

**CPW Project Scope  
Palmer Lake Creekside Trail System**

**Overview:**

Palmer Lake Parks and Trails Commission is putting in a new trail system running from Kent St. to North Monument Creek and Monument Creek. This adds approximately 1.3 miles of trails and connects with other trails in Palmer Lake. This new trail crosses North Monument Creek several times and the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) Civil and Environmental Engineering cadets will design and build three bridges for these crossings beginning, with design beginning in fall 2023 and final construction completed in spring 2026.

The USAFA will design the Chicken Coop Bridge in fall 2023 and construct it in spring 2024. They will design the Kent Street Bridge in fall 2024 and construct it in spring 2025. Lastly, they will design the Historic Epworth Bridge in fall 2025 and construct it in spring 2026. This grant will be used to pay for the materials needed to construct the bridges. The USAFA are donating their time and effort for the design and construction.

**Details:**

The Palmer Lakes Parks and Trails Commission is adding a new trail system in Palmer Lake which will connect the Greenland Open Space Trails and the Santa Fe Trail to the Creekside Trail, Glen Park, Reservoir Trailhead and the newly acquired 28-acre Elephant Rock property. Within this new trail system, the Palmer Lake Parks and Trails Commission will partner with a Mile High Youth Corps day crew over a four-week period in summer 2024 to construct approximately 1.3 miles of trails. This grant will be used to pay for the materials needed to construct three bridges along this new trail where it crosses North Monument Creek. Dr. Brad Wambeke, a Civil & Engineering Professor at the USAFA, is having his cadets design and build the three bridges over a three-year period.

This new trail connects to Santa Fe Tail located in the Palmer Lake Recreational Area. The trail crosses Colorado Highway 105 at Spring Street. The trail continues down Kent Street and the new trail construction begins at the end of the street. From the end of Kent St, the trail goes down to North Monument Creek where USAFA will construct the Kent Street Bridge (see Fig. 1).



Fig. 1 Kent Street Bridge Site

After a hiker crosses this portion of North Monument Creek, they will reach the current Creekside trail. Heading NW, they can continue to Glen Park or Palmer Lake Reservoir Trailhead and hike into Pike National Forest or continue SE to the new trail system.

At the end of the Creekside Trail, the hiker will cross Spring Street at the T-intersection of Lover’s Lane. The trail starts again just east of Spring Street and continues following North Monument Creek. The Mile High Youth Corp and Volunteers of Colorado began constructing a portion of the trail at this point during a training session in June 2023.

## Palmer Lake Parks & Trails Proposal

The trail continues to meander adjacent to the creek until the hiker reaches a crossing that has heavy erosion where USAFA will construct the Chicken Coop Bridge (see fig. 2). After crossing, the trail continues to a grassy area and after the grassy area there was a historic bridge that connected the area to Epworth Highway. The USAFA will construct the Historic Epworth Bridge at this site (see fig. 3).



Fig. 2 Chicken Coop Bridge Site



Fig. 3 Historic Epworth Bridge Site