

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Local trails improved through *new* PPORA Stewardship Fund

Inaugural Pikes Peak APEX mountain bike race gives back to the trails

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.— The Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance (PPORA) recently allocated \$6,000 to trail work in Palmer Park through its PPORA Stewardship Fund. This is the first year for the Fund, launched from the new Pikes Peak APEX, presented by RockShox, to give back to the community and invest in its future.

The Pikes Peak APEX, a project of PPORA, is a 4-day mountain bike challenge scheduled for September 24-27, 2020, with the first day's course set in Palmer Park. The APEX mission is to *create a world-class event that drives economic impact to the area in order to improve the trails and open space in the Pikes Peak region for the lasting enjoyment of its residents and visitors.* Creation of the PPORA Stewardship Fund resulted from this mission.

Collaborating with land managers and like-minded advocacy groups, the PPORA Stewardship Fund brings attention and action to the Pikes Peak region's trail system and surrounding lands for multiple uses and users. The Fund supports both the existing and the potential system. Priority is given to ensure race venue areas and trails emerge more sustainable and better connected for all users to enjoy in the greater community.

"Park and trail use and the desire to play outdoors has grown in our region," said Becky Leinweber, Executive Director of PPORA. "With the pandemic, even more people have come to value outdoor recreation for its mental and physical health benefits. PPORA is excited to launch this Fund, collaborate with terrific partners and make a direct impact to local trails that are so important to our community."

The majority of this year's funds were allocated to the City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, which will secure and direct a professional trail contractor for work in Palmer Park. In addition, the Fund allocated donations to the Guardians of Palmer Park (Friends Group), Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates (MWTa) and Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI) for their continued trail work in Palmer Park and support of the Pikes Peak APEX.

The Fund framework includes an Advisory Panel composed of a diverse group of stakeholders. The PPORA Board of Directors thanks this year's panel for serving and making recommendations, including David Adair (MWTa), Susan Davies (Trails and Opens Space Coalition, TOSC), David Deitemeyer (City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services), Sue Miller (USFS), Jennifer Peterson (RMFI), Cory Sutela (MWTa), Micah Rice (Pikes Peak APEX executive director), and Priscilla Marbaker (PPORA Stewardship Fund Chair).

In addition to the trail work conducted as a result of the APEX' contribution to the PPORA Stewardship Fund, PPORA would like to bring attention to several additional stewardship projects being conducted on 2020 APEX racecourse trails this year. A compiled list is available at ppora.org.

The collaborative nature of the Pikes Peak region's outdoor community and investment in our parks, trails, and open spaces ensures that future generations can enjoy these same treasures. We are pleased the new PPORA Stewardship Fund, launched through the APEX, will join with ongoing efforts toward this common goal.

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ABOUT PIKES PEAK APEX, PRESENTED BY ROCKSHOX, A PROJECT OF PPORA

The Pikes Peak APEX, presented by RockShox, is a unique 4-day mountain bike challenge on the slopes of Pikes Peak, America's Mountain. The event features exhilarating, exceptionally crafted routes through dirt roads, jeep trails and the amazing alpine single track that is quintessential Pikes Peak. This rigorous Rocky Mountain trail experience through the aspens in Colorado's backcountry will draw not only professional riders, but also amateur cyclists looking for a bucket list endurance experience.

For more information about the Pikes Peak APEX, visit <https://www.pikespeakapex.com/>
For more information about PPORA, visit <http://ppora.org>.