



FRIENDS OF ROXBOROUGH STATE PARK



May 2024

Spring / Summer 2024 Newsletter

A special message to all supporters of the Friends of Roxborough State Park, FRSP current and past members, and Roxborough State Park volunteers:

In recent years, the Friends of Roxborough State Park (FRSP) has been less visible as compared to past years. This year we are renewing our focus, expanding our board, and reenergizing our efforts to support Roxborough State Park, Park volunteers and Park visitors through our commitment to nature education programs and projects, which has always been a key component of our mission.

Near Term Focus of FRSP

In 2024 and 2025 a major emphasis is to help the Park prepare for its 50th Anniversary coming up in 2025. This includes restoration and preservation work at the 1903 Perse Place.

And we will of course maintain and grow our support of the education mission at Roxborough State Park and continue to preserve and protect the Park, and to expand the visitor experience.

A Reminder of our History, Purpose, and Accomplishments

- In 1994, FRSP was established to help acquire land to expand the Park and protect its boundaries. FRSP was the first Friends organization associated with any Colorado State Park.
- In 1997, we became a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit with the State of Colorado and the US Internal Revenue Service.
- From 1996 to the present, we raised funds that allowed FRSP to contribute over \$500,000 toward the acquisition of approximately 2,000 acres of the 3,400 acres that make up the Park today, including the extensive Southdowns tract which extended along both sides of the present-day Park entrance road.
- With land acquisition no longer a necessary priority, a greater focus has been on supporting the environmental and nature-oriented educational mission of the Park and enhancing the visitor experience, with the most significant contributions in recent years:
 - Shade sail canopy over the Visitor Center patio
 - Volunteer Legacy Garden
 - Moonlight hikes and concerts
 - Modern audio/visual equipment in the Visitor Center auditorium and lobby
 - Leave No Trace sponsorship, educational materials, and signage to help achieve Leave No Trace Gold Standard designation



Legacy Garden

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- Supporting Park sponsored programs like IAD and Geology workshops
- Memorial benches and plaques (14 benches in 2022 - 2023)
- Visitor Center patio picnic tables (7 new tables since 2021)
- The Roxborough State Park Naturalist Guide – publication and printing
- Wildflower/Native plants for the patio area gardens (annually)
- Funding the procurement and maintenance of the Rox Ride vehicle
- Printing of educational materials for visitors and volunteer programs
- Printing of training materials for volunteer naturalists and workshops
- Repairs and rehabilitation of the historic Persse Place (e.g., windows, doors)
- Providing period-representative items on exhibit at Persse Place

Planned Changes to Our Board and Updates to our Guiding Documents

Recently, Shelly Stephens, the president of FRSP since 2016, moved out of state leaving the board with just two members, Secretary, Susan Dunn, and Treasurer, Pete Dunn. Volunteers from Roxborough State Park have stepped in, on an interim basis, to help Pete and Susan. This interim board will serve until board elections are held in early 2025 and includes:

- Co-Chairs – Tony Hepp and Mike Thomas
- Secretary – Susan Dunn
- Treasurer – Pete Dunn
- Board Member – Mary Taylor
- Board Member – Susie Trumble

We have also begun to review and revise where needed our guiding documents and procedures, including:

- Updating our bylaws, the Memorandum of Agreement with the Park management and staff, and our Articles of Incorporation
- Updating our financial processes and budgeting, particularly regarding the identification and forecasting of specific and multi-year projects
- Establishing a dedicated elected Board of Directors, and Committee members
- Emphasis on expanding our membership, and improving member communications and benefits
- Expanding fundraising efforts to support the Park's mission of resource protection, visitor education, and visitor amenities.

We Ask for Your Continued or Renewed Support

We thank you for your past and current support, and hope that if you are not a current member that you will consider rejoining FRSP or joining for the first time to help us in our mission. If you are not a current member, you can rejoin at: [FRSP Membership / Renewal Form](#), or via the QR at the end of this newsletter.

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We are planning to hold an open house at Roxborough later this summer to allow you to meet us and learn more about what the plans of FRSP are moving forward. Be on the lookout for that announcement soon.

We would also like to invite you to provide your expertise and participate in our efforts to expand our ability to support the Park and FRSP projects and programs. If you would like to be a part of the leadership team or to help as a committee member, or lend other assistance, please let us know at: friendsRSPsec@gmail.com. We would love to have support in fund raising, membership growth, non-profit expertise, and any other help you feel would be beneficial.

In the meantime, we will continue to keep you updated on our progress and any other projects funded by FRSP, and again be on the lookout for our Open House invitation.



Shade Sail and Volunteer Legacy Garden



FRSP membership
and renewal on-line



Donate to the Persse
Place Initiative