

Facebook Follow-up Information

Did you see our request to donate on Facebook? Feel a need for more information?

Here is our story chapter by chapter.

In 1982 developers discovered the pristine Cuchara Valley and created a ski resort here. At first it was glorious and grand. But, sadly, it met hard times and was closed since 2000. No trespassing signs greeted those who wanted to hike, sled or just enjoy the views from the ski hills.

But that was before January 26, 2017. That was before Huerfano County acquired the 40+ acre ski hill for a public mountain park, with help from the Cuchara Foundation!

What does this all mean for you? Think tubing/sledding, non-motorized skiing, a pleasant hike on a nice day, a picnic by bubbling Baker Creek in the summer. All of that is available right now, as the no trespassing signs came down immediately after the purchase.

The county will work with the community and a professional planner to develop a long-term plan based on needs/wants and feasibility. A lot is possible - refurbishing Lift 4 to take people to the top of the property for a ski or bicycle run, a stage for outdoor entertainment, a remodeled building for indoor events, an in-or-outdoor location for weddings, family reunions, workshops (think of the photographic opportunities here) and group events of all kinds - the list is long and possibilities intriguing.

Before the county can start on grant applications for improvements, they really need to have the land all paid for! And your help is needed, of course. Here is the situation. The land sold for \$150,000. The Cuchara Foundation gave a grant to the county for \$25,000 for the first payment on the land. Now the Foundation asks you to consider making a donation to the effort and help move us further toward our goal of \$125,000 (which is the remaining debt).

The Cuchara Foundation is a 501(c)3 charitable organization whose mission is to provide education and resources to the Cuchara Valley. And, in fact it already has given grants to support many local organizations. Because of the non-profit status, donations to the Foundation should be eligible for a federal tax deduction (that of course is up to you and your accountant). And, rest assured, the Foundation has a separate fund set up for this so all of your donations will go exclusively for the Mountain Park purchase.

In addition to the enjoyment you will experience at the park, think about bringing friends and family there to see the names of all who contributed to its purchase on permanent display on the "Funders Wall" that is being planned. Now, wouldn't it be nice to see your name on that list - who knows, maybe even up there in lights?!

Knowing this won't you PLEASE DONATE?

So, there you have it - that's our story!

1. The county has a new mountain park at the old Cuchara resort, open and free for all to enjoy!
2. The potential for future recreation, entertainment and enjoyment is limitless.
3. The land cost \$150,000 to purchase.
4. The Cuchara Foundation has contributed the first \$25,000 for the down payment.
5. Now we need YOUR help - the community, merchants, summer residents, outdoor enthusiasts, and tourists - to help raise the remaining \$125,000 and an additional \$50,000 for seed money for development grants.
6. We urge you to contribute to the cause and feel the pride of helping to create something of value forever. No amount is too small - all gifts will be helpful and celebrated.

Remember, PLEASE DONATE NOW!

FYI: When you donate through Facebook, you will receive an email documenting your contribution for your records. There is a 5% indirect cost from Facebook on your donation.

For 100% of your donation to go to this project – no overhead, no indirect cost -- please donate directly to the Foundation by sending a check directly to the Mountain Park Account, Cuchara Foundation, 137 Cuchara Avenue East Cuchara, Colorado 81055. The Foundation will acknowledge your gift and send a receipt for tax purposes. Please write “Mountain Park” on your check and provide your mailing and email addresses and phone number.

We love our community and those who appreciate the Cuchara area, and we know with your help we all will create a wonderful mountain recreation area to enjoy forever

"Never doubt that a small group of people can change the world, indeed that is all that ever has." Margaret Mead