

BLACK FOREST TRAILS ASSOCIATION

MISSION STATEMENT

TO CREATE A SAFE LEGITIMATE NON MOTORIZED, MULTI USE RECREATIONAL TRAIL SYSTEM THAT CONNECTS BLACK FOREST NEIGHBORHOODS TO EACH OTHER AND TO THE EL PASO COUNTY REGIONAL TRAIL SYSTEM

ANNUAL REPORT 2007

INTRODUCTION

Black Forest is a great place to live and work and, of course, to enjoy the many parks and trails – but this desirability can be a mixed blessing and controlling growth becomes a long term challenge. Some current issues being addressed are referred in the following text.

Several neighboring jurisdictions are involved in addition to Black Forest, each with its own Comprehensive Plan – these include Tri Lakes, Falcon/Peyton, Northgate [City of Colorado Springs] and others. The objectives already set forth in approved Master Plans for Parks, Trails and Open Space, the Black Forest Preservation Plan and Water issues as well - are now discussed and referred to in concert with each new development proposal. In addition, the need for motorized trails has become part of new multi use trail Comprehensive Plan. Here are some highlights of the year just past:

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

(1) SECLUSION SUBDIVISION - A development of 60 dwelling units on 314 total acres. BF Trails and El Paso County have requested trail easements within this development – and these are now shown on the subdivision drawings and the El Paso County Master Plan for Parks Trails and Open Space

(2) PINERIES RANCH [SANCTUARY IN THE PINES] MASTER PLAN
Development now under way involving Parks Department, the developer, and Palmer Land Trust Parks. Planning division is drafting a proposal to hire an experienced planning consultant to assist with the project.

(2a) At this time, the EXISTING PLAN for re routing of the CIG PIPELINE TRAIL as part of this system is subject to reassessment and update to current plan.

(3) Revised STERLING SKETCH PLAN (FORMERLY DINES RANCH) [jurisdiction shared with FALCON / PEYTON] Revised plans were submitted and initially turned down pending revisions including secured sources of water. Additional revisions are in process including jurisdiction, buffers, density and transition areas.

(4) CATHEDRAL PINES AMENDED PUD Total existing lots 161. 13 additional dwelling units proposed in exchange for open space, and park improvements including mistletoe mitigation and other park benefits -- Plans have been resubmitted and generally endorsed by Parks but the proposal has met with considerable local resistance -- .

As a Review Agency - Black Forest Trails, as well as several others, have withheld approval of this project pending revisions.

Meanwhile back at the ranch, improvements to BLACK FOREST REGIONAL PARK and BLACK FOREST SECTION 16 in the areas of mistletoe mitigation and forest management ---have been undertaken by Parks staff and local volunteer groups with positive and encouraging results

(5) BLACK FOREST RESERVE TRAIL and WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

Parks staff has negotiated with the developer and other interested citizens and gained a legal review from the county attorney's office on a draft agreement for regional trail location; also agreed in principle on a 100 acre wildlife corridor deeded to the county. Agreements to be presented to the developer for signature.

(6) A plan to reroute the Regional Trail away from rough and congested Vessey Rd at CATHEDRAL PINES and through the PARADISE ISLAND DEVELOPMENT was discussed with the developer and county planning – BFTA will continue to work with land owners to develop this trail access.

LOCAL AND NEIGHBORHOOD TRAILS

Local and neighborhood trails not included in the Master Plan at this time ---

These trails are designed and intended for local use only. The BFTA Board can provide information regarding these trails and how local residents may assist in enhancement and improvements