



Legacy Loop Self-Guided Phase 1 Tour

The Legacy Loop Project is a comprehensive multi-phase project that aims to build on the legacy of General Palmer by creating a cohesive multi-use trail and park loop that will improve connectivity, expand accessibility, promote safety, support alternative modes of transportation, and create new and significantly enhance existing recreational opportunities. The Legacy Loop is both a continuation of Palmer's dreams and the creation of a new vision for connectivity and access to those park, recreation, and natural areas that are so integral to the character of Colorado Springs.

Site #1: Legacy Loop plaza (trail head): This trail head is a significant piece of the Legacy Loop project as it will add parking spaces to improve access to the trail, provide a previously non-existent area for large events (such as a finish area for marathons), and will convert a blighted parking lot into a valuable recreational amenity. Discussions are underway (and should be completed soon) to convert the existing under-utilized parking lot into a 100-car trailhead and event space. This project element will help to make the Legacy Loop easily accessible to families that live outside of walking and biking distance of the trail. It will also ensure that the Legacy Loop will be fun and attractive to groups hosting large community events such as races.

Site #2: Mesa Creek Crossing: The next major element of the Legacy Loop is a 100' pedestrian bridge to span Mesa Creek as it enters the Greenway. Currently, there is no bridge crossing in this location. Without this bridge span the existing trail must veer away from the preferred alignment along Monument Valley Creek, jog through a series of 90 degree turns, run along Recreation Road as it crosses the creek and then veer back towards the original trail alignment. Not only do these series of sharp bends present collision dangers, but forcing youth and families onto an active road is neither a safe nor convenient option.

Site #3: Uintah Street Underpass: Uintah is an extremely high-volume road that is a major barrier to safe trail use on the west side of the Greenway. The current at-grade trail crossing forces cyclists and pedestrians off the Greenway Trail, down Uintah a half block, through a busy intersection and along a side street for another block and half before they can re-access the Greenway and Monument Valley Park. For most casual trail users this situation is an unsafe and confusing barrier to enjoyable recreation along the Greenway. Building a trail underpass will benefit the 375,000 people already using the Greenway and will send a powerful message that the Legacy Loop is about creating people-focused recreational infrastructure.

Site #4: New 12' Concrete Trail along west side of Monument Creek: The existing trail is a narrow 4' to 10' wide gravel path that suffers from poor sightlines, overgrown trees and bushes, intrusive power poles, and a generally uninviting trail corridor. This element of the project will replace the existing foot gravel trail with a new 12' wide concrete multiuse trail with a 4' wide gravel shoulder. Obstructing power poles, encroaching vegetation, and an existing fence line will all be modified to create a seamless and uninterrupted trail corridor. These gravel paths can create significant difficulties for restricted mobility users, less-experienced cyclists and families with strollers. The Legacy Loop will address all of these issues. It is worth noting that the gravel trails along the east side of the Greenway will remain as they are. This will create multiple recreational opportunities for everyone from bike commuters to leisurely walkers.

Site #5: Gateway at Boulder Crescent (The Michelson Property): The Michelson property will be developed as a neighborhood pocket park and will include significant trail infrastructure to create a major new downtown trail connection. This trail infrastructure will link up with an east-west on-street bike lane along Cache La Poudre St. This connection will add a new family-friendly park and will help to create a much more seamless connection between downtown and the Legacy Loop trail.

Site #6: Mesa Street Underpasses: The underpasses are located just south of Colorado College and adjacent to the Fine Arts Center. By separating users from a busy road, these improvements will increase cyclist and pedestrian safety, allow access to Monument Creek, and dramatically improve the function of the Legacy Loop trail for large events such as races, community bike rides, and fun runs.

Site #7: Creek Access and Interaction: An important element of the Legacy Loop project is to get trail users down to the creek to experience the creek. As you stand under the pedestrian bridge at Uintah, look across Monument Creek you can see the potential to expand the edge of the creek to create opportunities to engage with the water, while providing drainage improvements. These can be completed by creating an extension to the creek or a series of jetties.

Site #8: New Playground within Monument Valley Park: We strongly believe that the power of this project is its potential to move beyond being simply a trail project. Instead, the Legacy Loop is about facilitating recreation, encouraging exploration and deepening the outdoor experience. Improvements such as the renovation of this playground help add an additional layer of richness to the Legacy Loop project and ensure that this project achieves its greatest potential.

Site #9: Rock Island Trail: From the perspective of regional trail connectivity, a major element of the project is perhaps the most critical Phase One element of the Legacy Loop project. This is the acquisition and construction of the Rock Island Trail from the Greenway to Templeton Gap Road. This project element has been identified in master plans for over 20 years as a highest-priority trail acquisition and construction project for the Parks Department. This long-sought trail connection will link the busiest trail in Colorado Springs (the Pikes Peak Greenway) to the three mile long Shook's Run Trail and nearly seven existing miles of the east-west running Rock Island Trail. Included in this project element is a trail underpass at Cascade Avenue and another at Nevada Avenue. Both underpasses are required to provide safe trail passage around busy roads and the active Rock Island rail line.

Site #10: The Popcycle Bridge: One of the most important elements of the Legacy Loop, this fun, interactive bridge teaches children how to properly ride they bike along a road. Most importantly this is the location most fondly children will remember as the place they stop to eat a Popsicle, as a result the bridge has been nicknamed the Popcycle Bridge. This project was completed in collaboration with Kids on Bikes and many other supporters.