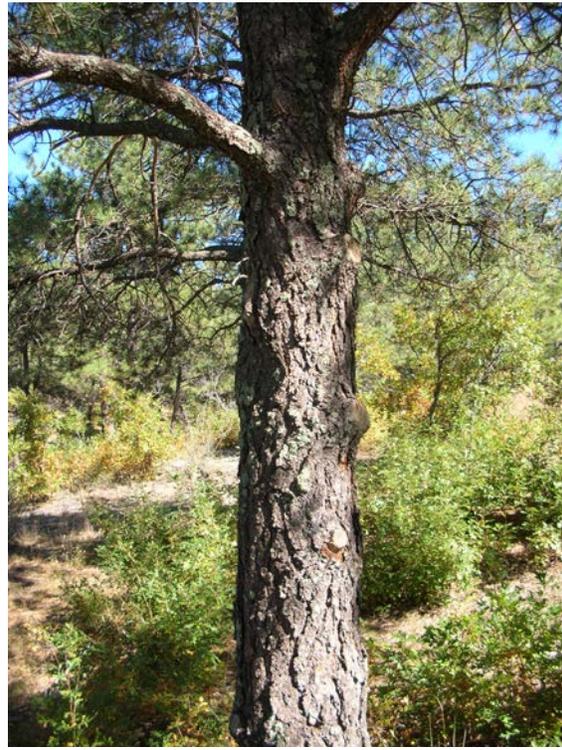


Example of rogue trail development

Forest Management

Natural fire patterns in the Colorado Springs area were first disrupted on a large scale in the second half of the 19th century with settlement into the region. At the same time, the common logging practice was driven by timber cutting that took the largest trees, leaving behind slash, undergrowth, and smaller trees. This land use history helped to develop into the current conditions in the region that favor a crown fire regime with a relatively high risk of catastrophic stand-replacing fire.

In a continuing effort to promote forest health and address the fire hazard in the wildland-urban interface, the Forestry Division of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department intends to complete additional forest management actions (i.e., “treatments”) that will connect to previously completed treatment areas from 2013 to 2014 (Figure 6). The areas scheduled for future treatment when funding is available are forested with ponderosa pine, some of which is infected with dwarf mistletoe.



Limbed trees help to reduce ladder fuels

Treatment strategies for forest management on University Park Open Space should include:

- Thinning stands leaving the appropriate amount of downed woody debris
- Restoring the ponderosa pine ecosystem with a diversity of age classes
- Monitoring and controlling dwarf mistletoe in ponderosa pine
- Thinning understory regeneration, juniper thickets, and Gambel oak where appropriate
- Integrating noxious weed management with forest treatments
- Establishing and/or maintaining one or two large snags per acre

Utility Road Access and Management

The City of Colorado Springs Public Works Department and Colorado Springs Utilities maintain a stormwater detention pond immediately adjacent to the property on Austin Bluffs Open Space. Primary access to this pond for maintenance is along a two-track road that crosses the property from the west. This road follows the drainage and the designated regional trail alignment, as well as an underground sanitary sewer main. Several small portions of the trail are co-located with the road. Most of the road is filled in by mixed grassland vegetation, and it also functions as a trail in some of the areas where it deviates from the regional trail alignment.

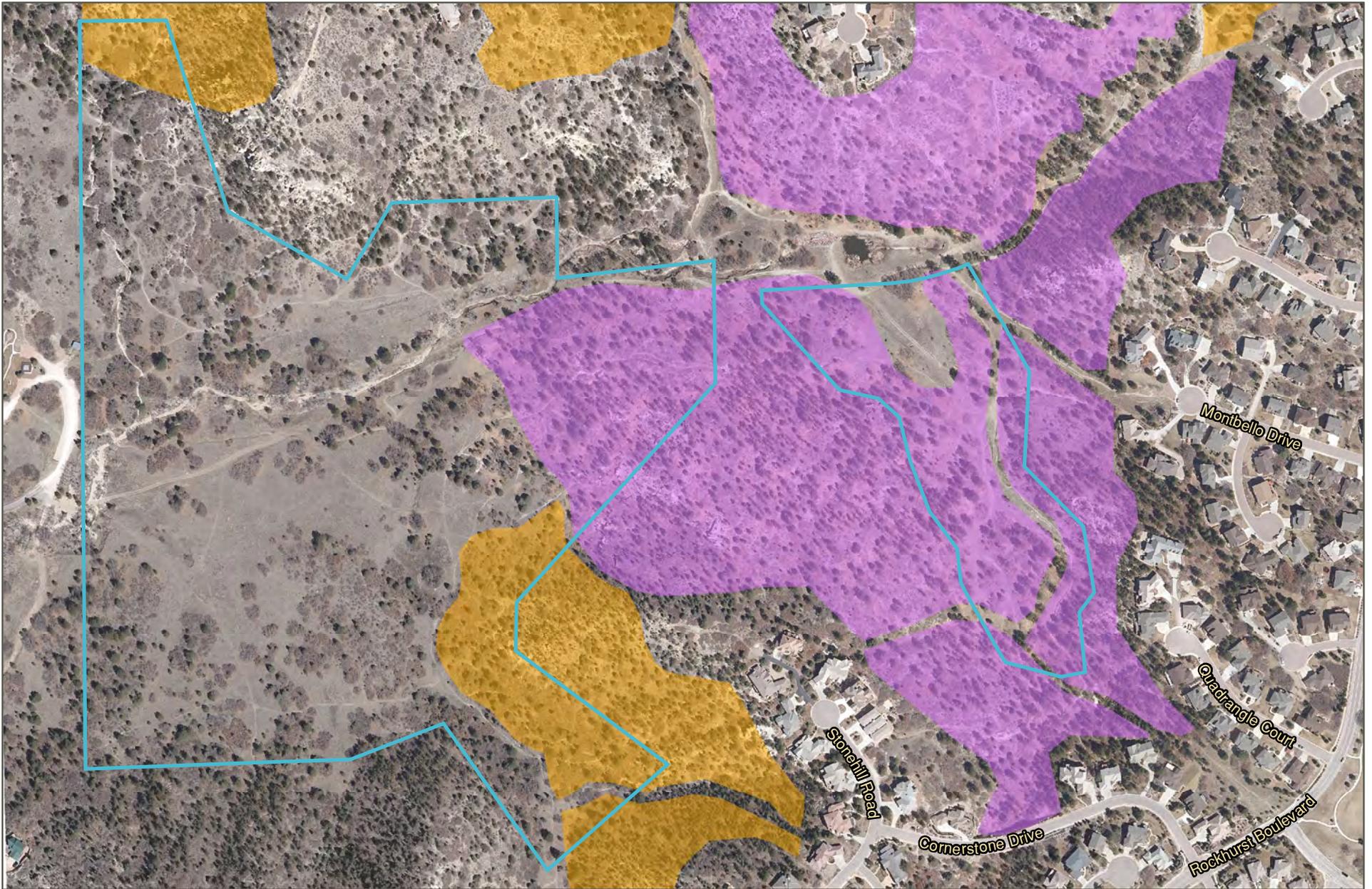


Figure 6. Forest Treatment Areas

 University Park Open Space

Forest Treatment Areas

 Forest Managed in 2013-14

 Future Management Area



To accommodate maintenance equipment, such as a track hoe excavator, the Public Works Department and Colorado Springs Utilities requires access to a road bed with a width of 12 feet and an occasional 16-foot turning radius. While equipment access is infrequent, it is expected to occur as needed to maintain the storm water pond. During and after major maintenance projects, the road bed would likely become wider, more disturbed, and therefore more prone to erosion and the invasion of noxious weeds.

Several ongoing management strategies are recommended to maintain suitable access while minimizing impacts to open space resources. These include establishing native, low grassland vegetation along the road bed to minimize its aesthetic impacts and

reduce noxious weed infestation; trimming or removing shrubs or woody vegetation that encroach into the road bed; and monitoring and managing for noxious weeds, erosion, and drainage concerns along the road.

The eastern meadow of the property contains a secondary two-track road that has been used for infrequent equipment access. This road, and other temporary or unnecessary roads (including those used for forest treatment projects), should be revegetated and closed to prevent erosion, noxious weeds, and rogue trail development.



Colorado Springs Utilities' two-track access road on the open space

Resource Management Strategies

Management strategies for University Park Open Space, including goals, objectives, and actions are presented in the following table, along with the recommended timing and priority of implementation. A more detailed discussion of key management issues is presented below the table.

For the purposes of this section of this Management Plan, the following terminology applies:

- **Goal** – Goals broadly describe the desired states for the future regarding resources and related issues. Goals lay the foundation for the objectives that provide guidance in the decision-making process.
- **Objective** – Objectives are the course of action intended to influence and determine the specific actions.
- **Action** – Actions describe some specific tasks that the City of Colorado Springs can take to accomplish the overall vision for the University Park Open Space.

Timing recommendations are defined as follows:

- **S – Short-term actions** – Should be completed within one year
- **L – Long-term actions** – Should be initiated or completed within five years
- **O – Ongoing actions** – Should be completed on an ongoing, annual basis indefinitely

Priority recommendations are defined as follows:

- **H – High priority actions** – should be accomplished first. These management actions are considered extremely important to the protection of the conservation values of University Park Open Space. High priority actions are directly related to the accomplishment of other resource objectives and goals.
- **M – Medium priority actions** – considered important, but not urgent, and meet a combination of other resource goals and objectives.
- **L – Low priority actions** – important, but not critical to resource protection needs. Low priority management actions do not have to be completed in the immediate future and primarily fulfill a specific resource goal or objective.

Table 1. Summary of Management Strategies for University Park Open Space

Management Strategies	Timing	Priority
VEGETATION		
Goal – Protect and enhance the quality, diversity, and health of native plant communities.		
Objective 1: Manage existing noxious weed infestations and prevent new weed infestations.		
<u>Action:</u> Complete comprehensive noxious weed inventory and mapping on an annual basis	O	M
<u>Action:</u> Complete and implement a system-wide noxious weed management plan, including specific treatment approaches for the University Park and Austin Bluffs Open Space complex. Use an integrated strategy that may include mowing, pulling, biological control, and herbicides. Herbicide application and timing will be chosen to minimize impacts to non-target vegetation and wildlife.	S	H
<u>Action:</u> Concentrate immediate weed management efforts along existing trails, roads, and new construction (e.g., storm drain work on west side)	O	H
<u>Action:</u> Eliminate bull thistle in compliance with management status established for 2015	S	H
<u>Action:</u> Eliminate Chinese clematis in compliance with management status established for 2020	L	H
<u>Action:</u> Remove all Russian olive; some may be adjacent to University Park Open Space	S	M
<u>Action:</u> Continue Siberian elm removal effort through the use of open space volunteers	S	M
<u>Action:</u> Coordinate with the Public Works Department and Colorado Springs Utilities to manage and monitor vehicle access and disturbances across the property	O	H
<u>Action:</u> Conduct all future forest restoration practices with an integrated noxious weed management strategy	O	H
<u>Action:</u> Integrate weed management into all management practices, including reclamation of disturbed areas, use of weed-free materials, cleaning maintenance equipment from off-site, and monitoring project areas for new weed infestations	O	M
Objective 2: Manage forest communities to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire and to reduce encroachment of dense pine, juniper, and shrubs		
<u>Action:</u> Monitor for harmful forest insects and diseases (e.g., dwarf mistletoe)	O	M
<u>Action:</u> Refine forest management (i.e., slash disposal) methods to minimize vegetative impacts. This includes disposing of slash through pile burning or use of an air curtain burner if permissible through the Colorado Springs Fire Department. In areas where burning may be restricted, chip and haul slash off site for reuse/recycling, or disperse chipped materials to a depth of no more than two inches. Large-diameter material should be used to facilitate trail closures if warranted.	S	M
<u>Action:</u> Integrate forest management practices with noxious weed management strategies	O	M
WILDLIFE		
Goal – Protect and enhance wildlife habitat on the property.		
Objective 1: Plan and implement management projects in a manner that protects and enhances wildlife habitat		

Management Strategies	Timing	Priority
<u>Action:</u> Avoid conducting habitat-disturbing activities (e.g., tree removal, grubbing, grading) during the March–July breeding season for songbirds to avoid the destruction of nests	O	H
<u>Action:</u> Close and reclaim rogue trails to maintain unfragmented habitat for wildlife	L	H
VISITOR USE, TRAILS, AND INFRASTRUCTURE		
Goal – Manage trails and infrastructure to provide high-quality recreation experience and to meet stormwater maintenance requirements, while protecting natural resource values		
Objective 1: Develop a comprehensive trail and visitor use Master Plan for the University Park, Austin Bluffs and Pulpit Rock Open Space complex of properties		
<u>Action:</u> Collaborate with UCCS staff and neighborhood groups to comprehensively integrate trail and property management needs	O	M
<u>Action:</u> Comprehensively address system and non-system trails, trail realignments and closures, possible new trails, neighborhood connections, trailheads, trail standards, and wayfinding signage	S	H
<u>Action:</u> Install current and consistent trail system maps and regulatory signs at primary trailheads and entry points as part of future master plan implementation	L	H
Objective 2: Implement ongoing trail maintenance and management projects, emphasizing erosion and hazard areas, trail braiding, redundant trails, and non-system rogue trails		
<u>Action:</u> Collaborate with neighborhood groups and UCCS staff to plan and implement trail maintenance projects	O	M
<u>Action:</u> Complete short reroutes of system trails to eliminate steep, eroded, or otherwise unsustainable alignments	S	M
<u>Action:</u> Complete short reroutes of system trails to minimize trail sections through riparian habitat areas	S	M
<u>Action:</u> Close unsustainable and redundant trails to prevent resource damage; install fencing to enforce closures until vegetation re-establishes	S	M
<u>Action:</u> Emphasize trail management and maintenance efforts in specific locations (see Figure 5)	S	H
<u>Action:</u> Develop an annual work plan for staff, volunteer, and contracted trail maintenance efforts	O	H
Objective 3: Manage dog use on the property to allow reasonable and enjoyable access that is consistent with regulations, conflict management, and resource protection needs.		
<u>Action:</u> Install and maintain clear signs affirming dog on-leash regulations at primary trailheads and entry points.	S	M
<u>Action:</u> Actively affirm and enforce dog regulations using a combination of outreach materials, staff presence, and law enforcement	O	M
Objective 4: Coordinate with the Public Works Department and Colorado Springs Utilities to define and allow necessary equipment access to storm water facilities while minimizing resource impacts		
<u>Action:</u> Designate access points along the existing road to allow for suitable equipment access (12-foot road with a 16-foot turning radius)	S	M
<u>Action:</u> Vegetate access road with native grass species that are suitable for road use, and manage the road to minimize encroachment by shrubs and other impediments	O	M
<u>Action:</u> Monitor access road for noxious weeds, excessive erosion, drainage problems, and other issues that could degrade other resources	O	M

Monitoring

Annual stewardship monitoring is conducted in partnership with the Palmer Land Trust under the terms of the deed restriction (Appendix A). The monitoring process is documented (i.e., reports, photographs, and maps) and tracked. Documentation generally includes site conditions relative to the enforceable terms of the deed restriction.

Additional monitoring of specific resources and specific management issues is necessary to document the on-going trajectory of management issues and to determine how well management objectives are being met. Monitoring allows the City to make informed decisions about resource management priorities and projects, and provides a feedback mechanism that facilitates ongoing learning about resource issues and improvement of techniques to address them.

The monitoring of specific resources and resource issues should be performed on a periodic and ongoing basis. While some monitoring is based on informed observations (e.g., trail conditions), some requires more scheduled and rigorous surveys (e.g., noxious weeds). The following table provides a summary of monitoring tasks that are recommended to track the progress of the resource management strategies listed above.

Table 2. Summary of Monitoring Actions

Monitoring Actions	Frequency	Methods
Vegetation Monitoring		
<u>Action:</u> Inventory and map noxious weed infestations	Annually	Mapping, photos
<u>Action:</u> Survey trail corridors and disturbance areas for new noxious weed infestations	Annually	Visual inspection, point mapping
<u>Action:</u> Monitor forest management areas and trail closures for new noxious weed infestations	Before/after projects	Visual inspection, point mapping
<u>Action:</u> Monitor for harmful forest insects and diseases (e.g., dwarf mistletoe)	Every 3 years	Visual inspection, point mapping
Wildlife Monitoring		
<u>Action:</u> Survey for breeding bird nests prior to habitat-disturbing activities (e.g., tree removal, grubbing, grading, trail construction) during the March–July breeding season	Before projects	Surveys
<u>Action:</u> Work with neighborhood volunteers, Aiken Audubon Society, and other partners to collect data on wildlife observations	Annually	Surveys, counts, observations
Trail and Infrastructure Monitoring		
<u>Action:</u> Inventory and map rogue trail closures and new rouge trails on the property	Annually	Mapping, photos
<u>Action:</u> Monitor and evaluate use and function of trailheads for consideration in a future master plan	Monthly	Visual observation, documentation
<u>Action:</u> Monitor and evaluate trail impacts during wet trail conditions for consideration in future master plan or management plan	Periodically	Visual observation, photos
<u>Action:</u> Document trail sections that are in poor, unsafe, or deteriorating condition	Annually	Visual inspection, point mapping, photos

References

- Colorado Historical Society, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP). 2015. Compass Search. Denver, CO. December 21.
- Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP). 2001. Survey of Critical Biological Resources, El Paso County, Colorado. Prepared for El Paso County Parks and Leisure Services.
- Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department. 2014. City of Colorado Springs Park System Master Plan. September 23, 2014.
- Natural Resources Conservation Service. 2015. Web Soil Survey. Available at: <<http://websoil survey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm>>. Last accessed November 24, 2015.
- Thorson, J.P., Carroll, C.J., and Morgan, M.L. 2002. Geologic Map of the Pikeview 7.5 Minute Quadrangle, El Paso County, Colorado. Colorado Geological Survey. Open-File Report OF01-03.
- Thorson, Jon P. 2011. Geology of Upper Cretaceous, Paleocene and Eocene Strata in the Southwestern Denver Basin, Colorado (Southern Part). Colorado Geological Survey, Department of Natural Resources. Denver, Colorado.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2015. IPaC Trust Resource Report – El Paso County, CO. IPaC Information for Planning and Conservation. Report generated November 25, 2015.
- University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS). 2012 (revised July 2014). Master Plan. Available at: <http://www.uccs.edu/Documents/facsrvs/Master%20Plan/Master%20Plan%20-%20UCCS_v8_2014-0715%20pages%207%20and%2085%20updated.pdf>. Last accessed: December 22, 2015.

Appendices

Deed Restriction

Public Involvement Summary

Plant Species List

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**DECLARATION OF
COVENANTS, CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS
UNIVERSITY PARK OPEN SPACE**

Notice: A grant from the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund has been utilized to assist in the acquisition of the University Park Open Space. This declaration contains restrictions on the use and development of this property which are intended to protect its open space values. The State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund has found that the adoption of these restrictions is in the public interest.

RECITALS

- A. The City of Colorado Springs a home rule city and Colorado municipal corporation ("Declarant") is the fee simple title holder of that specific parcel of real property located in El Paso County, Colorado, legally described on Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference (the "Property").
- B. Declarant intends to subject the Property to this Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (the "Declaration") to preserve and protect in perpetuity the open space values of the Property.
- C. Declarant will hereinafter convey the Property subject to this Declaration.

NOW, THEREFORE, Declarant hereby declares that the Property shall be held and (if all or any part is sold in the future) conveyed subject to the following covenants, conditions, restrictions, uses, and obligations, all of which are declared and agreed to be burdens running with the land for the protection of the open space values of the Property.

1. **Purpose.** The purpose of this Declaration is to preserve and protect in perpetuity the open space values of the Property. It is acknowledged and agreed that active recreational uses of the Property, including but not limited to playgrounds, ball fields, golf courses, and motorized vehicular uses are inconsistent with the open space values. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, by execution of this Declaration, Declarant does not intend to create or

convey an interest in real property in favor of any third party or entity, including but not limited to the Board (as hereafter defined), but intends to expressly limit the use and development of the Property as more particularly set forth herein.

2. ***Prohibited Acts.*** Declarant shall not perform nor allow others over whom they have reasonable means of control to perform, any act on or affecting the Property that is inconsistent with the covenants below. In consideration of the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund (the "Board") providing a grant to assist Declarant in its acquisition of the Property and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged and agreed, Declarant hereby authorizes the Board and the William J. Palmer Parks Foundation ("Land Trust") to enforce this Declaration in the manner described below. Declarant, Land Trust and the Board understand and agree that nothing in this Declaration relieves or replaces any obligation or restriction on the use of the Property imposed by applicable law.

3. ***Approved Land Management Plan.*** The Property shall be operated and managed in accordance with a land management plan, prepared by Declarant and reasonably approved by Land Trust. Pursuant to Paragraph 4 below, Declarant shall submit to both the Board and Land Trust the proposed land management plan (and any update thereto) for their review. The Board will consult with Land Trust, but any comments and/or approval shall be conveyed by Land Trust to Declarant. Land Trust shall approve the proposed land management plan, unless after consultation with the Board, Land Trust determines that an item contained therein will have a material adverse impact on the open space values. If Land Trust, after consultation with the Board, determines that an item contained in the proposed land management plan could have a material adverse impact on the open space values, Land Trust shall notify Declarant of its determination and thereafter Declarant shall revise the proposed land management plan. If the Land Trust, after consultation with the Board, approves the proposed land management plan, then such plan shall be designated the "Approved Land Management Plan" and thereafter it shall be updated every five years and submitted to Land Trust and the Board for Approval as set forth herein.

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4. **Approval Process.** Declarant is not required to obtain Land Trust's permission before taking actions permitted under this Declaration except where this Declaration specifies that Declarant must obtain the Land Trust's permission. In those circumstances where this Declaration specifies that Land Trust's permission is required, Declarant shall notify Land Trust (with a copy to the Board) in writing to seek such permission. Land Trust, in consultation with the Board, shall have 45 days to review and comment on any submittal by Declarant (or to request additional information prior to issuing a more formal response). If Land Trust fails to respond to the submittal within the 45 day period (or requests additional information and time to review the additional requested information), then Declarant shall notify Land Trust and the Board that it has not received any response on the submittal (or that it has received the request for additional information and time) and Land Trust shall thereafter have an additional 30 days to respond to the submittal. If Land Trust fails to respond within the additional 30 day period, the submittal shall be deemed approved.

5. **Restrictions.** In the event the construction or reconstruction of a building, structure or other improvement is expressly authorized hereunder or under the Approved Land Management Plan, then the prior written consent of Land Trust and the Board shall not be required provided that both Land Trust and the Board are notified in writing at least 30 days in advance of Declarant's intent to exercise the pre-approved development right which notice refers to the specific provision in either the Approved Land Management Plan or this Declaration where the consent was previously given. Except as expressly authorized in the Declaration or the Approved Land Management Plan, the following restrictions apply to all portions of the Property:
 - a. **Construction of Buildings and Other Structures.** The construction or reconstruction of any building or other structure or improvement is prohibited, except: (i) those existing on the date of this Declaration as referenced in the Baseline Inventory (as hereafter defined), so long as there is no material change to the use, location, appearance or size of such building, structure or improvement; and (ii) those authorized below.
 - b. **Fences.** Declarant may repair or replace existing fences (as reflected in the Baseline Inventory) provided there is no

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material change to the use, location, appearance or size of such fence, and new fences may be built for purposes of reasonable and customary management of livestock and wildlife, and for separation of ownership and uses.

- c. **Subdivision.** Any division or subdivision of title to the Property, whether by physical or legal process, is prohibited.
 - d. **Timber Harvesting.** Trees may be cut to control insects and disease, to control invasive non-native species, to prevent personal injury and property damage, and for approved development on the Property. Dead trees may be cut for firewood and other uses on the Property. Commercial timber harvesting on the Property is prohibited.
 - e. **Mining.** The mining or extraction of soil, sand, gravel, rock, oil, natural gas, fuel, or any other mineral substance is prohibited.
 - f. **Paving and Road and Trail Construction.** No portion of the Property shall be paved or otherwise covered with concrete, asphalt, or any other paving material, nor shall any road or trail be constructed on the Property (collectively referred to as "Paving").
 - g. **Trash.** The dumping or uncontained accumulation of any kind of trash or refuse on the Property by Declarant is prohibited.
 - h. **Commercial or Industrial Activity.** No commercial or industrial uses shall be allowed on the Property.
6. **Enforcement.** Notwithstanding anything set forth below, when, in either the Board's or Land Trust's opinion, an ongoing or imminent violation could irreversibly diminish or impair the open space values of the Property, either the Board or Land Trust may, in their sole, arbitrary and absolute discretion, take appropriate legal action. For purposes of this paragraph, the Board and Land Trust may hereafter be collectively referred to as "Reviewer." The Board and Land Trust, either individually or collectively, shall have the right to enter the Property for the purpose of inspecting for violations. The Board and Land Trust, either individually or collectively, shall have the right to prevent, correct or require correction of violations of the terms and provisions of this Declaration. If Reviewer finds what it believes is a

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violation, either the Board or Land Trust shall immediately notify Declarant in writing of the nature of the alleged violation. Upon receipt of this written notice, Declarant shall either (a) restore the Property to its condition prior to the violation; or (b) provide a written explanation to Reviewer of the reason why the alleged violation should be permitted. If the condition described in clause (b) above occurs, the parties agree to meet as soon as possible to resolve this difference. If a resolution of this difference cannot be achieved at the meeting, the parties may meet with a mutually acceptable mediator to attempt to resolve this dispute. Declarant shall discontinue any activity which could increase or expand the alleged violation during the mediation process. Should mediation fail to resolve the dispute, the Reviewer may, in its sole, arbitrary, and absolute discretion, take appropriate legal action. If a court with jurisdiction determines that a violation is imminent, exists, or has occurred, the Reviewer may get an injunction to stop it, temporarily or permanently. A court may also issue an injunction to require Declarant to restore the Property to its condition prior to the violation. In any case where a court finds that a violation has occurred, Declarant shall reimburse Reviewer for all fees and expressed incurred in stopping and correcting the violation, including, but not limited to, reasonable attorneys' fees. In any case where a court fails to find that a violation has occurred and that Reviewer's position was frivolous or substantially without merit, Reviewer shall reimburse Declarant for all fees and expenses incurred to litigating such dispute, including, but not limited to, reasonable attorneys' fees. Declarant shall not be liable for acts of third parties over whom Declarant has no supervision obligation or reasonable control.

7. **Baseline Inventory.** The parties acknowledge that an inventory of baseline data (the "Baseline Inventory") relating to the Property has been completed by competent professionals familiar with the Property, and furnished by Declarant, the Board and Land Trust. The parties acknowledge that this collection of baseline data contains an accurate representation of the condition of the Property (including but not limited to the improvements located thereon) and the natural resources associated with the Property as of the date of the execution of the Declaration. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event of a controversy arising with respect to the nature of the biological and/or physical condition of the Property, the parties shall not be foreclosed from using any and all other relevant or material documents, surveys, reports and other information to assist in the resolution of that controversy.

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8. **Condemnation.** If the Property is taken in whole or in part by exercise of eminent domain or other legal proceedings, or if this Declaration is otherwise terminated by legal proceedings or otherwise, the Board shall be entitled to receive forty-three percent (43.00%) of the net proceeds of condemnation or sale of the Property.
9. **Permitted Exceptions.** This Declaration is subject to existing easements, covenants and conditions of record.
10. **Notices.** Any notice, demand, request, consent, approval, or communication that a party desires or is required to give shall be in writing and either served personally or sent by first class mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the addresses listed in this Declaration as follows:

if to the Board:

Executive Director
State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund
1600 Broadway, Suite 1650
Denver, CO 80202

if to Declarant:

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Manager
City of Colorado Springs
1400 Recreation Way
Colorado Springs, CO 80905

if to Land Trust:

President
William J. Palmer Parks Foundation
P.O. Box 1281
Colorado Springs, CO 80901

or to such other address as a party from time to time shall designate by written notice to the other.

11. **Successors.** The terms of this Declaration shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties hereto and their

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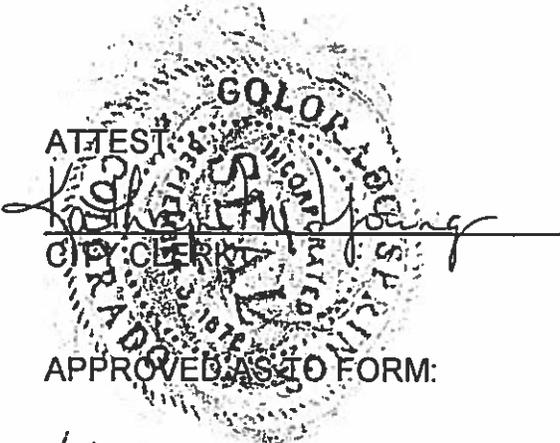
representatives, heirs, successors, and assigns, and shall run with the land in perpetuity. The Board shall have the right, in its sole, absolute and arbitrary discretion, to assign, delegate and/or transfer all or any part of its enforcement rights under the Declaration. Land Trust may only assign its rights and obligations under this Easement to an organization that is (a) a qualified organization at the time of transfer under Section 170(h) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (or any successor provision then applicable), and the applicable regulations promulgated thereunder, (b) authorized to acquire and hold conservation easements under Colorado law, and (c) approved as a transferee by the Board, its successors or assigns. As a condition of transfer, Land Trust must ensure that the conservation purposes of this Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions continue to be carried out by the transferee. The Board retains the right to compel Land Trust to assign its rights and obligations under this Declaration to another organization if Land Trust ceases to exist or fails or refuses to enforce the terms and provisions of this Declaration.

12. **Amendments.** This Declaration may only be amended in a written agreement, signed by both parties, which document is recorded in the records of the Clerk and Recorder or El Paso County.
13. **Severability.** Any provision of this Declaration invalidated in any manner whatsoever shall not be deemed to impair or affect in any manner the validity, enforcement, or effect of the remainder of this Declaration and in such event, all of the other provisions of this Declaration shall continue in full force and effect as if such invalid provision had never been included herein.

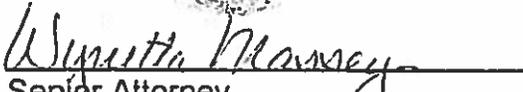
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Declarant has executed this Declaration on the 30th
day of June, 2000.

FOR CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS, a home
rule city and Colorado municipal corporation


Mary Lou Makepeace, Mayor



APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Senior Attorney
Office of the City Attorney

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LEGAL DESCRIPTION
For University Park Land Acquisition

Two tracts of land in the NE ¼ of Section 20 and the NW ¼ of Section 21, Township 13 South, Range 66 West in the 6th PM, City of Colorado Springs, County of El Paso, State of Colorado, described as follows:

Commencing at the South ¼ corner of said Section 20, said point being monumented by a 3 ½" aluminum monument stamped "JR ENG RLS 10377" along with appropriate markings, thence N00°26'33"W on the west line of the East ½ of said Section 20, a distance of 2588.01' to the Point Of Beginning of the first tract described:

thence N88°00'10"E a distance of 534.35' to a point of curve; thence on the arc of a non-tangent curve to the left, whose chord bears N49°38'06"E, having a delta of 73°06'10", a radius of 700.00', and a distance of 833.77'; thence N10°55'04"E, a distance of 68.23' to a point of curve; thence on the arc of a non-tangent curve to the right, whose chord bears N32°41'30"E, having a delta of 43°13'54", a radius of 820.00', and a distance of 604.16'; thence N54°19'10"E, a distance of 232.62' to a point of curve; thence on the arc of a non-tangent curve to the right, whose chord bears N60°57'49"E, having a delta of 12°19'10", a radius of 760.00', and a distance of 163.10'; thence N00°46'16"W, a distance of 22.72'; thence S83°32'58"W, a distance of 462.48'; thence N00°39'25"W, a distance of 236.54'; thence S88°11'25"W, a distance of 483.59'; thence S30°27'31"W, a distance of 260.76'; thence N60°23'28"W, a distance of 401.87'; thence N17°51'04"W, a distance of 590.84'; thence S89°20'09"W, a distance of 247.53' to the west line of the East ½ of said Section 20, thence S00°26'33"E, a distance of 2074.29' along said west line to the Point Of Beginning of said tract. Above described tract contains 46.92 acres more or less

together with a tract described as follows:

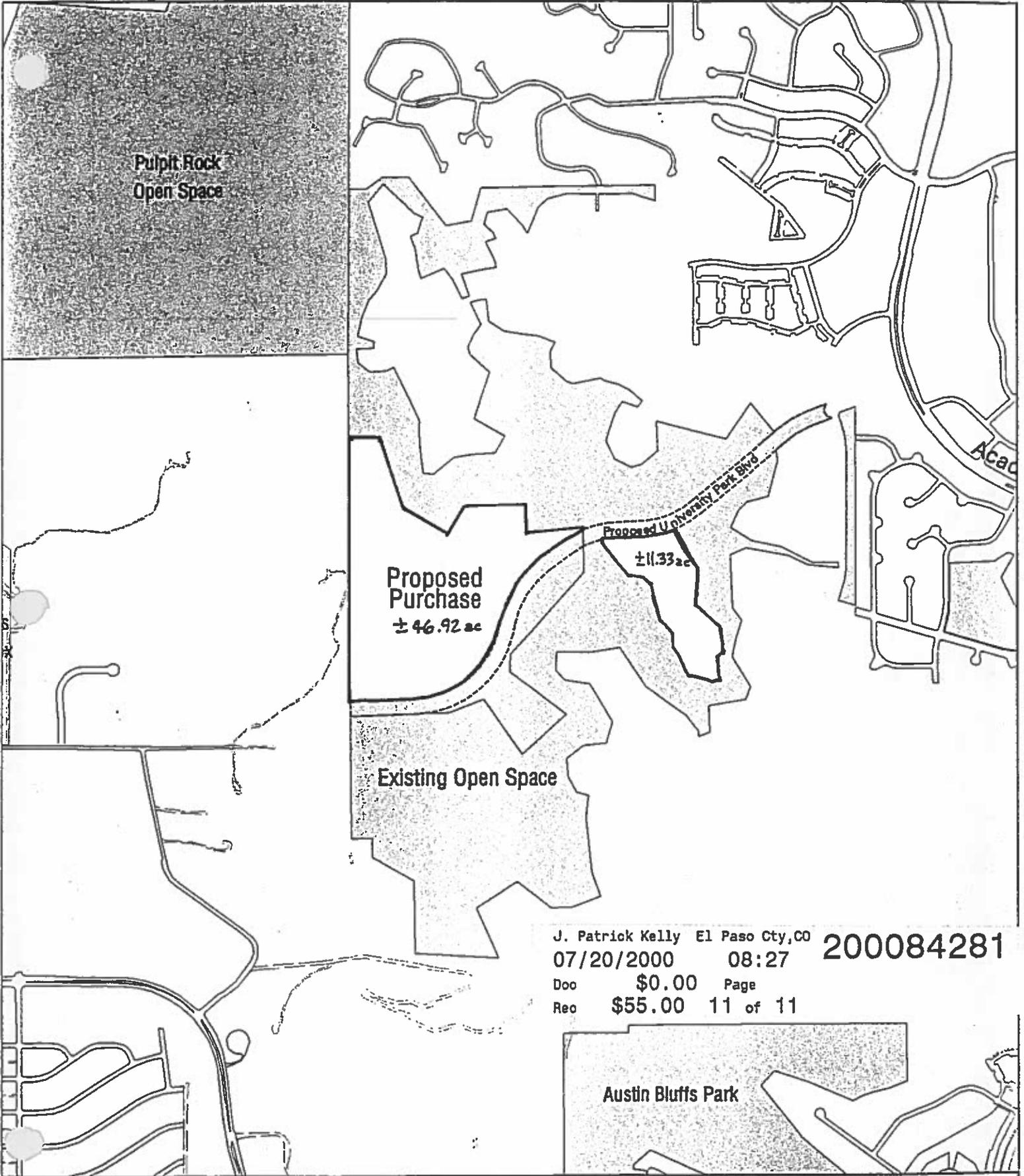
commencing at the South ¼ corner of said section 20; thence N26°52'24"E, a distance of 4335.44; thence N86°38'29"E, a distance of 76.67' to the Point Of Beginning of said tract;

thence continue N86°38'29"E, a distance of 309.61' to the point of curve; thence on the arc of a curve to the left, having a delta of 17°35'10', a radius of 760.00', a distance of 233.27 to a point on curve; thence S28°52'42"E, a distance of 360.23'; thence S03°31'15"W, a distance of 279.25'; thence S44°11'03"E, a distance of 247.86'; thence S09°17'58"E, a distance of 195.31'; thence S37°02'20"W, a distance of 74.43'; thence S05°03'53"E; a distance of 175.27'; thence S80°35'38"W, a distance of 72.28'; thence N75°02'44"W, a distance of 168.88'; thence N29°12'20"W, a distance of 222.87'; thence N27°55'24"W, a distance of 43.48'; thence N05°41'08"W, a distance of 100.81'; thence N36°03'50"W, a distance of 136.80'; thence N20°42'26"W, a distance of 160.18'; thence N13°41'54"W, a distance of 131.47'; thence N47°39'12"W, a distance of 82.53'; thence N77°23'07"W, a distance of 116.45'; thence N41°41'35"W, a distance of 339.38'; thence N03°21'31"W, a distance of 29.81' to a point of curve; thence on a non-tangent curve to the right, whose chord bears N79°23'52"E, having a delta of 06°55'25", a radius of 640', and a distance of 77.29', to the Point Of Beginning of said tract. Above described tract contains 11.33 acres more or less.

The above described tracts of land DO NOT represent an actual monumented boundary survey. It is the intent of this legal description to aid in determining the approximate legal boundary of the proposed land acquisition.

Prepared by:
Colorado Springs Parks & Recreation Department
1401 Recreation Way
Colorado Springs, CO. 80905-1024
March 5, 1999

J. Patrick Kelly El Paso Cty, CO 200084281
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 Doc \$0.00 Page
 Rec \$55.00 11 of 11

EXHIBIT A: PROPOSED LAND ACQUISITION

SCALE 1" = 1000'



State Plane Coordinates
Colorado Central Zone
NAD83 - US Survey Feet
Vertical Datum - NAVD83

Lower Left: 3195501, 1386687
Upper Right: 3201501, 1399137
MAP VERSION: 07-08-1999

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FIRST AMENDMENT TO DECLARATION OF COVENANTS,
CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS
UNIVERSITY PARK OPEN SPACE

This First Amendment is between the City of Colorado Springs, a home rule city and Colorado municipal corporation ("Declarant") and the William J. Palmer Parks Foundation d/b/a The Palmer Land Trust (the "Land Trust").

Declarant and Land Trust entered into a Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions which was recorded on July 20, 2000 in the real property records of El Paso County at Reception No. 200084281 (the "Declaration").

The Declaration in Section 5(f) prohibits construction of any road or trail on the Property as defined in the Declaration. Notwithstanding this prohibition, the Declaration at Section 3 refers to an Approved Land Management Plan and further provides in Section 5 that prior written consent of the Land Trust is not required for the construction of any improvements that are expressly authorized either under the Declarations or under the Approved Land Management Plan.

In 2000, the Land Trust accepted the Approved Land Management Plan for the Property and such plan specifically authorizes the construction of trails as more thoroughly described in the Approved Land Management Plan.

In order to avoid any disagreement or uncertainty arising over the apparent conflict between the approval of trails and the Approved Land Management Plan and the prohibition of trails in Section 5(f), the parties have agreed to amend the declaration.

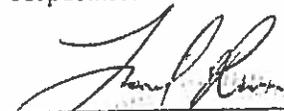
Therefore, in consideration of mutual promises and covenants contained in this First Amendment, the parties hereby amend the Declaration as follows:

1. Section 5(f) is hereby deleted in its entirety and is replaced with the following:
 - f. **Paving and Road and Trail Construction.** No portion of the Property shall be paved or otherwise covered with concrete, asphalt, or any other paving material (collectively referred to as "Paving"). No road or trail shall be constructed on the Property unless the proposed road or trail has been included in an Approved Land Management Plan or has been approved by the Land Trust under Section 4 of this Declaration.
2. Accepted as revised by this Amendment, all the terms and conditions of the Declaration shall remain in full force and effect.



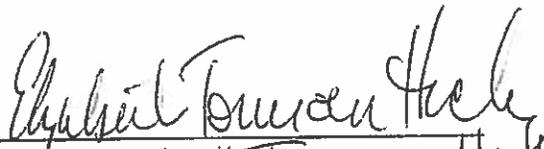
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Declarant has executed this Declaration on the 7th
day of June 2006.

FOR CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS,
a home rule city and Colorado municipal
corporation

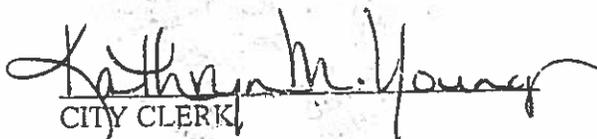


Lionel Rivera, Mayor

William J. Palmer Parks Foundation
d/b/a Palmer Land Trust


By: Elizabeth Tormoen Higley
as President

ATTEST



CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Senior Attorney
Office of the City Attorney

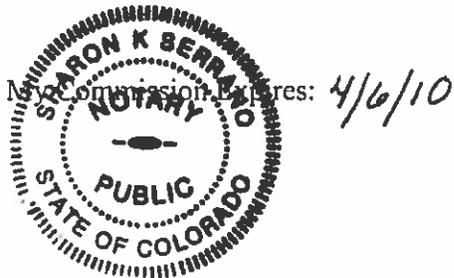
APPROVED AS TO FORM

 4126107

MUNICIPAL STAFF ATTORNEY
CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS

STATE OF COLORADO)
)
) ss.
COUNTY OF EL PASO)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me on this 26th day of July, 2007, by Lionel Rivera, Mayor for the City of Colorado Springs.



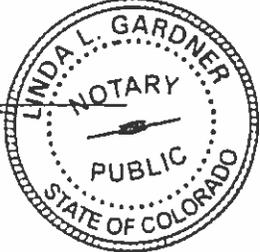
Sharon K. Berrano
Notary

STATE OF COLORADO)
)
) ss.
COUNTY OF EL PASO)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me on this 7th day of June, 2007, ELIZABETH TAMMEN HICKS for Palmer Land Trust.

My Commission Expires: 7/9/08

Linda L. Gardner
Notary



University Park Open Space Management Plans
Community Workshop
December 8, 2105

Discussion Comments and Questions by Issue Category

Do you have any questions about any of the preliminary management strategies presented and discussed tonight? Is anything missing that you believe is important to include? Do you have any comments about any of the strategies?

Vegetation Management

- What changed to cause the increase in noxious weeds in University Park?
- Do you leave cut trees down on the ground?
- The pond is “glutted” with plants and silt. Might be from too much fertilizer used nearby.

Visitor Experience

- I think the point of open space is to keep it natural. I’m against signs.
- Agree it should be kept natural, but many people don’t know where they are. It is not clear.
- It is not clear which are official main trails and which are social trails.
- I think the trails are clearly marked.
- Exploring is a way to learn.
- Aware of the Ute Indian prayer (culturally modified) trees – do we know where those are? Consider visitor use issues.
- Consider issues regarding visitor use of hoodoos as well. They become party sites with litter.
- Neat and unique place because of the trails that are there. Concerned about closure of really nice trails for one trail.
- Different trails were created because people went to interesting places.
- Could you use footbridges on trails with erosion (from this year’s heavy rains) to keep them open?
- Erosion issue near Eagle Rock. What are the plans to work on this?
- Would like to see circular trails maintained.
- Keep trails that connect to UCCS and Pulpit Rock.
- What is the purpose of the realignment of the trail to UCCS?
- Taking the underpass trail to the Greenway Trail is very dangerous. Cars not yielding to cyclists is an issue.
- I think cars are pretty good about yielding to cyclists.
- Who is going to make the decision on which social trails to close? Will users get to weigh in? What is the time frame for doing a master plan?
- What funding does Austin Bluffs Open Space get?
- What is the intent regarding dogs?
- Keep it accessible to bikes
- Need to keep the trails in University Park. People bought houses to be near the trails. It’s the number one reason I bought my house. Leave the trails as is.
- May not need to do more than get the trails back to the way they were before the unusual and significant rain event(s) this year.

- Want to see a master plan done. Have noticed increased use and new trails coming off the hills. Don't want trails every 5 feet.
- Erosion was occurring before this year.

Wildlife Management

- Have you seen any specific types of ground nesting birds?

Verbatim Individual Response Form Responses

Do you have any comments about any of the preliminary management strategies for the University Park Open Space property presented and discussed tonight?

Vegetation

- Agree with the ordering of priorities for noxious weed management.
- Agree with the vegetation and plan to cut back on casual social trails that was addressed by the presenter.

Visitor Experience

- We enjoy hikers, bikers, even equestrian horses but City-sponsored big (large) events are not the purpose of an open space – they should use a City park, where wider trails, signage and erosion is managed for event use.
- Maybe need to remove some City pipes laying around unused and half-buried, but broken or rusted.
- Dogs are not a problem in this open space. Many of these “social trails” are animal trails – animals like trails. Deer, bears, coyotes, porcupine, bobcats, rabbits, squirrels, martin, occasional mountain lions – all use these trails. Let's make sure that we don't make this an issue that doesn't exist.
- Think homeowners in the area need education on noxious weeds. Would like to see some signage for major trails in University Park
- Concern on any signage, besides at perimeter trailheads.
- I'm not confident one bit that this issue of “social trails” is a concern. The so-called “social trails” are the nicest, least-used trails in this open space.
- Did not address truck trails from City vehicles; these erode and become wider over time.
- What is the maximum width City designates for our main designated trails? They have become quite wide in this open space.

Wildlife Management

- Whenever possible, please leave downed trees and brush for wildlife.

Other

- This open space is one of the nicest spots in the city – I've lived here for 15 years and it is as nice today as it was in 2001. I'm extremely concerned that this management plan will be a “solution” in search of a “problem.” Most of the officials represented at this meeting will virtually never use this

open space. I understand the government tendency to assert control. I get it. Please don't make it worse for the people who really do use it.

- Did not mention who is leading and is our contact for further input and feedback on the Plan.
- Good overview. Timeline would have been helpful. Thanks for information.
- We would be happy to walk/bike with anyone in that space to show how it is used. (*Contact information provided and forwarded to City staff*)

Public Comments on Draft University Park Open Space Management Plan

First name	Last Name	Comment
Ron	Beck	<p>I commend all those who worked on the very comprehensive plan. What a lot of work! I have lived in University Park for 15 years and have enjoyed walking in the open space weekly. During this time the open space has deteriorated from its more natural state.</p> <p>Social and rogue trails continue to be a negative. I note that figure 5 even shows in yellow some trails that used to be social trails. Lets do everything possible to discourage more rogue trails...we don't want to look like Palmer Park which is out of control with erosion. Bikes have added to erosion on the social trails.</p> <p>Fire mitigation a couple of years ago created new tracks used by trucks that have yet to be restored and reseeded. This needs to be a priority. Utility access tracks are used by bikes and walkers as short cuts and are now more worn than the official nearby trails. Boo hoo!</p> <p>The majority of dogs I see are off leash. How can we enforce leash laws better in the open space? I founded it interesting that the list of native wildlife did not include rattlesnakes...even though the city warns of them on entrance signs. Overall I would like to see OS kept as natural as possible, without excessive signage and minimize trails.</p>
Kathleen	Beck	<p>I have read with great interest the draft of a master plan for University Park Open Space. We have lived on the northern edge of the open space since 2001 and frequently walk there. Over the years we have seen some big improvements (the central trail) and some less desirable consequences of increasing usage.</p> <p>Vegetation: Noxious weeds are a concern, especially in wet years. While weed control in areas like this is difficult, given the amount of disturbed ground and the proximity to residential areas, it is important to keep non-native species from choking out the native ones. How can we residents help?</p> <p>Wildlife: We have noticed a decline in the number of animals we see in the open space. No doubt increased use contributes to this, and of course people aren't going to go away. Declines in small predators like coyotes and foxes have led to increased rodent and rabbit populations, which in turn adversely affect the natural balance. We hope the master plan will consider ways to encourage hospitable wildlife habitats. (Could do without the rattlesnakes, though!)</p> <p>Thinning of trees and undergrowth: Thank you! Any decrease in fire risk is welcome. Would like to see more prompt restoration of resulting roads and disturbed areas.</p> <p>Pond: We understand that reeds and such are a natural part of wetlands. But given that the retention pond is artificial and has a specific purpose, it seems reasonable to keep it clear of willows and other growth which limits the area of the pond, and to minimize algae to the extent possible.</p>

Trails: Attention to trail development and maintenance is urgent. The open space has deteriorated significantly in the past few years, with extensive social trails opening up and a lot of erosion, much of which seems to come from bicycles (as evidenced by the narrow ruts in the middle of the trails). We really don't want to have a replica of Palmer Park in this area, with its severe trail deterioration. Cyclists routinely ignore efforts to block trails, such as the wooden barriers with "this is not a trail" designation that were installed a few years ago, and to create new routes across sensitive areas. Please make trails a high priority.

Dogs: The person who commented that unleashed dogs are rare must not use the same areas we do! We rarely walk in the open space without seeing a number of free-ranging dogs, which chase wildlife and occasionally menace other users. Dog waste is an ongoing concern. A few citations might help to raise awareness of leash laws among dog owners. Certainly the current signs have little effect.

We are very glad to see the attention you are giving to the open space. Many thanks to the Parks Department and to TOPS for helping to establish and manage this beautiful area.

Susan Mishowitch

I'm following up the public meeting & the draft work with my comments. Thanks for the opportunity to participate.

1. The question I have is "is signage effective and does it encourage the correct behavior?"

If it is effective, please add more items to the dog & waste items. As a volunteer, I see signs of camping, fires, littering, drinking, smoking, breaking glass & defacing rock (photos). If signage helps prevent activity, please add these items.

2. Can trash can be located near trail heads? This might encourage people to bag their trash & carry it out.

If the Parks Service needs location of burn sites or rock defacing, please let me know & I will provide details or show someone the location

From page 2 summary:

Implement signage system to inform visitors of open space regulations and information

Clarify all park regulations including dog leash and waste removal regulations at the trailhead and any new neighborhood connections

<p>Susan Larsen</p>	<p>I see everything we discussed on 8 Dec, at least for the Open Space plan, which I attended. However, I do not view anything that is drafted for the recommendations to Council based upon our input. I urge the Council to consider an Open Space is not the same as a Park and should not have the signage, except only where the cars may park. The idea is to amble, scrounge, discover along the trails without being directed to everything. Developed parks are for more directed usage, like Garden of the Gods or Shook's Run. The sights and smells in an open space should be able to change with the wind. The perimeter volunteers like me, are happy to help as long as we know when and where so that the city does not feel a burden in taking on the noxious weeks removal. We volunteers have already learned which ones they are (some of them) and are told we are free to take them out when we come upon them. Trail maintenance is another activity we enjoy helping on, fixing erosion problems or removing unwanted debris. At the 8 Dec meeting I don't recall going over what those "ordinances" are. Those could be another attachment to the website. (unless I missed them) What I enjoy about volunteering is learning more about the plants and animals, trails and birds, from those I am volunteering with or just from focusing more on how the park is affected. I'd like see the recommendation to council and to know what date/time the recommendation will be presented to them. Thank you for giving us the information and opportunity to speak up for our open space areas.</p>
<p>Jeffrey Hansen</p>	<p>Thanks for sharing these. As for comments, I'm just wondering what the process will be for determining which trails will close- to the user, rogue trails are indistinguishable from formal trails, and so I'd hope there's some limited public involvement in the determinations for some trails (e.g. it'd be a shame to lose all the trails in the SW corner).</p> <p>Additionally, I sit on the trails committee for Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates and would be happy to help assemble trail work volunteers on scheduled work days to help maintain and rebuild trails as needed.</p>
<p>Christina Randell</p>	<p>On behalf of the Division of the Fire Marshal, we have reviewed the draft management plans for University Park and Sinton Pond. We very much appreciate that you are addressing wildfire risk in regards to adjacent neighborhoods as well as the resources. We do have a couple of comments regarding the slash disposal noted in the plans.</p> <p>In the plan, it notes pile burning or use of an air curtain burner.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any open burning, pile burning or use of an appliance (i.e. air curtain burner) requires a permit issued by the Division of the Fire Marshal. 2. Any open burning or pile burning requires a CSFD approved burn plan. 3. CSFD does not issue open burn permits for areas in the city adjacent to neighborhoods at risk. (Typically these are used for city assets at risk outside city limits and away from neighborhoods like CSU property and watersheds.)

Our recommended practice for mitigation in the city is chip and scatter to a depth of no more than 4 " in areas with less than 25% slope, with no piles left. Or in areas where there is slope greater than 25%, chip and haul of site, to be recycled (at Rocky Top Resources.) If you or ERO has any specific questions regarding fuels treatment or prescribed burning, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thanks again for letting us comment and working with us to improve fire safety!

Plant Species List for University Park Open Space

Common Name	Scientific Name
Grasses, Rushes, Sedges and Reeds	
Big bluestem*	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>
Blue grama	<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>
Crested wheatgrass	<i>Agropyron cristatum</i>
Little bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>
Mountain muhly	<i>Muhlenbergia montana</i>
Nebraska sedge	<i>Carex nebrascensis</i>
Needle-and-thread	<i>Stipa comata</i>
Prairie sandreed	<i>Calamovilfa longifolia</i>
Sand dropseed	<i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i>
Sideoats grama	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>
Smooth brome	<i>Bromus inermis</i>
Threeawn	<i>Aristida</i>
Western wheatgrass	<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>
Shrubs	
Big rabbitbrush	<i>Ericameria nauseosus</i>
Chokecherry	<i>Padus virginiana</i>
Common buckthorn (exotic)	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>
Gambel oak	<i>Quercus gambelii</i>
Kinnikinnick	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>
Mountain mahogany	<i>Cercocarpus montanus</i>
Prostrate juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i> subsp. <i>alpina</i>
Rocky Mountain juniper	<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i>
Skunkbush	<i>Rhus trilobata</i>
Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos</i> sp.
Wax currant	<i>Ribes cereum</i>
Wild rose	<i>Rosa woodsii</i>
Willow	<i>Salix</i> sp.
Yucca	<i>Yucca glauca</i>
Trees	
Douglas-fir	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>
Narrowleaf cottonwood	<i>Populus angustifolia</i>
Piñon pine*	<i>Pinus edulis</i>
Plains cottonwood	<i>Populus deltoides</i> subsp. <i>monilifera</i>
Ponderosa pine	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i> subsp. <i>scopulorum</i>
Siberian elm (exotic)	<i>Ulmus pumila</i>
Flowers	
Ball cactus	<i>Pediocactus simpsonii</i>
Common dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>
Common plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>
Curly dock	<i>Rumex crispus</i>
Gayfeather	<i>Liatris punctata</i>
Low penstemon	<i>Penstemon virens</i>
Paintbrush	<i>Castilleja</i> sp.
Pasqueflower	<i>Pulsatilla patens</i>
Pasture sage	<i>Artemisia frigida</i>
Poison ivy	<i>Toxicodendron rydbergii</i>
Prairie coneflower	<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>
Prickly-pear	<i>Opuntia polyacantha</i>
Sand lily	<i>Leucocrinum montanum</i>
Silver sage	<i>Artemisia cana</i>
Silvery potentilla	<i>Potentilla hippiana</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Tumble mustard	<i>Sisymbrium altissimum</i>
Yarrow	<i>Achillea lanulosa</i>
Noxious Weeds	
Bull thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
Canada thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Cheatgrass	<i>Bromus tectorum</i>
Chinese clematis	<i>Clematis orientalis</i>
Common burdock	<i>Arctium minus</i>
Common mullein	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>
Diffuse knapweed	<i>Centaurea difussa</i>
Field bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>
Musk thistle	<i>Carduus nutans</i>
Myrtle spurge	<i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i>
Russian olive	<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>
Yellow toadflax	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>

*uncommon