Pikes Peak Region Trails and Open Space:
Rich History, Abundant Assets, Promising Future
Mayor John Suthers
Governor
John Hickenlooper
Lise Aangeenbrug
In the beginning

Constitutional Amendment passed by voters with 58% support

GOCO created to protect, preserve and enhance Colorado’s outdoors
No tax dollars
Independent board appointed by governor
Up to 50% of lottery net proceeds
900+ miles of trails
1K+ local parks
47K acres for state parks
750+ miles of rivers
1M+ acres preserved
43 species supported
8K Youth Corps hired
30 school play yards serving 12K children
4,700+ projects
All 64 counties
Pikes Peak Region

308 projects

75 miles of trails

2,900 acres for state parks

57 miles of rivers

37,000 acres conserved

14 school play yards and athletic facilities

$74.5M invested
State Parks
Pikes Peak Region state parks

Cheyenne Mountain
Mueller
Eleven Mile
Spinney Mountain
Castlewood Canyon
Wildlife

Species protection
Habitat preservation
Angler education
Open Space Acquisitions
Land Conservation in the Pikes Peak Region

Total land conservation investment: $33,661,400.79

Acres preserved to date: 38,060.71

Land conservation grants awarded to date: 82
Catamount Open Space

Fountain Creek

Pikes Peak

Legacy Loop
Great Outdoors Colorado awards $4.5 million in flood recovery grants

By John Fryar Times-Call staff writer

Wednesday, April 9, 2014 - 11:45 a.m.
Flooding
School Play Yards
Chipeta Elementary

Before
Leveraging & Partnerships

2:1 in matching funds

GOCO prompted local open space taxes

Landowner donations
The Demand for GOCO Funds Continues: Requested vs. Awarded Funds Since FY 2009
The next five years
Listening to Coloradans

WE WANT YOU @ GOCO
LISTENING TOUR

[Map of Colorado with major cities marked]
Challenges ahead

State to add 3M more people by 2040

State will be 30% Hispanic by 2040

90K rural, ag lands are lost annually; Land lost by 2030 will be 10x size of Rocky Mountain National Park
Kids and nature

Children today spend 4 to 7 minutes a day in unstructured time outdoors, half what their parents did.

Yet nature play is beneficial to health, academic learning, creativity and stress reduction.
Strategic Plan

Protect

Connect

Inspire
Protect

Strategically target large, connected landscapes, waterways, urban open spaces
Connect

Connecting local & regional trails

Outdoor destinations within a 10-minute walk

Restore aging playgrounds that serve as community parks
Inspire

State needs a coordinated approach

Coalitions & communities identify barriers & solutions

Barriers: Time, transportation, cost, access, lack of info, belief it’s too difficult, feeling unwelcome

Youth, community leadership critical

Interest, excitement among funders
GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO

• goco.org
• Info@goco.org
• 303-226-4500

303 E 17th Ave., Suite 1060
Denver, CO 80203
Matt Mayberry
William Jackson Palmer’s Vision

“General Palmer’s plan for a park system was bold, far-sighted and comprehensive.” His vision was of a city with near-by parks, mountain driveways, woodland paths, and trails; to furnish places for healthful out-door exercise, and quiet restful enjoyment.”

—Report of the Parks Commission, 1908
Park Additions by Type

- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Open Space
- Special Use

Years: 1870 to 2000
Chris Lieber
Pikes Peak Recreation and Tourism Heritage Series

Presented by: Chris Lieber
Design and Development Manager
Colorado Springs Parks & Recreation
Federal Public Lands

* Data from COMaP, 04/20/2016
County Public Lands

* Data from COMaP, 04/20/2016
Existing Trails in the Pikes Peak Region
Planned Trails in the Pikes Peak Region
Combined Trails in the Pikes Peak Region
Regional Connections:

Closing the Gaps
Colorado Front Range Trail

Existing Trail = 44 Miles

Planned Trail = 11 Miles
America The Beautiful Trail

Existing Trail = 56 Miles

Planned Trail = 18 Miles
Existing Trail = 61 Miles
Planned Trail = 7 Miles
Cheyenne Mountain Heritage Trail

Existing Trail = 18 Miles

Planned Trail = 9 Miles
Legacy Loop

Existing Trail = 9 Miles

Planned Trail = 1 Miles
Ring The Springs

Existing Trail = 27 Miles

Planned Trail = 18 Miles
Existing Trail = 47 Miles

Planned Trail = 10 Miles

Ring the Peak
Heritage Trail System

Existing Trail = 262 Miles

Planned Trail = 74 Miles
Oscar Martínez
Ann Baker Easley
Volunteers: An Essential Public Asset for Trails and Open Space Programs

EL POMAR: PIKES PEAK RECREATION AND TOURISM HERITAGE SERIES

ANN BAKER EASLEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MAY 13, 2016
Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC) is a statewide nonprofit dedicated to motivating and enabling people to become active stewards of Colorado’s natural resources.

1984
- 3 projects 194 volunteers

2015
- Over 100 projects in 68 places
- 4,750 annual volunteer days; 34,334 donated hours
- Volunteer labor value in 2015: $882,000

2013-2015 Pikes Peak Region
- 8,271 Volunteer hours (Waldo Canyon, Cheyenne Mountain, Black Forest, Fountain Creek)
- 1052 volunteers with 20% youth participation
- Pikes Peak Regional Crew Leader Trainings
- Post-Fire Restoration Training and Curriculum (VOC, CUSP, RMFI and Flying W Ranch Collaboration)
How We Get it Done

• Hands-on statewide urban and back country volunteer opportunities:
  • Build/maintain trails
  • Ecological Restoration
  • Post Flood/Fire Restoration

• Intentional children, youth and family engagement programs to develop next generation of stewards

• Field and web-based technical training and leadership programs for sustainable volunteer capacity

• Lead collaborative partnerships to promote and strengthen the state’s volunteer stewardship capacity and delivery (COSC)
Present

Challenge

Balancing

Volunteer

Experience with

Git ‘er Done Land

Manager Needs
Organizational Capacity Adaptation

- Heightened sophistication in project development and planning
- Appropriate match of required volunteer skills to project needs
  - Easy to Technical
  - Small to Big
- Targeted outreach & marketing for individual projects to meet project and volunteer needs
- Specifically designed educational programming for the “un-initiated” and the new volunteer
Present Challenge

Shifting Trends in Public Engagement

- Shorter vs. longer-term engagement
- Technical skill and leadership void
- Increased corporate involvement/social responsibility
- Adapting and using the volunteer experience as a means of getting kids (and adults!) to experience and enjoy the outdoors
- On-demand volunteering
Developing new types of volunteer opportunities

- Non-traditional projects
- Reduced volunteer time commitment
- DIY stewardship badges and activities via VOC’s YourCO mobile app

Changing how volunteers are trained

- Reduced time commitment while still ensuring skills
  - Online training
  - Independent steward training

Effectively responding to land manager priorities
Directly impacts ability to effectively meet public engagement expectations and land manager needs

Volunteers are NOT FREE!

Project by project based funding vs. programmatic and landscape scale
Organizational Capacity Adaptation

- Involvement in large scale, regional planning and implementation efforts to more clearly define stewardship priorities and outcomes

- Stronger and more intentional collaboration of NGOs, land management agencies, business and philanthropic communities for funding

- Incorporation of organizational capacity costs within stewardship project funding

- More effectively articulating and measuring volunteer impact using work-force model and standardization of specific project outcomes
Questions?

Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado

WWW.VOC.ORG

Ann Baker Easley
Executive Director
ann@voc.org
Tim Payne
CANYON RIM
2 mi. TRAIL
Paul Mead
Ring the Peak

Paul Mead
President, Friends of the Peak
“This single concept, though large in scale, organizes the region's recreational elements more than any other concept expressed.”

*Pikes Peak Multi-Use Plan, 1999*
Thomas Morrisey
Justin Spring
8 Reasons

Why this is the moment to invest in parks.
Our Mission:

The Trust for Public Land creates parks and protects land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come.
Our habitat then...
Our habitat now…
1. Parks are a health plan.
1. Parks are a health plan.
2. Parks are a solution to Nature Deficit Disorder.
3. Parks are a solution to Nature Deficit Disorder.
4. Parks are a climate solution. (Connect. Cool. Absorb. Protect.)
4. Parks are a climate solution.
(Connect. Cool. Absorb. Protect.)
5. Parks have a strong ROI.

NYC Highline Before
5. Parks have a strong ROI.

NYC Highline After
Economic Benefit Studies
6. Parks create social capital and build communities.
7. Everyone wants parks.

STORY MILL, MONTANA
8. They’re beautiful.
A 10-minute walk to a park will be good for every American.
Luis Benitez
Thank you!

Cañon City Recreation
City Parks Department
Colorado Springs Convention & Visitors Bureau
Colorado Springs Cycling Club
Colorado Springs Utilities Watershed District
Friends of the Peak
Greenway Fund
Guardians of Palmer Park
Manitou Springs Open Space

Advisory Committee
Mile High Youth Corps
Mountain Top Cycling Club
Palmer Land Trust
Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance
Regional Business Alliance
Rocky Mountain Field Institute, Trails and Open Space Coalition
Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado

#epfheritage
El Pomar Foundation's Pikes Peak Recreation & Tourism Heritage Series was launched in 2015 to increase knowledge of and interest in an important part of the region's economy and quality of life; Colorado’s natural resources and recreational opportunities.

If you are interested in being added to our mailing list for future events, please go to our website https://www.elpomar.org/programs/pikes-peak-recreation-&-tourism-heritage-series/.

#epfheritage