

# Trails, Open Space and Parks Program (TOPS) Ballot Question

City Council Regular Session

January 10, 2023

Britt Haley, Director

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department



# 25 Years of Trails, Open Space and Parks Program (TOPS)



- **Important Accomplishments To Date:**
  - 7,500 acres of open space acquired
  - 67 parks built or improved (**Most recent Panorama Park**)
  - 53+ miles of trail constructed
- **First Open Space Purchase: Stratton Open Space**
- **Most Recent Open Space Purchase: Fisher's Canyon Open Space**
- **Program set to expire December 31, 2025**





Palmer Mesa Trail-under construction



# Ballot Components



- Extend the 0.1% sales and use tax for 20 years
- 1 cent for every 10 dollars of sales
- Expiration date, December 31, 2045
- \*New- based on public input\*
  - In the Open Space category-language committing a minimum of 75% of those funds for acquisition
- \*New- based on public input\*
  - removing words “development” and “restoration from the proposed 2023 ballot question.
- Align spending flexibility in Trails and Open Space categories for property regardless of how it was acquired

# Revised Ballot Question



WITHOUT IMPOSING ANY NEW TAX OR INCREASING THE RATE OF ANY EXISTING TAX, SHALL THE EXISTING 0.1% (ONE TENTH OF A CENT) CITY SALES AND USE TAX FOR TRAILS, OPEN SPACE AND PARKS (TOPS) BE EXTENDED FROM ITS CURRENT EXPIRATION OF DECEMBER 31, 2025 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2045, WITH THE SAME USES FOR OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION AND STEWARDSHIP, AND TRAILS AND PARKS ACQUISITION AND MAINTENANCE, THE ABOVE CONSTITUTING NO CHANGES TO THE PROGRAM EXCEPT ALLOWING FUNDS DEDICATED TO MAINTENANCE OF TRAILS AND OPEN SPACES TO BE USED REGARDLESS OF HOW THE TRAIL OR OPEN SPACE WAS ACQUIRED, AND IN THE OPEN SPACE CATEGORY A MINIMUM OF 75% OF FUNDS TO BE SPENT ON ACQUISITION OF NEW OPEN SPACE AS A CONTINUATION OF A VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE AND EXCEPTION TO ANY CONSTITUTIONAL, STATUTORY, AND CHARTER REVENUE AND SPENDING LIMITATIONS THAT MAY OTHERWISE APPLY?

\_\_\_\_\_ YES

\_\_\_\_\_ NO

# TOPS Funding Division



## Trails, Open Space and Parks

### TOPS Revenue by Category

TOPS Administration – 3%

TOPS Maintenance – 6%

### Divide the Remaining Balance

TOPS Trails Category – 20% max

TOPS Parks Category – 20% max

TOPS Open Space Category – 60% min

\*within the 60% open space category- a minimum of 75% to be spent on acquisition of new open space





Nancy Lewis Park

# Decision Timeline for Ballot Question



- December 7, 2022 -TOPS Working Committee Presentation COMPLETED
- December 8, 2022 -Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory (PRCS) Board Presentation COMPLETED
- December 12, 2022 - City Council Work Session- COMPLETED
- January 4, 2023 -TOPS Working Committee Results in Unanimous Recommendation
- January 4, 2023 - PRCS Board Special Meeting Results in Unanimous Recommendation
- January 10, 2023 - City Council Regular Session consideration of proposed ballot question
- April 4, 2023 – City of Colorado Springs General Municipal Election





## Questions and Discussion

