

Dear Black Forest Neighbor –

This letter is being sent to you because Emily Hill at Haven Education is proposing a land use project in El Paso County at 5484 Burgess Road. This information is being provided to you prior to a submittal with the County. Please direct any questions on the proposal to Emily Hill. Prior to any public hearing on this proposal a notification of the time and place of the public hearing will be sent to the adjacent property owners by the El Paso County Planning and Community Development Department. At that time you will be given the El Paso County contact information, the file number and an opportunity to respond either for, against, or expressing no opinion in writing at the public hearing for this proposal.

I am reaching out to introduce myself and let you know about something hopeful happening right next door to you. My name is Emily Hill and I live in Black Forest with my husband Owen and our four children. I am a native of Colorado Springs and we love living in the forest.

Now more than ever our community's children need the opportunity to learn and grow in the outdoors. Studies show that children who spend regular time outside are more confident, less anxious, and acquire skills that build community. Three years ago we started a small homeschool enrichment program through Education ReEnvisioned BOCES that offers students the chance to experience nature and learn in the outdoors. This past year we finally found our own Forest School home next to you at 5484 Burgess Road.

Our students come once a week in sun or snow and spend their day learning about Colorado ecosystems, ecological and agricultural science, hands-on skills like cooking, carpentry, and handwork, and caring for our local place. We are a place-based program which means we take local community and care for the land seriously; we want to teach the next generation to do the same. How will they preserve and protect our natural habitats and resources if they don't learn to love them first? Learning ecology from a textbook doesn't inspire our students to participate in protecting it – digging in the dirt, watching things grow, wandering the woods, does.

We are a small program and it is our intention to remain that way. You are our neighbors and it is important to us that you are in the know about what we hope to create out here at Haven. Our property is 27.45 acres and zoned RR-5 with plenty of room for our children to learn and play in. We have thirty-five students joining us Monday/Wednesday and eighty on Tuesday/Thursday for thirty weeks of the school year. Our summers will be spent simply

regenerating and caring for the land. We have a strong agricultural focus as we believe it is important for our children to know where food comes from and how to grow it themselves. This year we planted dozens of potato plants; maybe we will harvest enough this fall to share with our neighbors!

As you can see in our site map, we plan on working with the land and keeping things simple. There is currently a house we will use as a schoolhouse and a barn we hope to remodel for a workshop, art studio, kitchen, and a couple classrooms. We would also love to add a small greenhouse and animal barn so that our students will have the opportunity to experience growing food and caring for animals first hand.

The driveway to our property is over a quarter mile long which naturally eliminates any traffic issues that may be expected to arise. Thankfully we are right off the main road Burgess. This placement helps keep our surrounding neighborhoods nice and quiet. This matters to me particularly as I am a Black Forest resident myself and care about keeping the integrity of the Forest.

I know it is important to all of us in Black Forest to teach the next generation to love and care for our community and natural world – thank you for coming alongside us in this good work.

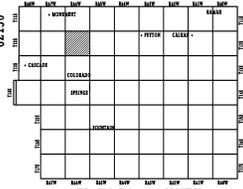
Please feel free to reach out to me personally at my email or personal cell with any questions or stop by for a visit soon – we would love to get to know you!

Kindly,

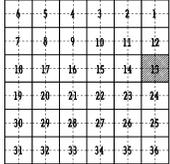
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily Hill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'E' and 'H'.

Emily Hill
Director, Haven School
emilyhill@havenclassical.com
719-930-0961

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EL PASO COUNTY

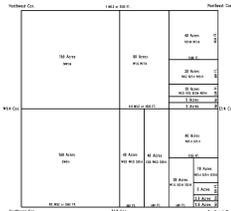


ONE TOWNSHIP

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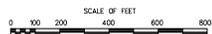
El Paso County Colorado



Rectangular Survey of One Section



December 28, 2022



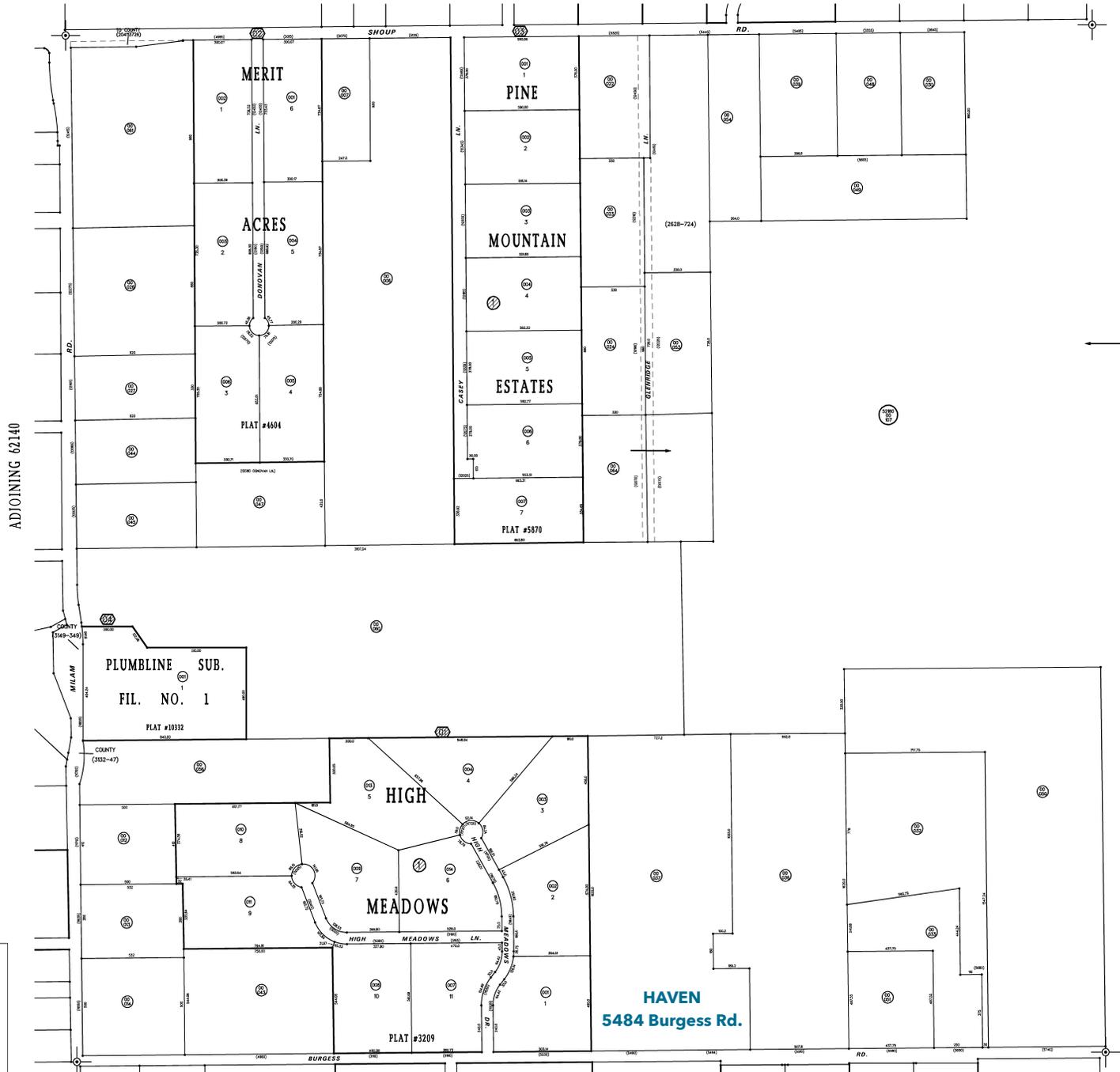
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