

Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services



Agenda

PR&CS Administration
1401 Recreation Way
Colorado Springs, CO 80905

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Please silence your phone during the meeting.

Thursday, October 8, 2015

7:30am

Palmer Room

Call to Order

Citizen Discussion

Time for any individual to bring before the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board any matter of interest they wish to discuss that is not elsewhere on the agenda. Comments are restricted to three (3) minutes; you will hear an alarm when your time is up. Please contact PR&CS staff no later than the last Wednesday of the month prior if you wish to place a longer presentation on the agenda.

Approval of Minutes- September 10, 2015

Minutes are posted no later than 5:00pm on the Tuesday before the meeting at:

<http://parks.coloradosprings.gov/explore-play/get-involved/boards-committees/parks-and-recreation-advisory-board>

Ceremonial Items Time Certain 10:00am

Springs in Bloom Presentation and Judges Recognition	Donna Sanchez
Popcycle Bridge Project Recognition - Nikki McComsey, Kids on Bikes	Chris Lieber
Red Rock Canyon Donation – Lori Cohen Fund	Chris Lieber

Action Items

1. Watkins Property Acquisition	Chris Lieber
2. Ute Valley Park Mountain Bike Trails Resolution of Support, Colorado Parks and Wildlife State Trails Program Grant Request	Jeff Webb

Presentations

3. Pickleball Tournament Review	Steve and Ramona Boone
4. Deerfield Hills Community Center Addition / Alterations Project	Doug Hahn, LKA Partners

Staff Reports

5. South and North Slope Update	Jon Carlson
6. Budget Update 2016	Kelly Rajab
7. Summer Special Event Review/LART Funding	Carly Kobasiar
8. Request for Proposals Review	Kim King

Board Business

9. Committee Reports/General Comments

Adjournment



COLORADO SPRINGS PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Date: October 8, 2015
Item Number: Action Item # 1
Item Name: Watkins Property Acquisition

SUMMARY: On April 1, 1997, an ordinance implementing a sales tax for trails, open space and parks was approved by the citizens of Colorado Springs. This tax went into effect on July 1, 1997. In 2003 this ordinance was amended to extend the TOPS sales tax through 2025. The TOPS Working Committee is responsible for setting priorities and making recommendations for the expenditures of TOPS funds. The TOPS Working Committee has identified the 200-acre Watkins property (Property), located adjacent to Cheyenne Mountain State Park and along Rock Creek as having open space values that merit preservation. Acquisition of the Property would serve as an extension of Cheyenne Mountain State Park, provide future trail access for the Cheyenne Mountain Heritage Trail, and connect the Cheyenne Mountain State Park to the Pike National Forest.

CURRENT STATUS: The Property (the "Property"), currently owned by Joan Watkins (Seller), more specifically known as Tax Schedule Numbers 7500000243 and 7500000061, consists of approximately 200 acres. The Property lies along Rock Creek, immediately west of Cheyenne Mountain State Park, between the State Park and the Pike National Forest.

The 2014 Park System Master Plan identified this area an open space candidate meriting conservation. The 1997 Open Space Master Plan identified this area has having some of the highest natural resource values in our community. The property boasts outstanding perennial water resources, unique geology, vegetation and wildlife habitat.

The TOPS Program partnered with Colorado State Parks in 2001 to acquire the original 1,600-acre Cheyenne Mountain State Park. In 2008-2011, the City purchase additional property to the west of the Park to provide trail connections to the top of Cheyenne Mountain. This trail connection, known as the Dixon Trail is currently under construction. The Watkins Property provides an opportunity to advance the future development of the Cheyenne Mountain Heritage Trail, offering a truly unique trail experience around the base of Cheyenne Mountain.

Colorado State Parks has agreed to manage, maintain and operate the Property. This management responsibility is consistent with other City/TOPS acquired properties that comprise Cheyenne Mountain State Park. Public access to the property would be provided through Cheyenne Mountain State Park, via the existing trail system within the Park. The Seller has agreed to provide an easement on adjacent property, at the base of the Rock Creek Canyon, for parking of maintenance and service vehicles. An existing easement provides access along the Rock Creek Corridor for management and maintenance purposes to the Property. The existing easement does not provide for public access from Rock Creek Road. The Colorado State Parks will be responsible for all management, maintenance, and operational expenses associated with the Property.

The TOPS Working Committee has toured the property on several occasions and staff has been in discussions with the Seller for the past five years. The TOPS Program has explored numerous strategies including purchasing the property in phases, bargain sale(s), conservation easements, etc....

The Seller has offered to sell the 200-acre Property to the City of Colorado Springs through the TOPS Program for open space purposes. The Seller has offered to sell the Property for a purchase price of \$980,000 or \$4,900 per acre. To facilitate access to the Property for maintenance and management purposes, the Seller has agreed to provide an easement for a small parking area on adjacent owned property (TSN:7500000245). The general terms of the acquisition require the purchase of the Property by December 31, 2015.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Acquisition of the Property will require funding of \$980,000 from the TOPS Open Space Category available fund balance.

Colorado State Parks will be responsible for management, operations and maintenance the Property. The City will amend the current Cheyenne Mountain Management Agreement between the City of Colorado Springs and Colorado State Parks to include the Property.

BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION: NA

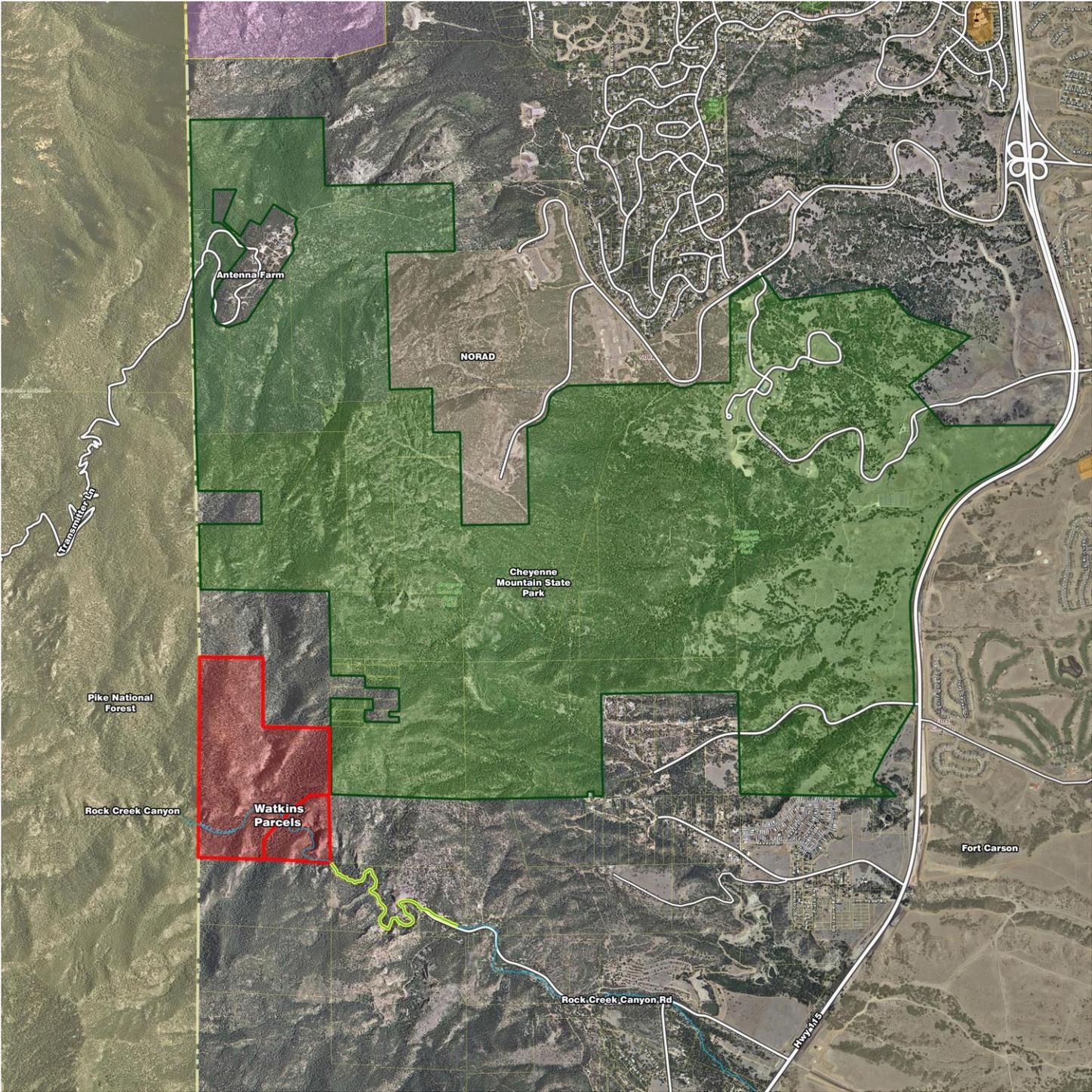
STAKEHOLDER PROCESS: The TOPS Working Committee meetings and Parks Advisory Board meetings provide opportunities for public comment. In addition, TOPS Staff has met with representatives from the Trails and Open Space Coalition and the Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park,

ALTERNATIVES: The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board may decline acquisition of the Property.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends acquisition of the 200-acre Property as an extension of Cheyenne Mountain State Park in the amount of \$980,000 from the TOPS Open Space Category.

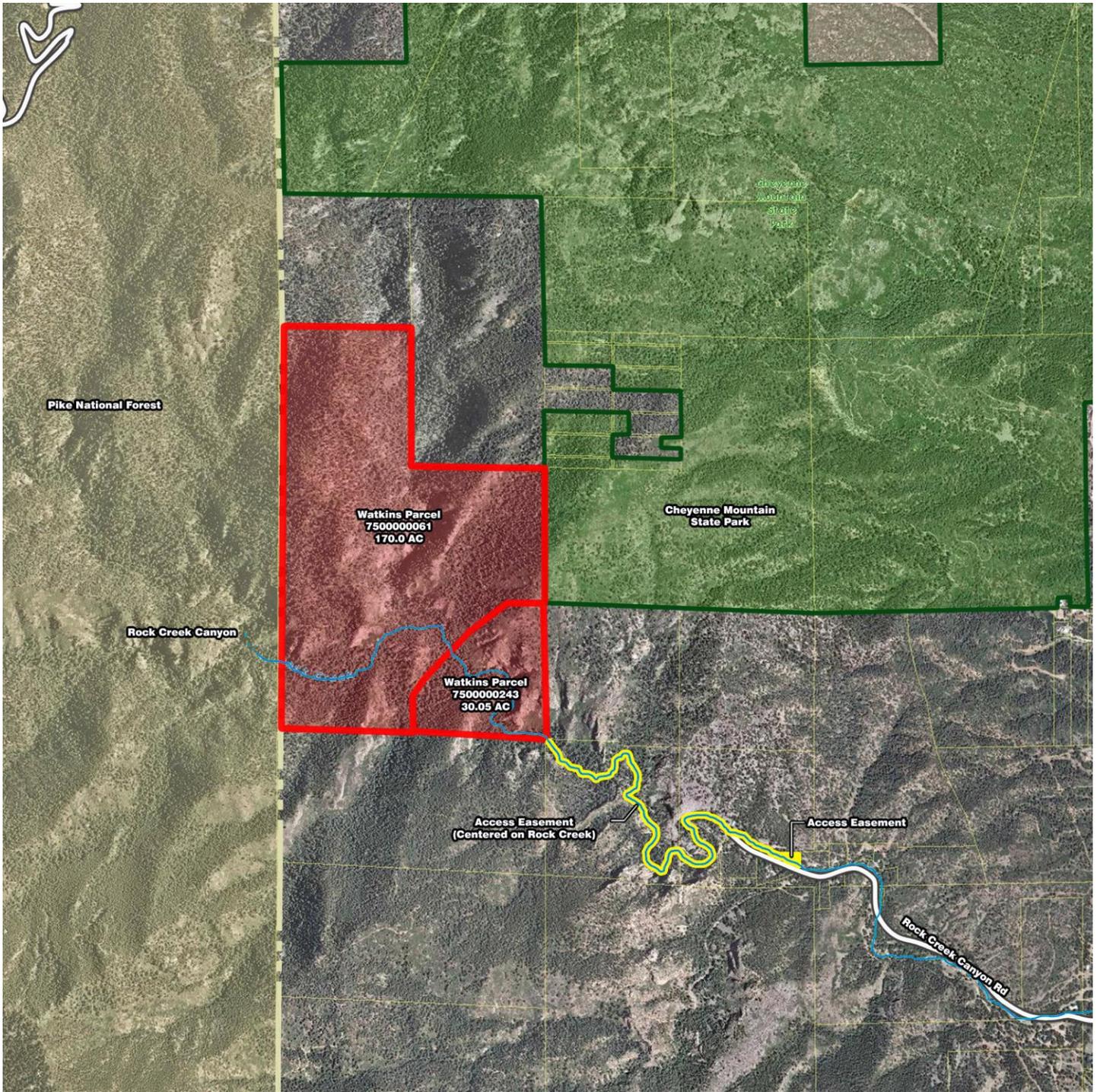
PROPOSED MOTION: Move approval of the acquisition of the 200-acre Property as an extension of Cheyenne Mountain State Park in the amount of \$980,000 from the TOPS Open Space Category.

Exhibit A: Vicinity Map



Watkins Property Acquisition

Exhibit B: Parcel Map



Watkins Property Acquisition

Date: October 8, 2015

Item Name: Ute Valley Park Mountain Bike Trails Resolution of Support, Colorado Parks and Wildlife State Trails Program Grant Request

Summary: Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates, a longstanding Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Friends Group partner, is seeking a grant from the Colorado Parks and Wildlife State Trails Program to fund the construction of mountain bike trails in Ute Valley Open Space. The Medicine Wheel grant proposal is supported by, and will be based upon, the recently adopted Ute Valley Park Master and Management Plan. Should the grant request be successful, up to \$140,000 in grant funds will be awarded for this project.

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife State Trails Program grants are available to local, county, and state governments as well as non-profit organizations. Medicine Wheel is a chartered non-profit organization and they will be the lead applicant for this grant request. To meet the requirements of the grant application, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is required to pass a Resolution of Support for the Medicine Wheel grant application. Should the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board elect not to pass a Resolution of Support, the grant application will not proceed.

The 2015 Ute Valley Park Master and Management Plan identified the existing and proposed Ute Valley trail network as “the Park’s defining and organizing element” as well as its “primary recreational feature”. The Master and Management Plan identified existing trail restoration, non-system trail closure, and new trail construction as critical trail priorities throughout the property. Additionally, the Management Plan identified the design, construction and management of “Challenging Downhill Bike Trails” as a high priority trail project at Ute Valley Park. The Medicine Wheel State Trails grant application project scope will be developed with Parks Department staff and will focus on these community and Master Plan-identified trail priorities.

Previous Council Action: No previous action taken on this grant Resolution of Support request. In the Spring of 2015, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board adopted and approved the Ute Valley Park Master and Management Plan.

Background: Ute Valley Park was donated to the City in 1969. By 1991, through the acquisition of additional parcels through the City’s Parkland Dedication Ordinance, the Park had grown to 338 acres. In 2013 Ute Valley Park was enlarged by an additional 200 acres through purchase of the Ute Valley Gateway (formerly Hewlett-Packard) parcel. This 200-acre addition had been used by citizens informally for years for a variety of recreational activities including mountain biking. This portion was purchased with a combination of TOPS, Great Outdoors Colorado, and private funding.

In the months following the acquisition of this 200-acre addition a Master and Management Plan process was initiated for Ute Valley Park. This community-driven process identified the need for long-term maintenance and environmental stewardship along with improved recreational offerings at Ute Valley Park. One of the major topics of discussion in public meetings was the importance of the trail network and the informal downhill mountain biking area to mountain bike community in Colorado Springs. The Master and Management plan addresses these topics by identify new sustainable trails for future construction, by outlining strategies to eliminate unsustainable rogue trails and improve existing trails, and by identifying the downhill mountain bike area as a top priority for future improvement.

On the heels of a successful public process, implementation of the Ute Valley Park Master and

Management Plan recommendations has been initiated by Parks Department staff. Projects ranging from new trailhead construction, forest management, and trail construction and improvements are underway. While the downhill mountain bike area has been identified as a top priority trail project, funds have not yet been identified for this project. Medicine Wheel, one of the region's leading mountain bike advocacy organizations has volunteered, through this grant application, to help lead the efforts to improve trails and the downhill mountain bike area at Ute Valley Park.

Medicine Wheel is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose mission is to create, sustain and advocate for quality mountain bike experiences in the Pikes Peak Region through advocacy, trail building, outreach, and education. The Parks Department has worked extensively with Medicine Wheel on trail design, maintenance, and construction projects in multiple properties including Red Rock Canyon, Bear Creek, Stratton, and Ute Valley parks and open spaces.

Financial Implications:

Medicine Wheel may seek up to 70% of a \$200,000 State Trails grant (\$140,000 cash) for this project. Parks and Wildlife State Trails grants require a 30% match with at least 10% of the project match being cash. The final project budget and grant request are currently being refined. Conversations are underway to determine the source of match and it is anticipated that this will come from a combination of Medicine Wheel and Parks Department cash and in-kind support.

Board/Commission Recommendation: None

Stakeholder Process: The Ute Valley Park Master and Management Plan that will be the basis of this grant request has gone through an extensive public process in 2014 and 2015. The Master and Management plan was adopted by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board in the Spring of 2015.

Alternative: Decline support for Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates' Colorado Parks and Wildlife State Trails Program grant application for Ute Valley Park

Proposed Recommendation: Passage of a Resolution Supporting a grant application by Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates to Colorado Parks and Wildlife State Trails Program for improvement and construction of trails at Ute Valley Park

Attachments:

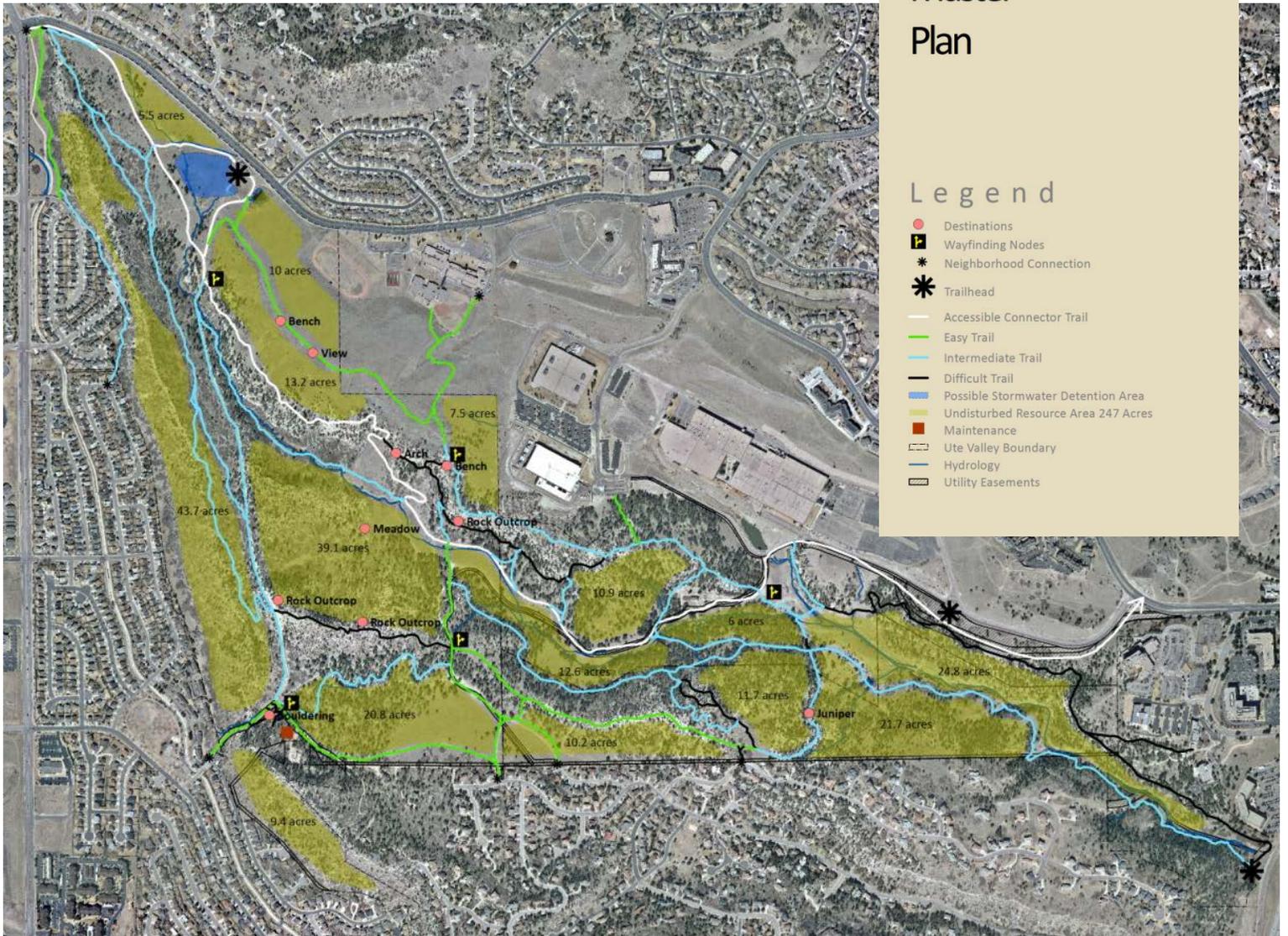
- 2015 Ute Valley Park Master Map

Ute Valley Park Master Plan

Master Plan

Legend

- Destinations
- P Wayfinding Nodes
- * Neighborhood Connection
- * Trailhead
- Accessible Connector Trail
- Easy Trail
- Intermediate Trail
- Difficult Trail
- Possible Stormwater Detention Area
- Undisturbed Resource Area 247 Acres
- Maintenance
- Ute Valley Boundary
- Hydrology
- Utility Easements



Appendix L contains 11x17 maps of the Master Plan and the Trail System Management Plan