

Stories of Roxborough **“Save Southdowns”**



**SAVE ROXBOROUGH,
STATE PARK!**

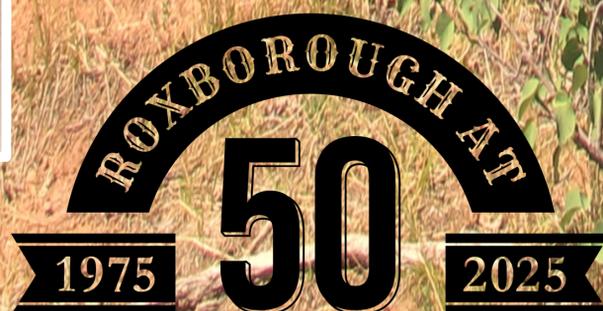
In the early 1990s, the rolling hills of Southdowns (the beautiful land on either side of the park’s entrance road) were platted for a sea of over 1,000 homes. US Home consolidated the lots after the bankruptcy of the original developer. In November 1993, concerned citizens and park volunteers formed the Friends of Roxborough State Park to seek an alternative to the development. They engaged Governor Roy Romer, state legislators, and Douglas County Commissioners; collected 15,000 petition signatures; and gathered donations from over 500 financial supporters.

Governor Romer’s visit to Roxborough in March 1994 changed the momentum, prompting the key parties to find a settlement which would preserve the 628 acres as a part of Roxborough State Park.

This effort resulted in US Home and the Roxborough Park Foundation selling their interests to The Conservation Fund for \$2.35M. US Home agreed to develop in a different part of the county as approved by the County Commissioners. The Conservation Fund held the land until funds equaling the purchase price could be raised. Funding came from Douglas County Open Space; Great Outdoors Colorado; and the Boettcher, Bonfils-Stanton, Denver, Gates and Johnson Foundations. John Fielder held benefits featuring his Colorado photos. The Friends sold retail items and held various fundraisers. Colorado State Parks provided the balance.

Governor Romer’s words at the May 1996 dedication still ring true - “Outside of how we care for our children, how we care for our environment is the most important issue we have.”

- Susie Trumble, former Park Manager and current volunteer



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