



PARKS, TRAILS, OPEN SPACE & RECREATION

PARKS

Existing Parks: The City of Manitou Springs owns and manages 12 parks, including:

- Soda Springs Park and Pavilion
- Mansions Park and Pavilion
- Seven Minute Spring Park
- Deer Valley Nature Park
- Higgenbotham Flats
- Library Park
- Peakview Tot Park
- Memorial Park
- Bill Bauer Park
- Mable Willie Park
- Schryver Park and Pool
- The Fields Park
- Town Clock Park

Park Land: 30 acres, or around 0.5 acres per 100 residents in 2014.

Community Events: Four City parks (Soda Springs Park, Mansions Pavilion, Seven Minute Spring Park, and Memorial Park) are available to rent, and host numerous community events throughout the year.

TRAILS

Existing Trails: The City of Manitou Springs maintains 30 miles of trails within the City limits, including the Creek Walk Trail and Ute Indian Trail. In addition, the City maintains the Intemann Trail/Iron Mountain open space (located in El Paso County), and provides access and parking for the Barr Trail and the Manitou Incline.

Regional Trails: Regional trail connections include the Ring the Peak trails and the Creek Walk Trail along Fountain Creek. The Creek Walk Trail connects with the Midland Trail in El Paso County, which extends east past Red Rock Canyon and continues south of Old Colorado City to its terminus at America the Beautiful Park.

OPEN SPACE

Existing Open Space: The City has an active Open Space protection program. Recent acquisitions include:

- Iron Mountain Open Space (with construction of the Intemann Trail in 2014)
- Black Canyon Open Space near Garden of the Gods
- Dedication of the Ute Chief Gusher Park



TRENDS & KEY ISSUES

POST Master Plan

The Manitou Springs Parks, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan (POST) includes goals and actions for parks, open space, and trails, as well as the operation and administration of recreation facilities and amenities in the City. The draft Master Plan is now available for public review.

Draw for Visitors

The City's parks, open spaces, and trails, used by many residents, also serve as a major draw for visitors to Manitou Springs. The Manitou Incline is a particularly popular trail, attracting approximately 300,000 visitors since counters were installed in 2013.

SOURCES

- City of Manitou Springs
- Greenplay, LLC

SUPPORTING MAPS

- Existing/Proposed Parks, Trails, and Recreational Facilities (from POST)

TRENDS & KEY ISSUES

Funding & Budget

The City’s Open Space Program began following the 1996 passage of two voter-approved initiatives allowing the City to raise funds to acquire open space. The program is funded through a 0.1% sales tax and 0.8 mils property tax, extended by voters in 2015. Between 2000 and 2015, a total of \$1.48 million has been generated. The annual budget for combined parks, open space and trails is around \$500,000. Aside from the open space tax noted above, revenues come primarily from City taxes, El Paso Blvd special improvements tax, event fees, and parking fees. Revenue goes toward maintenance, administration, repairs, debt payment, & professional services.

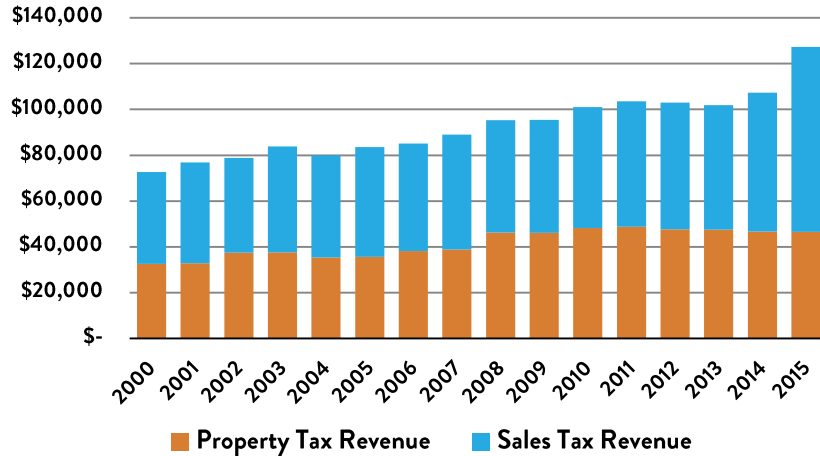
The Manitou Incline

To address issues surrounding the use of the Manitou Incline trail, the City, in collaboration with Colorado Springs, the Cog Railway, Colorado Springs Utilities and other stakeholders, developed a development and management plan for the area. The plan establishes Colorado Springs as the responsible entity for the site, and lays out a series of recommendations addressing site conditions, traffic, and environmental impacts, among others.

Total Acres: Since 1995, the City has acquired approximately 300 acres of open space, including parcels located both within and outside the City’s municipal limits. The City’s 1997 Open Space Plan recommended the preservation of 54 parcels in and around the City; 42 of these have been preserved.

Future Acquisitions: The City is in the process of purchasing the Voth property, a 33.48-acre tract in the northern part of the City.

OPEN SPACE TAX REVENUES



Source: City of Manitou Springs

RECREATION

Pool and Fitness Center: Built in 1971, the City of Manitou Springs manages a pool and fitness center. The center provides fitness classes and recreation programs, as well as hosting the Manitou School District swim team and the Colorado Torpedoes, a youth swim club.

Attendance: 56,591 visitors in 2015

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PARAB): The PARAB is a 7-member citizen board that works to ensure the implementation of day-to-day procedures that protect and maintain the natural environment of the City’s parks. The PARAB offers \$500 and \$1,000 grants to individuals and groups, respectively, to encourage local implementation of creative ideas and improvements to the City’s park, trail, and recreation system. The Parks Division of the City’s Public Services Department provides staff support to the PARAB, in addition to maintaining existing parks in Manitou Springs.

Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC): The OSAC is a 7-member citizen board created following the approval of voter initiatives in 1996. The Committee oversees implementation of the City’s Open Space Plan,

including recommending potential open space acquisitions, developing criteria for open space acquisition, management and oversight of City open space properties, and strategies for open space management. The City's Planning Department provides staff support to OSAC.

Others: There are a wide range of partners working to acquire, preserve, or manage open space in the region. These include public agencies as well as non-profits, such as the Palmer Land Trust. The State of Colorado also provides grants and assistance to the local governments through its Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) program. Grants from GOCO were used by the City to help fund the acquisition of the Red Mountain and Iron Mountain open space areas.

LOCAL & REGIONAL PARTNERS

- El Paso County
- City of Colorado Springs
- Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO)
- U.S. Forest Service
- Palmer Land Trust
- Trails & Open Space Coalition

RELATED PLANS & STUDIES

- *Parks, Open Space and Trails Master Plan (2016–draft)* – City of Manitou Springs
- [*Manitou Springs Open Space Plan \(1997\)*](#) – City of Manitou Springs
- [*Red Mountain Open Space Land Stewardship Plan \(2010\)*](#) – City of Manitou Springs
- [*Iron Mountain Open Space Land Management Plan \(2013\)*](#) – City of Manitou Springs
- [*Manitou Incline Site Development and Management Plan \(2011\)*](#) – City of Manitou Springs & City of Colorado Springs