



**PARKS • RECREATION • CULTURAL SERVICES**

**ANNUAL REPORT**



# VISION

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**Building community and preserving our legacy to make Colorado Springs the finest place to live and visit.**

# MISSION

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**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services is the steward of a diverse park system that enriches the community through healthy, active opportunities that engage and inspire.**



# CONTENTS



VISION & MISSION	02
WHAT IS THE PRCS DEPARTMENT?	04
LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR	05
TOPS EXTENSION	06
TOPS ACQUISITIONS	07
MAYOR'S REFLECTION	08
OUR 2023 DEPARTMENT IMPACT	09
WESTSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER	10-11
GARDEN OF THE GODS ECONOMIC STUDY	12
WATER CONSERVATION	13
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW	14-15
GRANTS & PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS	16
COLLABORATION WITH PUBLIC SAFETY	17
AWARDS	18
PROJECTS UPDATE	19

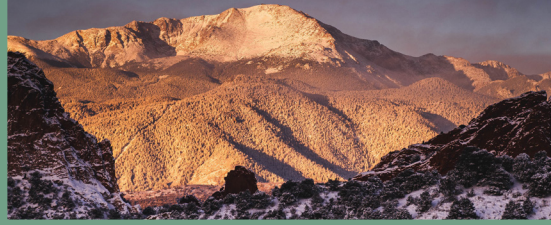
WE ARE  
#COSPARKS

# 18,985

ACRES MANAGED  
BY THE  
DEPARTMENT

# 1

14,115<sup>FT</sup> MOUNTAIN



# 5

COMMUNITY  
CENTERS

# 150

MILES OF URBAN TRAILS

# 128

PLAYGROUNDS

# 48

 OPEN SPACES

# 7

SPORTS  
COMPLEXES



# 1

MUSEUM



# 5

SWIMMING POOLS

# 2

GOLF COURSES

# WHAT IS

# PARKS • RECREATION • CULTURAL SERVICES

## PARK OPERATIONS

- Historic Downtown Medians
- Horticulture
- Regional Parks, Trails and Open Spaces
- Special Improvement Maintenance Districts
- Urban Parks and Athletic Fields

## PARK DEVELOPMENT

- Capital Improvement Projects
- Planning and Design
- Trails, Open Space and Parks (TOPS) Program

## RECREATION & ADMINISTRATION

- Administration
- Community Centers
- Community Engagement
- Finance
- Sertich Ice Center
- Special Events
- Therapeutic Recreation Program (TRP)
- Volunteers
- Youth and Adult Sports

## CULTURAL SERVICES

- Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum
- Garden of the Gods Park
- Helen Hunt Falls Visitor & Nature Center
- Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site
- Starsmore Visitor and Nature Center

## ENTERPRISE OPERATIONS

- Evergreen Cemetery
- Fairview Cemetery
- Patty Jewett Golf Course
- Pikes Peak - America's Mountain
- Valley Hi Golf Course

# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

## GRATITUDE AND CHANGE

When I reflect on 2023 two reliable themes characterized the year, gratitude and change. As you read this year's report, you will see that the signature elements of 2023 were the excellence of our team and recognition of their work for the community. For those positive impacts, I am grateful. We were also grateful for the service of our mayor of over eight years, John Suthers, and we welcomed Mayor Blessing A. Mobolade (Mayor Yemi as he prefers) as our next mayor of the City of Colorado Springs.

## RENEWAL OF TOPS TAX

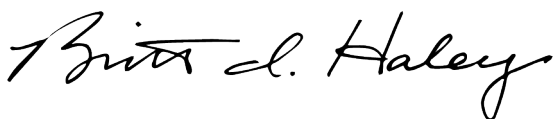
A Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department highlight from that same election cycle included our voters' emphatic support for the popular Trails, Open Space and Parks (TOPS) sales tax program. Our voters supported, by a seventy eight percent majority, a twenty-year extension of this dedicated sales tax for our trails, open spaces, and parks! This one cent sales tax for every ten dollars spent within the City of Colorado Springs, makes the next success story, and hopefully future stories just like it, possible.

In May of 2023, the TOPS program was able to add over 1,000 acres of beautiful open space on the eastern edge of the City. This project enjoyed the unanimous support of the TOPS Working Committee, the Parks Advisory Board, and every member of City Council. Initially marketed for development as "Wild Horse Ranch", The Conservation Fund partnered with the City to conserve this unique property. Now it will be a community treasure with its beautiful pond, resident blue heron, and breathtaking views of majestic Pikes Peak. For these opportunities and this impactful partnership, I am also very grateful.

## FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

Turning to facilities and programs, I am also excited to recognize the one-year anniversary of our resumption of operations at the Westside Community Center! Our dedicated staff and community members united to contribute their time, care, and attention to hiring staff, providing programming, and successfully operating this gem within our community. Additionally, I celebrate that our inspiring Therapeutic Recreation Program now has a home base to serve our community at this facility.

As a final note of gratitude, I recognize that none of the successes highlighted in this report would have happened without the hard work of our dedicated staff. If you are impressed with the information contained in this report, please be sure to let our park professionals know, that their efforts every day do make a positive impact and are appreciated!



**Britt I. Haley, Director**  
**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services**  
**City of Colorado Springs**



**“When I reflect on 2023 two reliable themes characterized the year, gratitude and change. As you read this year's report, you will see that the signature elements of 2023 were the excellence of our team and recognition of their work for the community.”**

Corral Bluffs Open Space



# CELEBRATING TOPS FOR ANOTHER 20 YEARS!



Austin Bluffs Open Space by Glenn Martin

Colorado Springs residents have reason to celebrate as the Trails, Open Space and Parks (TOPS) program will continue to conserve the city's natural treasures for another 20 years. This success is a testament to the dedication and support of the community, as well as the collaborative efforts of various organizations and governmental bodies.

Leading the charge in renewing the TOPS dedicated sales tax was the Colorado Springs Mayor's Office, whose proactive leadership ensured the measure made it to the ballot. Additionally, the unanimous support of the Colorado Springs City Council played a crucial role in securing the program's future.

Two nationally recognized organizations, Trust for Public Land (TPL) and The Conservation Fund (TCF), also deserve recognition for their significant contributions. TPL has been a longstanding partner of the TOPS program, providing expertise and funding for key conservation projects such as the acquisition of Red Rock Canyon Open Space and renovations to Panorama Park. Likewise, TCF's financial assistance and staff support have been instrumental in acquiring important open spaces including Fishers Canyon Open Space and Blodgett Open Space, as well as the recent addition of Wild Horse Ranch.

Local advocacy groups, notably the Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC), played a vital role in rallying community support for TOPS through advocacy and education initiatives. Their efforts were crucial in garnering widespread support for the program's renewal with almost 80% of voters supporting the extension.

The success of the TOPS renewal is a testament to the community's dedication to preserving and enhancing Colorado Springs' parks, trails, and open spaces. Another 20 years will help the department continue to build a sustainable park system that benefits the community today and far into the future.

## PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

Sarah Bryarly, Chair  
Abigail Simpson, Vice Chair  
Amandla Atilano-Roque  
Larry Bogue  
Stephen Harris  
Steve Lenzo  
Andrea Perry  
Julia Sands De Melendez  
Gregory Thornton  
Kimberley Sherwood, Alternate  
Mike Sullivan, Alternate  
Debbie Swanson, Alternate

(Roster as of August 2023)



Fishers Canyon by David Deitemeyer



Red Rock Canyon by James Van Hoy



Blodgett Open Space by Cody Bear Sutton

### TRAILS, OPEN SPACE AND PARKS (TOPS) TAX SUPPORTS:

					
CONSERVING LAND THREATENED BY DEVELOPMENT	PROTECTING WILDLIFE HABITAT	REDUCING THE RISK OF WILDFIRES	MAINTAINING REGIONAL PARKS AND OPEN SPACES	CONSERVING LAND THAT PROTECTS WATER QUALITY	PROTECTING QUALITY OF LIFE

### TO DATE TOPS FUNDS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO:

**8,964**  
ACRES PRESERVED

**67**  
BUILT OR IMPROVED PARKS

**53**  
MILES OF TRAILS

# ACQUISITIONS



## TOPS WORKING COMMITTEE

Bob Falcone, Chair

Wendy Howe, Vice Chair

Jeffrey Davis

Chelsea Gondeck

Paula Krantz

Blaze Panariso

Ingrid Richter

Hank Scarangella

Robert Shafer

Larry Bogue, Parks Board Liaison

Abby Simpson, Parks Board Liaison

Gregory Thornton, Parks Board Liaison

(Roster as of November 2023)

### WILD HORSE RANCH OPEN SPACE

ACRES: +1,018

On March 14, 2023, City Council unanimously approved the expansion of the TOPS Program open space network. This expansion involved adding the Wild Horse Ranch property, which was swiftly acquired from The Conservation Fund and finalized in May 2023. This property is situated within the Corral Bluffs Candidate Open Space area on the east side of the city, directly south of State Highway 94 near South Franceville Coal Mine Road. Identified as a valuable area in the 2014 Park System Master Plan, it offers scenic views of Pikes Peak and facilitates crucial connections between various open spaces, including Corral Bluffs and Bluestem Prairie.

### KETTLE CREEK OPEN SPACE

ACRES: +352

Four land parcels were donated, marking the largest private contribution and the introduction of the first northeast properties to the TOPS program. The largest parcel, spanning 186.6 acres near Powers Blvd. and Interquest Pkwy., is designated as Kettle Creek Open Space. Conservation efforts take precedence, with an environmental assessment in the works to potentially facilitate future trail development. Recognized in the 2014 Park System Master Plan as a vital natural resource, the donated land also serves as habitat for the threatened Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse, highlighting its ecological importance and the imperative for meticulous conservation measures.

### CORRAL BLUFFS ADDITION

ACRES: +5.74

The strategic acquisition of an inholding at Corral Bluffs Open Space represents a significant achievement for the TOPS Program. TOPS began pursuing the parcel in 2010, securing a right of first refusal. Originally part of the larger Anderson Property, the parcel's acquisition furthers TOPS' mission of preserving natural landscapes. It benefits from exclusive access through the Corral Bluffs entrance at Davis and Hoofbeat Roads.

## WHAT IS TOPS?

Trails, Open Spaces and Parks (TOPS) is a City sales tax program that has played a vital role in the construction, protection and preservation of city trails, open spaces and parks since it was first approved by Colorado Springs voters in April 1997. In April 2023, Colorado Springs citizens voted yes on Ballot Issue 1 to extend the TOPS sales and use tax until 2043. This dedicated sales tax generates approximately \$12 million annually.



Photo Credit: Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO)

Wild Horse Ranch Open Space



Kettle Creek Open Space



Corral Bluffs Open Space

# MAYOR'S REFLECTION



Palmer Park by Isabella Gurren

Over the past year, we have witnessed the unwavering commitment of the Colorado Springs' community and Park, Recreation and Cultural Services (PRCS) Staff towards the preservation of our natural resources and the promotion of a healthy and active lifestyle. This annual report highlights the incredible progress we have made in preserving and enhancing the City's green spaces.

## RENEWAL OF TOPS TAX

First and foremost, I would like to express my gratitude to all the citizens who supported the extension of our Trails, Open Space and Parks (TOPS) sales tax program. Your overwhelming support ensures continued funding for the maintenance, improvement and acquisition of our parks, trails, and open spaces. Together, we are stewarding the beauty

of our city for generations to come. Speaking of acquisitions, one of the noteworthy achievements this year was the addition of Wildhorse Ranch, a pristine piece of prairie land that holds tremendous potential for outdoor recreation and environmental conservation. This acquisition was made possible through the collective efforts of our community, and it reinforces our commitment to expanding our open space system and preserving natural habitats.

## PUBLIC PROCESS

In line with our dedication to a transparent, approachable, and proactive government we encouraged a robust public process for the Blodgett Open Space master and management plan. We asked citizens to actively participate in the decision-making process, allowing their voices to shape the future of this beloved open space. Through community workshops, public hearings, and online surveys, we successfully created a plan that reflects the desires and needs of our community. This collaborative approach sets the stage for a sustainable and comprehensive future for Blodgett Open Space.

## THIRD SPACE: WESTSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER

I am delighted to share the tremendous success of the Westside Community Center since it began operation as a public-private partnership. The community center serves as a hub for recreational activities, community gatherings, and educational programs that benefits the entire community. It stands as a testament to our commitment to provide accessible and inclusive spaces for all residents to gather together, foster relationships, and lead healthy lifestyles. I encourage you to take advantage of the wide range of activities and programs offered at the Westside Community Center.

As we move forward, I remain committed to prioritizing the well-being of our community and the preservation of our natural treasures. With your continued support and engagement, we can ensure that our parks and open spaces remain places of solace, enjoyment, and inspiration for every citizen. We are Colorado Springs!

**Onward and Upward!**  
**Mayor Yemi Mobolade**

“As we move forward, I remain committed to prioritizing the well-being of our community and the preservation of our natural treasures. With your continued support and engagement, we can ensure that our parks and open spaces remain places of solace, enjoyment, and inspiration for every citizen.”





# OUR

# 2023

# IMPACT



**459,780**  
PIKES PEAK - AMERICA'S  
MOUNTAIN VISITORS

**56,844**  
FEET OF TRAILS  
ADDED & IMPROVED  
Urban Trails & Soft  
Surface Trails



**295,408**  
SERTICH ICE CENTER &  
ACACIA ICE RINK VISITORS

**\$4,745,425**  
VOLUNTEER  
SERVICE VALUE  
6,413 Volunteers  
138,109 Volunteer Hours



**4,500,000**  
GARDEN OF THE GODS  
PARK VISITORS

**51,000**  
ITEMS GROWN  
IN CITY  
GREENHOUSES

**10,030**  
REGIONAL  
PARKS & TOPS  
Interpretive Program Participants

**71,762**  
COLORADO SPRINGS PIONEERS  
MUSEUM VISITORS

**153,407**  
COMMUNITY  
CENTERS  
CONTACTS



**268,073**  
SPORTS  
Youth & Adult Sports Participants

**5,191**  
THERAPEUTIC  
RECREATION  
PROGRAM  
Persons with  
disabilities served

**51,439**  
YOUTH SERVED  
Before and After School  
Partner Programs



**75,000**  
ROCK LEDGE RANCH  
Site Visitors

**99,171**  
NORTH CHEYENNE  
CAÑON PARK  
Helen Hunt Falls &  
Starsmore Visitor and  
Nature Center Visitors



**159,418**  
ROUNDS OF GOLF  
Patty Jewett and Valley-Hi  
Golf Courses

# WESTSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER



## CITY RESUMES OPERATIONS OF WESTSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER

On June 1, 2022, the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department resumed operation of the Westside Community Center (WCC) using the Public Private Partnership (P3) model. This approach involves city staff and finances to run the center and establishes a community-based advisory committee. Unlike other department centers, a unique process was created to bring in tenants for leasable space and contract service providers offering programs, in addition to limited offerings from the facility program staff.

To return the center to City operation, several facility updates were needed. Funds from the Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) were earmarked for several projects at the center, including an assessment of the utility tunnels network, new HVAC system and new roof and gutters on all three buildings, totaling nearly \$1.4 million for all three projects. Additional needed projects were funded by the city and included extending the city's IT network to the campus, installing security cameras around the campus, sidewalk leveling, and rekeying the campus buildings.

## WESTSIDE WORKING COMMITTEE

In the fall of 2022, the Westside Community Center Working Committee, a working body of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board, began meeting. The 10-member Working Committee, representing the wants and needs of the westside community, reviews proposals for prospective tenant and program/service providers at the center, making recommendations to the city for implementation. Selection criteria include that the tenant or program/service provider aligns with the center's mission and vision, is representative of the westside community, and brings service and value to that same community.

### WESTSIDE WORKING COMMITTEE

Justin Trudeau, *Chair*

Liz Lopez-Vaughan,  
*Vice Chair*

Susan Baldwin

Nancy Bernard

Tena Jelenik

Judy Mckay-Harbert

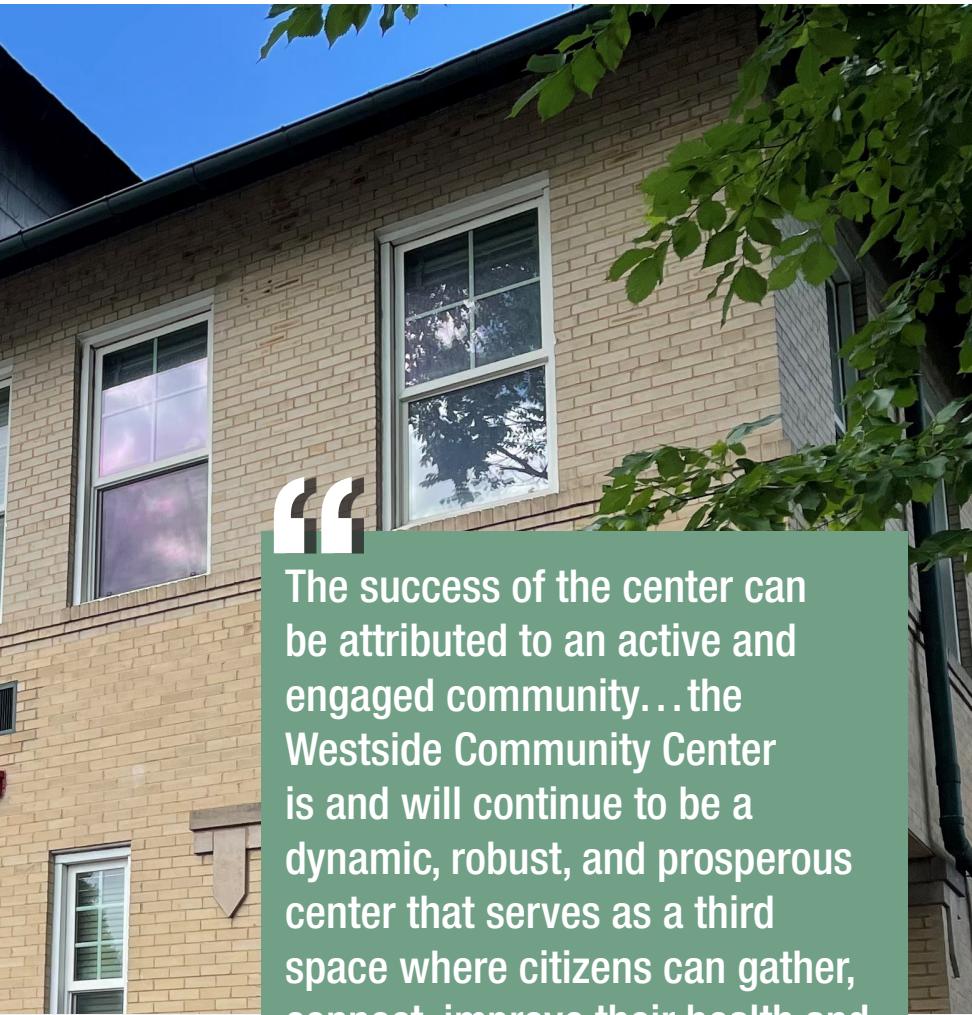
Kathy Perry

Ann Petit

Mary Tauras

Sarah Grant, *Alternate*

Gregory Thornton,  
*Parks Board Liaison*



“The success of the center can be attributed to an active and engaged community... the Westside Community Center is and will continue to be a dynamic, robust, and prosperous center that serves as a third space where citizens can gather, connect, improve their health and further build community.”

-Mark Snow, Community Recreation Manager

## TENANTS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Starting in the fall of 2022, continuing through 2023 to present day, the center has flourished. Three previous tenants and five new tenants have signed new lease agreements to rent space in one of the three buildings on the campus. In addition to tenants, staff at the center have worked to bring in new program and service providers from the community. The center has also expanded operating hours, remaining open into the evenings and on the weekends for programs and rentals, to further serve the needs of the community.

These new and returning tenants and programs are partners in providing the westside community with in-demand programs and services in their neighborhood. While the full list of these partners is extensive, key partnerships include the African American Historical and Genealogical Society of Colorado Springs, Funky Little Theater Company, Westside Cares Community food pantry, Visiting Nurse Association Foot Care Clinic, United Hearts Community School, YMCA of the Pikes Peak Region, Modern Yoga, and RunMental. Programs include paint classes, fitness and exercise classes, pickleball and table tennis gym time, Zumba, youth dance programs, piano lessons, and even tutoring. All these organizations and providers serve the wants and needs of the westside community and form a mutually beneficial relationship with the City.

## 2023 BY THE NUMBERS

**15,308**

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

**1,160**

PARTNER PROGRAMS

**2,032**

HOURS OF PROGRAMMING

**817**

RENTAL HOURS

**71**

AVAILABLE GARDEN PLOTS

## TIMELINE

**1911**

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER (WCC) IS BUILT

**2009**

SCHOOL DISTRICT 11 TRADES BUENA VISTA ELEMENTARY FOR WEST INTERGENERATIONAL CENTER

**2010**

WOODMEN VALLEY CHAPEL TAKES OVER OPERATIONS

**2020**

CITY SEEKS NEW OPERATOR THROUGH PROPOSAL PROCESS

**2022**

CITY RESUMES WCC OPERATIONS UNDER A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP MODEL



Garden plots at Westside Community Center



WestFest Attendees on the lawn at Westside Community Center

# GARDEN OF THE GODS ECONOMIC STUDY

THE GARDEN OF THE GODS FOUNDATION COMMISSIONED AN ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS IN THE SPRING OF 2023 TO HELP QUANTIFY THE BROAD FINANCIAL BENEFITS OF THE PARK TO COLORADO SPRINGS.

**4.5M**  
VISITORS

**\$487M**  
IN BUSINESS ACTIVITY  
RELATED TO THE PARK

**\$272M**  
NET CONTRIBUTION TO  
COLORADO SPRINGS  
ECONOMY

**4,055**  
TOTAL JOBS IN THE REGION

**\$65M**  
IN TOTAL TAXATION REVENUE

*(STUDY CONDUCTED BY DATA-DRIVEN ECONOMIC STRATEGIES (DDES))*

Garden of the Gods, a renowned tourist destination, attracts millions of visitors annually and is consistently ranked among the top ten places to visit in the United States by tourism blogs and travel planning websites. Spanning 1,367 acres, the park features stunning red rock formations, miles of hiking trails, and a wheelchair-accessible paved trail. As a captivating natural asset to Colorado Springs, the park is free for both locals and visitors.

# WATER CONSERVATION

Water conservation efforts and innovative solutions are vital to the Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department's sustainable management of natural resources and environmental preservation for future generations.

The department achieved a budget surplus of \$1,426,960 through water-saving initiatives, including the installation of new irrigation systems and turf conversions at multiple locations across the city, in addition to receiving record-breaking rainfall in 2023. By meticulously collecting and analyzing weather data throughout the irrigation season, such as precipitation from strategic locations and evapotranspiration rates from smart controllers, the department was able to strategically manage supplemental irrigation needs. The unwavering commitment to sustainability motivates the Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department to continue implementing eco-friendly options and adapting to the unique factors influencing each maintenance district's water usage, thereby securing a greener future for our community.

2023 TOTAL BUDGET SAVINGS

**\$1,426,960**

## RATE INCREASES (OVER 10 YEARS)

COMMODITY CHARGE FOR POTABLE WATER	↑ 14%
DAILY SERVICE FEES	↑ 41%
COMMODITY CHARGE FOR NONPOTABLE WATER	↑ 79%

### WOODSTONE PARK

In 2023, the Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department undertook an eight-week initiative at Woodstone Park, demonstrating a commitment to environmental stewardship. This project involved transitioning the park's landscaping (1.84 acres) from Kentucky bluegrass to a locally adapted, sustainable native grass variety known as blue grama. Carefully selected for its low growth profile, drought-resistance, and suitability to the warm-season climate, blue grama not only maintained an aesthetically pleasing landscape but also represented a significant step towards sustainability.

**ANNUAL WATER CONSERVATION:  
700,000 GALLONS**

### SOUTH MONUMENT VALLEY PARK

Based on the 2020 Infrastructure Assessment, more than 55% of the irrigation systems within the Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department are over 30 years old. As part of the initiative to modernize these systems, the irrigation system in South Monument Valley Park was replaced. The site now features a new Smart controller, leak detection device, and high-efficiency sprinkler heads. Notably, it is one of the few sites that employ non-potable water for irrigation, resulting in cost savings compared to potable water and the elimination of daily service fees.

**TOTAL EXPENSE OF NEW IRRIGATION SYSTEM: \$338,767**

### MEMORIAL PARK BEACH HOUSE

In 2023, the Park Maintenance and Operations Division, in collaboration with local landscape contractors, finished installing a new irrigation system at the Memorial Park Beach House. Emphasizing conservation, the last phase involved reseeding the area north of the historic Beach House with a drought-tolerant, cool-season native grass mix. This mix was applied using hydromulch to prevent soil erosion and enhance seed germination.

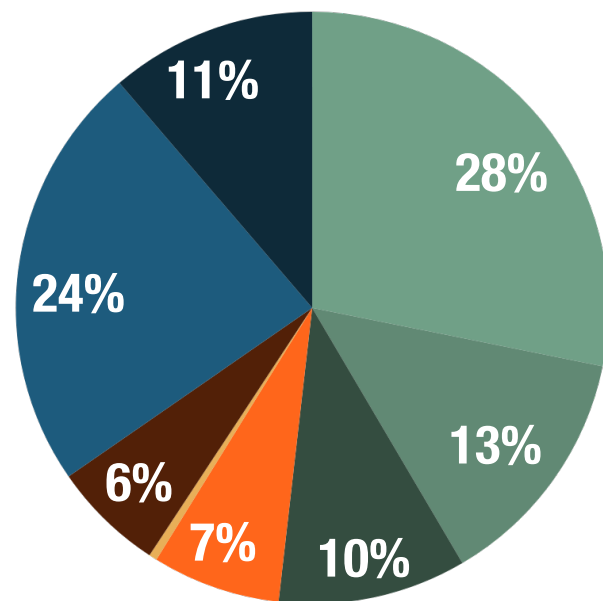
**TOTAL EXPENSE OF NEW IRRIGATION SYSTEM AND NATIVE GRASS RESTORATION: \$221,736**



# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

## TOTAL DEPARTMENT BUDGETED FUNDING SOURCES

■ Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services General Fund	\$17,497,428
■ City General Fund/General Services	\$7,000,000
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL \$24,497,428</b>	
■ Trails, Open Space and Parks Tax (TOPS)	\$8,303,958
■ Conservation Trust Fund (CTF)	\$6,382,970
■ Grants & Gift Trust	\$4,347,587
■ Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)	\$272,344
■ Special Improvement Maintenance Districts (SIMD)	\$3,791,016
<b>NON-GENERAL FUND TOTAL \$23,097,875</b>	
■ Enterprises*	\$14,521,034
<b>TOTAL \$62,116,337</b>	



## FUNDS OVERSEEN BY THE DEPARTMENT

### TRAILS, OPEN SPACE AND PARKS (TOPS)

TOPS funds are generated from a 0.1% sales and use tax adopted by voters in 1997. In April 2023, Colorado Springs citizens voted to extend TOPS sales and use tax for another 20 years with no increase to the tax. Funds are allocated as follows: 3% TOPS administration, 6% maintenance of TOPS properties, and the balance is designated for open space purchases and stewardship (min. of 60%); new trails (max. of 20%); and park maintenance and development (max. of 20%). A minimum of 75% of Open Space funds must be used for acquisition and 25% used for stewardship.

**REVENUE TOTAL \$8,303,958**

### CONSERVATION TRUST FUND (CTF)

Local governments receive 40% of the total revenue generated by the State Lottery, with our city share distributed based on population.

Conservation Trust Fund dollars can be used for the acquisition, development, and maintenance of new conservation sites and for capital improvements or maintenance for recreational purposes on any public site.

**REVENUE TOTAL \$6,382,970**

### ENTERPRISES

Enterprises enable the city to offer numerous cost-effective services since they are predominantly supported by user fees and do not receive support from the General Fund.

Enterprises include Patty Jewett and Valley Hi Golf Courses, Evergreen and Fairview Cemeteries, and Pikes Peak – America's Mountain in partnership with the US Forest Service.

**REVENUE TOTAL \$14,521,034**

### SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE DISTRICTS (SIMD)

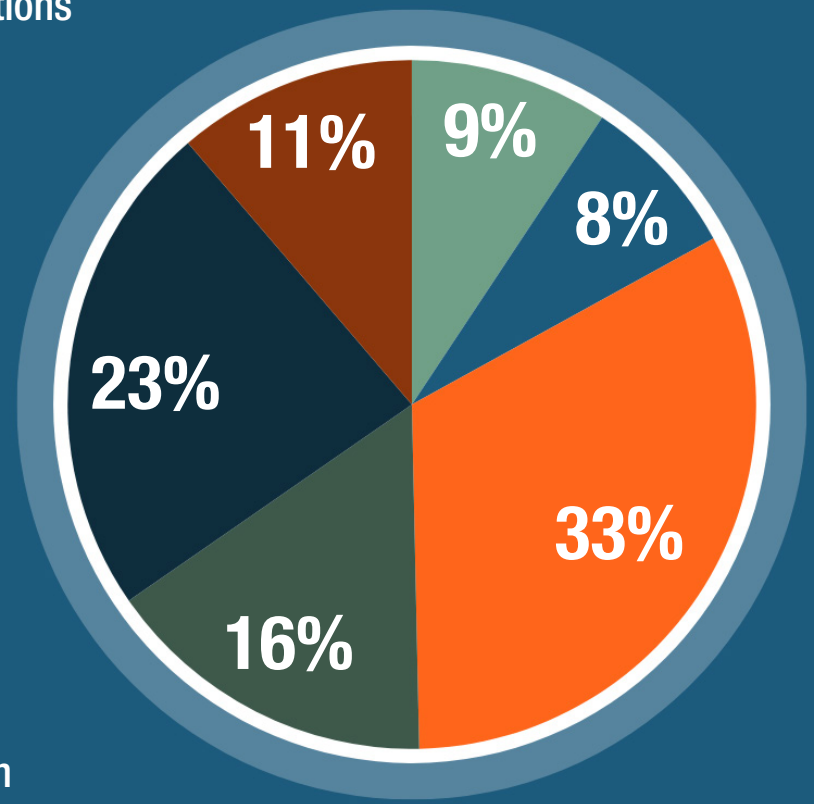
Assessments against real properties within established districts provide for maintenance of specific improvements in these areas.

SIMD areas include Norwood, Old Colorado City, Platte Avenue, Colorado Avenue, Gateway, Woodstone, Stetson Hills, and Briargate.

**REVENUE TOTAL \$3,791,016**

# TOTAL DEPARTMENT BUDGET BY DIVISION

- Park Maintenance and Operations**  
\$20,291,797
- Design and Development**  
\$4,766,930
- Enterprises**  
\$14,521,034
- Cultural Services**  
\$5,788,947
- City General Fund**  
\$7,000,000
- Recreation and Administration**  
\$9,747,629

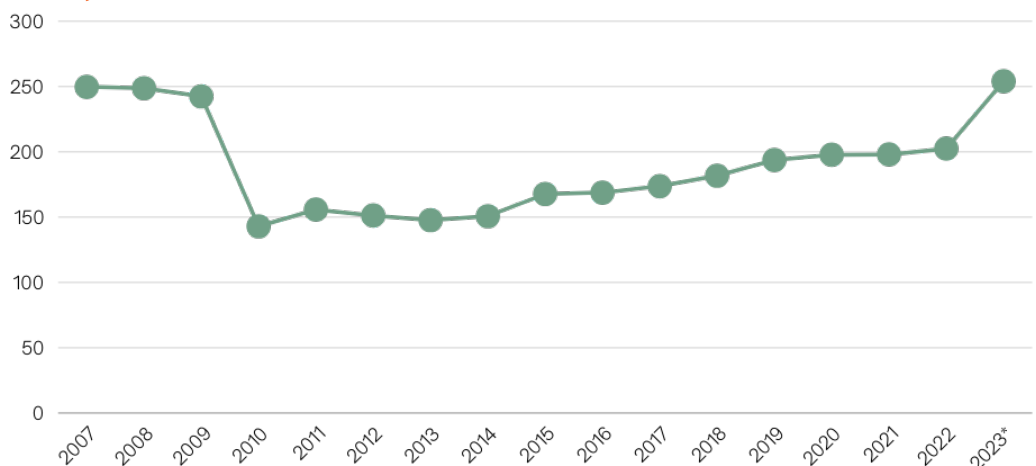


**TOTAL BUDGET \$62,116,337**

## TOTAL STAFF POSITIONS BY FUND

	General Fund	TOPS Tax	CTF	SIMD	Grants	Enterprises	TOTAL
Cultural Services	26.25	1.00	3.00				<b>30.25</b>
Design & Development	5.00	2.00					<b>7.00</b>
Park Maintenance & Operations	24.25	16.75	41.00	11.00			<b>93.00</b>
Recreation & Administration	81.75	1.00			2.00		<b>84.75</b>
<b>Enterprises</b>						39.00	<b>39.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>137.25</b>	<b>20.75</b>	<b>44.00</b>	<b>11.00</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>39.00</b>	<b>254.00</b>

## PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES HISTORICAL STAFFING



\*The staffing numbers include staff who have been converted into full-time equivalents.

“The typical park and recreation agency has 8.9 full-time equivalent employees on staff for every 10,000 residents in its jurisdiction.”

-National Park & Recreation  
2023 Agency Review

According to the current population of Colorado Springs, the PRCS Department employs 5.7 full-time equivalent employees.

# G CAPITAL AND ACQUISITION GRANTS

## GRANT / PURPOSE

North Cheyenne Cañon Park Improvements

## FUNDING SOURCE

Lodgers and Auto Rental Tax (LART) Off - Cycle Award

## TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED

\$250,000

# R OPERATIONAL GRANTS

## GRANT / PURPOSE

Generation Wild Program

## FUNDING SOURCE

Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO)

## TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED

\$235,000

Panorama Park Programming

Trust for Public Land (The North Face)

\$15,000

Swimming Pool Operations

\*In partnership with YMCA of the Pikes Peak Region

America Walks/AARP

\$7,500

DOLA Pools Special Initiative

\$10,545

# N MAINTENANCE GRANTS

## GRANT / PURPOSE

Urban Tree Canopy Improvements

\*In partnership with Colorado Springs Public Works

## FUNDING SOURCE

USDA Forest Service

## TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED

\$9,000,000

Fire Mitigation

**(Pikes Peak and Fishers Canyon)**

\*In partnership with Mile High Youth Corps (MHYC)

CO Strategic Wildfire Action Program

\$333,915

Multi-Site Weed Mitigation and Trail

Restoration

\*In partnership with Mile High Youth Corps (MHYC)

Great Outdoors Colorado / Colorado Youth Corps Association (CYCA)

\$92,400

Turf Conversion Projects

Colorado Water Conservation Board

\$20,361

## 2023 TOTAL AWARDS: \$9,664,721

# FUNDING & PARTNER IMPACT

**GARDEN OF THE GODS FOUNDATION**

**\$640,752**

Capital Improvement

**FRIENDS OF UTE VALLEY PARK**

**\$20,000**

Wayfinding Signage  
478 Volunteer Hours

**COLORADO SPRINGS PIONEERS MUSEUM BOARD & FOUNDATION**

**\$890,395**

Operating Expenses

**INCLINE FRIENDS**

**\$1,600**

Capital Improvement  
90 volunteer hours

**ROCK LEDGE RANCH LIVING HISTORY ASSOCIATION**

**\$86,234**

Operating Expenses

**FRIENDS OF GARDEN OF THE GODS**

**\$60,020**

Operating Expenses & Capital Improvement

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIELD INSTITUTE (RFMI)**

**2,875**

Volunteer Hours

**COLORADO MOUNTAIN BIKING ASSOCIATION**

**1,064**

Volunteer Hours



**HORTICULTURAL ARTS SOCIETY**

**4,773**

Volunteer Hours

**MEDICINE WHEEL TRAIL ADVOCATES**

**601**

Volunteer Hours

**FRIENDS OF PEREGRINE PARKS & OPEN SPACES**

**508**

Volunteer Hours

**GUARDIANS OF PALMER PARK**

**1,337**

Volunteer Hours

**FOUNTAIN CREEK WATERSHED**

**2,573**

Volunteer Hours

**TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE COALITION (TOSC)**

**368**

Volunteer Hours

**FRIENDS OF STRATTON OPEN SPACE**

**230**

Volunteer Hours

**KIDS ON BIKES**

**1,138**

Volunteer Hours



# COLLABORATION WITH PUBLIC SAFETY

Photo Credit: Jess Hazel/KRCC



## MEMORIAL PARK SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

In partnership with the Colorado Springs Police Department and the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department, along with input from residents and the Hillside Advisory Team (HAT), a comprehensive plan addressing safety concerns at Memorial Park was developed. Top priorities identified by HAT include lighting, vandalism, and criminal activity.

### FUNDING:

The Colorado Springs Police Department secured a \$1,726,331 grant from the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice. This project utilized Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CEPTD) principles to bolster park safety.

### KEY IMPROVEMENTS:

- Installation of 19 gates to restrict nighttime vehicle access.
- Implementation of ten 24-hour video surveillance cameras at strategic locations.
- Enhancement of visibility with the addition of 181 new or improved lights on roadways, parking lots, and walkways.

## WELCOME URBAN RANGER TEAM!

The Urban Trail Rangers program bolsters safety and enhances recreational experiences along the city's urban trail system. The program reflects the city's ongoing dedication to public safety and the provision of secure recreational opportunities for its residents. Beginning in 2023, the urban trail rangers began patrolling the trails, fostering an inviting atmosphere while collaborating with community partners and public safety to address safety concerns. Their presence aims to ensure that the trails remain accessible and enjoyable for all users.

### FUNDING:

The program, funded by City Council in 2023 with \$446,000 from the city's General Fund, supports four staff members and two vehicles.



## PLAY COS AT PANORAMA PARK

In 2021, the Colorado Springs Police Department introduced the "Play COS" program, designed to foster positive interactions between officers and community members in Colorado Springs. In collaboration with the Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department, the program organizes sports-focused events where officers engage with the community through athletic and recreational activities. In 2023, the Play COS event took place at the recently renovated Panorama Park, featuring the donation of sports balls and soccer matches with children from various neighborhoods across the city.



# AWARDS SPOTLIGHT

## COLORADO PARKS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION AWARDS

The Colorado Parks and Recreation Association Awards Program is designed to recognize and celebrate the individuals and organizations that contribute to the success and value of parks and recreation in the state of Colorado. The Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department was the recipient of the following two awards in 2023.

### COLUMBINE AWARD BEST RENOVATED PARK DESIGN



### PANORAMA PARK

### PARK AND RECREATION COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD



### STEPHANNIE FINLEY FORTUNE

## STAFF & COMMUNITY AWARDS

### EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL  
SERVICES DEPARTMENT

**Scott Turek, Sr. Maintenance Technician**

### VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR (INDIVIDUAL)

PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL  
SERVICES DEPARTMENT

**Bob Falcone**

### VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR (GROUP)

PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL  
SERVICES DEPARTMENT

**RISE | Southeast**

## GAZETTE'S BEST OF THE SPRINGS

### MUSEUM

Colorado Springs Pioneers  
Museum (Silver)

### CITY PARK

Garden of the Gods (Gold)  
John Venezia Community  
Park (Silver)

### GOLF COURSE

Patty Jewett (Gold)

### PLACE TO PROPOSE

Garden of the Gods (Gold)

### MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL

Ute Valley Park (Silver)  
Captain Jacks Trail  
(Bronze)

### LUNCH TIME/AFTER WORK HIKE

Garden of the Gods (Gold)  
Palmer Park (Silver)  
Ute Valley Park (Bronze)

### NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Ute Valley Park (Bronze)

### PLACES TO GAZE AT PIKES PEAK

Garden of the Gods Road  
(Silver)  
Palmer Park (Bronze)

### DAY TRIP

Garden of the Gods  
(Silver)

### TRAIL

Red Rock Canyon Open  
Space (Gold)  
Seven Bridges Trail (Silver)  
Ute Valley Park (Bronze)

### ICE RINK

Acacia Park (Gold)  
Sertich Ice Center (Silver)

## TRIP ADVISOR

### TOP 10 ATTRACTIONS, COLORADO

#1 - Garden of the Gods  
#3 - Pikes Peak -  
America's Mountain

### TOP 10 ATTRACTIONS, U.S.

#7 - Garden of the Gods

## THE INDEPENDENT

### MUSEUM

Colorado Springs Pioneers  
Museum (Gold)

### TOURIST ATTRACTION

Garden of the Gods (Gold)

Pikes Peak - America's  
Mountain (Silver)

# COMPLETED PROJECTS

- ADA Upgrades:
  - Cottonwood Creek Park
  - Garden of the Gods Parking Lot
  - Leon Young Sports Complex
  - Palmer Park Dog Park
  - Palmer Park Playground
  - Prospect Lake Beach House
  - Sertich Ice Center Restrooms
  - Swing High Playground
- Austin Bluffs Open Space Trail System Development
- Fishers Canyon Fire Mitigation
- Monument Valley Pickleball Court Resurfacing
- Red Rock Canyon Open Space Reclamation
- Red Rock Canyon Trail System Improvements
- Sand Creek Trail at Hancock
- Shadow Lake Renovation
- Sinton Trail at Arrowswest
- Skyview Turf Replacement
- Trailhead Kiosks
- Ute Valley Regional Trail Improvements

## A LOOK AHEAD TO 2024

- ADA Upgrades:
  - Garden of the Gods
  - Meadows Park Community Center
  - North Cheyenne Cañon Park
  - Quail Lake
  - Rock Ledge Ranch Kiosk
- Antlers Dog Park
- Austin Bluffs Open Space Improvements
- Black Canyon Quarry Reclamation
- Blodgett Open Space Master and Management Plan and Implementation
- Duck Lake Renovation
- Evergreen and Fairview Cemeteries Irrigation Installation
- Fire Mitigation
  - Austin Bluffs Open Space
  - Black Canyon Open Space
  - Palmer Park
- Fishers Canyon Open Space Master and Management Plan
- Garden of the Gods Park Utility Improvements
- Garden of the Gods Ute Trail Drainage System
- Greenways Park Bridge
- Greenways Park Construction
- Grey Hawk Park Planning
- Historic Greenhouse Rebuild
- Legacy Loop Improvements
- Legacy Loop Pikes Peak Greenway Utility Undergrounding
- Open Space Wayfinding:
  - Austin Bluffs Open Space
  - North Cheyenne Cañon Park
  - Red Rock Canyon Open Space
  - Ute Valley Park
- Pikes Peak Greenway Resurfacing
- North Cheyenne Cañon - South Cheyenne Cañon Road Bridge Replacement
- North Cheyenne Cañon Ladders Trail Construction
- Oak Meadows Playground
- Open Space Wayfinding and Trailhead Kiosks
- Patty Jewett and Valley Hi Golf Courses Irrigation Installation
- Pioneers Museum HVAC Installation and Court Room Improvements
- Sand Creek Trail Expansion
- Ute Trail Storm Pipe Installation
- Venezia Park Enhancements
  - Landscaping
  - Lights
  - Pickleball courts
- Westside Community Center Improvements



# “EPPIC”

## OUR CORE VALUES

### EXCELLENCE

- CONSISTENTLY STRIVES TO DELIVER SUPERIOR SERVICE AND RESULTS WITH INTEGRITY;
- MAXIMIZES POTENTIAL THROUGH CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT;
- SETS, ACHIEVES, AND MAINTAINS A HIGH LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE.

### PASSION

- MOTIVATED TO PROVIDE REMARKABLE SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE DEPARTMENT.

### PROFESSIONALISM

- HIGHLY SKILLED AND ADAPTABLE SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS THAT EMBRACE LIFELONG LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT.

### INNOVATION

- PURSUES CREATIVE WAYS TO BETTER DELIVER SERVICES BOTH WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT AND WITH EXTERNAL PARTNERS, WHILE ANTICIPATING FUTURE NEEDS.

### COLLABORATION

- INSPIRES OTHERS TO SUCCEED AND DEVELOP;
- THINKS AND ACTS BEYOND THE SCOPE OF INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES;
- PUTS DEPARTMENT GOALS IN FRONT OF DIVISION OR INDIVIDUAL OBJECTIVES;
- RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AND IS ACCOUNTABLE TO ONE ANOTHER.

## GET CONNECTED

#### ADMINISTRATION

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