
Ute Valley Park Master and Management Plan



Where we are in the Ute Valley Park Planning Process

Assess Existing Park Conditions *June - September 2014*

- City staff , consultant team, and Resource Advisory Group

Identify Issues *June - September 2014*

- Meetings-in-a-Box - On-site surveys
- Community Meeting #1: 5:30 -8:30 p.m. September 23, Eagleview Middle School,
1325 Vindicator Drive

Develop Possible Approaches *September - October 2014*

- City staff, consultant team, and Resource Advisory Group

Review and Respond to Possible Approaches *November 2014*

- Community Meeting #2: 6 -8 p.m. November 12, Eagleview Middle School

Prepare Draft Master/Management Plan *November 2014 - January 2015*

- City staff and consultant team

Review Draft Master/Management Plan *January 2015*

- Online - Community Open House: 5 -7 p.m. January 27, Eagleview Middle School

Prepare and Approve Final Master and Management Plan *March 2015*

- TOPS Working Committee - Parks and Recreation Advisory Board



Tonight's Workshop Agenda

I. Opening

II. Baseline Master Plan and Expanded Alternatives

Review what you said in September and new information

Baseline Master Plan and Expanded Alternatives

Clarification and Advocacy

III. Small Group Work / Report-Out

IV. Next Steps / Wrap-Up



Ground Rules for the Process

You agreed that you would...

- Say what you think
- Make sure that everyone in your group has an equal chance to voice his or her perspective
- Listen carefully and with respect to the opinions and beliefs of others
- Be open to compromise



What we heard at Workshop 1



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:

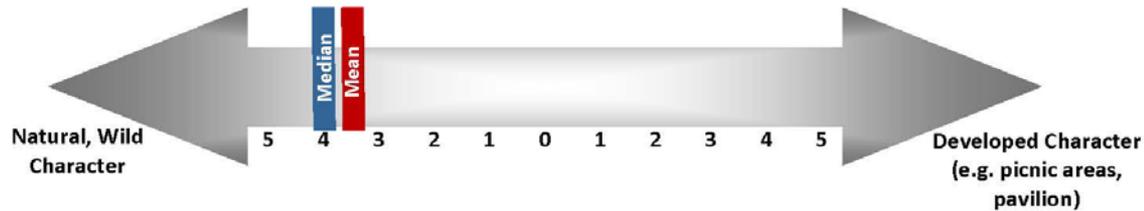
- Solicit and value public input
- Support the Park with volunteers and partnerships



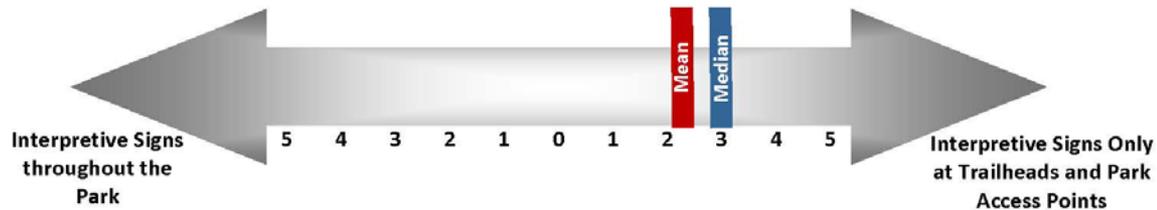
Mapping Exercise Summary

Where's the Balance

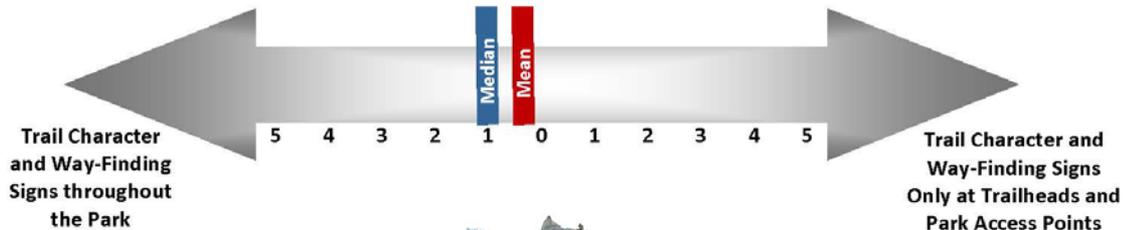
Factor #1: Natural or Developed Character?



Factor #2: Location of Interpretive Signs



Factor #3: Location of Trail Character and Way-Finding Signs



Mapping Exercise Summary

Maps

Common Themes:

Protecting natural/wild character
Preserving grassland landscape
surrounding the Vindicator Trailhead
Creating 15+ acre undisturbed
preservation and habitat areas by
closing social trails
Concerns about drainage and erosion
Destinations
Maintain current access locations
Preserving ridge top
Preserving riparian corridor
Bike park area
Disc golf course

Interesting and Possible Ideas:

Regional trail aligned within the grade
appropriate, heavily impacted, existing
trail corridor
Regional Trail connecting to the Douglas
Creek and Flying W regional trails
Regional Trail connecting to Spine Trail at
existing connection along Rockrimmon
Boulevard
Limited sustainable access into high
value habitat areas
Designate and manage area for
bouldering
Designated bird watching area



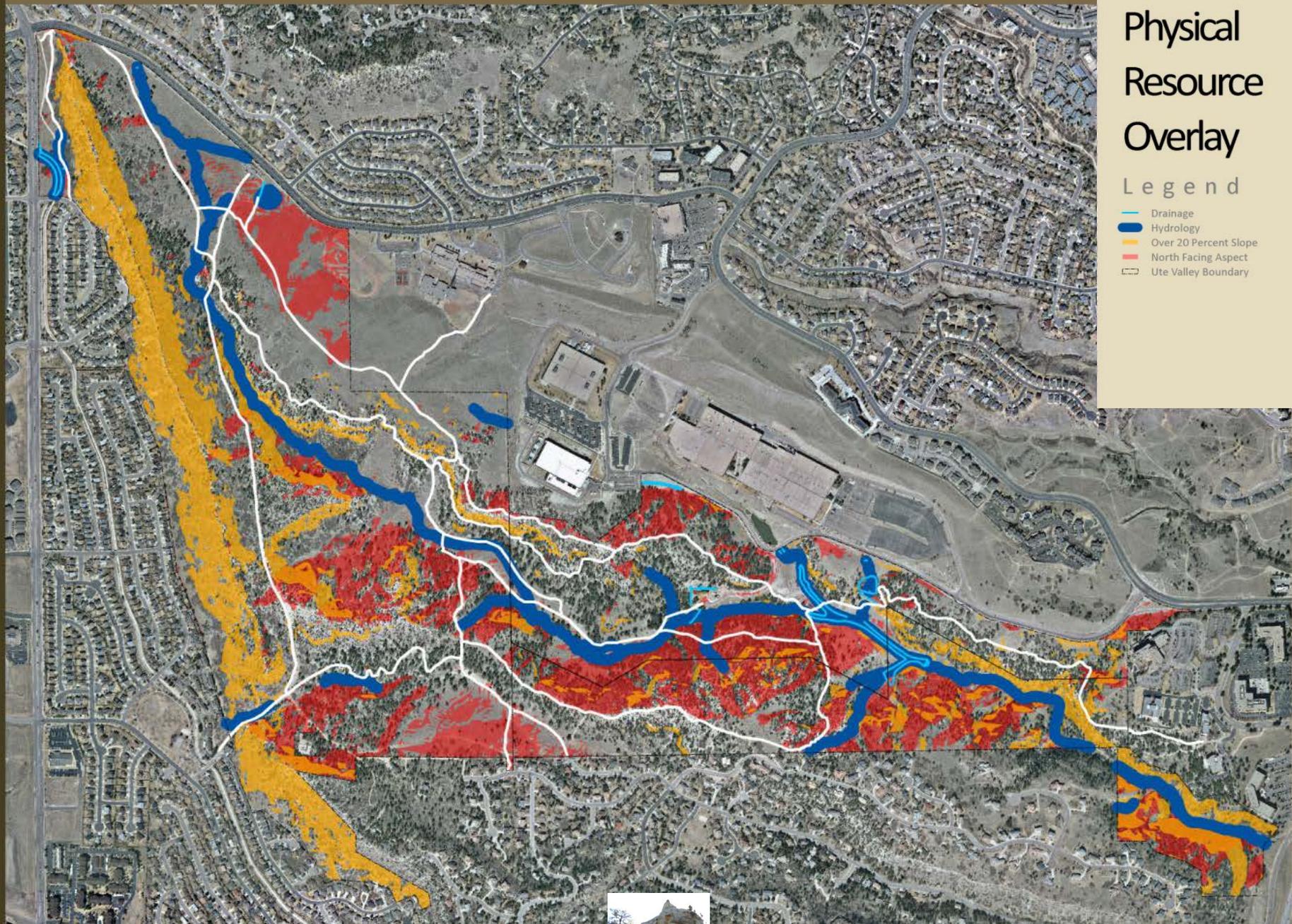
Baseline Master Plan and Expanded Alternatives



Physical Resource Overlay

Legend

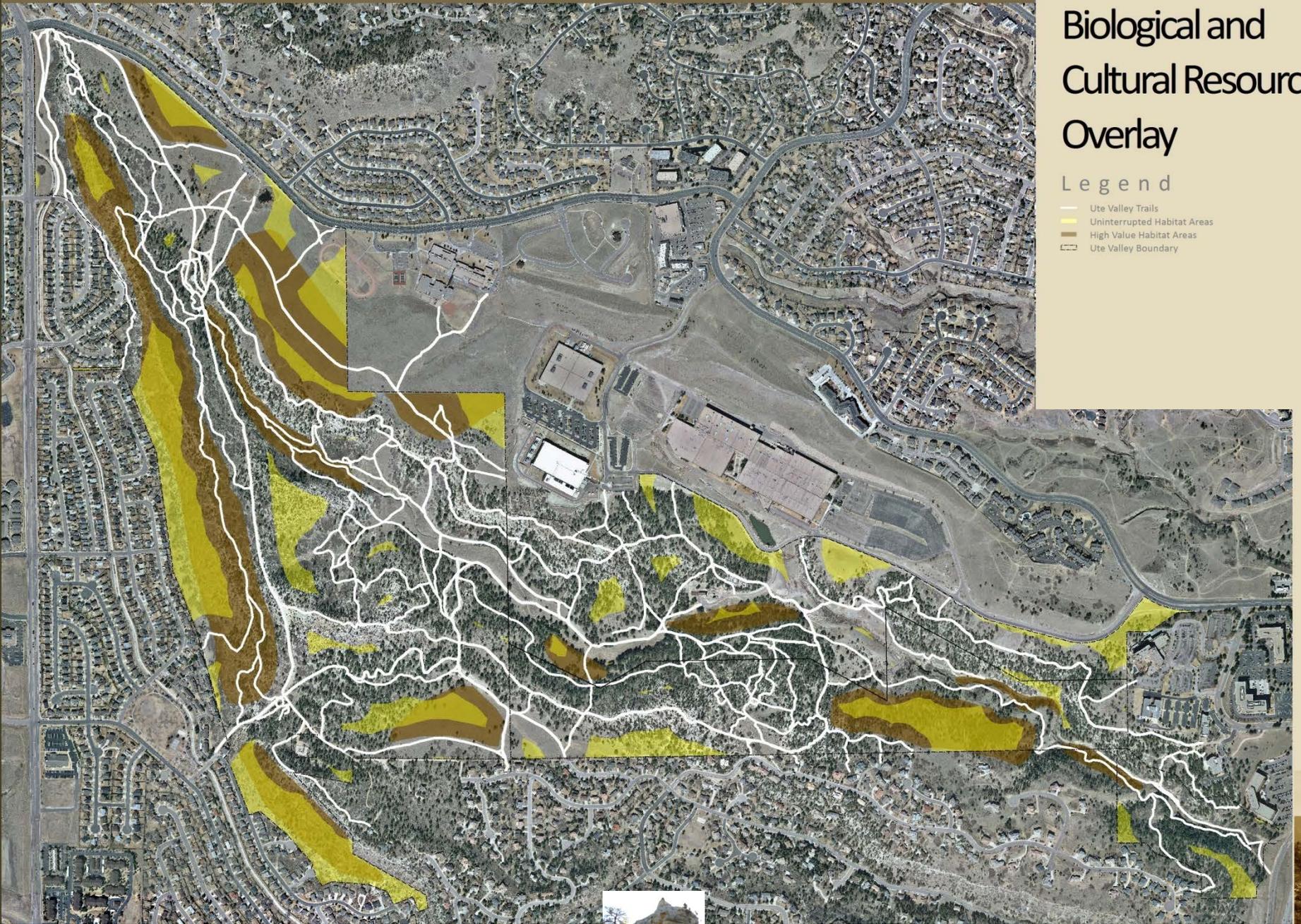
- Drainage
- Hydrology
- Over 20 Percent Slope
- North Facing Aspect
- Ute Valley Boundary



Biological and Cultural Resource Overlay

Legend

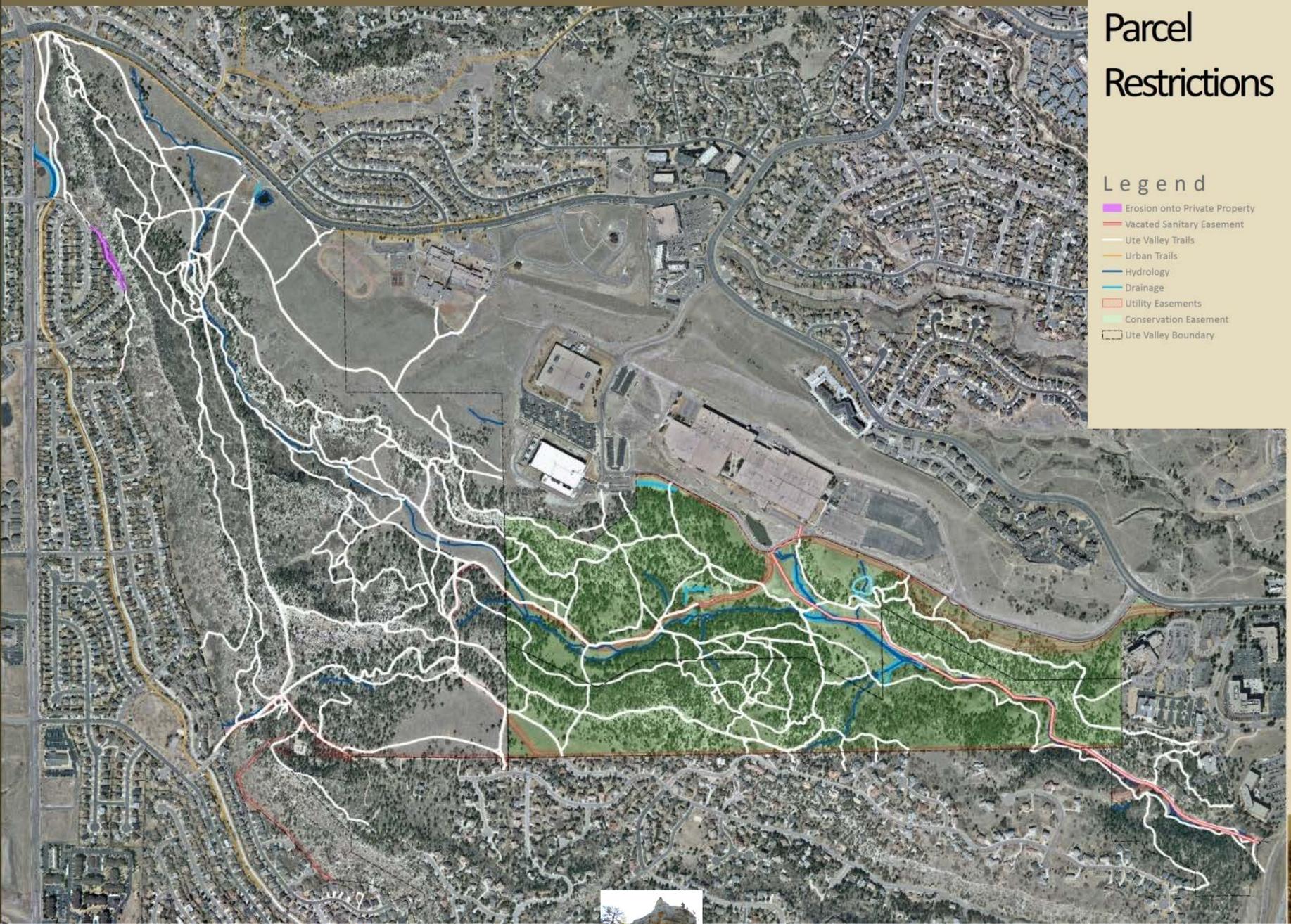
- Ute Valley Trails
- Uninterrupted Habitat Areas
- High Value Habitat Areas
- Ute Valley Boundary



Parcel Restrictions

Legend

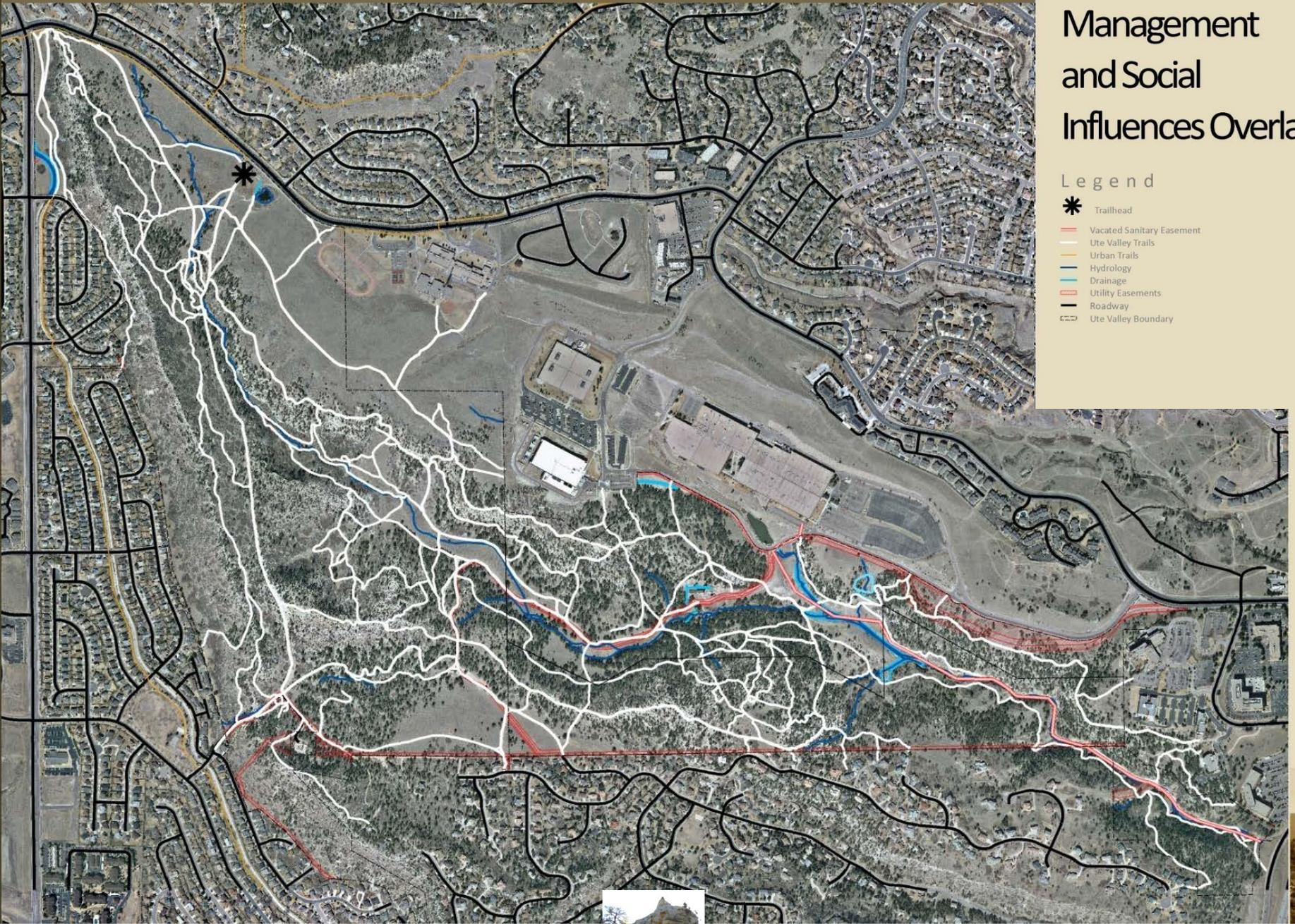
- Erosion onto Private Property
- Vacated Sanitary Easement
- Ute Valley Trails
- Urban Trails
- Hydrology
- Drainage
- Utility Easements
- Conservation Easement
- Ute Valley Boundary



Management and Social Influences Overlay

Legend

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



Guiding Principles

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- 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



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.



Mapping Exercise Summary

Maps

Common Themes:

Preserving ridge top

Preserving riparian corridor

Preserving landscape
surrounding the Vindicator
trailhead

Creating five 15+ acre
undisturbed preservation and
habitat areas by closing social
trails

Concerns about drainage and
erosion

Destinations

Downhill Bike Area

Disc Golf Course

Interesting and Possible Ideas:

Designate and manage area for
bouldering

Designated bird watching area

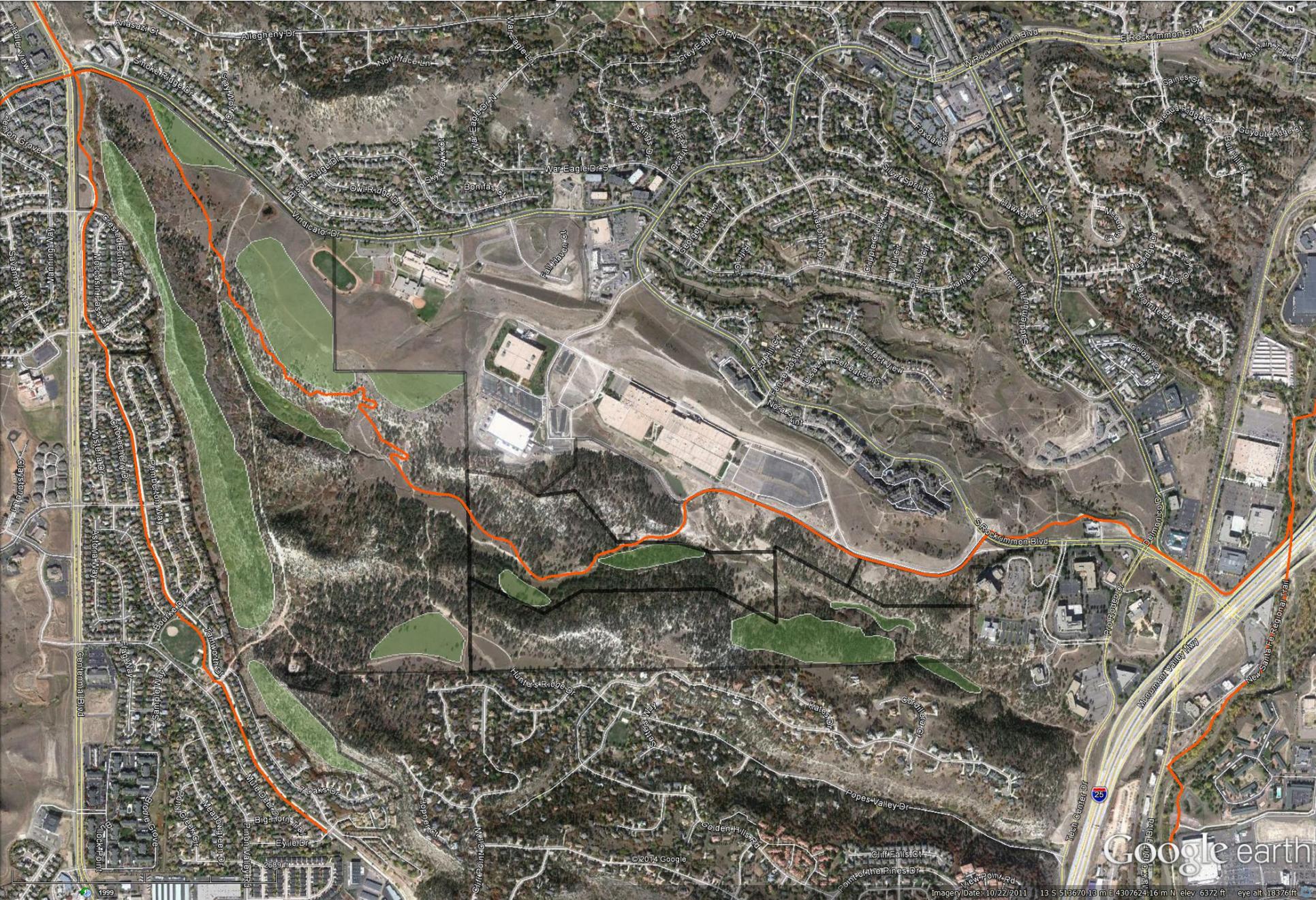
Regional trail aligned within the grade
appropriate, heavily impacted, existing
trail corridor

Regional Trail connecting to the North
Douglas Creek and Foothills regional
trails

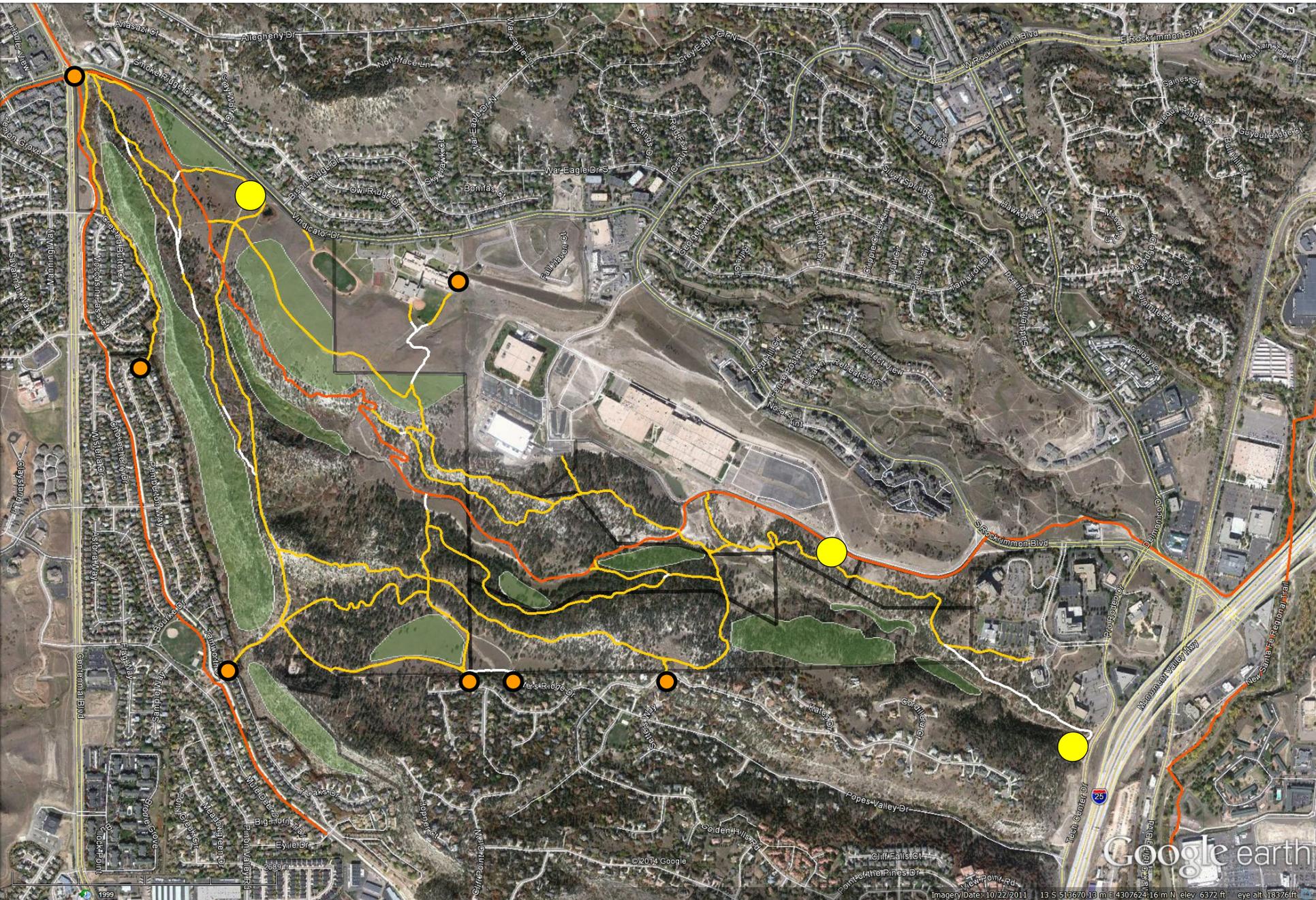
Regional Trail connecting to Spine Trail at
existing connection along Rockrimmon
Boulevard



Regional Trail



Baseline Master Plan



Expanded Alternatives



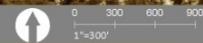
Undisturbed Resource Areas Baseline Park Master Plan

Legend

- Destinations
- P Wayfinding Signs
- * Neighborhood Connection
- * Trailhead
- Regional Trail
- Baseline Master Plan Trail
- Trail Route
- High Value Habitat Areas
- Undisturbed Resource Area- 312 acres
- Ute Valley Boundary
- Hydrology
- Drainage
- Utility Easements



Ute Valley Park Master and Management Plan



Undisturbed Resource Areas Expanded Alternatives

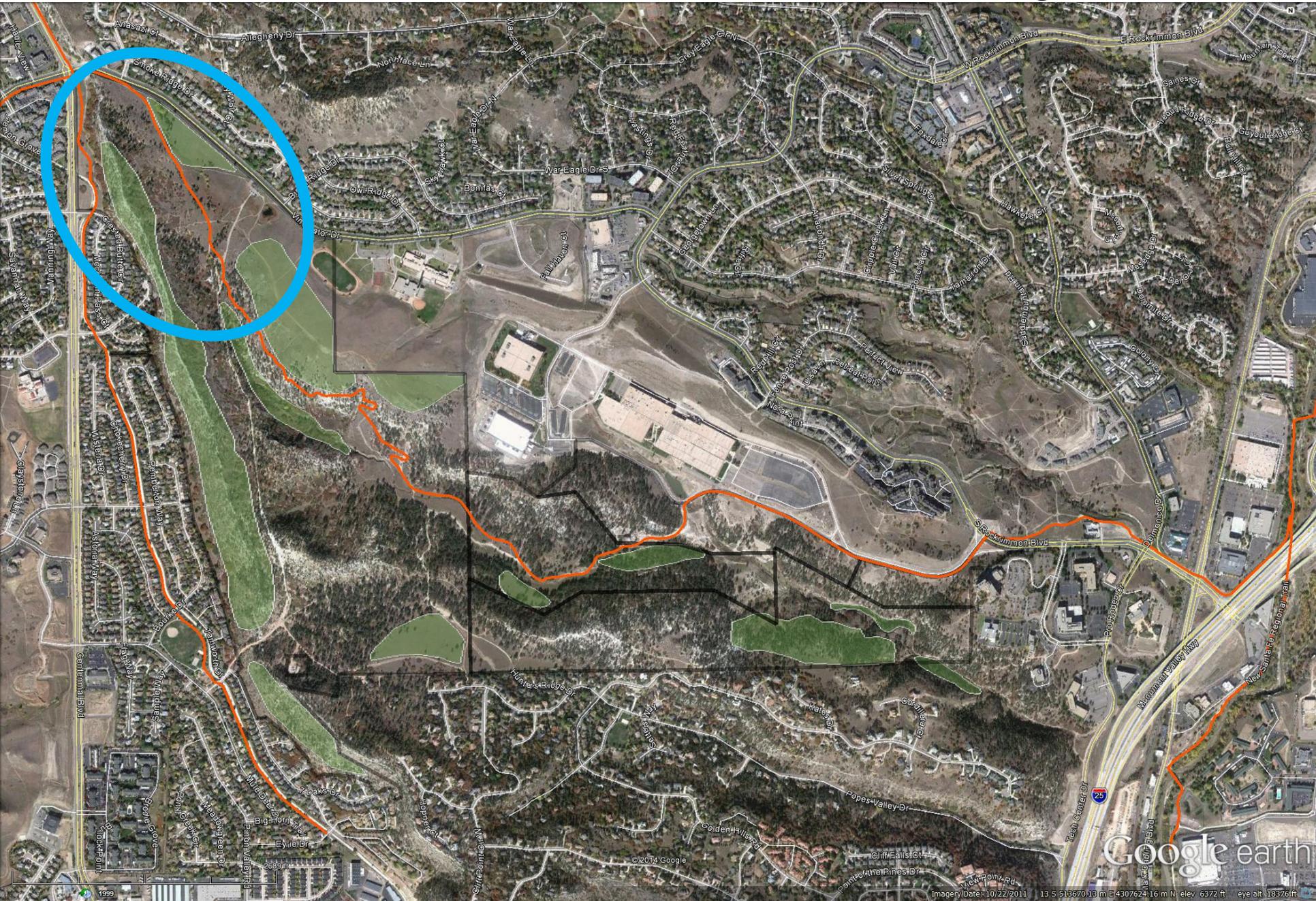
- ## Legend
- Destinations
 - P Wayfinding Signs
 - * Neighborhood Connection
 - * Trailhead
 - Regional Trail
 - Baseline Master Plan Trail
 - Trail Route
 - Expanded Alternative Trail
 - Closed and Restored Trail
 - High Value Habitat Areas
 - Undisturbed Resource Area 251 Acres
 - Ute Valley Boundary
 - Hydrology
 - Drainage
 - Utility Easements



Ute Valley Park Master and Management Plan



Northwest Area vindicator/Ridge



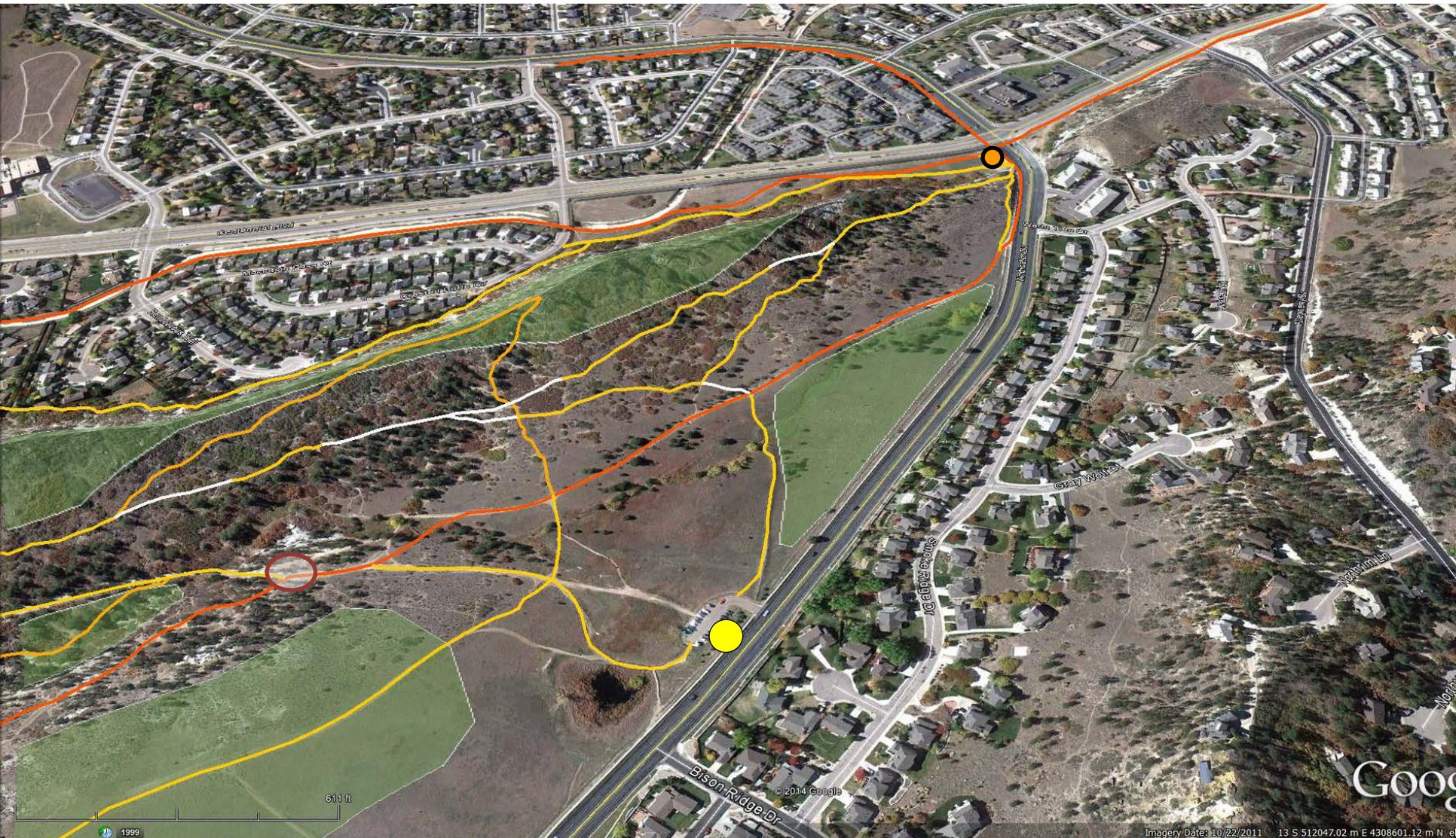


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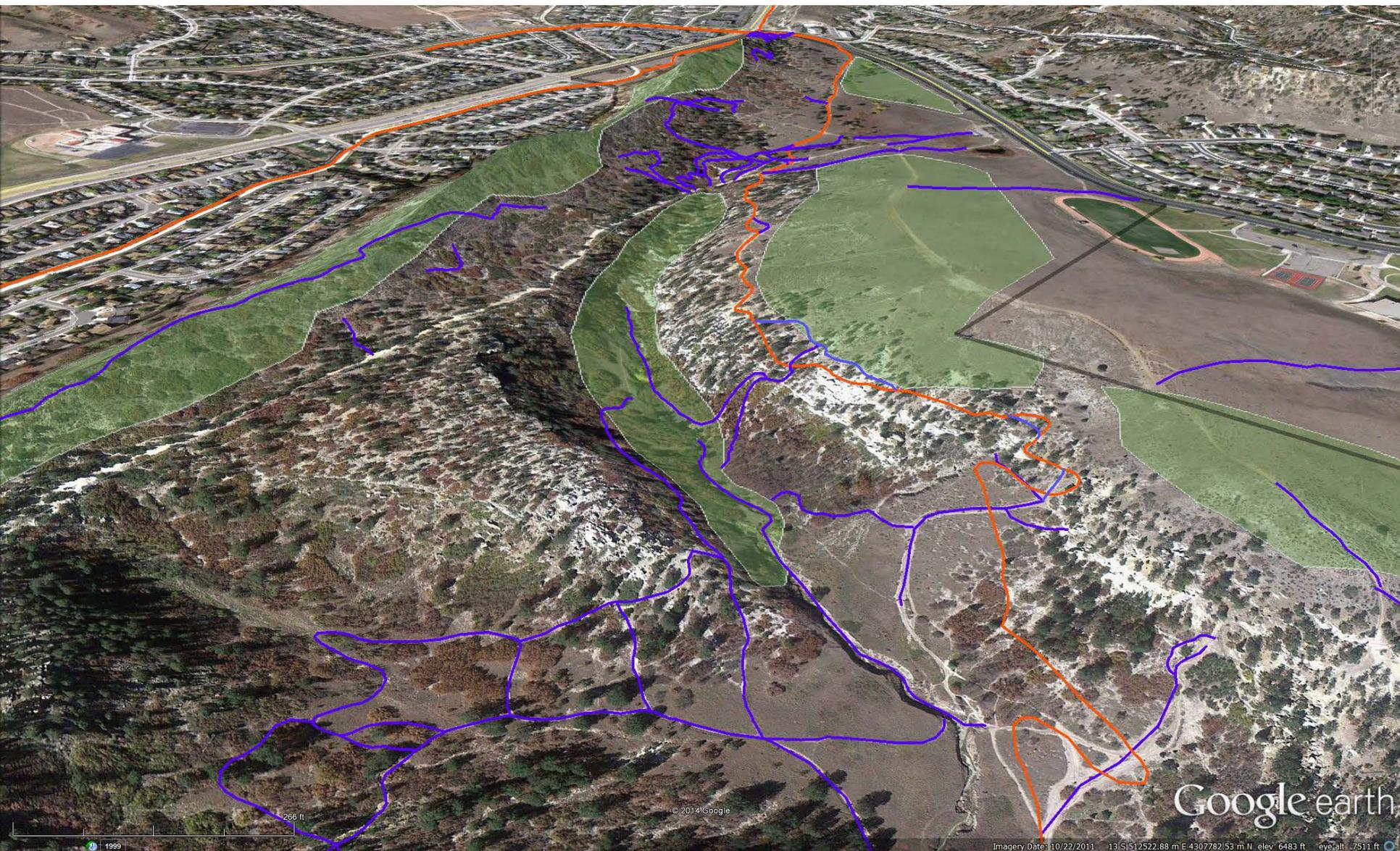






Upper Riparian Area





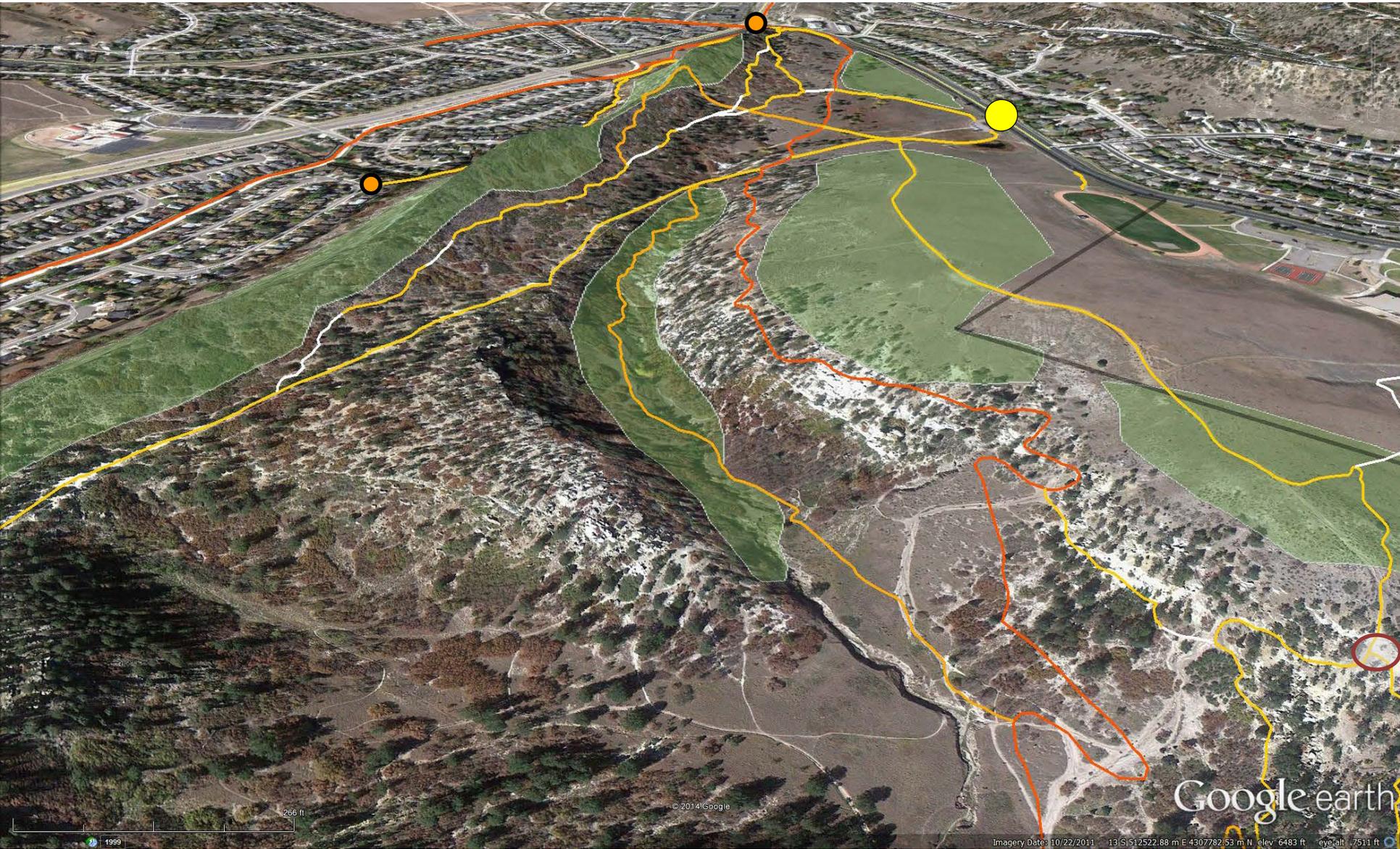
Google earth

© 2014 Google

Imagery Date: 10/22/2011 13°S, 51°25'22.88" E, 4307782.53 m N, elev: 6483 ft, eye alt: 7511 ft







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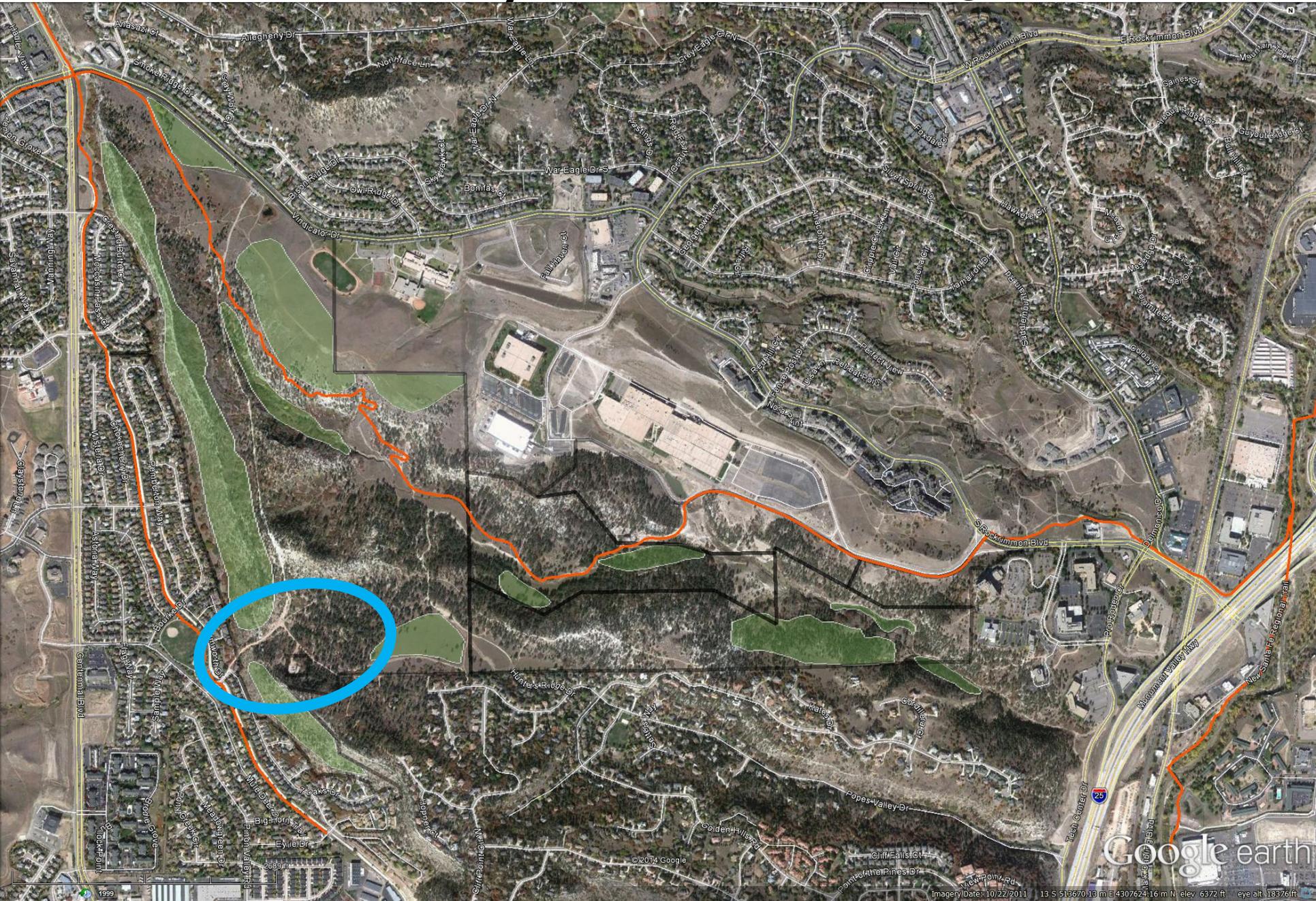
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1999

266 ft



Pinon Valley Access Bouldering / Bike Area



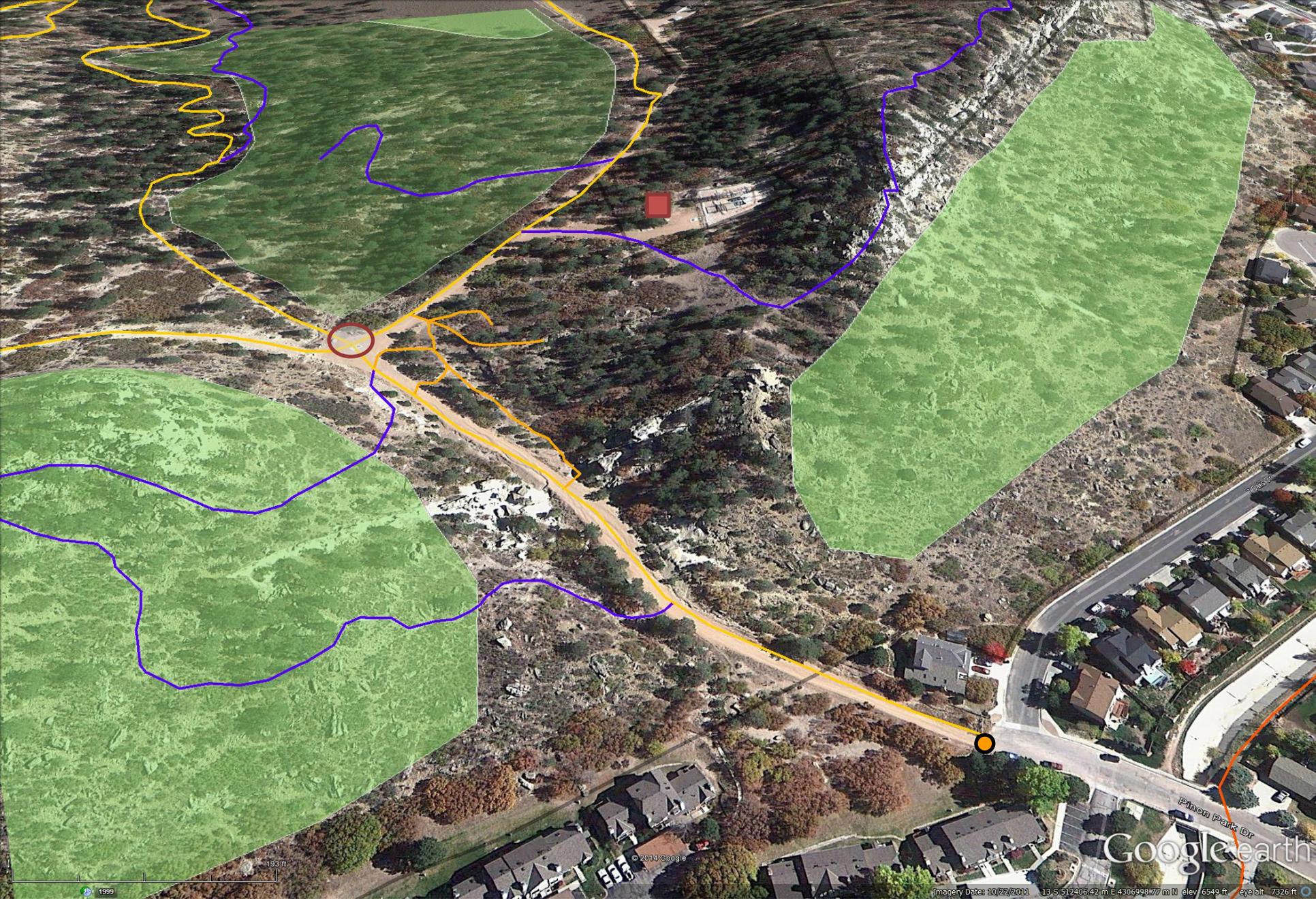


193 ft

© 2014 Google

Imagery Date: 10/22/2011 13 S 512406.42 m E 4306998.77 m N elev 6549 ft eye alt 7326 ft





193 ft

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Google Earth

Imagery Date: 10/22/2011 13 S 512406.42 m E 4306998.77 m N elev 6549 ft eye alt 7326 ft

1999



Central Area Meadow and Ridge sides





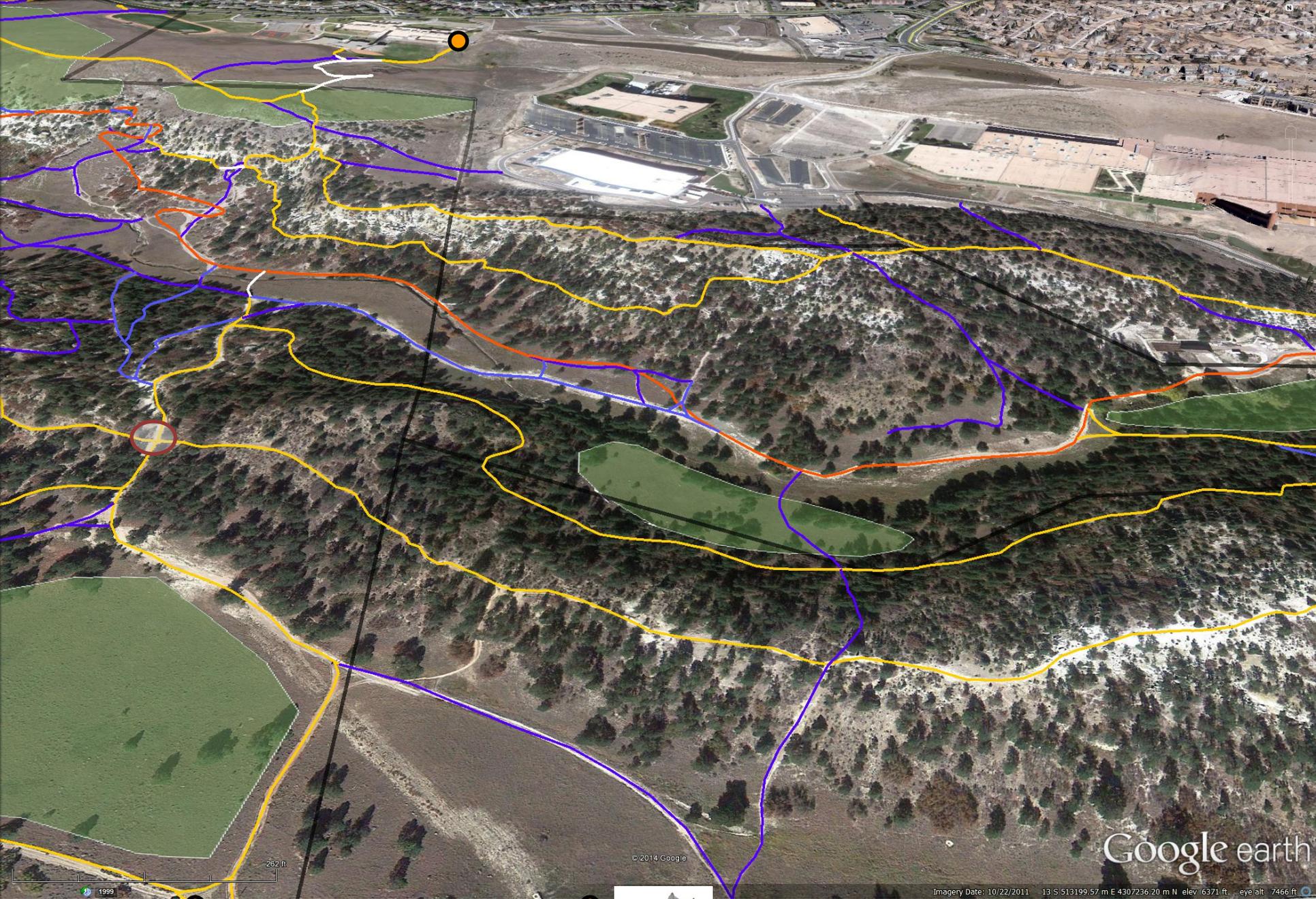
Google earth

© 2014 Google

Imagery Date: 10/22/2011 13 S 513199.57 m E 4307236.20 m N elev 6371 ft eye alt 7466 ft

262 ft 1999





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Imagery Date: 10/22/2011 13 S 513199.57 m E 4307236.20 m N elev 6371 ft eye alt 7466 ft

1999





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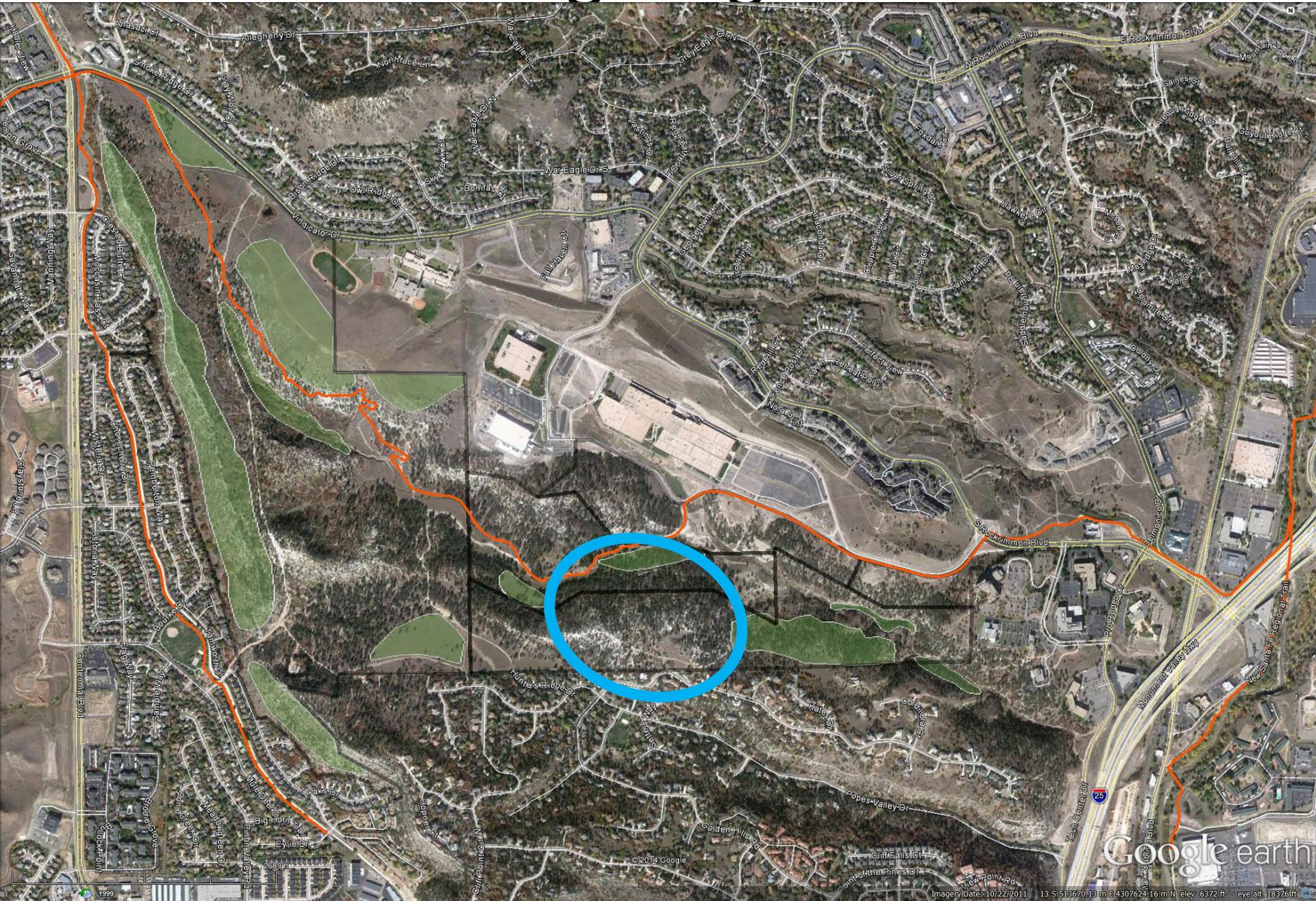
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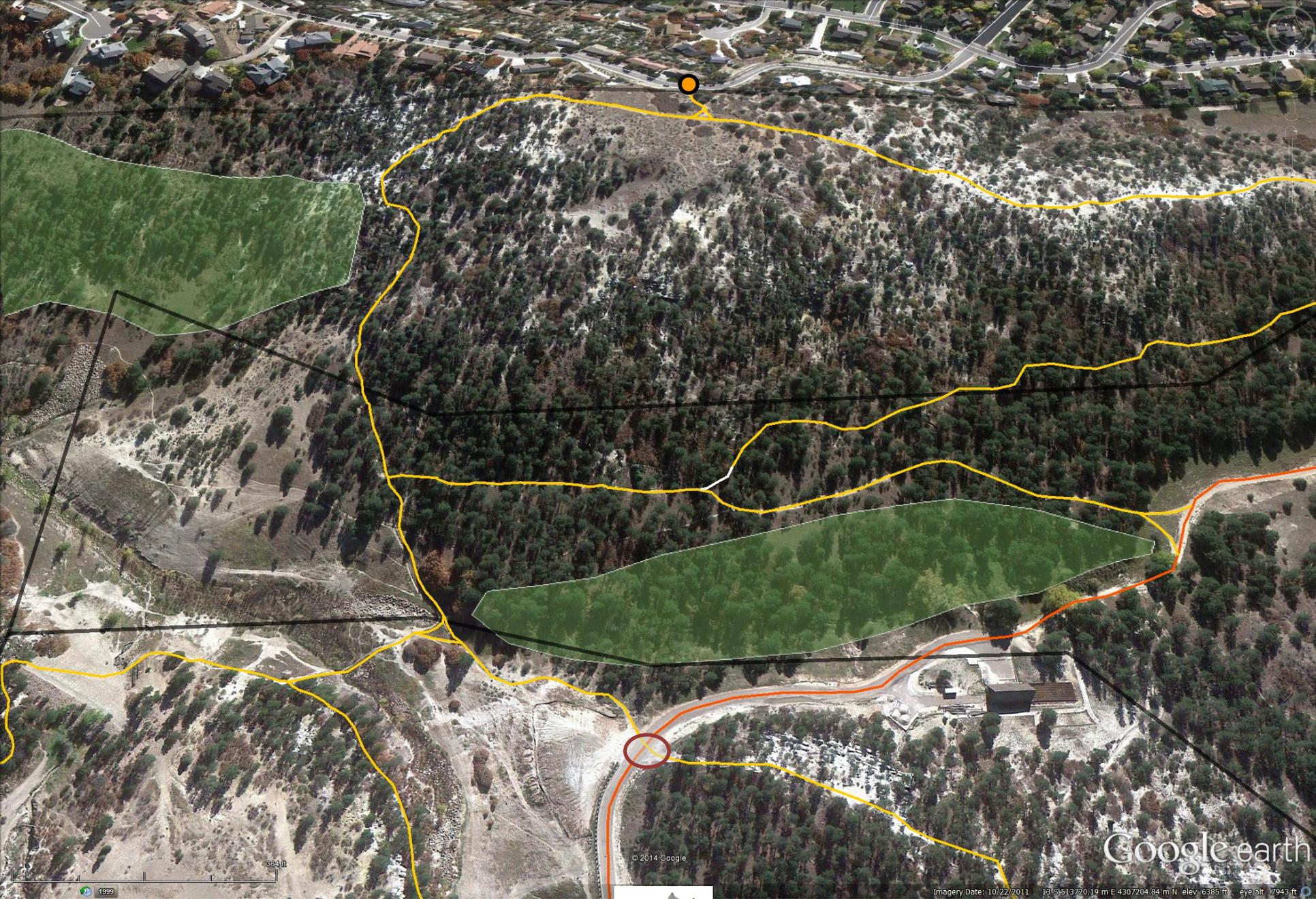
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262 ft 1999



North Facing Ridge Current Downhill





394 ft

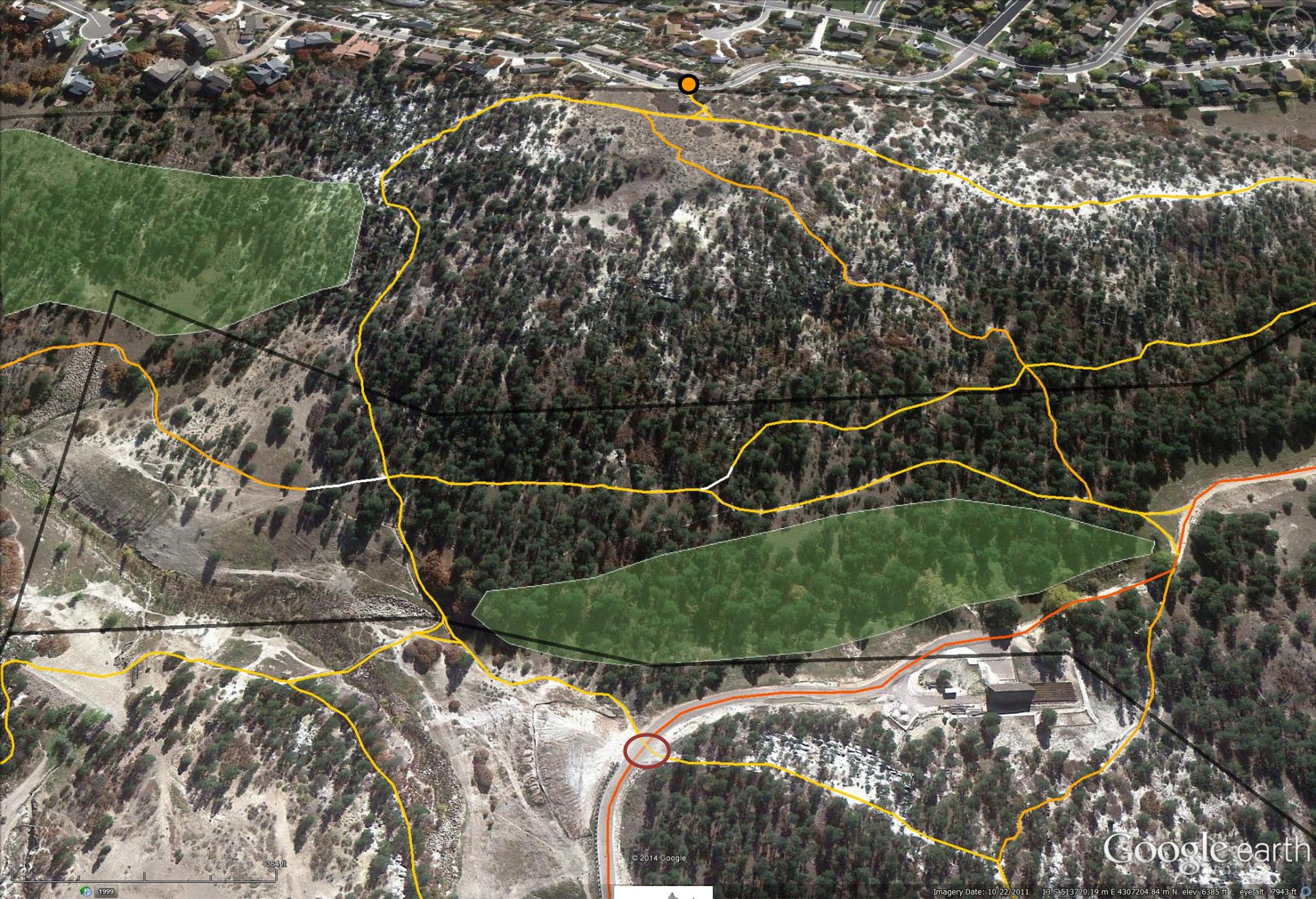
© 2014 Google

Google earth

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Imagery Date: 10/22/2011 13 S 513720.19 m E 4307204.84 m N elev. 6385 ft eye alt. 7943 ft





394 ft

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Google earth

Imagery Date: 10/22/2011 13 S 513720.19 m E 4307204.84 m N elev. 6385 ft eye alt. 7943 ft

1999











© Miles Watta



Eastern Area Meadow and Ridge sides





Image Landsat
© 2014 Google

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Imagery Date: 4/9/2013 13°S 514104.76 m E 4307054.32 m N elev. 6367 ft eye alt. 7306 ft



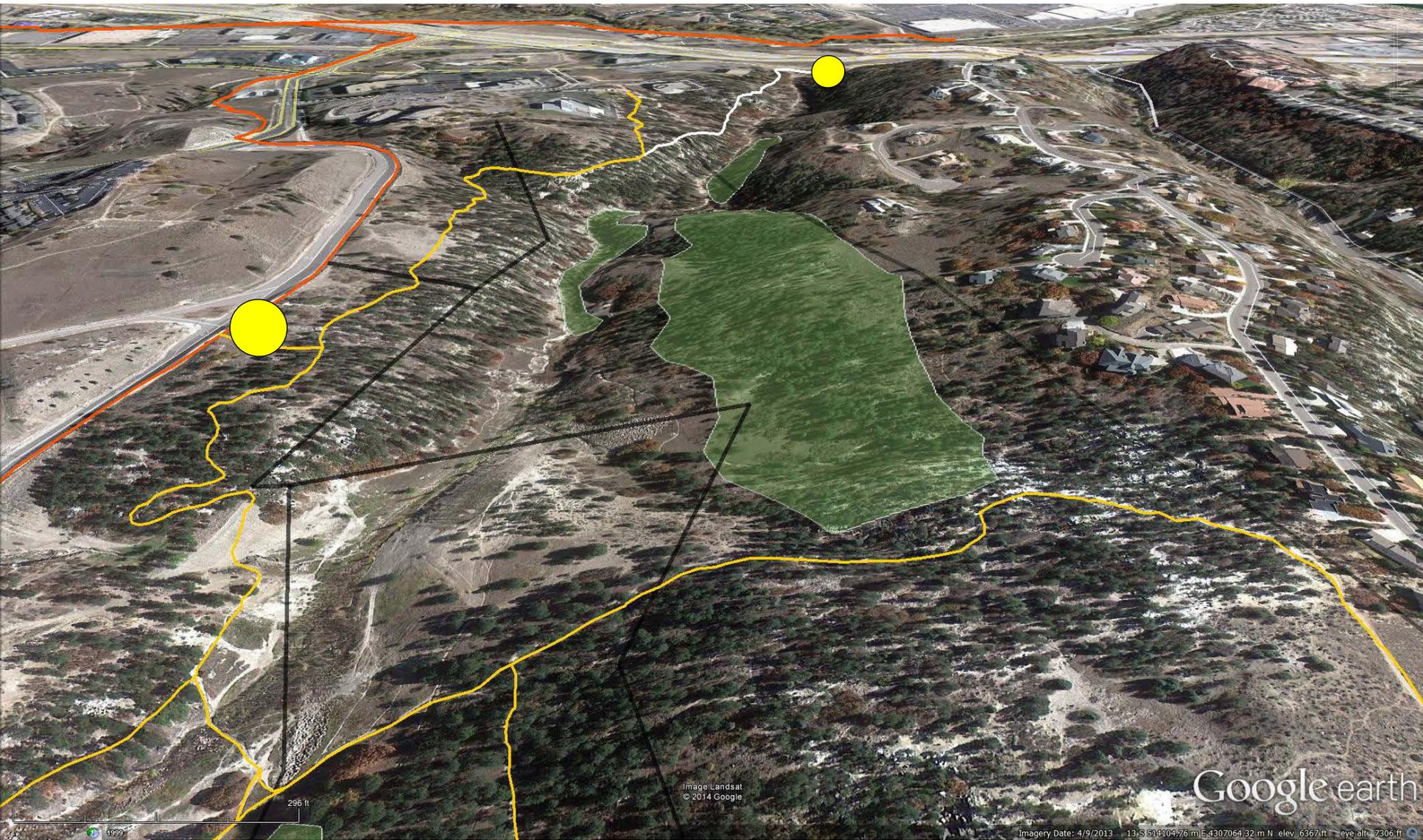




Image Landsat
© 2014 Google

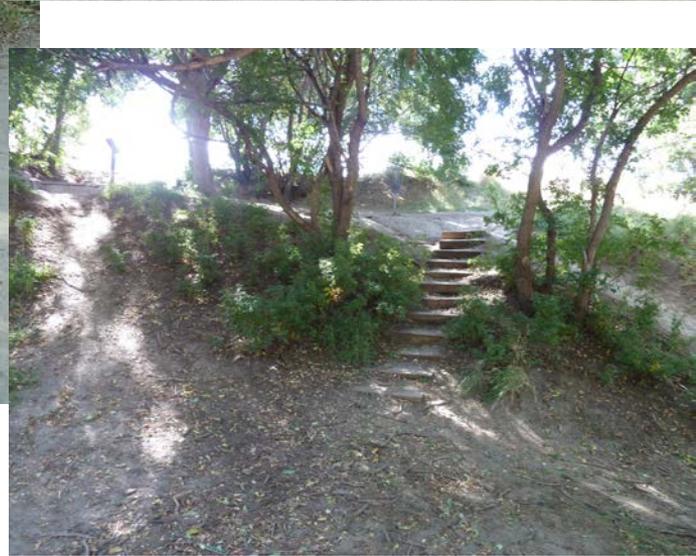
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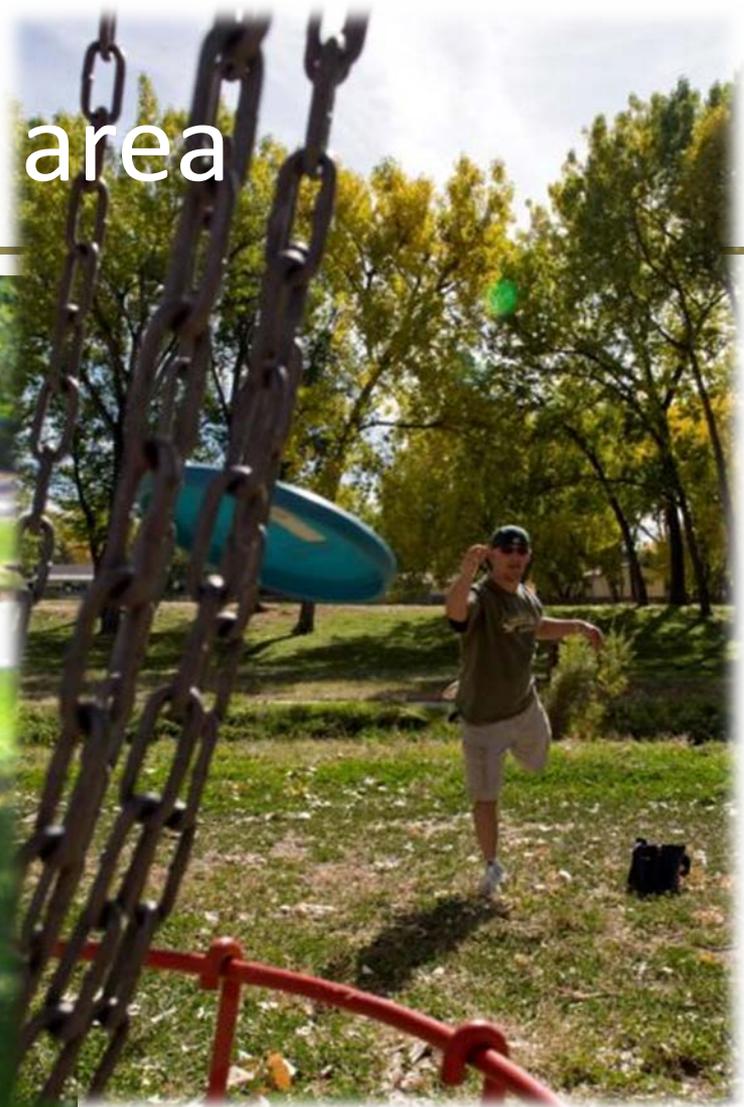


disc golf in native area

Cottonwood Park

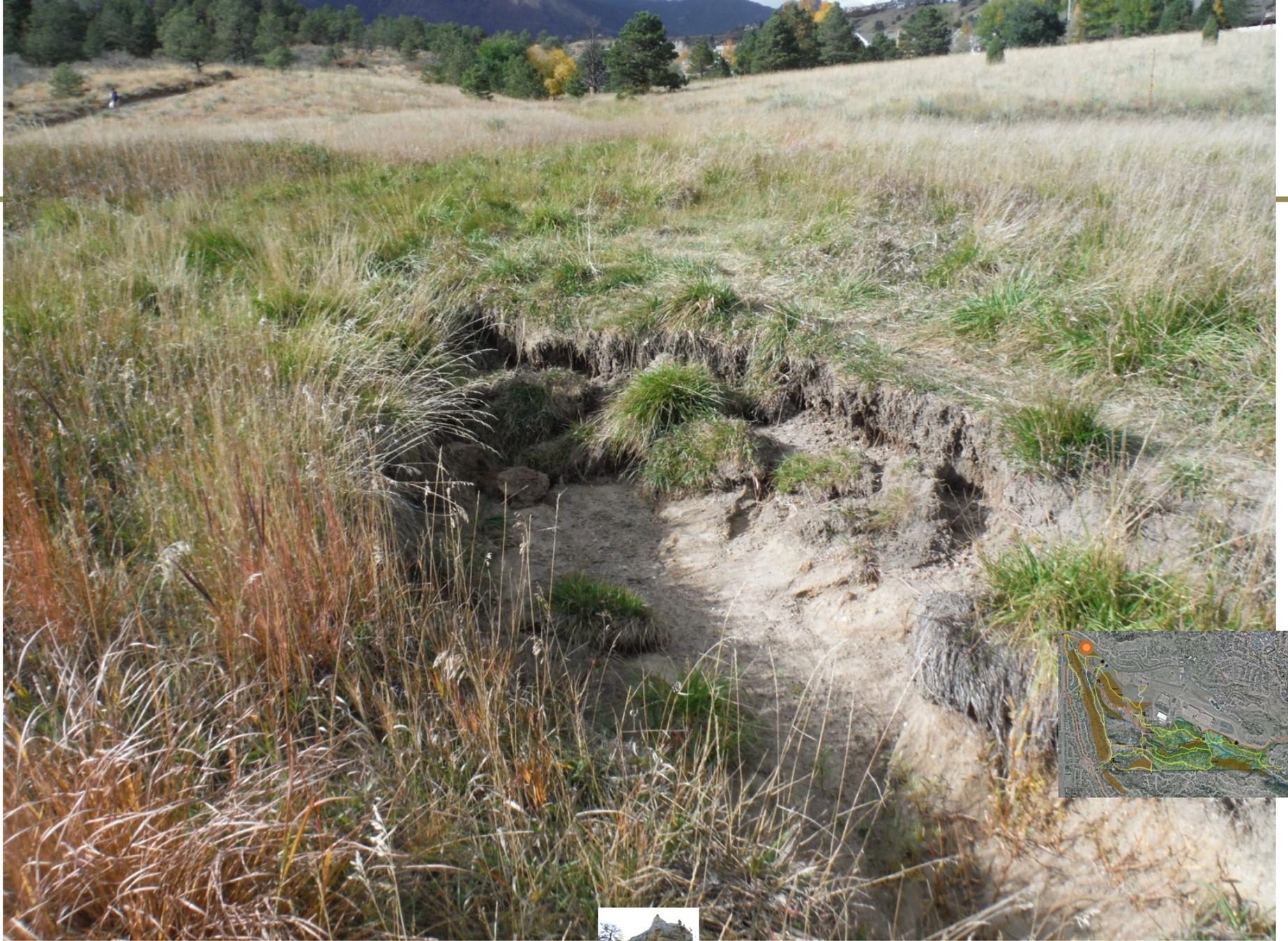


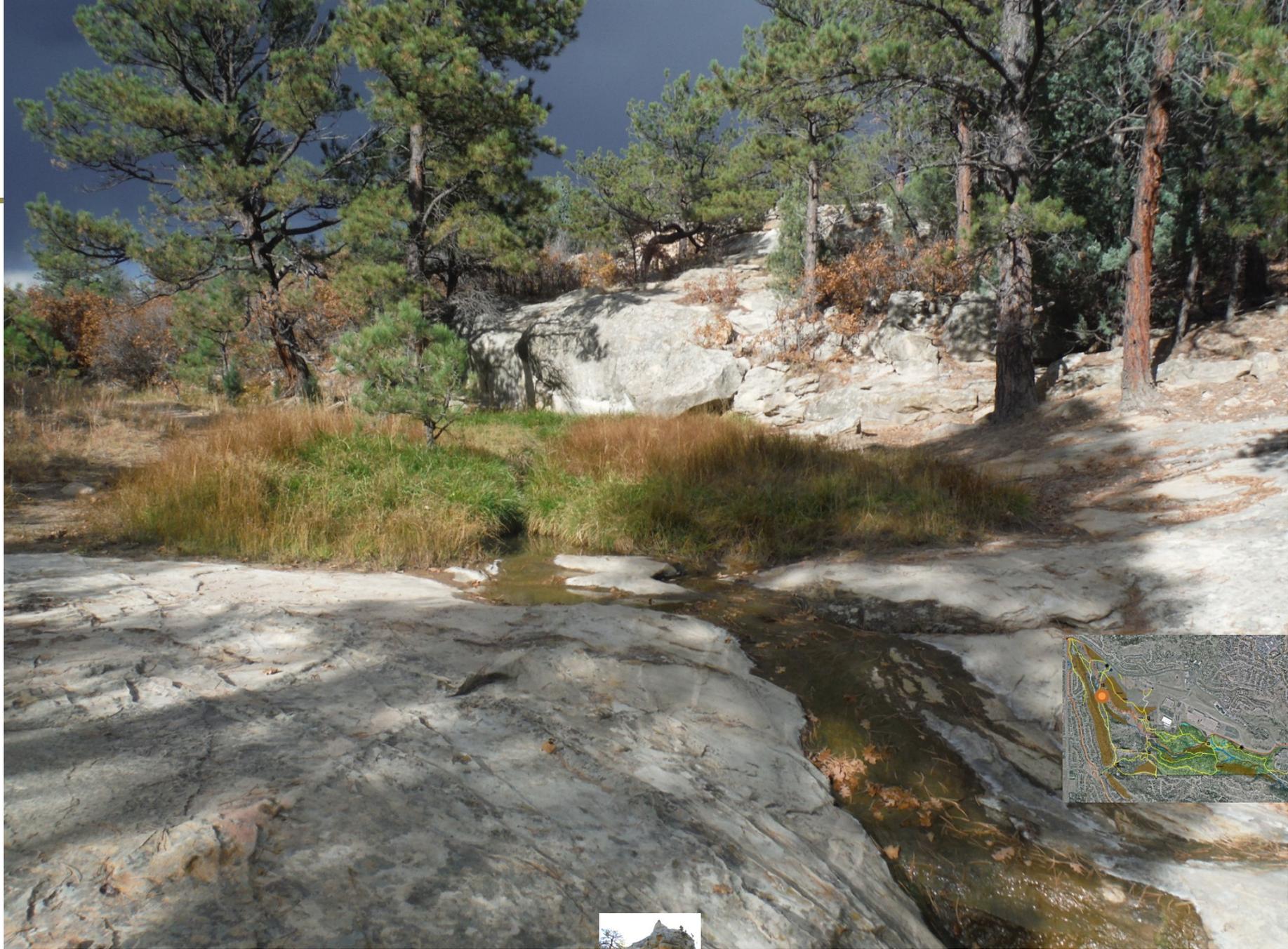
disc golf in irrigated area



Drainage Channel Erosion







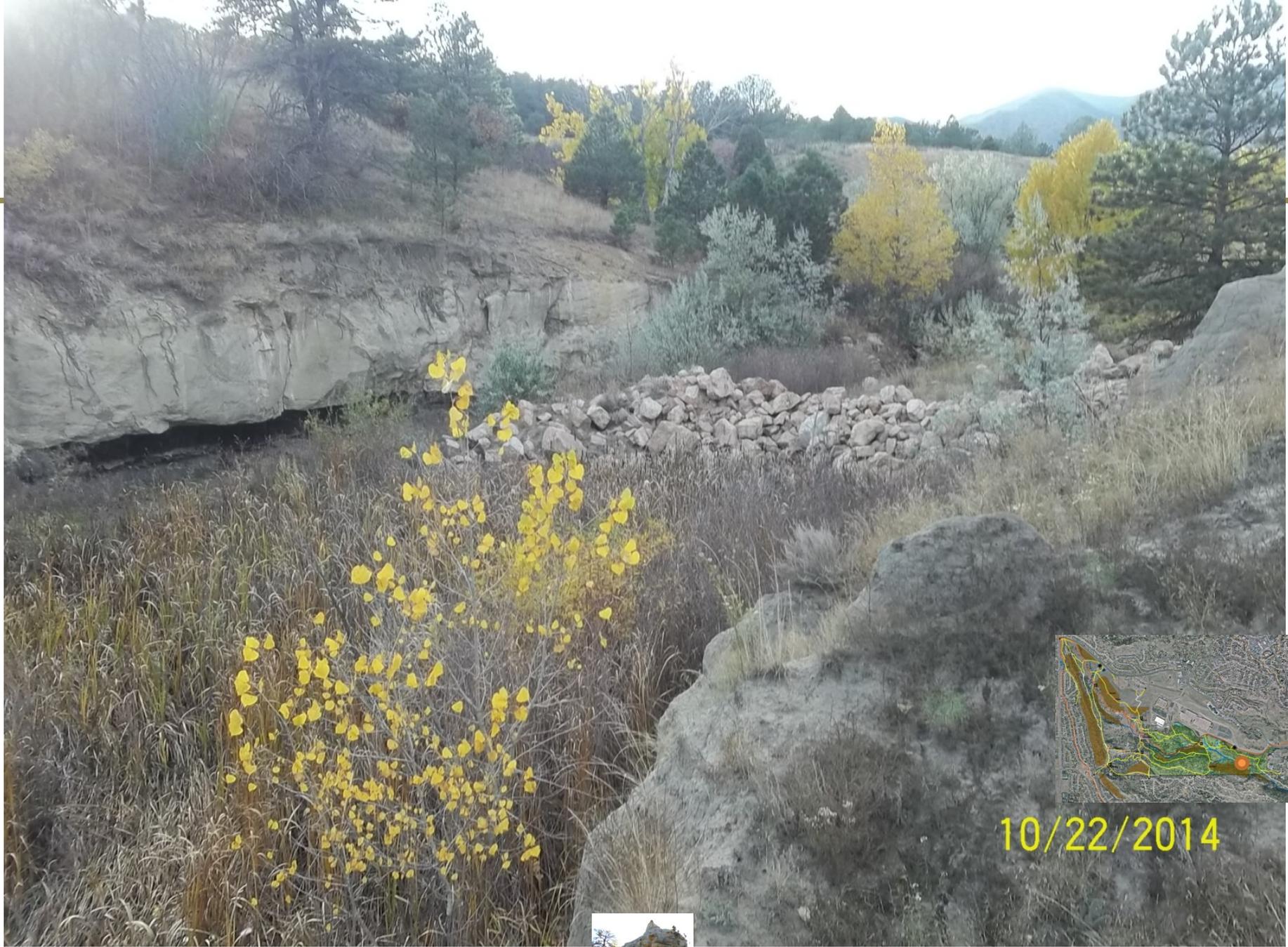






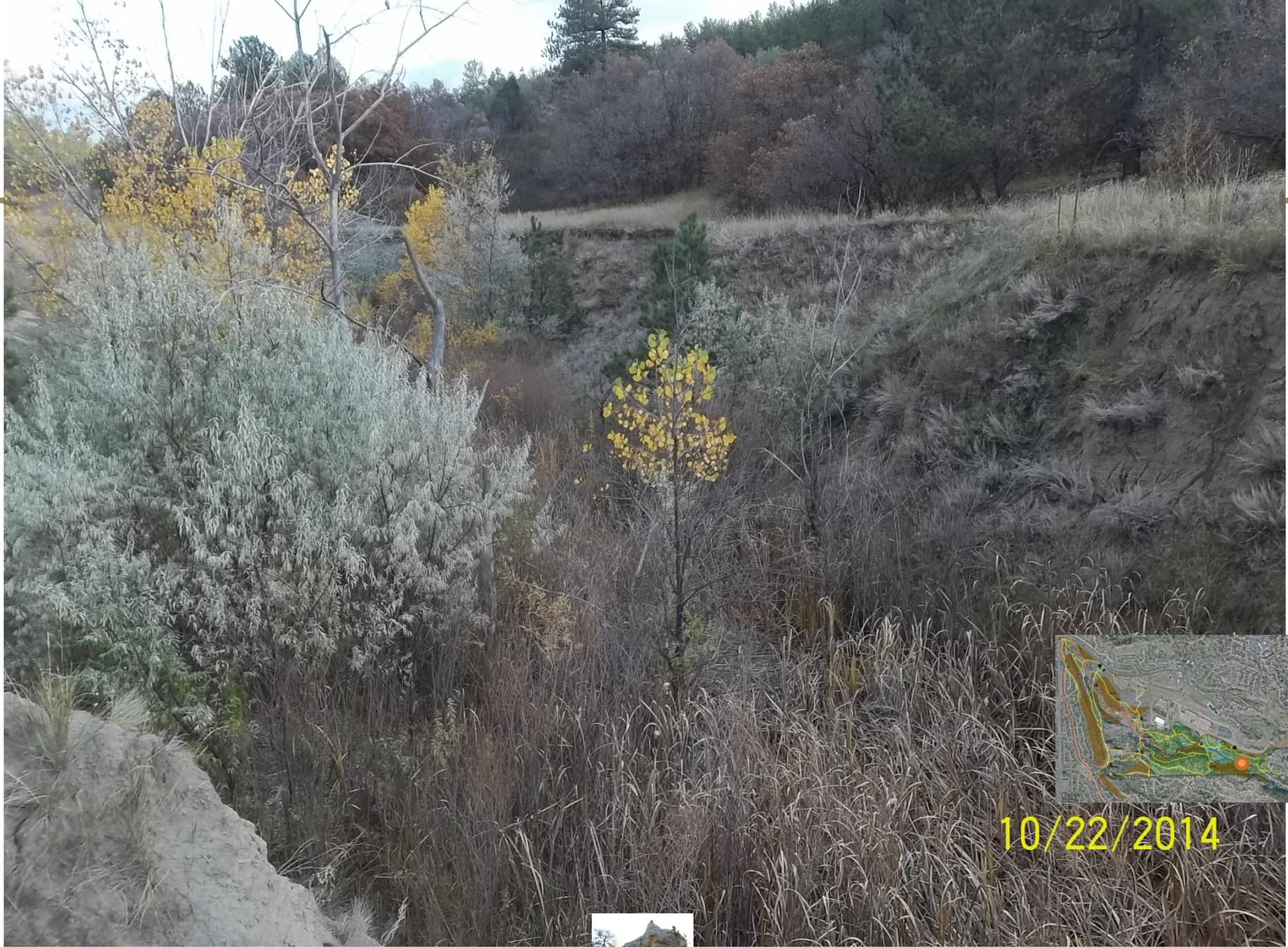
10/22





10/22/2014





10/22/2014



Possible Detention

- Pond locations for historic flows in canyon

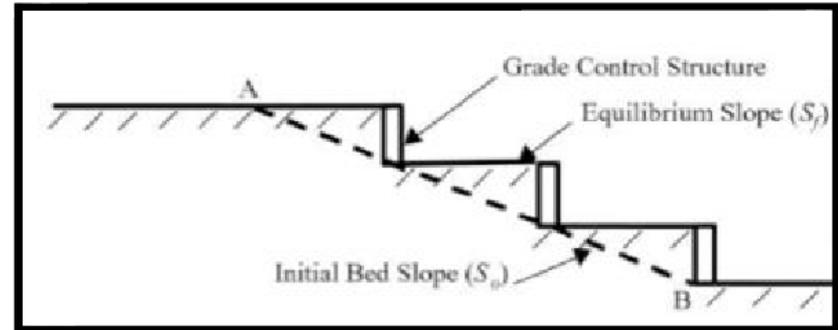


Grade Control

- Erosion Control Possibilities in Meadow

First Option:

Create a shallower-low flow channel with grade control that keeps frequent flows in the channel. Layback the channel with softer edges, create a flow channel and place drop structures.

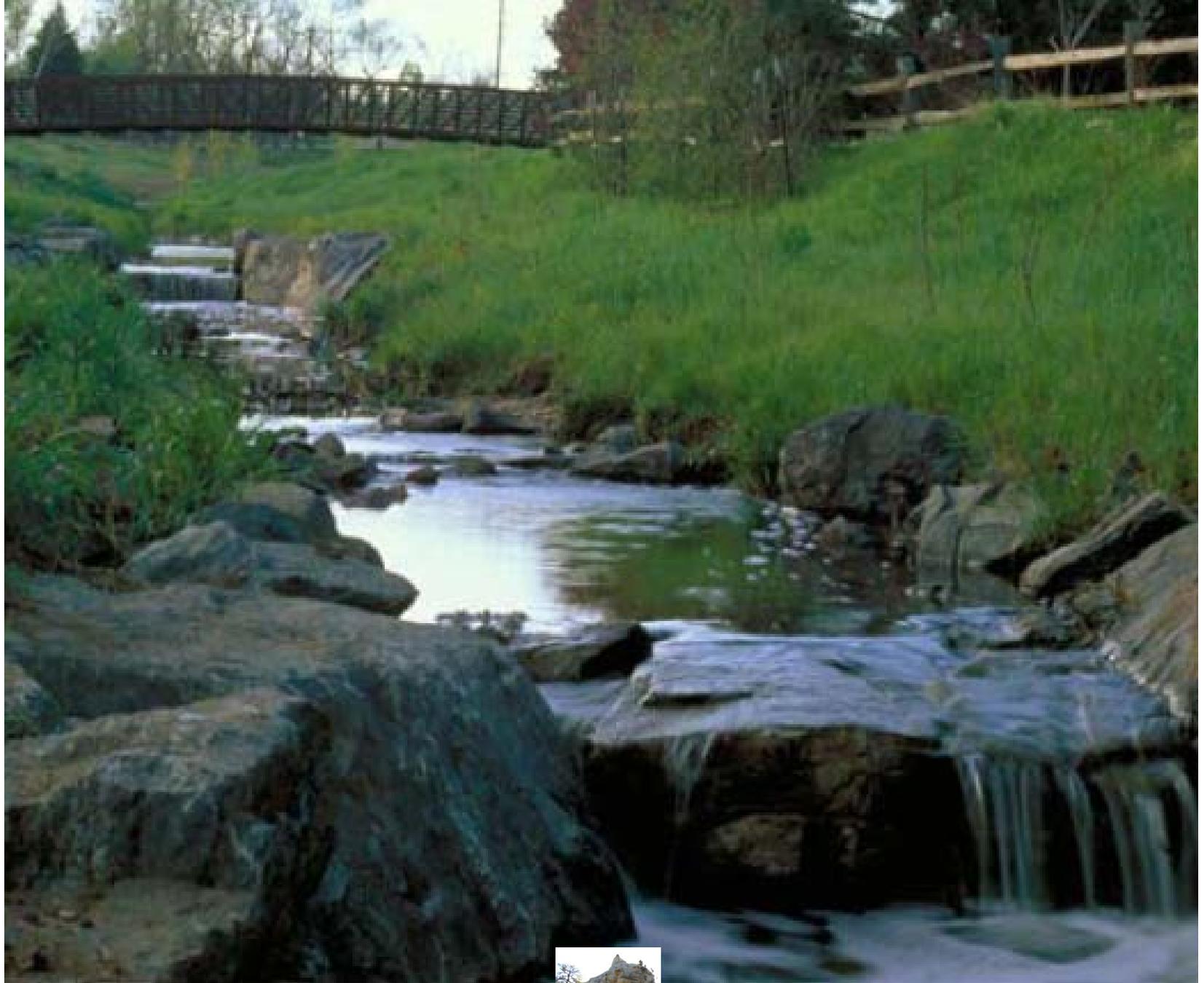


Second Option: Create a meandering stream thru the central meadow/valley area. Minimizes drop structure construction.

Third Option:

Fill it up and push the channel back to the surface and allow the channel to develop and actively monitor/watch it then place drop structures.









Clarification and Advocacy



Small Group Instructions

1. Does your group have any significant concerns that you would consider to be fatal flaws of the Baseline Park Master Plan?
If so, please explain:
2. As a group rate your level of support for the following 7 trail segments contained in the Expanded Alternatives Park Master Plan and include the reason for your rating of each.
Please circle only **one** number.

Segment #1: *West Ridge Loop*

No support



Full support

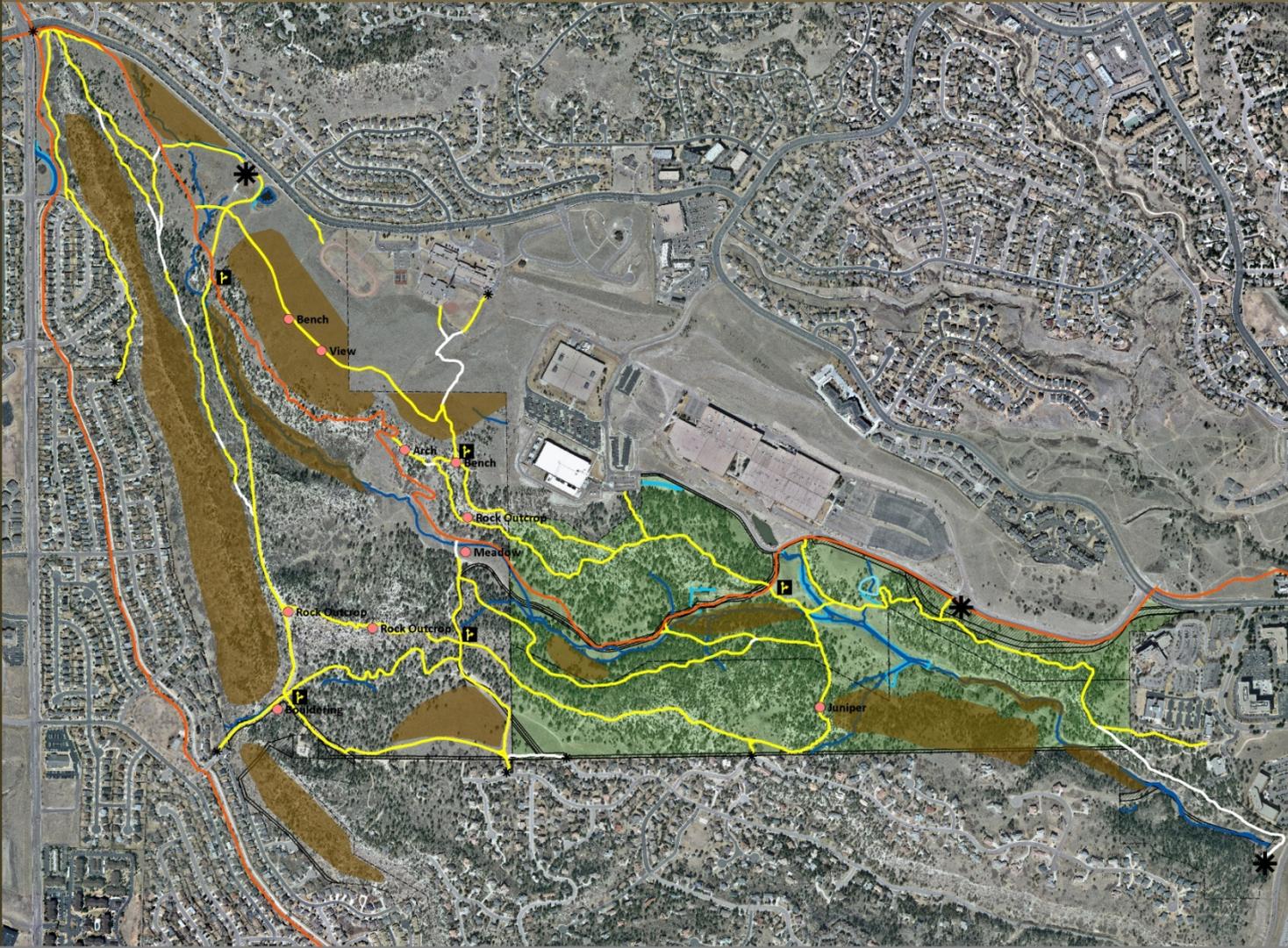
Reasons for our group's rating:



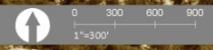
Baseline Park Master Plan

Legend

- Destinations
- P Wayfinding Nodes
- * Neighborhood Connection
- ✱ Trailhead
- Regional Trail
- Baseline Master Plan Trail
- Trail Reroute
- High Value Habitat Areas
- Ute Valley Boundary
- Hydrology
- Drainage
- Utility Easements
- Conservation Easement



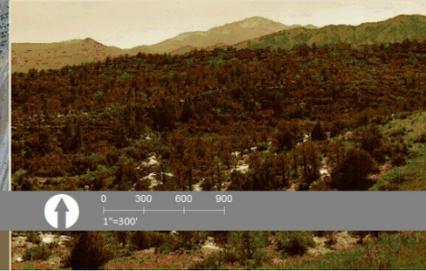
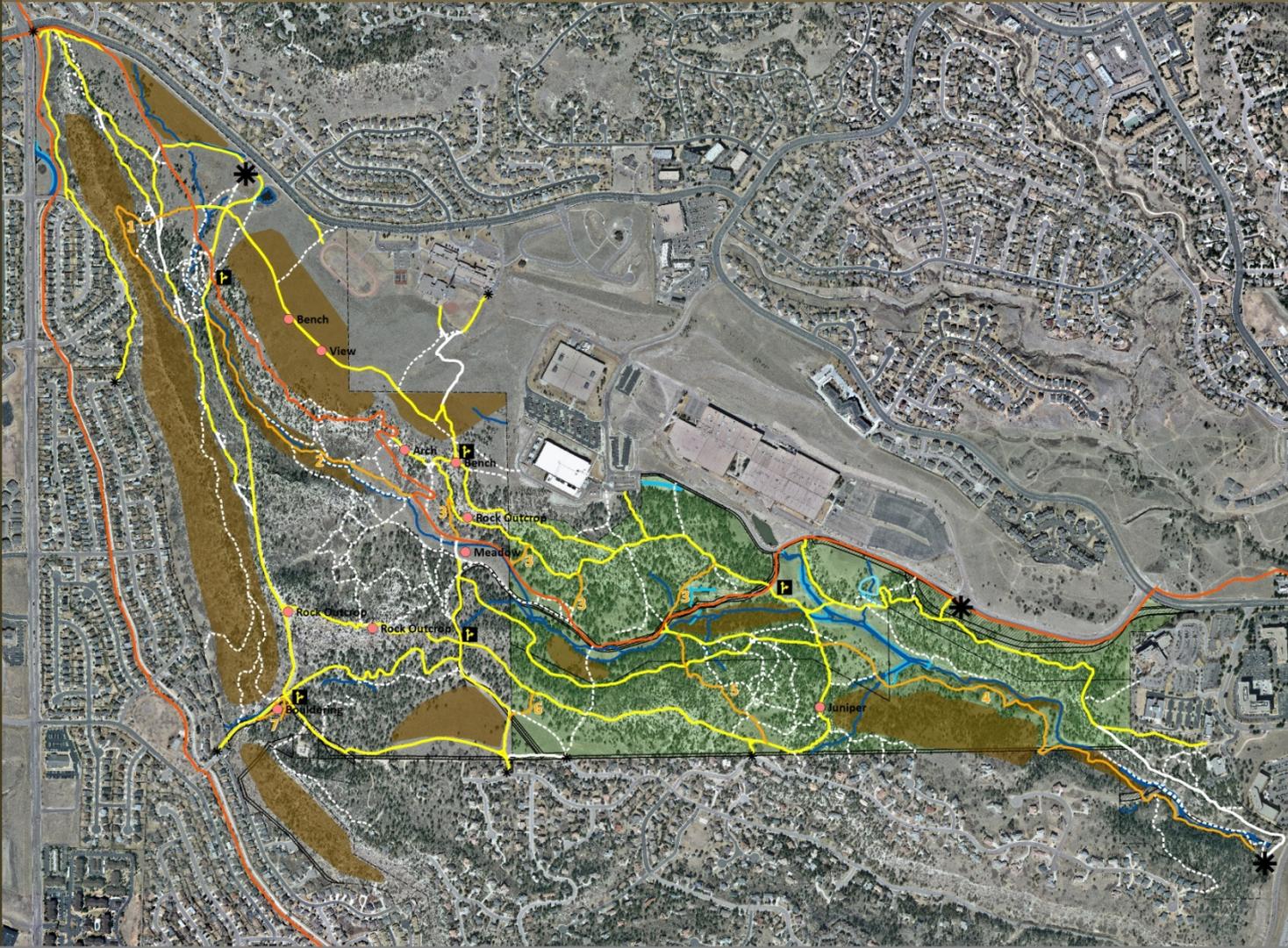
Ute Valley Park Master and Management Plan



Expanded Alternatives Group

Legend

- Destinations
- Wayfinding Nodes
- ✱ Neighborhood Connection
- ✱ Trailhead
- Regional Trail
- Baseline Master Plan Trail
- Trail Route
- Expanded Alternative Trail
- - - Closed and Restored Trail
- Ute Valley Boundary
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- Drainage
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- Utility Easements
- Conservation Easement



Ute Valley Park Master and Management Plan



Small Group Report Out



Next Steps

- Website posting -
www.springsgov.com/UteValleyMP
- Summary of tonight and notification of DRAFT Plan posting (estimated one week before Open House) is sent via email – so sign in & email !!
- Join us for the Open House Tuesday
January 27th 5-7:00pm

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



Ute Valley Park Master and Management Plan

