

TOSC



TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE COALITION

2016



TOSC



Mission



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 sustainable use of these resources and convey a collective voice that promotes their value and stewardship for the benefit of our community.

Taking Care of What We Have

This will be an exciting anniversary year for TOSC. Thirty years ago a diverse group of community leaders formed a coalition committed to creating trails. Ten years later the TOPS initiative was passed by many of the same citizens to preserve open spaces and build more parks and trails. Today we strive to secure stable funding for our beloved trails, open spaces and parks. By taking care of our valuable outdoor assets and using them as a primary economic driver for our community we all reap the rewards.

Here's to another thirty successful years, and THANK YOU for your part in that success.

Che Freeman, Board President



Principles

The open spaces, trails and parklands are a cornerstone for our quality of life; they bring people here to live and thrive. This is a primary economic driver for the region.

A strong, healthy system emphasizes interconnected trails, large natural areas and developed parklands. Acquisition and completion is critical to the identity and quality of life in our community both for today and for future generations.

These assets must be maintained into perpetuity. Doing so requires that we balance our desire to use and recreate in these areas with the need to preserve the natural resources.

Dedicated public funding in this region is essential to adequately maintain and improve our parks, trails and open spaces.

Non-motorized use of trails is important for the quality of the outdoor experience. It is important to integrate non-motorized use into regional transportation.

In support of our mission, we work collaboratively to engage the community and provide a community voice and vision for a better and stronger open spaces, trails and parklands.

Caring for our Parks

This past year we pursued a strategy we hoped would lead to increased public funding for our city parks, trails and open space. The Trails and Open Space Coalition set up a meeting between Colorado Springs and the Trust for Public Land (TPL) that led to a letter from our Mayor inviting TPL to look at the needs of our parks and determine the public's appetite for a tax increase.



We participated every step of the way and were delighted when poll results supported a tax dedicated to parks. By now you probably know that, when the time came to place a tax initiative on the ballot, we were not able to convince the Mayor or enough members of City Council to step up.

This is doubly disheartening, as the city released a report just days later showing that our parks are an amazing investment providing millions annually in health and economic benefits.

We continue to pursue funding for parks that is enough to take care of what we have, and is not subject to arbitrary budget cuts. Our parks and open spaces deserve to be cared for.

Susan Davies, Executive Director

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Ring the Peak



Creating a World-Class Destination

Governor John Hickenlooper, making a tour of his "16 in 2016" trail project priorities in October, visited the Pikes Peak region and a segment of the 63-mile Ring the Peak Trail (80% is completed) in Cascade. Ring the Peak made the list for the Governor's "Colorado the Beautiful" initiative for its potential as a world-class, outdoor recreation destination and economic driver for tourism.

In December we were given the exciting news that Great Outdoors Colorado awarded us a \$100,000 planning grant. The grant gives us the ability to find a trail alignment on the southwest side of the peak that addresses the concerns and needs of local communities, partners and the trail-using public.

Now that we have the dollars to hire the right team to tackle this gap, it's time to heed the words of the Governor: "We need to get people to roll up their sleeves and work together." Thanks to the Governor, our partner Friends of the Peak, the City of Colorado Springs and all of you supporting this project.



"Once Ring the Peak is done it will be a national and international destination."

Governor John Hickenlooper



Legacy Loop

Activating the Legacy Loop

In August, the Trails and Open Space Coalition launched a program to “activate” the Legacy Loop—that is, to connect individuals and families to nature, art and businesses in neighborhoods via the Legacy Loop trail. Supported by a \$75,000 grant from the Colorado Health Foundation, the project will identify neighborhood points of interest and get neighbors talking about, and riding to, meaningful places in their areas that they can explore together.

Local bicycle advocate Allen Beauchamp jumped at the chance to be Project Manager for this innovative program. He encourages others to experience “the transformation



that can happen when folks experience the beauty of this community from the seat of a bike, at a very human speed.”

Allen and GIS Specialist volunteer Michael Rigney have produced both a print map and an online interactive “story map.” Projects for 2017 include the first-ever Bike-in Live Theater in partnership with the Millibo Art Theatre in July, and many neighborhood rides and explorations.

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Friends



Helping our Friends Succeed

Supporting our regional Friends Groups and conservation partners remains a priority for the Trails and Open Space Coalition. In 2016 we supported the Friends of the Equestrian Skills Course, helping them with the 501c3 process and a successful project grant for the first phase of their skills facility in Bear Creek Park. The new Skills Course includes a pond and incorporates 10 elements of easy, intermediate and advanced challenges for horses and riders.

TOSC recognizes the value of our Friends partners and remains committed to supporting them in any way we can. In 2016 we worked closely with over 20 Friends Groups who work tirelessly to fill the maintenance and development void created by the lack of parks resources. We co-hosted an annual Crew Leader Training, provided volunteer referrals, assisted with the organizational development of the Superfriends Committee, and promoted work projects by posting Friends Groups' work days on our Open Space Volunteer Calendar.



"TOSC has been a great resource and help to our group in getting this project off the ground.
...They've been an invaluable resource."

Debbie Bibb, President, Friends of the Equestrian Skills Course.



Partners

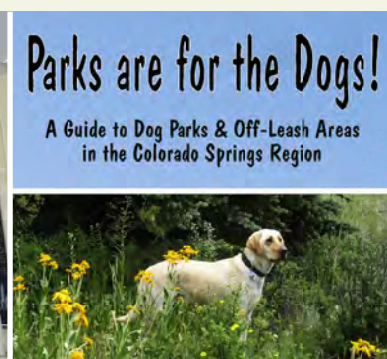
Partnering with Local Businesses

We are lucky to be a part of a community that cares deeply about its outdoor treasures--our parks, trails and open spaces--and to enjoy the support of local businesses, small and large. The Rocky Mountain Restaurant Group, Live Dream Colorado Real Estate, Wag N Wash Natural Food and Bakery, Mountain Equipment Recyclers, Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory and the Picnic Basket all supported the Trails and Open Space Coalition with generous donations. Other businesses donated in-kind goods or services to help us make our dollars go farther towards the preservation of our shared spaces.

In-Kind Donors

Adam's Mountain Cafe
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Bristol Brewing Company
City of Colorado Springs
Cliff House
Colorado Coffee Merchants
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Elope, Inc
Garden of the Gods Gourmet
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Robert G McDonald
Rocky Mountain
Chocolate Factory
Sovereignty Wines
Sunstate Equipment
Tayco Screen Printing Inc
Whole Foods Market
Wooglin's Deli





Memorial

Making Trails of Memories

Several times a year, we get calls from people who have lost loved ones, and want to contribute to a cause about which their loved one cared deeply. In 2016, the Trails and Open Space Coalition received memorial donations from the families and friends of Scott Lauther, William Joos, and Stanley Cook. We are grateful to all these families for their support of our mission.

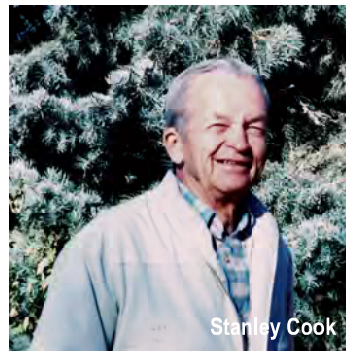
The family of Scott Lauther decided that they wanted to go further and finance a project in one of our parks. Scott's family and friends donated over \$16,000, which we gifted to the City of Colorado Springs Parks Department at the end of 2016. We are working with the City and Scott's family to create a beautiful new entryway to the Section 16 Trail in Red Rock Canyon Open Space, Scott's favorite running place. The family continues to contribute to the Trails and Open Space Coalition and its mission in Scott's memory.

Our Memorial Donation Program gives the family a personalized page on our website to use in announcements, customized with a photo and memorial language about the deceased, with a link to a secure donation page.

We acknowledge each donation with a personal letter, and send a list of the donors and their contact information to the family.



Scott Lauther



Stanley Cook



William Joos

Donors to the Scott Lauther Memorial Fund Section 16 Entryway Project

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Molly Andruszkiewicz
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Special thanks to John Kemmerer of Jiff, Inc.



Financials

Expenses

We strive to be good stewards of the contributions that support our work, and are proud that nearly 80% of our expenses were used for programming. We're grateful for the faith that our community has in the Trails and Open Space Coalition.

Programs 78%

Management 15%

Fundraising 7%

Sources of Income

The Trails and Open Space Coalition is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, funded by donations from more than a thousand individuals, businesses, and organizations, including 100% support from our Board of Directors. A smaller part of our income comes from foundations and fundraising events.

Individual 37%

Foundations 29%

Events 20%

In-Kind 10%

Corporate 4%

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Donors

Foundations and Trusts

Andrea Waitt Carlton Family Foundation
 Benevity Community Impact Fund
 Bright Funds Foundation
 Colorado Health Foundation
 Community Shares of Colorado
 El Pomar Foundation
 Fund for Intergalactic Harmony
 EM & FE Everett Charitable Trust
 The 2015 Give! Fund of the PPCF
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 The Waldo Waldo Fund of the PPCF
 El Pomar Foundation
 Waterbury Philanthropic Trust

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TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE COALITION

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