

History of Friends of Roxborough State Park (FRSP)

- Friends of Roxborough SP was started in 1993 with the mission of protecting the boundaries of the new Roxborough State Park, which was established in 1975, and opened to regular public access in 1987. FRSP, one of the first Friends organizations associated with a Colorado State Park, was established as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization in 1997.
- When it opened, Roxborough State Park consisted of 1523 acres. In the succeeding years, the park was expanded to its present 3400 acres, through the acquisition of additional surrounding properties which were slated for residential and commercial development.
- The FRSP was a significant participant in fund-raising through donation campaigns, grant applications, and item sales. FRSP directly raised and contributed over \$500,000 toward the expansion of the original park through the acquisition and incorporation of adjacent properties.
- FRSP was also instrumental in the negotiations for land acquisitions through exchanges and purchases. Among the most significant additions to the Roxborough State Park was the purchase of the Southdowns tract, which extends approximately from the present-day park entrance for 1.5 miles to the original park boundary where the entry road passes through the Dakota Hogback formation.

Land Acquisitions supported by FRSP, expanding Roxborough State Park:

- Southdowns \$100K from FRSP
- South Stonehenge ~ \$125K from FRSP
- Nelson Ranch \$100K from FRSP
- Barych Lots \$90K from FRSP
- Goodwin Parcel \$100K from FRSP

Contemporary FRSP Projects & Programs

- In recent years the mission of the Friends of Roxborough SP has been more focused on supporting nature education programs, providing visitor amenities and resources, supporting park volunteer programs with supplies and funding, and assisting park staff with minor projects, tasks and repairs.

Some of the recent projects and programs supported by the FRSP are:

- Shade Sail canopy covering the Visitor Center Patio area (\$42K in 2021).
- Volunteer Legacy Garden construction (\$23K in 2021).
- Visitor Center auditorium—installed digital audio / visual system replacing antiquated projection system (\$4K in 2022).
- Leave No Trace — continuing support of training programs, purchase of educational materials, annual membership dues, 2017 to present.
- Purchase of memorial benches & plaques (14 total since 2022), picnic tables (2019 & 2021), bearproof recycle & trash receptacle (2019).
- Wildflower garden plants and materials (annual).
- Rox Ride—vehicle purchase (\$13K in 2014 — \$8K from FRSP & \$5K from a State Parks Foundation grant) plus occasional maintenance costs.
- Printing costs for Volunteer Naturalist training materials.
- Repairs to Persse Place doors & windows, 2021 to present & continuing.

FRSP 2024 & 2025 focus areas:

- In anticipation and preparation for the 50th anniversary of Roxborough State Park in 2025, Friends of Roxborough SP plans to emphasize projects and programs that will highlight some of the historical structures and aspects of the Park and the Roxborough area.
- In particular, we plan to focus on restoration and preservation at the Persse Place house dating from 1903, and to add additional historic fixtures, furniture and artifacts.
- We will of course continue and hope to expand our support of nature education programs and projects, as well as Volunteer Programs.



Friends of Roxborough State Park

Membership & Contributions Form

friendsRSPsec@gmail.com

Yes! Please sign me up as a member (____ new, or ____ renewal) of the Friends of Roxborough State Park. (The annual membership donation amount is \$30.00).

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

email _____

Include your email address if you would like to receive news and updates. (We do not share your information).

Indicate below if you would like to make an additional contribution to support a specific project or fund sponsored by Friends. (Please email us if you have any questions).

\$ _____ to the Barbara Fritts Scholarship Fund

\$ _____ to the Education/Special Projects Fund

\$ _____ to the Persse Place Restoration Fund

\$ _____ to the Leave-No-Trace Program

\$ _____ other: _____



Mail your membership form and donation to:

Friends of Roxborough State Park

4751 E. Roxborough Drive

Roxborough, CO. 80125

On-line: If you would like to join or contribute on-line, please use this QR code.

Friends of Roxborough State Park is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit, EIN 84-1338909, in the State of Colorado: 20083005386. We are dedicated to nature education programs and special projects supporting Roxborough State Park facilities & services, staff, and park visitors.