

## Palmer Lake Parks and Trails Commission Proposal for a New Park

"Palmer Lake Municipal Code Chapter 2.20.040 – Parks and Trails Commission Duties and Responsibilities: The commission shall advise on matters pertaining to the implementation and development of the town park areas, ***new parks***, trails and open spaces subject to approval of the town board."

The Palmer Lake Parks and Trails Commission requests the Board of Trustees consider designating specific town property as "Cindy Allen Memorial Park". Cindy Allen was a beloved and deeply involved member of the Palmer Lake community. She and her husband Tom built their home in the Glen and spent decades enriching the town through civic engagement and volunteerism. Together, they founded the volunteer Parks and Recreation Committee, fostering outdoor spaces and community spirit. Cindy served as Mayor pro tem for 14 years and was a dedicated member of the Board of Trustees, contributing her leadership and vision to the town's development. Part of her lasting legacy in Palmer Lake is the Creekside Trail, a project she championed, built and brought to life for the enjoyment of future generations.

The attached maps identify the area that we are proposing for the new park. The PLP&T Commission believes dedicating this town property as a park will benefit the citizens of Palmer Lake and this area should be designated as a park for the following reasons.

1. This area is already a key part of the Palmer Lake Parks and Trails trail system.
  - See attached map of the existing trail system.
  - Creekside Trail from Walnut Ave to Spring Street along the north side of Lover's Lane was constructed approximately 30 years ago. This area is directly across Lover's Lane from Glen Park and has been maintained by the PLP&T Commission since 2018.
  - Palmer Lake Board of Trustees Resolution NO. 28-2023 authorized construction of a new trail beginning at the Kent Street platted right of way, to cross the creek, connect to the existing Creekside trail and follow southeast to the Elephant Rock town property to the open pavilion.
  - Resolution NO. 10-2024 authorized construction of walking bridges as part of the trail system.
2. Designating this area as a park or open space would make it eligible for Conservation Trust Funds.

- Colorado Revised Statute Section 29-21-101 establishes the Conservation trust fund. Statutes
- Conservation Trust Funds are the portion of Lottery proceeds constitutionally mandated to be distributed directly to local governments, based on population, for acquiring and maintaining parks, open space and recreational facilities. The funds are distributed and monitored through the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA).

### 3. The area has significant floodplain areas.

- FEMA Floodplain map
- The Pikes Peak Regional Building Department is the local Floodplain Administrator.
- Areas identified as floodplain have significant restrictions on uses.
- Parks and open space are allowable uses for floodplain areas.

### 4. The area proposed as "Cindy Allen Memorial Park" is recognized by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse habitat:

- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service added the Preble's meadow jumping mouse to the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife in 50 CFR 17.11 as a threatened species on May 13, 1998 (63 FR 26517). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service later designated critical habitat for the Preble's meadow jumping mouse in 50 CFR 17.68 on June 23, 2003, and revised critical habitat for the subspecies on December 15, 2010 (74 FR 52066). Critical habitat for the Preble's mouse includes approximately 411 miles (661 km) of rivers and streams and 34,935 acres (14,138 hectares) of lands in Colorado (75 FR 78430).

### 5. Palmer Lake Parks and Trails Maintenance

- PLP&T has spring and fall service days that focus on maintenance of park facilities. These service days have focused multiple times on the area(s) that PLP&T is requesting for Park designation.
- The area being requested for park designation is a critical part of the Fountain Creek Watershed Headwaters District. As such, the area is part of the annual Creek Week Service Days. The District supplies materials for creek cleanup and PLP&T organizes cleanup activities with the help of volunteers.
- PLP&T has been awarded multiple grants to improve the trail system, build new trails, and maintain the existing trail system in the proposed new park area.

- This year, the Mile High Youth Corp, through a grant, removed a huge amount of debris and foliage in the proposed new park area along and in North Monument Creek. Another grant request has been submitted to MHYC for continued creek clean-up in 2026.
- PLP&T has already invested significant time and funding for improvements in the area we are proposing as a park.
- 4 bridges have been constructed since 2023 giving connectivity to downtown Palmer Lake and the Elephant Rock property from the existing trail system in the proposed new park, thus making it safer for pedestrians and bikers to travel between downtown and the Glen.
- Trails have been constructed and maintained in the proposed new park area after approval from the Board of Trustees.
- Benches have been and will be placed in various locations along the trail system in the proposed new park.

#### 6. Palmer Lake Public Works Maintenance

- PLPW currently maintains the area as part of its ongoing Parks and Trails maintenance responsibilities

#### 7. Attached letters of support.

- Fountain Creek Watershed District
- Trout Unlimited