



# Management Review of Irrigated Lands Occupied by Prairie Dogs

**Open Space Board of Trustees** Update

July 8, 2020

# The Project Team and Beyond

[bit.ly/Expedited-Review](http://bit.ly/Expedited-Review)

## *Community Members*

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*Boulder County Parks and Open Space*

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## Purposes of Update

- Where we left off before COVID
- What has been happening
- Upcoming City Council Public Hearing

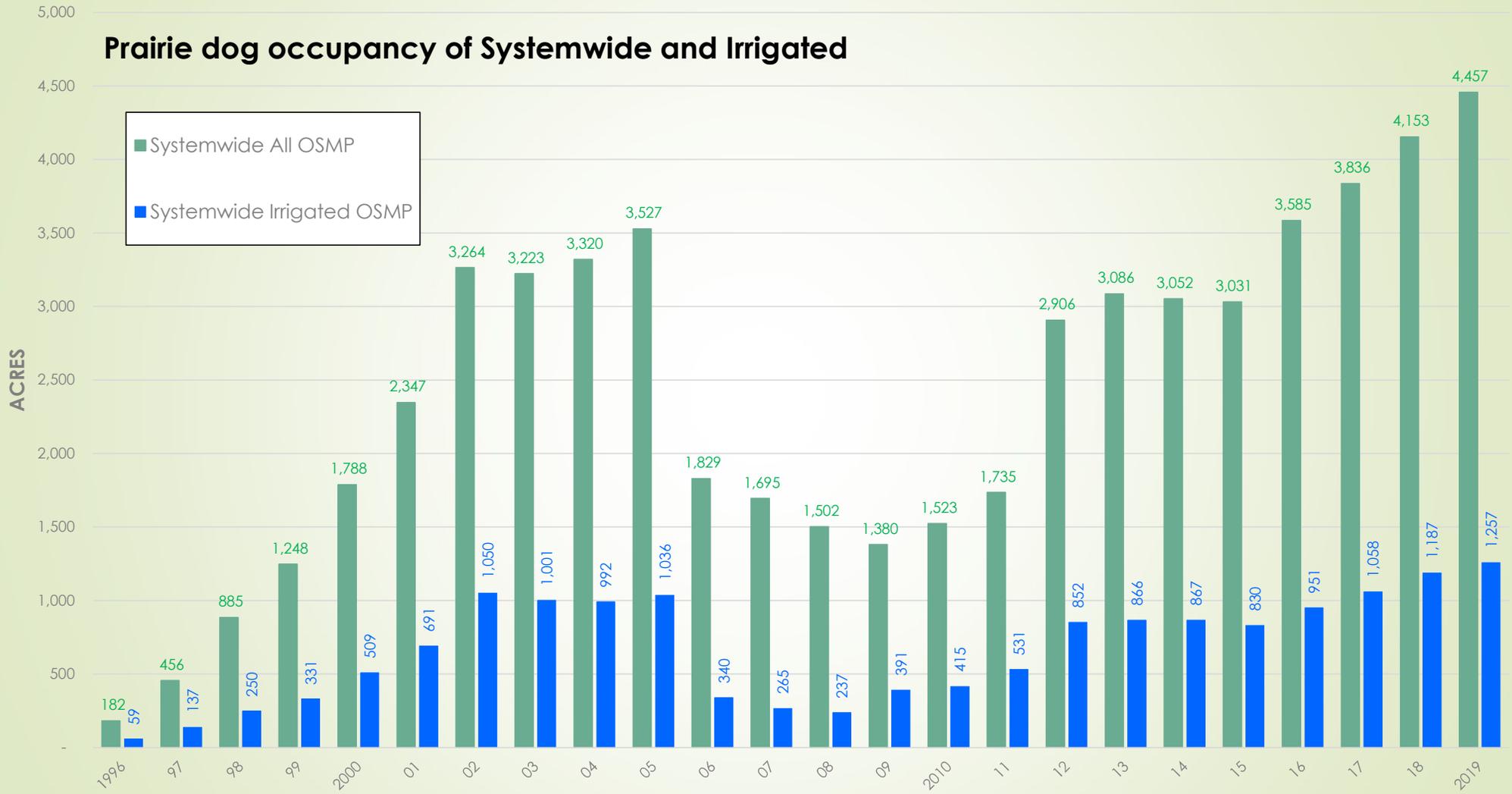
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## City Council Direction

- Conflict from prairie dog occupancy of irrigated agricultural lands.
  - Meet Charter OS Purposes-Agriculture
  - Soil degradation
  - Current reliance on relocation not effective
  
- Conduct Review
  - Expedited Process
  - Ag/Ecological conditions
  - Address conflicts and consider other tools

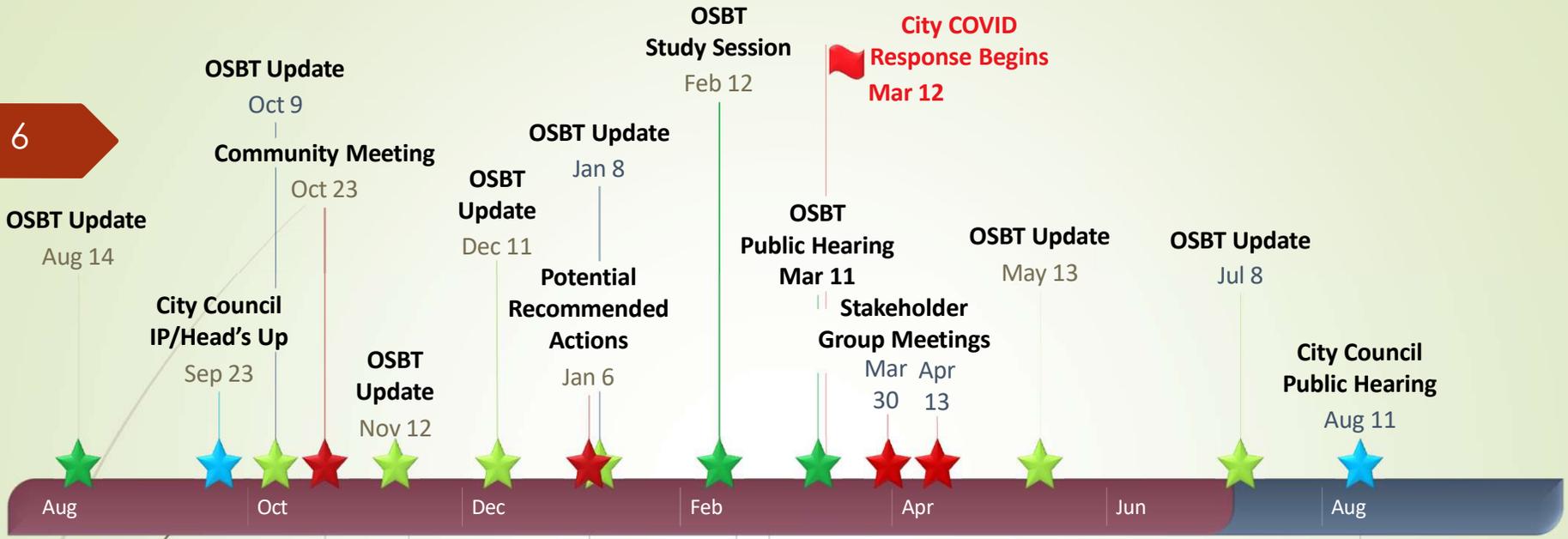


# Prairie dog occupancy of Systemwide and Irrigated



2019

2020



**1st Engagement Window: Describing the Situation**

Oct 23 - Nov 15

**2nd Engagement Window: Improving the Situation**

Jan 6 - Feb 16

**3rd Engagement Window: OSBT & Council Review/Approval**

Feb 26 - Aug 11



# 7 Mar 11 OSBT Recommendation

Management Review of Irrigable

## Agricultural and Shared Use Impacts **The Open Space Board of Trustees Recommended the following changes to the preferred alternative:**

DRAFT Pre

City of Boulder  
March 11, 2020

**Executive Summary**

In May 2019, City of Boulder Parks (OSMP) irrigation and agricultural impacts have caused degradation of soils that looks at agricultural conditions of the Council provided key-lining, soil aeration goals.

The review has identified actions and critical elements: ability of soils to

Over the last year OSMP and Planning Board of Trustees alternative base on how it addresses of soils in irrigat

**Findings**

Through a process applicable regul

- Clarify that Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) agricultural tenants are stakeholders and strengthen the language throughout the preferred alternative to emphasize partnerships with agricultural tenants.
- Identified several topics for reporting during the annual stakeholder engagement meeting including reporting out on the results of the previous year's work, what was learned, adaptive responses, and plans for the upcoming year.
- Remove live trapping, euthanization and donating (trap and donate) to a raptor rehabilitation center, and additional relocations, as a component of the preferred alternative.
- Clarify whether agricultural tenants may conduct in burrow lethal control using pressurized exhaust
- Pursue changes to city code, city regulations and the development of special permits on parallel tracks as expediently as possible and as appropriate.
- Remove the portion of the preferred alternative directing OSMP to transfer funding to a city Grassland Conservation Fund as compensatory mitigation for the use of lethal control
- Redirect funds saved by removing "trap and donate," and donations to the conservation fund to additional lethal control.

## Community Group Meetings

- Agricultural Tenants & Allies
- Healthy Ecosystems and Agricultural Lands
- Keep Boulder Wild

# Preferred Alternative and Policy Consistency

Factor	Ordinance/Code Change	Rule/Regulation	Special Permit
<b>Authority</b>	City Charter Article II, Section 16	6 -1- 40 B.R.C.	6 -1- 39 B.R.C.
<b>Process for implementation</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading (date of CC hearing) 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading (next available date) 30 days after affirmative vote at last reading where no substantive changes are made by City Council.	CAO Review CMO Approval 15-day comment period Potential revision and reposting	CMO Approval Notification of City Council (this memo)
<b>Timeframe</b>	At least two months after council	Approximately one	Less than one month
<b>Allow in burrow control ?</b>	<p><b>Staff Recommendation to City Council:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Special Permit</u> for Lethal Control</li> <li>• <u>City Manager's Rule</u> for Limited Burrow Damage</li> </ul>		
<b>Allow ag. activities affect prairie dog burrows?</b>			
<b>Other</b>			
<b>Additional Costs Process/Staff/City Council /OSBT Time</b>			
	High Requires CAO, CMO preparation CMO review, OSBT memo/recommendation and at least two City Council memos, Potential for one or more council hearings	Moderate Requires CAO, CMO review, public notice, potential for revision and second public notice.	Low CMO review. City Council notification.
			affirm that cultural land constitutes a public improvement project



## Preferred Alternative

1. Findings
2. Assumptions
3. Preferred Alternative Actions
4. Prioritization
5. Implementation

## OSBT Recommended Preferred Alternative Actions

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1. Meet with stakeholders
2. Relocate prairie dogs from approximately 30-40 acres annually
3. Allow relocation of up to 20 prairie dogs from urban sites w/receiving site capacity
4. Remove approximately 100-200 acres via lethal control annually
5. Apply for Special Permit for lethal control
6. Establish a 100% removal goal within a field
7. Install barriers where appropriate
8. Work with tenants and neighbors to coordinate removals
9. Restore soils and vegetation for irrigated agricultural use and C-sequestration
10. Allow agricultural activities with limited effects upon burrows by rule



## Next Steps

Dates	Item
July 8	<b>OSBT Update</b>
Aug 11	<b>City Council Public Hearing</b>





Questions?

