Ute Valley Park Master and Management Plan

October 2014

Issues Were Discussed, Plans Were Suggested

About 120 people attended the first in a series of open community workshops that will guide the development of the Ute Valley Master and Management Plan.

The agenda for the gathering was as packed as the Eagleview Middle School Cafeteria. A list of issues generated through the small group Meetings-in-a-Box held in July and August as well as user intercept surveys conducted by the Friends of Ute Valley Park in June and July were reviewed by participants. They were asked to identify any issues missing from the list and to review and respond to a set of Guiding Principles drawn from the issues identified.

Lead project consultant Priscilla Marbaker with Tapis Associates and Bill Mangle with ERO Resources then reviewed information from the extensive site analysis of the Park conducted over the past few months.

The bulk of the session was spent with 15 small groups of participants working with maps of the Ute Valley Park property to create their own recommended master plan approaches. Working with a "kit of parts," groups suggested locations for Park trails and trailheads, alignment of a regional trail, undisturbed preservation and habitat areas, neighborhood connections, Park destinations and other desired Park developments. The meeting wrapped up with report-out by representatives from each of the groups.

All workshop materials and results can be found on the project website at www.springsgov.com/UteValleyMP. The meeting Power Point presentation, responses to issues and principles, and all responses from the mapping exercise are posted for community review.

Results from the workshop will guide development of alternate plan approaches, which will be the focus of the November 12 workshop.

For more information, contact Project Manager Sarah Bryarly at sbryarly@springsgov.com or 385-6533.

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Our Guiding Principles

These principles for development of the Ute Valley Park Master and Management Plan were drawn from responses received from the Park user intercept surveys and from Meeting-in-a-Box responses. They were reviewed and adopted by participants in the September 23 workshop and will serve as guideposts as we work together to develop the 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

Calendars, Please

Next community workshop:
Wednesday, November 12
6-8 p.m.
Eagleview Middle School,
1325 Vindicator Drive