

RESOLUTION NO. ____-22

A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR KURT SCHROEDER

WHEREAS, the City has benefitted greatly from the dedicated service of Kurt Schroeder, Parks Maintenance and Operations Manager, for a combined 41 years of service to the parks industry, including 23 years with the City of Colorado Springs and 18 years with El Paso County; and

WHEREAS, Kurt Schroeder is a native of Baltimore, Maryland, and a proud graduate of Texas A&M University; and

WHEREAS, Kurt began his tenure with the City Of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services in 1999 overseeing parks, maintenance and open space responsibilities with his most recent title being Park Maintenance and Operations Manager; and

WHEREAS, he was significantly involved in key projects critical to the ongoing success of the Department including the acquisition and development of Red Rock Canyon Open Space in 2003; the development of a new Parks System Master Plan in 2014; after a ten-year hiatus, the construction of John Venezia Community Park in 2017; and the creation of the Parks Department Infrastructure Assessment in 2020; and

WHEREAS, Kurt also worked within parks infrastructure to support the renovation and replacement of amenities across the community including a state-of-the-art pickleball facility in Monument Valley Park in 2016 and the City's first self-cleaning restroom facility located in Bancroft Park. Known as the Exeloo, it was voted America's Best Restroom by the Cintas Corporation in 2020; and

WHEREAS, Kurt has a special passion and commitment regarding water conservation, advocating for water footprint reduction projects each year. A recent example was the replacement of sod with artificial turf at Cottonwood Creek Park which resulted in a savings of 2.8 million gallons of water annually; and

WHEREAS, his commitment to stewardship saw an expansion in opportunities with the Rocky Mountain Field Institute taking on contractual restoration and mitigation work for parks properties across the community averaging 80 days a year; and

WHEREAS, Kurt supported the acquisition, development, and maintenance of the park system through the ballot initiatives and implementations associated with the Trails, Open Space and Parks, or TOPS, tax including celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary in 2022; and

WHEREAS, he continued the effort to improve and sustain funding for the department through the voter-approved transition within the Briargate community from a Special Improvement Maintenance District to a General Improvement District which resulted in an increase of over \$300,000 annually to meet the needs and enhance the service level for those residents; and

WHEREAS, his knowledge, experience and creativity contributed to making the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department an excellent organization with the department receiving national accreditation through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) in 2020; and

WHEREAS, we appreciate his dedication, commitment, leadership, mentorship, and stewardship of taxpayer dollars throughout his years of service to the City; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes him happiness and success in all his future ventures.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS:

Section 1. That City Council recognizes Kurt Schroeder for his 23 years of service, leadership, and contributions to the City of Colorado Springs.

DATED at Colorado Springs, Colorado this 24 day of May, 2022

Council President

ATTEST:

City Clerk