

Open Space, Trails and Greenways Master Plan

Updated July 12, 2010



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 2010 *Town of Parker Open Space, Trails and Greenways Master Plan Update* reflect the results and outreach of the 2004 Master Plan as well as additional outreach regarding the update. Additional outreach included public open houses, meetings with school-aged kids, study sessions and staff meetings. On behalf of the Town, Staff would like to thank our citizens, referral agencies, other Town departments, and adjoining counties for your participation and effort in providing comments during the process. We look forward to continuing dialogue with you as the Plan is implemented and updated through the years.

2004

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

RESOLUTION ADOPTING PLAN

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CHAPTER 1. Introduction and Background 4

- 1.1 Mission 4
- 1.2 Definitions 5
- 1.3 Relationship to Other Plans, Studies and Documents 5
- 1.4 Plan Update Process 5
- 1.5 Formulation of the Plan’s Goals and Strategies 6
- 1.6 Planning Principles 7

CHAPTER 2. What Parker Values 8

- 2.1 Open Space Qualities 8
- 2.2 Trail Qualities 9
- 2.3 Connecting Buildings, Roads, Open Space and Trails 11

CHAPTER 3. Our Current Open Space and Trails System 13

- 3.1 Existing Open Space and Greenways 13
- 3.2 Existing Trails Systems 13
- 3.3 Approved Trails and Open Space 13

CHAPTER 4. Goals and Strategies 14

- 4.1 Open Space Goals and Strategies 14
- 4.2 Trail Goals and Strategies 16

CHAPTER 5. Open Space Acquisition Criteria 18

- 5.1 Open Space Acquisition Criteria 18

CHAPTER 6. Trail Development Criteria and Missing Trail Connections 21

- 6.1 Trail Development Criteria 21
- 6.2 Missing Trail Connections 22

CHAPTER 7. Managing Our Open Space and Trail System 25

- 7.1 Open Space Management Planning 25
- 7.2 Implementing the Open Space Management Plan 27
- 7.3 Trail Maintenance 27
- 7.4 Safety 28

MAPS

- Map 1: Existing and Approved Open Space
- Map 2: Existing and Approved Trails
- Map 3: Missing Trail Connections
- Map 4: Destinations
- Map 5: Historic Sites
- Map 6: Wildlife
- Map 7: Visual Resources
- Map 8: Steep Slopes and Floodplains

APPENDICES (On file at Town Hall)

- Appendix A: Open Space and Trail Issues
- Appendix B: Funding Sources
- Appendix C: Plans, Studies and Documents Consulted
- Appendix D: 2003 Survey Results
- Appendix E: Resource Analysis
- Appendix F: Open Space and Trail Users

CHAPTER 1

Introduction and Background



Open space and trails are an integral component of the quality of life that the residents of Parker enjoy. Open space and trails are also central to our identity as a community. The Town of Parker Open Space, Trails and Greenways Master Plan (the “Plan”) reflects the community vision that open space and trails go beyond community amenities and are interwoven into the places we live work and play.

The purpose of this plan is to:

Guide the assessment, conservation and management of open space as well as the assessment, linking and management of the trail system;

Preserve open space and trail corridors for future generations;

Enhance the linkages between open space, trails and the built environment; and

Ensure that open space and trail linkages are appropriate, seamless and safe.

1.1 Mission

Master Plan Mission

The Mission of the Town of Parker Open Space, Trails and Greenways Plan is to provide an integrated and cohesive open space and trails system that fulfills the recreational, non-motorized movement, ecological and aesthetic needs of the Town.

Trails Mission

The Mission of the Town of Parker Trails Program is to provide an interconnected system of trails for a variety of users throughout the Town that provides for recreational uses, improves mobility and enhances the livability of the Town for present and future generations.

Open Space Mission

The Mission of the Town of Parker Open Space Program is to provide a living resource of interconnected open space lands that is integrated into the community and defines and enhances the unique high prairies character and history of the Town for present and future generations.

1.2 Definitions

Open space, trails and greenways can have varying definitions to different people, for the purpose of this document they are defined in this chapter. These definitions are for planning purposes only and do not override regulatory definitions as found in the Municipal Code.

Open Space is:

Land that is permanently preserved and protected from development for one or more of the following purposes:

- Riparian areas that are primarily in a natural state
- Areas that contain significant natural resources, aesthetic or cultural features that warrant protection
- Areas that preserve wildlife and wildlife habitat
- Areas that frame and contrast the built environment
- Areas that establish community buffers
- Passive recreational areas

Trails are:

A transportation or recreational route used by non-motorized alternative transportation to the automobile such as walking, bicycling, horseback riding or roller-blading.

Greenways are:

- Open space areas that have a linear form, typically following a creek, gulch or other natural landform or a recreational greenway following a trail or other transportation corridor
- A cohesive series of open space parcels that are intended to provide a linked, contiguous natural system and create a general sense of cohesiveness within the Town
- Used to preserve wildlife habitat and corridors, guide growth and establish community buffers

1.3 Relationship to Other Plans, Studies and Documents

This Plan is an update to the original Open Space, Trails and Greenways Master Plan approved September 7, 2004 and is an element of the Parker 2025 Master Plan adopted November 5, 2005, as amended.

A number of cross-jurisdictional reports and studies have been completed that recommend policies or actions relevant to open space and trail planning within the greater Parker area. In particular, these reports provided guidance for developing goals and policies that focus on environmental protection as well as opportunities for recreation. These reports and studies have helped to build the foundation for this Plan and should be considered as references to the Plan.

1.4 Plan Update Process

Planning is not a static process and periodically plans need updating, particularly in a fast growing community such as Parker. The 2004 Plan process was intended to improve a number of aspects of the Parks and Open Space Master Plan (1997) and the Open Space Master Plan (2001).

The results of the 2004 Plan were:

- Consolidate goals and policies for open space and trails into one cohesive plan
- Coordinate open space, trails and greenways with parks, recreational facilities and the built environment
- Revisit the open space criteria matrix to establish a flexible and interpretive scoring process
- Create a trails criteria matrix
- Incorporate the collected information into goals and implementation strategies to guide the preservation of open space and greenways and improve the trail system

Additionally, it was an opportunity to take advantage of technological improvements and new natural resources and planning data including the data developed for the Cherry Creek Basin Open Space Conservation and Stewardship Plan (2002).

The 2010 Plan update revisited the 2004 Plan and gathered feedback from our growing community in order to assure that the Plan, and its contents, are still relevant. Residents of our community provided input regarding what they consider to be important attributes about our open space and trails.

Public Open Houses

The Town of Parker staff kicked off the planning process with two workshops in October and November, 2009, to present the proposed Plan concept and to obtain initial citizen input on the need for open space and trails improvements. The Town held an open house on April 28, 2010 to display the draft document and request input from the community. Town staff maintained contact with the open house participants and citizens through newspaper articles, the Town newsletter, e-mail and the Town's website.

Youth Input

Town staff met with the Student Council of Cimarron Middle School to receive input regarding which trails students use, which trails they believe are needed and how they use the trail systems. All of the input provided by the students has been incorporated into the Plan.

Elected/Appointed Officials

Staff held two study sessions with the Planning Commission and two study sessions with Town Council to share resource data collected, present information obtained through community outreach efforts and receive direction on the preparation of the final draft.

Additional Outreach

Staff also developed a link on the Town's Web site that provided updates and information on the progress of the Plan.

The 2010 Plan updated the background data and maps that we base our decisions on. The community input and updated data are reflected in changes to the goals and strategies of the Plan as well as the open space and trails criteria.

1.5 Formulation of the Plan's Goals and Strategies

The Plan includes the formulation of goals and strategies for the development of trails and the preservation of open space. These goals and strategies, detailed in Chapter 4 of this Plan, were based on those of previous plans and reshaped with the help of community input and Planning Commission and Town Council direction. The goals and strategies also take into consideration strategies of other Denver Metro Area communities and the broader policies established by Douglas

County in the Douglas County Open Space Master Plan. One of the key directions provided in the Plan is the acquisition process criteria set forth in Chapters 5 & 6. This process is a reflection of the Goal and Strategies of the Plan and is one of many tools used to carryout the overall vision.

1.6 Planning Principles

The development of this Plan is not the end of the planning process. When considering the purchase of a parcel, a site acquisition planning process begins that is custom-designed to that purchase or trail construction project. The following are general planning principals to be used in the acquisition process.

Involve the Public. Input from individuals and outside organizations is encouraged; opportunity for public comment will be provided during the acquisition planning process or initial trail design. During open space acquisitions, public involvement will generally not occur until after a parcel has been put under contract to assure the Town can secure the parcel.

Involve other Government Agencies. Ongoing communication with other government agencies will be fostered. The Town of Parker believes in working with adjoining jurisdictions to ensure a cohesive and functioning regional open space and trail system. Adjoining jurisdictions input will be sought out.

Seek Outside Expertise. Land trusts, such as Douglas Land Conservancy, the Trust for Public Lands, and other organizations, can provide additional expertise in developing a proposal for acquiring and funding land acquisitions.

Employ Team Approach. Purchases of properties and trail construction will have an interdisciplinary team of Town personnel. The basic open space or trails team should include members of the following departments: Town Attorney, Finance, Community Development, Recreation and Public Works. The team approach will better ensure consideration of all pertinent issues. Professionals from other agencies, planners and others possessing specialized knowledge of open space resources may serve as advisors to the planning team. A team leader should be designated to coordinate each team effort.

Seek Quality Information. The best information available will be used in decision making and planning, subject to budget and time constraints. Information critical to the planning, acquisition and management of open space lands will be continuously compiled, analyzed and updated for natural and cultural resources, uses and impacts. This data will serve as an information base for formulating proposals, evaluating alternatives and making decisions for acquisition and management planning. Sources of information may include Town staff, research projects, consultants, other agencies, environmental and professional groups, the general public and others.

Evaluate Alternatives. Planning and decision making throughout the process will consider a wide range of alternatives and perspectives. Preferred alternatives shall be ecologically responsible, practical, innovative and cost-effective. A no-action alternative will always be considered. The planning team will weigh the benefits and costs of each alternative before making a recommendation to the Town Council. The Community Development Department will document the decision-making process.

Employ Ecosystem Approach. Acquisition planning and management of open space will occur within the context of an ecosystem approach. An ecosystem approach includes considering all of the interactions and connections between natural areas, and between developed and undeveloped areas.

CHAPTER 2

What Parker Values

2.1 Open Space Qualities

All properties have a series of attributes and characteristics that can be used to describe them. Though we value open space highly as a part of our community, we cannot preserve all vacant parcels within the Town as open space nor can the Town afford to acquire or maintain all vacant parcels. Because of these limitations, we must make decisions as to what qualities or values are important to preserve when acquiring open space and to pursue properties that reflect these core values. This Section sets forth a series of qualities that, through the public input process, have been determined to be important to the community. These qualities help to set the foundation for Chapter 4 Goals and Strategies, Chapter 5 Open Space Acquisition Criteria and Chapter 6 Trail Development Criteria and Missing Trail Connections, of this Plan.

The core values identified below are a compilation of what was adopted in the Town's 2001 Open Space Master Plan and the qualities identified through citizen involvement for the 2004 Plan and the 2010 update. These qualities can be partitioned into the following categories; natural resources, cultural resources, visual resources, community buffers and environmental hazards. Each of these qualities are discussed further below.

Natural Resources

Biodiversity. The Town is a biologically diverse environment. Riparian areas, shrub-covered hillsides, the pine grove and natural grasslands provide habitat for a variety of wildlife and threatened/endangered species throughout the study area.

Cherry Creek. Cherry Creek is the dominant riparian feature of Parker and functions as a local and regional wildlife corridor. The Cherry Creek Basin is also a principal geographical feature of the Denver metropolitan area's southeast quadrant, linking the communities, towns and cities in Denver, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties.

Stream Corridors. Several intermittent stream corridors, gulches and their tributaries form linear patterns throughout the study area. Of those predominate in our landscape are; Baldwin, Newlin, Sulphur, Tallman, Oak, Kinney and Lemon Gulches.

Significant Natural Vegetation Areas. The area just south and west of Hilltop Road and east of Parker Road is the site of an enclave of the Black Forest, a ponderosa pine community that originates in lower elevations of the Rocky Mountain Range. Additionally, stands of large Cottonwoods accentuate and frame the riparian corridors throughout the study area.

Cultural Resources

Historic Buildings. A number of important landmarks provide a look into Parker's past. These sites include, but are not limited to, the 20-Mile House (Pine Grove Post Office), the Tallman Cabin, the Hood House and the Ruth Memorial Chapel.



Arapahoe Canal. Constructed in the late 1880s, this ditch was used to divert water from Cherry Creek for multiple uses including irrigation of exotic fruit trees and agricultural crops.

Railroad Bed. Starting in the late 1890's, the Denver and New Orleans Railroad provided railroad service from Pueblo to Denver through the Town of Parker. The railroad bed can still be seen in some locations throughout the Town.

Visual Resources

Bluffs. The bluffs provide a geographic buffer, distinguished by steep hills of native grass, pine, scrub oak and rock outcroppings. The bluffs southwest of Parker are among the most spectacular scenic views in this area.

Views to the Rocky Mountain Range. Views of Pikes Peak and Mount Evans are key viewsheds that help reinforce the sense of place that is Parker.

Community Buffers

Community Identity and Separation. Open space buffers help guide growth and maintain community identity. They provide a transitional “edge” between the Town and other incorporated and unincorporated communities. The Intergovernmental Agreements between the Town of Parker and Douglas County and the Town of Parker and the City of Lone Tree are regulatory step towards maintaining these buffers.

Environmental Hazards

Floodplains. 100-year floodplains, as delineated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Steep Slopes. Areas with slopes that exceed 15 percent.

2.2 Trail Qualities

Since incorporation of the Town in the early 1980's, creating a trail system was determined to be one of our core values. Since then, Parker has been committed to developing and maintaining a trail system for both recreation and non-motorized transportation purposes. The ability to get between two points on a trail, enjoyably, is paramount to a functioning and desirable trail system. The Town must prioritize a number of budget pressures. Because of this, the Town cannot build all of the trails and trail amenities at once, we must prioritize trail improvements. This section sets forth a series of qualities that, through the public input process, have been determined to be important trail system attributes. These qualities help to set the foundation for Chapter 4 Goals and Strategies and Chapter 6 Trail Development Criteria and Missing Trail Connections, of this Plan.

The trail qualities can be partitioned into the following categories; recreation, transportation and amenity. Each of these qualities are discussed further below.

Recreation

Multi-Use Trails. Residents in the Town use the trails for a number of recreational activities. Most trails should be multi-use corridors allowing for various activities such as walking and running, bicycling and skateboarding, rollerblading and other non-motorized recreational activities. The Town may develop trails for single user group with the overall goal of a trails system that reflects the proper diversity of trail users within the Town.

Equestrian Trail Users. It is important to provide necessary equestrian connections along the Cherry Creek Regional Trail and from the Salisbury Equestrian Park east to the Reuter-Hess Reservoir. Equestrian trail needs cannot be provided on all trail corridors due to width, design, or adjacent uses; therefore, such uses should be evaluated on a corridor-by-corridor basis.

Nature Trails. High traffic multi-use trails limit the opportunity of enjoying a quieter setting and possibly catching a glimpse of wildlife. Trails and trail spurs should be set aside for pedestrians only with the intent of providing a smaller gravel trail that is in more of a natural setting.

Transportation

Trail Access. Parker's trail system is one of the premier amenities of our community. Improved access to and links between these trails and bike lanes and sidewalks can significantly enhance the access and connections to these networks.

Destination Access. Creating trail connections to neighborhoods, commercial businesses, governmental offices, transit stops, parks, open space and other important destinations provide needed transportation options.

Regional Connectivity. Providing non-motorized transportation connections to adjoining unincorporated areas and neighboring municipalities allows for additional commuting options for Town residents who work in outlying areas and for non-residents who are employed within the Town limits.

Amenity

Trailhead Access. Though many residential areas within the Town currently have access to the trail system, there are still some residents who have to drive to the trail system due to distance or safety issues. Improved trailheads allows for convenient and equal access to the network.

Restrooms. Because much of the trail network is located within natural areas, access to restroom facilities is often out of the way and entails leaving the trail. Provision for restrooms at trailheads helps to enhance the trail user's experience.

Rest Areas. The Town's trail system is an extensive series of pathways often with long stretches without areas designated for breaks. A series of benches and other amenities at key locations along the trail system would additionally enhance the user's experience.

Natural Beauty. The trail system generally follows creeks, gulches or greenways providing a natural experience for recreational trail users. The natural beauty of these trails need continued upkeep and maintenance to retain its pristine qualities.

Signage. Warning signs, directional signs, location signs and educational signs all can enhance the trail user's experience when well designed and not over used.

Emergency Phones. Emergency phones can help improve trail user safety.

Arboretums. Trees are an important attribute on the high plains of Colorado providing shade in the heat and shelter from the wind. Arboretums not only provide these functions, but also allow for educational opportunities.

2.3 Connecting Buildings, Roads, Open Space and Trails

The way that buildings, roads and parking lots relate to open space, trails and greenways is key to the value of the amenity as well as the overall urban design of the Town. Qualities attributed to this relationship directly reflect Parker’s commitment to integrating the built environment, open space, roads and trails into a seamless community. The use and enjoyment of open space and trails can be limited by how they interact with and are accessible to the users that live and work in the built environment. Open space that is fenced in or not visible to the public has limited value to the community unless it is a wildlife reserve. Open space that is visible, accessible and integrated into the built environment and that offers connections to other open space has much more value to the citizens of the Town and other users. The same is true with trails; a trail that is not easily accessible by the public has less value to the public than a trail that is accessible. A trail that is accessible without a user having to use an automobile to reach it provides an even greater amenity to the community.

Outlined below, is a series of qualities that if implemented, provide for a positive interrelationship between the built environment and trails and open space.

Relationship Between the Built Environment and Open Space

Visibility. Open space parcels, in general, should be visible from public rights-of-way, trails and publicly used areas.

Access. Open space parcels should be available for public passive recreation, where appropriate. Exceptions may include properties that are being used for wildlife protection or some other use that is not compatible with human activity.

Connectivity. Open space should be in the form of greenways, where possible, to ensure interconnectivity of the open space system.

Relationship Between the Built Environment and Trails

Access. Trail designs should provide safe access between the trail system and trip destinations and origins including access to sidewalks and bike lanes.

User friendly. Trail designs should provide direct and pleasant connections between the trail system and trip destinations and origins that are user friendly.

Trailheads. Where trailheads are necessary, adequate parking should be provided. Parking areas should maintain a scale and character appropriate to open space and passive recreational uses.

Open Space and Trails as Viewed from Development

Access

- Provide safe and convenient access from the trail system into and through the development.

- Limit the use of “social paths”. Instead, provide formal access points that are easily accessible by the public.
- Integrate visual and physical connections from adjacent development to open space and trails.

Architecture. Provide aesthetically pleasing facades facing open space, trails and greenways.

Site Design

- Promote commercial development to address trails and open space with active outdoor spaces.
- Development should provide openings or pocket parks to invite pedestrians to access trails and open space.
- Retaining walls facing open space and trails detract from the natural beauty and value of the asset. Retaining walls, if necessary, should be designed to blend the natural environment into the built environment.
- Undesirable elements, such as service areas, should be sufficiently screened as viewed from the trail or open space.

Openness. Preserve views from public places and preserving a feeling of openness by not obstructing viewsheds with buildings and above ground utilities.



Downtown and Sulphur Gulch

Sulphur Gulch is a special and unique pedestrian amenity that bisects the heart of Town and connects to the regional Cherry Creek trail system. Lighting and benches have been added for the section through the downtown area. Landscaping is in place in some places, but should be added along the trail as development occurs to assure that trail users have shade and an aesthetically pleasing experience.

CHAPTER 3

Our Current Open Space and Trails System

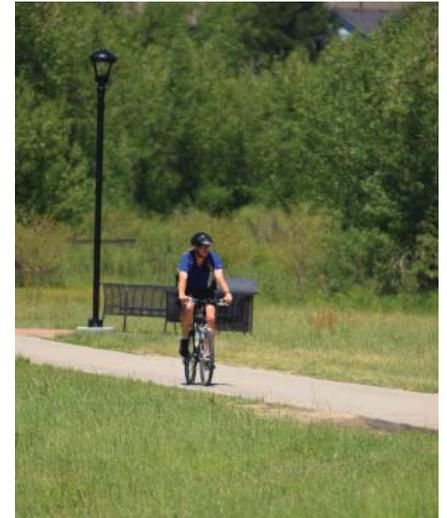
The residents of Parker are fortunate to enjoy varied outdoor recreation and open space amenities. In addition to Town purchased lands, development has contributed to providing open space and recreational opportunities within our neighborhoods. Population growth and continuing urbanization continue to create a need for more diverse and additional recreational opportunities and protection of the Town's distinctive landscapes.

3.1 Existing Open Space and Greenways

Presently, there are approximately 1920 acres of land preserved as open space within the Town (see Map 1). Open Space in the Town is owned by a number of entities, including, but not limited to: the Town, Douglas County, Metropolitan Districts, Homeowner's Associations and Special Districts. These lands have been preserved through a variety of methods such as annexation agreements, land dedication requirements associated with development rights, cooperative efforts with other jurisdictions and outright purchases by the Town or other entities.

3.2 Existing Trails System

Presently there are approximately 912 acres of approved open space and approximately 33 miles of approved trails. Approved open space are parcels that are zoned for open space through the Planned Development zoning process and that have not yet been dedicated. Approved trails are those trails that developers have committed to constructing either through the annexation, zoning or platting process that have not yet been built. The agreed upon locations and sizes of these parcels and trails provide some relative surety based on their approvals through the Town. However, the physical shape and exact location of these parcels and trails may be subject to change through a public planning process.



3.3 Approved Open Space and Trails

Presently there are approximately 912 acres of approved open space and approximately 33 miles of approved trails. Approved open space are parcels that are zoned for open space through the Planned Development zoning process and that have not yet been dedicated. Approved trails are those trails that developers have committed to constructing either through the annexation, zoning or platting process that have not yet been built. The agreed upon locations and sizes of these parcels and trails provide some relative surety based on their approvals through the Town. However, the physical shape and exact location of these parcels and trails may be subject to change through a public planning process.

CHAPTER 4

Goals and Strategies

The goals and strategies listed below reflect the vision that was developed by the community, Planning Commission and Town Council for open space, trails and greenways. These goals and strategies are intended to set forth the framework for the acquisition, construction, management and maintenance of open space, open space facilities and trails. For the purposes of this Plan, goals and strategies shall be defined as follows:

Goals – Goals broadly describe the desired state of the future land use and trail connections. They lay the foundations for the strategies.

Strategies – Strategies provide guidance in the decision-making process and describe the actions that the Town can take to accomplish the overall vision for open space, trails and greenways.

4.1 Open Space Goals and Strategies

Presently, there are approximately 1920 acres of land preserved as open space within the Town (see Map 1). Open Space in the Town is owned by a number of entities, including, but not limited to: the Town, Douglas County, Metropolitan Districts, Homeowner's Associations and Special Districts. These lands have been preserved through a variety of methods such as annexation agreements, land dedication requirements associated with development rights, cooperative efforts with other jurisdictions and outright purchases by the Town or other entities.

Goal 1 – Maintain connections between open lands and protect corridors for wildlife movement and trails.

Strategy 1.1 – Acquire open space that is unified, logical and contributes to the overall open space system.

Strategy 1.2 – Require developments to dedicate open space that is unified, logical and that contributes to the overall open space system. Avoid small pieces of open space that do not contribute or reflect the intent and purpose of open space preservation.

Strategy 1.3 – Identify and reserve important wildlife habitat as open space during annexation, zoning, subdivision and the site planning processes.

Goal 2 – Protect and conserve areas representative of Parker and the surrounding area's main natural area types such as; Cherry Creek, gulches, riparian areas, Black Forest, grasslands and bluffs.

Strategy 2.1 – Encourage and work with Douglas County to develop skyline and ridgeline protection standards.

Strategy 2.2 – Preserve critical riparian areas such as the 100-year floodplain and gulches.

Strategy 2.3 – Preserve open space that functions as a buffer between the Town and surrounding developed areas.

Strategy 2.4 – Update open space inventory annually.

Strategy 2.5 – Use acquisition criteria and map inventory to help guide open space dedications in the development review process.

Strategy 2.6 – Use acquisition criteria and map inventory to help guide open space purchases and acquisitions.

Goal 3 – Provide public access and recreational opportunities, particularly trail corridors within open space areas.

Strategy 3.1 – Develop cohesive and consistent open space and trailhead development and designs standards.

Strategy 3.2 – Develop Management Plans for open space that balance preservation and public access.

Goal 4 – Pursue the conservation of areas that reflect community values for open space, such as historical and cultural resources as well as important view sheds.

Strategy 4.1 – Work with the Landmarks Historic Preservation Commission and Cultural and Scientific Commission, where appropriate.

Strategy 4.2 – Complete a visual assessment study of views from arterial roads of Mount Evans and Pikes Peak.

Strategy 4.3 – Consider views of Mount Evans, Pikes Peak and other significant features during the development process and when preserving open space.

Goal 5 – Maximize the use of available funding and consider other sources for open space preservation.

Strategy 5.1 – Encourage donations and exchanges to preserve open space.

Strategy 5.2 – Work cooperatively with individuals, land trusts, developers, special districts and others to preserve open space.

Strategy 5.3 – Consider a variety of financing options when purchasing properties.

Strategy 5.4 – Where appropriate, consider other options for protecting open space, such as conservation easements.

Strategy 5.5 – Consider new funding sources for open space acquisition, such as an Open Space Sales Tax ballot initiative.

Strategy 5.6 – Explore other preservation tools and techniques to encourage additional open space within the Town.

Goal 6 – Work with neighboring counties and municipalities to accomplish mutual open space goals.

Strategy 6.1 – Partner with other local governments in the coordination of master planning, development and annexation review and open space acquisition where significant mutual benefit exists.

Strategy 6.2 – Identify specific mutual goals with adjoining jurisdictions and work towards these mutual goals.

Goal 7 – Educate the community about the value of open space preservation, including its role in maintaining quality of life.

Strategy 7.1 – Develop articles, brochures, multimedia presentations, signage and other media to raise awareness and interest in open space preservation within the community.

Strategy 7.2 – Work with Douglas County Schools, open space preservation groups and others to create an environmental education outreach program for both children and adults.

Strategy 7.3 – Establish a volunteer program that promotes community awareness and appreciation of open space in our community.

Goal 8 – Plan open space and the built environment together to allow both uses to enhance the other.

Strategy 8.1 – Add a section to the Town’s Commercial, Industrial and Multifamily Design Standards discussing the relationship between developed properties and open space including how the buildings and the site relate to the open space. Examples may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Service areas shall be screened as viewed from open space.
- Buildings shall be located in a manner that they do not block important views from public places.

Strategy 8.2 – Design and locate open space improvements in a manner that reflects and enhances adjoining uses (e.g., provide trail access to improvements from residential development and from commercial uses).

Strategy 8.3 – Search for shared parking opportunities where development is adjacent to open space (e.g. Town Hall is located adjacent to the Sulphur Gulch Trail. During the week, parking is used by visitors and employees, and serves as trailhead parking during the weekends).

Goal 9 – Use adaptive management techniques (See Chapter 7: Managing our Open Space and Trail System) to balance the environmental preservation values of the property with the public uses of the property.

Strategy 9.1 – Develop an overall Management Plan for the Town of Parker open space system and develop site specific Management Plans, where appropriate.

Strategy 9.2 – Develop a joint Management Plans with Parker Water and Sanitation District, Douglas County and neighboring governments where appropriate.

Strategy 9.3 – Post open space and trail rules at trailheads and prominent open space locations.

Goal 10 – Strive to return open space vegetation to its original natural state where possible and appropriate, including noxious weed control and ecological stewardship.

Strategy 10.1 – Clearly set forth policies for weed control and vegetation management for open space properties through the development of clear and succinct Management Plans.

4.2 Trail Goals and Strategies

Goal 1 – Improve connectivity of the trail system within the Town and to the regional trail system.

Strategy 1.1 – Complete missing trail connections and links (See Map 4: Missing Trail Connections).

Strategy 1.2 – Continue to work with Douglas County, Arapahoe County, special districts and nearby municipalities to assure that their proposed trail systems connect to the trail, sidewalk and/or the bike lane system in the Town.

Strategy 1.3 – Connect local trails to the regional trail system.

Strategy 1.4 – Use the Missing Trail Connections Map (Map 4) and the trail criteria in the Development Review process.

Goal 2 – Integrate trails and trail access into residential and commercial developments.

Strategy 2.1 – Continue to require trail connectivity within new developments and the connections to the overall trail system to assure access for residents, employees and visitors.

Goal 3 – Strive to develop trail and trail facilities that meet multiple trail user needs where possible.

Strategy 3.1 – Integrate bicycle racks, horse hitches, trailer parking and other trail user amenities at trailheads where appropriate.

Strategy 3.2 – Develop a combination of soft and paved trails where possible and appropriate.

Strategy 3.3 – Reserve trail rights-of-way adequate in width to accommodate both a hard surface trail and a mowed surface for equestrian use where possible and appropriate.

Strategy 3.4 – Update the trails and trailhead inventories on an annual basis.

Goal 4 – Work with neighboring governments to accomplish mutual trail goals.

Strategy 4.1 – Partner with other local governments in the coordination of master planning, development and annexation review and trails development where significant mutual benefit exists.

Strategy 4.2 – Identify specific mutual goals with local jurisdictions and work towards these mutual goals.

Strategy 4.3 – Work with neighboring jurisdictions, metropolitan districts, homeowner’s associations, and the E-470 Authority to ensure trail safety through utilizing websites, hotlines and other media.

Goal 5 – Integrate the needs of diverse user and modes of transportation within the trail system.

Strategy 5.1 – Connect trails to important cultural, public and commercial destinations (See Map 4: Destinations).

Strategy 5.2 – Interconnect trails, sidewalks, bike lanes and other transportation modes to allow access to services, employment and other citizen needs to create an integrated transportation system.

Strategy 5.4 – Amend the Town’s road sections to increase the Bicycle Level of Service (BLOS), where appropriate (See Appendix D: Resource Analysis).

Goal 6 – Provide adequate infrastructure at trailheads, rest areas and along the trail system.

Strategy 6.1 – Consider infrastructure needs and improvements such as, but not limited to, trash containers, dog feces bag dispensers, benches, picnic sites and rest rooms, in the development of all trailheads and rest areas.

Goal 7 – Provide a safe and well maintained trail system.

Strategy 7.1 – Continue to locate safety signage, where appropriate.

Strategy 7.2 – Develop signage program that includes trails identification signs, road name signs and directional signage to services and destinations.

Strategy 7.3 – Continue to improve outreach efforts to informing citizens of trail construction and detour opportunities, where necessary.

Strategy 7.4 – Establish a trail user safety plan and program including an emergency phone system and installation of mile markers.

Strategy 7.5 – Continue to publicize and post trail etiquette.

Strategy 7.6 – Continue to post open space and trail rules at trailheads and prominent locations.

Strategy 7.7 – Continue to sweep trails and maintain trails to allow for safe use of the system by multiple trail user types.

Goal 8 – Develop trail loops throughout the Town using a combination of trails, sidewalk systems and bike lanes, where appropriate.

Strategy 8.1 – Use the Missing Trail Connections Map (Map 4: Trails Connections) and look for trail loop opportunities in determining Town capital projects and in the Development Review process.

Goal 9 – Educate the community about the value of trails.

Strategy 9.1 – Develop articles, brochures, multimedia presentations, signage and other media to raise awareness and interest in trails as recreational and transportation components within the community.

CHAPTER 5

Open Space Acquisition Criteria

The acquisition process for open space is one of the most important aspects of the planning process. Choosing the criteria and method we use to purchase open space lands and guide developers in setting aside critical open space helps to ensure that we spend our money wisely and in a manner that our citizens would want us to. The criteria set forth in this chapter are intended to solidify the direction our citizens have given through this planning process.

5.1 Open Space Acquisition Criteria

Identifying and prioritizing open space criteria is a key step in the open space planning process. Town citizens, the Town Council, the Planning Commission and staff have worked together to develop a logical process that will be used to prioritize which open space parcels to purchase or preserve. From this collaboration, a list of open space qualities that Parker as a community values was developed, these values are discussed in Chapter 3 of this document. Each of the eight qualities listed in this section reflect a stated community value regarding the purchase of open space.

The evaluation processes have been divided into open space and trails; however, it is important to keep in mind that they are integrally linked together. Recreational trails are generally located in open space areas, taking advantage of the natural environment. Acquisition of open space, trailheads and trail rights-of-way are often interconnected; these purchases often serve more than one of these purposes at once.

There is no map of open space priority acquisition sites associated with these criteria. However, there are a series of maps in the Appendix of this Plan that show desirable open space attributes such as: wildlife areas, floodplains, steep slopes and visual resources. The data on these maps is intended to help direct Town Council, Planning Commission and staff to areas that may contain attributes worth preserving; these maps are not designed to show specific properties for preservation. Each potential open space site will need to be evaluated and studied on a site specific level.

The evaluation process shall consist of an index of a high, medium, or low ranking for each of the qualities applicable to the properties. There will be situations on some properties where a particular evaluation quality is not applicable and therefore not ranked.

The evaluation process is an index, not a precise measurement; there is no maximum number of high responses or a specific score necessary to determine whether to acquire or preserve a property. The ranking of each quality is used by Town staff to evaluate a property's overall value to the open space system. Staff then presents the evaluation and staff's recommendation to Town Council. The findings, based on the eight qualities, are used by Town Council to make reasoned acquisition decisions.

I. Site Context

1. To what extent is the property located near other protected lands or open space?
2. Does this property contribute to a greenway or larger open space area?
3. Is protecting this property a strategic move to protect a larger area?
4. Should preservation of this property be a priority due an imminent purchase or development?
5. How compatible is the proposed open space and/or recreational uses of this parcel with the adjacent land uses?

II. Environment/Ecology

1. Does the property have special value for wildlife preservation or does it act as a wildlife corridor?
2. Does the acquisition preserve lands critical to an animal or plant protected under the Endangered Species Act?
3. Will the acquisition preserve unusual terrain or unique environmental, geological, or ecological features?
4. To what extent does the property provide a buffer to minimize the disruption of ecological processes on already protected land?
5. Will acquisition of this property protect wetlands or other biologically sensitive riparian areas?
6. Are water rights available?
7. What is the potential for habitat restoration?
8. Are there any environmental liabilities or hazards associated with the property?

III. Scenic/Aesthetic/Sense of Place

1. Does the property provide vistas or scenic views of Mount Evans, Pikes Peak, the Cherry Creek Basin, surrounding bluffs, or other features that contribute to the sense of place that is Parker?
2. Will the acquisition preserve important views from roads, trails, or other prominent public locations?
3. To what extent will the property enhance the quality of life for Town residents and visitors?
4. Does the property serve as a community buffer or separator?
5. Does the property help maintain a sense of agricultural tradition and rural character?

IV. Outdoor Recreation/Public Use

1. What is the potential for public use and outdoor recreation on this property?
2. To what extent does this property provide opportunity to integrate public use into a larger recreation network?
3. What opportunities for outdoor recreation does this property provide?
4. Are the activities considered appropriate with the ecological, physical and social environment?

V. Historical/Archaeological

1. Does the property contain significant archaeological, historical, or cultural resources?

VI. Education

1. Are there educational opportunities associated with this property?

VII. Public Support Factors

1. Is this a high profile acquisition from the public perspective?
2. Will acquisition of this property serve as a catalyst for other acquisitions?
3. Will acquisition of this property in the manner proposed serve as a positive example for other landowners?
4. Is there a willing seller?
5. Does the project contribute to a balanced open space system based on:
 - a. Geographic distribution?
 - b. Project type?
 - c. Urgent/immediate demands and long term goals?
 - d. Population distribution?

VII. Price

1. Is the price reasonable given current supply and demand and net present value?
2. Is the landowner willing to reduce the cost to the Town for charitable or tax purposes?
3. Are there opportunities for cost sharing?
4. Can the goals of the Town's Open Space Program be achieved with less than fee simple acquisition?
5. Will the property become more expensive or developed if not acquired now?
6. Are the projected annual management and maintenance costs acceptable and reasonable?

CHAPTER 6

Trail Construction Criteria and Missing Trail Links

The acquisition process for trail rights-of-way is one of the most important aspects of the planning process. Choosing the criteria and method we use to prioritize trail construction and guide developers in where to construct trails helps to ensure that we spend our money wisely and in a manner that our citizens would want us to. The following criteria are intended to solidify the direction our citizens have given through this planning process.

6.1 Trail Development Criteria



The missing trail connections noted in *Section 6.2 Missing Trail Connections*, of this Plan are not all inclusive, additional trail connection needs will arise. Identifying and prioritizing trail connections is key to the trails planning process. This process allows the Town to evaluate and prioritize trail connections that are not specifically noted in this Plan and allows this Plan flexibility to meet future needs.

The Town of Parker Community Development Department, guided by the Town citizens, Town Council and the Planning Commission, developed a list of trail qualities based on the community values developed in the outreach process and reflected in *Section 2.2 Trail Qualities* of this Plan. Each of the six qualities listed below reflect a stated community value regarding our trail system.

The evaluation process shall consist of an index of a high, medium, or low ranking for each of the qualities applicable to the trail section in question. There may be situations on some trail sections where a particular evaluation quality is not applicable and therefore not ranked.

As is the case with the open space evaluation process, this system is an index, there is no maximum number of high responses or a specific score necessary to undertake a project or require a developer to undertake a project. The ranking of each quality is used by Town staff to evaluate a trail project's overall value to the trail system. Staff then presents the evaluation and staff's recommendations to Town Council. The findings, based on the six (6) qualities are used by Town Council to make reasoned budgeting decision. The findings, based are also used by Town Council and the Planning Commission to assure needed trail connections are provided in new developments.

I. Connectivity

1. Does the project connect existing trails, significant sidewalk systems or bike lanes?
2. Does the project connect to the regional trail system?
3. Does the project extend an existing trail into undeveloped or newly developed land?
4. Does the trail create or contribute to a trail loop?

II. Access

1. Does the trail provide access to:
 - a. a school or other public facility

- b. a commercial property
 - c. a neighborhood
 - d. a trailhead, park, or open space parcel
 - e. RTD Park-n-ride facilities
 - f. Other important destination
2. Does the project promote alternative modes of transportation?
 - a. Does the project encourage or shorten bicycle or walking distances between destinations?
 - b. Does the project connect with RTD facilities and stops?
 - c. Does the project provide for bicycle storage at destinations?
 3. Does the trail meet the Americans with Disabilities Act standards?

III. Safety

1. Does the project enhance trail user safety?
2. Does the project provide an option for grade-separated crossings of roads?

IV. Trail User Needs

1. Does the trail or project allow and encourage multiple trail users ?
2. Does the project design consider special needs of the different trail users? (e.g., gravel lots for horses, hitching posts, bike racks, visual character for pedestrians, handicap access, etc.)

V. Public Support Factors

1. Is this a high profile trail project from the public perspective?
2. Will this project serve as a catalyst for other trail projects or increase overall trail use?
3. Will this project and acquisition of easements or rights-of-way occur in a manner that is a positive example for other landowners?

VI. Price

1. Is the price reasonable given the anticipated use of the trail?
2. Is there any opportunity to share costs?
3. Is the proposal the most cost effective option without diminishing the quality or safety of the project?
4. Will the project cost significantly more or be impossible in the future?
5. Are the projected annual management and maintenance costs acceptable and reasonable?

6.2 Missing Trail Connections

The following list was updated through a series of open houses and meetings with the public, Town Council and the Planning Commission during 2010. This list is not intended to be all inclusive, but is a list of known needs for connections. Some of these connections are traditional trail connections, and some are significant sidewalk improvements adjacent to roads. These connections were determined concurrently with the goals and strategies and the trail evaluation process. The numbers and letters assigned in the lists refer to numbers and letters shown on *Map 3: Missing Trails Connections*. These letters and numbers do not represent a prioritization.

Missing Trail Connections within the Urban Service Area

1. East West Trail including safe crossings at all major roadways (Chambers, Jordan, and Motsenbocker).
2. Salisbury Equestrian Park: hard surface trail from Cherry Creek Trail to the Equestrian Park.
3. Parker Road: trail (wide sidewalk) parallel to Parker Road.
4. Kinney Creek: connection from Cherry Creek Trail through the proposed Reata West park and open space site and under Parker Road.
5. Hilltop Road: trail parallel to road and old railroad line.
6. Cherry Creek Highlands
 - a. Connection from Cherry Creek Trail to Jordan Road.
 - b. Connection south through Cherry Creek Highlands to Oak Gulch Trail.
 - c. Complete connections from Cherry Creek Highlands to Salisbury Equestrian Park.
7. Pine Drive: connection from the intersection with Hilltop Drive to East Bank Park across Parker Road.
8. Antelope Heights/Bradbury Ranch Trail connection over the hill.
9. Challenger Park Townhomes: Connection from Newlin Gulch Trail to Challenger Park Townhomes
10. Pine Drive: Connect Baldwin Gulch Trail to Sulphur Gulch Trail along Pine Drive
11. Parker park-n-Ride: improve connection from Sulphur Gulch Trail to Parker park-n-Ride.
12. Reata North Trail: Connect Tallman Drive to proposed northerly Reata North Trail in unnamed gulch
13. Walmart Connection: Extend trail behind Home depot to connect to Dransfeldt Road.
14. Newlin Gulch Trail: Connection south of Stonegate to Reuter-Hess Reservoir.
15. East Lincoln Connection: Improve connection from Cherry Creek Trail to development east of Cherry Creek on Lincoln Avenue
16. Cottonwood Commercial Connection: Improve connection between Cherry Creek Trail and Cottonwood commercial area
17. Cottonwood Highlands Connection: Connect Cherry Creek Trail west along Cottonwood Drive and under Jordan Road
18. Preservation Park Connection: Connect Cherry Creek Trail to Preservation Park
19. Bradbury Ranch: Connect trail on north of Bradbury Ranch to Newlin Gulch Trail in existing gas easement
20. Stroh/Ironstone Trail: Complete trail connection from Cherry Creek Trail to Stroh commercial area.
21. Robinson Ranch: Connection between Robinson Ranch and Robinson Ranch Commercial
22. Rowley Downs: Connection from Willow Creek Trail to Siebert Circle sidewalk
23. Crowfoot Valley: Connection from Stroh Road to Town boundary south along Crowfoot Valley Road

Missing Trail Connections Located Outside the Urban Service Area

1. E-470 Trail: multi-use trail parallel to E-470 northeast.
2. Chambers Road: multi-use trail parallel to Chambers Road.
3. Cherry Creek Trail: Cherry Creek Trail north to Cherry Creek Reservoir and south to Castlewood Canyon State Park.
4. East West Trail: multi-use regional trail connecting Parker to Lone Tree and Highlands Ranch.
5. Lincoln Avenue: Bike Route Lincoln Avenue to the west connecting with bike lane proposed in Douglas County Open Space Plan.
6. Crowfoot Valley Road: Bike route adjacent to Crowfoot Valley Road to the southwest connecting with bike lane proposed in Douglas County Open Space Plan.
7. Parker Road: bike route Parker Road to the south connecting with bike lane proposed in Douglas County Open Space Plan.
8. Rueter-Hess Reservoir trail system and Connections:
 - a. Connection to East West Trail and Newlin Gulch Trail
 - b. Connections from Anthology
 - c. Connection to development and open space to the west

9. Hilltop Road: continue proposed Hilltop Road Trail south into County
10. Happy Canyon Trail: continuation north to connect back with Cherry Creek Trail in Arapahoe County.
11. Sulphur Gulch Trail: continue Sulphur Gulch Trail southeast into County
12. Anthology: connection south from Hess Annexation to reconnect to Cherry Creek Trail.
13. Reata South: connection from Hilltop Road southwest to Reata West or Stroh Crossing property (Parker Road and Stroh Road intersection) and Cherry Creek Trail.
14. Pine Drive North: connection from Baldwin Gulch to Gartrell Road and Piney Creek Trail.
15. Northeastern Beltway Trail: Connecting Sulphur Gulch Trail to E-470 trail or Inspiration Drive Connection.

CHAPTER 7

Managing Our Open Space and Trail System

7.1 Open Space Management Planning

A management plan guides the on-going management of an open space property, including assessment, implementation and monitoring. The purpose of a management plan is to establish goals and management philosophies for the future of an open space property. A management plan weighs potential benefits and impacts of proposed management actions which include consideration of the long-term viability and health of natural ecosystems. The management plan is the foundation of a flexible and dynamic process of adaptive resource planning and management.

A management plan guides the Town in:

- Identifying goals for the property and its resources (visioning process)
- Understanding existing resources on the property (by conducting a baseline inventory)
- Maintaining significant, high-quality resources (by designing resource management plans to preserve these resources)
- Restoring or replace low-value resources (e.g., developing and implementing a weed management and restoration plan)
- Adjusting for inadequacies in the original management plan and changes on the property (adaptive management)
- Understanding and evaluating uses of the property and the level of public use and access

Property Management Mission

Town of Parker open space will be managed in a way that provides for aesthetic enjoyment, minimizes cumulative impacts to the natural ecosystems, minimizes conflicts between users, considers user safety, preserves responsible agricultural use where appropriate, provides for a quality passive recreation experience and protects natural areas.

Historically, the Town has not developed formal management plans primarily because open space parcels have been acquired on a piece meal basis. The Public Works Department, in coordination with the Community Development Department and Recreation Department, should formalize management plans and continue to take actions to ensure that uses within open space lands are consistent with the open space purposes and long-range management policies of the Town.

Adaptive Management

Adaptive management is an incremental approach to managing a property that emphasizes monitoring, evaluation and feedback. Knowledge of a resource, gained by monitoring management actions, is evaluated and incorporated into future management actions and decisions. This feedback loop facilitates effective management that remains connected to the changing resources and uses on the property.



Baseline Data Collection

The adaptive management process begins with a clear set of goals (visioning) and a preliminary understanding of resources on the property (baseline). The baseline information is used to identify resource issues. The baseline inventory and resources issues, along with preliminary goals and visions for the property, will help the Town to develop specific management objectives. Management plans will be developed to include these specific management objectives.

Monitoring

As the Town designs and implements resource management plans, it is important to identify, design and implement a way to measure their success through monitoring. Monitoring allows for periodic feedback to the management process and is the cornerstone of adaptive management. Resource management plans and monitoring programs should be developed to measure success concurrently. The scope and nature of individual monitoring programs depend largely on the individual resource or issue being addressed and can range from simple qualitative studies, such as photo monitoring, to complex quantitative data such as transects or water sampling. In general, a monitoring program will:

- Have clear goals and objectives
- Have a clear and detailed plan identifying the resource action and indicators being monitored
- Ensure that monitoring is being conducted at the appropriate frequency and scale for the resource(s) being managed
- Detect management problems before resource damage occurs
- Delineate management goals (ends) from management actions (means)

Evaluation

Information gained by monitoring management actions should be used to evaluate those actions and plan future management decisions. This process provides a better understanding of the resource and is useful in refining and revising management plans and objectives. When evaluating management plans, the following should be considered:

- What has been learned about the resource?
- Are the management plan goals and objectives still valid?
- Are the goals and objectives realistically attainable?
- Have the management strategies been effective?
- What needs to change to improve the management strategies based on the knowledge gained?
- Are the Town's actions bringing about the desired results?

Feedback

A resource management plan and monitoring program includes a timetable for evaluating its effectiveness, and benchmarks to measure the progress toward fulfilling the management goals. Such benchmarks could include:

- Direct Biological Benchmarks - Biological benchmarks are the most direct measure of a projects success or failure; however, they are often the most difficult and time consuming to monitor and evaluate. Example – Are populations of endangered species increasing or decreasing?

- Community Benchmarks - Community benchmarks can provide relatively direct measures of a projects success; however, community direction may vary over time. Example – Has the threat to an open space parcel been reduced?
- Organizational Benchmarks - Organizational benchmarks are generally the least direct measures of project success, but are the easiest and quickest to measure. Example – Is weed control technically feasible?

Measuring success should include both short- and long-term benchmarks. Long-term benchmarks are to fulfill Parker’s visions for the managed open space. Short-term, interim benchmarks are to help determine whether we are making progress toward our long-term goals. For example, a Diffuse Knapweed infestation may need to be reduced by 90 percent in the long-term, so a short-term measure might be a 20 percent reduction.

7.2 Implementing the Open Space Management Plan

The Town staff, through direction of Town Council, has the responsibility to preserve both the land itself and its ecological viability. In developing management plans and regulations, the Town staff will use its professional judgment and consider the open space property and its current conditions, including all valuable natural resources and their specific locations, the intensity of uses and the best scientific information available. These aspects will be balanced within the context of the entire open space system. The same use regulations may not apply to all open space land or trail sections.

When appropriate, the Town staff may recommend use restrictions to the Town Council. Any use or access restrictions on open space lands will be based on a determination that such measures are consistent with open space purposes or are needed to minimize human use conflicts or impacts or to promote safety. Public notification will occur in the local news publication, or as otherwise required by Town policy, and an opportunity for public input will be provided before Town Council takes action. Such recommendations may be specific to the occurrence, type of activity, or the location of the activity. An analysis of actual and potential damage may be conducted if necessary to document damage. If a reasonable basis exists to believe that an actual or anticipated use may cause immediate or irreparable harm to a resource, the Town Staff may place immediate limitations on public use and/or access. This action will be subject to review by the Town Council at its next available meeting.

The onus for protecting our open space is not the sole responsibility of the Town; open space visitors also have a responsibility as stewards of open space resources to ensure that their actions cause the least possible disturbance to the natural processes.

7.3 Trail Maintenance

The safety and ongoing maintenance of our trail system is paramount to the success and usability for our residents. There are a number of inherent trail hazards that the Town can be aware of, including, but not limited to:

Edge of concrete – In some locations the soil grade may not be even with the concrete. Regrading should occur where possible. Regrading may not be possible in some areas due to slope or habitat constraints.

Cracks and buckling in the concrete – Cracks in the concrete occur from use and weather and general age. Repairs should occur as damage is reported or found, subject to budget, timing and weather constraints.

Damage from flooding – Most trails are located in the 100-year floodplain, repairs are necessary as flooding occurs and creates damage to trails.

Sand and gravel – Sand and gravel often get on the surface of trails from runoff or other means creating a slick environment. The Town Public Works sweeps the trails as often as possible, however there is always risk.

Sharp turns – On occasion, due to topography or other barriers, the trail is forced to make a sharp turn that requires that the trail user slow down.

Low Water Crossings and Pedestrian Bridges – Many stream crossings are designed to pass only during regular flows. Crossing can be subject to inundation. Trail users should never cross or enter an area that is under water.

Warning Signage

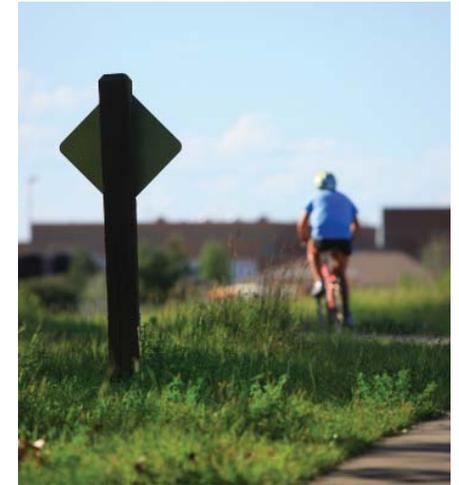
Balancing safety with the natural experience of a trail is often a difficult mix. Signage is the primary form of warning trail users of upcoming dangers. Signage may be needed for blind corners (usually located where the trail intersects or at underpasses), sharp curves and at trail termination points or other known dangers. There are a number of inherent dangers on trail systems, the Town cannot develop signage nor warn of all dangers, but the Town can mark known hazards created by the necessary design of the trails or other design constraints.

Trail Construction Signage

Construction work on trails can often become a hazard, without adequate signage and warning, trail users may not be able to stop adequately. As there is necessary signage for automobile construction, construction warning signage is needed for trail safety as well. Such signs should warn of the end of pavement, upcoming detours, trail closures and flag people.

Detours

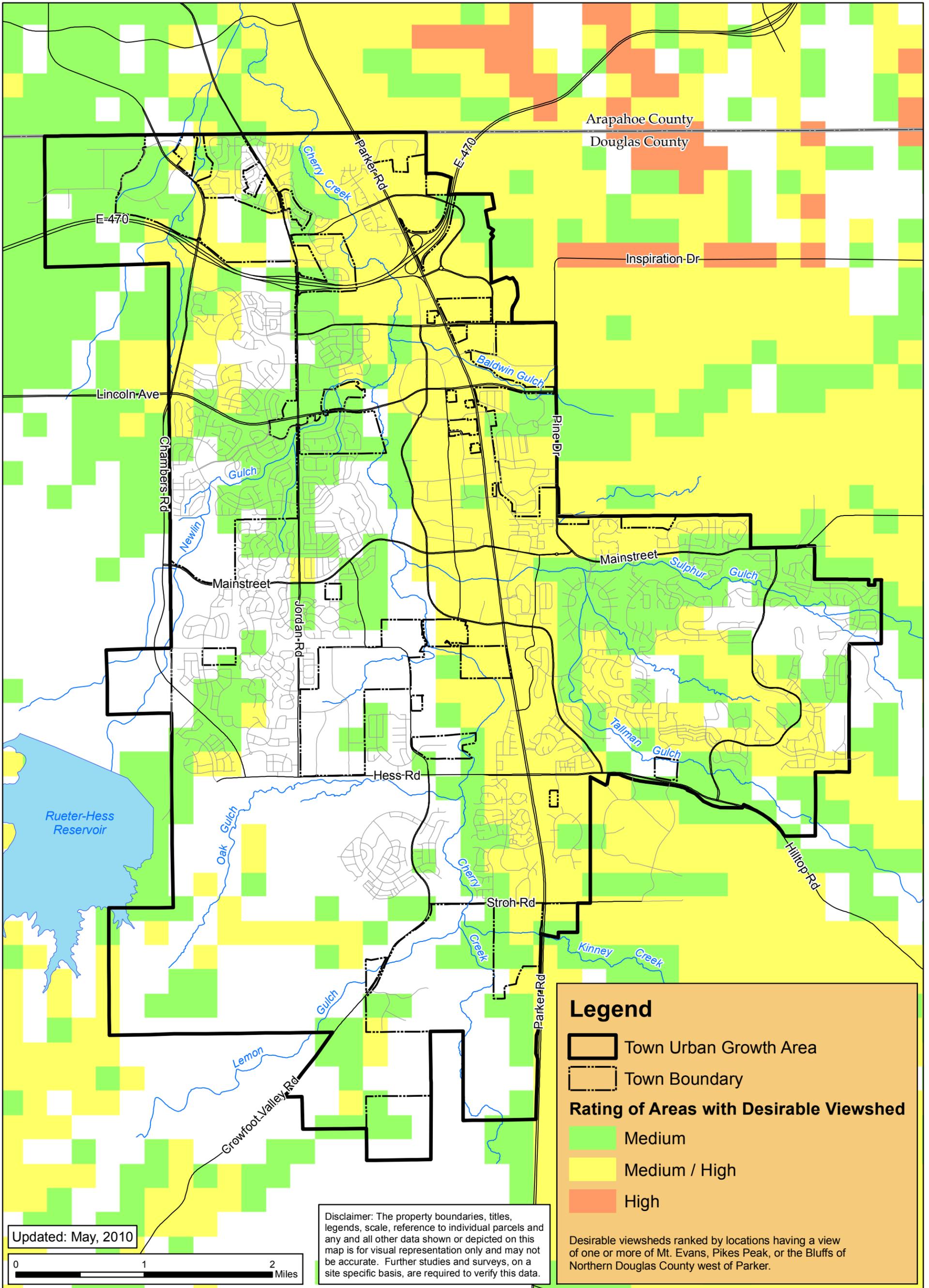
Many citizens use the trails as a transportation system to shopping, school, friend's houses and sometimes to work. As gaps in the trail system fill in and connections are made to surrounding communities, this use will most likely expand. This use of the trail system for transportation creates the necessity of detours if a trail section is not going to be available due to construction or trail damage. For trail construction that will close the trail, alternative routes shall be evaluated, determined and signed.



7.4 Safety

Open space visitors and trail users assume a certain degree of risk and responsibility for their own safety. The Town recognizes that open space and trails are a visitor attraction and that potential hazards may exist, but the Town has neither the authority nor the ability to control all degrees of risk visitors may choose or are routinely exposed to while using these amenities. Nevertheless, the Town strives to identify recognizable threats to the safety and health of persons and to provide appropriate public notice of such threats. The Town will work cooperatively with federal, state and other local agencies, organizations and individuals to carry out this responsibility.

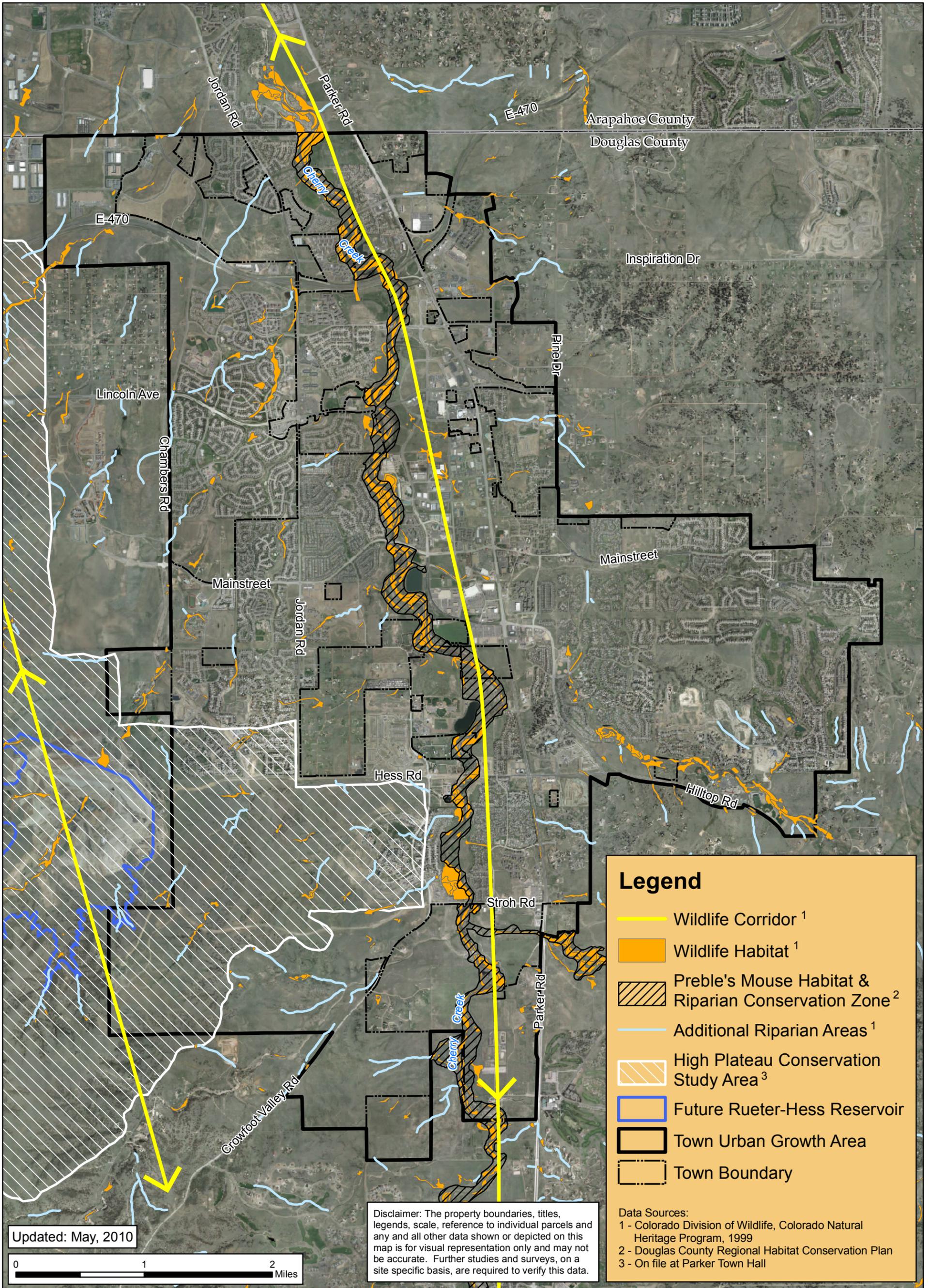
MAPS



Map 7: Visual Resources

Open Space, Trails and Greenways Master Plan

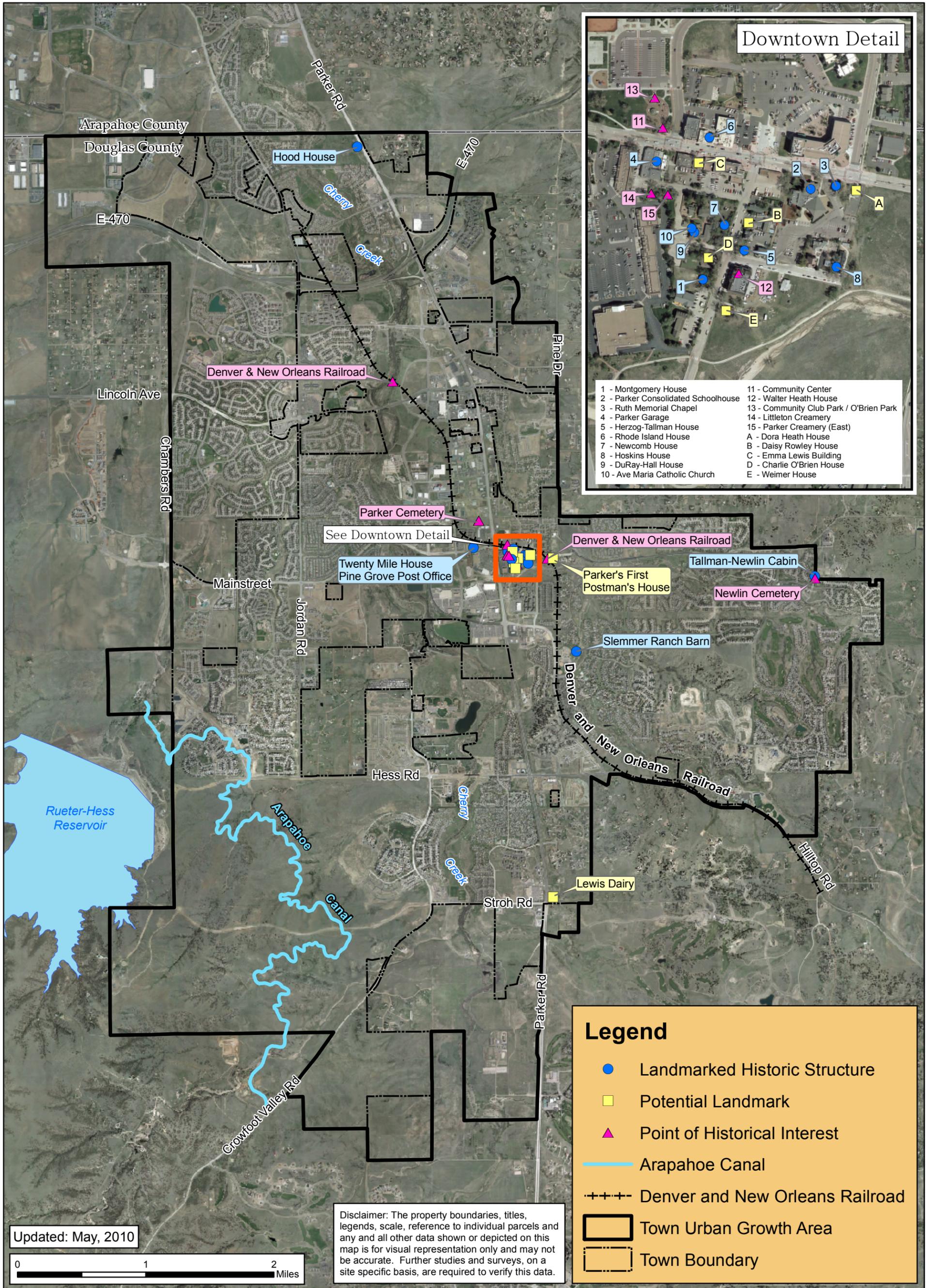




Map 6: Wildlife

Open Space, Trails and Greenways Master Plan

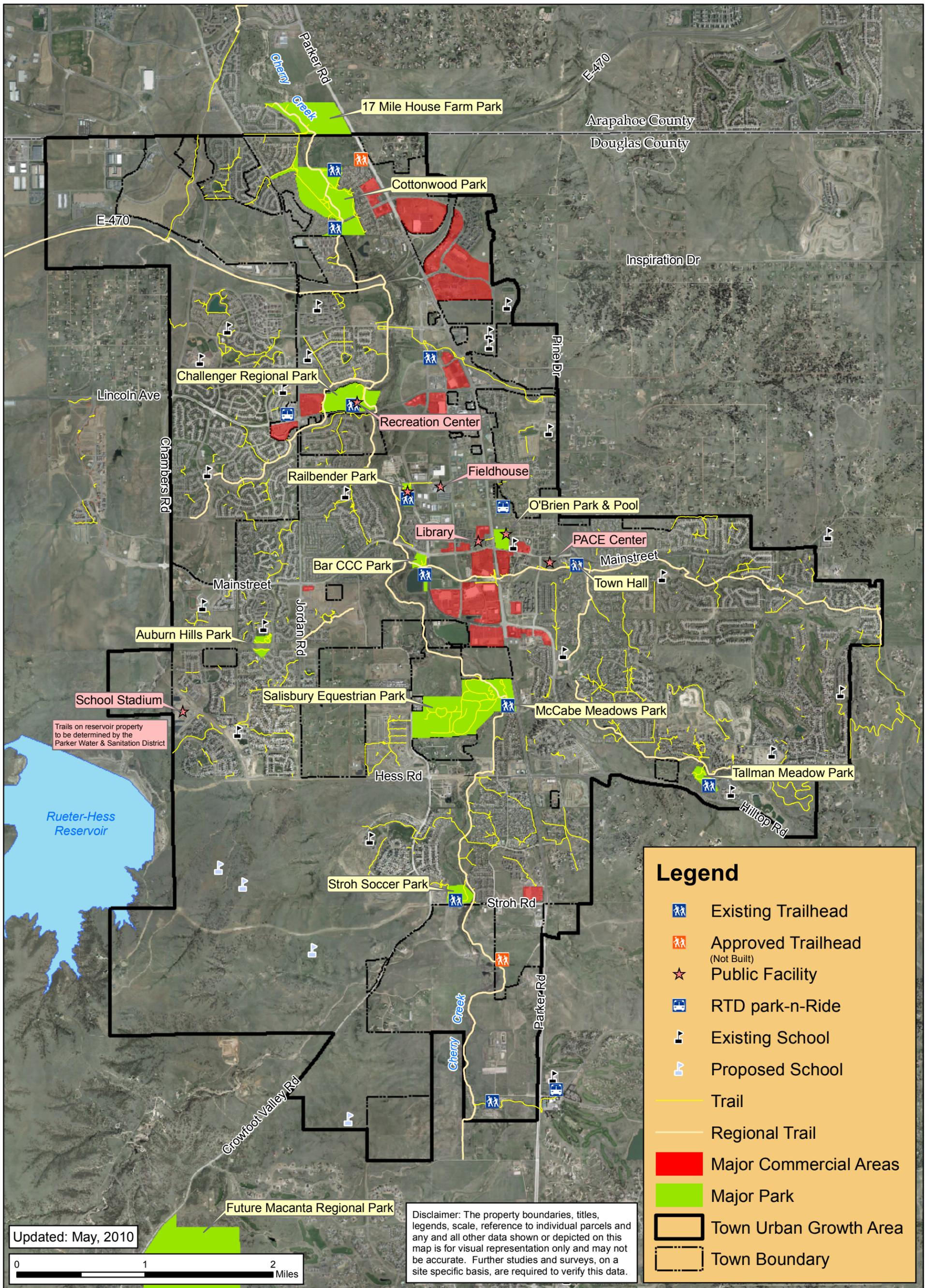




Map 5: Historical Sites

Open Space, Trails and Greenways Master Plan

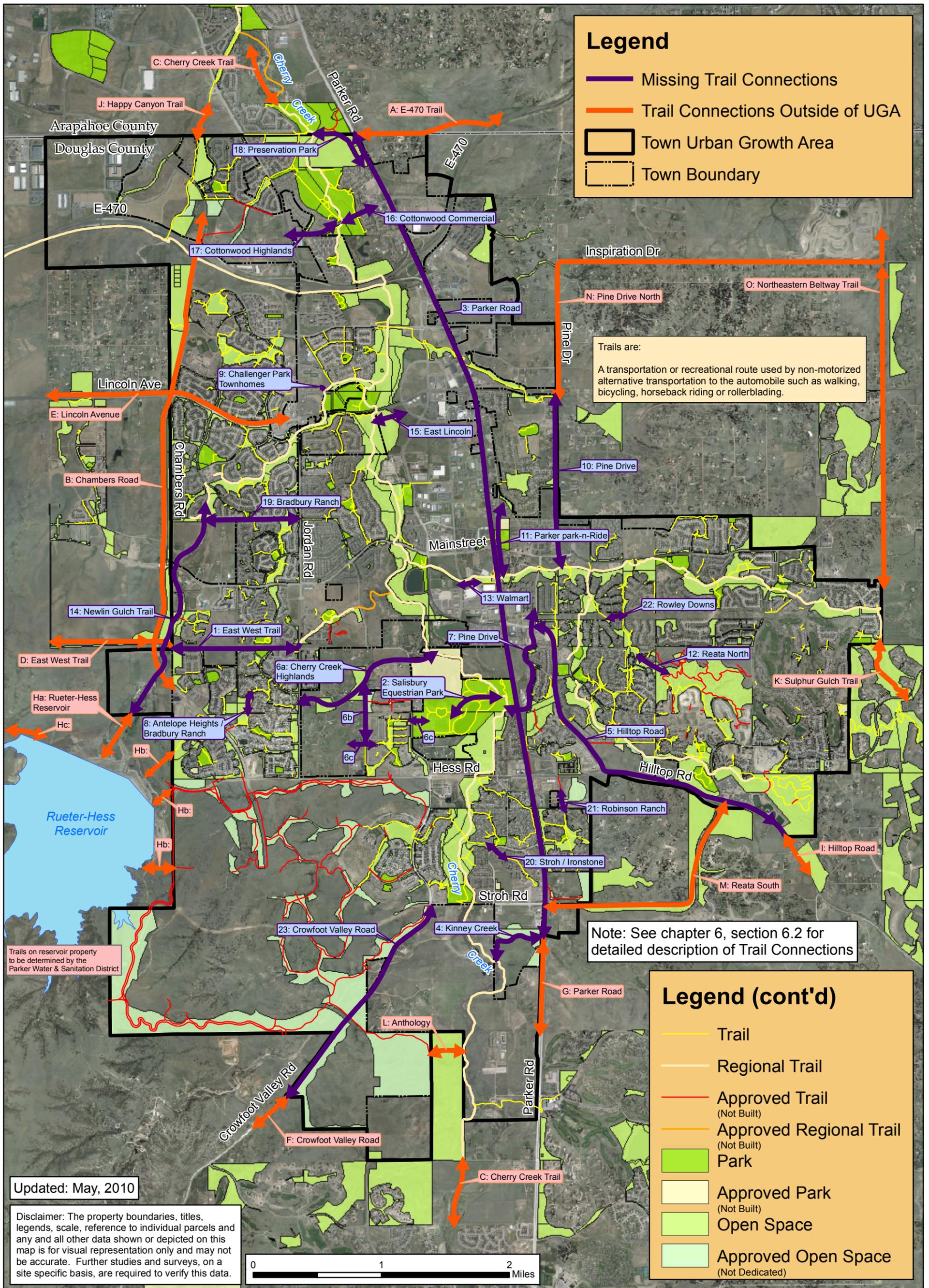




Map 4: Destinations

Open Space, Trails and Greenways Master Plan

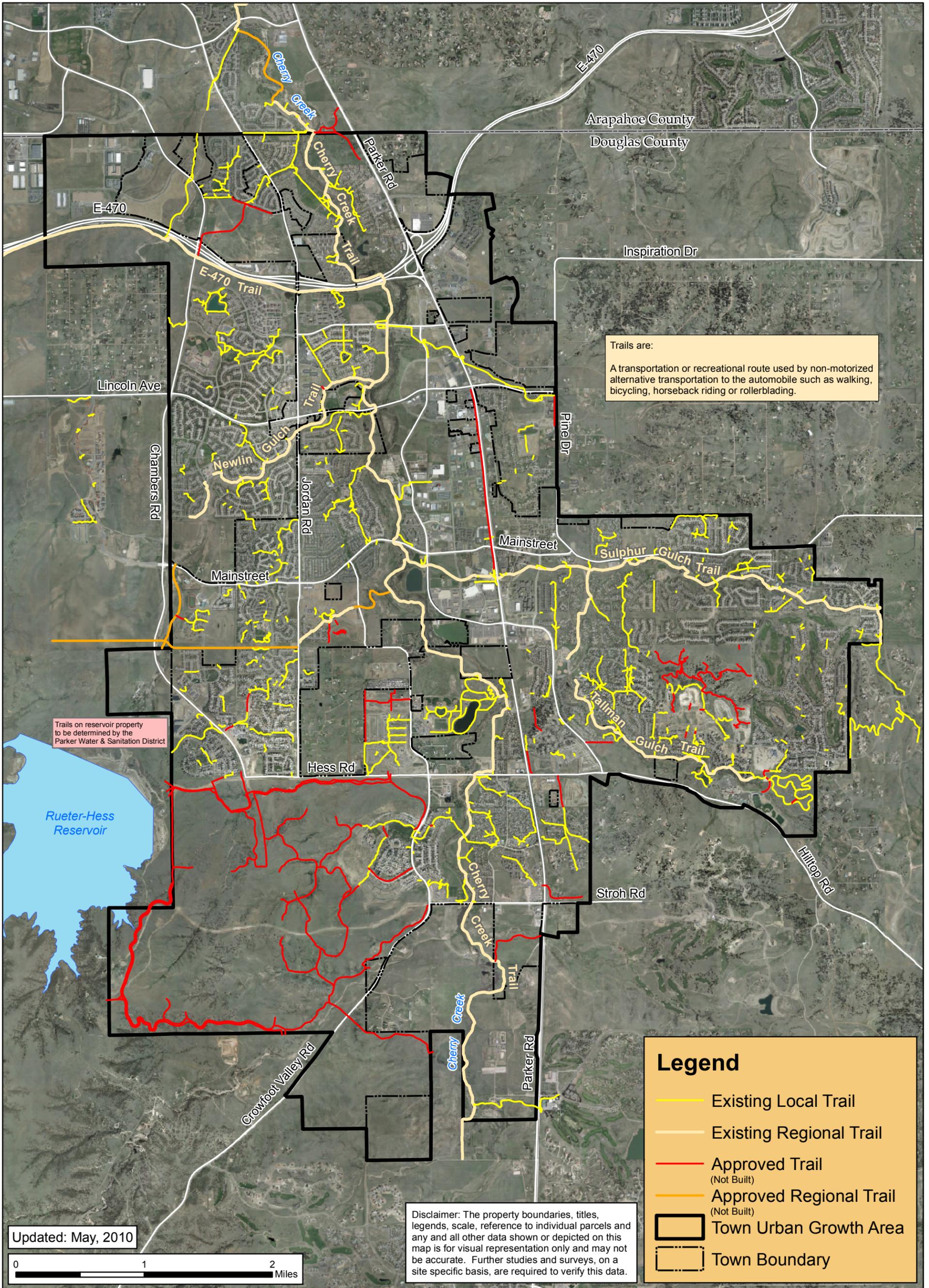




Map 3: Missing Trail Connections

Open Space, Trails and Greenways Master Plan

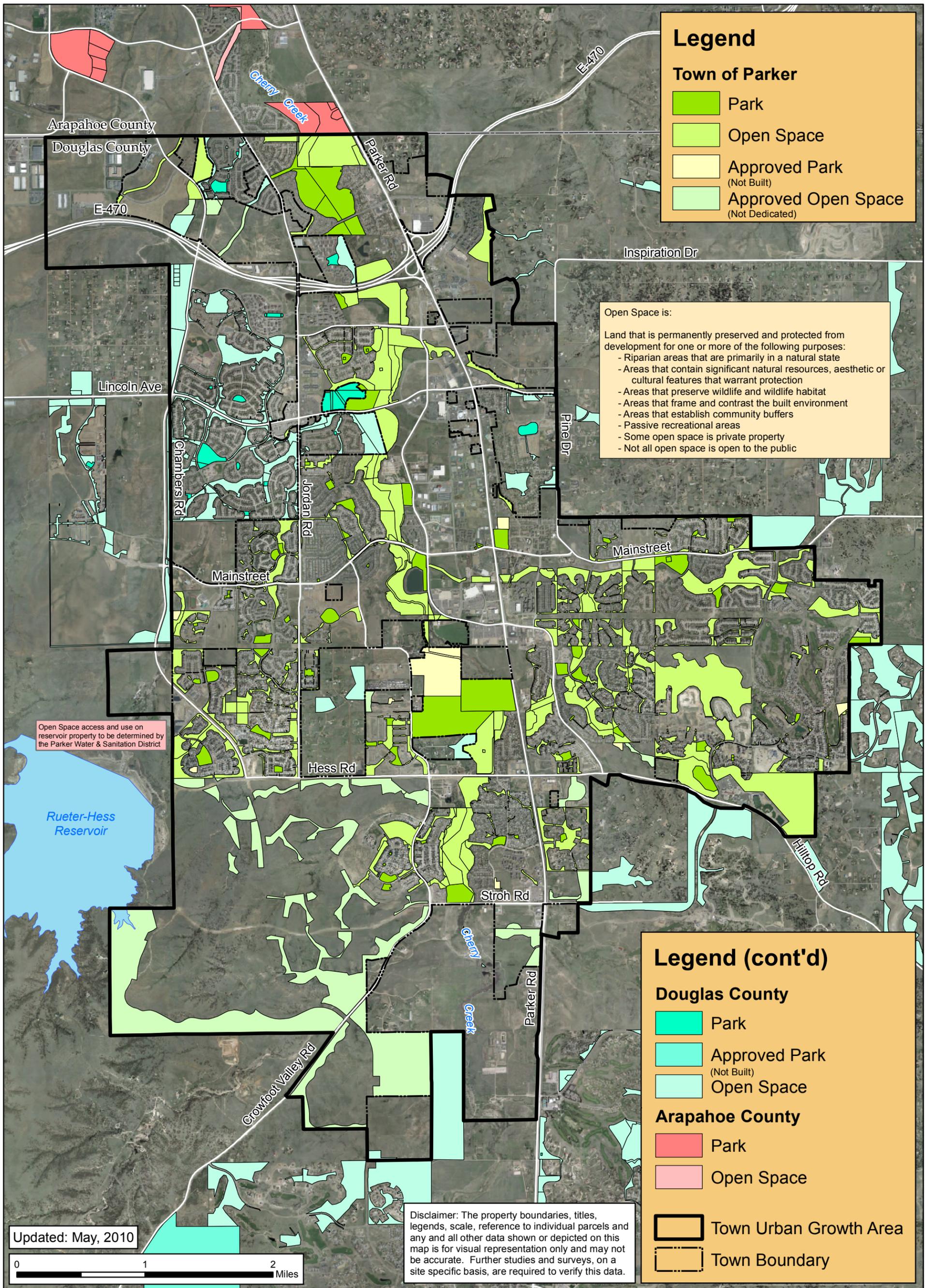




Map 2: Existing and Approved Trails

Open Space, Trails and Greenways Master Plan

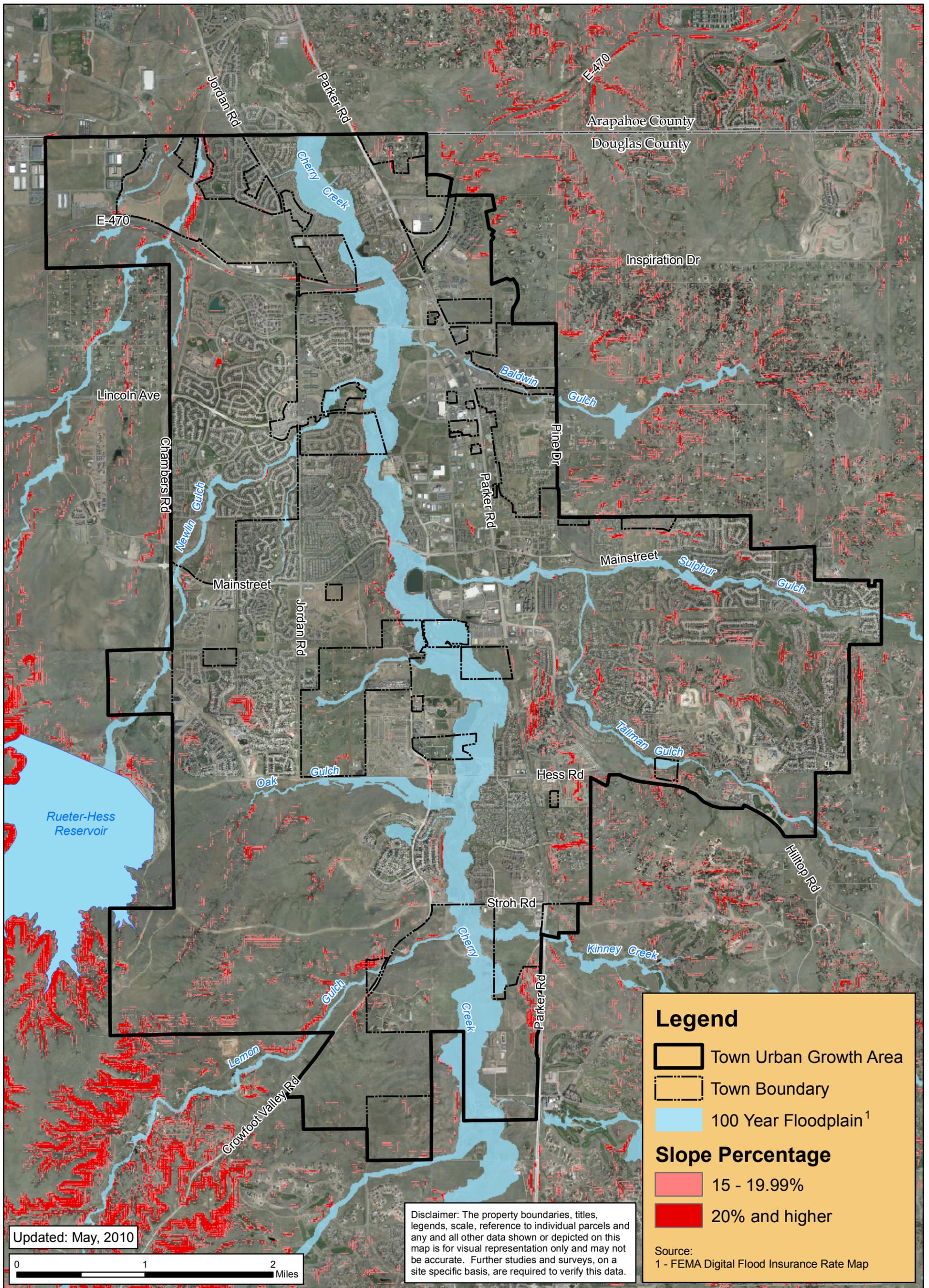




Map 1: Existing and Approved Open Space

Open Space, Trails and Greenways Master Plan





Updated: May, 2010



Disclaimer: The property boundaries, titles, legends, scale, reference to individual parcels and any and all other data shown or depicted on this map is for visual representation only and may not be accurate. Further studies and surveys, on a site specific basis, are required to verify this data.

Legend

- Town Urban Growth Area
- Town Boundary
- 100 Year Floodplain¹

Slope Percentage

- 15 - 19.99%
- 20% and higher

Source:
1 - FEMA Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map

Map 8: Floodplains and Steep Slopes

Open Space, Trails and Greenways Master Plan



APPENDICES

(On file at Town Hall)