



MANITOU SPRINGS OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

This OSAC Meeting takes place on Zoom.
A link is provided on the City's Official Website at

<https://www.manitouspringsgov.com/544/All-Boards-and-Commissions>

June 22, 2026

6:00 PM

A. CALL TO ORDER & ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEMBER OPENINGS

1. No openings for regular members or alternates.

B. AGENDA REVIEW

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Draft minutes of OSAC Meeting 05-18-2026 Meeting

D. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

E. PRESENTATION

1. Manitou Springs Fire Department - update on fire mitigation equipment purchase, hiring of field team and outline for open space projects.

F. REPORTS

1. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PARAB) Update
 - a. Approved Minutes for PARAB 05-04-2026 Meeting
2. Director's Comments
 - a. Fire Mitigation Program Update
 - b. Wayfinding Signage Update
 - c. Mile High Youth Corps Noxious Weed Mitigation Project Update

G. OLD BUSINESS

1. Trail Maintenance

- a. Tool Trailer Update (Paul)
 - b. Update on 06/15/2026 Volunteer Trail Workday (Paul, Cassandra)
2. Bill Bauers Open Space
- a. Summary of proposals for Environmental Impact Assessment (Gillian)
 - i. Potential for wildlife assessment by Colorado Parks & Wildlife (Gillian)
 - b. Consider motion to approve funding for Environmental Impact Assessment
3. Black Canyon Open Space
- a. Trail Work
 - i. Update on RMFI contract work
 - ii. Vision Quest Site — Update on proposed signage
 - b. Update on bridge and connector trail discussion via Kimley-Horn and City of Colorado Springs (Gillian)
 - c. Update on trail interference by unknown person (Gillian, Paul)
4. Potential Acquisition Updates

H. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Discuss Colorado Parks & Wildlife Non-Motorized Trails Grant
- 2. Trailmixers Program (Cassandra)
- 3. COSA Conference - Consider OSAC Attendance

I. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

J. 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)
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)

Staff and Liaisons:

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

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
May 18, 2026

A. CALL TO ORDER & ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEMBER OPENINGS

Chair Conley called the Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT FOR ROLL CALL:

Chair David Conley
Vice Chair Paul Arlinghaus
Committee Member Cassandra Bresnahan
Committee Member Judy Carnick
Committee Member Robin Kovats
Committee Member Andrea Sutela
Alternate Committee Member Anthony Lane

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT FOR ROLL CALL:

Committee Member Anothony Maltese
Alternate Committee Member Marion Ceruzzi
Alternate Committee Member Sheryl Cline

1. No openings for regular members or alternate members.

There was no discussion.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Committee Member Bresnahan moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Sutela. The motion was carried (6-0).

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Draft minutes of OSAC 04/27/2026 Meeting

The April 27, 2026 meeting minutes were reviewed and three changes were proposed:

- In Section G.5., the minutes should reflect that the Committee sought a meeting with David Walton and that emails have been exchanged trying to schedule a meeting with the family members who will be living in the Walton home. David Walton most recently suggested a meeting in mid-May.

- In Section F, the minutes should reflect that the Committee agreed with the suggestion to place the donated bike racks at Laguna Point and the Iron Mt. Trail Head on Crystal Park Road.
- In Section G.3.(b), the minutes should reflect that Vice Chair Arlinghaus “led” a work session, correcting the verb to past tense.

Vice Chair Arlinghaus moved to approve the April 27, 2026 meeting minutes with the three changes identified above. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Kovats. The motion was carried (6-0).

D. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Cory Sutela of Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates thanked the Committee for the vote to recommend approval of a trail in the Bill Bauers Open Space during the April 27, 2026 meeting.

E. PRESENTATION

1. Manitou Springs Garden Club – Pawnee Native Plant Pollinator Garden Update (121 Pawnee Open Space)

Greg DiFiore of the Manitou Springs Garden Club reported on the construction and planting of the new pollinator garden on Pawnee Street. The grand opening is scheduled for June 21, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. There is also a planned planting effort with Wild Things on July 11, 2026.

F. REPORTS

1. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PARAB) Update
 - a. Approved Minutes for PARAB 04-06-2026 Meeting

The PARAB minutes from April 6, 2026, were noted without any comment.

2. Director’s Comments
 - a. Wildfire Mitigation Updates

Parks and Recreation Director Gillian Rossi reported that chipping in Zone 7 is scheduled to begin on May 19, 2026 in the Crystal Hills area. Manitou Springs Fire Department (MSFD) is hiring a fire mitigation crew. No citizens have yet inquired about conducting mitigation in any of the small open space parcels.

b. Creek Walk Trail/Path Wayfinding Update

Director Rossi stated that she anticipates an update on Creek Walk wayfinding in the June meeting.

c. Trailhead Bike Rack Update

Director Rossi noted that the donated bike racks are not fully Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant but can nonetheless be installed until compliant racks can be obtained. The Parks and Recreation Department does not plan on purchasing replacement racks at this time.

G. NEW BUSINESS

Chair Conley shared that he is corresponding with David Walton and trying to schedule a meeting in mid-May with the new owner of the Walton house. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss avenues to maintain access through the Walton property for neighbors.

1. Proposal for Disc Golf Course Extension – Fields Open Space (0 Beckers Lane)

Manitou resident and local disc golf advocate, Steve Moll, described his suggestion that the six-hole disc golf course at Fields Park be extended into Fields Open Space at 0 Beckers Lane.

Director Rossi confirmed that the area is still characterized as open space and that a passive use like disc golf would be permitted. Rossi noted that Mile High Youth Corps will be pulling invasive weeds from the area in June.

Moll stated that he believed PARAB had funding to purchase the equipment for the extension. He presented a drawing showing a potential layout for the additional three holes.

Committee Member Bresnahan made a motion to approve extension of the disc golf course into the open space area adjacent to Fountain Creek. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Kovats. The motion carried (6-0).

H. OLD BUSINESS

1. Trail System Maintenance

a. Tool Purchase and Tool Trailer Update (Paul, Dave)

Vice Chair Arlinghaus reported that tools have been acquired and are in storage in the tool trailer. The expense was approximately \$1,200, well under the approved budget of \$2,000. During the summer as the tools are used, it is likely that additional tools will be purchased to fill in any categories that are missing for trail maintenance.

2. Bill Bauers Open Space

a. Consider funding Environmental Impact Assessment (with a focus wildfire risk) per City Council direction.

Director Rossi reported that the City Council had instructed OSAC and the Parks and Recreation Department to move forward with an environmental assessment. Staff is gathering estimates which range from \$10,000 to \$23,000. The assessment will focus on wildfire risk, wildlife and Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping of the parcel.

Committee Member Sutela requested that Colorado Parks and Wildlife be asked what type of assessment it can provide which would lower the cost of the third-party assessment. She also asked whether MSFD can do the wildfire assessment. Director Rossi agreed to look into both matters.

The Committee consensus was to wait for the scope of the assessment to be clarified and to wait for a third bid before making any decision on the matter.

3. Black Canyon Open Space

a. Trail Work

i. Update on 05-09 Volunteer Trail Workday (Paul)

Vice Chair Arlinghaus reported on the trail progress made during the May 9, 2026 workday with Manitou Trail CATS and 12 volunteers.

ii. Trail Closure Interference Report (Paul, Gillian)

Vice Chair Arlinghaus reported on the individual who has been very determined to maintain the old trail that the recent trail days had worked to restore. The individual has removed debris blocking the old trail. The matter has been reported to Manitou Springs Police Department (MSPD).

iii. RMFI Project and Future Volunteer Workdays

Vice Chair Arlinghaus shared that Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI) is under contract for three weeks and will start work May 20, 2026, for 10 hours a day from Wednesday through Saturday. The initial work will focus on the alternate trail alignment to avoid the sacred site. RMFI will sponsor four volunteer workdays, including two for corporate crews and two for the public.

Vice Chair Arlinghaus reported that he plans to start evening trail work sessions on June 15, June 29, July 6, July 20, August 3 and August 17, 2026. Sessions will start at 5:00 PM and run to 7:30 PM. Also, there is a Black Canyon Open Space (BCOS) cleanup day sponsored by Officer Johnson on June 20, 2026.

b. Master Plan Implementation

- i. Update from Director on Mobility Pathway and Trailhead Bridge Progress

Director Rossi reported that a very productive meeting was held between the engineers from Manitou Springs and Colorado Springs. The group is actively considering placing the access path on the Garden of the Gods side of Black Canyon Road. Further discussions between the two engineering departments are planned.

c. Vision Quest Site

- i. Update from 05-07 site visit with Mike Maio to review proposed trail alignment (Dave, Paul, Gillian)

Chair Conley and Director Rossi updated the Committee on the meetings with Mike Maio and Manny Pulido concerning the BCOS site and trail alignment. Vice Chair Arlinghaus had proposed a revised trail alignment that Rossi and Conley had reviewed on site with Mike Maio and all agreed that it should be sufficient. RMFI will commence construction of the realigned trail as part of its work project.

I. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Review summer calendar for meeting dates – consider rescheduling any meetings with low attendance due to travel or summer plans

The next OSAC meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2026, followed by the July 27, 2026 meeting.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Board Member Kovats moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Arlinghaus. The motion was carried (6-0).
The meeting adjourned at 7:22 PM.

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

Regular Meeting Minutes
Remote Meeting via Zoom
May 4, 2026

A. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT FOR ROLL CALL:

Chair Danu Fatt
Vice Chair Tim Bresnahan
Board Member Christina Grow
Secretary Jehan-Ara Khan
Board Member Colin McAllister
Board Member Holley Murphy

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT FOR ROLL CALL:

Board Member Colin McAllister (arrived at 6:10 PM)

1. One regular position available; three alternate positions available

There was no discussion.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice Chair Bresnahan moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Secretary Khan. The motion was carried (6-0).

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Draft Minutes from PARAB 04-06-2026 Regular Meeting

Vice Chair Bresnahan moved to approve the draft minutes from the April 6, 2026 regular meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Chair Fatt. The motion was carried (6-0).

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS NOT ON THE AGENDA

There was no public comment.

E. REPORTS

1. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PARAB)

Chair Fatt requested that the arborist evaluate and remove a Chinese elm tree growing into the lilac bush near the playground at Soda Springs Park. Board Member Grow noted potentially dead trees in Wheeler Park and at the far west end of Soda Springs Park. Chair Fatt requested that Forestry Technician Reynard monitor both trees. Director Rossi confirmed she had noted them. Director Lopez noted a streetscape tree in front of the Manitou Brewing Company may not have survived.

1. Council Liaison

Council Liaison Storm reported that the Bill Bauers Open Space trail item would be returning to City Council the following day. The item had previously come before Council without 32 community letters and without OSAC's board letter of support. Both OSAC and PARAB are on record supporting the trail. Board members reaffirmed their support. Chair Fatt emphasized the board's preference for volunteer trail construction.

Note for the Record – Board Member McAllister joined the meeting at 6:10 PM.

Board Member Murphy asked how City Council weighs survey results against written testimonies. Council Liaison Storm noted that over 300 people responded to the survey and approximately 80 letters had been received, and that in her assessment the written letters had not overcome the survey results.

Director Rossi noted that a choke point on the trail requires an easement from an adjacent property owner, making construction inconvenient though not impossible, and that she would prefer to wait until the easement is resolved as it would affect the trail design.

Board Member Murphy asked whether a restroom facility was included in the Bill Bauers Park plans. Chair Fatt confirmed it was not, noting it would be a major capital improvement project beyond current funding. Director Rossi acknowledged it is one of the few city parks without a restroom and noted the possibility in conjunction with a future trail project.

2. Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC)

a. OSAC Regular 03-23-2026 Approved Minutes

The approved minutes from the OSAC regular meeting of March 23, 2026 were included in the packet for informational purposes.

F. PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

1. Director's Report

Director Rossi reported that two seasonal parks maintenance employees began work approximately one and a half weeks prior and are working on two pollinator garden beds along Creek Walk 4 near Manitou Avenue, with temporary fencing to protect new native plantings. Mowing and trimming have begun for the season.

Director Rossi confirmed the three-year organic lawn care contract with Clean Air Lawn Care covers Fields Park, Memorial Park, Schryver Park, and Seven Minute Spring Park. Fields Park is required under the contract as it is funded through the El Paso/Beckers Fund.

Board Member Murphy reported that the water fountain at Mabel Willie Park had been clogged with sand. Director Rossi confirmed staff addressed the issue and noted the long-term solution is to replace the sand surface with playground-grade mulch.

2. Update for Tree Advisory Committee

Director Rossi reported that 23 trees have been planted so far in 2026 across Crystal Valley Cemetery, Fields Park, the Creek Walk Trail, and Schryver Park, with a goal of 30 trees for the year. Species diversity is a key goal for 2026. Planting along Fountain Creek has also taken place for bank stabilization purposes.

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Mini-Grant Request / UpaDowna

Chair Fatt presented a mini-grant request from UpaDowna, a Manitou Springs-based nonprofit, for \$750 to support a three-month family-friendly hiking program from September through November 2026 on local trails.

Vice Chair Bresnahan moved to approve the mini-grant request of \$750 for UpaDowna. The motion was seconded by Board Member Grow. The motion was carried (7-0).

2. Funding Request – Trees for Library Park

Director Rossi requested \$1,500 from the PARAB urban forestry budget to purchase five trees for planting along the west side of Library Park. Approximately \$10,000 is allocated in the urban forestry budget for 2026.

Vice Chair Bresnahan moved to approve \$1,500 from the urban forestry budget to purchase five trees for planting on the west side of Library Park. The motion was seconded by Board Member McAllister. The motion was carried (7-0).

H. OLD BUSINESS

1. Ownership of land between Dillon Mobility Hub and Fountain Creek

a. Proposed Pedestrian Bridge Location

Chair Fatt reported that she had reached out to Councilor John Shada to verify ownership of the land between the Dillon Mobility Hub and Fountain Creek. Director Rossi presented a map showing the land is owned by the Colorado State Highway Department.

Director Lopez reported that Kimley Horn has been engaged to assess the feasibility of installing a pedestrian bridge connecting the Dillon Mobility Hub area to Fields Park. A bridge currently located in Garden of the Gods has been identified as available at no cost. The northwest corner of the Dillon Parking Lot was identified as the optimal location. Feasibility and conceptual design is estimated at \$3,500, with construction estimated at \$100,000 to \$300,000.

Chair Fatt moved to recommend to City Council that the City of Manitou Springs pursue ownership of the strip of land along Fountain Creek adjacent to the Dillon Mobility Hub from the Colorado State Highway Department. The motion was seconded by Secretary Khan. The motion was carried (7-0).

I. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Fatt moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Board Member Grow. The motion was carried (7-0). The meeting adjourned at 7:14 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.

Proposal Summaries
Environmental Impact Assessment with Wildfire Risk Component
Bill Bauers Open Space

Proposal #1

Company: ERO Resources Corporation

Proposed Cost: \$23,000

Proposal #2

Company: Blue Mountain Environmental Consulting LLC

Proposed Cost: \$9,920.44

Proposal #3

Company: Kimley-Horn

Proposed Cost: \$22, 100

Colorado Parks & Wildlife

CPW *cannot* provide an Environmental Impact Assessment that meets the scope of the assessment selected by Manitou Springs City Council. Here is what they *can* provide and are currently working on:

- Comments to mitigate damage to wildlife based off a proposed trail.
- Recommendations on weed management.

Manitou Springs Fire Department

MSFD cannot conduct the Wildfire Risk component of the assessment and recommended having an outside party complete the assessment.

Colorado Parks & Wildlife Non-Motorized Trails Grant Program

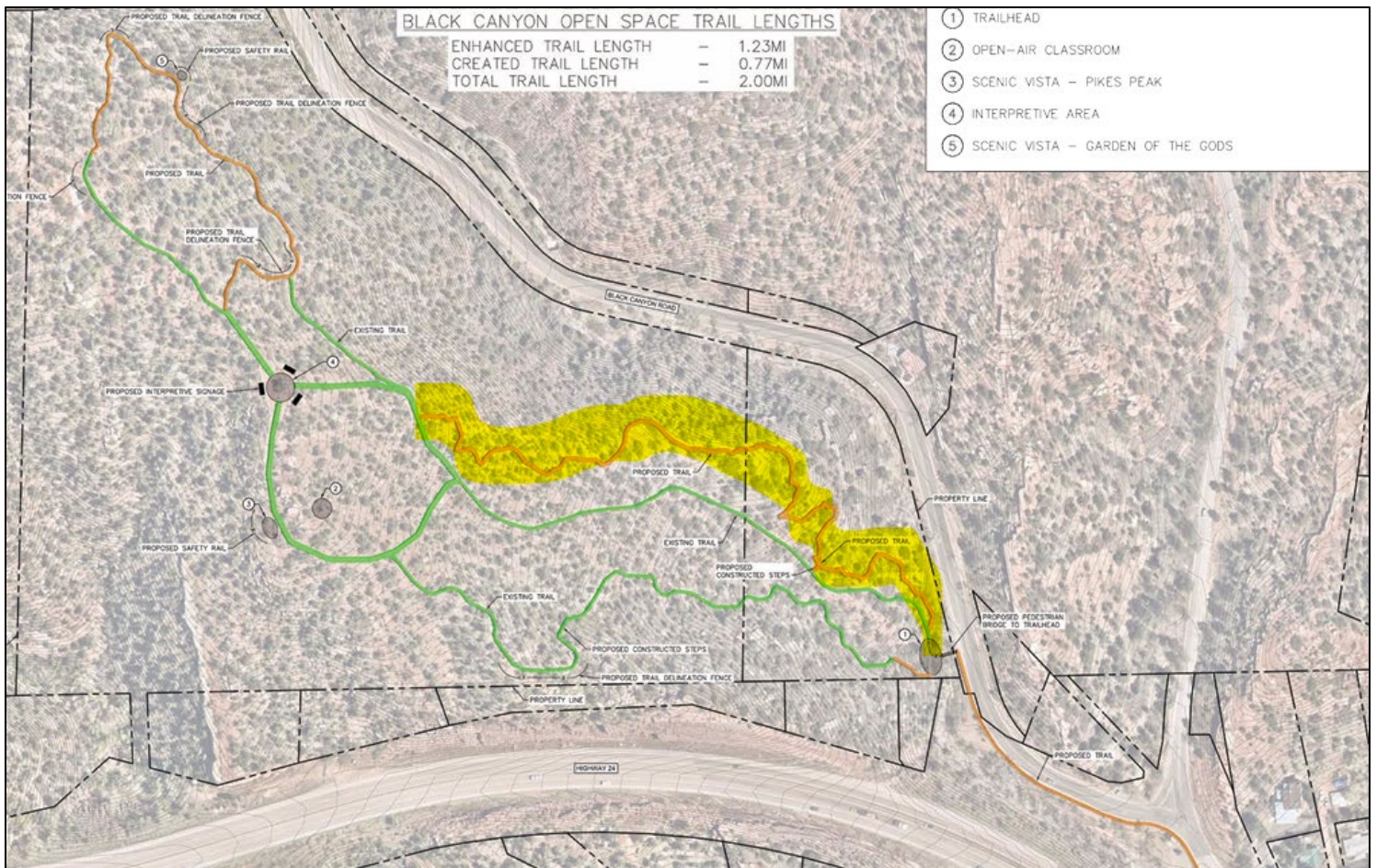
Black Canyon Open Space

The Colorado State Recreational Trails Grant Program funds projects to continue to improve outdoor recreation opportunities, including trail construction, maintenance, planning, and support while protecting wildlife, habitat, and cultural resources. Funded by Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) and the Federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP), eligible project types include trail construction, maintenance, planning, and support.

Local, county, federal and tribal government agencies, recreation and metro districts, and charitable organizations (tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code) are invited to apply.

Grant application opens August 1st, 2026.


<https://cpw.state.co.us/non-motorized-trails-grants>



***Trailmixers* Program Concept**

From Cassandra Bresnahan:

I got to thinking that most people hike the same trails but showed support for non-neighborhood trails as evidenced on the Bill Bauers questionnaire. Given all the work we are putting into trail maintenance, growth, bike racks, etc. I thought it would be nice to encourage citizens to try something different and give OSAC members some visibility/interaction with citizens. I thought of a little fun name "Trailmixers"... and if we really want to go big we could provide trail mix:). Here is a blurb to describe, all the details can be changed... Thoughts?

 Ever feel like you hike the exact same neighborhood loop every single week?


It is time to mix things up! Introducing *Trailmixers*, a brand-new monthly pop-up hosted by your local Manitou Springs Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC).

On Saturday mornings from 8 AM to 9 AM, look for our OSAC trail guides at rotating trailheads across town. We are hanging out for one hour to help you "mix" your routine with fresh destinations.

 Come learn about newly rolled-out tracks like Black Canyon

 Discover our two optimized bike-to-trail options

 Meet the OSAC members working behind the scenes

 Grab a free bag of custom trail mix for your morning trek!

Come explore every corner of our beautiful open spaces.

2026 Colorado Open Space Alliance Conference

October 4–7, 2026

Crested Butte, Colorado

Caring for the Commons



This year's conference will be held jointly at the Grand Lodge and the Elevation Hotel. Both properties will host an equal number of room nights. The Grand Lodge will serve as the location for meals and keynote sessions, while the Elevation Hotel will host all breakout sessions and meeting rooms, making the event evenly split between the two venues.

**Reservation Booking Information is coming soon.*