

# THE RED ROCK RAG

Volume 7, Number 1

News and Views on Red Rock Canyon

Winter, 2006

Published by THE FRIENDS OF RED ROCK CANYON  
P.O. Box 6754, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-6754

[www.redrockcanyonopenspace.org](http://www.redrockcanyonopenspace.org)

## 'Friends' applies for trail grant

Friends of Red Rock Canyon has applied to the Colorado State Parks Trails Program for a \$15,000 grant to help cover the expenses for a trail building project which will develop nearly a mile of trail.

This trail will link the southern portion of Red Rock Canyon to the Intemann Trail connection which was built this past year and to the southern portion of the Sand Canyon Trail. That part of the trail between Red Rock Canyon and the Intemann Trail connection will generally follow the route of a historic equestrian trail which was used by the Roundup Stables for Red Rock Canyon pony rides sixty and seventy years ago. The trail will form part of new, longer, trail loops which can incorporate nearly all of the Red Rock Canyon, Greenlee Canyon, Mesa, and Sand Canyon Trails.

Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado will assume the major responsibility for organizing and carrying out the project. Friends of Red Rock Canyon will contribute \$2,500 toward project costs and will assist with project management in cooperation with the City of Colorado Springs and VOC. Colorado Springs' TOPS program will contribute \$7,000 toward the project. We expect volunteer work to contribute more than \$50,000 of "in kind" value to the project.

This trail building project is planned for October 14 & 15, 2006.

### CALENDAR:

#### Friends of Red Rock Canyon meetings:

Friends of Red Rock Canyon meets at 7:00 PM the first Thursday of the month in the Academy Room on the lower level of the historic Colorado Springs City Hall, 107 N. Nevada Avenue. (Enter at the southeast corner of the building.)

Upcoming meetings will be on:

**January — NO MEETING**

**February 2**

**March 2**

#### Volunteer workdays:

**October 14 & 15** - Southern trail connection from Red Rock Canyon to Sand canyon.  
Coordinated by Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado

Additional volunteer projects will be planned throughout the year.

For more information, see:  
[www.springsgov.com/page.asp?NavID=5552](http://www.springsgov.com/page.asp?NavID=5552)  
or call Kim King at City Parks: 385-5940.

## Our Thanks

The Friends of Red Rock Canyon wishes to express appreciation to the Chris Leiber and Aimee Cox of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services for providing an update on Red Rock Canyon plans at our November meeting, and for their ongoing efforts in managing the development and stewardship of Red Rock Canyon Open Space.

We would also like to express our appreciation to the City of Colorado Springs for providing our meeting room.

## President's Report

What a great year it has been for Red Rock Canyon Open Space! New trails have been built and old ones put back to their natural state. Land has been cleared, steps have been put in, water bars created, bridges built. Trails have been connected as well as the wonderful volunteers who have made new trail building friends and old friends reconnecting.

There's such a grand energy in Red Rock Canyon Open Space that has brought many people together joining in the same purpose - to Save, Preserve and Protect Red Rock Canyon Open Space. The combined energy of all the volunteers and City people who have worked and played on this land has helped create and manifest the vision of The Master Plan.

It certainly will be many more years before the whole plan is done. With the continued effort of YOU, the volunteers who have put your time, energy and hearts and funding into this plan we will reach our goal and beyond! Thank you ALL for what you have given not only to the people who visit Red Rock Canyon Open Space now and the future generations who will come and walk there, but also for the care and concern for Earth you have shown as you have worked on the land. And thank you to all who have contributed in any other way for the enhancement of Red Rock Canyon Open Space!

The Friends of Red Rock Canyon would like to express their gratitude to Kenyon Jordan and Twyla Rodriguez for their contributions during their stay on the Friends of Red Rock Canyon Board. Both have recently resigned from the board.

Kenyon, thank you for all the time, effort and thought you have given regarding Red Rock Canyon Open Space. Thank you for coming up with great ideas for trails and for being out there building those trails. Thank you for being there every step of the way to see that the Linkup between The Intermann Trail and Red Rock Canyon through Section 16 happened. Two successful weekends opened the new trail. We appreciate the years you have been on board and welcome you back anytime!

Twyla, thank you for all your help with the Red Rock Canyon Open Space Opening and all the ideas you have contributed to the board. Thank you for recognizing that your involvement with running a wonderful school just does not leave

much time for being on the board, as you had hoped. We respect your decision and wish you well with your career!

Now, that leaves a few openings on the board for new members. We invite any of you who might wish to join to get in contact with us through our website:

[www.redrockcanyonopenspace.org](http://www.redrockcanyonopenspace.org)

Our meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 7PM in City Hall in the Academy Room. If you are interested you may come to our next meeting February 2, 2006 or any meeting thereafter.

The board needs members who are willing to meet at least 7-9 times a year and be an active member. You don't need to build trails; ideas are a great contribution! We especially need someone from the equestrian sector to be on the board. We need someone familiar with the "equestrian" needs at Red Rock Canyon Open Space. We want to open communications with the equestrian community. We also need someone with fundraising experience to help us apply for grants. We need people who are willing to give their time and energy to one of the most spectacular landscapes on the planet. You will be rewarded tenfold.

Karlee Thompson, President  
Friends of Red Rock Canyon

## Big plans for 2006

Chris Leiber, Manager of Design Development and TOPS, outlined the City's plans for Red Rock Canyon improvements for the coming year at the November third meeting of Friends of Red Rock Canyon.

Improvements to the High Street entrance and main trailhead parking area top the list of city projects. Plans call for doubling the capacity of the main parking lot and constructing a trail along the Highway 24 frontage. Construction of the 31st street trailhead is also planned for 2006. This trailhead will accommodate horse trailer parking. Along with building the 31st Street trailhead, the City plans to build a multi-use trail which will connect the trailhead to Red Rock Canyon and the High Street entrance.

2006 plans also call for preparing architectural and engineering construction drawings for converting the Bock House to the proposed pavilion / shelter.

## Volunteer work in 2005 valued at \$99,544.00

The Colorado Springs Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services has placed a value of \$99,544.00 on the work that 1,063 volunteers contributed in building trails, cleaning up, and planting trees in Red Rock Canyon Open Space during the past year.

Trail building efforts this past year have focused on Sand Canyon near the western edge of Red Rock Canyon Open Space and on the mesa just east of Sand Canyon.

The Garden of the Goddesses Club completed the pedestrian only Contemplative Trail which follows the row of Fountain sandstone fins in Sand Canyon. The Sand Canyon Trail runs east of the Contemplative trail and roughly parallels it. The Sand Canyon Trail and two trails connecting it to the Mesa Trail were completed through work sponsored by REI along with work done by the Colorado Legends and Legacies Youth Corps, which was hired by the Colorado Springs Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services. With the Mesa Trail connected to the Greenlee Canyon and Red Rock Canyon trails by the Quarry Pass Trail

which was built by Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado in the Fall of 2004, the central and western areas of Red Rock Canyon Open Space now have a system of connected trails. Except for southern link between Sand Canyon and Red Rock Canyon, these trails largely complete the planned trail system in the western part of Red Rock Canyon Open Space.

Following the Arbor Day volunteer re-vegetation work on the mesa areas above the main entrance, both off-leash dog loops were constructed and have now been opened. There is now a trail connection from the Upper Dog Loop to the Sand Canyon Trail.

Work on the trail connecting Red Rock Canyon Open Space to the Intemann Trail in Section 16 began with an August 14 trail day sponsored by the Intemann Trail Committee. Approximately 50 volunteers cleared roughly half of the 2,200 foot long trail. The trail was completed on September 24 when REI sponsored a trail work day along with the Friends of Red Rock Canyon and the Intemann Trail Committee. Since trails in Section 16 are part of the Ring the Peak Trail, the connection to the Intemann Trail links the Red Rock Canyon trail network into the region-wide trail system.

A trail map is available on our website:

[www.redrockcanyonopenspace.org](http://www.redrockcanyonopenspace.org)

### - MEMBERSHIP FORM -

## Friends of Red Rock Canyon

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I want to join Friends of Red Rock Canyon for the coming year

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual Member (\$10)

\_\_\_\_\_ Family Membership (\$15) Other Family Members: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Organization / Business Membership (\$30)

I would like to help even more with a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to be involved in volunteer efforts:

\_\_\_\_\_ Trail and stewardship volunteer

\_\_\_\_\_ Educational Programs

\_\_\_\_\_ Brochure or grant writer

\_\_\_\_\_ Advocacy & Community outreach

\_\_\_\_\_ Other (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

My main interests in Red Rock Canyon Open Space are: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this membership form with your check to:

**Friends of Red Rock Canyon**

P.O. Box 6754

Colorado Springs, CO 80904 -6754

(Friends of Red Rock Canyon is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax deductible.)

# ***CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL!***

***If the upper right hand corner of the label (MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DATE) is blank, Friends of Red Rock Canyon has not received your current membership; and this could be your last issue of the RED ROCK RAG.***

***Join Friends of Red Rock Canyon now and be sure to keep getting the RED ROCK RAG***

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## **WE WANT YOUR INPUT!**

Letters, articles, comments may be sent to:

Rag Editor  
Friends of Red Rock Canyon  
P.O. Box 6754  
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-6754

Electronic submissions may be sent to:

friends@redrockcanyonopenspace.org  
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For more information, contact **Linda Hodges** at the **Trails and Open Space Coalition**: 633-6884,  
or e-mail: friends@redrockcanyonopenspace.org

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RENEWAL DATE