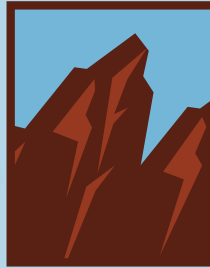


the **RED ROCK RAG**



FRIENDS OF
RED ROCK CANYON

Volume 20,#1
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<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofredrockcanyon>

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President's Report

Spring has sprung and our board members are busy deciding what projects we'll tackle this year and what trails are in need of maintenance and repairs.

The great news is we've added a few new board members in the last couple months. We now have representatives from local hiking , biking, and climbing groups so that as many user groups as possible have a voice in what's happening in Red Rock Canyon Open Space.

Most of the parks and open spaces we all enjoy now have a "Friends Group." We all meet regularly with the city parks and recreation



department so we can better coordinate our efforts at making sure Colorado Springs has the best parks, trails and open space experiences to be had in the state.

Let's all join in this year and every year to be the best stewards of these amazing places we all cherish and love so much.



See these babies right now at the pond!

Wishing you all "Happy Trails."

www.redrockcanyonopenspace.org

Talk and Walks 2018

Education Programs in Red Rock Canyon

The educational series of Talk and Walks are being planned again for this summer in Red Rock Canyon. Past years we have offered informative sessions on weekday evenings, usually starting around 5:30 and ending before dark. Presentations are done by volunteers with expertise in their subject area. The presentations are basically informal, letting presenters give information about their subject first, the "Talk", then after the "Talk" everyone goes out on a hike led by the presenter, the "Walk".

Talk and Walks last summer were given on History in Red Rock Canyon, Plants of the Canyon, and Geology. Each Talk and Walk is generally announced for sign-ups through our Friends of Red Rock Canyon email list and website, though sometimes the word of these events makes it into local newspapers.

If you would like to receive the announcements for our Talk and Walks this summer, it is best to be on our email list.



Eric Billmeyer, Senior Instructor with UCCS, discussing some of the evidence of fossils found in the variety of rock layers in Red Rock Canyon



Amber Shanklin leading a Talk and Walk on Plants of Red Rock Canyon

If you need to sign up to be on our email list, simply go to our website: <http://redrockcanyonopenspace.org/>.

At the bottom of the home page is the link where you can add your name to our email list.

If you are interested in presenting, or know of someone who would be good (and hopefully interested in sharing their knowledge), please let us know. We will be starting to work on a schedule for this coming year. Also, if you have other ideas on how to present educational opportunities in Red Rock Canyon, let us know.

We love to share education about Red Rock Canyon with as many people as possible.

Please contact us on presenting, ideas on presenters or new formats for presentations on education, at our email friends@redrockcanyonopenspace.org or give a call to David at 685-4792.

Thank you for your support!

Trails 2018 in RRC

The number of new loops for bikers, hikers, and runners is impressive. Much of the Intemann Trail in Section 16 has been re-routed, making it more biker friendly. There is one new section of Intemann going from the Parallel Trail junction to the Lori Cohen Bench. There is another new section from the Lori Cohen Bench to the Bevers connection trail and the Sand Canyon Trail.

During the last two years the City did a great job



Shanti Toll, in his element

building the Red Rock Canyon Overlook Trail at the south end of the landfill up into Section 16. The trail takes you through some of the prettiest parts of our Open Space. This new trail is best accessed from the Section 16 trailhead and can be seen on the new maps. It is first class. Check it out.

They also built the brand new White Acres Trail from the landfill road near the White Acres Pavilion to the White Acres Ridge Trail. It follows an old wagon road as it goes over the Dakota Hogback. It is a well designed trail, with both rock steps and rock bike ramps at the top of the Hogback. This is a new way to access trails in Section 16.

There is a new map brochure coming out in May, which will be more accurate to trails on the ground. The Meadow Loop Trail is closed for now and is not on the new maps. The short connector trail just southeast of Quarry Trail continues to be closed and is not on the new map.

At the south end of the landfill the City, FoRRC, and Medicine Wheel will be building a formal trail (replacing the many social trails) connecting the Ridge Trail to the new Red Rock Canyon Overlook Trail. That trail will be on the map even though the trail will not be built until late summer.

Friends of Red Rock Canyon Monthly Project Nights

The FoRRC Board invites you to come out from **4:45 to 7:45 PM on the fourth Thursday of the month** to help our Open Space. We might do trail maintenance; we might do evasive weed removal, or we might do general cleanup. Spend some time outside with wonderful people giving service. **We meet at the picnic parking lot on May 24, June 28, July 26, August 23, and September 27.**

According to city policy you do need to register for these workday in advance at friends@redrockcanyonopenspace.org OR you will not be allowed to volunteer.

Come and meet the FoRRC board, do some good work, share some ideas and afterwards have a beer or beverage at a local tavern.



Colorado Public Lands Day

In May 2016 Colorado became the first state in the Nation to establish a holiday for our public lands. On **May 19, 2018** we celebrated the second annual celebration of that day here in Colorado Springs.

Last year volunteers spent the morning in Red Rock Canyon open space doing trail work on the “white acres trail” at the south east end of the park. After lunch volunteers spent the afternoon socializing and enjoying many organized activities.

This year was much the same with Red Rock Canyon again being the recipient of some much needed TLC. There was trail work done in the morning and a catered lunch for the volunteers at the pavilion. The afternoon featured guided hikes and bike rides as well as climbing instructions and activities.

This was a great day for people to connect with nature, challenge themselves, and to get closer to people and give back to the public lands we all love so much.



Ted paraglides into Colorado Public Lands Day, 2017

GoCoSprings Mobile APP

If you use RRC and see something needs to done,
if you drive your car through potholes,
if you want to complain,
if you want to compliment a city worker.

Then this free app on your phone is for you!

Load it up on you phone and you can easily communicate with our Olympic city about an issue right on the spot.

You can take a picture or write a comment, while it is fresh in your mind. IT'S FUN and very rewarding.

Download at the App Store or on Google Play



Manitou Trail CATS

Volunteers for Conservation and Community Collaborations for Service and Enjoyment

We are all busy. We first should look to balance our personal needs and responsibilities, but we can do more. Giving back to the nature and community around us reminds us that we are all creatures of the earth and we care about more than just ourselves. Volunteering is a way of saying thanks in a helpful and joyful way. So if you're motivated here is the summer schedule workdays in and around Red Rock Canyon. Please register to volunteer at www.ManitouCATS.com.



- June 10** Red Rock Canyon General trail maintenance, repair drainage structures and corridor clearing on Meadowlark Trail, Quarry Pass Trail, and Intemann Trail.
- July 8** El Paso County Bear Creek Park General trail maintenance, tread repair, evasive weed removal, improving drainage features and corridor clearing
- August 12** Red Rock Canyon Build a new trail connecting the Red Rock Overlook Trail to the Ridgeline Trail (at the south end of the landfill)

RMFI Stewardship Update

The Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI), in partnership with the City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department, has been hard at work in Red Rock Canyon this spring. RMFI is a local (offices located in the old Midland

School building on 26th Street) environmental stewardship non-profit organization that engages the community in the improvement and restoration of public lands.



So far this season, RMFI staff and community volunteers have spent 19 days in the Open Space implementing project objectives developed in partnership with the City TOPS Program. Projects have included: routine maintenance of the Sand Canyon and Upper Dog Loop Trails, construction of a combination bike ramp and timber steps on the Sand Canyon Trail (pictured here), invasive species removal, headcut stabilization, and closure and restoration of over 1,270 feet of rogue trails.

Red Rock Canyon also served as the location for one day of the Pikes Peak Regional Crew Leader Training, hosted in early May. For more information, or to learn about opportunities to volunteer, contact RMFI at rmfi@rmfi.org or visit www.rmfi.org.

Upcoming Climbing Improvements at RRC

The Pikes Peak Climber's Alliance (PPCA) plans to rehabilitate some of the climbing access trails and staging areas below several cliffs over the summer, as well as upgrade anchors on a few routes.

The PPCA's Fixed Hardware Committee plans to install new anchors on the Toprope Wall area on the east side of the canyon, opposite the historic quarry. This 65-foot-high cliff, often used for classes by groups like the Colorado Mountain Club, currently has no fixed anchors. Instead, climbers use slings around ponderosa pines on the ledge above to create equalized anchors for toprope climbing.

When the climbing routes in Red Rock Canyon were initially established in 2004, it was determined at that time that fixed anchors were not needed on the cliff.



However, the Toprope Wall has since become popular and the top edge of the cliff has become grooved and damaged by ropes because many climbers don't



use extended slings to drop their rope below the top. Either four or five sets of fixed anchors will be installed below the cliff top to lessen damage.

The hardware is state-of-the-art Climb Tech glue-in Wave bolts placed in industrial-strength epoxy in 1/2-inch holes. These stainless steel anchors last considerably longer and are stronger than the sleeve bolts commonly used at Red Rock Canyon.

Most of the work on climbing access trails at RRCOS will be the improvement of trails damaged in flooding several years ago. The trails at the north side of The Whale and the Whale's Tail are the priority.

The PPCA also wants to improve staging areas below popular routes at the Westbay, Sayers, and Ripple Walls on the east side of Red Rock Canyon and the Solar Slab on the west side. These four areas are most impacted by climbers and are visible from popular canyon trails.

For more information about the PPCA, visit their website at

www.PikesPeakClimbersAlliance.org/.

Mountain Biking in Red Rock Canyon

For those of us who have been lucky enough to have been mountain biking in Red Rock Canyon Open Space over the last decade or so, we've witnessed a steady increase in trail development and riding opportunities. We at Friends of Red Rock Canyon Open Space are extremely excited for the chance to continue this progress and to help protect what we already have.

When the park first opened the majority of the bike-friendly trail miles were on the various doubletrack roads running north-south, along with a number of shorter singletrack sections, all with the incredible views we've come to love in the park.

The main technical challenges could be found in the Skills Park near the main parking area, full of jumps, ramps, balance beams, and even teeter-totter stunts, as well as the Round Up trail running east-west between Sand Canyon and the landfill and providing a few tight, steep switchbacks and rocky obstacles that kept riders on their toes.

Steadily more singletrack was built in accordance with the park's Master Plan, including the highly technical Codell Trail on the east side of the park (thanks in large part to the efforts of Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates), the fast and flowy Sand Canyon to Intemann Trail connector on the west side of the park near the Bevers Trailhead, the horseshoe-shaped Red Rock Canyon Overlook Trail that dips down from Intemann at either end into the top of the landfill and offering both flow and technical challenges, and finally a fun new connector dropping east from White Acres down to the pavilion overlooking 26 th Street.

These additions, amongst other enhancements to Intemann Trail and Section 16, have really opened up the riding options and technical variety for mountain bikers. You can spend a whole morning or afternoon in the park now and still not hit all the trails available to ride.

In future columns we hope to touch on various aspects of mountain biking in the park, including details of favorite trails and loops, riding ethics, how best to share the trails with each other as well as our fellow users on foot or horseback, and any other topics affecting the mountain bike community in the park.

If you have any questions, suggestions for future article topics, or just want to discuss general riding topics affecting the park, please don't hesitate to reach out to us via email or our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofredrockcanyon>



Dante the Dog Likes the Dog Park

One of the best views of Pikes Peak, Garden of the Gods and our natural viewscape is in the Red Rock Canyon Dog Park. It is sooooo nice that you may want to go there without a dog. It is an underused hidden treasure for easy walking and dog frolicking.

According to Dante the park is a friendly and safe place to play, sniff, chase balls and run.



No SH*T!

How do we keep our park attractive and clean this year? We have for years reminded dog walkers to carry out their plastic bags of poop. We thank all of you who do that.

Sometimes, however, when the dog is far far away from the parking lot and trash cans, we just push the crap off to the side. It is better than putting the poop in a plastic bag and leaving it on the trail to last forever. This year FoRRC is requesting that every 6 weeks or so, dog walkers bring a plastic grocery bag and scoop and pick up any/all poop along the trail. This occasional action will help you with your karma and the guilty feelings you have for those time you didn't have a bag or just hid your dog poop.

We all appreciate a trail that is clean and well cared for. **THANK YOU**

Also, a friendly notice to please be aware that the city has been busy issuing tickets to people whose dogs are offleash in parks. The fine is \$50 per dog for the first offense, \$80 per dog for the second offense, and a day in municipal court to face stiffer penalties for the third offense.

Help FoRRC...Drink Beer

Good Beer

The Trails End Tap Room has a wonderful program where tips are donated to charitable organizations. August looks like it will be FoRRC's month for tips. If you have not been there, it is a playful new experience of pouring your own beer. (There are so many choices)

Good friends

Better yet - Friends of Red Rock Canyon are sharing August tips with our friends at Friends Of The Peak (FOTP). Together we hope to have some interesting events/presentations/gathering so we get to share our experiences in the open space we love so much.

Good Causes

So the tips you leave at the Trails End Tap Room (3103 W. Colorado Avenue) in August support projects that support new trails, strengthen and improve trails we do have, and protect nature from the onslaught of humans loving it to death. Keep track for future announcements.



Membership Form for Friends of Red Rock Canyon

Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Address: _____ Work Phone: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Newsletter Delivery Preference: Via email (full-color, recommended) Via postal mail

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

Individual/Family membership (\$15) Organization / Business membership (\$30)

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

I would like to be involved in volunteer efforts Please describe your interest:

Please mail this membership for
with your check to:

Friends of Red Rock Canyon

PO Box 6754

Board Meetings are held at the Westside Community Center, at 1628 West Bijou Street, on the second Monday of each month beginning at 6:30pm.

Thank You!



Many thanks to **Chris Schell** of **Design Rangers** for so graciously and kindly assisting us with our site regarding some technical difficulties. He designed our excellent website, redrockcanyonopenspace.org, and we're grateful for all he's done.

Visit the Design Rangers at designrangers.com

Also, many thanks to our new (and old) board members and contributors to the Red Rock Rag Newsletter and our website.

Daniel Downs has taken on the webmaster role for our site and has been painstakingly updating and maintaining it. He is much appreciated.

Sean McKeown will be contributing articles about mountain biking in our newsletter and taking on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/friendsfredrockcanyon/.

Glenn Pressman has been elected Secretary of FoRRC.

Stewart Green, from Pikes Peak Climbers Alliance, will be contributing articles about rock climbing in RRC.

Deana Patrick is a new board alternate.

Joe Lavorini, of RMFI, and **Anthony Maltese** have been with us for several years and we're grateful for their many contributions.

Most importantly, let's not forget about the founding and extraordinarily longstanding members of FoRRC: **Dave Schell, David Valier, and Shanti Toll**. I think it's safe to say that without their many years of dedication and hard work, there would BE no FoRRC. A lot goes on behind the scenes, and these guys are the backbone.

Way to go, friends!

The Red Rock Rag

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RENEWAL DATE**

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Vice President/City Liaison: Shanti Toll
Treasurer/Education Director: David Valier
Secretary: Glenn Pressman
Facebook Editor: Sean McKeown
Members at Large: Joe Lavorini, Anthony Maltese



Board Alternates

Deana Patrick, Dan Downs,
Stewart Green, Jenny Montague
Newsletter Editor: Jenny Montague
Webmaster: Dan Downs

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We appreciate your support!



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