



# MANITOU SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AGENDA

City Council meetings are held as hybrid, Zoom (remote) or in-person at Memorial Hall.

Memorial Hall

606 Manitou Avenue

Manitou Springs, CO 80829

Remote: [www.manitouspringsgov.com](http://www.manitouspringsgov.com); click on meeting link under "Government; City Council" page

Position	Name	Term Expires
Mayor	Natalie Johnson	January 4, 2028
At-Large	Mayor Pro Tem Judith Chandler	January 4, 2028
At-Large	John Shada	January 4, 2028
At-Large	Julie Wolfe	January 4, 2028
Ward 1	Nate Nassif	January 8, 2030
Ward 2	Carey Storm	January 8, 2030
Ward 3	Gloria Latimer	January 8, 2030

**March 10, 2026**

**5:00 PM**

---

**NO DECISIONS WILL BE MADE AT THIS WORK SESSION**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

**B. ROLL CALL**

**C. DISCUSSION**

1. Soda Springs Park Phase III Design Plan Presentation
2. Manitou Arts, Culture, and Heritage Board 2026 Grant Recommendations
3. CRANE Annual Report, MOU Update Discussion and Public Art Requests
4. Bill Bauers Open Space Community Survey Results Presentation

**D. RECEIVE COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE**

**E. CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

**ADJOURN**

---

The City of Manitou Springs does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission to, access to, or operations of programs, services or activities. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to ensure equal access to all. Individuals who would like to request auxiliary aids or services should contact the ADA Coordinator at (719) 685-5481 or [jfryer@manitouspringsco.gov](mailto:jfryer@manitouspringsco.gov). You may also contact the City Clerk's Office at [cityclerk@manitouspringsco.gov](mailto:cityclerk@manitouspringsco.gov) or (719) 685-2554. Please provide a minimum of 3-5 days advance notice.



## Memorandum

Title: Soda Springs Park Phase III Design Plan Presentation  
From: Gillian Rossi, Parks & Recreation Director; Mia Requesens, Senior Associate (Hord Coplan Macht); Robyn Bartling, Principal (Hord Coplan Macht)  
To: Mayor and City Council  
CC: City Administrator Denise Howell  
Allocated Time: 30 minutes

---

March 10, 2026

### **Purpose:**

To share the construction design elements and estimated cost of the third and final phase of the Soda Springs Park Master Plan.

### **Background:**

The Soda Springs Park Master Plan was approved by the Manitou Springs City Council in June 2023. Phase II of the master plan was completed in June 2025, upon which, Hord Coplan Macht was contracted to complete construction drawings for Phase III, the final phase of the master plan, which includes West and East Side Improvements. Construction of Phase II and construction drawings for Phase III were funded through the general fund as Capital Improvement Projects. Funding has not been identified for construction of Phase III. The final construction design drawings for Phase III were presented to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board on January 12th, 2026.

### **Fiscal Impact:**

Estimated cost of Phase III construction is \$884,006.65. **There is no funding for this project at this time**; the City will seek approval to begin requesting grants for construction at the March 17th, 2026 City Council Regular Meeting.

### **Workload Impact:**

N/A

### **Recommended Action:**

Ask questions about the construction design and prepare to vote on approval at the March 17th, 2026 City Council Regular Meeting.

# SODA SPRINGS PARK PHASE 3 CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

City of Manitou Springs,  
Colorado

03.10.2026

hord | coplan | macht



**PHASE I 2021:  
WEST SIDE  
IMPROVEMENTS**

**PHASE II 2025:  
PLAYGROUND  
IMPROVEMENTS**

**PHASE III  
DESIGN 2025-  
2026: EAST SIDE  
IMPROVEMENTS**

FOUNTAIN  
CREEK

PARK AVENUE

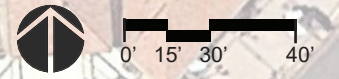
MANTOU AVE

COMMERCIAL  
BUSINESSES

COMMERCIAL  
BUSINESSES

COMMERCIAL  
BUSINESSES

NORTH





**PHASE 1 AMENITIES INCLUDE:**

- IMPROVED CREEK ACCESS
- ACCESSIBLE CRUSHER FINES TRAILS
- MULTI-USE SOD AREA
- PLAY SPACE (BOULDER AND ROPE CLIMBERS + LOG STEPPERS)
- ACCESSIBLE PICNIC TABLE SEATING

## PHASE 2 - PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS



### PHASE 2 AMENITIES INCLUDE:

- IMPROVED, ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND FOR 2-5 YR. OLDS AND 5-12 YR. OLDS
- ACCESSIBLE CRUSHER FINES TRAILS
- BIKE RACK ADDITION
- IMPROVED STREETScape PLANTING

# PHASE 3 - EAST SIDE IMPROVEMENTS

MULTI-USE SOD OPEN SPACE

STAIR ACCESS TO PLAY SPACE

NATIVE & ADAPTIVE PLANTING BED WITH SEATING

ACCESSIBLE CRUSHER FINES TRAILS

ALTERNATE 01 - PARK AVENUE RESTRIPIPING

ALTERNATE 06 - DUMPSTER ENCLOSURE

ACTIVATED AMENITY SPACE: VARIOUS SEATING OPPORTUNITIES, SCOOTER/BIKE PARKING, NATIVE & ADAPTIVE PLANTING BEDS, PEDESTRIAN LIGHTING, & CRUSHER FINES AND FLAGSTONE TRAILS

ALTERNATE 02 - REMOVE AND REPLACE DRINKING FOUNTAIN

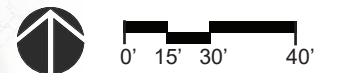
ALTERNATE 03 - ARTISTIC VINYL WRAP FOR TRANSFORMER  
ALTERNATE 04 - CUSTOM WOOD BENCH

CUSTOM "INCLINE BENCH" FEATURE W/ DECIDUOUS SHADE TREE

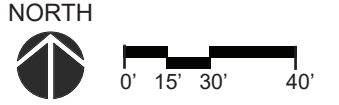
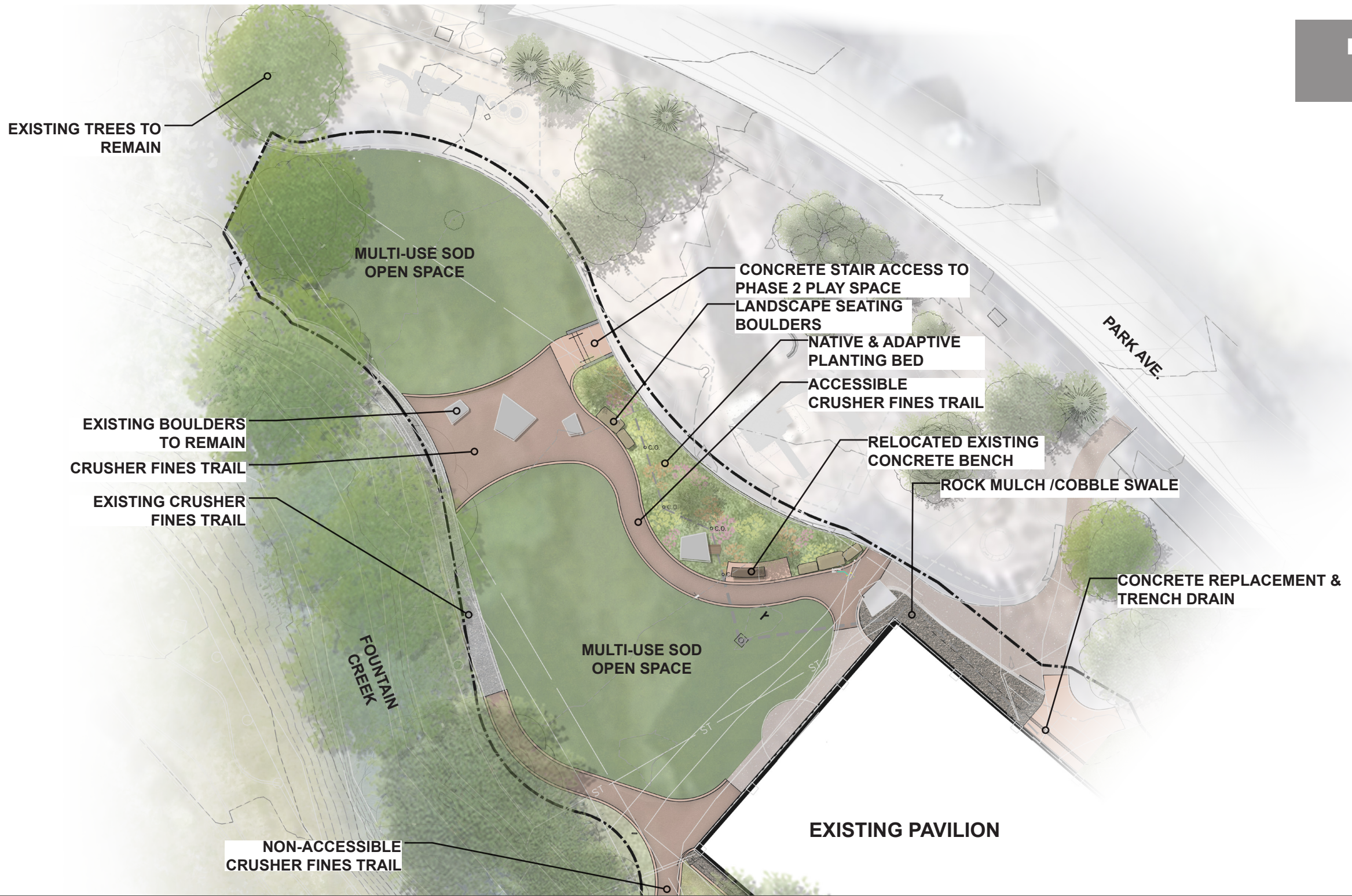
ALTERNATE 05 - PING PONG TABLE

DECIDUOUS SHADE TREE

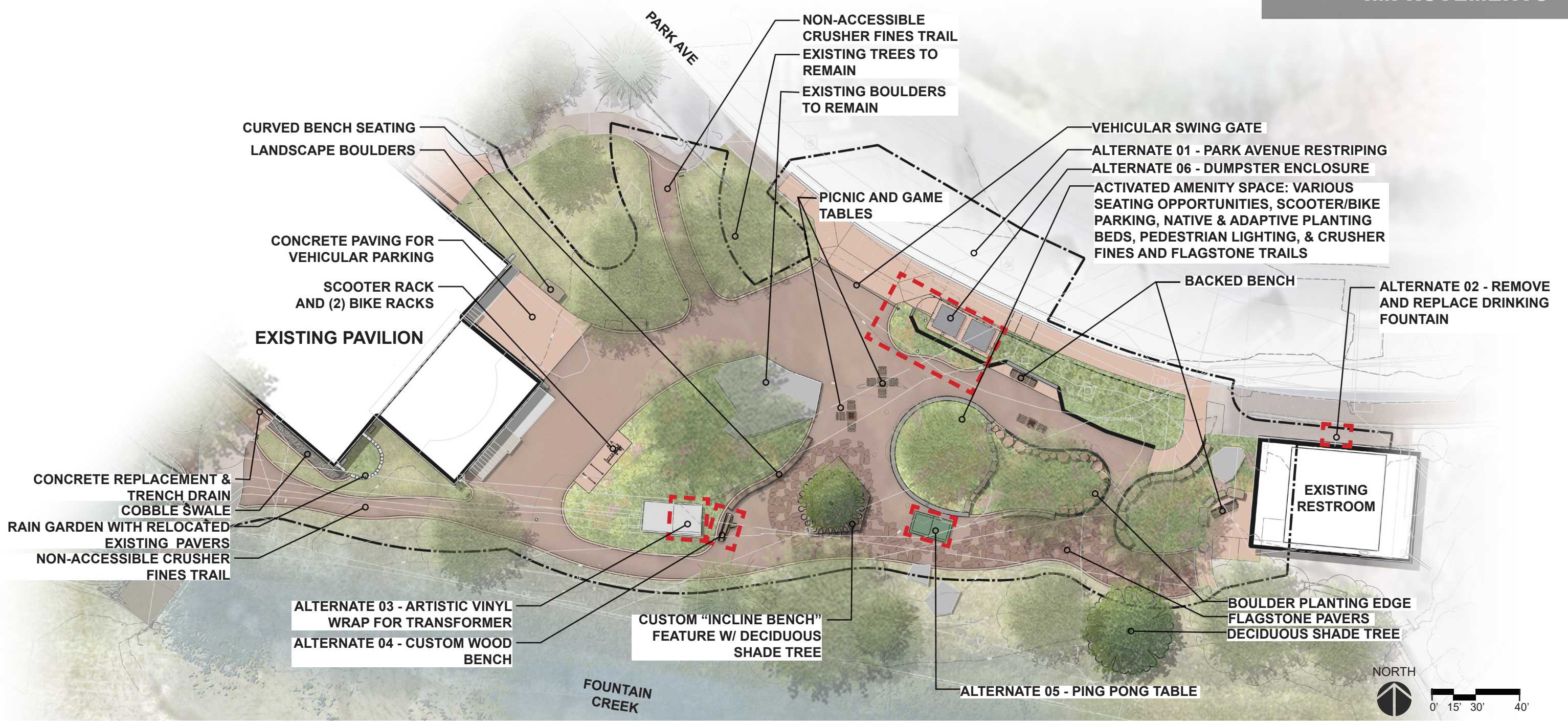
NORTH



**PHASE 3 - WEST SIDE IMPROVEMENTS**



# PHASE 3 - EAST SIDE IMPROVEMENTS



CONCRETE REPLACEMENT & TRENCH DRAIN  
COBBLE SWALE  
RAIN GARDEN WITH RELOCATED EXISTING PAVERS  
NON-ACCESSIBLE CRUSHER FINES TRAIL

CURVED BENCH SEATING  
LANDSCAPE BOULDERS

CONCRETE PAVING FOR VEHICULAR PARKING  
SCOOTER RACK AND (2) BIKE RACKS

EXISTING PAVILION

ALTERNATE 03 - ARTISTIC VINYL WRAP FOR TRANSFORMER  
ALTERNATE 04 - CUSTOM WOOD BENCH

CUSTOM "INCLINE BENCH" FEATURE W/ DECIDUOUS SHADE TREE

NON-ACCESSIBLE CRUSHER FINES TRAIL  
EXISTING TREES TO REMAIN  
EXISTING BOULDERS TO REMAIN

PICNIC AND GAME TABLES

VEHICULAR SWING GATE  
ALTERNATE 01 - PARK AVENUE RESTRIPIING  
ALTERNATE 06 - DUMPSTER ENCLOSURE  
ACTIVATED AMENITY SPACE: VARIOUS SEATING OPPORTUNITIES, SCOOTER/BIKE PARKING, NATIVE & ADAPTIVE PLANTING BEDS, PEDESTRIAN LIGHTING, & CRUSHER FINES AND FLAGSTONE TRAILS

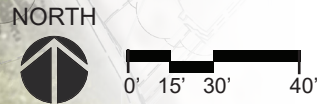
BACKED BENCH

ALTERNATE 02 - REMOVE AND REPLACE DRINKING FOUNTAIN

EXISTING RESTROOM

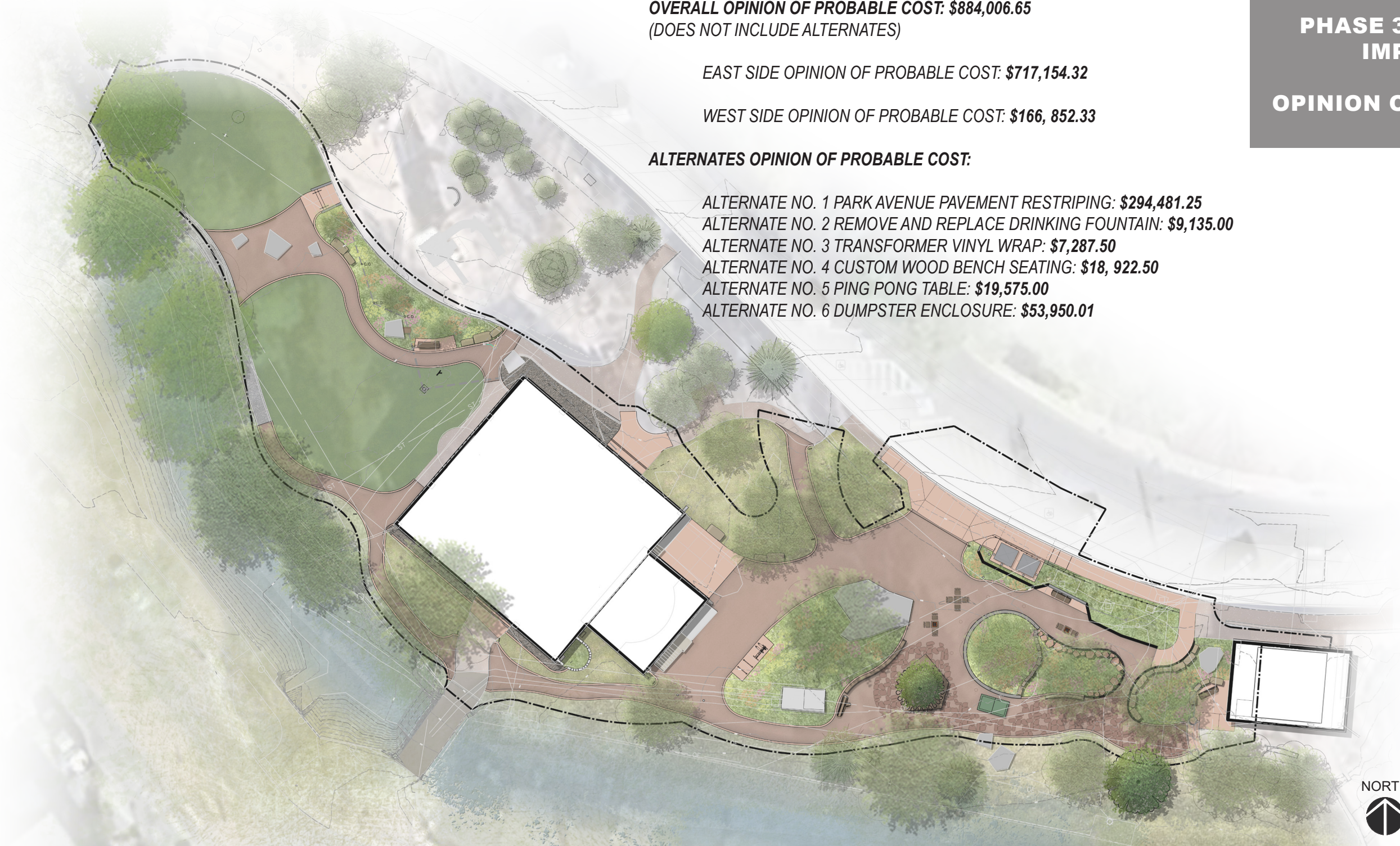
BOULDER PLANTING EDGE  
FLAGSTONE PAVERS  
DECIDUOUS SHADE TREE

ALTERNATE 05 - PING PONG TABLE



**PHASE 3 - WEST SIDE IMPROVEMENTS**





**OVERALL OPINION OF PROBABLE COST: \$884,006.65**  
(DOES NOT INCLUDE ALTERNATES)

EAST SIDE OPINION OF PROBABLE COST: \$717,154.32

WEST SIDE OPINION OF PROBABLE COST: \$166, 852.33

**ALTERNATES OPINION OF PROBABLE COST:**

- ALTERNATE NO. 1 PARK AVENUE PAVEMENT RESTRIPIING: \$294,481.25
- ALTERNATE NO. 2 REMOVE AND REPLACE DRINKING FOUNTAIN: \$9,135.00
- ALTERNATE NO. 3 TRANSFORMER VINYL WRAP: \$7,287.50
- ALTERNATE NO. 4 CUSTOM WOOD BENCH SEATING: \$18, 922.50
- ALTERNATE NO. 5 PING PONG TABLE: \$19,575.00
- ALTERNATE NO. 6 DUMPSTER ENCLOSURE: \$53,950.01

**PHASE 3 - WEST SIDE  
IMPROVEMENTS**  
**OPINION OF PROBABLE  
COST**

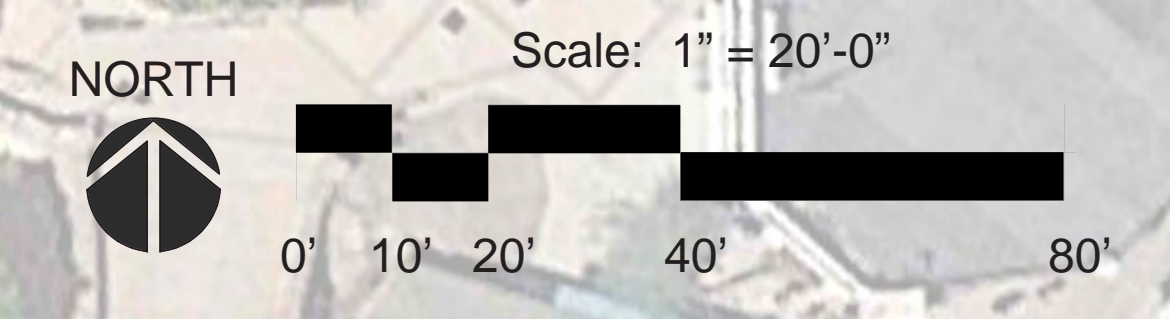
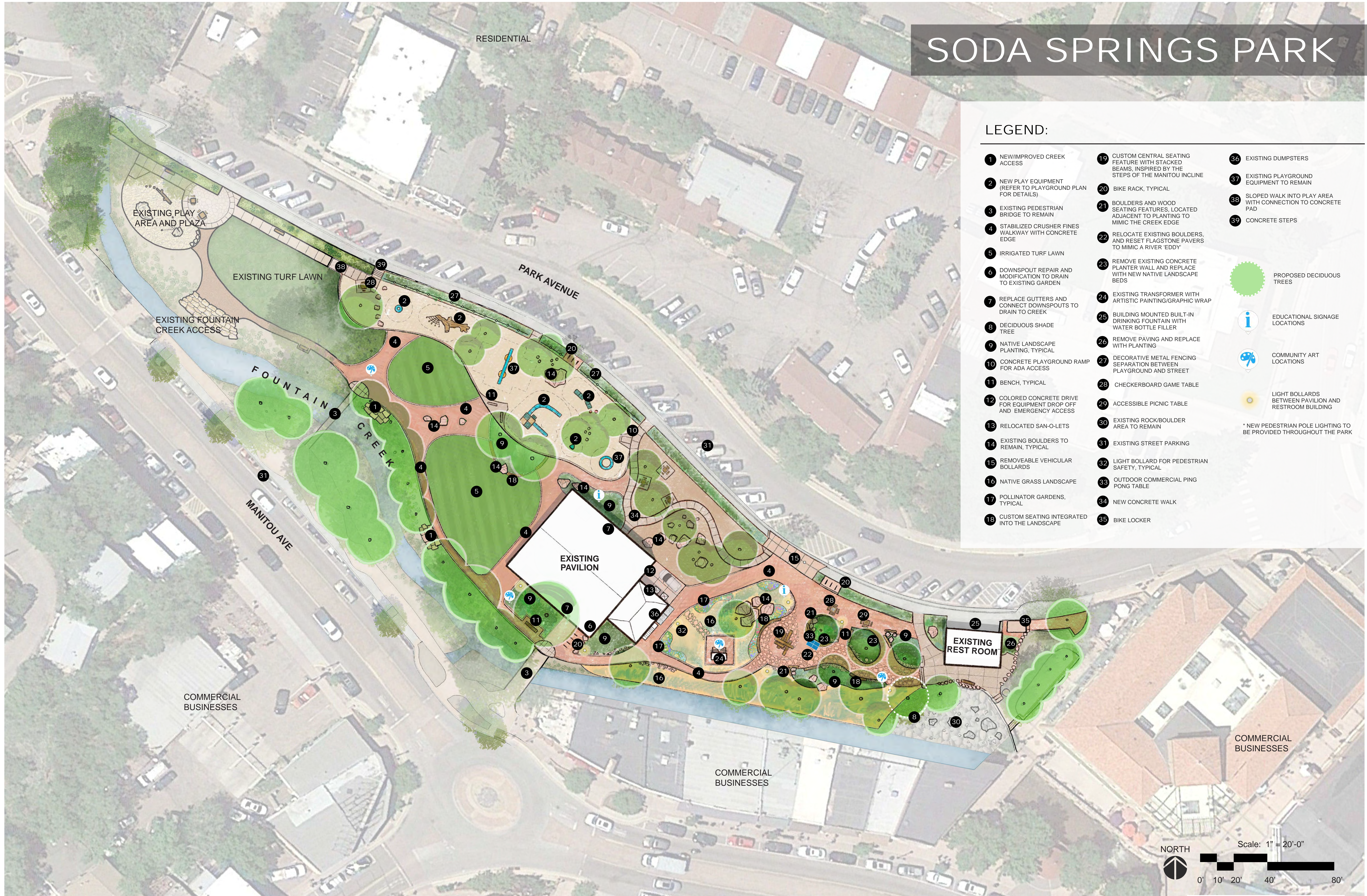


# QUESTIONS?

# SODA SPRINGS PARK

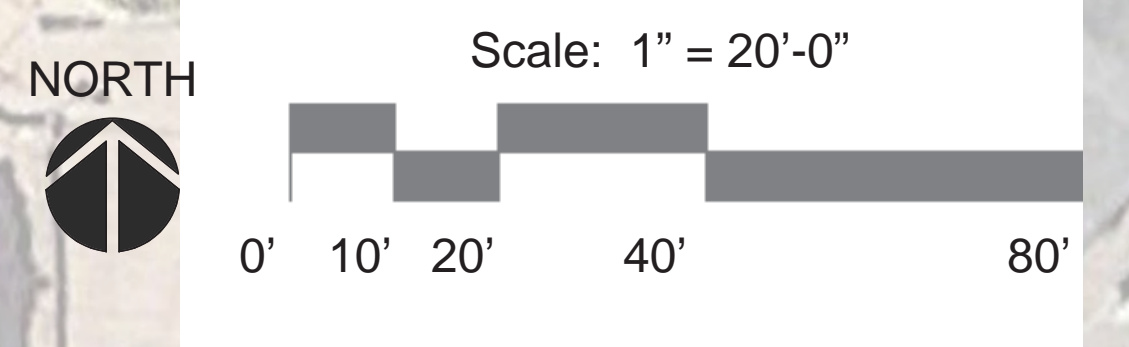
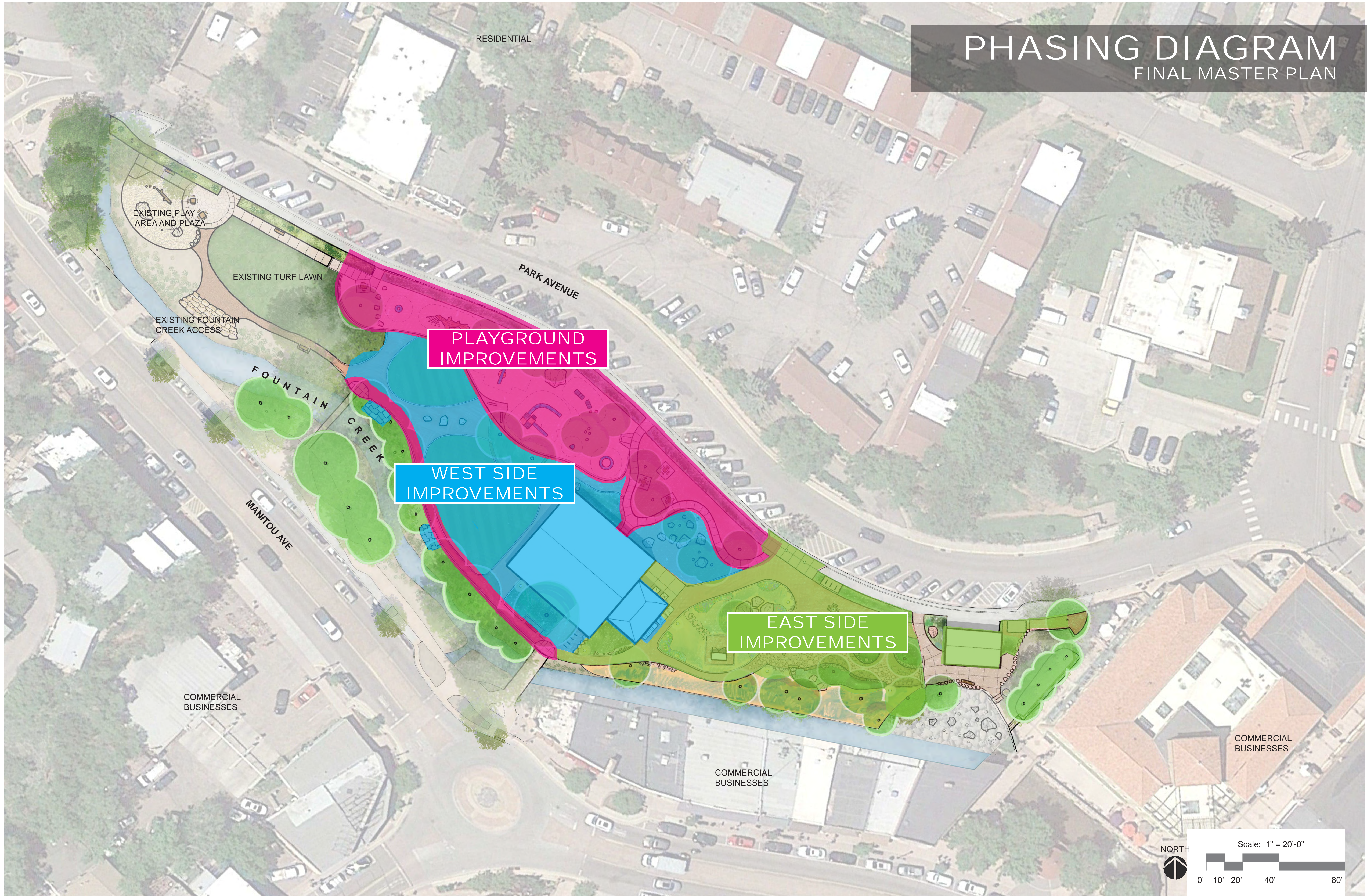
## LEGEND:

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 1 NEW/IMPROVED CREEK ACCESS   | 19 CUSTOM CENTRAL SEATING FEATURE WITH STACKED BEAMS, INSPIRED BY THE STEPS OF THE MANITOU INCLINE | 36 EXISTING DUMPSTERS   |
| 2 NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT (REFER TO PLAYGROUND PLAN FOR DETAILS)           | 20 BIKE RACK, TYPICAL  | 37 EXISTING PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT TO REMAIN  |
| 3 EXISTING PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE TO REMAIN                                | 21 BOULDERS AND WOOD SEATING FEATURES, LOCATED ADJACENT TO PLANTING TO MIMIC THE CREEK EDGE        | 38 SLOPED WALK INTO PLAY AREA WITH CONNECTION TO CONCRETE PAD   |
| 4 STABILIZED CRUSHER FINES WALKWAY WITH CONCRETE EDGE                 | 22 RELOCATE EXISTING BOULDERS, AND RESET FLAGSTONE PAVERS TO MIMIC A RIVER 'EDDY'                  | 39 CONCRETE STEPS   |
| 5 IRRIGATED TURF LAWN   | 23 REMOVE EXISTING CONCRETE PLANTER WALL AND REPLACE WITH NEW NATIVE LANDSCAPE BEDS                |  PROPOSED DECIDUOUS TREES                              |
| 6 DOWNSPOUT REPAIR AND MODIFICATION TO DRAIN TO EXISTING GARDEN       | 24 EXISTING TRANSFORMER WITH ARTISTIC PAINTING/GRAPHIC WRAP  |  EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE LOCATIONS                         |
| 7 REPLACE GUTTERS AND CORRECT DOWNSPOUTS TO DRAIN TO CREEK            | 25 BUILDING MOUNTED BUILT-IN DRINKING FOUNTAIN WITH WATER BOTTLE FILLER                            |  COMMUNITY ART LOCATIONS                               |
| 8 DECIDUOUS SHADE TREE  | 26 REMOVE PAVING AND REPLACE WITH PLANTING   |  LIGHT BOLLARDS BETWEEN PAVILION AND RESTROOM BUILDING |
| 9 NATIVE LANDSCAPE PLANTING, TYPICAL                                  | 27 DECORATIVE METAL FENCING SEPARATION BETWEEN PLAYGROUND AND STREET                               | * NEW PEDESTRIAN POLE LIGHTING TO BE PROVIDED THROUGHOUT THE PARK   |
| 10 CONCRETE PLAYGROUND RAMP FOR ADA ACCESS                            | 28 CHECKERBOARD GAME TABLE   |   |
| 11 BENCH, TYPICAL   | 29 ACCESSIBLE PICNIC TABLE   |   |
| 12 COLORED CONCRETE DRIVE FOR EQUIPMENT DROP OFF AND EMERGENCY ACCESS | 30 EXISTING ROCK/BOULDER AREA TO REMAIN  |   |
| 13 RELOCATED SAN-O-LETS   | 31 EXISTING STREET PARKING   |   |
| 14 EXISTING BOULDERS TO REMAIN, TYPICAL                               | 32 LIGHT BOLLARD FOR PEDESTRIAN SAFETY, TYPICAL  |   |
| 15 REMOVEABLE VEHICULAR BOLLARDS                                      | 33 OUTDOOR COMMERCIAL PING PONG TABLE  |   |
| 16 NATIVE GRASS LANDSCAPE   | 34 NEW CONCRETE WALK   |   |
| 17 POLLINATOR GARDENS, TYPICAL  | 35 BIKE LOCKER   |   |
| 18 CUSTOM SEATING INTEGRATED INTO THE LANDSCAPE                       |  |   |



# PHASING DIAGRAM

FINAL MASTER PLAN





## Memorandum

Title: Manitou Arts, Culture, and Heritage Board 2026 Grant Recommendations

From: Ralph Routon, MACH Board Chair

To: Mayor and City Council

CC: City Administrator Denise Howell

Allocated Time: 30 Minutes

---

March 10, 2026

### **Purpose:**

The Manitou Arts, Culture, and Heritage (MACH) Board presents its 2026 grant recommendations for City Council review and discussion in advance of formal action scheduled for March 17, 2026.

### **Background:**

For the 2026 funding cycle, the MACH Board received 50 grant applications requesting a total of \$254,025. Each application was reviewed, evaluated, and scored in accordance with the Board's criteria. Based on this process, the Board is forwarding 42 grant applications for Council's consideration.

### **Fiscal Impact:**

Funding for the recommended grants, totaling \$421,442, is provided through the MACH Tax Initiative. Staff support costs associated with administering the program are included in the approved MACH operating fund.

### **Workload Impact:**

The anticipated workload impact is minimal and limited to routine meeting participation and preparatory work.

### **Recommended Action:**

Council is requested to review and discuss any questions or issues related to the MACH Board's 2026 grant recommendations in preparation of the formal vote to occur at the March 17, 2026, meeting.

# MACH Board 2025-2026

Ralph Routon	Chair
Kinsey Watts	Vice Chair
Wren Almitra	Secretary
Neale Minch	Board Member
Marcus Medina	Board Member
Peter Sommers	Board Member
Mark Lee	Board Member
Jason Wells	Alternate
Gerald Mitchell	Alternate
Lisette Casey	Alternate
Judith Chandler	Council Liaison
Becca Davis	Staff Support



MACH Grant  
Recommendations  
**\$421,442**

March 10, 2026

# History

- **November 2019** – Voters approve MACH ballot measure
- **March 2021** – 1<sup>st</sup> round of grants approved by City Council (using a spreadsheet tool)
- **November 2021** – Mini Grants (up to \$750) added to MACH program
- **November 2022** – Custom web application implemented for submission, rating and completion reports
- **March 2025** – Latest round of grant recommendations presented to City Council, takes 5-year total over \$2 million
- **March 2026** – Board makes late reductions in planned recommendations to reflect decreased sales tax revenue





# MACH Mission

The purpose of the MACH Board is to make recommendations to City Council on how to implement the MACH initiative, which increased the City's Use Tax Rate and Sales Tax Rate by 3/10ths of 1% (0.003).

- Two-thirds or 66% of these funds are allocated to a special fund for facility improvements and operations at the Carnegie Library Building, Manitou Art Center, Manitou Springs Heritage Museum, Miramont Castle and Hiawatha Gardens.
- The remaining 34% each year will be distributed by the City Council through awards and grants to foster the arts, culture and heritage in Manitou Springs.

# Tier 1 Grant Summary – Cumulative total will reach \$1.6 million after 2026 awards

Grant Year	Carnegie Library	Hiawatha	MAC	Miramont Castle	Heritage Museum
2021	\$41,278	\$41,278	\$22,515	\$22,515	\$22,515
2022	\$102,735	\$75,000	\$48,473	\$48,473	\$48,473
2023	\$100,438	\$75,000	\$47,847	\$47,847	\$47,847
2024	\$185,572	0	\$50,610	\$50,610	\$50,610
2025	\$10,000	\$150,592	\$43,798	\$43,798	\$43,798
2026 Recommendations	\$0	\$160,294	\$43,716	\$43,716	\$43,716

## Tier 2 Competitive Grants — \$837,000 in grants issued or recommended as of March 2026

Grant Year	Applications / Total requests	Approved / Recommended
2021 Round 1	29 / \$111,000	18 / \$55,000
2021 Round 2	12 / \$34,000	7 / \$19,000
2022	47 / \$252,000	35 / \$150,000
2023	69 / \$327,000	54 / \$152,000
2024	59 / \$300,000	47 / \$167,000
2025	59/\$273,301	48/\$164,251
<b>2026</b>	<b>50/\$254,025</b>	<b>42/\$130,000</b>



**ONE SHOW ONLY**  
**FEATURING**  
**PHIL PRINCIPAL**  
**MARINETIST**  
**ALEXEI VASSILIEV**



**DO NOT**



# Tier 1 Recommendations for 2026

- **Note:** Carnegie Library is not requesting funding for this grant cycle.

<b>Available Funds</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>291,422</b>
------------------------	-----------	----------------

<b><u>55%</u></b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>160,294</b>
Carnegie Library	\$	0
Hiawatha Gardens	\$	160,294
<b><u>45%</u></b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>131,148</b>
MAC	\$	43,716
Miramont	\$	43,716
MS Heritage Museum	\$	43,716

# Competitive Grants – Mini Grants 2026

Contact	Project Name	Req Amt	Board Req
Mark Wong	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Pottery	\$750	\$750
Melanie Audet	Blue Hands Art Collaboration with D14 Art Classes	\$750	\$750
K8e Orr	Community Costuming	\$750	\$750
Shanti Toll	Manitou Springs Community Direct Mail Connection	\$750	\$750
Joan Stang	PaC-MAN: "Let's Get Walking and Rolling, Manitou!" 2026	\$750	\$750
Shane Lory	The Flying Pig Yurt Showcase – Music on the Farm	\$750	\$750
Lisa Nickle	Thursday Summer Drum Circle in Manitou	\$750	\$750

# Competitive Grants – Regular Grants 2026

Contact	Project Name	Req Amt	Board Rec
Elizabeth Stanbro	Mindfulness and Fiber Art Class	\$1000	\$525
Charlotte Rickert	2027 29 <sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Festival	\$5,000	\$1,000
Adrian Jones Rincon	Women's Sacred Circle Practices Retreat	\$3,010	\$1,050
Aimee Morrow	Creative Cooking Classes and Comped Tickets to Farm to Table D	\$3,300	\$1,190
Jill Alicia Fogel	Altitude Makers Markets 2026	\$1,960	\$1,372
Steffany Butts	Art in Meditation	\$2,250	\$1,575
Shanti Toll	2027 Manni Awards and potluck dinner	\$2,000	\$1,900
Becky Elder	Pawnee Pollinator Garden	\$2,000	\$1,900
Lawrence G. Jones	EPIC Concerts in Manitou Springs	\$2,800	\$1,960
Judith Piazza	Soul Songs & Healing Sound	\$5,505	\$1,960
Mark Wong	Clayfest	\$3,000	\$2,100
Karin Verlo Rose	The Women's Freedom Museum	\$15,000	\$2,100
Ashley Cornelius	5 <sup>th</sup> Annual Pikes Peak Poetry Summit	\$5,500	\$2,450

# Competitive Grants – Regular Grants

Contact	Project Name	Req Amt	Board Rec
Elizabeth Guess	Gift Bags for the Homeless	\$5,000	\$2,450
Nicki Noe	Manitou Monster Project	\$3,750	\$2,625
Julia L. Wright	Have music played at the Commonwheel Art Festival on Labor Day	\$3,800	\$2,660
Nikki Blakesley	ArtFull Fridays: An Expressive Arts Experience to Connect and Create	\$5,000	\$2,800
Caitlin M Hannigan	Lantern Parade	\$4,200	\$2,940
Melanie Audet	Blue Hands Art Festivals at the Manitou Art Center	\$4,500	\$3,150
Nina Davis	Manitou Comedy Festival 2026	\$5,000	\$3,150
AuroTejas Hemsell	World Dance Festival	\$4,500	\$3,150
Sophie Thunberg	Children of Gaia, Night of Rememberance	\$5,000	\$3,500
Caitlin M Hannigan	FAB LAB	\$5,000	\$3,500
K8e Orr	Moonlight Market	\$6,000	\$3,500
K8e Orr	Manitou Springs PrideFest	\$6,500	\$3,850
Judy Teevan	2027 Manitou Springs Carnivale Parade (34th Annual)	\$6,000	\$4,200

# Competitive Grants – Regular Grants

Contact	Project Name	Req Amt	Board Rec
Heidi Alina	Community Music Series for Connection & Wellbeing	\$7,380	\$4,200
John Graham	Manitou Springs Indigenous Peoples' Day Celebration 2026	\$6,000	\$4,200
Lindsay Deen	Poetry & Pottery	\$8,500	\$4,463
Paige Talerico	Wildlife Ascending Mural	\$8,435	\$5,905
Barak Ben-Amots	Flying Pig Summer Arts Fellowship & Programming	\$10,850	\$6,300
Eddy Lieberman	Manitou Music Foundation Community Music Program	\$16,775	\$10,814
Audrey Gray	Art on the Avenue	\$12,960	\$12,312
Nancy Fortuin	Manitou Springs Commons at the STACC	\$20,000	\$14,000

# Competitive Grants – Not Recommended for Funding

Contact	Project Name	Req Amt	Board Rec
Jerry Rhodes	Archaeology Day Garden of the Gods Nature Center	\$600	\$0 withdrawn
Sharrie M Nicholson-Perry	Indigenous Peoples Day Annual Community Potluck Celebration	\$7,700	\$0 withdrawn
Lisa Murphy	Heels	\$6,000	\$0
Brendan Scott	Manitou to Waltham stairs beautification project	\$6,000	\$0
Chelsea Drew	Parenting Village Circle	\$2,500	\$0
Charlotte Rickert	Saving Black History in Manitou Springs	\$5,000	\$0
Mandalyn Chandler	The Blair Human Experience: Visual Album – Part Two	\$5,000	\$0
Reynold Mackey	The Captain's Log	\$6,000	\$0
David Alan McBride	The Historic Voices of Manitou Springs Podcast	\$2,500	\$0



## Next Steps

- Present recommendations to City Council (**March 10** work session)
- Address any issues before Council action (**March 17** meeting)
- Notify recipients to submit W-9s and be aware of new project completion expenditure requirements
- Issue checks, and recipients must sign letter saying they agree to requirements
- MACH Board meets **March 26** to evaluate process and identify need for revisions in 2027
- Revise guidelines and standard operating procedures

# Special Thanks

The MACH Board would like to thank Becca Davis, City Finance Director, for her six years of dedicated support and leadership in MACH's development, and also our appreciation to Daniele Owens for her ongoing energetic efforts.

---

The Board also expresses our heartfelt gratitude to Judith Chandler for continuing her enthusiastic involvement and guidance as the City Council's liaison to MACH.



# MACH Grant Intros

## Project Name:

Indigenous Peoples Day Annual Community Potluck Celebration

## Elevator Pitch:

The Indigenous Peoples Day Community Potluck in Manitou Springs will be a celebratory, inclusive event honoring Indigenous peoples; history, resilience, and cultural contributions. By supporting lodging, food, and entertainment needs locally, this event keeps grant dollars circulating within the community while promoting the city as a welcoming, inclusive destination for cultural tourism.

## Project Name:

Mindfulness and Fiber Art class

## Elevator Pitch:

I will be teaching a class that combines meditation and fiber art making techniques. Instead of using the breath as an anchor, as in traditional Mindfulness meditation, we will be using the repetitive and rhythmic motion of stitching as an anchor to stay in the present moment while engaging in the creative process.

## Project Name:

Blue Hands Art Collaboration with D14 Art Classes

## Elevator Pitch:

Teaching elementary school kids the ancient art of dyeing with indigo.

## Project Name:

Pawnee Pollinator Garden

## Elevator Pitch:

This site is being repurposed from use as a parking lot. We will create a small garden that benefits pollinators, stops erosion and eliminates aggressive weeds. Using native plants, the site can serve pollinators and birds. Using native plants will further plant survival in the changing climate. An 'Ozone Garden' will register ozone levels, as a visible monitor on air quality. This native garden, open for visitors, will hold educational value for residents and students alike.

## Project Name:

Art in Meditation

### Elevator Pitch:

Art in Meditation blends soothing music and guided meditation inspired by the monthly exhibit in the Hagnauer Gallery at the Manitou Art Center. Through art, sound, and community connection, this experience supports creativity, nervous system regulation, and stress relief. In the spirit of accessibility and care, this event is offered free to the community. All are welcome, and yoga mats are provided. Funded by MACH in 2024.

## Project Name:

Poetry & Pottery

### Elevator Pitch:

In its 11th year in Soda Springs Park, Poetry and Pottery runs for six Tuesday afternoons, June-July 2026. Community members are invited to create their own pottery with the help of skilled facilitators who will later fire & glaze them. Facilitators work on group poems and off individual writing prompts. Free food and hygiene supplies are available at each event. All are welcome to express themselves, be seen and heard, earn new skills, and to build community together.

## Project Name:

Parenting Village Circle

### Elevator Pitch:

We have a 6-week cohort of community classes ready to serve families in Manitou Springs. For our students, each class is designed to provide space to relate on topics that include maternal; prenatal health, birthing, lactation, newborn & postpartum care, and mental wellness. Every class is accompanied with a creative opportunity for self-expression; incorporates art classes, plant sharing, portrait photography, collage making, clothing swaps and more.

## Project Name:

The Historic Voices of Manitou Springs Podcast

### Elevator Pitch:

Historic Voices of Manitou Springs is a community-driven podcast that preserves and shares the city's authentic history through engaging, accessible storytelling recorded at historic sites, creating a free digital archive that educates residents, inspires visitors, and strengthens

community pride. Historic Voices of Manitou Springs is a community-driven podcast that preserves and shares the city's authentic history through engaging, accessible storytelling.

### Project Name:

2027 29th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Festival

### Elevator Pitch:

2027 will be the 29th annual Dr. MLK Jr. Unity Festival. The event was created to celebrate Dr. MLK's dream, that all humanity is equally respected, & their diversity is celebrated. The festival has always had all ages hands-on arts; crafts; collaborative art; installations- all reflecting Dr, MLK's dream and vision for our country. The 1st 10 years, we had an evening program with performers and speakers, and we would like to bring it back to the event.

### Project Name:

Wildlife Ascending Mural

### Elevator Pitch:

I will paint a 300-foot-long mural going up to Manitou High School on El Monte Place. The mural, Wildlife Ascending, will depict the ascent of over 50 local wildlife species. I will highlight a green and gold Manitou Mustang galloping at the center of the animals. The mural will bring color and educational opportunities to a major travel corridor for the D14 community and Manitou residents.

### Project Name:

Children of Gaia, Night of Remembrance

### Elevator Pitch:

We are the Children of Gaia. Dedicated to amplifying local Black voices, artwork, and stories, by uplifting voices that have historically been unheard. Through our Remembrance event we build community and provide healing and support. We add in creativity, increase awareness, community engagement and investment BIPOC lives. Black Lives Matter.

### Project Name:

Lantern Parade

### Elevator Pitch:

The Manitou Springs Lantern parade is a yearly event that Concrete Couch hosts where community members learn to build fun, unique lanterns out of recycled materials. The Manitou Springs Lantern Parade is hosted in April and the parade is a festive, joyous event that celebrates community with music, snacks and dancing.

### Project Name:

5th Annual Pikes Peak Poetry Summit

### Elevator Pitch:

The Pikes Peak Poetry Summit is a free, full-day poetry event hosted at the Manitou Art Center in Manitou Springs on April 18th. Now in its 5th year, it honors National Poetry Month by bringing together the community, hosted by local poets and artists for workshops, performances, and a poetry slam with a cash prize. There will be local authors and literary artists vendors. The Summit provides free breakfast and lunch. Come celebrate poetry at all levels and ages.

### Project Name:

Upstairs at the STACC (St Andrews Community Center)

### Elevator Pitch:

Upstairs at the STACC provides the perfect space for a community center that will offer arts, events, social and recreational activities for Manitou Springs residents. This grant will allow us to lease the venue full time from the St Michaels Episcopal Church, owner of the deconsecrated St Andrews Church property, to provide community supported programming.

### Project Name:

Creative Cooking Classes and Comped Tickets to Farm to Table Dinners

### Elevator Pitch:

This project brings together food, art, nature, and healing to create accessible community experiences at Smokebrush Farm. Chef Aimee Morrow and co-Chef Jamar Pierre will host two hands-on cooking classes that focus on produce grown on the farm, centering on nourishment and creativity. These classes will offer deeply discounted participation to low-income residents, including a ticket to either Aimee Morrow's Tea Party or Jamar Pierre's Cajun/Creole Farm to Table event.

### Project Name:

Manitou Music Foundation Community Music Program

### Elevator Pitch:

The Manitou Music Foundation is a focal partner for vibrant, healthy and diverse public, live music in Manitou Springs. We will provide public live music not funded by alcohol sales. We will ensure that musicians receive fair compensation for their performances. We will provide assistance with audio equipment when needed for live performances. We will begin to foster youth musicianship with workshops and scholarships for ongoing music study for the foundation of our music culture.

### Project Name:

Community Costuming

### Elevator Pitch:

Community parades are vibrant artistic celebrations that showcase local culture and creativity in Manitou. These community craft nights will support performances and artistic displays that foster a sense of unity among residents, leading up to the events, giving people a safe space to create. By providing free access to art education, this platform allows residents to express themselves creatively while contributing to the overall spectacle of the events.

### Project Name:

Moonlight Market

### Elevator Pitch:

Moonlight Market happens on First Fridays, with our incredible partnership with the Manitou Art Center, we highlight what makes Manitou, Manitou. It showcases our community, local art, talented musicians, farmers, bakers, and makers. It gives travelers and locals a gathering place where the community comes together. It gives young artists exposure and valuable experience selling at a market. All of which help to grow the community, local economy, artists, and produce.

### Project Name:

Blue Hands Art Festivals at the Manitou Art Center

### Elevator Pitch:

Blue Hands is an Indigo dyeing event organized by a collective of artists who invite the community to explore the ancient art of vat dyeing with Indigo. Participants can bring their own items or choose from the items we provide. They will learn basic shibori techniques to create patterns and designs, and they will use the vats we maintain to dye their items.

### Project Name:

Manitou Comedy Festival 2026

### Elevator Pitch:

The Manitou Comedy Festival is a four-day, curated comedy festival bringing local and nationally touring comedians together with audiences in Manitou Springs. Held at local venues, the festival presents professionally produced stand-up performances that support working artists and provide accessible cultural programming. In 2026, the festival prioritizes high-quality

shows and strong artist experience that uplift diverse comedic voices and encourage participation in the art form.

### Project Name:

Manitou Springs Community Direct Mail Connection

### Elevator Pitch:

Create a direct communication with the over 3000 households/ businesses informing people of community events in Manitou coming in the fall.

### Project Name:

Altitude Makers Markets 2026

### Elevator Pitch:

The Altitude Makers Market has successfully and with love put on Maker's Markets for our local Manitou Springs Community in 2025 in Memorial Park and Soda Springs Park/Pavilion. We provide local artists, craft makers, bakers, live music from local musicians and teaching artists who teach their craft to the community.

### Project Name:

FAB LAB

### Elevator Pitch:

Concrete Couch's FAB LAB Program is in its 19th year and the program offers the opportunity for Manitou Springs School students to fabricate creative projects out of unique materials. The program focuses on developing participants' skill development, creativity and connection to peers and adults, all within the state of the art facilities at the Manitou Arts Center. It's a free, year-round program for students and community members.

### Project Name:

Art on the Avenue

### Elevator Pitch:

Art on the Avenue exists to enhance Manitou Springs' streetscape, engage visitors and residents, and support artists. We provide and maintain a permanent collection of art and a rotating collection of new pieces, managing 81 pieces in total. Our flagship program brings 3-4 new artworks to Manitou Springs each year, repairs and maintains the 47 pieces in the City's and CRANE's permanent art collections, and features the collection on our downloadable phone app, Otocast.

### Project Name:

Flying Pig Summer Arts Fellowship & Programming

### Elevator Pitch:

For 10+ years, FPF has provided rich programming for the community. This year, we are expanding the Camp Artistic Director position to a Summer Arts Fellowship, which will lead the camp arts curriculum, develop permanent installations and facilitate an art station for the Solstice Jamathon. In this expanded role, we're investing in vibrant summer experiences for hundreds of community members and enduring art that will welcome and educate community members season after season.

### Project Name:

ArtFull Fridays: An Expressive Arts Experience to Connect and Create

### Elevator Pitch:

ArtFull Fridays is a biweekly expressive arts gathering for adults in Manitou Springs, facilitated by local artist and expressive arts facilitator Dr. Nikki Blakesley at the Manitou Art Center. Each session invites participants to slow down and connect through creative exploration. With MACH support, the program would be free, offering a welcoming community space for gathering, relationship-building, and shared expression.

### Project Name:

Archaeology Day Garden of the Gods Nature Center

### Elevator Pitch:

Every year, the Pikes Peak Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society, in coordination with the Garden of the Gods Nature Center presents a free, comprehensive overview of Native American ancestral activities. The event includes a demonstration and hands-on pottery design and construction. After each child/young adult learns to hand-build pottery vessels, I provide each with an already fired pot to keep.

### Project Name:

Clayfest

### Elevator Pitch:

Potters' games with good natured competitions in wheel thrown ceramics. Potters from around the state and even country compete- clayfest.com for a list of past competitions.

### Project Name:

Women's Sacred Circle Practices Retreat

### Elevator Pitch:

The purpose of this event is to bring women together from the community to learn how to gather with intention. Meeting in circle is an ancient practice that offers a sacred space for connection, reflection, and authentic presence. Many women are searching for a way to gather with other women in rituals that follow the natural cycles of our Earth and Moon, as well as our own bodies' cycle.

### Project Name:

Manitou Springs PrideFest

### Elevator Pitch:

Pridefest in Manitou is where art, identity, and community meet. A joyful inclusive celebration that honors LGBTQIA2+ Culture while supporting local artists, performances, and nonprofits- strengthening our shared sense of belonging and community inclusivity. Pridefest is rooted in Manitou's long standing identity and uses the arts as a vehicle for visibility, connection, and cultural preservation.

### Project Name:

EPIC Concerts in Manitou Springs

### Elevator Pitch:

To bring EPIC's unique, non-stuffy, chamber music series to the Manitou Art Center (MAC) featuring the world-class Amernet String Quartet. This project would further our goal to increase our impact in the Pikes Peak Region. As Natalie Johnson, MAC Executive Director, says, EPIC brings world-renowned musicians to our front door, and every year I see new faces in the room and they always leave in awe of what transpired.

### Project Name:

5th grade pottery

### Elevator Pitch:

bringing the potters' wheel and clay to the students- all the 5th graders of Manitou Springs Elementary will have the opportunity to make a vessel with expert tutelage. Pieces will be glazed and available for pick up within a month.

### Project Name:

Gift Bags for the Homeless

### Elevator Pitch:

The cultural scene of Manitou Springs is one of compassion and care with an overall hometown spirit. This program builds off of that spirit to bring community and resources together to help our unhoused neighbors survive another freezing winter.

### Project Name:

Saving Black History in Manitou Springs

### Elevator Pitch:

This Mural honors Harry E. Groves, a powerful yet under recognized historical figure from Manitou springs whose life story embodies preserving, brilliance, and justice.

### Project Name:

Manitou to Waltham stairs beautification project

### Elevator Pitch:

The stairs that connect Manitou Ave to Waltham across the street from Soda Springs Park are an under-appreciated treasure and one of the features that makes our town unique. They are currently unfinished concrete but could be easily transformed into an artistic treasure. A mural would highlight this pedestrian walkway and draw traffic north on Manitou Ave in support of local businesses on this somewhat neglected side of downtown.

### Project Name:

The Women's Freedom Museum

### Elevator Pitch:

The Women's Freedom Museum is a new kind of history museum - built as a series of small outdoor exhibitions placed throughout Manitou Springs, each created by residents and local artists. Every exhibit box holds a handcrafted mixed-media diorama celebrating one woman who has shaped our world. Together, these boxes form a walkable, town-wide museum that blends art, history, and determination, with Manitou launching what will become a worldwide project.

### Project Name:

Manitou Springs Indigenous Peoples' Day Celebration 2026

#### Elevator Pitch:

Indigenous Peoples Day is a celebration by Native American people, Manitou Springs residents, and the public at large to recognize and honor the importance of Native American culture to our community and our history. In the last five years, this celebration has gathered momentum that will lead to further documenting Native folklore, customs, and history and contribute to our understanding of Manitou's rich human story.

#### Project Name:

World Dance Festival

#### Elevator Pitch:

The primary purpose of this World Dance Festival is to bring a greater cultural awareness to Manitou Springs through multi-cultural dance performances and music. My goal is to enrich the community's experience of art and culture from around the world, and the way that I do this is to provide the opportunity for dancers from different cultures to share their talent and skill.

#### Project Name:

2027 Manni Awards and potluck dinner

#### Elevator Pitch:

The Manni festivities honors outstanding volunteers and supporters of Manitou Springs. The award ceremony is associated with a community potluck dinner for Manitou residents and businesspeople to socialize and connect. The Manni Awards is a collaboration of our town's major institutions to help bring community pride and self-awareness.

#### Project Name:

PaC-MAN: "Let's Get Walking and Rolling, Manitou!" 2026

#### Elevator Pitch:

PaC-MAN thanks the MACH board for continued support of our efforts! PaC-MAN will utilize this MACH grant to continue mobility advocacy work with community groups and individuals to encourage the use of active transportation in Manitou Springs. As of January 2026, our organization is now fiscally sponsored by Bicycle Colorado (EIN: 84-1201078), a 501(c)(3). The MOU between PaC-MAN and Bicycle Colorado is attached.

#### Project Name:

The Blair Human Experience: Visual Album – Part Two

#### Elevator Pitch:

Space and Boundaries is my upcoming conceptual visual album, merging music, narrative storytelling, and cinematic visuals into a cohesive artistic experience. Inspired by my space-themed music, the project explores themes of identity, personal growth, and the human experience. This grant will help fund production, filming, and post-production of the visual album, allowing me to bring this immersive vision to life for my audience.

#### Project Name:

The Flying Pig Yurt Showcase - Music on the Farm

#### Elevator Pitch:

Inspired by DIY tradition, the Flying Pig Yurt Showcase is an intentional listening space where touring artists can play their craft and be fairly compensated for their time while doing so. We pair a touring act with a local artist, ask for a donation of \$10-15 at the door, and give 100% of the proceeds to the musicians. We also host the touring act for a night and provide a hot meal, making Manitou a financially viable option for artists passing through CO.

#### Project Name:

Have music played at the Commonwheel Art Festival on Labor Day Weekend

#### Elevator Pitch:

The Commonwheel Art Festival aims to keep music playing at this outdoor Festival. Locally based musical entertainers are showcased on an outdoor stage for the visitors who come to the 52nd annual Festival. Invitations are sent to past favorite musicians and some who have never played in this venue. Invited entertainers will play many styles of music. Local musicians have an opportunity to gain new fans as art patrons are enticed to come hear them play at other venues after the Festival.

#### Project Name:

Soul Songs & Healing Sound

#### Elevator Pitch:

Soul Songs & Healing Sound gathers community in sacred, non-religious song, devotion and healing monthly. Gatherings encourage rest, hope and renewal, and include a passive listening healing sound meditation. Gatherings engage all to expand hearts, open minds, & free our spirits, promoting kindness & loving action as well as cultural understanding, as I draw from world sacred traditions.

### Project Name:

Community Music Series for Connection & Wellbeing

### Elevator Pitch:

This proposal supports community wellbeing through music by offering free African drumming workshops and a collaborative outdoor classical piano concert. Workshops at the Manitou Arts Center include youth and adult sessions, with guest master drummers featured in select months. The summer concert in Memorial Park invites attendees to connect, listen, and benefit from music's restorative qualities.

### Project Name:

Thursday Summer Drum Circle in Manitou

### Elevator Pitch:

We, the Friends of Manitou Drum Circle, seek to facilitate a safe, joyful space for community members to gather each summer at Memorial Park. This free, decades-old cultural event brings together people from all walks of life in our beautiful park. Especially in times like these, its legacy matters. We hope our sincere intention is felt as we request a small grant from MACH.

### Project Name:

2027 Manitou Springs Carnivale Parade (34th Annual)

### Elevator Pitch:

When the krewes, musicians, and giant puppets take to Manitou Avenue on Saturday, February 14, 2026, the Manitou Springs Carnivale parade will celebrate its 33rd year. We look forward to choosing the theme of the 2027 parade (Saturday, February 6) and taking this art event to new heights of celebration.

### Project Name:

Heels

### Elevator Pitch:

The Heels project concept is a three dimensional representation of modern femininity that will serve not only as beautiful public art, but also a focal point for conversations and a small public library focused on the writing of influential women.

### Project Name:

The Captain's Log

#### Elevator Pitch:

The proposed project is a publicly accessible bronze globe that includes a bronze ledger where visitors can mark the location of their home or origin with a pin and hammer making the piece both personal and universal.

#### Project Name:

Manitou Monster Project

#### Elevator Pitch:

Now in its fourth year, the Manitou Monster Project is a collaborative program connecting Manitou Springs Elementary students with local artists through imaginative artmaking. Kindergarteners create original monster drawings that are reinterpreted by community artists, while upper elementary students participate in a 3D Monster Project combining digital design and sculpture. The project concludes with a public showcase celebrating creativity and community connection.



## Memorandum

Title: CRANE Annual Report, MOU Update Discussion and Public Art Requests  
From: CRANE - Audrey Gray, Executive Director and Farley McDonough, Board Chair  
To: Mayor and City Council  
CC: City Administrator Denise Howell  
Allocated Time: 45 Minutes

---

March 10, 2026

### **Purpose:**

To present CRANE's annual report to City Council as required by the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU); discuss anticipated updates to the MOU; and request adoption of a resolution supporting the placement of public art within the CDOT right-of-way.

### **Background:**

CRANE's current MOU with the City requires an annual report to Council. The MOU also contemplates revisiting its terms following completion of the Plan Manitou updates. In addition to fulfilling the annual reporting requirement, CRANE seeks to discuss ongoing and future public art maintenance needs.

CRANE is also working toward the placement of public art at the Highway 24 underpass at Manitou Avenue. This project has already received funding approval from the Manitou Springs Urban Renewal Authority (MSURA). Addition discussion is requested regarding potential art placement at the West End Roundabout.

### **Fiscal Impact:**

None.

### **Workload Impact:**

None.

### **Recommended Action:**

City Council is requested to provide feedback and direction for updating the MOU with CRANE and the resolution. If the City Council wishes to adopt the proposed resolution, these items will be scheduled for the March 17, 2026, Regular City Council meeting.

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025



---

## Letter from the Board

For years Manitou Springs has embraced and taken pride in its many unique traits — not just the obvious setting beside America’s Mountain and the iconic mineral springs, but the arts and culture that also have defined the city’s 150-year history.

It takes work to sustain, preserve and promote all that, which describes the Creative Alliance Manitou Springs (CRANE) and its ongoing mission. We oversee and cultivate public art across the community while supporting our creatives, heritage, celebrations and special projects.

In this annual report, we share the impact of our efforts in 2025, nurturing CRANE’s role of providing leadership, energy and collaborative support across Manitou Springs. We look forward to continuing that journey with you in 2026 and beyond. And if you see ways in which you can help, we welcome you to join us!



## Letter from the Director

In 2025 CRANE continued to foster projects honed over decades, like Art on the Avenue, while also building new partnerships and finding ways to stretch our bandwidth to create impact with new programs like the Story Booth.

Because Visit Manitou Springs provides funding for the Director position, we are able to take small amounts of money given by partner organizations and stretch them in creative ways. This results in a myriad of dynamic projects that support local and national artists and artisans, improve the local economy, and enhance Manitou Springs for residents and visitors alike.

We are so grateful for everyone in the community who endeavors to make Manitou Springs a better place, and can’t wait to continue our work in 2026.

Audrey Gray  
Executive Director

## Our Mission

We elevate and promote Manitou Springs creatives to lift artistic and economic vitality.

## Our Vision

Our vision is a thriving, vibrant arts and business community that moves us toward an inclusive and creative future.



## CRANE Board of Directors as of December 2025

The Creative Alliance Board of Directors is composed of at least seven members who are required to demonstrate residency or significant involvement in Manitou Springs' arts/culture/business community

### **Farley McDonough, Board Chair**

*Owner, Adam's Mountain Cafe*

### **Ralph Routon, Board Vice Chair**

*Colorado Springs Business Journal and Colorado Springs Independent, Retired, Manitou Springs Resident*

### **Leslie Lewis, Board Treasurer**

*Executive Director, Visit Manitou Springs, Retired*

### **Edie Greene, Board Secretary**

*UCCS, Professor Emerita of Psychology, Manitou Springs Resident*

### **Kolleen Johnson, Board Member**

*Executive Director of Secondary Schools MSSD14, Manitou Springs Resident*

### **Fred Darpino, Board Member**

*Artist, Owner, Fred Darpino Studio & Gallery*

### **Julia L Wright, Board Member**

*Artist, Commonwheel Festival Organizer, Manitou Springs Resident*

### **Mary Snyder, Board Member**

*Graphic Artist, Community Volunteer, Manitou Springs Resident*

### **Amy Kerr, Board Member**

*Manitou Art Center Studio Artist*

### **Taylor Trask - Board Member at Large**

*Director of Strategy, Best Practice Media, Filmmaker, Manitou Springs Resident*

Creative Alliance Annual Report 2025

## Art on the Avenue -- 22 years and going strong



With funding from MACH and the Manitou Springs Community Foundation, CRANE added 4 new sculptures on 2 year contracts and completed a major repair on the beloved “Manizoo” in Memorial Park.

Annette Coleman’s Barbie Disco Land Party (third from left) won the Art Excellence Award.

With support from the Manitou Springs Community Foundation, we purchased a sculpture honoring longtime Manitou superstar Ken Olson. We featured the iconic piece “Man in Z Moon” for our 2nd annual scavenger hunt.

CRANE would like to give special thanks to the City’s Public Works Department, who provided installation and maintenance support.



## Creekwalk Art (a collaboration with PARAB)

In 2025, CRANE, with in-kind help from the City of Manitou Springs, installed 17 new artworks by local creatives along the Creekwalk Trail in Fields Park. This project was made possible with funding and collaborative help from PARAB (Parks and Recreation Advisory Board), and additional funding from the Manitou Springs Urban Renewal Authority.



## The Duck Stop

In 2025, CRANE partnered with the City to bring an old building to life. The Duck Stop is on its way to being an essential part of Manitou Springs' mobility infrastructure, and now it engages people passing through with thoughtful quotations and art.



## The Story Booth

Thanks to funding from Colorado Creative Industries and the Loft, CRANE partnered with Infinite Creations, Scott Kerr, the Manitou Springs Heritage Museum, and 20 storytellers to create the Story Booth in the Loft's Space. Visitors can seat themselves in a refurbished phone booth and hear 25 stories about Manitou Springs told by locals, including love stories, cultural histories, ghost stories, and more. This project put \$8,795 into the local economy and serves as a love letter to Manitou Springs, reminding us why our community is so important to all of us.



Colorado  
Creative  
Industries



infinite Creations



## Creekwalk Murals



CRANE commissioned 2 murals along the Creekwalk Trail in Manitou in 2025. The first, by Grow Love, depicts local endangered flowers alongside pollinators, while the second, by Katie Curcio, won our People’s Choice Award and depicts local bird species.



## Avenue Creative Circuit

First Friday Art Walks are a regional partnership with Downtown Ventures/Colorado Springs Creative District, Old Colorado City Partnership/OCC Historic District, and CRANE/Manitou Springs Creative District. Each month, the entire Circuit promotes galleries and arts experiences across three districts, six miles, and two cities.



Creative Alliance Annual Report 2025

## 2025 Financials

**Income** (chart next page): In 2025, CRANE received programmatic grants from the Manitou Arts, Culture and Heritage fund (MACH); Colorado Creative Industries (CCI), which provides our Creative District Certification; the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PARAB); the Manitou Springs Urban Renewal Authority (MSURA); the City of Manitou Springs; the Loft; and the Manitou Springs Community Foundation. Operational funding and our director’s salary came from Visit Manitou Springs.

**Expenditures** (chart next page): In 2025, programmatic expenditures included Art on the Avenue, the Creekwalk Murals, the Creekwalk Art project, and the Story Booth at the Loft.

**Total Income: \$90,693**

**Total Expenses: \$85,140**

**Total Dollars Paid Directly to Creatives: \$56,288, up from \$32,711 in 2024**

**Total Dollars Paid to local small businesses and contractors: \$24,964, up from \$7,395 in 2024**

## Thanks to our supporters

We could not do what we do without the generous support of many people and organizations.

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT -

The following people and organizations gave significant amounts to CRANE in 2025. Smaller donations were also invaluable.

Adam’s Mountain Cafe

Ben Kuckel

City of Manitou Springs

Colorado Creative Industries

Eddie Greene and Alan Siegel

Farley McDonough

Helene and Larry Galloway

Kolleen Johnson

Leslie Lewis

Manitou Arts Culture & Heritage

Manitou Springs Community Foundation

Manitou Springs Urban Renewal Authority

Mary Snyder

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Ralph Routon

The Loft

Visit Manitou Springs

### IN-KIND SUPPORT

Adam’s Mountain Cafe

Adam Rath

Amy Kerr

Chris Rudnick

City of Manitou Springs

Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region

Daniel Romano

Leslie Lewis

Manitou Art Center

Taylor Trask

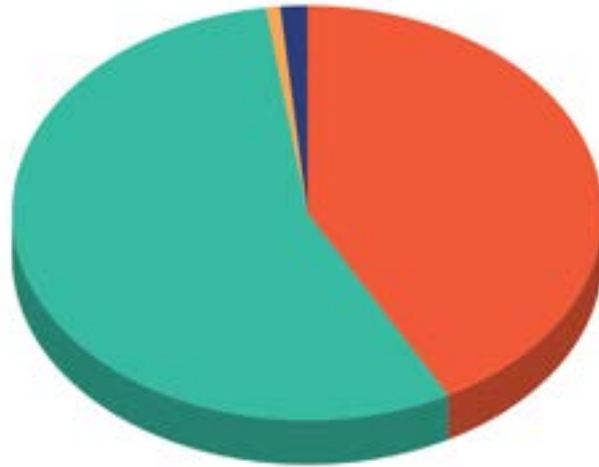
The Loft

Visit Manitou Springs

## 2025 Financials, Continued

CRANE Income, 2025

● Visit Manitou Springs - Operating and Salary ● Grants for Programs ● Interest ● Personal Donations



CRANE Expenditures, 2025

● Staff and Contractors ● Programs ● Operations ● Community Grants and Outreach ● Conferences, Networking, and Education



## Image and Artwork Credits

Photos listed in order from left to right and top to bottom on each page

Page 1 - *Tenacious Beauties of Our Valley* by Grow Love - photograph by Audrey Gray

Page 2 - *Koyuk* by John Kessler - photograph by Julia Wright

Page 2 - *Conception* by Alex Bond - photograph by Audrey Gray

Page 2 - *Peeps* by Liz Szabo - photograph by Julia Wright

Page 2 - *Germination* by Gregory Fields - photograph by Julia Wright

Page 2 - *Revivification* by Zach Tabb - photograph by Audrey Gray

Page 3 - *Wings of the Springs* by Katie Curcio - photograph by Audrey Gray

Page 4 - *Mr Hare* by Mark Dyke - photograph by Audrey Gray

Page 4 - *My Mental Garden* by Sandy Friedman - photograph by Audrey Gray

Page 4 - *Barbie's Disco Land Party* by Annette Coleman - photograph by Audrey Gray

Page 4 - *Seeds in the Wind* by Jodie Bliss - photograph by Audrey Gray

Page 4 - *Eternal Compass* by Alex DiFiore - photograph by Audrey Gray

Page 4 - *Man in Z Moon* minis (sculpture by Daniel Romano) - photograph by Audrey Gray

Page 4 - *Man in Z Moon* by Daniel Romano - photograph by Monica Rozelle

Page 5 - *Guardian of the Ridge* by Katie Curcio - photograph by Audrey Gray

Page 5 - *Life is but a Dream* by April Lavelly Robinson - photograph by Audrey Gray

Page 5 - *Guardians* by Sallie Knox Hall - photograph by Audrey Gray

Page 5 - *Shape Shifter* by Lupita Carrasco - photograph by Audrey Gray

Page 5 - *Butterflies Flower and Bee* by Susan Odiam - photograph by Audrey Gray

Page 5 - The Duck Stop - photograph by Amy Kerr

Page 5 - The Duck Stop with *Seeds in the Wind* by Jodie Bliss - photograph by Amy Kerr

Page 6 - A visitor listens to a story at the Story Booth - photograph by Audrey Gray

Page 6 - The Story Booth - photograph by Amy Kerr

Page 7 - *Tenacious Beauties of Our Valley* by Grow Love - photograph by Audrey Gray

Page 7 - *Wings of the Springs* by Katie Curcio - photograph by Audrey Gray



Colorado  
Creative  
Industries



Manitou  
Springs  
COLORADO

Creative Alliance Annual Report 2025

# **NON-BINDING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS AND CREATIVE ALLIANCE MANITOU SPRINGS**

THIS NON-BINDING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ("MOU") is made and entered into this 21<sup>st</sup> day of May 2024 (the "Effective Date"), by and between the City of Manitou Springs, a Colorado municipal corporation with an address of 606 Manitou Avenue, Manitou Springs, Colorado 80829 (the "City"), and the Creative Alliance Manitou Springs, a Colorado non-profit corporation with an address of 354 Manitou Avenue, Manitou Springs, Colorado 80829 ("CRANE") — individually, a "Party" and collectively, the "Parties".

**WHEREAS**, the City of Manitou Springs is a State-Certified Creative District (2017 and 2022);

**WHEREAS**, the creative industries and public art are economic drivers for the City;

**WHEREAS**, CRANE is funded, indirectly in part, by the City, which supports CRANE's general operating expenses annually;

**WHEREAS**, the Parties desire to revise and consolidate previous agreements involving CRANE and its predecessors, the Manitou Springs Creative District and Manitou Springs Arts Council; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has Plan Manitou (Manitou Springs Vision Plan) to guide CRANE's efforts.

**NOW THEREFORE**, in this MOU, the Parties desire to set forth each Party's role with respect to the continued investment in economic development, the creative industries and public art efforts in the City, adhering to all applicable U.S. and Colorado laws as well as applicable local codes and regulations

## **I. City of Manitou Springs Roles**

A. Assist CRANE in carrying out its annual goals and objectives through support from its City liaison and updates to City Council.

B. Promote and support CRANE through required letters of support and paperwork to meet State requirements for Creative District certification.

C. Provide support from City staff for public art installations and deinstallations.

D. Continue to fund economic development/promotion, thereby supporting CRANE and the Manitou Springs Chamber of Commerce, Visitors Bureau & Office of Economic Development in their combined efforts to manage and promote sound economic development on behalf of the City.

E. CRANE will present recommended public art to Council for review following public process.

F. Maintain public artwork in partnership with CRANE and its artists for repairs of \$500.01 to \$999.99 and pay the CIRSA (Colorado Intergovernmental Risk Sharing Agency) deductible for claims of \$1,000 or more.

## **II. Creative Alliance Manitou Springs Roles**

A. CRANE will meet all State requirements to maintain Creative District certification;

B. Actively manage and cultivate all aspects of public art in the City, as well as CRANE's other programs;

C. Promote the creative industries as a catalyst for economic development in the City;

D. CRANE Board of Directors will manage its Executive Director and report to City Council a minimum of once each year;

E. Support the City staff and City Council with implementation of the MACH initiative when requested;

F. CRANE's board of directors and its Public Art Committee will assume responsibility and authority for the Art on the Avenue public art program, as initiated by the former Manitou Springs Arts Council. This includes securing funding, evaluating sites, seeking entries, reviewing submissions and selecting temporary public art pieces for Manitou Springs, bringing to City Council for approval and working with City staff on actual installations. CRANE will maintain public artwork for repairs up to \$500 annually;

G. CRANE will seek public input on its final selection(s) of new artwork each year, including anticipated location(s) for display in accordance with City Planning Codes. In seeking such public input, CRANE will present visual representations of its selections via the Pikes Peak Bulletin, social media and any other means that may be or become available. CRANE will solicit public feedback for 10-14 days before submitting selections, along with specifics regarding the public feedback, to City Council. Unattributed negative comments will not be given the same credibility as responses from people who identify themselves. CRANE agrees to reconsider its decisions based on the feedback if necessary.

H. CRANE will ensure that artists submitting an entry receive a copy of the City's Application for Permit to Display Artwork on City Property. The City will provide CRANE with a statement of insurance coverage to be provided by the City's insurer on the public art selected and displayed.


## **III. Re-evaluation of the MOU**

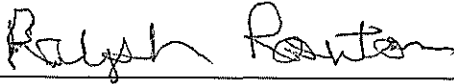
The Parties acknowledge that the Roles identified in this MOU reflect an evolution of roles and responsibilities. This revised MOU is intended to be temporary, pending a formal process in 2024 to revamp and rewrite Plan Manitou. After the new Plan Manitou is finalized, Parties will conduct a thorough evaluation of these updated roles and craft modifications to the MOU as needed.

## **IV. Non-binding**

Nothing in the MOU shall be binding upon either Party. Neither Party shall have any claim or cause of action against the other based on the provisions set forth herein.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have executed this MOU on the date first set forth above.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS, COLORADO  
John Graham, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CREATIVE ALLIANCE MANITOU SPRINGS  
Ralph Ronton, Board Chair

COUNCIL BILL NO.

RESOLUTION NO.

RESOLUTION

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS, COLORADO, SUPPORTING THE PLACEMENT OF PUBLIC ART WITHIN COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES**

**WHEREAS**, CRANE in the City of Manitou Springs has received funding for artwork placed in public space for the benefit and enjoyment of its citizens and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, CRANE has identified that the most suitable location for high visibility and appreciation of the artwork would be on the underpass of Highway 24 at Manitou Avenue and at the Serpentine Drive Roundabout at Manitou Avenue and Serpentine Drive; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Manitou Springs supports, upon receiving public input, the efforts of CRANE in acquiring and placing public art; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Manitou Springs will install the sculpture in a safe manner following the Colorado Department of Transportation standards; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Manitou Springs will enter into an, or amend an existing, Intergovernmental Agreement with the Colorado Department of Transportation agreeing to maintain the sculpture in accordance with the agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council supports the proposed location of these artworks within the Colorado Department of Transportation facility.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS, COLORADO, THAT:**

**SECTION 1:** The City Council of the City of Manitou Springs supports the placement of the artwork within the Colorado Department of Transportation facility on the underpass of Highway 24 at Manitou Avenue and at the Serpentine Drive Roundabout at Manitou Avenue and Serpentine Drive.

**SECTION 2:** This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption by City Council. Adopted at the Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Manitou Springs, Colorado, on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.

Mayor and Council:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Natalie Johnson, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Elena Krebs, City Clerk



# CRANE REPORT 2026



# A quick review of 2025 - Creative Alliance Manitou Springs



## Our Mission

We elevate and promote Manitou Springs creatives to lift artistic and economic vitality.

## Our Vision

Our vision is a thriving, vibrant arts and business community that moves us toward an inclusive and creative future.



## Art on the Avenue -- 22 years and going strong

- With funding from MACH and the Manitou Springs Community Foundation, CRANE added 4 new sculptures on 2 year contracts, and purchased a new piece for the Community.
- We worked with PARAB and Gillian Rossi in Parks to accomplish repairs to Manizoo



## Creekwalk Art

- In 2025, CRANE, with in-kind help from the City, installed 17 new artworks by local creatives along the Creekwalk Trail. This project was made possible with funding and collaborative help from PARAB, and additional funding from the MSURA.

## The Duck Stop

- The Duck Stop is on its way to being an essential part of Manitou Springs' mobility infrastructure, and now thanks to City funding, it engages people passing through with thoughtful quotations and art.

# Creekwalk Murals

- CRANE commissioned 2 murals along the Creekwalk Trail in Manitou in 2025. Funding came from MACH and the MSURA. The first, by Grow Love, depicts local endangered flowers alongside pollinators, while the second, by Katie Curcio, won our People's Choice Award and depicts local bird species.

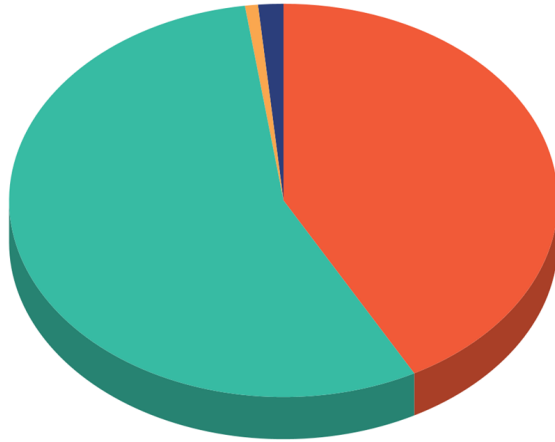


## The Story Booth

- Thanks to funding from Colorado Creative Industries and the Loft, CRANE created the Story Booth. Visitors can seat themselves in a refurbished phone booth and hear 25 stories about Manitou Springs told by locals, including love stories, cultural histories, ghost stories, and more. This project put \$8,795 into the local economy and serves as a love letter to Manitou Springs, reminding us why our community is so important to all of us.

CRANE Income, 2025

● Visit Manitou Springs - Operating and Salary ● Grants for Programs ● Interest ● Personal Donations



## Income

**Total Income: \$90,693**

In 2025, CRANE received programmatic grants from the Manitou Arts, Culture and Heritage fund (MACH); Colorado Creative Industries (CCI), which provides our Creative District Certification; the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PARAB); the Manitou Springs Urban Renewal Authority (MSURA); the City of Manitou Springs; the Loft; and the Manitou Springs Community Foundation. Operational funding and our director's salary came from Visit Manitou Springs.

# Expenditures

**Total Expenses: \$85,140**

In 2025, programmatic expenditures included Art on the Avenue, the Creekwalk Murals, the Creekwalk Art project, and the Story Booth at the Loft.

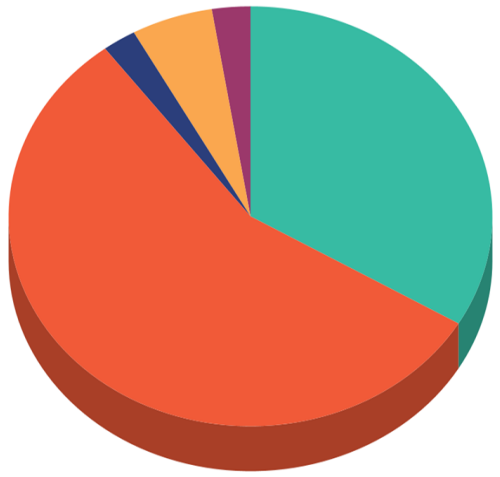
**Total Dollars Paid Directly to Creatives: \$56,288, up from \$32,711 in 2024**

**Total Dollars Paid to local small businesses and contractors: \$24,964, up from \$7,395 in 2024**



CRANE Expenditures, 2025

- Staff and Contractors
- Programs
- Operations
- Community Grants and Outreach
- Conferences, Networking, and Education



# MOU Update Request and Discussion

“This revised MOU is intended to be temporary, pending a formal process in 2024 to revamp and rewrite Plan Manitou. After the new Plan Manitou is finalized, Parties will conduct a thorough evaluation of these updated roles and craft modifications to the MOU as needed.”

CRANE’s items to discuss:

- Clarify Process for Murals and art projects on City Property, particularly those not funded by CRANE or MACH
- Clarify and address maintenance clauses

# Maintenance

Current MOU Clause:

[City will] Maintain public artwork in partnership with CRANE and its artists for repairs of \$500.01 to \$999.99 and pay the CIRSA (Colorado Intergovernmental Risk Sharing Agency) deductible for claims of \$1,000 or more.”

CRANE has spent the last 2 years chipping away at deferred maintenance from decades of public art being administered by a tiny volunteer organization with an annual budget of under \$6,000. In 2024, we spent \$1011 on maintenance, and in 2025, we spent \$1248.50 on maintenance (not including Manizoo repairs funded by PARAB). CRANE currently has a 4-phase plan that we are implementing - it requires about \$3,000 to complete the first 3 phases (not including the Becker’s Lane Bridge). Phase 4 includes repainting the Peeps and stabilizing the pedestal at the Ruxton Roundabout when Bloom is removed. CRANE would also like to propose a new system beginning in 2027 where we and the City each put \$500 per year into an account that CRANE can pull from to fund annual repairs. This would meet the spirit of the current MOU (which we have not been honoring) while being more clean, and would allow us to build a cushion for future larger repairs over years where less maintenance is needed.

# Maintenance Needs

0 Manitou Ave (at Arch)	PLAQUE	"Eagle"	John Kessler	City of Manitou Springs
26 Manitou Avenue	PLAQUE	"Tenacious Beauties of Our Valley"	Grow Love	Adam's Mountain Cafe/CRANE
202 Manitou Avenue	PLAQUE	"Wings of the Springs"	Katie Curcio	CRANE/City
441 Manitou Avenue	Check 6/26 (silicone cracks)	"Vibrant Colors of Manitou Springs"	Natalia Pulido	Rich Baker/CRANE
441 Manitou Avenue	Check 6/26 (silicone cracks)	"Colorado Scrub Oak"	Paige Talerico	Rich Baker/CRANE
441 Manitou Avenue	Check 6/26 (silicone cracks)	"Manitou Vibes"	Sallie Knox Hall	Rich Baker/CRANE
441 Manitou Avenue	Check 6/26 (silicone cracks)	"Sharing Smiles"	Hank Frank	Rich Baker/CRANE
441 Manitou Avenue	Check 6/26 (silicone cracks)	"Manitou Sunrise"	Katie Curcio	Rich Baker/CRANE
484 Manitou Avenue	PLAQUE	"Seeds in the Wind"	Jodie Bliss	Artist Owned
Memorial Park	Stucco Repair on base	"Paper Airplane"	Huberto Maestas	Artist Owned
Memorial Park	Would need a new plaque system	Tree carving in Memorial Park	Sophie Cowman	City of Manitou Springs
7 Minute Spring	Needs Paint	"Rose Dancer"	Neil Fenton	Artist Owned
7 Minute Spring	PLAQUE	"Barbie's Disco Land Party"	Annette Coleman	Artist Owned
7 Minute Spring	Would need a new plaque system	"Peace Stick"	Unknown	City of Manitou Springs

7 Minute Spring	Would need a new plaque system	"Peace Stick"	Unknown	City of Manitou Springs	
7 Minute Spring	NEW PLAQUE	Decommissioned metal fountain	Don Green with tiles by Maxine Green	City of Manitou Springs	
7 Minute Spring	NEW PLAQUE	"Revivification"	Zach Tabb	Artist Owned	
7 Minute Spring	PLAQUE	Graffiti and screws cut off	"Spedis"	Richard Burke	Artist Owned
606 Manitou Ave	PLAQUE NEEDS PERMANENTLY AFFIXED	"Stick Man"	Designed by Ed Rudolph. Fabricated by Louie Schwartz	CRANE	
606 Manitou Ave	PLAQUE	"My Mental Garden"	Sandy Friedman	Artist Owned	
Mansions Park	Could put plaques if city wants	"Nature of Manitou" (3 mosaic/concrete benches)	Concrete Couch	City of Manitou Springs	
717 Manitou Ave	PLAQUE	"Phoenix"	Neil Fenton	CRANE	
720 Manitou Ave	PLAQUE	"Mr Hare"	Mark Dyke	Artist Owned	
729 Manitou Ave	NEW PLAQUE anchor on north side	"Mountain Bench"	Concrete Couch	City of Manitou Springs	
Canon Ave & Lovers Lane, along creek	PLAQUE	New Paint Soon	"Shooting Star"	Doyle Svenby	CRANE
Shoshone Spring	NEEDS WORK NOW	"Sun to Moon Rotation"	Mary C. Angers	Owned by Artist	
Shoshone Spring	PLAQUE	"Handmade"	Alex Bor	Artist	

# Maintenance Needs, Cont.

Shoshone Spring	PLAQUE		"Portable Deity"	Larry Terrafranca	CRANE
Shoshone Spring	PLAQUE		"Man in Z Moon"	Dan Romano	CRANE
934 Manitou Ave - on sidewalk curb	PLAQUE	Needs Sealing	"Germination"	Gregory Fields	CRANE
Cheyenne Spring	Will need paint - review 10/26		"Peeps"	Liz Szabo	City of Manitou Springs
Cheyenne Spring	NEW PLAQUE		"Sun Shadow Moon Light"	Sean Yarbrough	Owned by Artist
962 Manitou Ave	Reevaluate rust 10/26	Trim Trees	"Comforting Melody"	Flaminio Antonio	CRANE
Soda Springs Park	Monitor cracks back and right paw 10/26		"Koyuk"	John Kessler	CRANE
1003 Manitou Ave	Trim Trees		"Metal Flower"	Glen Rudolph	?
10 Old Mans Trail	NEED TO CHECK		"The Dance of TAVA"	K8e Orr and Joel Newmiller	City of Manitou Springs
735 Manitou Ave	PLAQUE	Stabilize Pedestal	"Conception"	Alex Bond	Owned by Artist
Fields Park	Touch up Paint		"Wild Contemplation"	Amie Jacobsen	City of Manitou Springs
Marcy Morrison Bridge on Beckers Lane	REAFIX PANELS		"La Amistad Manitou Springs"	Javier Rocabado	City of Manitou Springs
Creekwalk Phase 4 - Avenue	NEW PLAQUE		"Pike's Peak"	Ken Riesterer	CRANE/City

Creekwalk Phase 4 - Avenue	NEW PLAQUE		"Blue Manitou"	Tina Riesterer	CRANE/City
Creekwalk Phase 4 - Avenue	NEW PLAQUE		"Looking up Spencer Avenue"	Mark Riesterer	CRANE/City
Rockey Museum	NEW PLAQUE		Rockey Mural	Natalia Pulido	CRANE/City
Creekwalk Baseball Fields	Replace (Stolen)		"Water Knitter"	Manuel Pulido	CRANE/City
Creekwalk Baseball Fields	Replace (Stolen)		"Keys Owl"	Laurel Bahe	CRANE/City

# CDOT Resolution

- In 2026, the URA has elected to fund artwork on the underpass of highway 24 at Manitou Avenue. Completing this work will require an agreement with CDOT, which requires City Council to make a resolution. To be compliant with CDOT rules, the West End Roundabout sculpture should also be included. CRANE has written a sample proclamation that could be used if the City is amenable to the project.
- Heads up, the contract for “Stumped” at the west end roundabout is up; that piece may be replaced with another 2-year contract piece as part of Art on the Avenue this year.

# Thank you!

CRANE really appreciates all that the City has done in the past few years to support our organization. We are pleased with the communication and support, especially from City Administrator Denise Howell, Parks and Rec Director Gillian Rossi, Parks Supervisor Josh Farmer, Parking and Mobility Director Felipe Lopez, City Engineer Ben Schmitt, and Planner Erin Ringsred. We depend on the cooperation and support from these city departments to make public art in Manitou Springs thrive. Thank you!



## Memorandum

Title: Bill Bauers Open Space Community Survey Results Presentation  
From: Gillian Rossi, Parks & Recreation Director; Jim Houk, Kimley-Horn  
To: Mayor and City Council  
CC: City Administrator Denise Howell  
Allocated Time: 30 Minutes

---

March 10, 2026

### **Purpose:**

To share and discuss the results of the Bill Bauers Open Space Community Survey with City Council.

### **Background:**

Parcel 74091-00-003 was purchased in August 2023, upon a recommendation from the Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) to City Council to purchase the property. The goal of the purchase was to connect existing open space (Parcel 74044-13-029) to Bill Bauers Park. Since the purchase, the development of a trail alignment has been discussed at several OSAC meetings and site visits have been conducted. Public comments both in support of the trail and against the trail have been made in the form of public comment at OSAC regular meetings and via email from residents and local organizations.

A draft survey to assess the community's interest in the future of the property was created. Before proceeding with the survey or any formal public engagement, it was desired to share existing information with the City Council and gain their perspective on how to proceed. The draft survey, along with letters of support and concern, were presented to City Council on June 10th, 2025. Council directed staff to hire a consultant to conduct a community-wide survey to gather insight on preferences and priorities regarding Bill Bauers Open Space. Kimley-Horn was hired to conduct the survey, which ran from December 10th, 2025 to January 5th, 2026. It was promoted through social media, the City's weekly report, related boards and commissions, and flyers at City Hall and all parks and open space trailheads in Manitou Springs.

### **Fiscal Impact:**

There is no designated funding to develop Bill Bauers Open Space in 2026, if that is the direction Council chooses going forward.

### **Workload Impact:**

N/A



**Recommended Action:**

Discuss the survey results and be prepared to provide direction, such as whether to pursue the development of a trail or not through the open space, at the March 17th City Council Regular Meeting.

# DISCOVERING COMMUNITY VIEWS ON OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION

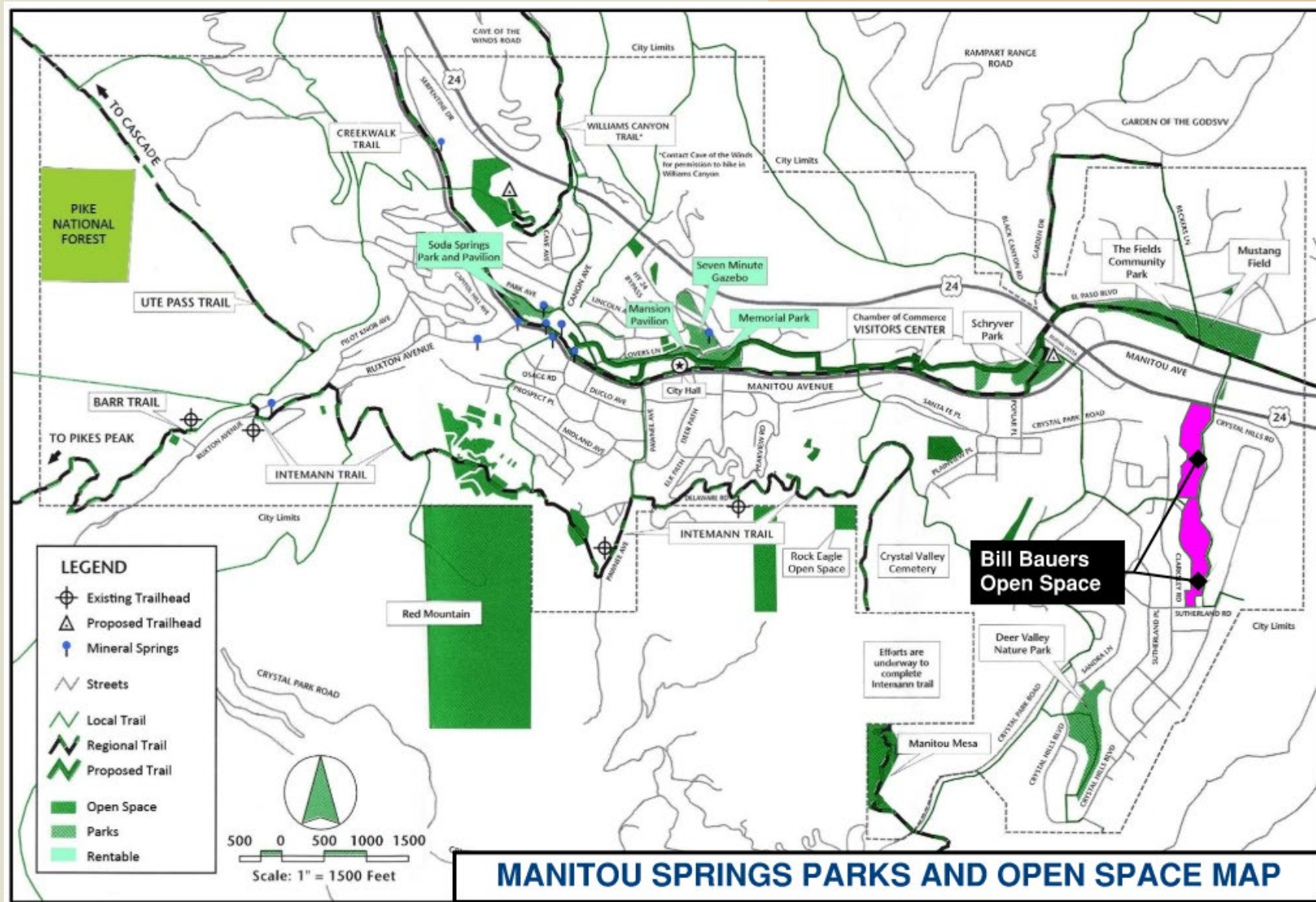
MANITOU SPRINGS, COLORADO

MARCH 2026

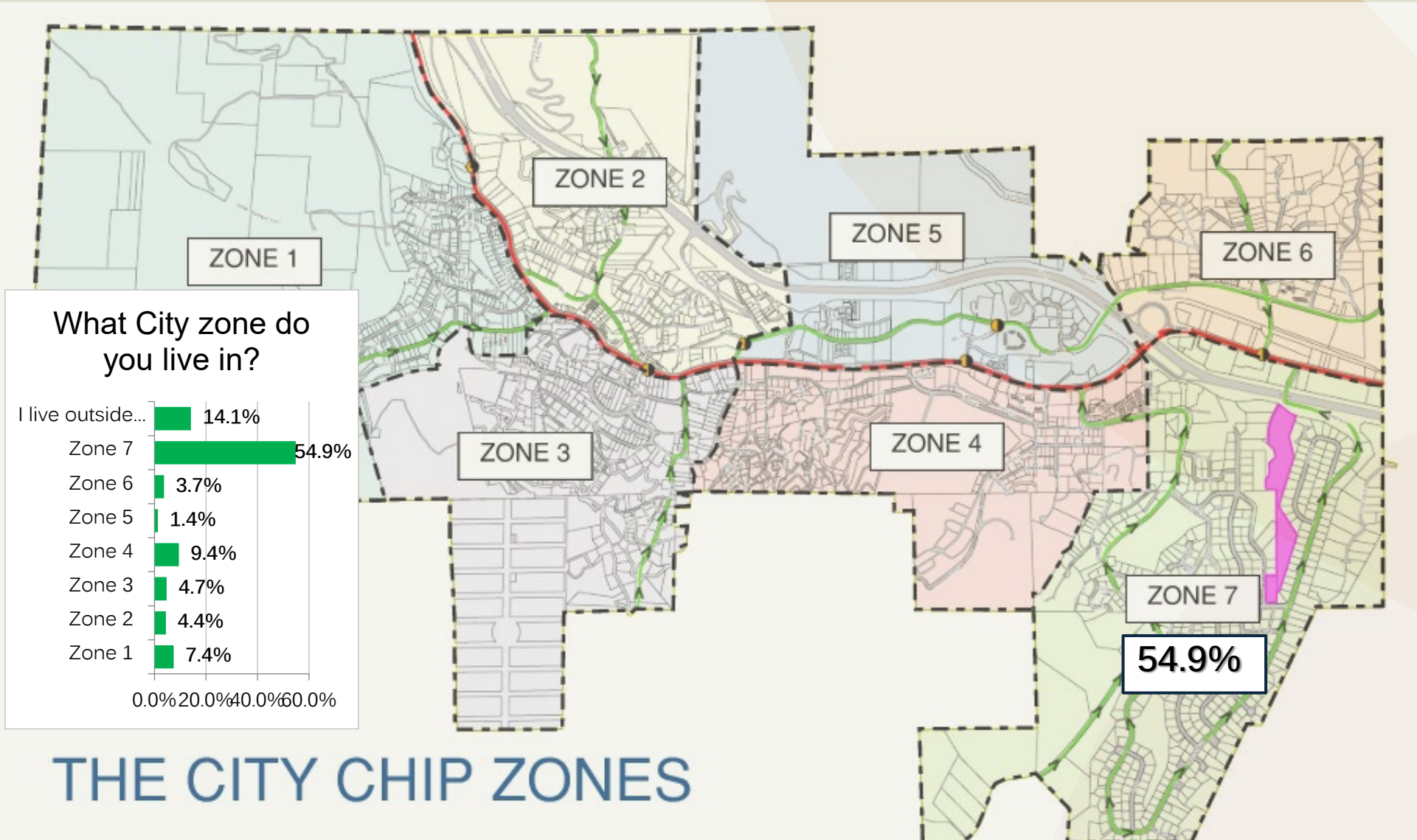


# Bill Bauers Open Space Community Survey: Key Summary Findings & Themes

# Community Context

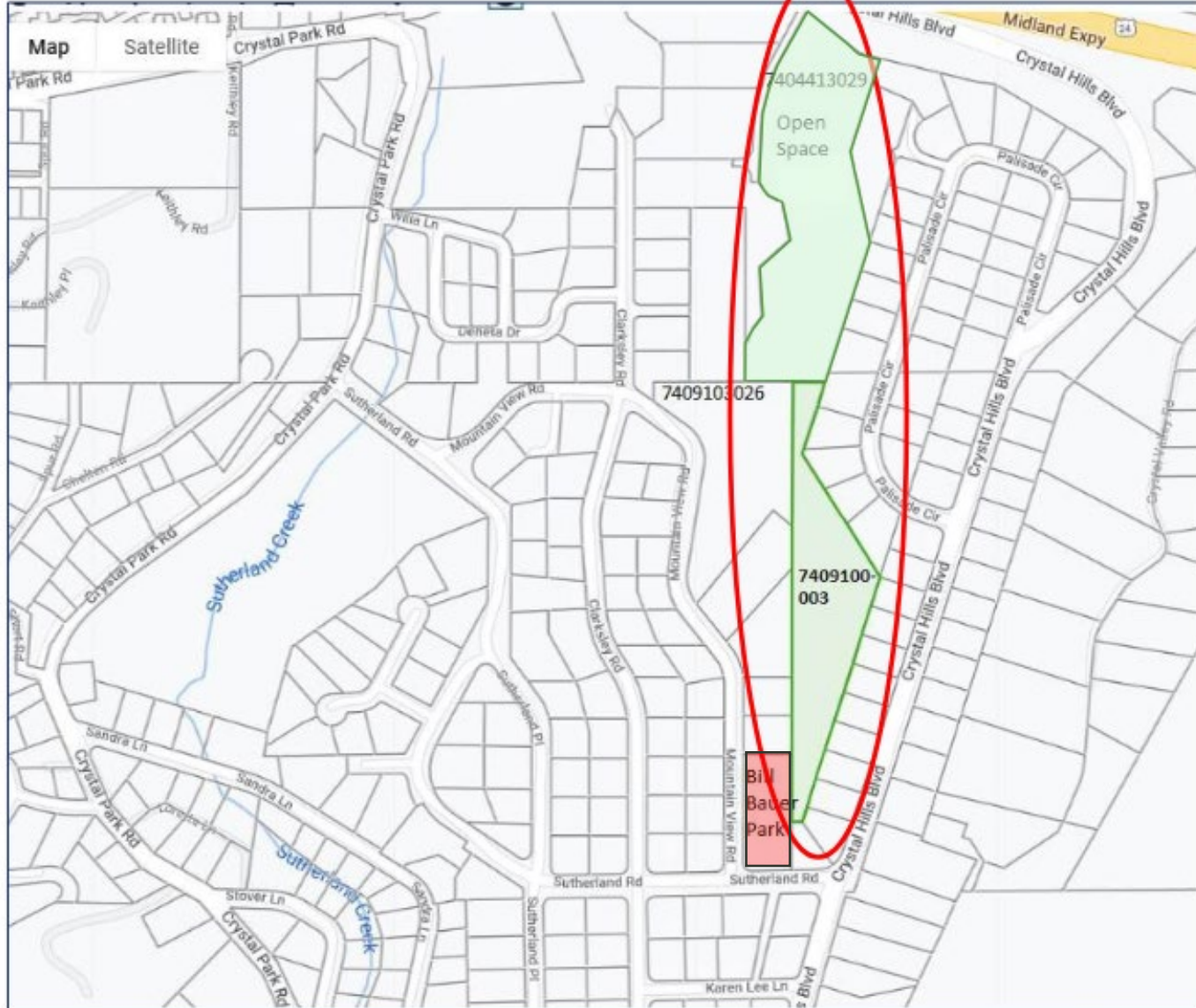


# Community Context



THE CITY CHIP ZONES

# Neighborhood Context



# Survey Format

- Digital Survey: December 10th, 2025 to January 5th , 2026
- 297 Responses, 15 Questions
- 82% Manitou Springs Resident
- 14% Non-Resident
- 2% Property Owner/ Non-Resident

A sample size of ~297 produces a reasonable margin of error with a **confidence level** of (  $\pm 5-6\%$ ) at **95%**



# Survey Themes

Finding: Yes, there is support for a trail, and....

- Open Space Preservation
- Conservation and Land Management
- Passive Recreation & Low-Impact Access
- Thoughtful Trail Planning
- Neighborhood Compatibility & Quality of Life
- Support for Development
- Considerations and Support

# Open Space Preservation



## Community support for preservation and opposition to high-impact development

### Support for Open Space:

Community members **strongly support preserving** the open space for recreational trails and natural habitat use.

### Low Impact Development:

There is clear community message to limit high-impact recreation **developments and to protect the natural environment.**

### Long-Term Stewardship:

The community desires long-term protection and **stewardship to maintain the area's natural and recreational value.**

# Policy alignment with POST and Comprehensive Plan

## **POST Plan / Alignment:**

The POST Plan focuses on acquiring and protecting lands that offer ecological, scenic, and community benefits.

## **Plan Manitou Goals /Alignment:**

The Comprehensive Plan aims to conserve open lands permanently to preserve mountain character and environmental quality.





# Survey summary reinforcing **preservation** commitment

## **Community Support:**

Survey results show strong community support for **preserving open spaces** in Manitou Springs.

## **Preservation Policy:**

City's long-standing policy focuses on **maintaining open space** as a key to the features of Manitou Springs.

## **Ongoing Commitment:**

The community's ongoing support **reinforces continued efforts** to protect natural areas for future generations.

# Conservation and Land Management



# Community priorities for habitat protection and minimal disturbance

## Emphasis on Natural Character:

Community prioritizes preserving the **natural character and ecological integrity** of the land.

## Habitat Protection Priority:

Strong focus on **protecting habitats** to support biodiversity and ecosystem health.

## Minimal Human Disturbance:

Community advises **against over-programming** or intensive park-style developments to reduce disturbance.

# Passive Recreation & Low-Impact Access



# Community support for passive recreation and quiet use

## Preference for Passive Recreation:

Community favors walking, hiking, and observing nature **instead of** more active recreational activities.

## Desire for Quiet Use:

Residents **seek low-impact, quiet** recreation that preserves the natural environment and tranquility.

# Thoughtful Trail Planning



# Community input on trail design, erosion, and user conflicts

## Community Support for Trails:

Trails receive community support when **designed thoughtfully** to balance use and conservation.

## Erosion Concerns:

Community members express concerns about **erosion risks** on poorly planned trails.

## User Conflicts:

Plan trail carefully to reduce user conflicts and protect the **quiet trail experience**.



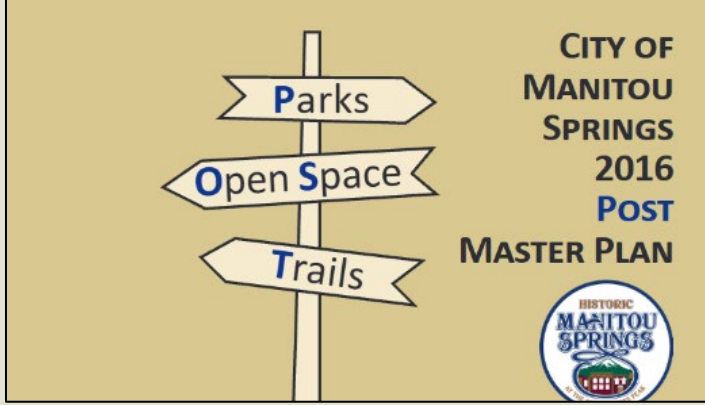
Consistent with  
Community  
Plans

# Policy alignment and summary for sustainable trail planning

**Environmental Trail Design:**  
POST advocates environmentally sensitive trail design focusing on preservation and stewardship.

**Multimodal Access:**  
Plan Manitou encourages multimodal and pedestrian access minimizing environmental and neighborhood disruptions.

**Community Support:**  
Public input emphasizes quality, sustainability, and stewardship in city trail planning policies.





# Community & Neighborhood Impacts

## Respect for Neighborhood:

Community members **emphasize the importance of** respecting the character of the site and neighborhood.

## Traffic Concerns:

Residents express **worries about increased traffic** and parking impacts and while preserving convenience for the neighborhood.

## Noise and Overuse Issues:

**Concerns include** noise pollution and affecting quality of life.

# Areas of Support for Development

# Safe pedestrian access and connectivity

## Safer Pedestrian Routes:

The trail provides support for off-street walking paths avoiding unsafe roads (**Crystal Hills Blvd**) that are lacking public sidewalks.... enhancing safety for all ages.

## Connectivity to Trails:

Linking neighborhoods to Manitou Avenue and trail systems **boosts daily mobility** and recreational access.





# Wildlife impacts, fire risk, and safety concerns

## Wildlife and Habitat Protection:

Concerns centers on **protecting wildlife corridors** and habitats for diverse species like bears, turkeys and mountain lions.

## Fire Risk Concerns:

Concerns focus on **increased fire risk** from human activities and challenges in fire suppression in steep terrain.

## Safety and Crime Issues:

**Fears of illegal camping**, trash, increased fire risk, and crime raise safety concerns, especially for adjacent neighbors.

# Conclusion

## Community Commitment

The survey highlights strong community **dedication to open space** preservation and sustainable trail use.

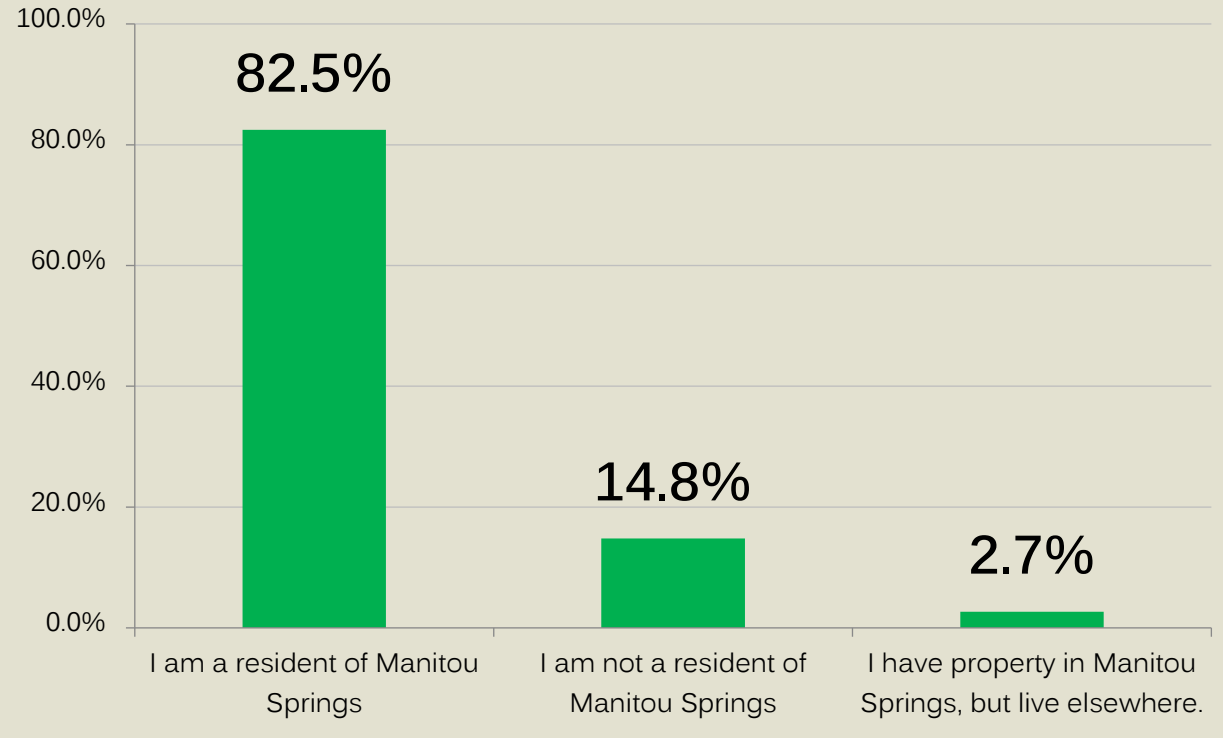
## Conservation and Development

Residents prefer **balanced approaches** combining conservation with thoughtful development.

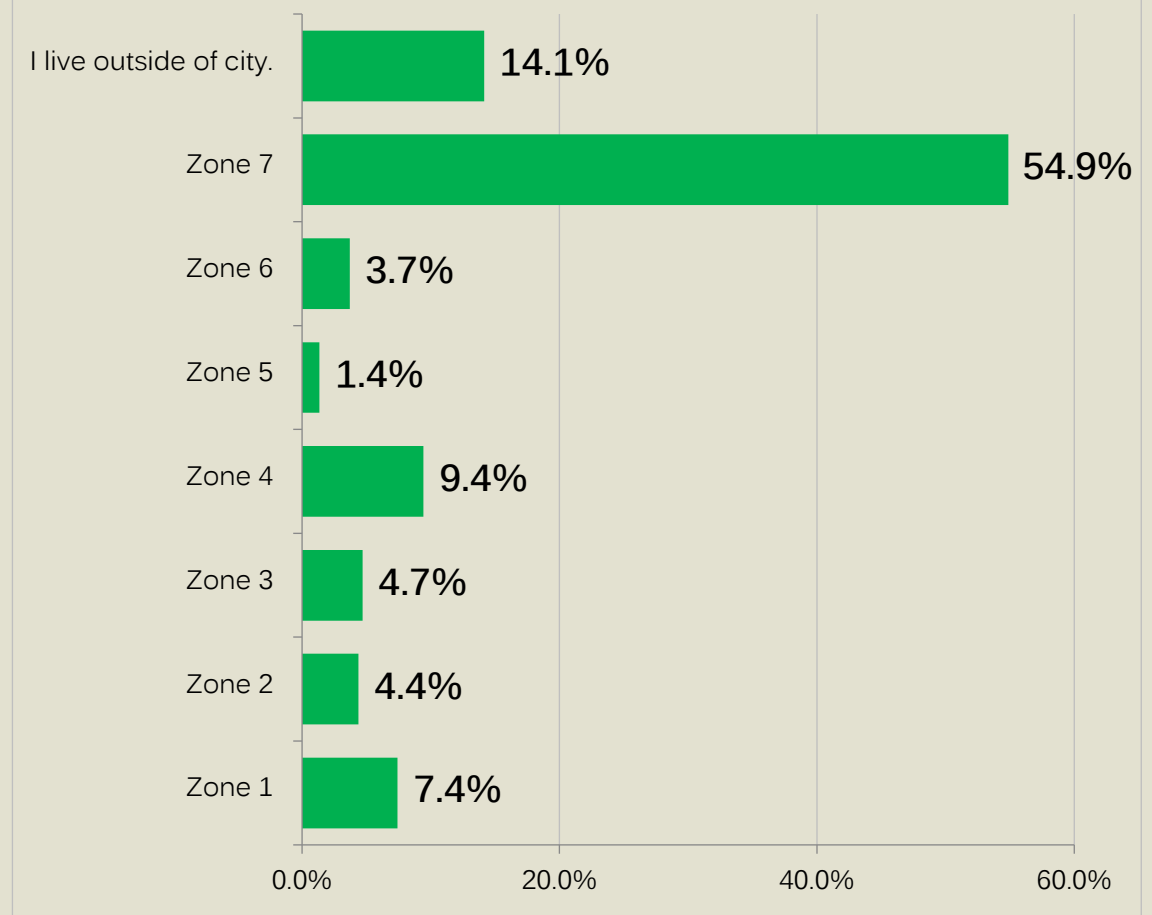
## Key Planning Considerations

**Future efforts must** address safety, neighborhood impact, and ecological health for effective planning.

### Select the option that best describes you.



### What City zone do you live in?

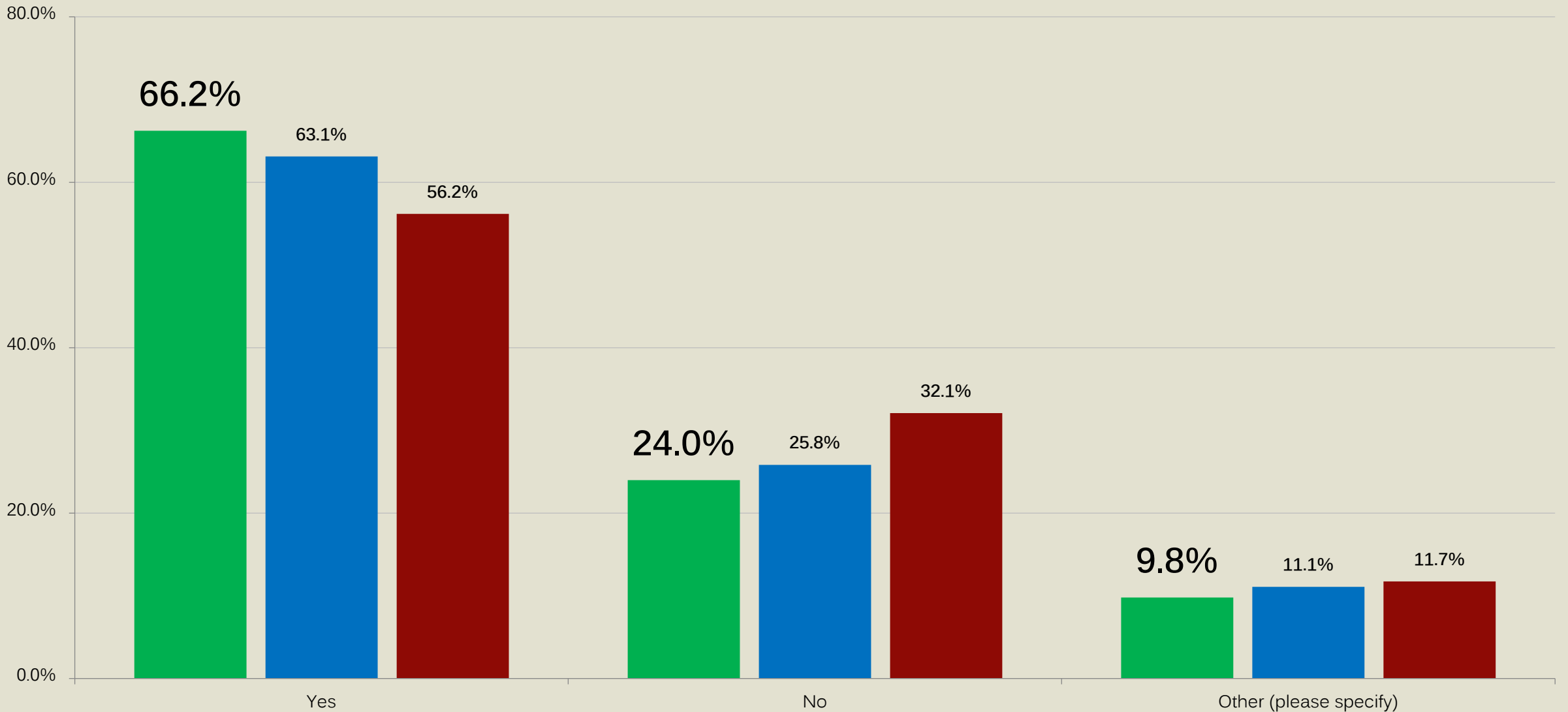


# Data

## Survey Graphs /Tables

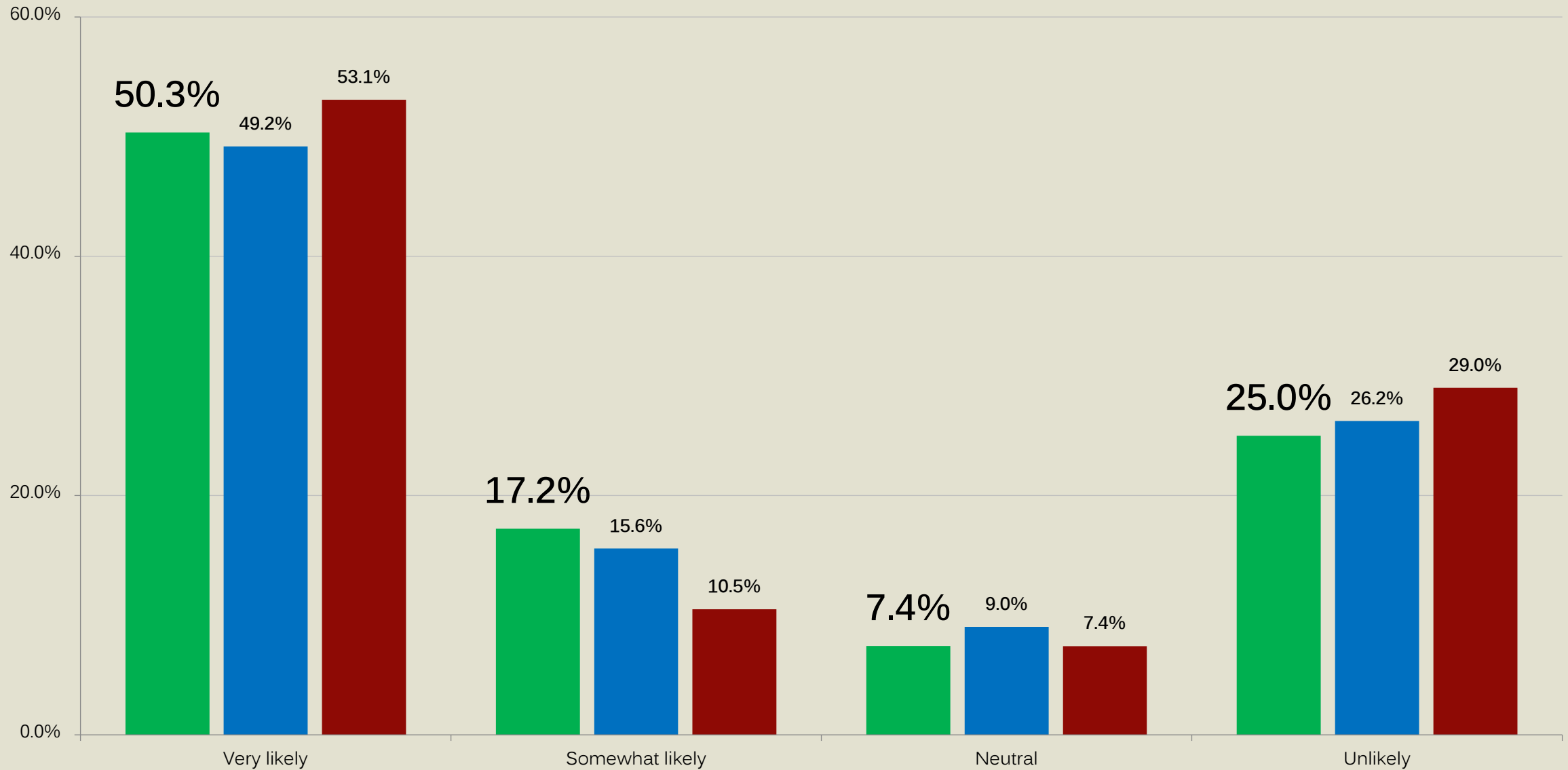
# Would you support the development of a trail through Bill Bauers Open Space?

■ All Responses   ■ City Only   ■ City Zone 7



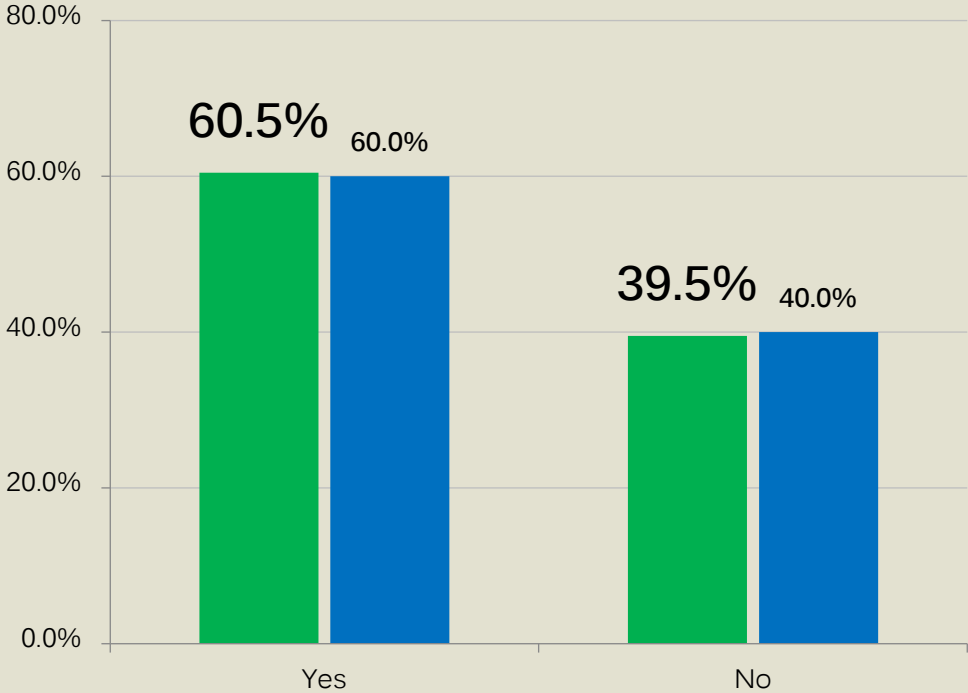
# If a trail through the open space is developed, how likely are you to use it?

■ All Responses ■ City Only ■ City Zone 7



Do you support the additional use of OSAC funding for additional environmental impact studies beyond the Baseline Environmental Impact Assessment before moving forward with trail and site development of the property?

All Responses		City Only	
60.5%	176	60.0%	144



# What **concerns**, if any, do you have about potential trail development

Rank	Theme	Description	Approx. Mentions	%
<b>1</b>	Homeless / Encampments / Transient Access	Concerns about unhoused individuals using the trail as a corridor, establishing camps, fire risk, trash, crime, and impacts to nearby homes and parks	146	<b>18.67%</b>
<b>2</b>	Wildlife Impacts & Habitat Disruption	Displacement of bears, mountain lions, deer, birds; loss of wildlife corridors; increased human-wildlife conflict	121	<b>15.47%</b>
<b>3</b>	Fire Risk	Fire danger from camps, cigarettes, trash, limited emergency access in ravines/corridors	103	<b>13.17%</b>
<b>4</b>	Traffic, Parking & Access Impacts	Increased vehicle traffic, illegal U-turns, parking shortages, congestion on Crystal Hills Blvd and neighborhood streets	88	<b>11.25%</b>
<b>5</b>	Neighborhood Safety & Crime	Trespassing, vandalism, theft, robbery concerns, unsafe pedestrian conditions, children's safety	79	<b>10.10%</b>
<b>6</b>	Privacy & Neighborhood Intrusion	Loss of privacy, increased foot traffic near homes, trail backing up to residences	63	<b>8.06%</b>
<b>7</b>	Environmental Degradation (Erosion, Hydrology, Vegetation)	Erosion in steep terrain, drainage/flood zone issues, loss of natural vegetation, overbuilding	57	<b>7.29%</b>
<b>8</b>	Cost, Funding & Budget Constraints	Use of taxpayer funds, city budget shortfall, construction and long-term maintenance costs	49	<b>6.27%</b>
<b>9</b>	Questioning Need / Utility of the Trail	Trail "goes nowhere," redundancy with nearby trails, limited benefit to residents, not a destination	44	<b>5.63%</b>
<b>10</b>	Trail Design & Use Conflicts	Bikes vs. pedestrians, dogs, trail width/surface, singletrack vs. multi-use, maintenance burden	32	<b>4.09%</b>

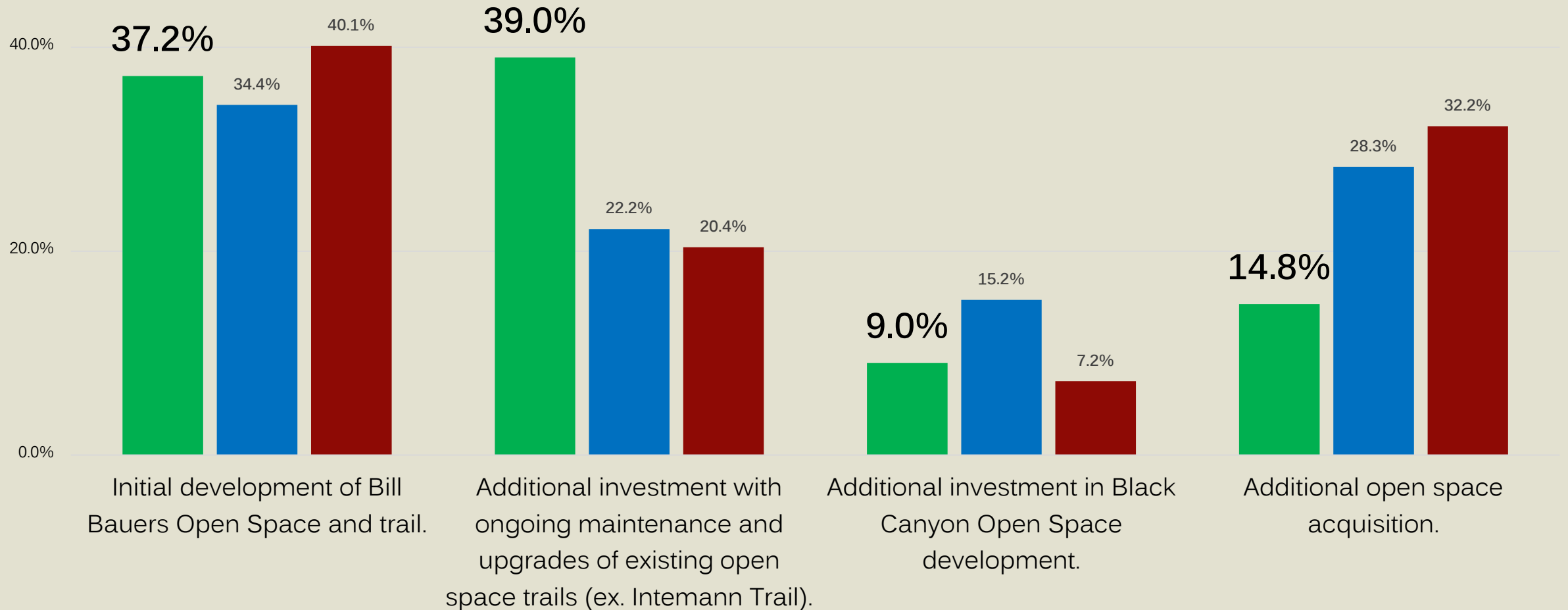
# What **benefits** do you see from trail development

Rank	Theme	Description	Approx. Mentions	%
1	Safe Pedestrian Access / Off-Street Safety	Safer walking route, avoiding Crystal Hills Blvd & Crystal Park Rd, no sidewalks today, safer for kids, families, seniors	172	<b>17.44%</b>
2	Connectivity to Manitou Ave & Trail System	Neighborhood–town connection, access to Manitou Ave, Intemann, Creek Walk, Fountain Creek, Red Rock Canyon	141	<b>14.30%</b>
3	Outdoor Recreation & Exercise	Walking, running, hiking, biking, dog walking, general recreation close to home	128	<b>12.98%</b>
4	Active Transportation / Reduced Car Dependence	Walking/biking instead of driving, fewer cars, pedestrian commuting, bike access	112	<b>11.36%</b>
5	Community Health & Quality of Life	Physical health, mental health, “nature therapy,” family use, livability, happiness	96	<b>9.74%</b>
6	Access to Nature / Open Space Enjoyment	Nature exposure, scenic valley, forested trail, preservation through managed access	91	<b>9.23%</b>
7	Fire Mitigation & Reduced Illegal Camping	“Eyes on the space,” activation deterring encampments, managed use vs. unmanaged use	78	<b>7.91%</b>
8	Equity & Accessibility (Non-Drivers, Kids)	Access for children, non-drivers, seniors, families without cars, equitable access	69	<b>7.00%</b>
9	Economic Benefits & Property Value	Increased property values, tourism spillover, local spending, community asset	52	<b>5.27%</b>
10	Efficient Use of Underutilized Land	Formalizing existing social trails, managing erosion, stewardship, avoiding rogue trails	47	<b>4.77%</b>

# What OSAC open space development and project priority do you support most?

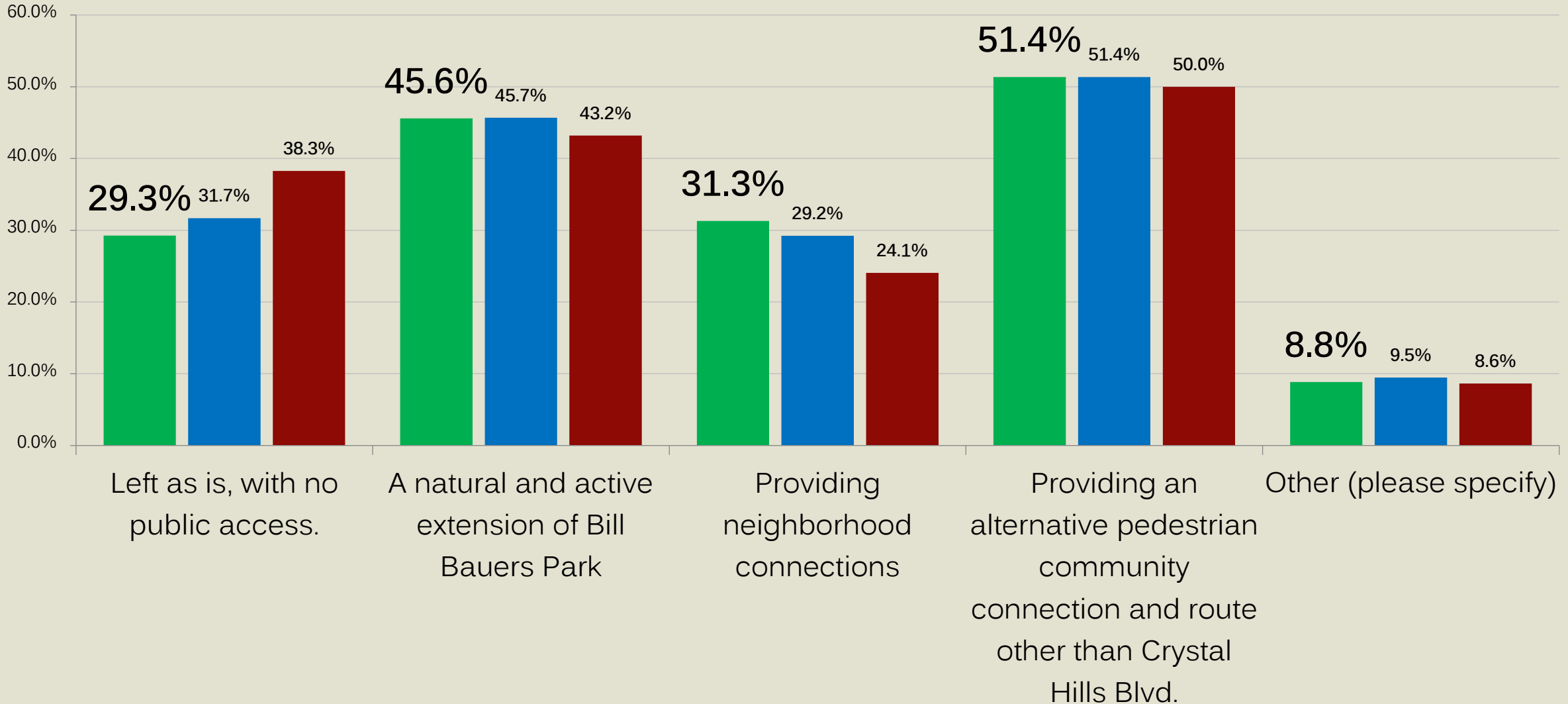
## #1 Ranking

■ All Responses   ■ City Only   ■ City Zone 7



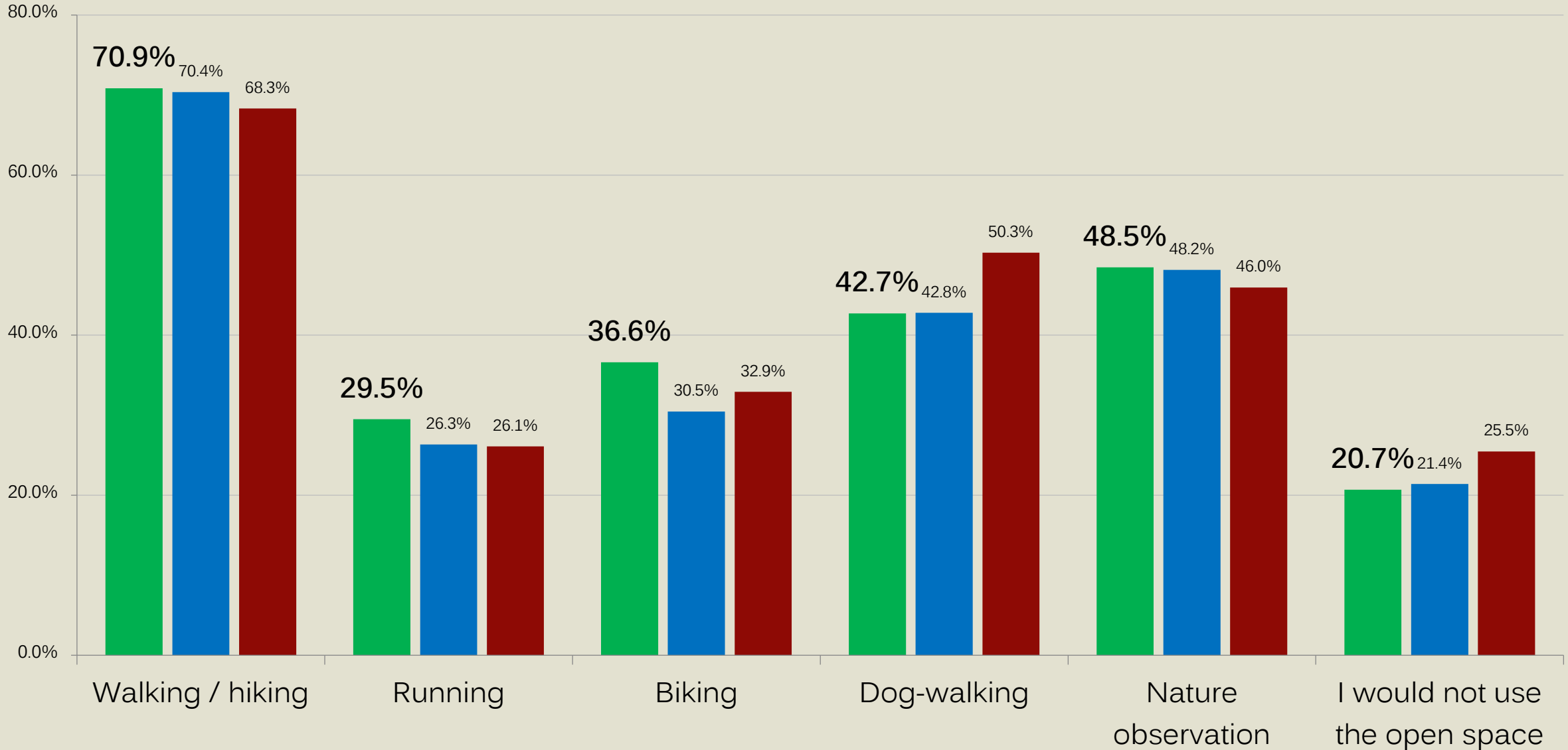
From a public investment and community development perspective, how would you propose using Bill Bauers Open Space?

■ All Responses   ■ City Only   ■ City Zone 7



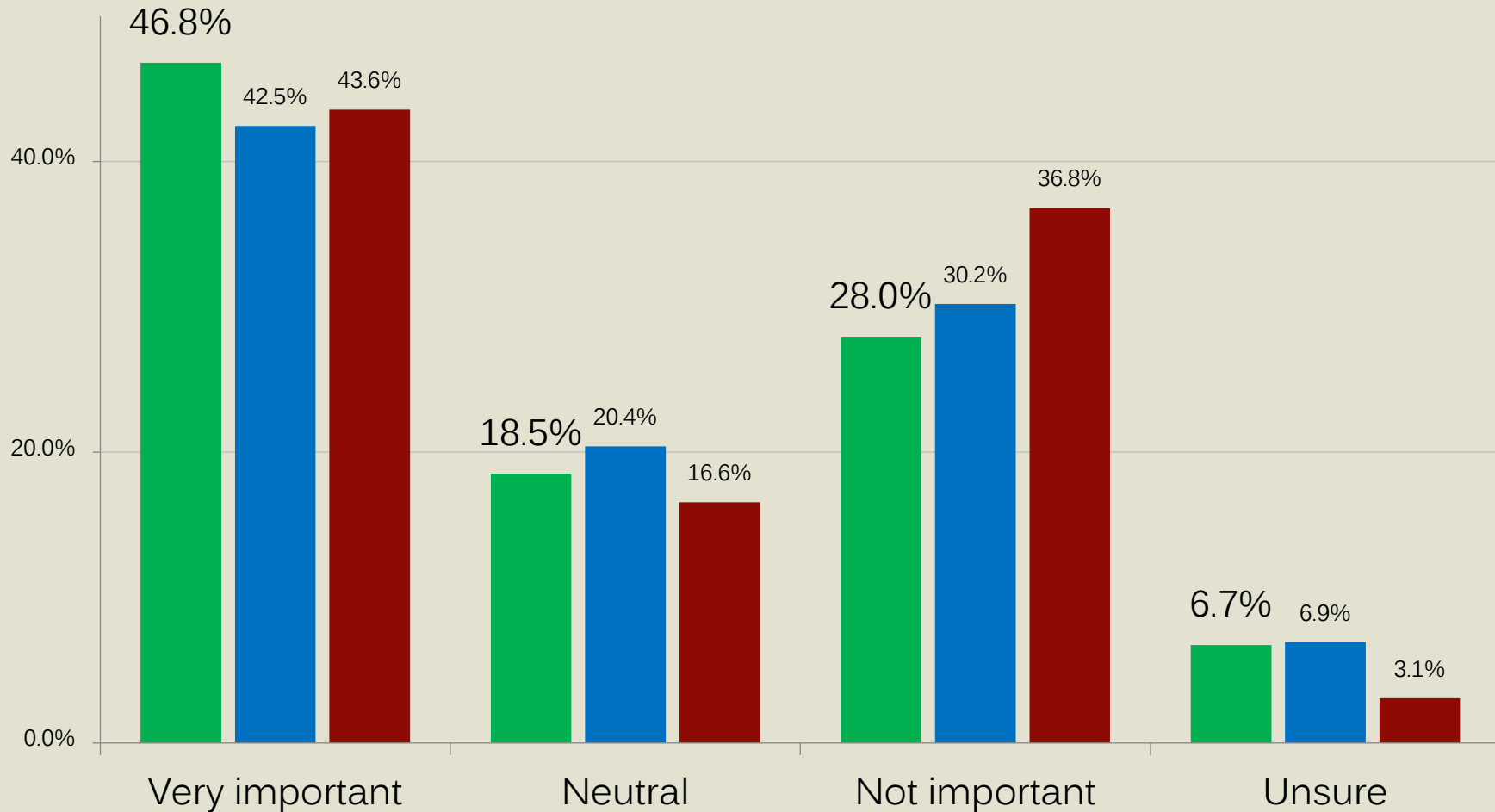
# If Bill Bauers Open Space is developed, what activities would you participate in?

■ All Responses   ■ City Only   ■ City Zone 7



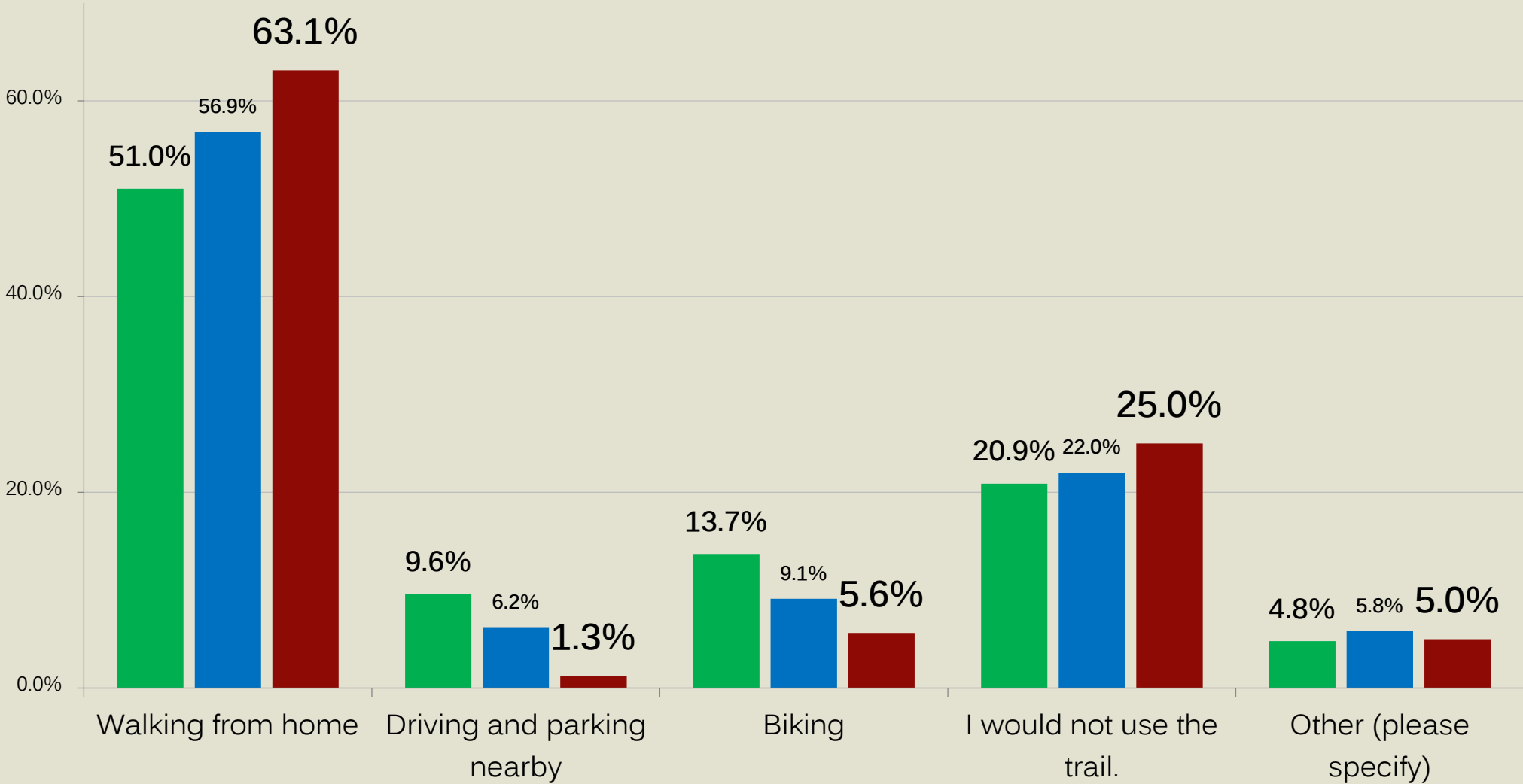
# How important or desirable is a trail and trail connection through Bill Bauers Open Space for the neighborhood and surrounding area?

■ All Responses   ■ City Only   ■ City Zone 7



### If developed, how would you access a trail within the open space?

■ All Responses   ■ City Only   ■ City Zone 7

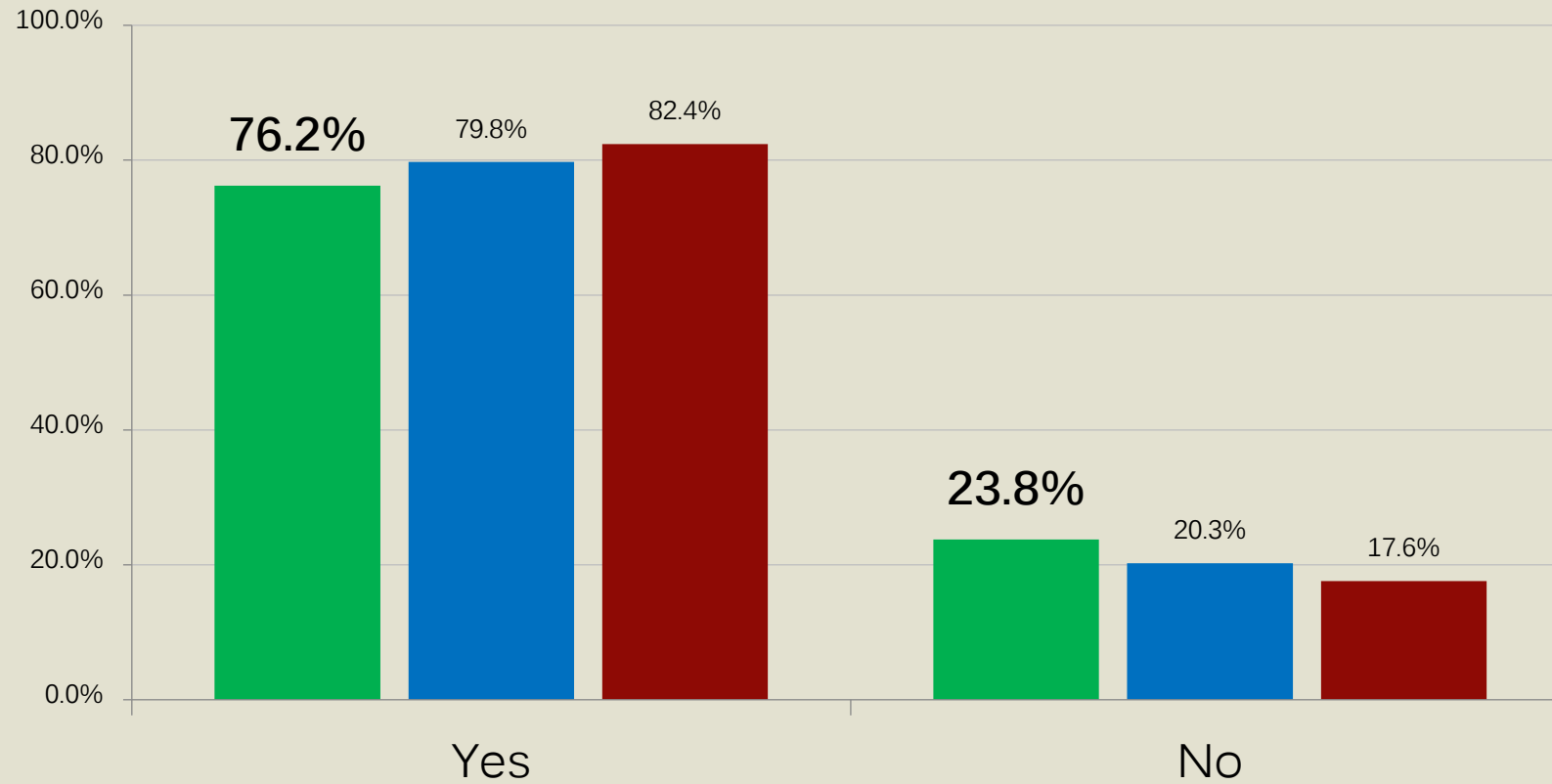


# Please share any additional thoughts or suggestions regarding the proposed trail or open space development

Rank	Theme	Description	Approx. Mentions	%
1	Wildlife Impacts & Habitat / Corridor Loss	Bears, mountain lions, birds, bobcats, deer; protection of remaining wildlife corridors; "leave it wild"	61	15.76%
2	Fire Risk & Emergency Response	Campfires, wildfire spread, lack of hydrants/access, ravine fire danger	56	14.47%
3	Homeless / Encampments / Crime Risk	Encampments, trespassing, crime, security concerns	53	13.70%
4	Neighborhood Privacy, Character & Security	Loss of quiet, privacy, "close-knit" feel, intrusion by non-residents	41	10.59%
5	Cost, Budget & Funding Priorities	City finances, infrastructure first (sewer, roads), maintenance costs	39	10.08%
6	Opposition to Development / Leave Open Space Undeveloped	"Leave it alone," preserve raw/natural condition	37	9.56%
7	Traffic, Parking & Access Impacts	Parking spillover, access points, increased visitation	31	8.01%
8	Environmental Degradation (Erosion, Drainage, Vegetation)	Steep terrain, drainage ditch, erosion-prone slopes	29	7.49%
9	Trail Use Conflicts (Bikes, Width, Multi-Use)	Bike speed, shared-use safety, single-track preferences	22	5.68%
10	Process & Engagement Concerns	Insufficient outreach, unclear maps, need for studies	18	4.65%

# Would you like to participate in future community discussions about Bill Bauers Open Space?

■ All Responses   ■ City Only   ■ City Zone 7





## *The Manitou Springs Commons*

# St Andrews Community Center (STACC)

501C3  
Physical  
Building and  
grounds

## The Manitou Springs Commons

Will be a 501C3, initially under Fiscal Agency of MAC  
New addition to the building (entire upstairs)  
Will provide Traditional Community Center activities and events

## The Pantry

501C3  
Downstairs in  
STACC  
Will continue its  
historic mission

## Wellness Services

501C3  
New Addition to building  
(downstairs offices)  
Will provide physical  
and mental health  
services

# *Examples of what a typical “Day at The Commons” might look like*

## Tuesday

- 9:00: Yoga
- 11:00: Gardening Class
- 2:00: Knitting/Crocheting Circle
- 5:30: Group Therapy (DBT, AA, ALANON)
- 7:30: Game Night

## Saturday

- 9:00: Youth Music Lessons
- 11:00: Coffee and Community
- 1:00: Wellness/Health Fair
- 7:00: Line Dancing

# *Unique Mission*

## *(partner rather than compete)*

- **The Commons: Traditional/Dedicated Community Center (that can also hold events)**
- *Library*: Too small to host large events
- *MAC*: It's not its mission to be a traditional Community Center and it can not accommodate larger crowds in the same way as The Commons
- *City Hall*: Similar in size but availability is very limited
- *Community Congregational Church*: Has overlap with The Commons but its mission is as a church versus a dedicated community center

# *Status of The Commons*

- Launch Committee:
  - Mission: To be a welcoming space for the Manitou Springs Community to gather, play , learn and celebrate together
  - Establishing policies, procedures, and timeline
    - Pricing Structure and scheduling will give scheduling and pricing preference to Manitoids as well as reduced or no charge for MACH related events
  - Plan to Open Mid-April
  - The launch committee will convert to a non-profit board
- MOU and Lease are drafted: Fiscal agent is awaiting legal review before signing