RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN UPDATE AS A SUPPLEMENT TO THE THORNTON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.

WHEREAS, City Council adopted the Thornton Comprehensive Plan on September 11, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Thornton Comprehensive Plan defines the Healthy City with Great Amenities goal that incorporates elements including wellness, historic preservation, mitigating hazards, complete streets, and resource conservation. Parks, recreation, open space, and trails are a component of this goal and are a way of creating engaging spaces, promoting a healthy community, and establishing a sense of identity within the community; and

WHEREAS, in November 1997, the citizens of Thornton passed a ballot measure that increased the City’s sales and use tax rate in order to fund acquisition of land and construction of facilities for parks and open space purposes; and

WHEREAS, the sales and use tax initiative that appeared on the November 1997 ballot stated that the proceeds were to be used one-third for open space, one-third for parks, and one-third as determined by City Council based on recommendations of an Open Space and Parks Advisory Commission appointed by the City Council for open space and parks projects provided for in the Comprehensive Open Space and Parks and Open Space Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, City Council formed the Parks and Open Space Advisory Commission (POSAC) in Spring 1998 and charged them with developing criteria for cataloguing and prioritization of open space and park opportunities, receiving and considering comments from the public on drafts of parks, trails, and open space plans, reviewing and revising such plans, developing criteria for prioritizing, and making recommendations on parks and open space projects; and

WHEREAS, on June 26, 2000, City Council adopted the 2000 Parks and Open Space Master Plan as a supplement to the 1997 Thornton Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, City Council adopted amendments to the Plan on May 11, 2004; December 16, 2008; September 28, 2010; and August 13, 2013; and

WHEREAS, POSAC has met regularly in 2016 and 2017 in order to obtain public input and to examine research and data provided by City staff and consultants regarding the City’s existing park and trail system, its environmental resources, and its anticipated needs for future parks, recreation, trails, and open space in order to update the Parks and Open Space Master Plan; and
WHEREAS, POSAC has invested diligent effort in identifying and evaluating parks, recreation, trails, and open space opportunities; establishing goals and objectives for updating the citywide system of parks, trails, and open space; and making recommendations on park, recreation, trail, and open space opportunity sites for acquisition and development in order to update this citywide system; and

WHEREAS, City Council reviewed the Parks and Open Space Master Plan update at their May 16, 2017 Planning Session, and POSAC recommends that the update be adopted in fulfillment of the 1997 Parks and Open Space Tax requiring that such a plan be updated every three years to supplement the 1997 Thornton Comprehensive Plan and that it be used by City Council as a basis for determining how the proceeds of the parks and open space sales and use tax will be used, as provided in the November 1997 ballot language passed by Thornton voters.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF THORNTON, COLORADO, AS FOLLOWS:

That the Parks and Open Space Master Plan, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as Exhibit A is hereby adopted as a supplement to the Thornton Comprehensive Plan and is hereby recognized as the Comprehensive Parks and Open Space Master Plan referenced in the November 1997 ballot language establishing the parks and open space sales and use tax.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Thornton, Colorado, on August 22, 2017.

CITY OF THORNTON, COLORADO

Heidi K. Williams, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kristen N. Rosenbaum, City Clerk