

# INVESTMENT & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY *for*



**PARKS  
TRAILS  
HISTORIC RESOURCES &  
OPEN SPACE  
FUND**

# HISTORY OF PARKS, TRAILS, HISTORIC RESOURCES & OPEN SPACE SALES AND USE TAX



## VOTER APPROVAL:

➤	<b>1994</b>	<b>58%</b>
➤	<b>1998</b>	<b>53.5%</b>
➤	<b>2022</b>	<b>87.6%</b>



## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

-  Six new fields
-  Three conversions from bluegrass to synthetic fields
-  Reuter Hess Reservoir
  - \$1,750,000 contributed
-  Bayou Gulch Regional Park
  - 4.68 miles of trails
-  Cherry Creek Regional Trail
  - 3 miles added for 11.3 miles total
-  East/West Regional Trail
  - 27 miles
-  Pinery Loop Trail
  - 4 miles
-  Bayou Gulch
  - Bike Skills Park Trail-7 miles



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Initial Tax Funding

- Purchase of Spring Valley School site and other historic resources located on Open Space properties

Leveraged approximately \$1.1 Million in State Historical Fund grants since 2019

Funding to support iconic County historic properties such as Schweiger Ranch and statewide public events such as International Archaeology Day

Management of 18 county-owned historic and cultural resource sites

2024 investments include restoration work on Miksch-Helmer Cabin, Evans Homestead, and Columbine Barn, properties that will allow for public access and education



## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### **Open Space Acquisitions include:**

- Greenland Ranch, Sandstone Ranch, Lost Canyon Ranch, and most of the scenic view sheds along I-25

Protected 66,000 acres of wildlife habitat/movement corridors, agriculture watershed quality, scenic viewsheds, and community buffers

Manage and maintain 110 miles of multiple use, non-motorized trails, accessible from 11 unique trailheads on 17,000 acres

Significant forest management, accessibility, noxious weed control projects

Attracting 650,000 visitors annually and 460 active community volunteers

# The PARKS, TRAILS, HISTORIC RESOURCES & OPEN SPACE FUND

**consistent with ballot  
measure 1A, must:**

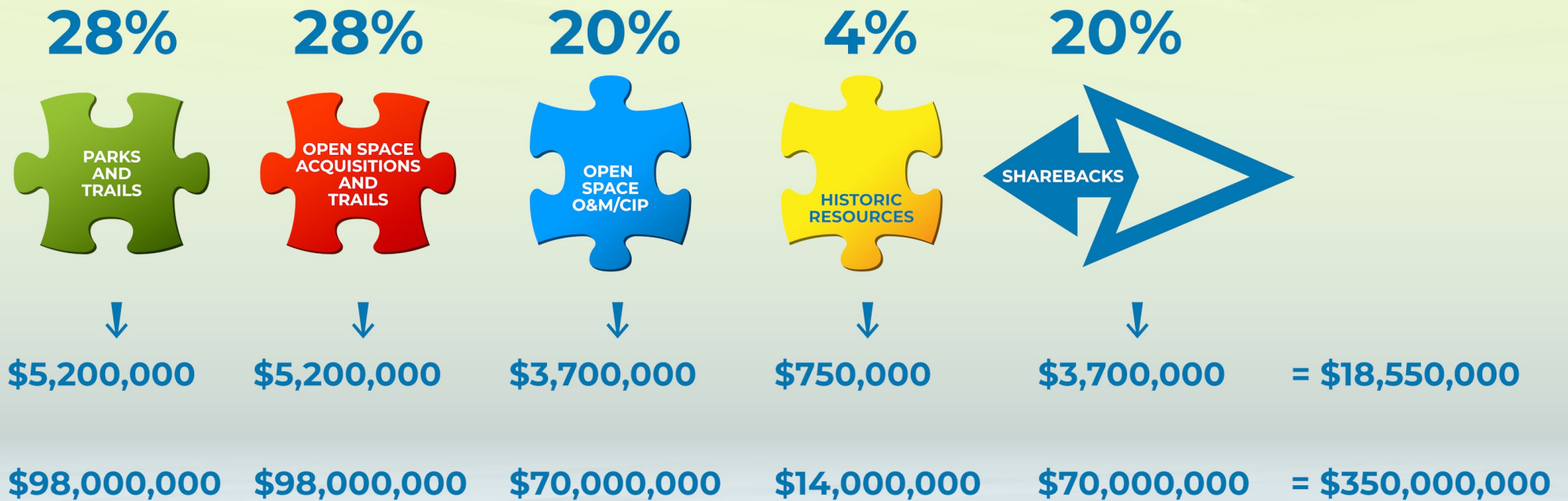
- ➔ **Protect, maintain, and add parks, trails historic resources and open spaces, wildlife habitats**
- ➔ **Buffers between communities**
- ➔ **Conserve lands along streams and lakes that also protect water quality**
- ➔ **Conserve working farms and ranches**
- ➔ **Preserve scenic views and landmarks**
- ➔ **Create and maintain recreational amenities**
- ➔ **Maintain and conserve historic preservation sites**

# The Board of County Commissioners has Fund distribution authority, as defined in the Resolution



- ➔ Up to 28% Parks and Trails
- ➔ Up to 4% Historic Resources
- ➔ 28% Open Space Acquisitions and Trails
- ➔ Up to 20% Open Space Operations and Maintenance/CIP
- ➔ 20% Municipal Shareback

# Annual and Aggregate Sales Tax Collection



Annual Collection →

Collected over 15 Years →



20%

is set aside for  
**Sharebacks**  
given to eligible municipalities  
in Douglas County.

**Sharebacks**  
are available upon request,  
after review by advisory boards &  
the Board of County Commissioners.



CITY OF  
LONE TREE





# BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



COMMISSIONER  
**GEORGE TEAL**  
CHAIR



COMMISSIONER  
**ABE LAYDON**  
VICE-CHAIR



COMMISSIONER  
**LORA THOMAS**



COMMISSIONER  
**GEORGE TEAL**  
CHAIR

# COMMISSIONER GEORGE TEAL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- ➔ **Fairgrounds Master Plan**
- ➔ **Youth sports fields - with emphasis on baseball fields**
- ➔ **Parks via partnerships**
- ➔ **Public access for current and future open space acquisitions**



COMMISSIONER  
**ABE LAYDON**  
VICE-CHAIR

# COMMISSIONER ABE LAYDON STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- ➔ Recreation and sports opportunities for youth
- ➔ Sterling Ranch
- ➔ High Note Regional Park in Lone Tree
- ➔ Cherokee Ranch & Castle
- ➔ Public access for current and future open space acquisitions





# High Note Regional Park

Concept Plan – April 2024  
cityoflonetree.com/regionalpark



- |                              |   |   |  |                        |
|------------------------------|---|---|--|------------------------|
| 1 VISTA KNOLL                | 9 PLAYGROUND  | 13 BRAID "ROOMS" (TYP.):<br>- SEATING<br>- CORNHOLE<br>- HAMMOCKS<br>- PING PONG TABLES<br>- MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS<br>- FIRE PITS<br>- PUBLIC ART<br>- OTHER ACTIVITIES | 17 RESTROOMS                                 | 24 PARKING LOT         |
| 2 FITNESS STAIRS             | 10 FESTIVAL TERRACE:<br>- FLEXIBLE PLAZA SPACE<br>- SHADE STRUCTURES<br>- INTERACTIVE WATER FEATURE<br>- CAFE SEATING | 14 STAGE  | 18 DOG PARK                                  | 25 REGIONAL TRAIL      |
| 3 BASKETBALL COURTS          | 11 OVERLOOK PLAZA:<br>- FIRE PITS<br>- SEATING STRUCTURES<br>- SWING BENCHES<br>- CONNECTION TO CREEK                 | 15 MULTI-USE SYNTHETIC TURF FIELDS  | 19 RESTAURANT PAD                            | 26 STORAGE BUILDING    |
| 4 PICKLEBALL COURTS          | 12 EVENT LAWN   | 16 SHADED PICNIC GROVE  | 20 FOOD TRUCK AREA                           | 27 WATER QUALITY BASIN |
| 5 OUTDOOR FITNESS EQUIPMENT  |   |   | 21 MAINTENANCE BUILDING                      |                        |
| 6 BOULDERING / CLIMBING AREA |   |   | 22 SEMI TRUCK / BUS PARKING FOR PERFORMANCES |                        |
| 7 BOCCE BALL COURTS          |   |   | 23 CONNECTION TO PARK A                      |                        |
| 8 SHADE STRUCTURE (TYP.)     |   |   |  |                        |





# SOCCER COMPLEX

Sterling Ranch, Douglas County, Colorado 6/3/2024





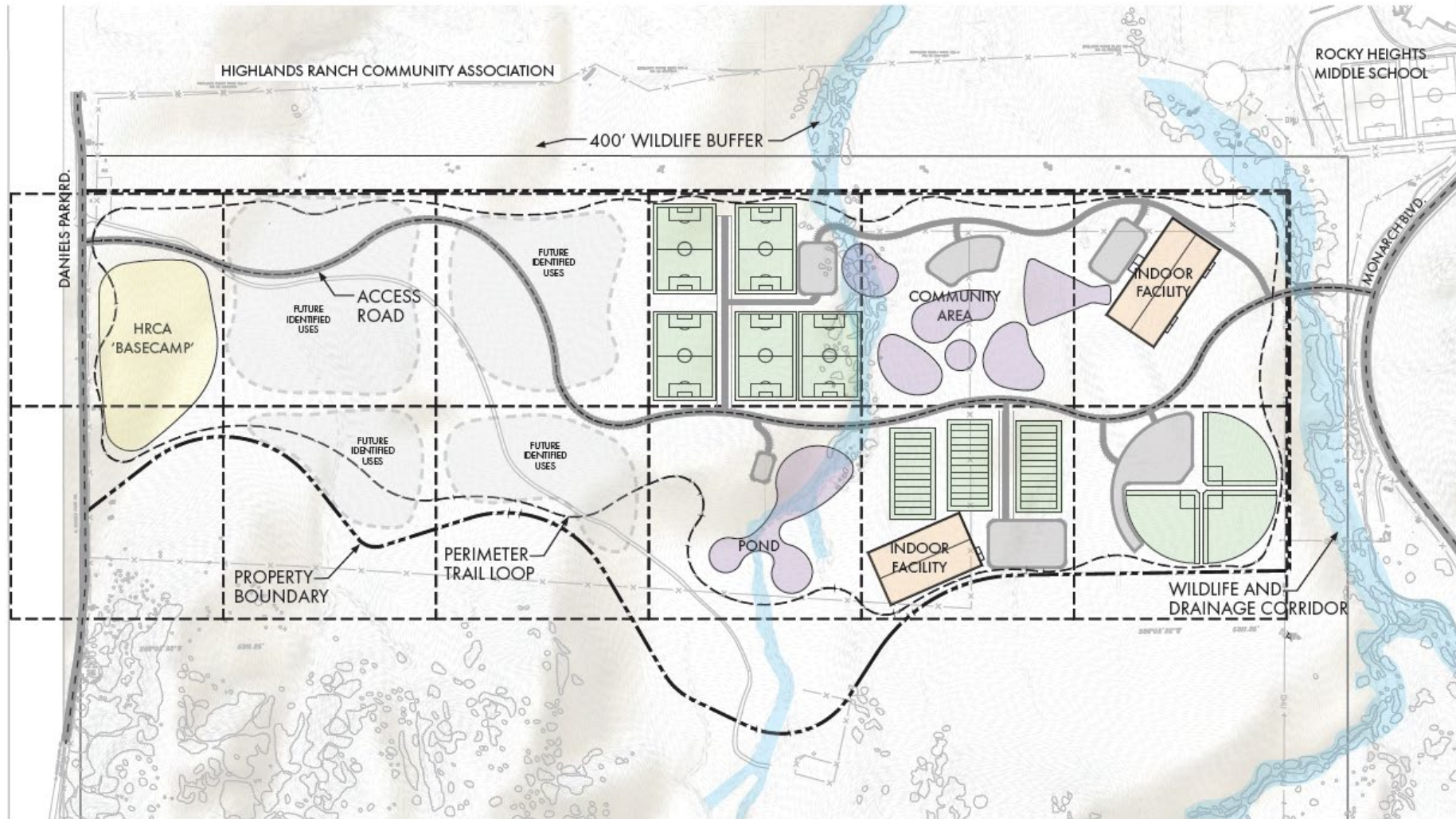




**COMMISSIONER  
LORA THOMAS**

## **COMMISSIONER LORA THOMAS STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

- ➔ **Fairgrounds Master Plan**
- ➔ **Wildcat Regional Park  
via partnerships**
- ➔ **Public access for current and  
future open space acquisitions**



## WILDCAT REGIONAL PARK - VISION CONCEPT

June 2024

Disclaimer: This drawing is a conceptual representation only and should not be used for planning, development, construction, cost budgeting, or any other implementation purposes. No warranties are made regarding its accuracy or suitability for any purpose. Reliance on this drawing for any real-world application is strictly at your own risk, and professional advice should be sought. The creator assumes no liability for any loss or damage arising from its use.

0' 200' 400' 800'





# **CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT IS THE HEARTBEAT OF EFFECTIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE:



Live Town Halls

1



Board of County Commissioners Work Sessions

2



Advisory Board Meetings and Recommendations

3



Social Media

4



Community Survey

5



Affinity or Subscription Groups

6



Citizen Comments

7

# PARKS AND TRAILS

**01** BOCC Input & Public Input

**02** Parks Advisory Board (PAB)

**PURPOSE:**

- ➔ Make recommendations to the BOCC regarding disbursement of funds from the Open Space Land, Trails and Sales Tax Fund
- ➔ Review and recommend projects including all forms of recreation from the BCC and potential external partners based on BOCC priorities
- ➔ Members are appointed by the Board of County Commissioners by District

**03** Vision

- ➔ More Parks and Trails to meet expanding demands & population
- ➔ Regional Parks and Trails to serve the whole county
- ➔ Parks and Trails for all
- ➔ Parks and Trails that do most good for the most amount of people
- ➔ Parks or Trail amenity within a 10-minute drive from every county resident
- ➔ Promote partnerships and expand funding resources



04 Strategy 

IMPROVE AND MAINTAIN  
SAFE AND CLEAN  
PARKS AND TRAILS  
(PROTECT THE INVESTMENT)

PARTNERSHIPS

INNOVATION

EXPAND PARK AND TRAIL  
OPPORTUNITIES WHILE  
LOWERING MAINTENANCE  
COSTS

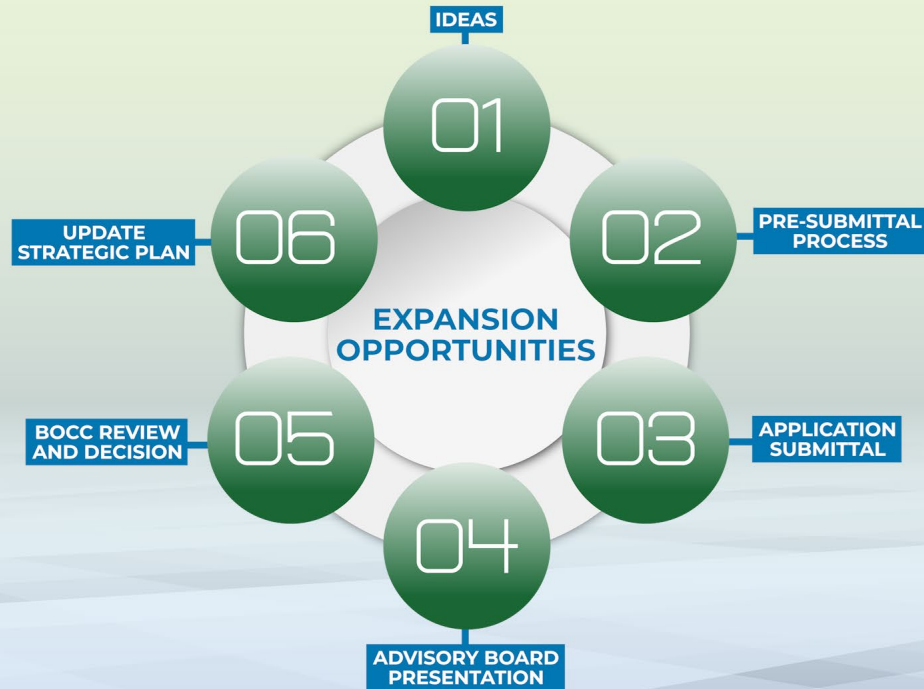
PARK AND TRAIL INPUT



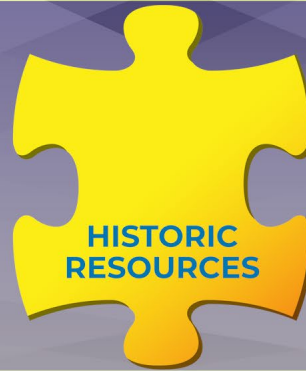
05




Strategic Master Plan Process







**01**  **BOCC Input & Public Input**

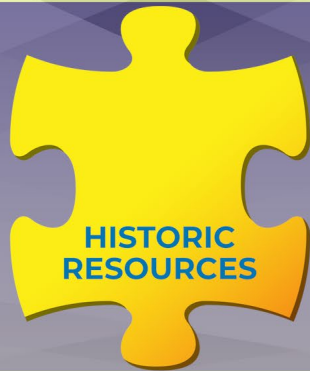
**02** **Historic Preservation Board (HPB)**

**PURPOSE:**

- ➔ Make recommendations to the BOCC regarding designation of historic landmarks or historic districts in unincorporated Douglas County
- ➔ Assist in oversight of historic resource allocations from the Parks, Trails, Historic Resources and Open Space (PTHROS) Sales and Use Tax fund
- ➔ Members are appointed by the Board of County Commissioners

**03**  **Vision**

- ➔ Preserve cultural resources
- ➔ Increase public access to cultural resources



04

Strategy



ACQUIRE SIGNIFICANT CULTURAL RESOURCES

IDENTIFY AND ASSESS THE VIABILITY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

INTEGRATE CULTURAL RESOURCES INTO NEW DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

CURATE CULTURAL RESOURCES IN DOUGLAS COUNTY REPOSITORY

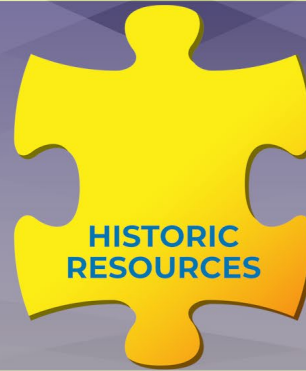
PROTECT SIGNIFICANT CULTURAL RESOURCES

INTEGRATE CULTURAL RESOURCES INTO PARKS, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE PROJECT WHENEVER FEASIBLE

PROVIDE RESOURCES FOR EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE OF THREATENED CLTURAL RESOURCES

USE GRANTS TO STRETCH TAX REVENUES

PARTNERSHIPS WITH HISTORIC SOCIETIES, UNIVERSITIES, VOLUNTEERS




05 Strategic Master Plan Process



# OPEN SPACE ACQUISITIONS AND TRAILS

**01** BOCC Input & Public Input



**02** County Open Space Advisory Committee (COSAC)

**PURPOSE:**

- ➔ Make recommendations to the BOCC and municipal officials regarding disbursement of funds
- ➔ Select open space land to be proposed for acquisition, maintenance, or preservation
- ➔ Establish priorities
- ➔ Recommendations to BOCC on lands involving conservation easements acquired with such funds

**03** Acquisition Vision



- ➔ Partner to provide opportunities to maximize spending power
- ➔ Provide public access for all on public lands where appropriate
- ➔ Open spaces to serve the whole county and provide a regional and statewide draw
- ➔ Purchase land that provides opportunities to protect natural and cultural resources
- ➔ Open space amenities within every commissioner district

# OPEN SPACE ACQUISITIONS AND TRAILS

## 04 Acquisition Strategy

PURCHASE LANDS TO MEET THE COMMUNITY'S NEEDS AND DESIRES

USE CRITERIA TO GUIDE INFORMED DECISIONS

MAXIMIZE INVESTMENTS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

RESERVE \$10 MILLION TO BE USED FOR POTENTIAL LEGACY ACQUISITION

CONNECT REGIONAL AND STATEWIDE TRAILS

CONNECT LAND AND TRAILS

# OPEN SPACE ACQUISITIONS AND TRAILS

## 05 Strategic Master Plan Process





01



**BOCC Input & Public Input**

02

**County Open Space Advisory Committee (COSAC)**

### **PURPOSE:**

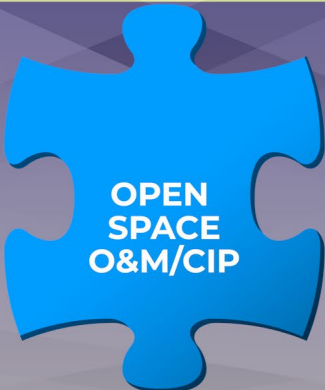
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- ➔ Establish priorities
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03



**Vision**

- ➔ Maximize the use of funds
- ➔ Balance maintenance and improvements to protect natural and cultural resources
- ➔ Develop open space properties for all
- ➔ Expand recreational and educational opportunities and wildlife corridors
- ➔ Preserve the cultural history on Open Space lands
- ➔ Complete Douglas County's portion of the Colorado Front Range Trail



04 Strategy 

USE PUBLIC INPUT TO DETERMINE COMMUNITY DESIRES

CREATE SUSTAINABLE TRAILS AND TRAILHEADS

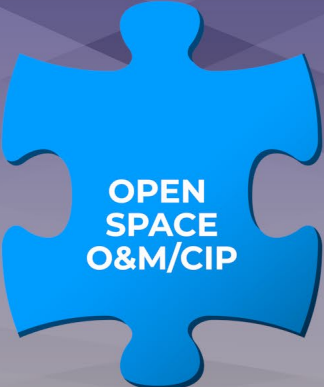
MAINTAIN WHAT WE HAVE TO THE HIGHEST STANDARDS POSSIBLE

PARTNER WITH HISTORIC RESOURCES TO PRESERVE CULTURAL RESOURCES ON OPEN SPACE LANDS

PROVIDE PUBLIC ACCESS IN AREAS THAT PROTECT NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

USE CRITERIA TO GUIDE INFORMED DECISIONS





05  O&M/CIP Process





**THIS**  
*is your*  
**COUNTY**



*Your*  
**OUTDOOR**  
*and*  
**HERITAGE**  
**SPACES**

**Join us and be a part  
of the investment and  
public engagement strategy.**