

Making Colorado Springs beautiful

Re: the July 4 article, “City park rangers hitting trails in the fall to help them feel safe”: As a resident of District 3 I, too, am concerned about the safety of the trails — and the safety of people without housing, who also have the right to use our trails. Homeless services providers tell us that it costs taxpayers \$8,000 per person ticketed for littering or camping — the costs of officers, jail, court processing.

The new ranger program costs \$446,000 for a start. Since ticketing is costly and a temporary “fix” for the fears of some neighbors, why not try a cost-effective and common-sense approach?

The city removed trashbins from our parks and trails in 2009 — and they lie dormant on city utilities’ property. The park bathrooms were also closed that year — and none have re-opened.

It’s time to use the resources we have to make trash disposal and bathroom facilities easily accessible. Bring back the trashbins! Open the bathrooms! Hire a few unemployed people to monitor and promote making Colorado Springs beautiful. Then we can use resources and creative minds to address the underlying problem, as Justin Trudeau says: “We need to get people housed.”