



MANITOU SPRINGS OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

This OSAC meeting will take place on Zoom (remote).

A link is provided on the City's Official Website at
<https://www.manitouspringsgov.com/544/All-Boards-and-Commissions>

April 27, 2026

6:00 PM

A. CALL TO ORDER & ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEMBER OPENINGS

1. No openings for regular members or alternates at this time.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Draft minutes of OSAC March 23, 2026 meeting

D. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

E. REPORTS

1. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PARAB) Update
 - a. Approved Minutes for PARAB 03-09-2026 meeting
2. Director's Comments
 - a. Adopt-a-Trail Update & Trail Volunteer Email Group
 - b. Open Space Fire Mitigation Update
 - c. Black Canyon Open Space Master Plan Implementation Update
 - d. Creek Walk Wayfinding Update

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Bike Racks: Discuss installation at trailheads (Cassandra)

G. OLD BUSINESS

1. Trail Maintenance
 - a. Trail Tools Purchase: Request for funding (Paul).
 - b. VOC Trail Design Workshop: Request for attendance (Paul).
 - c. Discuss Trail Workday Schedule for Spring-Summer 2026 (Paul)
2. Bill Bauers Open Space: Direction from City Council, per 4/21 Meeting (Gillian)
3. Black Canyon Open Space Trail Work
 - a. VOC Workday – April 4, 2026 (Paul, Gillian, Cassandra, TJ)
 - b. Manitou Trail CATS Workday – April 18, 2026 (Paul)
 - c. Next BCOS Workday with Pikes Peak Trail CATS - May 9, 2026 (Paul)
 - d. 2026 RMFI Project Overview
4. BCOS Vision Quest Site – Adjusted Trail Alignment (Paul, Gillian)

H. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Consider rescheduling May 25 OSAC Meeting to accommodate Memorial Day holiday.
2. Garden Club Update on 121 Pawnee Open Space Pollinator Garden
3. Noxious Weed Mitigation Workshop & MHYC Project

I. ADJOURNMENT

Committee Members:

David Conley, Chair (03/31/2028)
Paul Arlinghaus, Vice Chair (03/21/2029)
Cassandra Bresnahan, Committee Member (03/31/2029)
Judy Carnick, Committee Member (03/31/2029)

Staff and Liaisons:

Carey Storm, City Council Liaison
Gillian Rossi, Parks & Recreation Director

Robin Kovats, Committee Member (3/31/2030)
Anthony "TJ" Maltese, Committee Member (03/31/2029)
Andrea Sutela, Committee Member (03/31/2028)
Marion Ceruzzi, Alternate Member (03/31/2029)
Sheryl Cline, Alternate Member (03/31/2030)
Anthony Lane, Alternate Member (03/31/2030)

No vacancies

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. You may also contact the City Clerk's Office at cityclerk@manitouspringsco.gov or (719) 685-2554. Please provide a minimum of 3-5 days advance notice.

Interested citizens are invited to serve on any of the City's Boards or Commissions. Please contact the City Clerk's Office for more information or visit our website at: www.manitouspringsgov.com.



**CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Regular Meeting Minutes
Remote Meeting via Zoom
March 23, 2026

A. CALL TO ORDER & ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEMBER OPENINGS

Chair Conley called the Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) meeting to order at 6:08 PM after a few technical difficulties.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT FOR ROLL CALL:

Chair David Conley
Vice Chair Paul Arlinghaus
Committee Member Judy Carnick
Committee Member Sheryl Cline
Committee Member Robin Kovats
Committee Member Anthony Maltese - Absent
Committee Member Andrea Sutela
Alternate Committee Member Cassandra Bresnahan
Alternate Committee Member Marion Ceruzzi
Alternate Committee Member Anthony Lane

1. No openings or regular members or alternates at this time.

There was no discussion.

2. Committee Membership Change Proposal: Sheryl Cline to move to an alternate position, to be replaced by Cassandra Bresnahan as a regular member. Request committee approval for recommendation to City Council to approve change.

Committee Member Kovats moved to recommend to the City Council that they approve moving Committee Member Cline to an alternate position and Alternate Member Bresnahan to a regular member position. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Arlinghaus. The motion was carried (7-0).

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Conley noted that the Executive Session needs to be cancelled due to the meeting being virtual-only. He explained that Executive Sessions must be held in person.

Committee Member Kovats moved to reschedule the Executive Session and to move the Director's Comments to the end of the agenda. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Cline. The motion was carried (7-0).

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Draft minutes of OSAC Feb. 23, 2026 meeting

Committee Member Carnick moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Kovats. The motion was carried (7-0).

D. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment.

E. REPORTS

1. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PARAB) Update

a. Approved Minutes for PARAB 02-02-2026 meeting

Chair Conley provided updates on Parks and Recreation matters, including potential developments at Higginbotham Flats Overlook Park and the possibility of acquiring land behind the Dillon Mobility Hub to connect to Fields Park.

2. Director's Comments

a. Adopt-a-Trail Program Updates

b. Bill Bauers Open Space – Survey Presentation Date/ Presentation results by Kimley-Horn has been moved to Tuesday, April 7th.

Note for the Record – The Director's Comments Item was moved to the end of the agenda after Item G1 Trail Maintenance.

F. OLD BUSINESS

1. Governing Protocols

a. Standard Operating Procedure was adopted Feb. 23, 2026 and Chair Conley reported that the SOP has been filed with City Clerk's Office.

There was no discussion.

2. Fire Mitigation Plans

- a. Update on meeting with MS Fire Department about starting a volunteer Wildfire Mitigation Program for open space parcels. (Judy, Gillian)

This discussion focused on three related topics: a flyer informing citizens about mitigation on small open space parcels, ensuring the website has mitigation information, and creating a tool closet for citizens to borrow mitigation tools.

Committee Member Carnick presented an update on a wildfire mitigation flyer developed in collaboration with the Manitou Springs Fire Department. The flyer aims to inform citizens about the availability of Fire Department services, including the Chipper Days program and advice for property mitigation. Board Member Carnick explained that the flyer aims to provide a methodology and path forward for property owners to mitigate fire risks, emphasizing citizen engagement and collaboration.

Carnick also discussed plans for establishing a community tool closet to support community mitigation efforts, with her volunteering to seek tool donations from Lowe's and Home Depot.

Director Rossi stated that she will share the flyer through neighborhood email groups and potentially schools by the end of the week. Rossi confirmed that the application process would allow participants to select specific parcels and workdays.

Rossi highlighted that while some parcels might be difficult for the City to access due to private property requirements, the program would enable individual property owners to take on small-scale fire mitigation efforts, with the Fire Department available to provide guidance and support to volunteers.

The Committee agreed to include Alternate Member Ceruzzi's suggested quote "mitigate to alleviate fire exposure" in the brochure, with additional details about OSAC's involvement to be placed on the website.

Director Rossi confirmed plans to add the chipping schedule and zone map to the brochure, noting that the City would make exceptions for open space parcels that are mitigated.

The consensus was to aim to launch the program and prepare the website within the week.

Vice Chair Arlinghaus inquired about the use of power tools, particularly gas-powered weed trimmers, and suggested combining fire mitigation and trail building efforts by creating a shared tool closet.

Board Member Carnick confirmed that the fire tools would be hand tools like hand saws, loppers and rakes.

The Committee discussed that someone in a neighborhood could self-organize neighbors to use the tools. The lead neighbor would coordinate with the Fire Department and make sure the work was scheduled to coordinate with the Chipper Days schedule.

Board Member Carnick emphasized that having a mobile chipper would serve as a motivator for community participation. Carnick noted that Fire Lieutenant Mike Willie and his team were willing to train local volunteers to handle chipping operations when they couldn't be present.

The Committee discussed promotional strategies for the fire mitigation program. They explored various display locations including the pool sign and kiosk by the Wichita lot for promoting the initiative.

There was a discussion about reporting mechanisms for unaddressed open spaces. Director Rossi clarified that concerned residents would contact her and the Fire Department, with reported parcels being shared with OSAC for consideration at future meetings.

3. Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC) Workday in BCOS – April 4, 2026

- a. Vote on contributing funding to support the project.

The Committee discussed funding a volunteer trail building event organized by VOC scheduled for April 4, 2026.

Vice Chair Arlinghaus moved to contribute \$2,000 to support the event. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Cline. The motion was carried (7-0).

The event will involve 39 volunteers with 4 to 5 crew leaders working on trail building. Several committee members committed to attending to help manage the event.

4. BCOS Vision Quest Site – Management Options

- a. Paul Arlinghaus and Marion Ceruzzi on site inspection and discussion with Manny Pulido on options to protect site and to install signage.

Director Rossi reported that she had met on site with Anna Cordova, Garden of the Gods Park Manager and former City of Colorado Springs Archaeologist, who intended to make some inquiries about the site. Cordova also confirmed that a trail 30 meters away from the site would meet tribal and State standards. The Committee agreed to schedule a site visit to assess the topography and trail feasibility.

5. West End

- a. Update on communications with David Walton.

Chair Conley reported that David Walton, a property owner, had asked to schedule a meeting in April and that Conley would follow up with him at the first of the month.

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Trail Maintenance

- a. Discuss trail workday schedule for Spring-Summer 2026.

Vice Chair Arlinghaus proposed bi-weekly Monday evening trail maintenance volunteer events, and the Committee discussed creating a tool library for trail work, with Committee Member Carnick offering to help compile a tool list.

E2. Director's Comments

- a. Adopt-a-Trail Program Updates

There was no discussion.

- b. Bill Bauers Open Space – Survey Presentation Date/
Presentation results by Kimley-Horn has been moved to Tuesday, April 7th.

There was no further discussion beyond the rescheduling of the presentation.

Director Rossi gave a brief update on the Black Canyon Open Space Master Plan implementation. She reported that Compass Surveying had done its field work, which was necessary for other consultants to evaluate the project and design their components for the project. Kimley-Horn was reported to be scheduling initial meetings with Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the City of Colorado Springs.

H. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Consideration of way-finding signage along Creek Walk will be on a future agenda.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 1. Continue discussion of potential open space acquisition.

Note for the Record – This item was removed from agenda, during Approval of the Agenda.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Committee Member Carnick moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Arlinghaus. The motion was carried (7-0).
The meeting adjourned at 7:19 PM.

If you need this document in an alternative format, such as large print, accessible PDF, or Braille, please contact the City Clerk's Office at cityclerk@manitouspringsco.gov or (719) 685-2554.



**CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

Special Meeting Minutes
Remote Meeting via Zoom
March 9, 2026

A. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Fatt called the Parks and Recreations Advisory Board (PARAB) meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

1. Two regular positions available; three alternate positions available

Chair Fatt announced that PARAB currently has two regular member openings and three alternate member openings.

2. Discuss and vote on the application submitted by Holley Murphy.

The Board reviewed the application submitted by Holley Murphy for membership on PARAB. Board members discussed Applicant Murphy's experience in research, evaluation, and nonprofit work.

Vice Chair Bresnahan moved to recommend approval of Holley Murphy's application for PARAB membership. The motion was seconded by Board Member Khan. The motion was carried (4-0).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT FOR ROLL CALL:

Chair Danu Fatt
Vice Chair Tim Bresnahan
Board Member Christina Grow
Board Member Jehan-Ara Khan

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT FOR ROLL CALL:

Board Member Colin McAllister

STAFF AND LIAISONS PRESENT:

Gillian Rossi, Parks & Recreation Director

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Board Member Grow moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Board Member Khan. The motion was carried (4-0).

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Draft minutes of PARAB July 14, 2025 meeting
2. Draft minutes of PARAB August 04, 2025 meeting
3. Draft minutes of PARAB November 03, 2025 meeting
4. Draft minutes of PARAB December 01, 2025 meeting
5. Draft minutes of PARAB January 12, 2026 meeting
6. Draft minutes of PARAB February 02, 2026 meeting

Vice Chair Bresnahan moved to approve all minutes. The motion was seconded by Board Member Grow. The motion was carried (4-0).

D. OLD BUSINESS

1. PARAB SOP Revisions (Review and Vote)

The Board discussed revisions to the PARAB Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), specifically related to language regarding education and training opportunities for board members.

Board Member Khan noted that she had begun researching training options and would provide additional information at a future meeting. Board members discussed whether the SOP should reference specific training or more general language.

Vice Chair Bresnahan moved to postpone the vote on the SOP revisions until the April PARAB meeting. The motion was seconded by Board Member Grow. The motion was carried (4-0).

2. Pickleball/Tennis Court Resurfacing Proposal – Vote on funding

Director Rossi explained that two contractor proposals had been received. One proposal would apply an additional coating over the existing court surface. The second proposal would diamond grind the court surface down to the concrete before resurfacing, which would remove the existing layers and help prevent bubbling on the court.

Director Rossi reviewed available funding within the El Paso / Beckers Fund and noted that approximately \$53,000 is available in the Parks Maintenance (PARAB) account for 2026.

Board members discussed the contractor proposals and the durability of the resurfacing options.

Vice Chair Bresnahan moved to approve up to \$53,000 from the El Paso / Beckers Fund Parks Maintenance (PARAB) account for the tennis court resurfacing project. The motion was seconded by Board Member Grow. The motion was carried (4-0).

Director Rossi stated that she will continue discussions with the selected contractor regarding final project costs.

E. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Bresnahan moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Board Member Khan. The motion was carried (4-0).

The meeting adjourned at 6:19 PM.

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Collected brush will be chipped and redistributed as free mulch.

- Additional information, including links to training opportunities, is included on the program website.
- Volunteers are not permitted to operate power equipment.
- Volunteers must notify City representatives if they identify tree removal needs. Volunteers are NOT to remove/fell trees.



2026 Neighborhood Chipping Zone Schedule

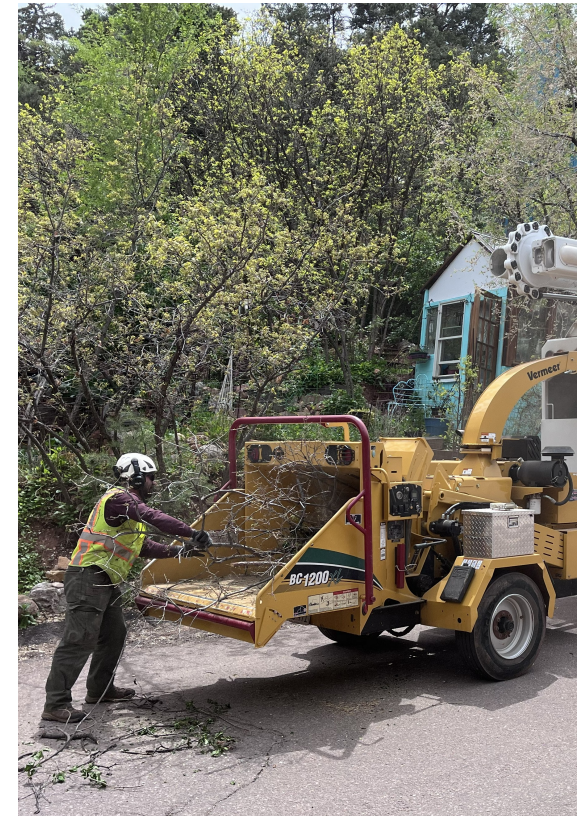
- Zone 5: April 7, 2026 (El Paso Area)
- Zone 3: April 28, 2026 (Osage and Duclo Area)
- Zone 7: May 19, 2026 (Crystal Hills and Crystal Park Area)
- Zone 6: June 9, 2026 (Vias and Beckers Area)
- Zone 2: June 30, 2026 (Canon and Williams Canyon Area)
- Zone 1: July 21, 2026 (Ruxton and Capitol Hill Area)
- Zone 4: August 11, 2026 (Fountain Place and El Monte Area)

Ready to get started?

Email:

Lt. Mike Willie
Fire Lieutenant
mwillie@manitouspringsco.gov

Gillian Rossi
Parks & Recreation Director
grossi@manitouspringsco.gov



WILDFIRE MITIGATION IN MANITOU SPRINGS

*Volunteer opportunity for
deadwood and brush removal on
open space parcels.*

The City of Manitou Springs, in partnership with the Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC), is offering volunteers the opportunity to provide basic wildfire mitigation on small open space parcels throughout the city.

Program Basics

1. Volunteers self-organize and select an open space parcel they would like to mitigate.
2. Volunteers notify the Parks & Recreation Department and the Fire Department of the parcel number, along with the desired workday.
3. Volunteers submit a City-provided liability waiver.
4. Volunteers meet on the workday, remove deadwood/brush from the open space, and place the brush in a neat pile near the edge of the property.
5. The brush pile is picked up and chipped by City staff as part of the Neighborhood Chipping Program.
6. Volunteers keep track of work completed, dates, and hours on a City-provided tracking sheet.

Visit the following website to view the open space parcel map and select an open space you would like to mitigate.



<https://bit.ly/wildfire-program-2026>

OSAC reminds you to “MITIGATE TO ALLEVIATE the risk of fire in your neighborhood.”

From the Manitou Springs Fire Department:

The Manitou Springs Fire Department strongly supports ongoing wildfire mitigation efforts and encourages all residents to take an active role in protecting our community. By maintaining defensible space, practicing fire-safe behaviors around our homes, and caring for our shared open spaces, we each play an important part in reducing wildfire risk. Together, as neighbors, families, and a community, we can help protect lives, property, and the natural beauty that makes Manitou Springs such a special place.

Guidelines for Wildfire Mitigation

Volunteers can reduce wildfire intensity by:

- Removing ladder fuels
- Increasing brush spacing
- Reducing surface fuel continuity
- Improving overall forest health

REMOVE

1 Ladder Fuels

- Brush beneath tree canopies
- Lower branches

2 Dead

- Any Dead limbs and branches
- Dead Small Diameter brush or trees

3 Surface Slash

- Loose slash
- Large branch accumulations
- Continuous woody debris

LEAVE

- Wildlife snags
- Nest trees
- Designated down logs

Donated Bike Racks

To be installed at trailheads in Manitou Springs



Measurements are 62" wide by 36" tall.

Thank you to Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates and the Mobility & Parking Department!

Trail Tool List

Compiled by Paul Arlinghaus.

These are the standard prices from Forestry Suppliers. Government or volunteer discounts may be available.

Council Pulaski - Forester Axe	80.95	2	161.9
Rock Bar	69.25	2	138.5
Silky F180 Hand saw 7 in	49.99	2	99.98
Roll Flagging Tape	3.25	6	19.5
Pin Flags	9.75	5	48.75
Gloves Leather Armor Guard Double	4.75	12	57
ADZEHoe Wawood	98.95	4	395.8
Back Slope Toos Rake	98.95	3	296.85
Rock Sling wih poles Back Slope Hauls All	159.95	1	159.95
		Sub total	1378.23
		Shipping	164.89
		Total	1543.12

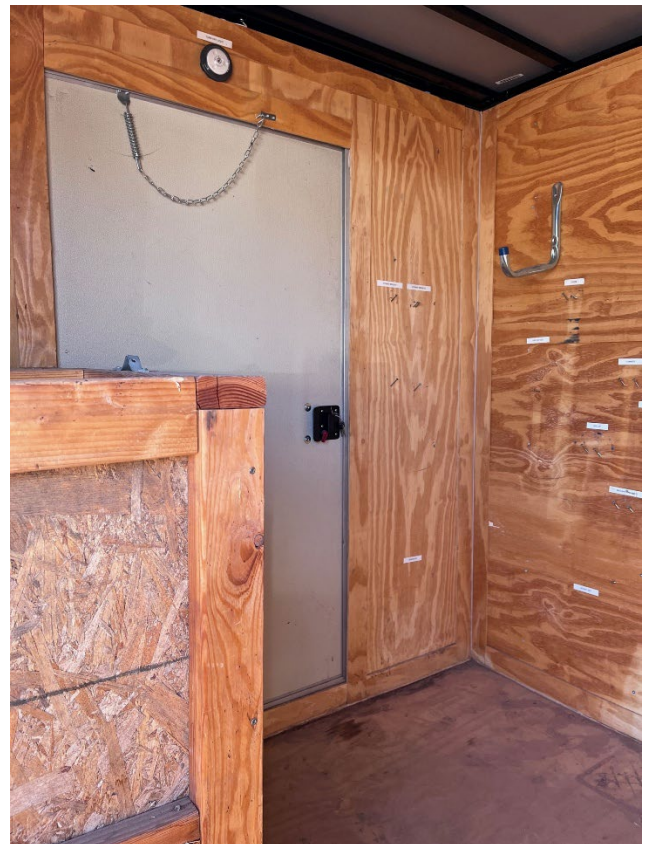
Quotes are from <https://www.forestry-suppliers.com/>





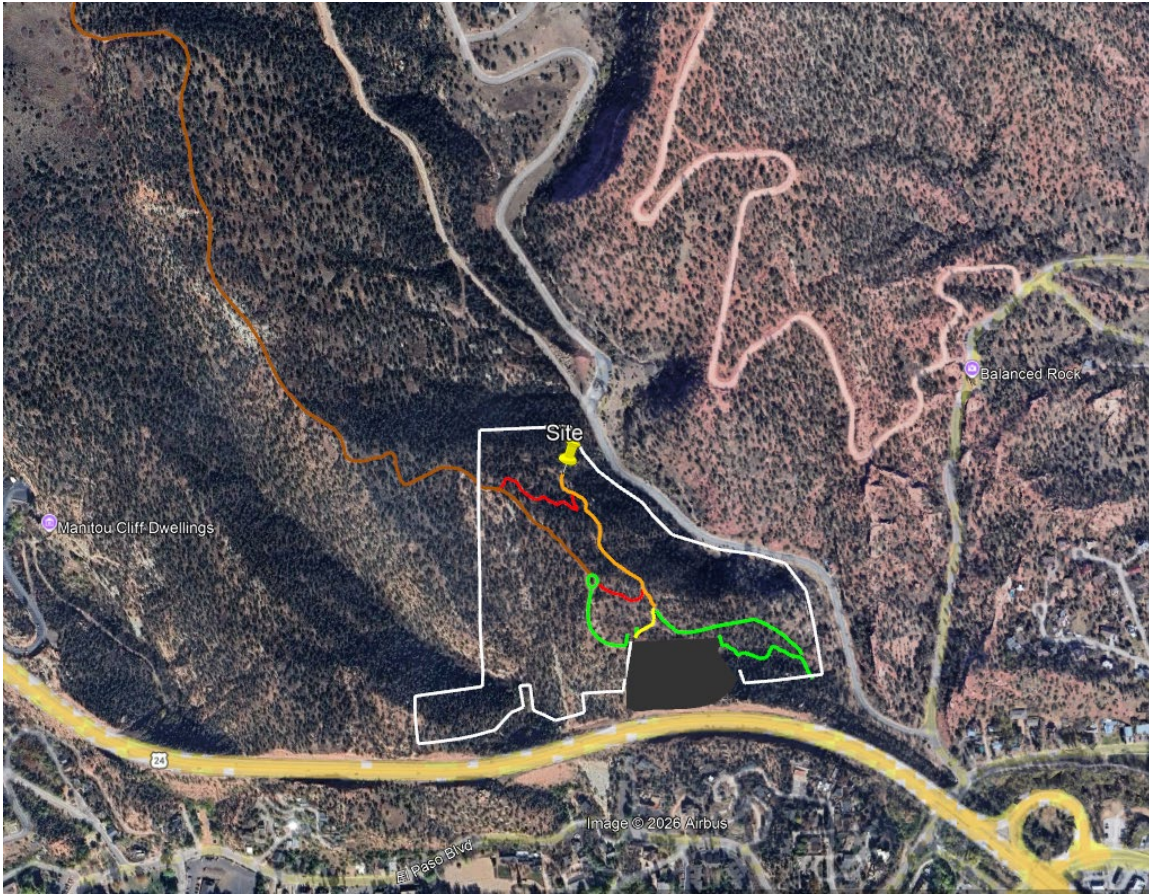




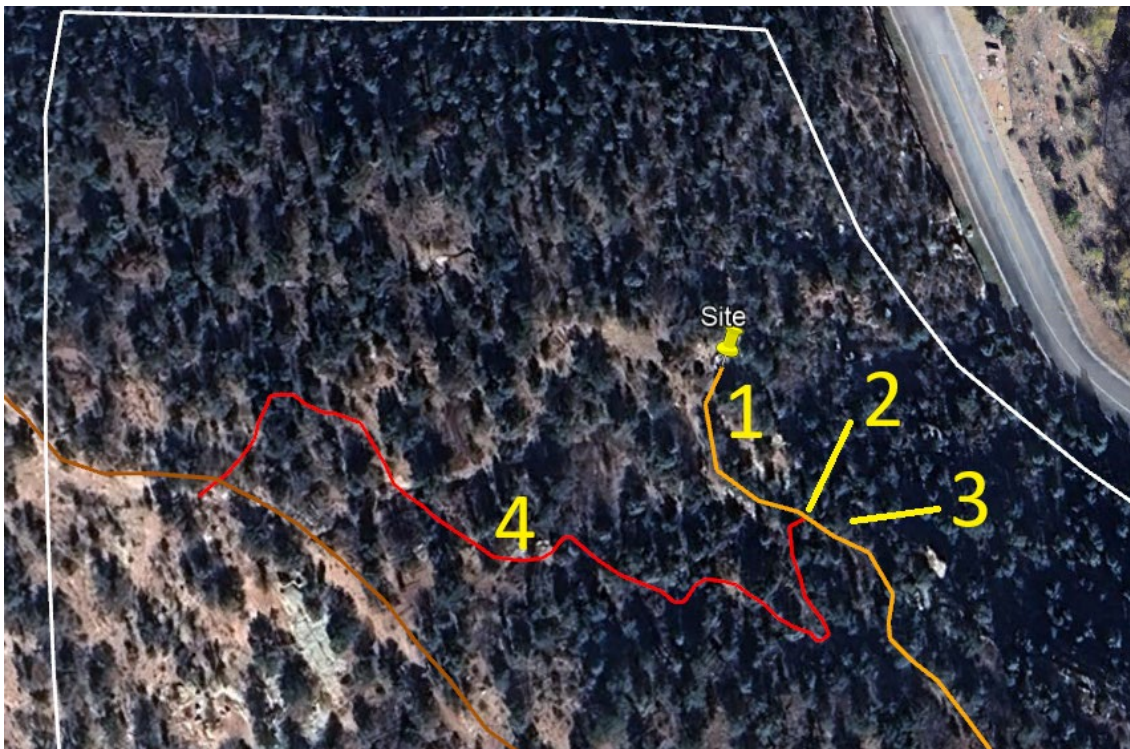


Concept Map – BCOS Trail Alignment (Northern Section)

Put together by Paul Arlinghaus.



Concept for North Area



KEY

1. This is the section of trail that leads to the site.
2. This is the location where we would turn the trail away from the section that goes to the site. Ideally the turn leads people away from the site without signage or fencing to attract attention. Site work to hide old trail.
3. Location for scenic overlook to make people forget about the view at the site.
4. New trail (needs to be build) that stays at least 100' from the site. Looks like there would some room to make this section longer (go farther into the corner) If desired. I would like to hike this with RMFI.