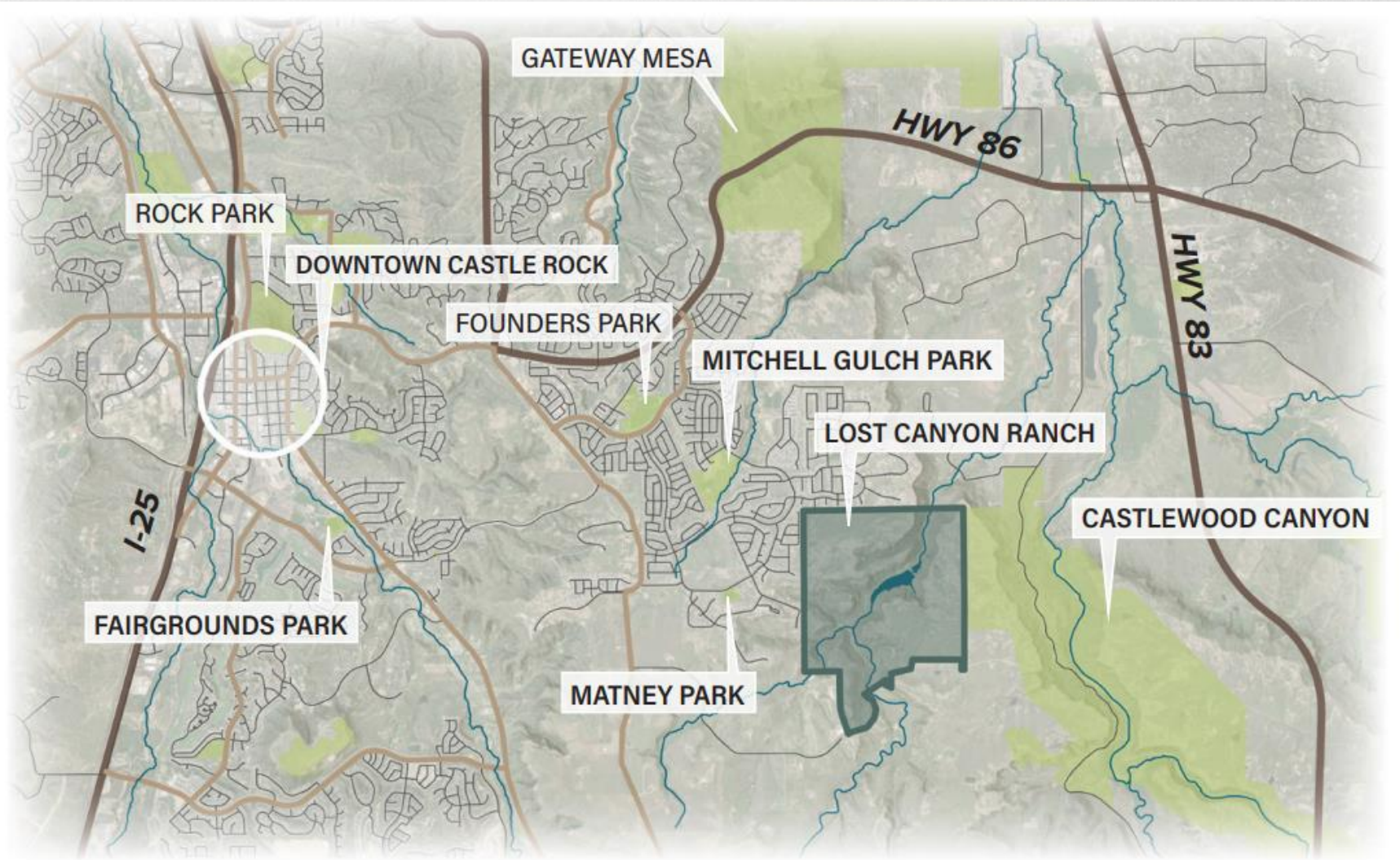


RESOLUTION APPROVING THE LOST CANYON RANCH OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN AND MANAGEMENT PLAN



TOWN COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 16, 2025



PROJECT BACKGROUND

- **The Town of Castle Rock has prepared a master plan and management plan to guide the long-term stewardship and phased development of the Lost Canyon Ranch Open Space**, a 681-acre property acquired in 2024. This acquisition was the largest open space purchase in Town history and reflects the high community priority of preserving natural lands, as identified in the 2023 Community Survey.
- **The plans set the framework for protecting the site's ecological and cultural resources while allowing for future passive recreation.** Douglas Land Conservancy, the conservation easement holder, reviewed the plans in summer 2025 and formally approved the Management Plan in August 2025, consistent with the purchase agreement.
- **Following Town Council's approval of the management and master plans, Parks and Recreation staff will begin implementing phased improvements to open the property for public use in 2026.** An initial \$2 million investment will help fund first-phase improvements which plan to include: traffic calming on Lost Canyon Ranch Road, Creekside Road upgrades and partial road connection to Cattleman's, Creekside trailhead construction, partial development of the Cattleman's parking lot, select trail construction and installation of initial signage.

PUBLIC OUTREACH: A PLACE OF AWE AND WONDER

The Town with consultant Wenk Associates led a planning and community engagement process to shape the Master Plan. The plan identifies access points, trail alignments, signage, and recommendations for low-impact programming while emphasizing the protection of sensitive areas. The Management Plan complements the Master Plan by outlining long-term stewardship, visitor management, and operations consistent with the Conservation Easement.



Neighborhood Meetings:

approximately 40 residents shared input on access, conservation and use



Online Surveys:

- First survey: 932 responses → strong interest, focus on hiking trails (49%)
- Second survey: 92 responses → reinforced conservation/recreation balance



Public Open Houses: two Town-wide events, approximately 80 attendees each; reviewed ecological/cultural resources and planning concepts



Themes: Strong enthusiasm for permanent open space preservation; support for low-impact recreation with protections for wildlife and cultural resources

MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

Access Recommendations

- Evaluate access improvements along Lost Canyon Ranch Road.
- Provide additional directional signs on Lost Canyon Ranch Road.
- Consider adding traffic calming measures along Lost Canyon Ranch Road, as needed.
- Add an additional gate closer to the entry of the property at Lost Canyon Ranch Road.
- Limit hours of access to dawn to dusk with the exception of special events.

Design Recommendations

- Locate primary trailhead and parking lot at the western building envelope site.
- Potential trailhead and parking locations have been identified.
- Trails to be single-track and minimally impactful, except at identified accessible trails.
- Preliminary wayfinding and signage details have been provided in this document. A complete signage package will be developed after master plan approval by Town Council.

MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

Program Recommendations

- All current and future programming should align with the conservation values of the site.
- Concept development for future uses within building envelopes has been provided. Flexible, minimally invasive spaces that emphasize diverse programming, while protecting the site's character, should be provided at the building envelopes.

Conservation Recommendations

- Trails are designed for hiking access only. Bikes and dogs are not recommended at this time.
- Evaluate future uses on the site.
- Avoid sensitive areas to protect the site's natural and cultural resources.
- Appropriately manage access to sensitive areas such as through guided tours.



Protect and preserve the site's natural habitat and cultural resources.



Provide public access to the site for passive outdoor recreation and education.



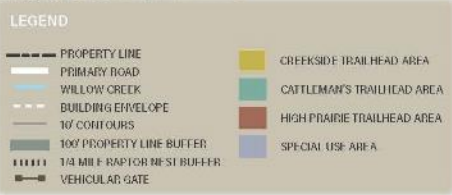
Integrate the site into the larger Town of Castle Rock open space and trails program.

Provide a buffer from expanding development pressures.

Find the balance between conservation and access.

BUDGET IMPACT AND PHASED IMPROVEMENTS

- There is no direct budget impact associated with approval of the Master Plan and Management Plan.
- Implementation of first-phase improvements is programmed in an initial investment of \$2 million identified for trail construction, trailheads, road upgrades, parking, signage and safety improvements.
- This evening's Town Council agenda will feature a trail construction contract for trail development with Timberline TrailCraft.
- Future contracts for road improvements, parking lot enhancements, and other site infrastructure will be brought forward for Town Council consideration as bids are issued and proposals are finalized, consistent with Council's contract authority.
- This phased approach balances expanded community access with conservation of the property's unique natural and cultural resources.



Note: Trails are conceptually shown and locations are subject to change.



PROJECT KEY

- ENTRY AND TRAFFIC CALMING
- ROAD MAINTENANCE AND CREEKSIDE TRAILHEAD GRADING
- ACCESSIBLE TRAIL AND DAM ACCESS ROAD
- ROAD MAINTENANCE CREEKSIDE TO CATTLEMANS
- CATTLEMANS TRAILHEAD GRADING

TRAILHEAD FEATURE PRECEDENTS



INITIAL	FUTURE
	RESTROOM
	PICNIC TABLES
	SHELTER
	PARKING LOTS
	HIKING TRAIL

ENTRYWAY IMPROVEMENTS



TRAILHEAD KIOSK SIGN



TRAIL DIRECTIONAL AND MILE MARKER SIGNS



SITE CONCEPT PLAN

High Prairie Trailhead

Creekline Trailhead

Cattlemen's Trailhead

Raptor Nesting Area

Spectral Use Area

Grassland Preserve

POTENTIAL CONNECTION TO CASTLEWOOD CANYON STATE PARK

LEGEND

- PROPERTY LINE
- PRIMARY ROAD
- WILLOW CREEK
- BUILDING ENVELOPE
- 10' CONTOURS
- 100' PROPERTY LINE BUFFER
- 1/4 MILE RAPTOR NEST BUFFER
- VEHICULAR GATE

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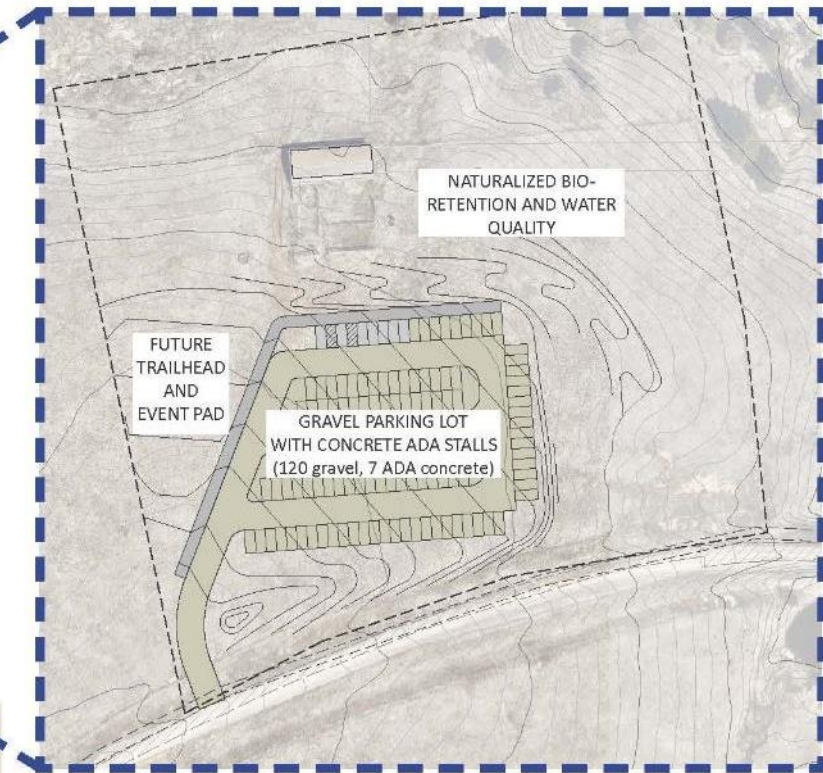
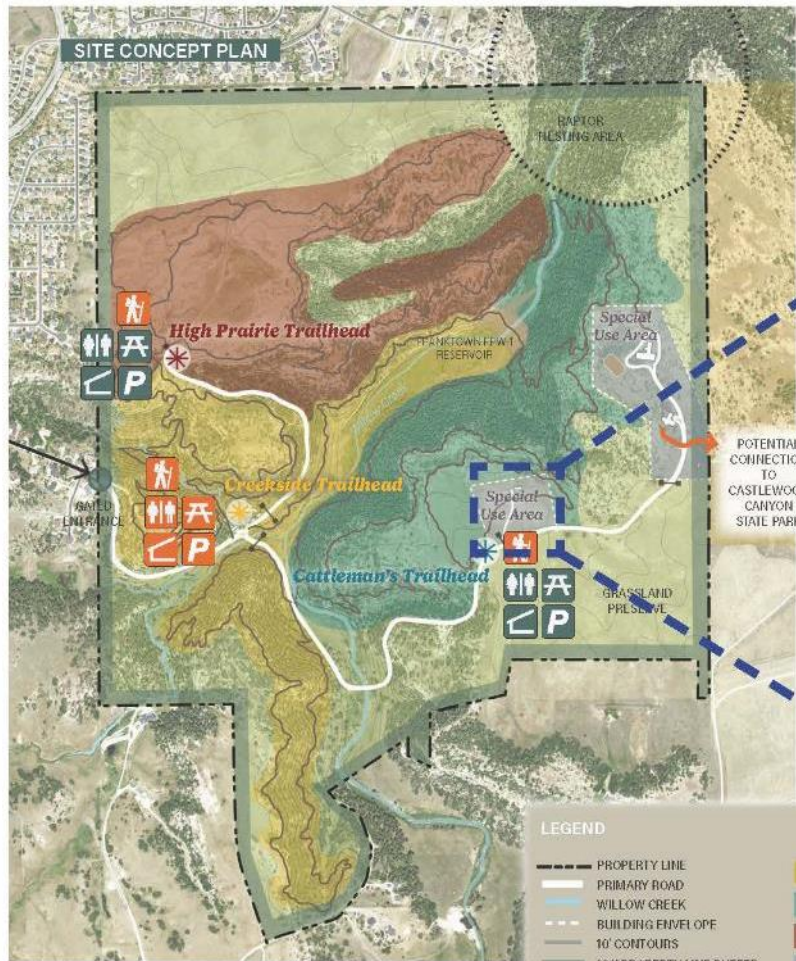


Rock Garden Perennials



Plaza Pavers

Creekside Trailhead



PROPOSED MOTION

“I move to approve the resolution as introduced by title.”

Alternate motions:

“I move to approve the resolution, with the following conditions:” (list conditions)

“I move to continue this item to the Town Council meeting on [date], at [time].”



THANK YOU
QUESTIONS?