



WELCOME TO EL PASO COUNTY

WHY APPLY?

This is an excellent opportunity for an entrepreneurial leader to elevate an outstanding county park system in one of the American West's premier locations. The Executive Director will lead a stable, professional staff committed to public service and passionate about promoting a healthy, outdoor lifestyle. The organization values strategic planning and visionary leadership while actively supporting a healthy work-life balance for its employees.

El Paso County's comprehensive park system highlights the rugged natural beauty of south-central Colorado through a strong emphasis on preservation, outdoor recreation, and year-round enjoyment across diverse seasons. The landscape spans mountainous terrain in the west to expansive open-space plains in the east. The county seat, Colorado Springs, offers a full range of urban services and amenities with easy access to wide open spaces, while surrounding communities provide opportunities for a more rural lifestyle.

Dear Colleague,

GMP Consultants is assisting **El Paso County**, Colorado in finding an **Executive Director-Parks**. Perhaps this is the right time in your career to consider this exciting opportunity. If not, would you please pass this on to others who may be interested?

Thank you for your consideration and assistance.

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EL PASO COUNTY

With over 750,000 residents, El Paso County is Colorado's most populous county and home to Colorado Springs—the state's second-largest city—and the iconic 14,115-foot Pikes Peak. Spanning over 2,000 square miles, the county's unique blend of natural beauty, access to both outdoor recreation and metropolitan amenities, and over 280 days of sunshine a year makes it one of the most sought-after places to live in Colorado.

El Paso County is governed by a five-member Board of County Commissioners and operates with a team of over 3,000 authorized FTEs. The County is fiscally conservative and financially stable with a 2026 budget of over \$532 million. State projections anticipate that the county's population will grow by roughly one-third of its current size over the next 25 years.



THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - PARKS

Reporting directly to the Deputy County Administrator, the Executive Director is responsible for the overall management, administration, parks planning, and leadership of the El Paso County Parks Department which serves over 750,000 residents and over 25 million visitors per year.

The County's comprehensive park system includes 7 regional parks, 6 community parks, 6 regional trails, 20 open spaces, and 4 dog parks—all guided by an ambitious parks masterplan that encompasses over 8,000 acres and over 140 miles of trails. The Recreation and Cultural Services Division manages two nationally recognized nature centers, a financially sustainable County Fair that attracts more than 25,000 participants over 8 days, and a variety of outdoor recreational programs. The Department operates with a budget of \$8.5 million for 2026 and employs 46 full-time and 35 seasonal employees.

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full position
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EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE

- Bachelor's degree in public administration, non-profit administration, or a related field. (Four years of related professional experience may substitute for the required degree.)
- Five years of demonstrated managerial and administrative leadership experience.
- Five years of community and/or natural resources/services or related experience.

PREFERRED:

- Master's degree in public administration, non-profit administration, or related field.
- 10 years of demonstrated managerial and administrative leadership experience.

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Hiring Range: \$160,000 - \$181,000 annually DOQ
Full Salary Range: \$145,120 - \$217,670 annually DOQ

First Review: February 15, 2026

More Info: Jeff Weldon GMP Consultants
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