

Meeting on Incline scheduled

By Jeanne Davant

Citizens can have a say in the future of the Manitou Incline by attending a public workshop at 7 p.m. June 24 in Manitou Springs City Hall.

It's officially illegal to use the rail bed of the old Mt. Manitou Incline, but it has become one of the most popular hiking trails in the region. Users contribute significantly to traffic congestion and parking problems on upper Ruxton Avenue.

Manitou Springs and Colorado Springs have joined to explore the possibility of opening the Incline for legal use. A team of consultants has been hired to prepare a management plan and will facilitate this first public meeting.

Participants will have the opportunity to identify critical issues and provide input on parking and traffic, trail and trailhead design, and operations and management.

Three more meetings are scheduled in July to focus on each of those areas. A final plan will be presented to the two City Councils in February 2011.

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