



FOX | RUN
NATURE CENTER

MEETING AGENDA

- Welcome & Introductions
- Meeting Purpose & Goals
- El Paso County Park System Overview
- Nature Centers' Mission & Benefits
- Parks Master Plan & Feasibility Study
- Fox Run Regional Park Current Capital Projects
- Fox Run Nature Center Location & Design
- Public Input



EL PASO COUNTY PROJECT TEAM



TODD MARTS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



JASON MEYER
MANAGER, PARK PLANNING



THERESA ODELLO
MANAGER, RECREATION
& CULTURAL SERVICES



MEETING PURPOSE & GOALS

PROVIDE AN ACCURATE PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT AND MISSION OF EL PASO COUNTY NATURE CENTERS

COLLECT QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK ON THE PROJECT



EL PASO COUNTY REGIONAL PARK SYSTEM

PROVIDE VARIOUS OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION FOR ALL EL PASO COUNTY RESIDENTS & VISITORS



WEST

**BEAR CREEK
REGIONAL PARK**



SOUTH

**FOUNTAIN CREEK
REGIONAL PARK**



EAST

**FALCON &
HOMESTEAD
REGIONAL PARKS**



NORTH

**FOX RUN &
BLACK FOREST
REGIONAL PARKS**

EL PASO COUNTY NATURE CENTERS

MISSION

To connect people to their natural and cultural resources and inspire them to become stewards for the parks and our environment.



EL PASO COUNTY NATURE CENTERS

NATURE CAMPS



PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS



EL PASO COUNTY NATURE CENTERS

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FIELD TRIPS



EL PASO COUNTY NATURE CENTERS

ADULT PROGRAMS

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
FREE FOR GENERAL VISITORS

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



NATURE CENTERS STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS



GREAT AMERICAN CLEAN UP

CREEK WEEK CLEAN UP

RESTORATION CREW

WEED CONTROL

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR NATURE CENTERS



MARCH 9, 2024
9:00 A.M. - 9:30 A.M.



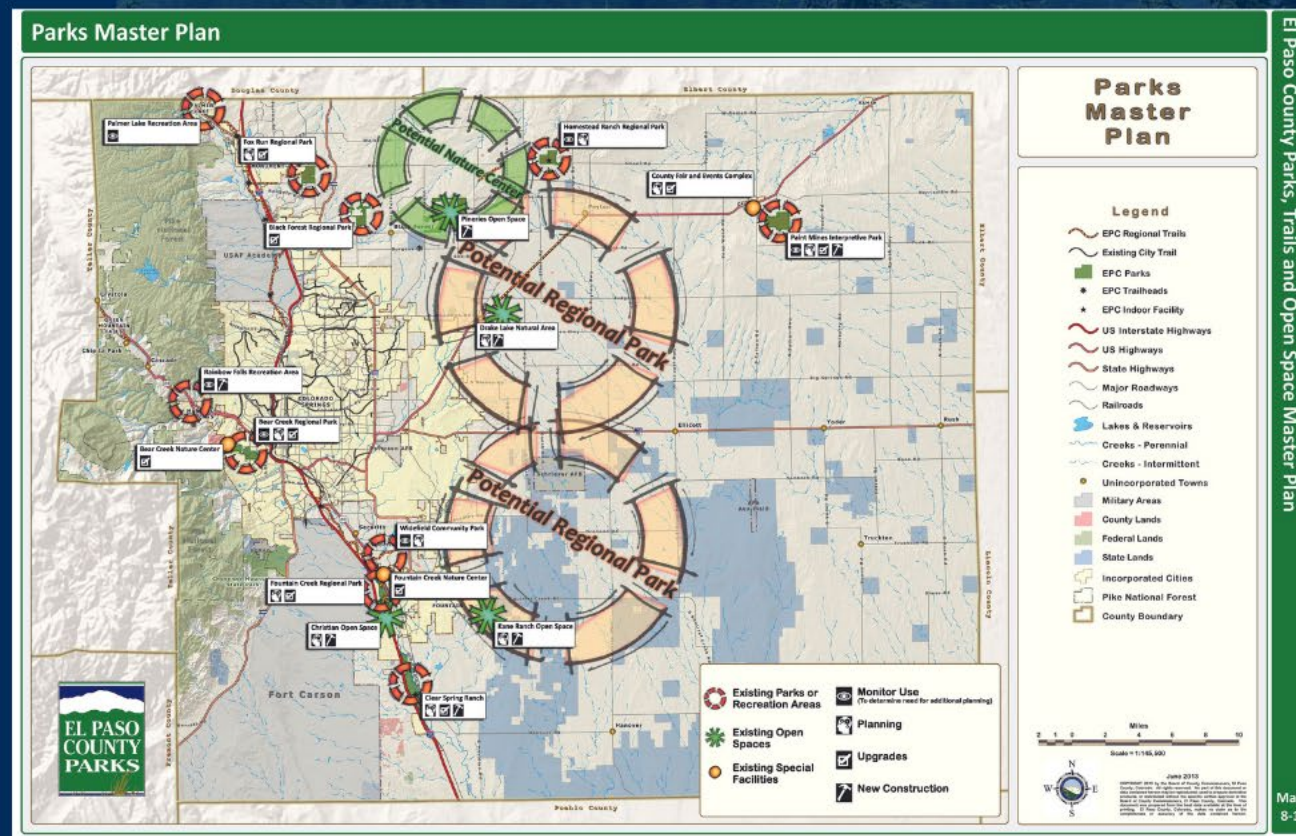
MARCH 23, 2024
9:00 A.M. - 9:30 A.M.

EL PASO COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN

2013 MASTER PLAN

GOAL 1

Provide high quality recreation and educational experiences for users of county park facilities and recreational areas.



EL PASO COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN

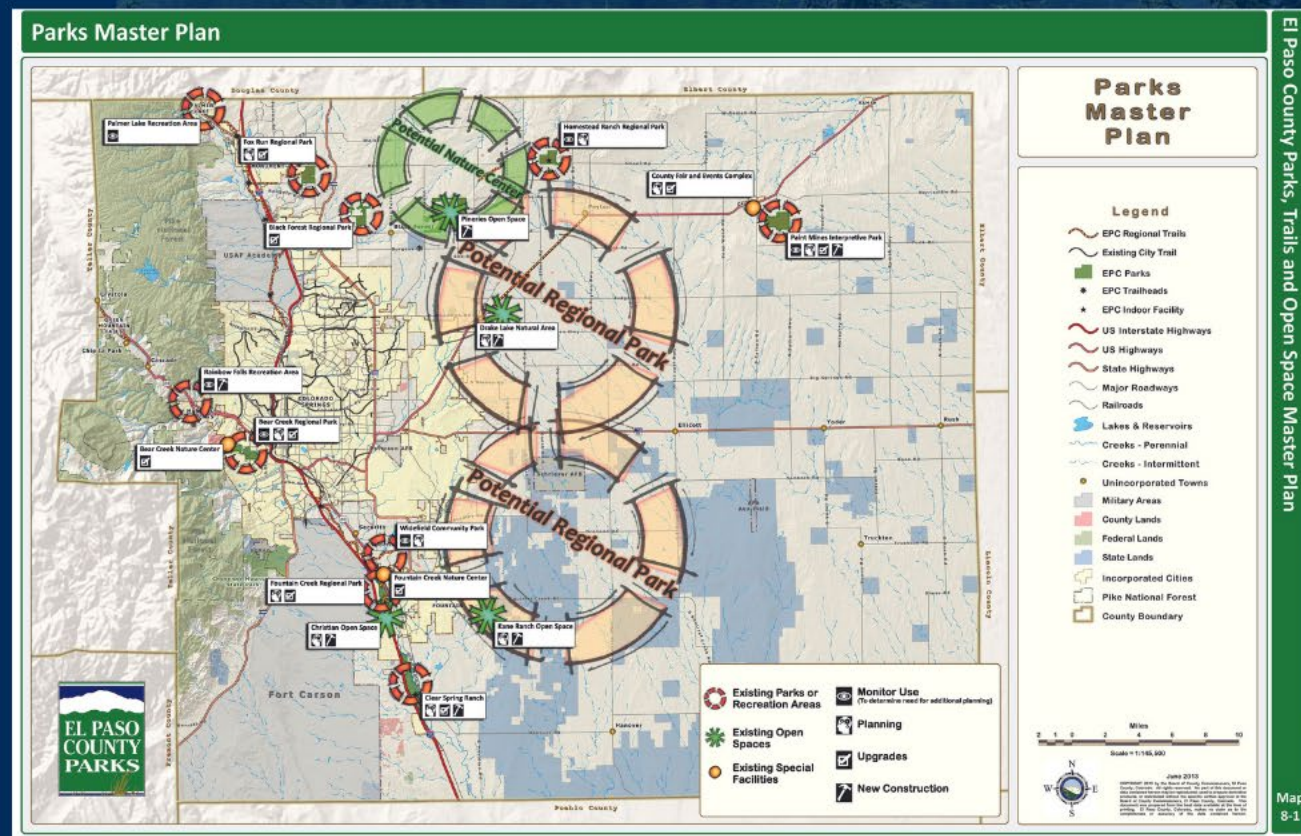
2013 MASTER PLAN

GOAL 1

Provide high quality recreation and educational experiences for users of county park facilities and recreational areas.

OBJECTIVE C

Expand nature-based programming and develop nature center facility in the northern area of the County.



EL PASO COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN

2022 MASTER PLAN

GOAL 11

Provide high quality recreation and educational experiences for users of county park facilities and recreational areas.

OBJECTIVE 11.1

Expand nature-based programming and develop nature center facility in Fox Run Regional Park.



NORTHERN NATURE CENTER FEASIBILITY STUDY

2019 FEASIBILITY STUDY

El Paso County completed the Northern Nature Center Feasibility Study to identify a location for a future nature center in northern El Paso County. This study involved detailed site analysis, public input, stakeholder discussions, financial analysis, and a focus on a site that inspires visitors.

The study recommended Fox Run Regional Park as the location for the new Northern El Paso County Nature Center.



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CURRENT CAPITAL PROJECTS | FOX RUN



\$330,000

PINE MEADOWS PLAYGROUND

The project consisted of the removal and replacement of a play structure at the Pine Meadows playground within Fox Run Regional Park and establishing ADA accessible routes.

A concrete sidewalk leading to the playground was updated to meet ADA. Additional improvements included parking spaces and ADA accessibility to restrooms.

CURRENT CAPITAL PROJECTS | FOX RUN



\$2 MILLION
RESTROOM, GAZEBO & POND
IMPROVEMENTS

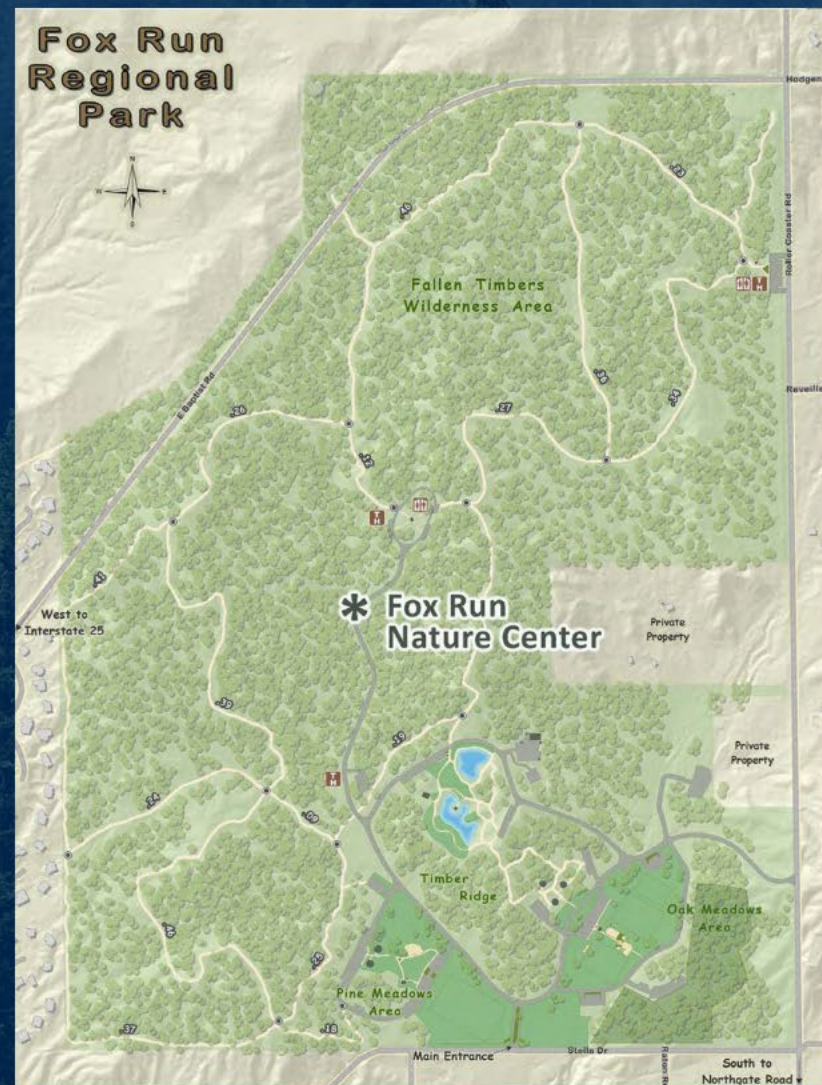
LOCATION OF NATURE CENTER

**APPROXIMATELY 1 ACRE
DISTURBANCE**

Fox Run Regional Park

Total Park Acreage is 410 Acres

Park Opened in 1985



LOCATION OF NATURE CENTER

APPROXIMATELY 1.9 ACRE RESTORATION

1 ACRE CONSTRUCTION SITE

1.9 ACRE RESTORATION SITE

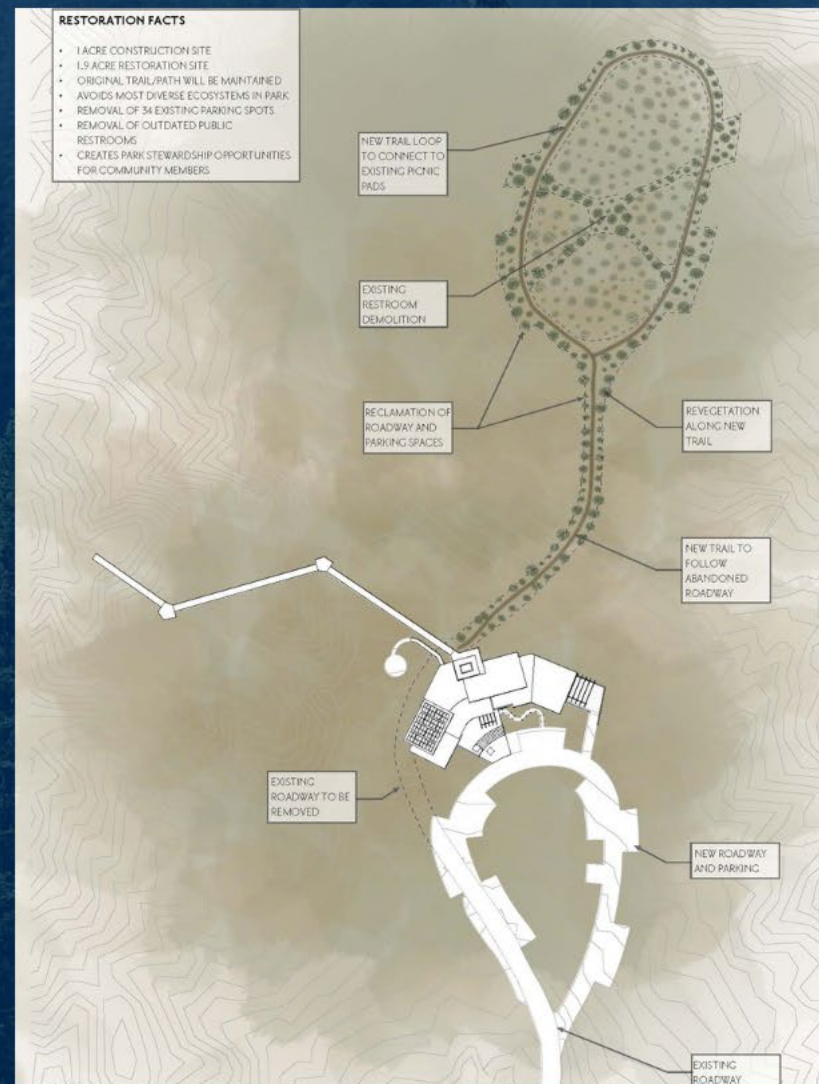
ORIGINAL TRAIL/PATH WILL BE MAINTAINED

AVOIDS MOST DIVERS ECOSYSTEMS IN PARK

REMOVAL OF 34 EXISTING PARKING SPOTS

REMOVAL OF OUTDATED PUBLIC RESTROOMS

CREATES STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

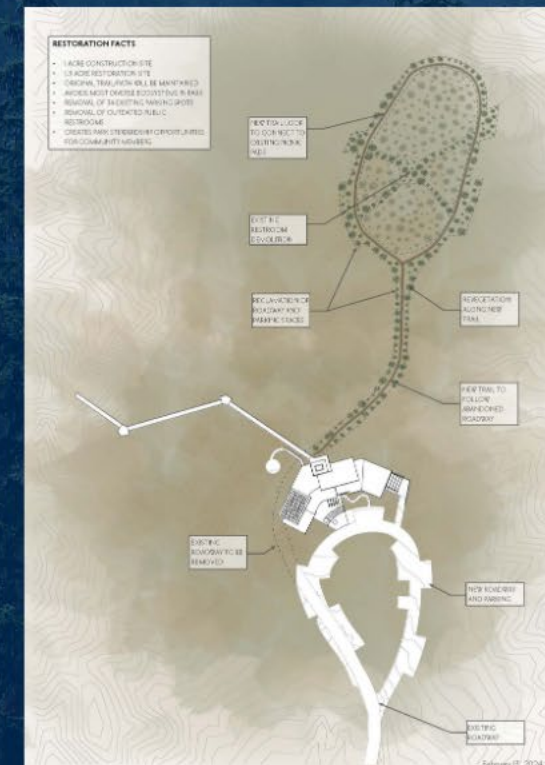
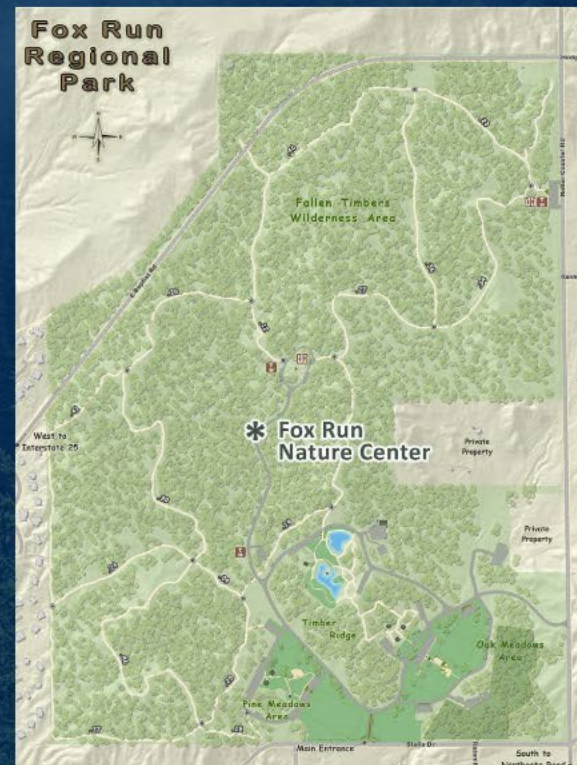


LOCATION OF NATURE CENTER

APPROXIMATELY 1 ACRE
DISTURBANCE

APPROXIMATELY 1.9 ACRE
RESTORATION

NET GAIN RESTORED
TOTAL PARK = 410 ACRES



DESIGN OF NATURE CENTER

SITE PLAN & DESIGN NOTES

LOCATION ON EDGE OF FOREST WHICH IS
MORE DYNAMIC

UTILIZE EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE,
UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE

EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION
OPPORTUNITIES



Core Interpretive Concepts

The visitor experience at Fox Run Nature Center balances between engaging indoor interpretation that reveals and celebrates the adjacent natural setting and expanding visitors' understanding and care for the quality of the forest and greater ecosystem in which it exists. It fosters visitors to use their own experiences from which to explore the nature center's messaging.

Big Idea Statement

The Black Forest's Fox Run Regional Park is integrally connected to and made healthy through its biological inventory, human presence, and our concern and passionate support for its evermore important future.

Threads

Conservation



- Importance of land/resource conservation
- Conservation observations at Fox Run
- Visitor connections to conservation
- Conservation programmatic opportunities

Play, Joy, and Discovery!

Animals & Plants



- Species of Fox Run
- Species as forest health indicators
- Bio-facts, Taxidermy, Tactiles



Ponderosa Forests of the Black Forest

Connect to Community/
Inspire Care

Living in the Black Forest

Trail etiquette

Forest as recreational resources

Forest as educational resources

Central Themes

Climate

Importance and "look" of forest health

Disturbance and Recovery

People on Palmer Divide

Weather

Geological uniqueness of the Palmer Divide

Specific area attributes

Water

Palmer Divide

Role in biodiversity

Ambassador species as connection to site

Single tree/whole forest connections

Scientific observations

Forest response to human action

Sensory Engagement (touch, smell)

Unique attributes (bark, rings)

Forest management

Risk for forest and community

Ponderosa Pine Tree

Fire's Importance



PUBLIC INPUT OPPORTUNITY

TREAT ALL WITH KINDNESS & RESPECT

VALUE DIVERSE VIEWS & OPINIONS



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TREAT ALL WITH KINDNESS & RESPECT

VALUE DIVERSE VIEWS & OPINIONS

ALL QUESTIONS & COMMENTS WILL BE POSTED ON WEBSITE





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