

Planning Process:

When were negotiations first started in regards with the Incline?

Due to the massive popularity of the trail, a comprehensive public planning process was viewed as being critical in developing plans for the Incline. In 2010 a site development and management plan process was initiated. This process was led by the Manitou Incline Task Force, a group consisting of representatives of a user groups ranging from Friends of the Peak, Trails and Open Space Coalition, Incline Club, neighborhood associations, the Incline landowners (Colorado Springs Utilities, US Forest Service, and the COG Railroad), Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs staff, and a technical team led by TAPIS Associates. The Task Force began its work in January 2010 with the support of both Manitou and Colorado Springs City Councils.

Was there a planning process that engaged public input?

The process included public outreach to gather the values, beliefs, and judgments from both users and those who might be impacted by the project. The public process began in April 2010 with fifteen (15) one-on-one stakeholder interviews and a public workshop to identify key issues. Based on those issues, a series of further public meetings were held. August 2010 meetings were again held with the landowners to insure recommendations could be supported as the process moved forward. At this point the next public meeting was held. All comments received during the public process can be found in Appendix A of the Management Plan. Based on the many public meetings a draft plan was presented in an open house forum in January 2011. All landowners, as well as Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs, eventually adopted this plan.

How are sections identified on the Incline?

The Master Plan broke the Incline into seven (7) conditions. Condition 1 requires little to no work to Conditions 7 which is complete failure.

The Incline is in Manitou Springs, why is the City of Colorado Springs involved?

During the Planning Process it was determined the City of Colorado Springs would officially maintain and operate the Incline. Through an Intergovernmental Agreement the City of Colorado Springs has assumed these responsibilities, but remains in constant contact with Manitou Springs. The two Cities work together to make decisions that impact the Incline and its users.

Did it really take an Act of Congress to legalize the Incline?

For the US Forest Service to surrender the old rail corridor to the public it took the vote of both the US Senate and US House of Representatives. So this project literally took an Act of Congress and President Obama's signature to legalize the Incline for public use.

Upcoming Construction:

Why are these improvements necessary?

The Incline has been unmanaged for the past 20 years and as a result has suffered significant damage. Without making necessary repairs it is likely the Incline could reach a point where repairs are no longer possible.

What is the cost of the project?

The entire cost of the project is projected to be \$1.6 million dollars.

<u>Funding Partner:</u>	<u>Funding Amount:</u>
FEMA	\$556,486
Great Outdoors Colorado Grant	\$350,000
Colorado Springs Utilities	\$300,000
State Trails Grant	\$200,000
Colorado Springs CTF Program	\$80,000
Incline Friends	\$60,000
Colorado Springs TOPS Program	\$50,000
Manitou Springs Barr Parking Lot	\$40,000

Will the character of the Incline change during construction?

During the Planning Process the public asked for the character of the Incline to remain the same. The City of Colorado Springs and Engenuity Engineering has attempted to retain as much of the existing character as possible, while still making necessary improvements that will stabilize the Incline and reduce the current rate of erosion.

The Incline has been deteriorating for a while, why are we fixing it now?

With the increased recreational use and the steep grades the Incline, is quickly eroding away. The Master and Management Plan always identified Conditions 5-7 as complete failures and required a contractor to repair the damage. Conditions 1-4 were originally intended to be improved through volunteer projects. With the recent floods of September 2013, the Incline took a significant hit. Not only did the Incline sustain further damage to Conditions 5-7, but Conditions 3-4 deteriorated to a point where it is no longer feasible for volunteers to complete the extensive amount of work to repair the damage. These two conditions now need to be repaired by a contractor. If improvements are not made to the Incline, another storm event could wash out sections of the Incline making it virtually unusable and unrepairable.

Due to the deterioration of the Incline, has the Manitou Springs Fire Department received an increase of service calls to assist users?

In the last five (5) years there have been 171 incidents where first responders have responded to a call. This equates to an average of 34 calls per year.

Will we still be able to hike the Incline when it is under construction?

No. The Incline will be closed down to recreational use while the trail is under construction. This is due primarily to the safety of the user and to the construction workers. While construction is underway equipment will be in use and the hiking surface will be impacted. Staging of materials will be located at the base of the Incline. Please give the construction crews a break and resist the urge to sneak up the Incline while no one is looking!

What will happen if I choose to hike the Incline while it is under construction?

Citations will be issued for anyone trespassing on the Incline during construction. The citation will be \$100. These are issued for the safety of the user and the construction works. Please adhere to this closure or you will be ticketed.

How long will the construction last?

Construction is anticipated to last 4 months.

Where can I get more information and stay current on how construction is going?

The Cities of Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs will update their website with information pertaining to construction, www.springsgov.com and ([www.manitou's web site](http://www.manitou.com)). Updates can also be found on the Incline Friends website, www.inclinefriends.com.

***Will construction impact Barr Trail, Ute Pass Trail, the Intemann Trail, and Red Mountain Trail?
Will construction impact the COG Railroad?***

No. These trails will remain open during construction. The COG Railway will also operate its summer schedule as normal.

Will the Manitou Springs Shuttle operate when the Incline is closed?

Yes. The Manitou Springs free community shuttle will still operate when the Incline is under construction. Please utilize the shuttle to get to Barr Trail, Ute Pass Trail, the Intemann Trail, and Red Mountain Trail. The COG Railway is also accessible by the community shuttle. The shuttle will operate from May 18 to September 13th. The shuttle provides free rides from Memorial Park to all the surface parking lots in downtown Manitou Springs and will loop around at the Iron Springs Chateau on Ruxton Avenue. The shuttle will run every 20 minutes from 6 a.m.—8 p.m. daily and every 10 minutes, Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

With the Incline closed, where can I recreate?

The Pikes Peak Region is blessed to have amazing recreational amenities. Please visit www.springsgov.com and www.manitouspringsgov.com, for a list of trails to visit while the Incline is closed. There are also many great resources to purchase to find alternative trails within the Pikes Peak Region. These maps are available at your local map and sporting goods stores.

With the Incline closed, what other amenities can I visit in Manitou Springs?

Manitou Springs is a vibrant artisan community, home to world class art, music, theater and sidewalk sculpture displays. The Historic District is lined with unique art galleries, one of a kind gift shops and trading posts with handcrafted Native American treasures. Manitou Springs is home to dozens of artists and art galleries. It is also home to internationally famous historic restaurants, as well as many favorite neighborhood dining establishments, Manitou Springs has a wide selection of quality accommodations: Lodging can be found in a historic hotel, many unique Victorian bed & breakfasts, classic and cozy unique hotels & motels, quality motor inns, top quality chains, secluded cabins & cottages and RV Parks & campgrounds. For more information about Manitou Springs please visit www.manitousprings.org.

Once Construction is Completed:

How can I help during this time and in the future, are there volunteer opportunities?

Once the Incline is repaired the Incline Friends will assist the City of Colorado Springs with volunteer projects to insure the new drainage structures do not clog back up with sediment and debris. They will solicit volunteers who are willing to help with this annual work. Please bookmark www.inclinefriends.com for upcoming volunteer project information.

In addition, everyone can help be a steward of the Incline by cleaning up after themselves. Please do not discard your empty plastic water bottle or other trash along the side of the Incline, Barr Trail or Ruxton Avenue. Please take your trash and properly dispose of it in a trash receptacle, conveniently located near the port-a-lets and in the Barr Parking Lot. All of us can do our part to keep the Incline looking clean.

Will there be a celebration to kick off the construction work and to reopen the Incline?

Yes. There will be celebrations for these two milestones for the project. Please continue to watch for additional information as to when these events will take place.

Once the Incline is repaired is my Special Event allowed to take place?

No. At this time special events are not allowed to occur on the Incline. The City of Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs will conduct public meetings to gather input on a special events process. The timeframe for this has not yet been determined.