



About Open Space in Manitou Springs

Few American cities possess more charm and scenic beauty than Manitou Springs. Stunning views of hills and canyons, a large network of trails, natural springs, diverse recreation areas, abundant wildlife habitats and other natural features within and surrounding the city are a big part of what attracts both residents and visitors here.

Determined to preserve the City's beautiful and unique natural features, the citizens of Manitou Springs approved a ballot issue in 1995 authorizing the raising of property and sale taxes in order to acquire land for open space. Following the passage of this initiative, the City created the Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) to develop and administer an Open Space Plan, which is available in the City's Planning Department or online at www.manitousprings-co.gov.

The goal of the Manitou Springs Open Space Program is to support the ethic of preserving land as a living resource for present and future generations. The objective of the program is to acquire and maintain lands that will enhance the quality of life in Manitou Springs by:

- 1) Providing open space for physical, psychological, and social enjoyment.
- 2) Preserving the natural and unique landforms that define Manitou Springs.

Open Space land is acquired through purchase, grants, donations and/or land dedication. Since 1995, the City has been able to obtain approximately 240 acres of Open Space!

How You Can Become Involved

There are many ways individuals, families, groups and businesses can support open space, trails and parks in Manitou Springs.

- Join OSAC or the Park and Recreation Advisory Board (PARAB) or attend meetings as a member of the public. Meetings for OSAC are held on the 4th Mondays of each month and PARAB meetings are the 1st Mondays – both at 7:00 pm.
- Help with special projects such as trail maintenance days, park clean-ups, fundraisers, etc.
- Make a tax-deductible donation towards the purchase of open space land, trees or wildflower seeds, park benches, playground equipment, bike racks or other items.
- Adopt an open space area, trail or park and provide litter clean up, trail maintenance, flower care, safety hazards and vandalism monitoring.
- Donate land to the city for a conservation easement for parks, trails or open space. Owners who donate a conservation easement agree to limit development while retaining ownership of their property.

How to Reach Us

- To become involved in open space activities, contact the Planning Department at (719) 685-4398.
- To become involved in park activities, contact the Public Services Dept. Parks Division at (719) 685-2558.
- To become involved in trail activities, contact the Intemann Trail Committee at (719) 473-4143.

Enjoying the Trails

Keep in mind that some trails cross private property. Please respect private property by staying on trails, obeying no trespassing signs, and leaving no trace of your presence.