
Ute Valley Park Master and Management Plan



'Players' in the Planning Process



Purpose Statement

- Expectations come along with public use of the beautiful natural spaces which surround us. As owners and users of public lands, we're also expected to serve as stewards, making sure the land is protected, restored and preserved for its own sake and for generations to come.
- We can answer the call for stewardship by working together to develop a Ute Valley Park Master and Management Plan that balances preservation of the natural resource with public access and recreational use. Through the planning effort, we can collectively and responsibly forge a path forward for the newly-expanded Park, identifying appropriate recreational uses that respond to community interests while also sustaining the land over time.
- The City of Colorado Springs needs your help and encourages you to actively participate in the public involvement process to develop the Plan. Together, we can ensure Ute Valley Park's continued legacy as a treasured amenity to the neighborhood, community, and region.



Givens

The following points are non-negotiable and set the parameters for the decision-making process for the Ute Valley Park Master and Management Plan.

- The City's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department is legally responsible for design, maintenance, operations and management of all resources for Ute Valley Park.
- The newly-acquired portion of the Park is subject to the requirements and restrictions of the Trails, Open Space and Parks (TOPS) Ordinance. All elements of the Master and Management Plan must conform to the Colorado Springs Parks Rules and Regulations Ordinances.
- The planning process will respect the terms and conditions of existing utility easements, sign easements, and the conservation easement. The conservation easement currently applies only to the portions acquired through the TOPS program.
- In accordance with the Plat and Development Plan, the City is responsible for road improvements along Ute Valley Road, including construction of a round-about southwest of Rockrimmon Boulevard.
- There will be a new Ute Valley trail which will connect to the regional trail system in accordance with the 2010 Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan.
- Implementation of the Master Plan will occur as funding allows.
- Many groups and individuals are interested in and encouraged to help develop the best possible Master and Management Plan; all voices will be equal in the decision-making process.
- The recommended Master and Management Plan will be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for approval.



Common Language

- Master Plan
 - What it is
 - What it isn't
- Management Plan
 - What it is
 - What it isn't
- TOPS Ordinance
- Conservation Easement
- Regional Park
- Multi-use Trail



Where
we are in
the
Ute Valley
Park
Planning
Process



Tonight's Workshop Agenda

I. Opening

II. Issues and Guiding Principles

Small Group Work

III. Site Analysis

IV. Small Group Work and Report-Out

Mapping and Degree of Support Response

V. Next Steps / Wrap-Up



Ground Rules for the Process



Issues and Guiding Principles



Meetings-in-a-Box & Intercept Surveys

**Ute Valley Park Master and Management Plan
Meetings-in-a-Box**

Group Response Form Results

Please list 5 aspects of Ute Valley Park that your group values most and that you agree you want to keep and / or enhance:

Categorized Responses

Trails

- Rustic / natural trails – no concrete trails; maintain variety of trails
- Keep park multi-use friendly
- Lots of trails – keep all
- Maintain multi-use aspect of the trails, including mountain biking and hiking
- Trail variety
- Variety of trails / routes
- Dirt paths only
- Keep it multi-use, non-motorized hiking / biking
- Keep some trails and eliminate unsustainable trails, restore natural beauty
- Improve hiking trails and eliminate unsafe trails, restore natural beauty
- No dog park; dogs on leashes; trash cans at all trailheads
- Better signage at trailheads to include trail map with distances; rattlesnake warnings
- Make a hiking-only area on west side of the multi-use trails, throughout rest of park for hiking and biking
- Shared trails
- Separate trails for bikers and hikers
- Do not connect with Greenway Trail System
- Multi-use trails – hiking, biking, moderate, easy
- Trail variety – technical, moderate, easy
- Keeping the social trails that currently exist / amount of trails and use level
- Separation of biking and walking trails so hikers are safe from bikers
- Love the trails, wish there were more with preservation in mind
- Bike / walkers co-exist

Keep Natural / 'Wildness'

- Natural character
- Keep it natural, including geology, biology, ecology
- Natural conditions
- Natural setting
- Wildlife

KezziahWatkins | September 2, 2014

**Ute Valley Park Master and Management Plan
Summary of Patron Survey Results**

June and July 2014

1. Ute Valley Park by the June and July numbers. Demographic questions?

How did you get here today?

Mode	Percentage
drive	61%
walk	26%
bike	13%

How far did you travel to get here?

Distance	Percentage
<1 mile	99%
1-5 miles	36%
5-10 miles	17%
>10 miles	8%

How often do you visit UV Park?

Frequency	Percentage
3+/week	40%
1/week	23%
1-2/month	21%
1-2/year	16%

What activity did you participate in today?

Activity	Percentage
hike/walk	45%
run	18%
trail/work	22%
special ops training	9%
yoga	2%
bike	1%
dogwalk	1%
photos	1%
bouldering	1%

What entrance did you enter the park today?

Entrance	Percentage
Vindicator/Main/Front	68%
Golden Hills Road	23%
private	4%
Popes Valley	4%
HP	1%

UVE - Summary of Patron Survey Results
June/July 2014
page 1 of 7

Ute Valley Park Master and Management Plan

Note: This list of issues was derived from the group and individual responses from the Meetings-in-a-Box and from the responses from the Park intercept survey.

Issues Summary

Trails:

- Variety
- Uses
- Social/rogue trails
- Connectivity
- Width
- Erosion and maintenance

Keep Park's Natural/"Wild" Character

Park Maintenance:

- Erosion and water run-off
- Sustainability of natural resource
- Weeds
- Trash

Dogs:

- Leash regulations
- Off-leash area/dog park
- Waste clean-up

Signage:

- Route-finding
- Trail maps/rating/etiquette
- Interpretive information, e.g. historical and geological

Park Management

- Enforcement of Park regulations
- Education of users

Parking and Access:

- Availability of parking
- Park entry points and access routes

Park Uses:

- Recreational uses
- User conflicts

Development:

- Porta-potties, trash cans, dog waste sacks at trailheads
- Benches along trails
- Lights
- Pavilion

Fire Mitigation/Forest Health Management

Lights



Guiding Principles

The following principles were drawn from consistent responses received from the Park user intercept surveys and from the group and individual responses submitted from the Meetings-in-a-Box. They are intended to serve as guideposts as we work together to develop the Ute Valley Park Master and Management Plan.

Preserve and Protect the Park's

Natural Character:

- Maintain the rustic nature
- Preserve the natural beauty
- Keep the feel of wilderness
- As good stewards, preserve the Park for future generations

Manage the Trail System:

- Develop a well-defined and well-maintained trail system
- Meet a variety of users' needs
- Connect to the regional trail system

Manage and Sustain the Park:

- Implement the Master and Management Plan
- Develop and implement a maintenance plan
- Manage and mitigate erosion throughout the Park
- Manage vegetative growth to mitigate fire danger without dramatically changing the Park
- Enforce Park rules
- Create a safe Park where all users can get along
- Anticipate and manage increased use
- Provide adequate parking

Involve the Public:

- Solicit and value public input
- Support the Park with volunteers and partnerships



Small Group Response Form

1. Does your group believe there are any major issues missing from the list of issues? If so, please list:

2. Is your group comfortable with the Guiding Principles? Do you believe there are any missing? If so, please list:



Existing Conditions & Site Assessment



Physical Resources

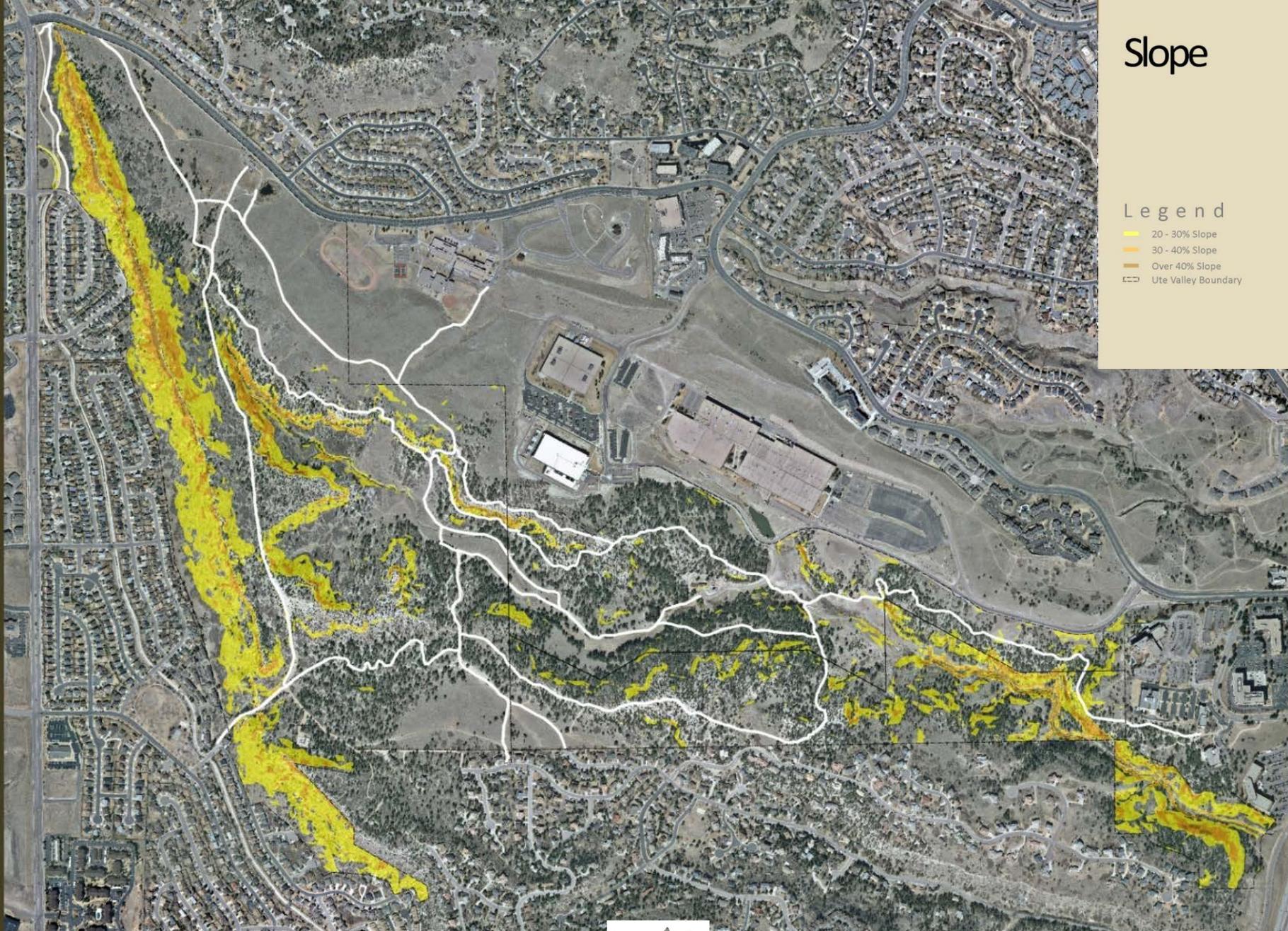
- Slope
- Aspect – winter shadows
- Elevation
- Drainage Ways
- Soils
- Geology



Slope

Legend

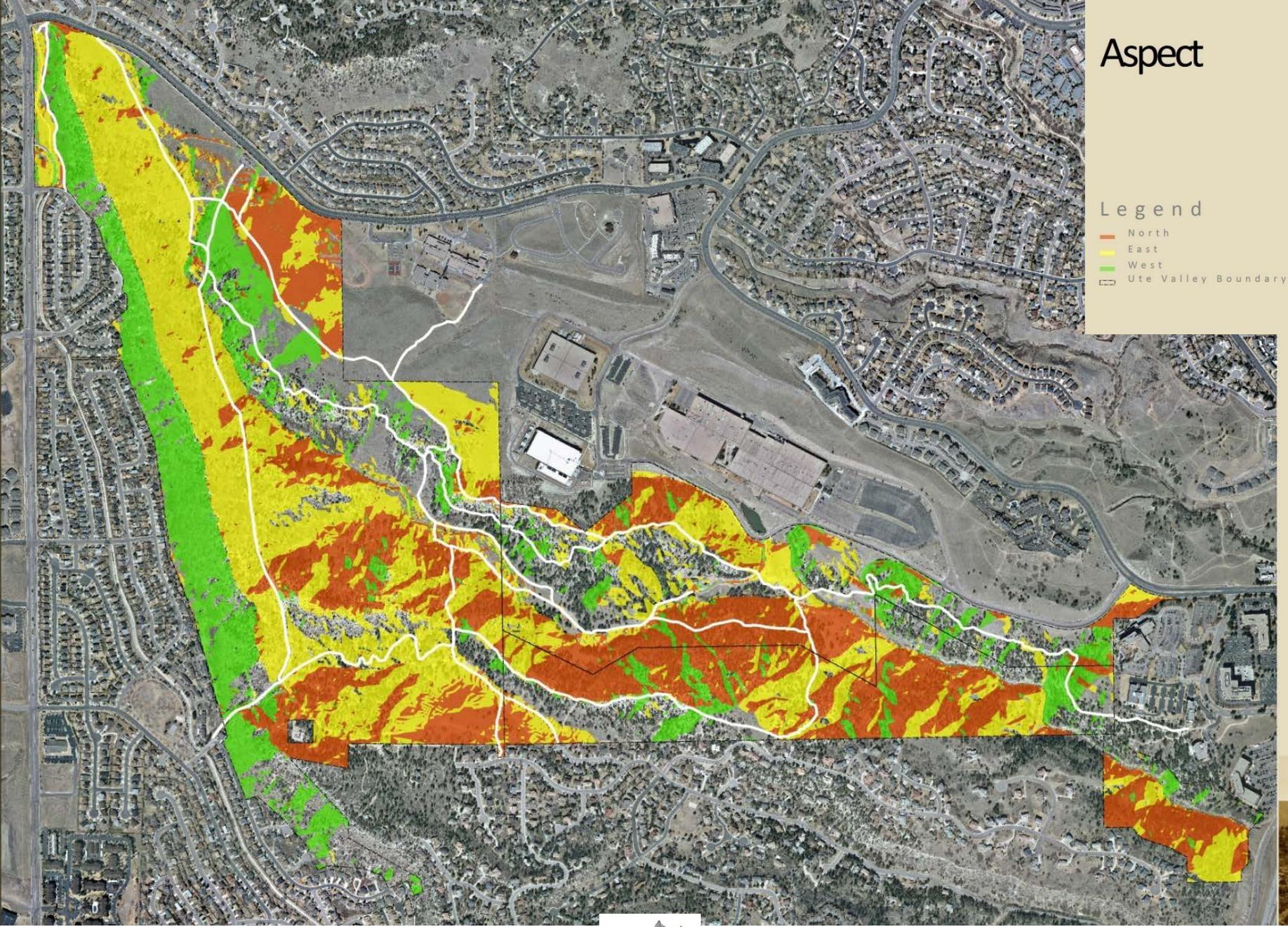
- 20 - 30% Slope
- 30 - 40% Slope
- Over 40% Slope
- Ute Valley Boundary



Aspect

Legend

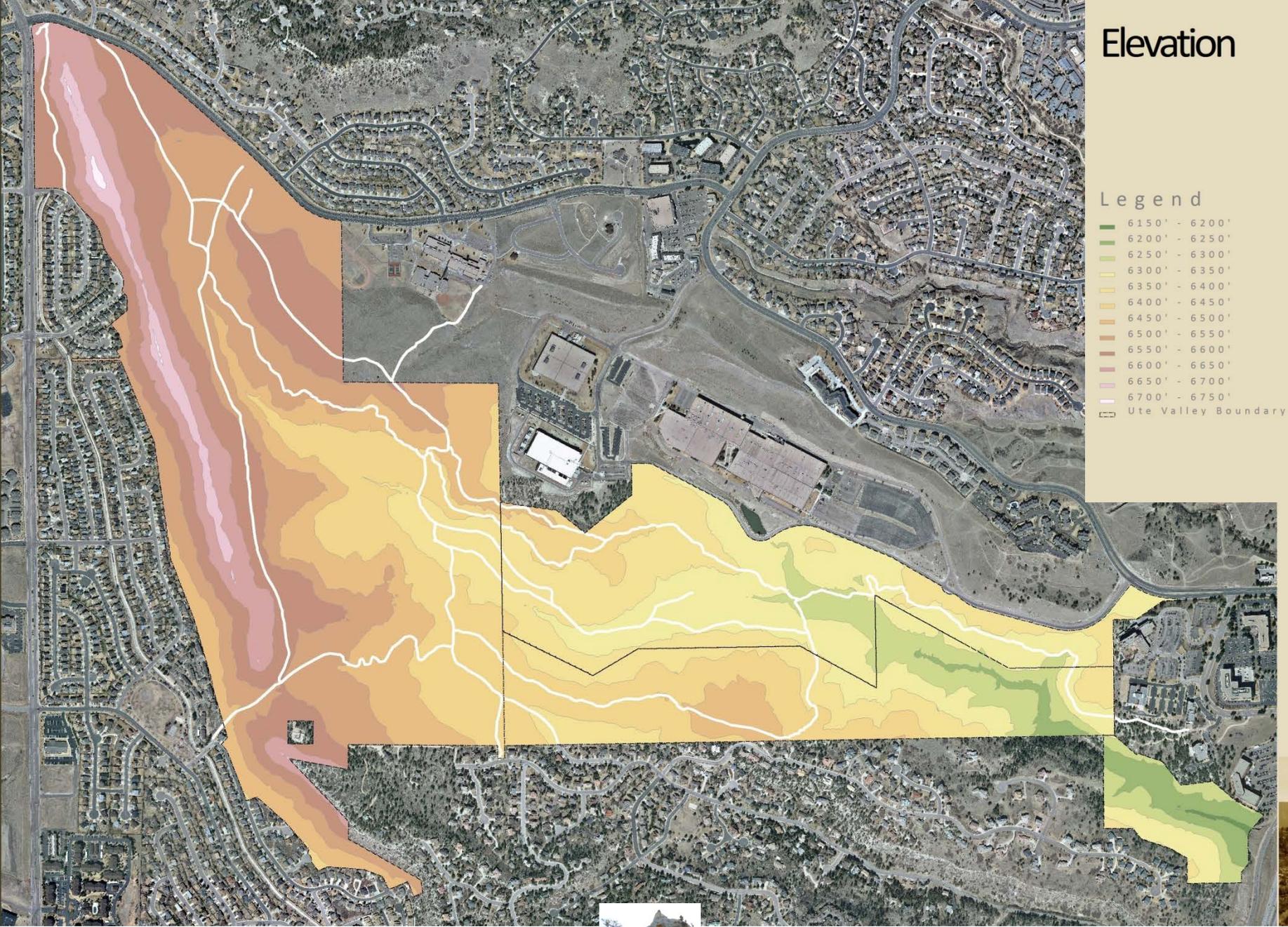
- North
- East
- West
- Ute Valley Boundary



Elevation

Legend

- 6150' - 6200'
- 6200' - 6250'
- 6250' - 6300'
- 6300' - 6350'
- 6350' - 6400'
- 6400' - 6450'
- 6450' - 6500'
- 6500' - 6550'
- 6550' - 6600'
- 6600' - 6650'
- 6650' - 6700'
- 6700' - 6750'
- Ute Valley Boundary



Drainage

Legend

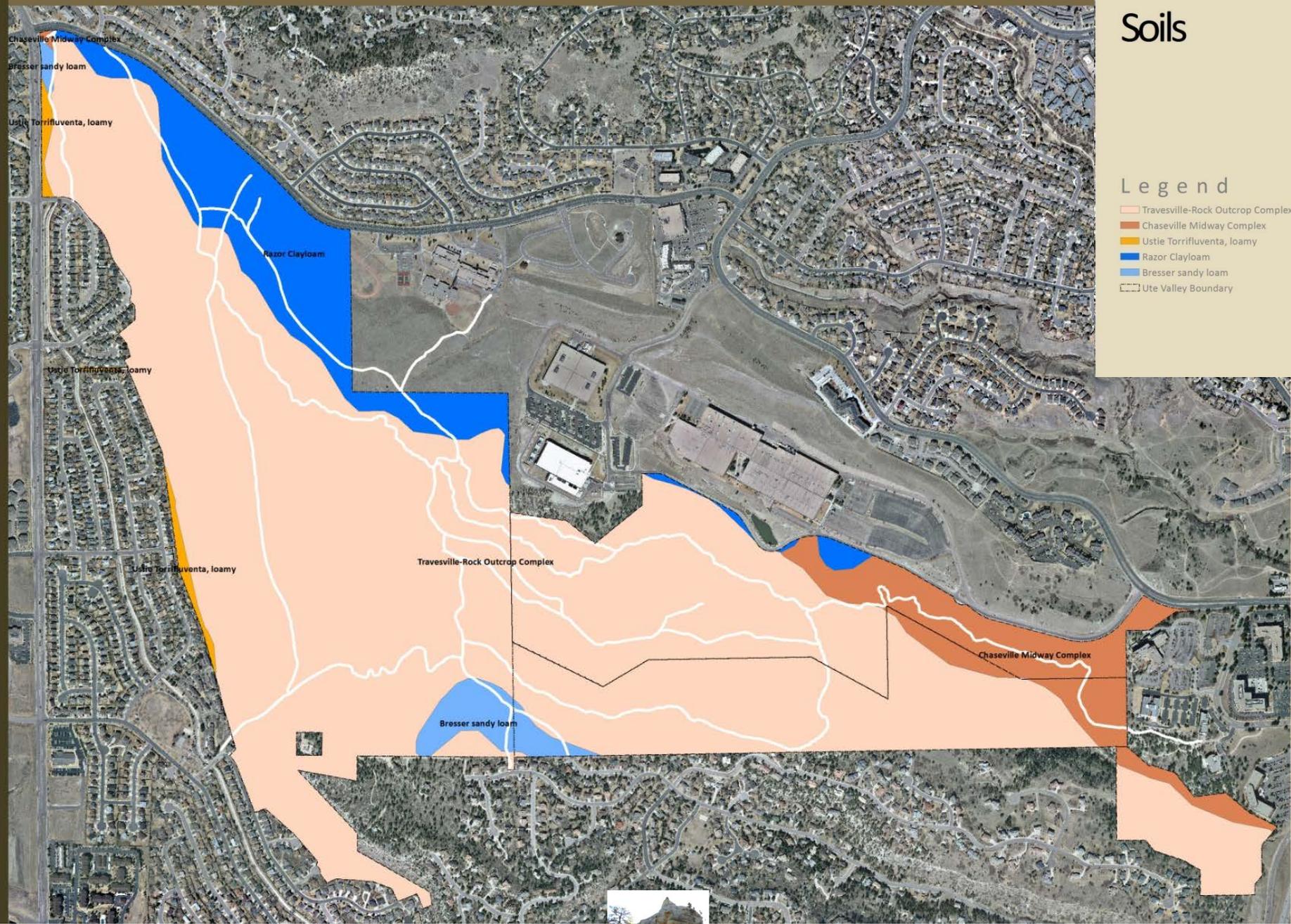
-  Drainage
-  Hydrology
-  Ute Valley Boundary



Soils

Legend

- Travesville-Rock Outcrop Complex
- Chaseville Midway Complex
- Ustie Torrifluventa, loamy
- Razor Clayloam
- Bresser sandy loam
- Ute Valley Boundary

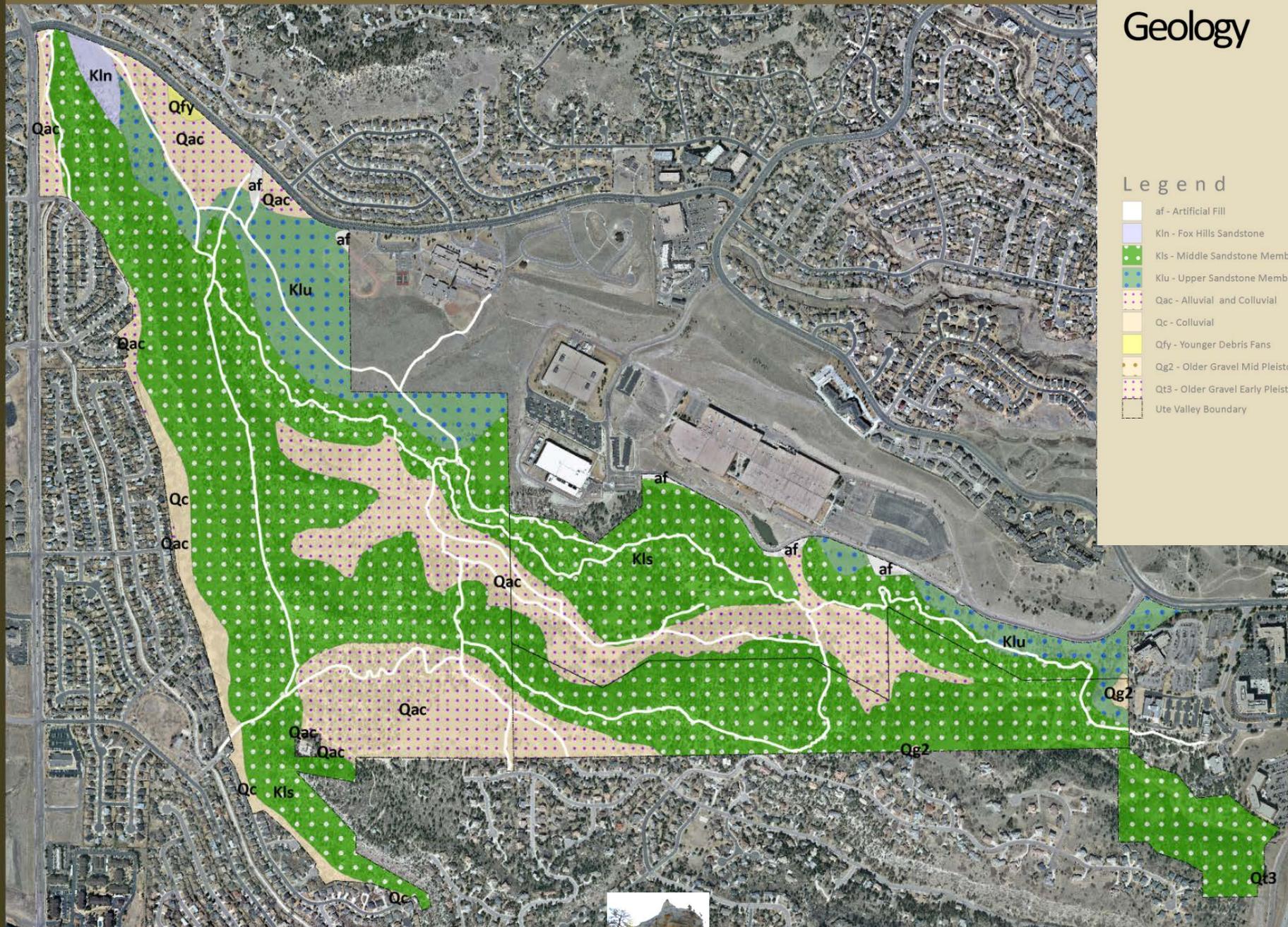








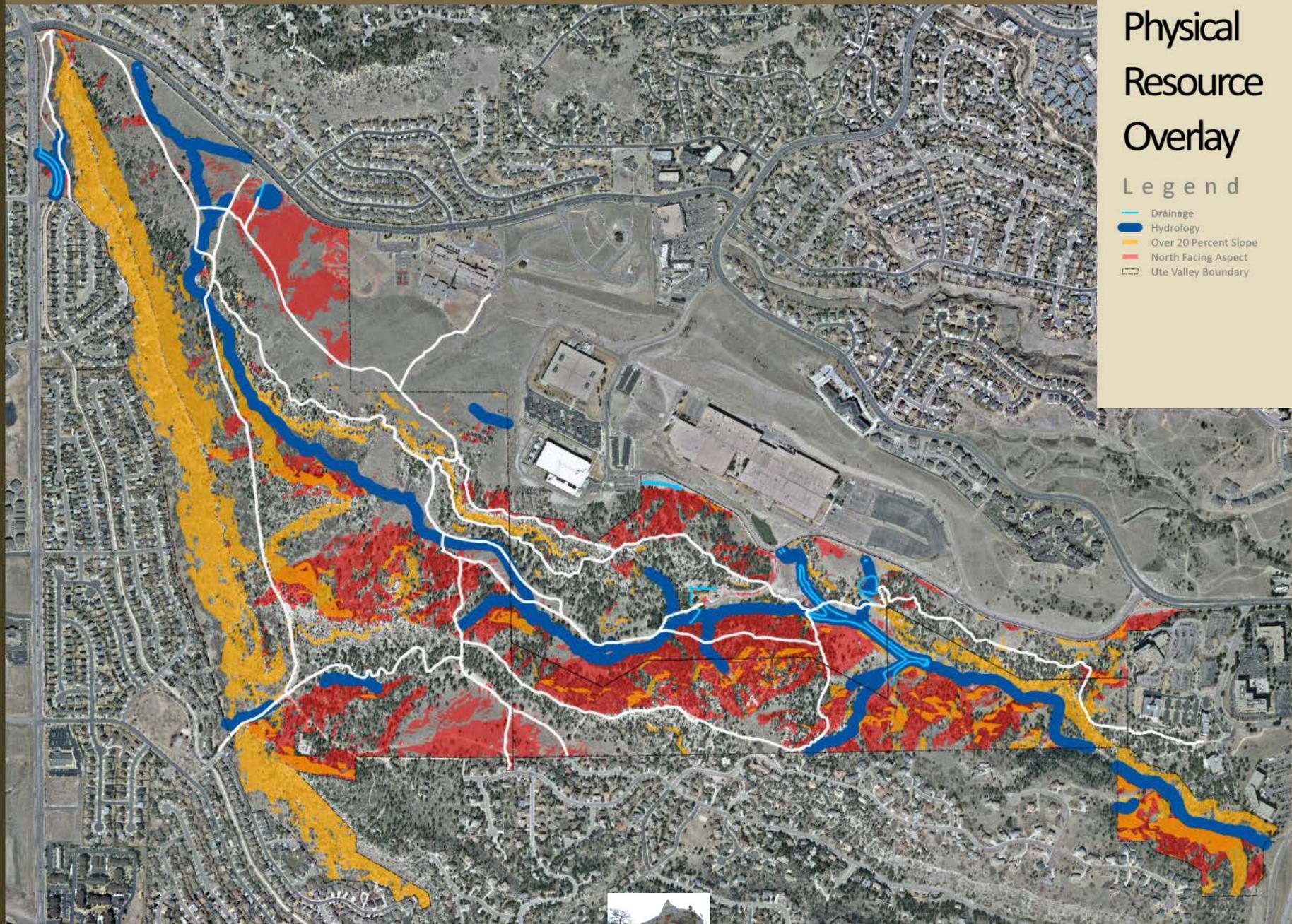
Geology



Physical Resource Overlay

Legend

- Drainage
- Hydrology
- Over 20 Percent Slope
- North Facing Aspect
- Ute Valley Boundary

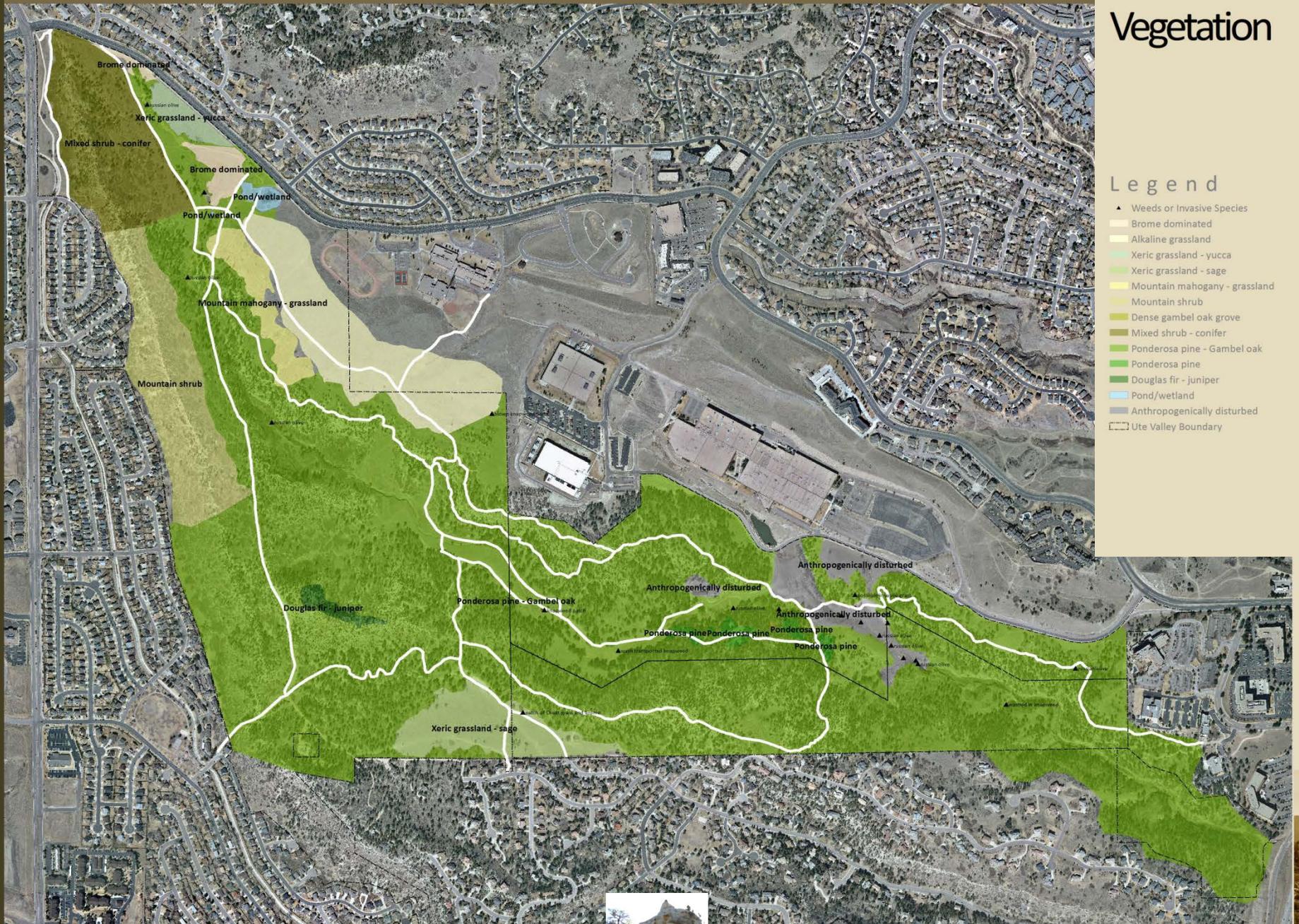


Biological and Cultural Resources

- Forest and Vegetation
- Wildlife Habitat
- Archeological and Paleontology Resources



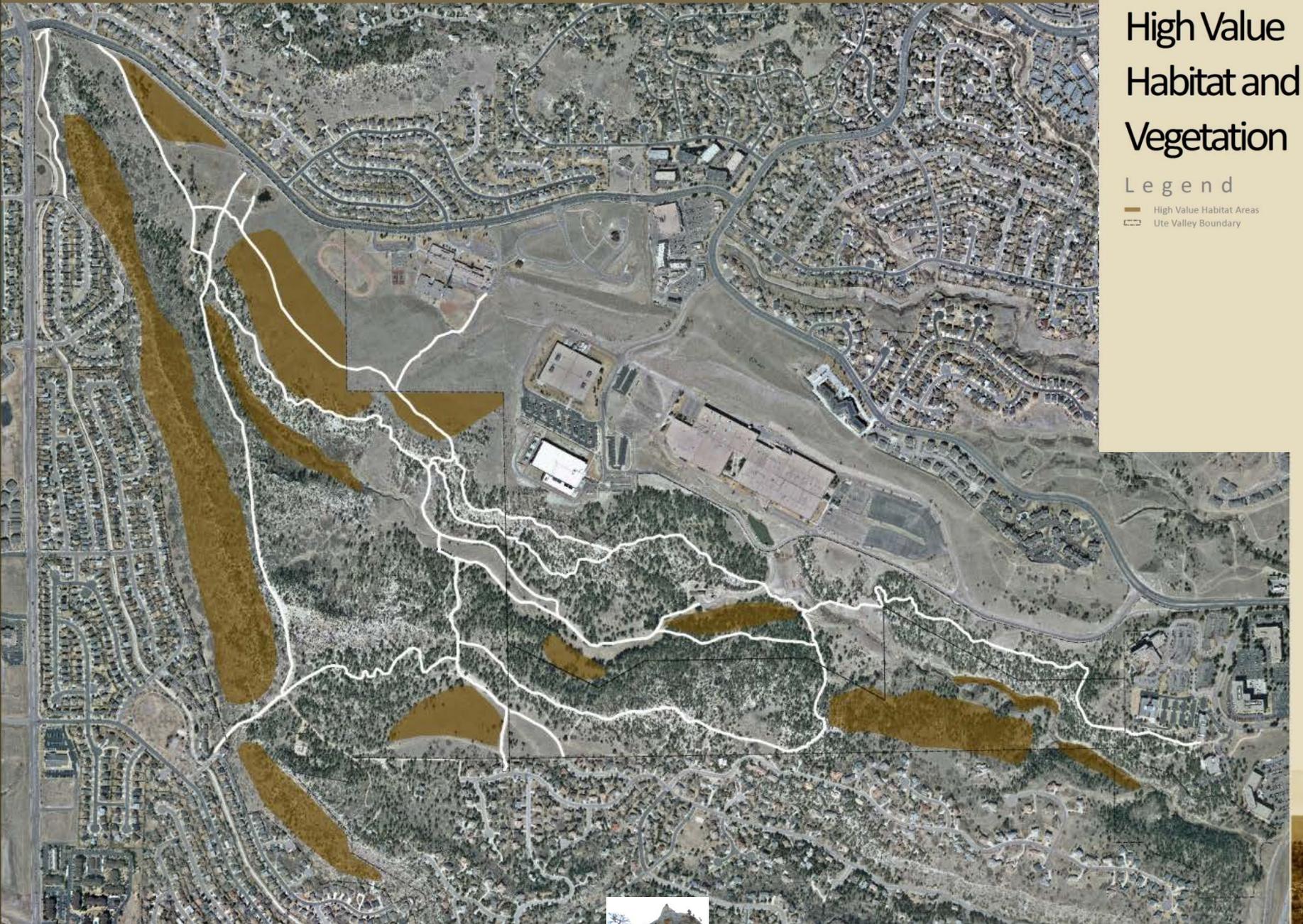
Vegetation



High Value Habitat and Vegetation

Legend

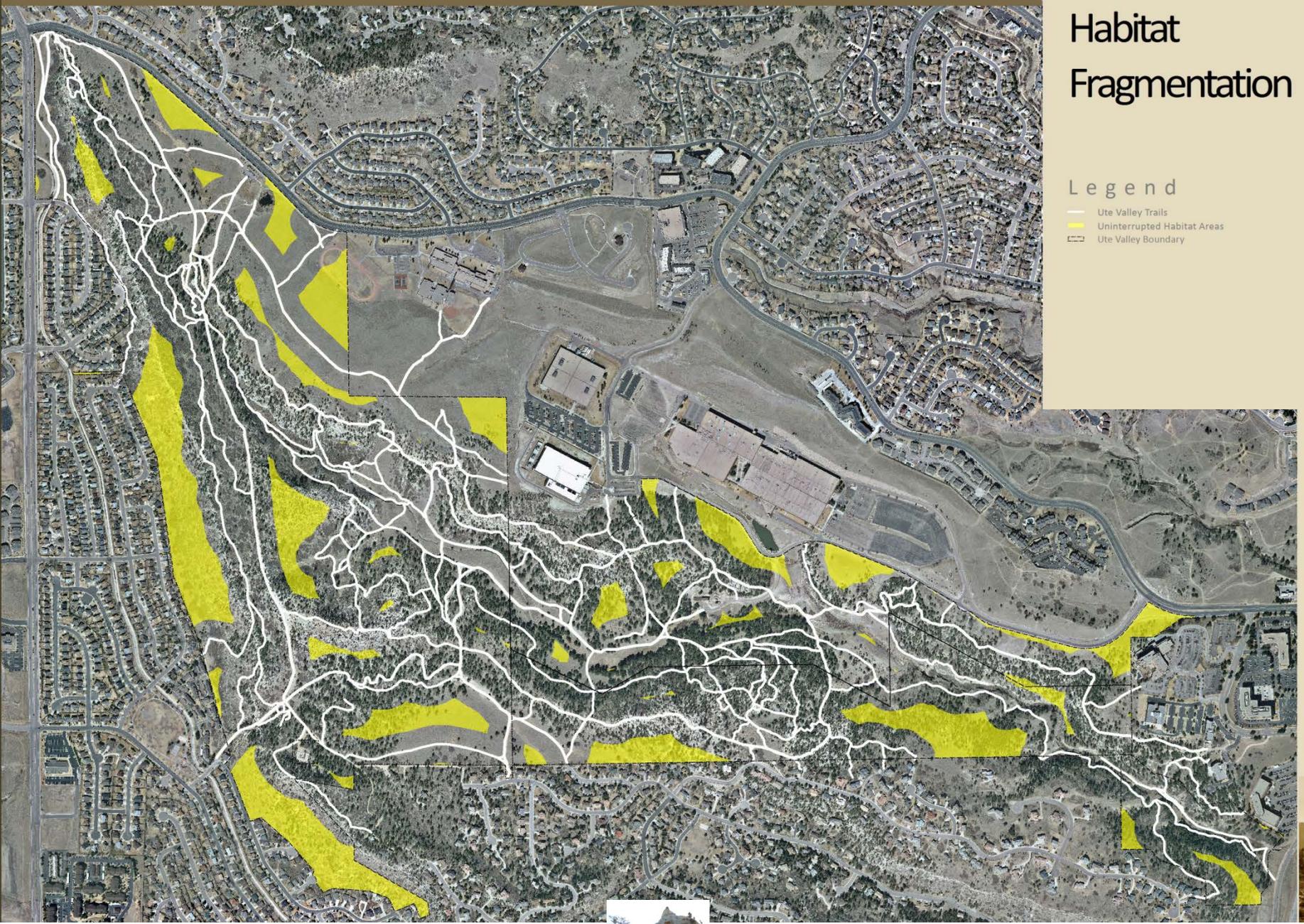
- High Value Habitat Areas
- Ute Valley Boundary



Habitat Fragmentation

Legend

- Ute Valley Trails
- Uninterrupted Habitat Areas
- ▭ Ute Valley Boundary



Archeological & Paleontological Resources



culturally modified trees



collector pile

projectile points



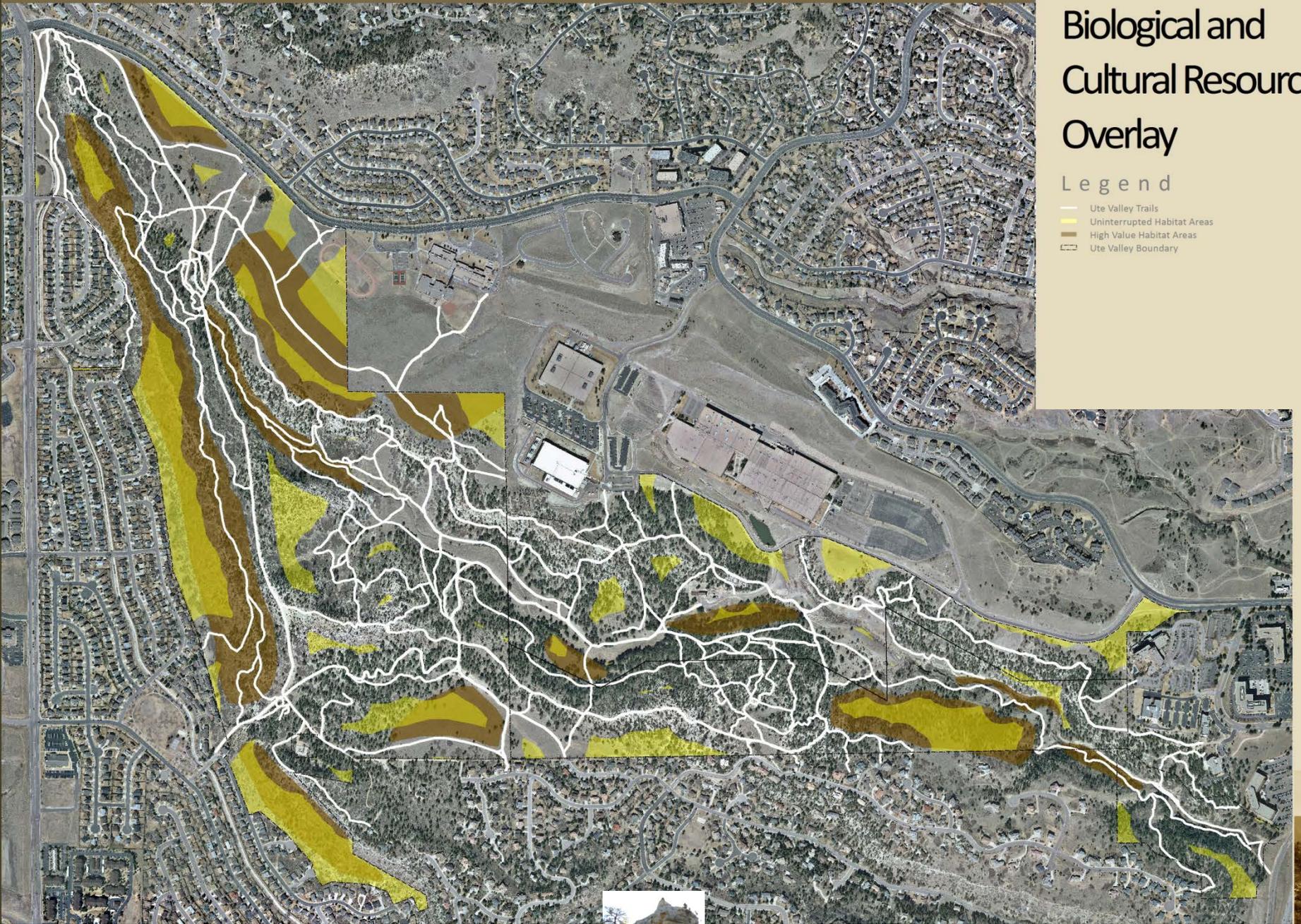
shield petroglyph



Biological and Cultural Resource Overlay

Legend

- Ute Valley Trails
- Uninterrupted Habitat Areas
- High Value Habitat Areas
- Ute Valley Boundary



Management and Social Influences

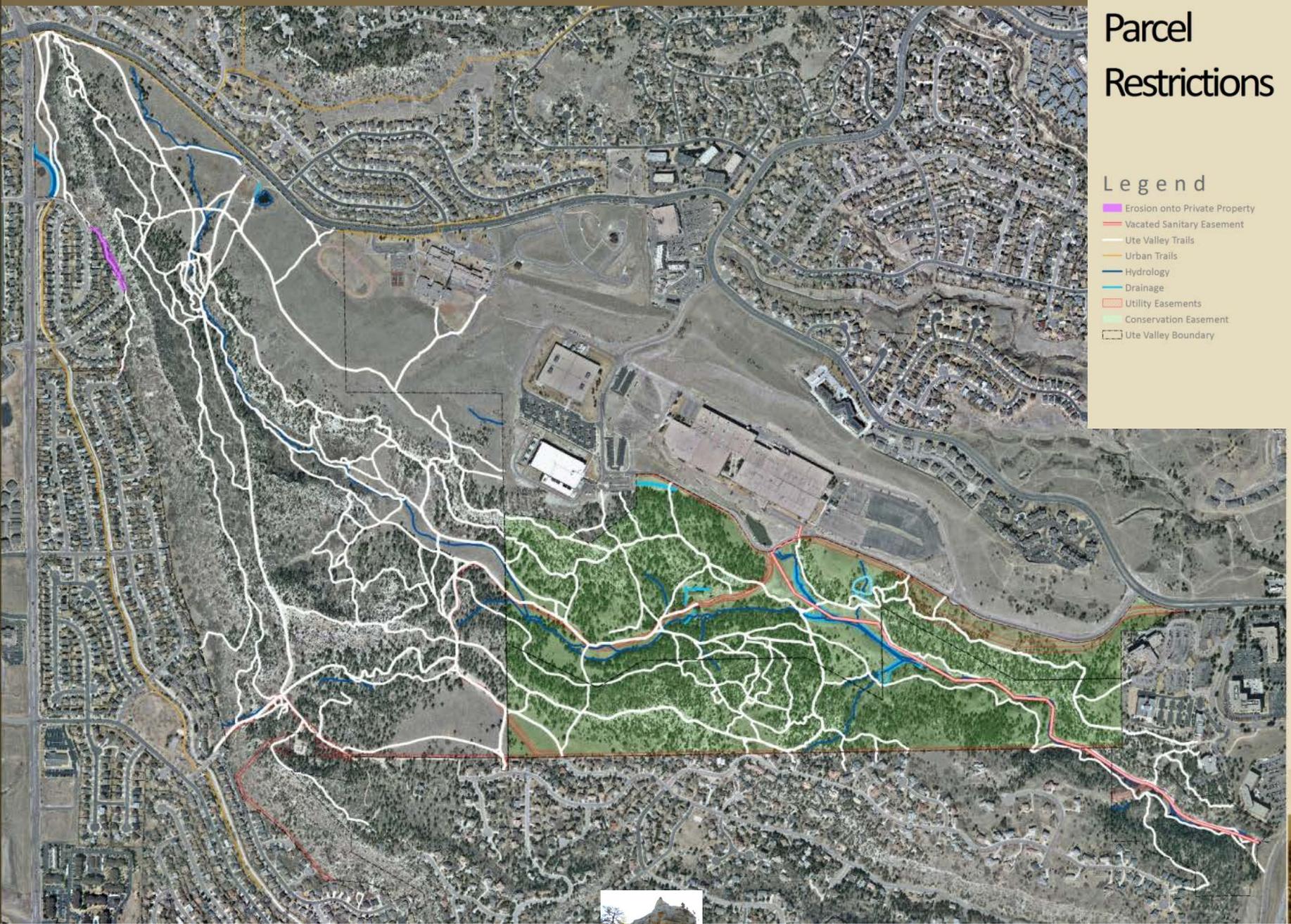
- Parcel Restrictions
- Departmental Policies, Practices and Supporting Documents
- City Ordinances and Practices
- Trailheads and Parking
- Existing Trails
- Trail System Concepts



Parcel Restrictions

Legend

- Erosion onto Private Property
- Vacated Sanitary Easement
- Ute Valley Trails
- Urban Trails
- Hydrology
- Drainage
- Utility Easements
- Conservation Easement
- Ute Valley Boundary

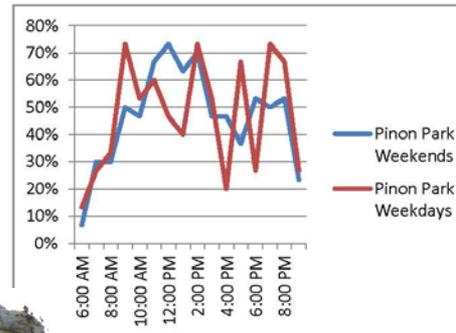
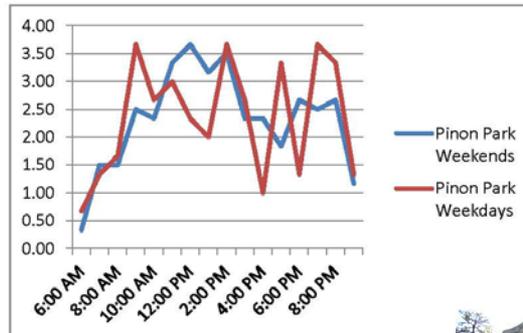
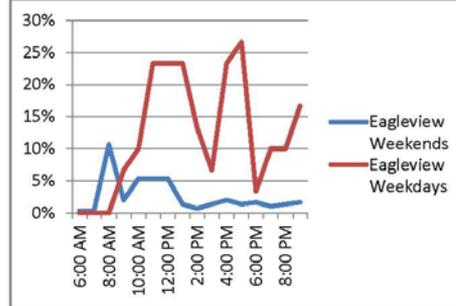
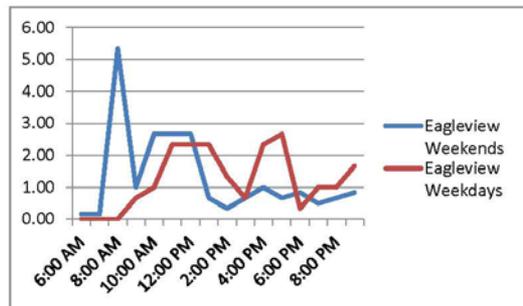
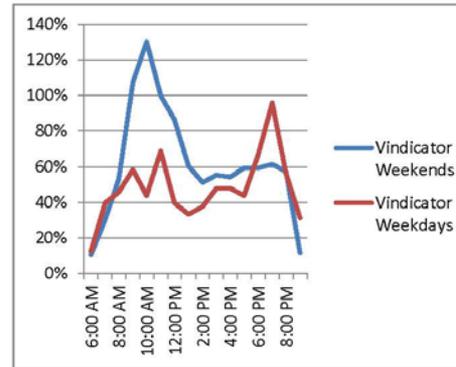
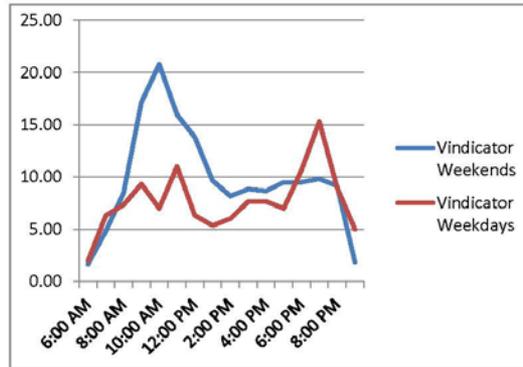


Departmental Policies & City Ordinances

- Multi-use Trails Policy
- Passive Recreation Criteria within Open Space
- Pond
- ADA and OPDMD-ADA
- Hours of operation
- Damage to park property and resources
- Non-motorized trail designation
- Domestic animals

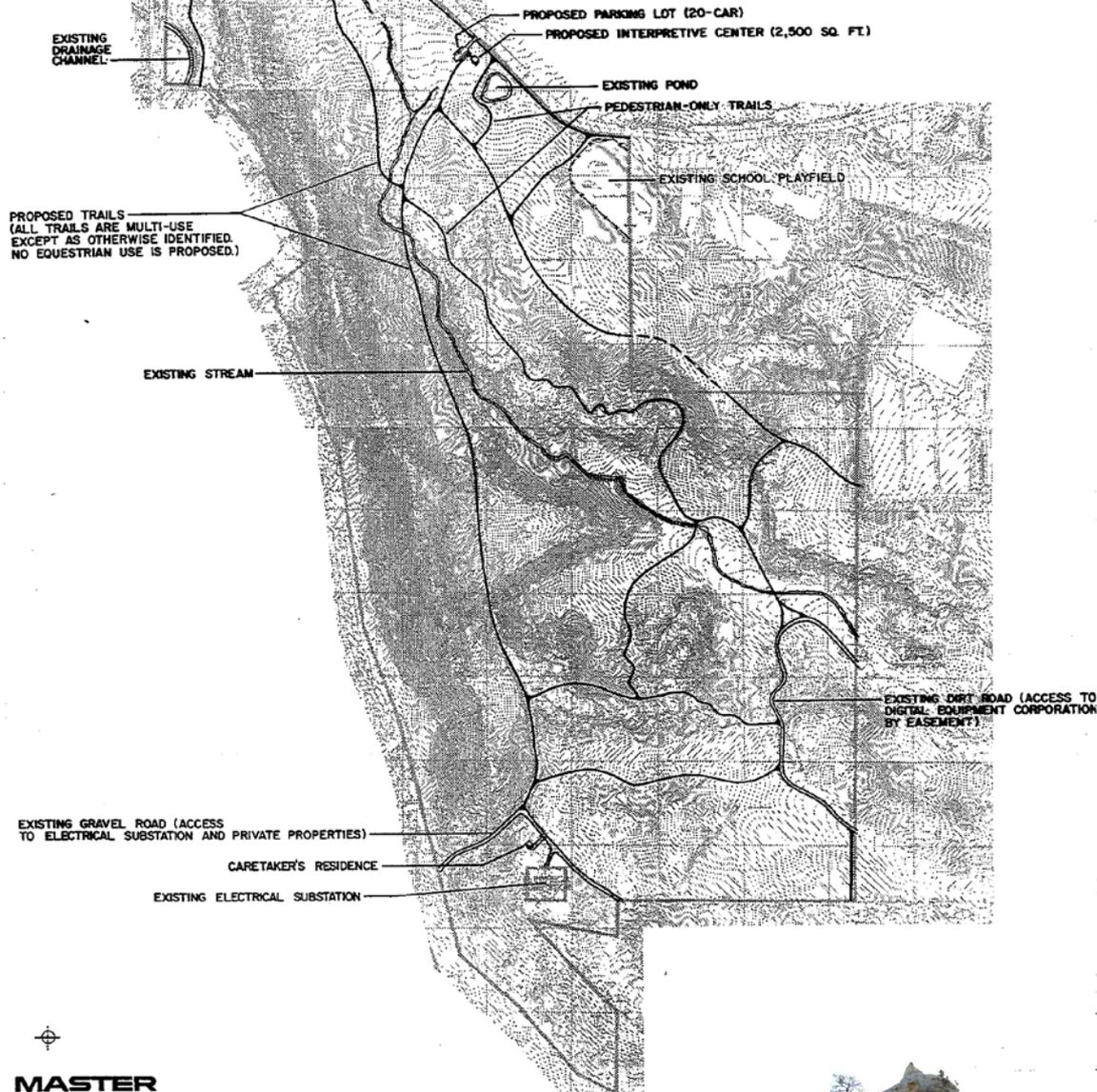


Parking Survey Findings



1991

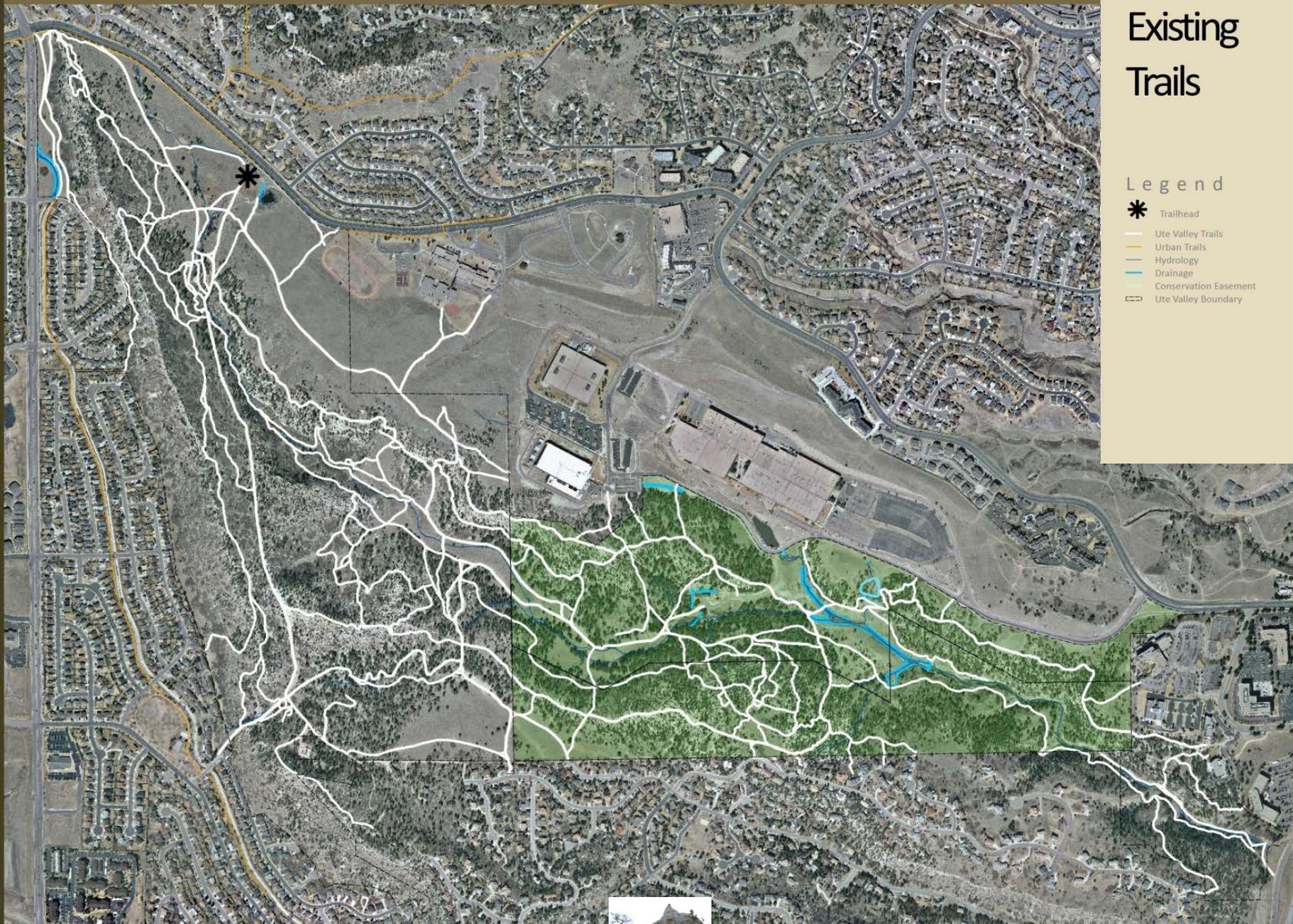
Ute Valley Park Master Plan



Existing Trails

Legend

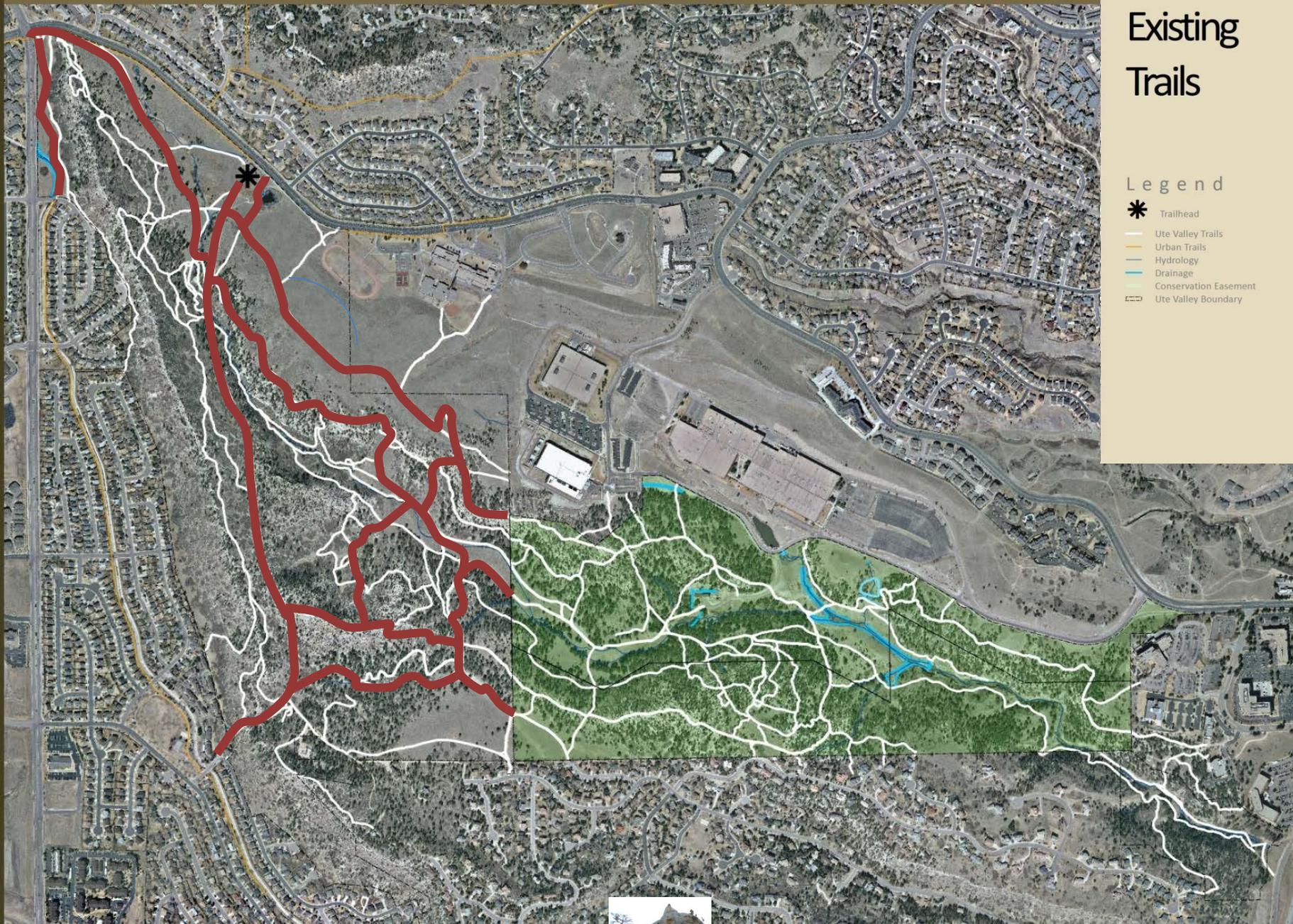
-  Trailhead
-  Ute Valley Trails
-  Urban Trails
-  Hydrology
-  Drainage
-  Conservation Easement
-  Ute Valley Boundary



Existing Trails

Legend

-  Trailhead
-  Ute Valley Trails
-  Urban Trails
-  Hydrology
-  Drainage
-  Conservation Easement
-  Ute Valley Boundary









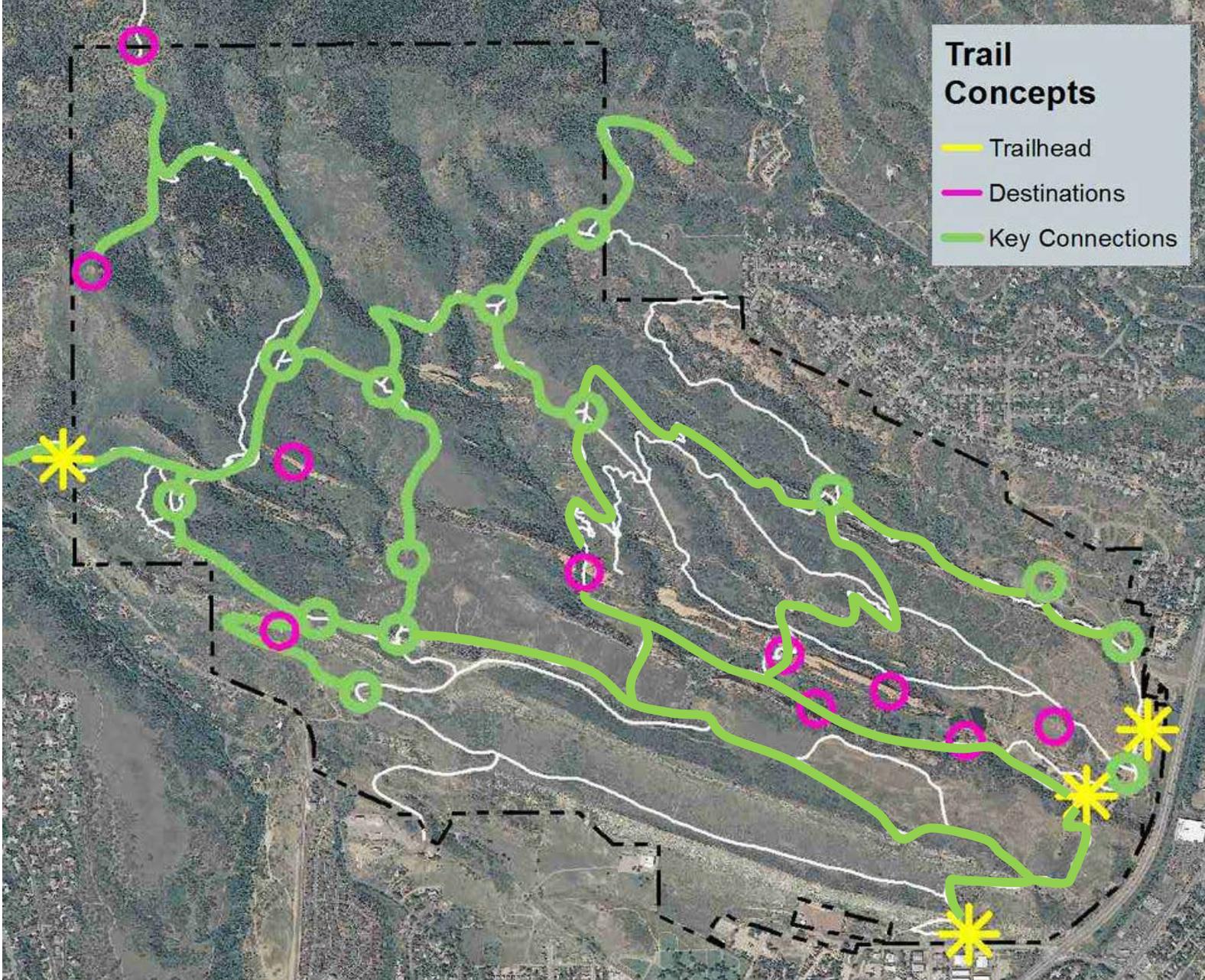






Trail Concepts

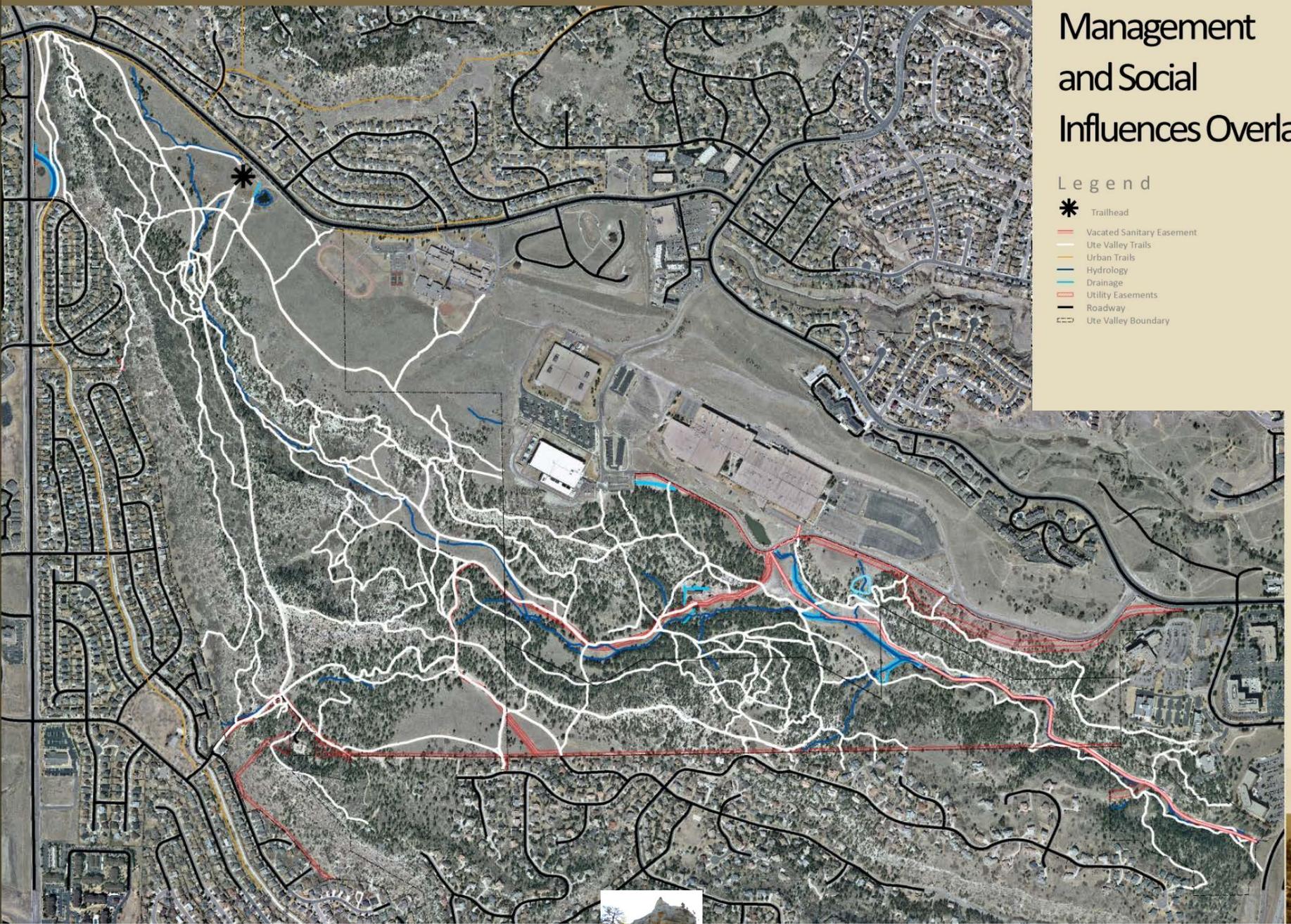
- Trailhead
- Destinations
- Key Connections



Management and Social Influences Overlay

Legend

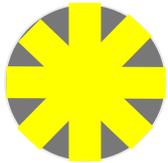
- * Trailhead
- Vacated Sanitary Easement
- Ute Valley Trails
- Urban Trails
- Hydrology
- Drainage
- Utility Easements
- Roadway
- Ute Valley Boundary



Mapping Exercise – Kit-of-Parts

MAP

SELF-ADHESIVE SYMBOLS



Trailheads

Neighborhood access



Park destinations

Undisturbed habitat area



MARKER



Regional trail location - east to west – **RED MARKER**



Multi-use trails – **BLACK MARKER**



Other development – other colors



Small Group Instructions

Task #1

Your group has the opportunity to design Ute Valley Park as you would like to see it. To illustrate your design, you have a “kit of parts” that contains a variety of Park elements. Some of those elements your group may elect to place in the Park, and others you must place.

Before you begin focusing on your map, discuss as a group what ideas you have for the Park’s future. Try hard to genuinely listen to all perspectives and to collaborate as a group so that the map you submit at the end of this exercise truly reflects your whole group, rather than just a few vocal individuals.



Small Group Instructions

You MAY place as many as your group agrees to place of the following:

-  Multi-use trails – **BLACK MARKER**
-  Trailheads
-  Neighborhood connections
-  Park destinations
-  Other development – other colors markers

Your group MUST place the following:

-  A minimum of three undisturbed preservation and habitat area
-  Regional trail location - east to west – **RED MARKER**



Small Group Instructions

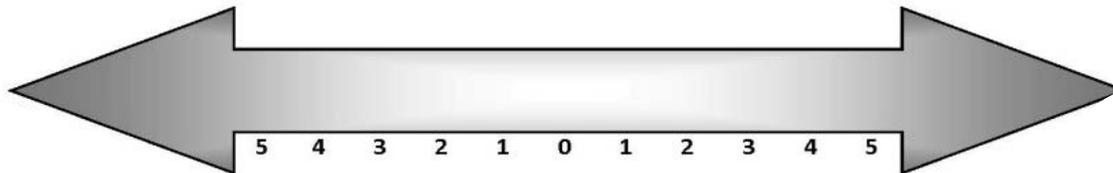
Task #2

Your second group task is called **“Where’s the Balance?”**

Making Master and Management Plan decisions requires balancing a number of important factors. Keeping in mind the Guiding Principles for our development of the Plan, please take a look at the three factors indicated on each of the three arrows in the upper right hand corner of the map.

Following a discussion by your group, indicate what your group believes the balance should be on each of the three factors. To show what your group’s suggested balance on each, circle the one single number on the continuum that reflects your group’s preference.

Choosing to circle ‘5’ on either end of the continuum indicates your group’s strong preference for that choice. Circling ‘0’ indicates your group has no preference at all. Please also explain the reasons for your group’s rating below each arrow.



Small Group Report Out



Next Steps

- Website posting -
www.springsgov.com/UteValleyMP
- Summary of tonight and notification of 'homework' via email – so sign in & email !!
- Join us Wednesday November 12th 6-8:00pm

Thank you - **thank you** - **THANK YOU**
THANK YOU

