

# **ADVOCATE** **Build Community** **Inspire**



Trails and Open Space Coalition

# **2013**





We are dedicated to the preservation of open space and parks, and the creation of a network of trails, bikeways and greenways for the Pikes Peak region.

We advocate for the non-motorized use of these resources and convey a collective voice that promotes their values and stewardship for the benefit of our community.



# Our Mission



Over 500,000 residents live within a half hour drive of Colorado Springs trails, open spaces and parks. And nearly 3 million visitors annually visit our community, drawn by the natural beauty and abundant recreation opportunities these outdoor amenities provide.

Numbers don't lie: the population of Colorado Springs has grown by 100,000 during the past decade, and is projected to grow by almost 10%, reaching 743,000 by 2020. More people, more hikers and cyclists will have a significant impact on both the natural environment and the user experience. We already see evidence of that pressure today in the form of crowded trailheads, degraded trails and damaged infrastructure. At the same time we've experienced a reduction in community financial support for these public spaces and trails we value so dearly.



The benefits of trails, green spaces and parks is undeniable. They provide healthy recreation opportunities, promote community, encourage biking and walking as viable transportation, raise property values, provide wildlife habitat and attract business, visitors and residents to our community. The Trails and Open Space Coalition, along with a growing coalition of conservation partners, is dedicated to preserving, maintaining, and creating a trails, open space and parks landscape that is worthy of our community's legacy and accommodating the growing need for affordable, healthy, outdoor recreational opportunities. In sharing this 2013 Annual Report with you, we invite you to join us in this effort.

*- Susan Davies -*

Executive Director  
Trails and Open Spaces Coalition

# Why We Matter



Our corner of the world was forever changed this past year when TOSC helped neighbors in northwest Colorado Springs come together to form a Friends group. With our help, and the support of a dedicated and ever-growing coalition, the Friends of Ute Valley Park raised an amazing \$100,000 for the purchase and maintenance of what was known as the HP property, and is now part of a larger Ute Valley Park. It was our privilege to be involved in nearly every stage of the process. From helping to write the TOPS application and connecting with key decision makers to supporting their fundraisers, the Trails and Open Space Coalition was there for the Friends of Ute Valley Park. TOSC has been helping similar committed groups for almost two decades. We work with our Friends Groups and Partners to help strengthen them, helping with:

- Vision and Planning**
- Navigating government hurdles**
- Recruiting, training and organizational needs**
- Fundraising and events advice**
- Social media and outreach training**
- Volunteer management**

Our Calendar of Events at [www.openspacevolunteers.org](http://www.openspacevolunteers.org), connects Friends Groups to volunteers. Giving our Friends Groups the tools they need to be advocates and stewards allows us to act and think on a larger scale. Our reach expands, and we are all stronger.

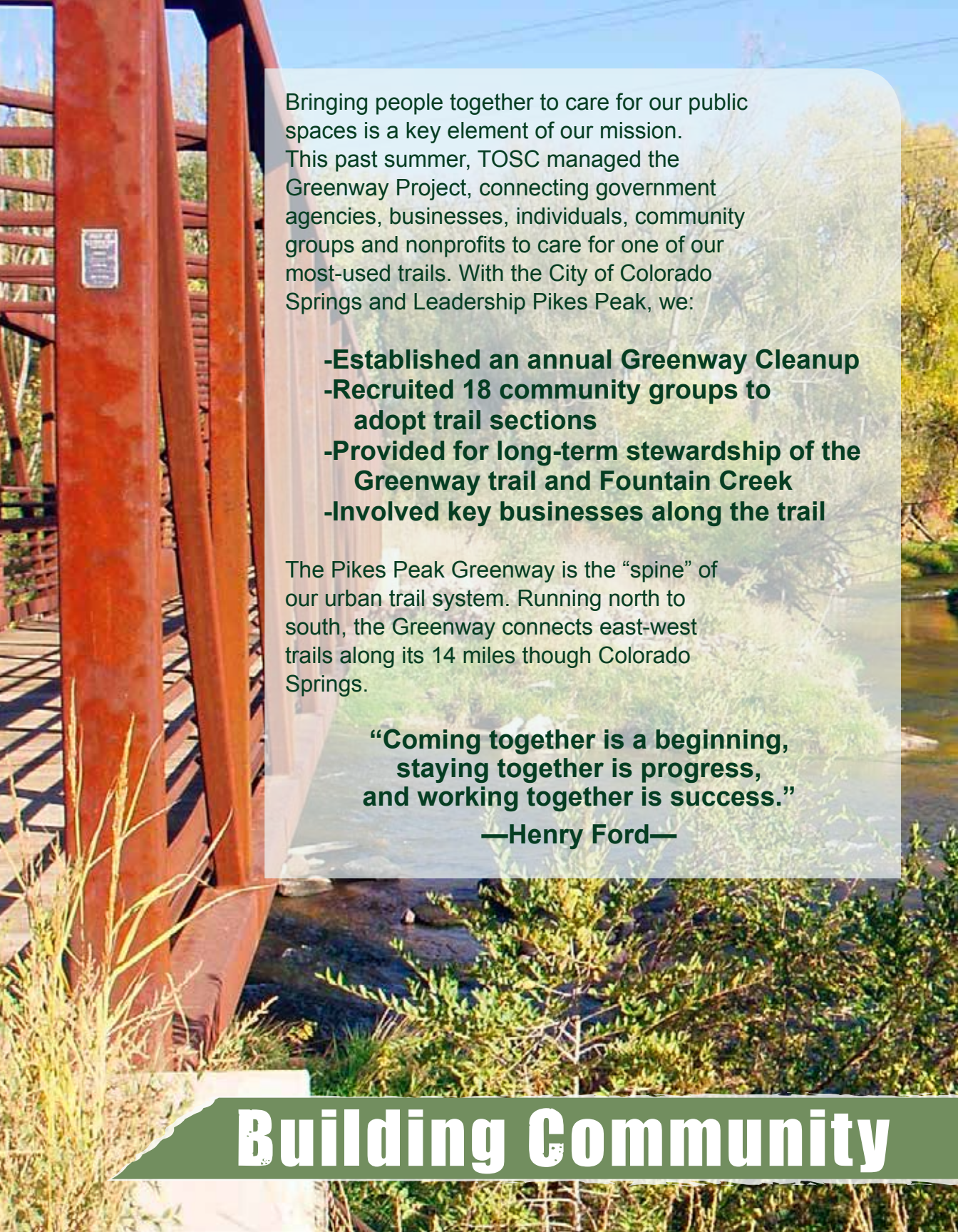
**“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”**

**— Margaret Mead —**



# Advocate





Bringing people together to care for our public spaces is a key element of our mission. This past summer, TOSC managed the Greenway Project, connecting government agencies, businesses, individuals, community groups and nonprofits to care for one of our most-used trails. With the City of Colorado Springs and Leadership Pikes Peak, we:

- Established an annual Greenway Cleanup**
- Recruited 18 community groups to adopt trail sections**
- Provided for long-term stewardship of the Greenway trail and Fountain Creek**
- Involved key businesses along the trail**

The Pikes Peak Greenway is the “spine” of our urban trail system. Running north to south, the Greenway connects east-west trails along its 14 miles through Colorado Springs.

**“Coming together is a beginning,  
staying together is progress,  
and working together is success.”**

**—Henry Ford—**

# **Building Community**



Our special events invite the public to come together and get outside to run, walk, bike or play with the Trails and Open Space Coalition. Inspiration is just outside your door—come celebrate with us!

**Starlight Spectacular.** The summer of 2013 was a tough one for our community. The Black Forest fires were devastating. Do we ride, or cancel? After reaching out to our partners and the community, we made the decision to forge ahead, and hosted nearly 1,500 riders through Garden of the Gods and the City of Colorado Springs. Bringing together our community in bad times as well as good is an important part of what we do, and reminds us to be grateful for, and to care for, this amazing place we call home.



**The American Discovery Trail Marathon** hosted nearly 1,300 runners representing 20 states and six countries! With entries for a full or half-marathon and team relays, limitless views of Pikes Peak and a Creekside course, this run has something for everyone—including an extraordinary outdoor experience on our trails. Fees support the Pikes Peak Road Runners and Trails and Open Space Coalition.

**Great Parks Festival.** We partnered in the fall with El Paso County Parks, and 1,000 people came out for a free day of games and laughter—archery, kites, disc golf, pickle ball and tennis, yoga, dog agility, soccer and more. Families and friends who play in our parks become allies for taking care of our parks.



# Inspire

## **Champions (over \$10,000)**

Fox 21 News  
Heuberger Motors, Inc  
Pikes Peak Community Foundation  
Pikes Peak Road Runners

## **Partners (\$5000 to \$9999)**

Colorado Springs Cycling Club  
Leighty Foundation  
Mountain Chalet  
REI, Inc

## **Patrons (\$1000 to \$2499)**

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Bestway Disposal  
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Colorado Springs Bike Shop  
Colorado Springs Utilities  
The Cygnet Foundation  
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Lyda Hill  
Bob & Jennifer Kronebusch  
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## **Conservationists (\$500 to \$999)**

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Judith & Bob Cadigan  
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Chris Conboy  
Criterium Bicycles  
D'Vine Wine  
Corrina Hamann  
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## **Philanthropists (\$2500 to \$4999)**

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Penrose-St. Francis Health Services  
Pikes Peak Marathon, Inc.  
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# **Donors**



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Nancy Wilkes  
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Robert & Bari Willson  
Nicholas Wilson  
Tim & Veronica Wolken  
Ann & Jim Young



# Donors



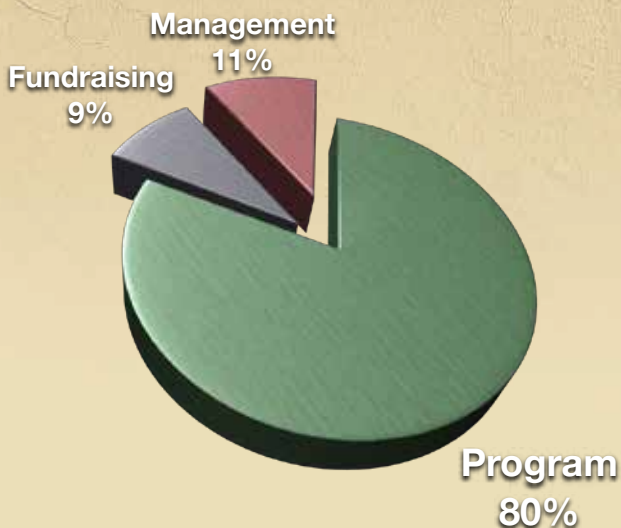
## Sources of Income

As a 501c3 nonprofit organization, the Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC) receives no government funds of any kind. Most of our support comes from individual contributions from people who care about parks and trails. A smaller part of our revenue comes from grants and fundraising events.



## Expenses

We take the stewardship of your contributions very seriously. We are proud that such a large portion of our expenses is directly related to our programs.



# Financials



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Cory Sutela – VP Advocacy

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719.633.6884 | [trailsandopenspaces.org](http://trailsandopenspaces.org)



## Trails and Open Space Coalition

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Colorado Springs, CO 80905