



DECEMBER 2022

# Cherry Hills Village Master Plan



CHERRY HILLS VILLAGE, COLORADO

A scenic landscape featuring a calm pond in the middle ground, reflecting the surrounding trees and sky. In the foreground, a large, tall heron stands on a grassy bank. The background is filled with trees displaying vibrant autumn foliage in shades of red, orange, and yellow. A wooden fence is visible behind the trees. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

**5.0**

# **Parks, Trails, and Open Space (PTOS)**

## 5.0

# Parks, Trails, and Open Space (PTOS)



Source: City of Cherry Hills Village

The City's open spaces, trails, and park facilities help define the character of the community. Cherry Hills Village includes nearly 57 acres of publicly owned parks and open space (including Blackmer Common, Dahlia Hollow Park, Three Pond Park, Woodie Hollow Park, and two additional properties) and around 300 acres of privately owned open space, controlled by the Cherry Hills Country Club, the Glenmoor Country Club, The Village Club, Arapahoe Tennis Club, and various homeowners associations.

The 2008 Master Plan emphasized the preservation of open spaces and scenic views and noted that the open space, parks, trails and recreation system in the City should be compatible with the natural landscape. The 2022 Master Plan contains goals and action items that represent an updated version of this vision from the 2008 document.

The City, along with various stakeholders, continues to work on plans for the long-term use and maintenance of Quincy Farm and the High Line Canal as recreational resources in the community. The community will continue to integrate planning for these two resources into its program for Parks, Trails, and Open Space over the next several years. Both assets are important to the character and land use pattern of the City and are important to the community.

### QUINCY FARM

Quincy Farm is a 17.5-acre property in the heart of Cherry Hills Village, spanning both sides of the High Line Canal and south of E. Quincy Avenue. This spectacular property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and the existing structures and pastures are a picturesque part of the City's past. This treasure was gifted to the City by the previous owner, Catherine "Cat" Anderson, with the intention that it become an amenity for the whole community. To ensure this occurred, she placed the Farm under a Conservation Easement that is administered by Colorado Open Lands. Throughout the Master Plan process, the community has voiced strong support to continue the legacy that Cat initiated to preserve the Farm in perpetuity and promote uses for the property that instill appreciation for the nature that is there and the human history of the City and western Arapahoe County. Understanding the value of this asset and the commitment, both financially and programatically, the City currently partners with the Cherry Hills Land Preserve to maintain and activate, fund, and improve the Quincy Farm property, and the community supported this arrangement during the Master Plan process.

### HIGH LINE CANAL

Originally designed and built as an irrigation ditch some 140 years ago, the High Line Canal now serves as a recreational amenity. At 71 miles in length, the Canal is one of the longest continuous urban trails in the United States. Stretching from Douglas County on the south to Adams County on the north, over 350,000 people reside within one mile of the Canal and more than 500,000 people use the Canal for recreational purposes annually (according to figures provided by the High Line Canal Conservancy). Cherry Hills Village is proud to have several miles of the Canal within its jurisdiction, and to be part of the canal-wide effort across 11 jurisdictions to transition the Canal from an irrigation use to a green infrastructure system for stormwater management. During the Master Plan process, the community voiced its support for the City's continued coordination with Denver Water and the High Line Canal Conservancy to ensure the Canal remains a recreational amenity and a functional part of coordinated drainage in the City. A separate High Line Canal Study, performed by ICON Engineering on behalf of the City, provides additional information

pertaining to this coordinated effort for the High Line Canal.



Source: City of Cherry Hills Village

During the Master Plan process, the community expressed support for the City to focus on potential enhancements for passive recreational parks, natural open spaces, and trails within the City. The community supports adding more parks and open space around the City and enhancing the ecological health of parks and water ways, as part of the City's efforts to enhance sustainability and resiliency. The community also supports the preservation of natural features, open spaces, and vistas or views primarily through private donations of land, easements or rights-of-way.



Source: City of Cherry Hills Village

### Guiding Principles for Parks, Trails, and Open Space:

1. The City will preserve, enhance, and expand parks, trails and open space areas and the connectivity of the trail system.
2. The design and preservation of parks, trails, and open spaces will focus on enhancing natural features and the character of the City.
3. The preservation of open space, parks, trails, and scenic views of public and private lands is important to the residents of the City.

#### PTOS Goal 1:

Maintain and improve the current system of City-owned parks, trails, and open space.

##### Actions to Implement PTOS Goal 1:

- » PTOS-1-a. Identify and work to preserve natural areas that are important to City residents.
- » PTOS-1-b. Increase open space preservation that may be initiated by private landowners.
- » PTOS-1-c. Continue to identify and obtain new funding sources for parks, trails, and open space in the City including public and private grant funds.
- » PTOS-1-d. Install additional amenities (shelters, drinking fountains, benches, playgrounds, etc.) in existing parks, based upon the interest of residents.
- » PTOS-1-e. Continue to work with the Parks, Trails, and Recreation Commission (PTRC) to hold special events and activities in City parks and open space.
- » PTOS-1-f. Identify locations for and complete improvements for new parks and open spaces, given existing topography, view corridors, and access to nearby streets, school facilities, and other City amenities.
- » PTOS-1-g. When possible, encourage the design of drainage facilities serving multiple properties that may also serve as open space areas.
- » PTOS-1-h. Conduct an inventory and resolve

legal discrepancies of trail easements in the City and identify park and open space parcels where legal title is in question.



Source: City of Cherry Hills Village

#### PTOS Goal 2:

Preserve and enhance the system of trails and sidewalks, including conducting and maintaining an inventory of trails and enhancing connectivity.

##### Actions to Implement PTOS Goal 2:

- » PTOS-2-a. Explore opportunities for new trail connections and easements to enhance the existing trail system, including overall trail connectivity.
- » PTOS-2-b. Install additional trail markers, wayfinding, and signage regarding trail names as needed to provide sufficient awareness of the trail system in the City.
- » PTOS-2-c. Work with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and adjacent jurisdictions to improve pedestrian and bike path amenities and crossings along state-controlled roadways.
- » PTOS-2-d. Preserve and enhance funding sources for trails owned by the City.
- » PTOS-2-e. Integrate ongoing planning and design for the High Line Canal into the City's plans and operations for trails.

## 5.0 PARKS, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE



Source: City of Cherry Hills Village



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### PTOS Goal 3:

Preserve Quincy Farm for the current and future enjoyment and education of residents.

#### Actions to Implement PTOS Goal 3:

- » **PTOS-3-a** Retain Quincy Farm as a City-owned asset.
- » **PTOS-3-b.** Given the potential significant financial obligations associated with maintaining the property, continue to coordinate with the Cherry Hills Land Preserve to activate Quincy Farm, provide opportunities for people to use and enjoy the Quincy Farm facilities, assist in fundraising for the property, and address deferred maintenance on the property.
- » **PTOS-3-c.** Integrate ongoing planning and design for Quincy Farm into the City's plans and operations for parks and open space.
- » **PTOS-3-d.** Preserve and enhance funding sources for Quincy Farm.



Source: City of Cherry Hills Village