

TRAILS, OPEN SPACE AND PARKS PROGRAM (TOPS) ORDINANCE



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City Council Work Session

27 Years of Trails, Open Space and Parks (TOPS)



- **Important Accomplishments To Date:**
 - Over 8,535 acres of open space acquired
 - 67 parks built or improved (**Most recent Oak Meadows Park**)
 - 66+ miles of trail constructed
- **First Open Space Purchase: Stratton Open Space**
- **Most Recent Open Space Purchase: Red Rocks Open Space Extension**

Oak Meadows Park



Rock Island Trail



Ordinance Amendment Components



- Extension of the 0.1% sales and use tax for 20 years (Expiration date December 31, 2045)
- Align spending flexibility in Trails and Open Space categories for property regardless of how it was acquired
- In the Open Space category- language committing a minimum of 75% of the funds for acquisition

Ordinance Amendment



4.6.202.F. Open Space Lands Account: Of the revenues distributed hereunder, after deductions for planning as described in subsection A of this section, a minimum of sixty percent (60%) shall be used only for the acquisition, **maintenance** and stewardship of new open space lands as provided herein.

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5. Of the revenues in the Open Space Lands Account, a minimum of seventy five percent (75%) shall be used only for acquisition of new open space land, and no more than twenty five percent (25%) shall be used for maintenance of City-owned open space lands regardless of how acquired or stewardship of City-owned open space lands acquired by the fund.

G. Use For Trails: Of the revenues received from the sales and use tax and other revenue sources, after deductions for planning as described in subsection A of this section, a maximum of twenty percent (20%) of the revenues may be used to acquire an interest in new open space land for new trails within the City, **and for including** the construction, acquisition and maintenance of **City-owned** trails **regardless of how acquired**, and to join in partnerships with El Paso County, neighboring counties and municipalities incorporated therein, recreational districts or other governmental entities or land trusts, or with private individuals, corporations or entities, as would benefit the City residents by completing trail plans as they exist as of the passage of this article. Recreational capital improvements shall be limited to the purposes described in section 4.6.101 of this article.

TOPS Funding Division



Trails, Open Space and Parks

TOPS Revenue by Category

TOPS Administration – 3%

TOPS Stewardship and Maintenance – 6%

Divide the Remaining Balance

TOPS Trails Category – 20% max

TOPS Parks Category – 20% max

TOPS Open Space Category – 60% min

minimum of 75% for acquisition

maximum of 25% for stewardship and maintenance

Questions

