

OPEN SPACE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, 1777 Broadway

MEETING AGENDA

(Please note that times are approximate.)

- 5:00 I. Approval of Minutes
A. December 10, 2014
B. January 14, 2015
- 5:05 II. Public Participation for Items Not on the Agenda
- 5:15 III. Matters from Staff
2015 Work Plan Update
Progress Report on Projects
- 5:45 IV. Matters from the Board
- 5:55 V. Recommendation to dispose of an interest in Open Space lands pursuant to Boulder City Charter Section 177 through the grant of an easement to Public Service Company of Colorado for three power pole support beams on the East Rudd Open Space property that were required to be relocated by the construction of the Boulder County/Colorado Department of Transportation road improvements on State Highway 93.*
- 6:15 VI. Consideration of a motion to recommend that City Council authorize an Intergovernmental Agreement with Boulder County for design and construction of the extension of the Boulder Creek Bike Path.*
- 6:30 VII. Adjournment

*Public Participation

STUDY SESSION

6:35 North Trail Study Area Public Process **

** The study session is open to the public but there will be no Public Participation.

OPEN SPACE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes

Meeting Date December 10, 2014

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Tom Isaacson Shelley Dunbar Frances Hartogh Molly Davis Kevin Bracy Knight

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Mike Patton Jim Reeder Dave Kuntz Tracy Winfree Mark Gershman
Cecil Fenio Don D'Amico Alyssa Frideres Heather Swanson Kelly Wasserbach
Phil Yates Annie McFarland Steve Armstead Leah Case

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 1 – Approval of the Minutes

Tom Isaacson said under Agenda Item 8, “exiting road bed” should be “existing road bed.” He said during public comment on page 5, “Ray Bridge was speaking on behalf of PLAN-Boulder County.” “Janet Choo” should be changed to “Janet Chu.” On page 5, under Return to the Board, the language should read, “so it is a continuation of habitats.” On the same page, change the wording to, “Mike Patton said the only trail that should be opened is the road connecting Olde Stage and Hwy 36.”

Shelley Dunbar moved to approve the minutes from Nov. 12, 2014 as amended. Tom Isaacson seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – Public Participation for Items not on the Agenda

Randy Winter, Boulder, thanked staff for making changes to the self-closing gates and allowing them to be locked open when cattle is not in the area.

Joel Koenig, Boulder, said staff has spent too much time on the Skunk Canyon property. The trail work that has taken place is great, but there are a lot of other areas in the system that need focus.

Crystal Gray, Boulder, spoke about her time on the Open Space Board of Trustees (OSBT) and her time with Mike Patton. She thanked Mike for all he has done over the years and wished him well in his retirement.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Director’s Updates

Wildlife Program Update

Heather Swanson, Wildlife Ecologist, gave a wildlife program update.

Frances Hartogh asked what defines an imperiled species. Heather said it is a rare or endangered species, typically with a state or national designation. Frances asked if future planning or decision making will be adjusted if studies show that species have significantly changed in number. Heather said variation from year to year is typical; however, with significant changes an area may be looked at more closely. Kevin Bracy Knight asked why there is such a high density of grasshopper sparrows. Heather said there is a good combination of tall grasses, few roads, and characteristics of a vegetation community. Frances asked if there is a scientific standard for the number of years needed in order to give accurate data for monitoring. Heather said no; although the longer the study the more accurate it will be.

Council Retreat Questions for Boards and Commissions

The Board finalized their responses for the council retreat questions for Boards and Commissions. Their final responses will be sent to City Council for its study session.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Matters from the Board

The Board took some time to thank Mike for his time with Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP).

The Board asked for an update on the Voice and Sight Tag Program. Steve Armstead said over 4100 people have gone through the education class and tag registration is underway. The education classes will continue to be offered into 2015, most likely slowing down in February.

Kevin thanked staff for the changes made to the self-closing gates. Molly Davis asked if there is a plan to repair the stairs on the trail from Chautauqua into Gregory Canyon. Jim Reeder said staff is looking into this. Frances asked the public to stay on trail even when it is muddy.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – Consideration of a motion pertaining to the development of a trail on the Joder Open Space and Mountain Parks property.*

Mike Patton, OSMP Director, presented the staff recommendation for the Joder Property.

Tom asked if Boulder County is okay with putting in parking. Mike said yes. Tom asked if that would need to wait for the North Trail Study Area (TSA). Mike said not necessarily. Tom asked if the conversation about parking were to move forward, how long it would take for work to start happening on the ground. Tracy Winfree said there would need to be coordination with other agencies; at a minimum it would be six months out. Molly asked about determining the parking lot specs. Tracy said staff would contact Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) first, and then do a traffic study. Molly asked if an inventory of resources has taken place. Dave Kuntz said yes, but the planning process has not started. He said the public process is important and staff would like to come back to the Board to talk about what would be appropriate for this. Molly asked about the soil composition and if staff has a good handle on this. Dave said additional soil testing has not taken place. Molly asked about the existing trails and if staff can tell how they would handle heavy use. Mike said soils do not differ dramatically across the land; the existing road and two-track have been there for a long time.

Public Comment

Pam Piombino, on behalf of Boulder County Audubon Society, said she values the opportunity to enjoy Open Space and the obligation to preserve the species that live there. She asked the Board to respect the TSA process. This process was designed to manage conflicting uses. Joder Ranch was purchased at the time of the Visitor Master Plan (VMP) and was already in a Habitat Conservation Area (HCA). She said it is appropriate that this area is included in the North Foothills HCA. She is interested in having access to the property, but asks that the opening happen in the right way.

Linda Andes-Georges, Longmont, said the TSA process was created for a reason. She said she is uncomfortable with the staff recommendation; please do not develop on this property or move forward with any planning outside of the TSA process.

Jason Vogel, Boulder, said having a regional trail connection is very important. Equestrians have valid concerns about the poor communication and outreach from staff which has caused a lack of trust. There is a need to rebuild that trust. Equestrians put ideas on the table that staff should evaluate. Staff has talked about this trail for a long time and it is time to move forward. It is possible to make this trail work for all user groups.

Carmen Porter, on behalf of Blazing Saddles 4-H Club, said she would like to see equestrian use sooner rather than later at Joder Ranch. She appreciates this option coming forward ahead of the TSA. Other uses such as biking should be allowed as well. Staff should make adding parking a priority.

Jim Butterworth, Boulder, said he agrees with the staff recommendation; however, he would disagree with the HCA designation of this area. The parking and trailhead process should commence immediately using a public process. Staff should also consider opening the other existing trails on the property. He is encouraged to hear from staff that the TSA could be completed in 2015.

Diana Vann, Boulder, said she loved her time at Joder, and thought that this area would always be available to equestrians. It is frustrating that this is not currently the case. There are existing trails and parking which should be utilized. Increased volume should not be an issue. She asked staff to open this area up now, and then start the study.

Kathy Hollister, Longmont, said staff should not move forward on opening up these trails until all user groups will be able to have access.

Dennis Kuehl, Longmont, president of the Colorado Horse Council, said the Joder Family was very active in their group. He said he is pleased to hear that allowing equestrians prior to the North TSA is on the table. He asked staff to make it clear that the HCA is a part of the plan if it is decided to move forward with the North TSA.

Bill Scebbi, Colorado Horse Council, said Eloise Joder was an inspirational leader who brought together many people. She was very active in many groups and Joder Ranch is a tribute to horses and horse owners in Colorado.

Jim Boeck, Boulder, said the community tax money has gone towards this land with the purpose to preserve it; please keep this in mind when making any decisions.

Alexa Schild, Boulder, said she has had her horse at Joder Ranch for the last five years. She loves having that opportunity and would miss this if taken away.

Randy Winter, Boulder, said he understands that the intention is not to ban horses, but certain decisions will unintentionally ban horses, such as not having trailer parking. He suggested separating trail use to keep conflict to a minimum. He asked staff to wait until they have completed the North TSA and the full plan is implemented before allowing any use.

Suzanne Webel, Boulder County, said Joder Ranch is important to the history of Boulder County. OSMP needs to honor its obligations in a timely matter. Joder Ranch is equestrian habitat and she would like to keep fair access for this user group. She said that rare butterflies are not enough to justify an HCA or closing access. According to the VMP, some exceptions can be designated or allowed in an HCA. The eight miles of existing trails should be available to use. During the West TSA the equestrian community lost 30 percent of existing horse trails. She said she supports opening a multi-use trail, but at the next meeting she would like staff to discuss other trails that can be opened prior to the North TSA, and have a discussion on completing the North TSA in 2015.

Susan Douglass, Boulder, said both the Board and council accepted the HCA priorities of this land. The guiding principles of the VMP required the Board to use an HCA designation. She said staff should honor the TSA process and advised that making provisional designations can tend to be thought of as permanent.

Maxine Doner, Adams County, said she has experienced the changes that have occurred over the last 25 years. There are some trails she now avoids because of these changes. Historically, Joder Ranch is an equestrian area and she would like to see this maintained. She said riding on Douby Draw with a horse is concerning with how quickly bikes are traveling. If the decision is to make the proposed trail multi-use, it would be important to have it wide enough for both users to pass while being able to stay on trail.

Mark McIntyre, Boulder, said at an open house in 2008, new acquisitions were presented. For each of these, access was allowed but discouraged, closed or designated as an HCA. None of these areas mentioned opportunities for recreation. He said perfection is the greatest enemy of good; the OSMP definition of perfection is the greatest enemy of the common good. He asked for access to be opened now, and adjustments can be made during the North TSA.

Mark Bibb, Colorado Springs, said he understands both equestrians and cyclists and how these groups need to work together. It is a focus of his department in Colorado Springs to try and integrate equestrians into the bike community. They would prefer that user groups try to work together versus breaking up use by day. He said if staff is going to open up one of the existing trails then it would make sense to open up all existing trails.

Pat Billig, Boulder, said she strongly supports staff recommendation for the temporal division of the fast and the slow user groups. This would be a great pilot program for the city. Pat read a statement from the Joder family:

First, we need to say at the outset that we, the four Joder Family members, are much like a microcosm of the Boulder community--we each have different outdoor activities we enjoy, we have somewhat different ideas about land use in general, and we also have slightly differing opinions on what should eventually be done with the City's new acquisition. Therefore, the following points are somewhat general and may be slightly contradictory.

When we sold the property, we knowingly put our trust into the Open Space process for determining land use and we believe that, once the process is completed and all voices are heard, the right balance will have been struck.

Here are the main points upon which we have come together:

- 1) Whatever the use, we feel strongly that the impact on the biodiversity of the land be respected as much as possible. At one time or another, for example, we have seen on our ranch deer, elk, turkey, bobcat, coyote, mountain lion (once, with cubs!), golden eagle, and even bear. Care must be given within the plan so that both humans and wildlife can co-exist with minimal impact to one another.
- 2) Hiking, mountain biking, general outdoor appreciation--and especially equine activities--have always been part of the Joder Family and Joder Ranch tradition and we would like to see those activities continue on this new Open Space property, but with careful consideration to the first point.
- 3) We understand that one of the principle reasons for the purchase of this property was as a trail link for hikers, horses, runners, and cyclists transiting from Boulder to Heil Ranch and beyond. We support that objective but, again, with proper due diligence in balancing the needs of user groups with the needs of the native wildlife.
- 4) We are happy that our former Ranch is now in the public domain and will eventually be enjoyed by many generations to come. It is our belief that a balance can be struck between all the various

human users and the wild critters if everyone works together. To that end, we feel that City of Boulder OSMP should complete an appropriate planning process, with the required public input, to avoid potential long-term negative impact to the land.

Raymond Bridge, speaking on behalf of PLAN-Boulder County, said staff needs to follow the VMP guidelines and go through a planning process for each area. A lesson learned from earlier TSAs is that it is a big mistake to allow user groups to draw lines on the map prior to the TSA. Please follow the process that has been decided on by the community.

Shelley Smagac, Boulder County, said she supports having equestrian access on Joder Ranch. Staff should move quickly to incorporate this use on Joder.

Amy Bowman, Longmont, said she promised Eloise Joder that she would carry the torch for ensuring this property remains a horse property; she asked the Board to please consider that request.

Laura Edwards, Boulder, said equestrian use at Joder Ranch needs to be a priority. Please open the trails as soon as possible and make parking a priority; without parking equestrian access is not realistic. She would like to see a loop trail and, if possible, separate other user groups either spatially or temporally.

Catherine Corona, Boulder County, said she lives next to Joder Ranch and has spent many years riding her horse on this property. She would encourage staff to open these trails prior to the North TSA. If possible she would ask for staff to look at ways to help with multi-use trails. It can be tough to ride on the same trail with a bicycle.

Morgan Lommele, Boulder MountainBike Alliance (BMA), said she supports staff recommendation and this trail connection. This property was purchased with the intent to have a trail connection. OSMP should serve its citizens and open this trail as quickly as possible. She said user groups are frustrated by the way OSMP has managed this property; it alienates people by closing access for so long. She said the Board needs to hold staff accountable for its commitments and approving the staff recommendation is the first step.

Rich Boyan, Louisville, said he supports having a loop trail and agrees that the existing trails are solid and excellent. There is no reason why this should not be opened very soon for equestrian use. It would be beneficial to provide horse trailer parking as quickly as possible. Allowing use now would not significantly change the environmental impact.

Timothy Breen, Boulder, said he agrees with having a loop trail. The unintentional restriction to horses needs to be avoided. This would be a good time to make equestrian use a priority. It would be okay to structure it for multi-use, but please insure that horses do not get squeezed out of the plan.

Linda Parks, Boulder, said a study of this area should take place before opening up the property. She would like to see that equestrians are kept in mind during this process while also respecting wildlife. If it is possible to complete the TSA in 2015, that would be ideal. She noted that opening up this trail as a connector to Heil is concerning because of the inevitable increase in bike traffic.

Marcus Popetz, Boulder, moved to Boulder for the recreation. He was disappointed to find so many access issues; opening up Joder will help with density issues. It would be beneficial to open up this area prior to the North TSA, so people can get out and see the property. This will make those who are involved in the public process during the North TSA more familiar with the area.

Chris Morrison, Boulder, said the trails on Joder seem to be in great shape. He suggested making trails wide enough for multiple users, and to also allow the option for people to step off trail if needed. He would like to see a loop trail, if possible, and one that does not have to be shared with bikes.

Anne Davidson, Lyons, said she is a longtime user of Joder Ranch. The Joder Family was visionary when it came to creating an experience. This can be created again when those trails are opened up to connect with Heil. This area promotes healing, reconnecting with friends and discovering nature. She said her past experience sharing the trails with bikers have all been very positive.

Eileen Monyok, Boulder, Friends Interested in Dogs on Open Space (FIDOS), said Buckingham is currently a Voice and Sight trail, and they would like this to remain as such. FIDOS is requesting the proposed trail along the north of Joder Ranch to also be Voice and Sight. This would allow equestrians to ride along with their dogs off leash. She said she would like to see a public process to determine the HCA designation.

Jody Marken, Boulder County, said the Joder Family has a passion for the horses and for the land. We all share that passion and need to recognize Joder Ranch as an opportunity for everyone to work together. There is a saying that staff should follow, take the time to take the time it takes.

Edith Stevens, Friends of Boulder Open Space (FOBOS), said they encourage trail development on the Joder property as part of the North TSA process. City Council directed staff to look at sustainability of this property. This study on Joder has been delayed and almost forgotten. It is impossible to address sustainability when there is no data. Joder is a host for a rare butterfly and rare plants. She asked the Board if political pressure relieves them from analyzing this area before building. There is a potential to destroy these rare butterflies and plants and the Board would be directly responsible.

Karen Hollweg, Boulder, said this community is a beneficiary of an Open Space vision. The North TSA inventory and analysis should focus on the species and their needs. The short term inventory may have missed some species because of population changes. The decision about this HCA is not only about which uses will be allowed, but about the vision to preserve habitats and enable species to sustain themselves. Before starting to take more habitat and opening Joder Ranch to the OSMP visitors, the species on the property need to be protected. This requires going through the full TSA process.

Brady Robinson, Boulder, said he is a recreation conservation advocate, and connecting people to Boulder's Open Space is important. There was no public process for the HCA designation on this property. He said he supports the staff proposal. He said he believes in honoring the historic use and would urge the Board to take concerns of equestrians seriously and open the existing eight miles of trails as soon as possible.

Return to the Board

Molly asked Catherine Corona how she accesses the Joder property. Catherine said she crosses the highway from her house across the street. Shelley asked about the easement from the Joder Family for property access Catherine mentioned during her public comment. Tom said this is a legal issue and it will depend on the specific easement; staff will follow up on this at the next meeting. Molly asked Mark Bibb from Colorado Springs if he has any suggestions for OSMP on this process. He said Susan Davies is a better resource, but something they value on their Open Space property is a spirit of cooperativeness. They continue to look for ways to combine user groups in a positive way.

Shelley asked about timing for the North TSA implementation and on-the-ground changes. She said staff and the Board need to keep faith with the public and stay true to timelines. She said it should also be made clear that what staff means by completion of the North TSA may not mean that implementation is

complete. Tom said he favors the construction of the regional connector trail, and would support the staff recommendation. Mike said he cannot imagine this area not having a loop trail; it would not make sense for this not to be included.

Motion

Molly Davis moved the Open Space Board of Trustees recommend that staff proceed towards establishing one interim trail between Foothills Highway and Olde Stage Road across the Joder Property, using the existing road and trail identified in staff's map attached to the Nov. 12, 2014 memorandum, with the understanding that all uses of the Joder property will be evaluated as part of the North TSA planning process. The decision to create interim access is due to the unique circumstances and will not set a precedent. North TSA participants should not interpret this action as supporting or rejecting any other proposed action on the Joder property in the North TSA. The usual HCA rules, including the on-trail requirement, will apply to the Joder property and the interim trail through the conclusion of the North TSA process. Tom Isaacson seconded. This motion passed four to one. Frances Hartogh dissented.

Tom Isaacson moved the Open Space Board of Trustees recommend that the Joder portion of the interim regional connection trail be dogs on leash and the portion on the Buckingham property remain Voice and Sight. The North TSA process should consider whether to keep these designations in effect. Shelley Dunbar seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

Frances Hartogh moved the Open Space Board of Trustees to make the following statement about the Joder property: the Board understands and appreciates the historic use of the Joder property for equestrians and believes that this historic use should be honored and accommodated through the TSA process. Kevin Bracy Knight seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

Tom Isaacson moved the Open Space Board of Trustees make the following statement: the designation of the Joder II property as an HCA was made with minimal public process. The North TSA should take a fresh look at the management area designation of this property. Kevin Bracy Knight seconded. This motion passed three to two. Molly Davis and Frances Hartogh dissented.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 11:40 p.m.

These draft minutes were prepared by Leah Case.

OPEN SPACE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes

Meeting Date January 14, 2015

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Tom Isaacson Shelley Dunbar Frances Hartogh Molly Davis Kevin Bracy Knight

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Tracy Winfree Jim Reeder Mark Gershman Cecil Fenio Heather Swanson
Phil Yates Steve Armstead Kelly Wasserbach Greg Seabloom Leah Case

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 1 – Approval of the Minutes

Tom Isaacson said under public comment on Agenda Item 5, “Dennis Kvehl” should be “Dennis Kuehl,” “Bill Skebli” should be “Bill Scebbi,” and “Timothy Green” should be “Timothy Breen.”

Shelley said on page 6, under Return to the Board, it should say in the response from Mark Bibb, “. . . something they value on their Open Space property . . .” In the second paragraph, it should say, “she said it should also be made clear that what staff means by completion of the North TSA may not mean that implementation is complete.”

The Board had a discussion about the process for changing the minutes when suggestions come from the public. Kevin Bracy Knight said the Board should choose to either reduce what is written, or have a method by which the public can submit changes. Tracy Winfree said she will follow up with the city clerk on their process. Tom agreed that the Board should be consistent with other Boards. Shelley Dunbar added that the OSBT meetings will be televised and the video recording will be archived.

Kevin Bracy Knight moved the Open Space Board of Trustees to table approval of the minutes until the proper policy for the public amendment of the minutes is determined. Shelley Dunbar seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – Public Participation for Items not on the Agenda

Guy Burgess, Boulder, said many of the new trails and trail proposals are astonishingly flat. Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) trails are used for exercise, and need a steeper grade to accomplish a workout. He said one area that he is concerned about is Anemone Hill. This is a good trail to hike in the winter as it is south facing, and if it is constructed to be too tame that will be very disappointing.

Randy Winter, Boulder County, said staff should look at access options to the Joder Ranch from Lefthand Trail. He said he also sent in some suggestions to OSMP trails staff about the gates on the Lefthand Trail, and an idea for moving these to better accommodate equestrians.

Raymond Bridge, on behalf of PLAN-Boulder County, said he urges the Board to do the North Trail Study Area (TSA). Staff is stretched pretty thin, and if they continue to get diverted, it will put off the North TSA even further.

Steve Lommelle, Boulder, said he would like to see the North TSA process be as inclusive as possible; he suggested using a trained facilitator. He asked staff to make it as easy as possible for people to engage;

figure out how to reach stakeholders, utilize web-based tools and gather ideas from other communities. He encouraged staff to map out all of the possibilities and to think big.

Suzanne Webel, Boulder County, said she appreciates staff looking at parking options on Joder. She offered to do a field trip with the Board and staff to this property. She would like to see the raw data that staff has completed. On behalf of the Boulder Area Trails Coalition (BATCO), she said they have volunteers as well as funding that can be used to help with trail construction. The Boulder County Horse Association (BCHA) has funds dedicated to the Joder Family that they will discuss putting towards this property. She said completing the North TSA in 2015 would be a huge success.

Karen Hollweg, Boulder, said approving the trail from Foothills Highway (Hwy) to Olde Stage Road before the North TSA is not a good idea. Time being taken and procedurally pursuing additional trail options prior to this process will take away from starting the TSA.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Director’s Updates Voice & Sight Tag Program Update

Steve Armstead, Environmental Planner, gave an update to the Board on the Voice and Sight Tag Program.

Frances Hartogh asked if enforcement will increase near sensitive habitat. Steve said enforcement will not be targeted based on habitat, but rangers will try to be present in areas where there may be low compliance. Frances asked if they will patrol at night. Steve said he is unsure, but potentially if there is a need for enforcement. Shelley asked staff to send out another e-mail to those who have not yet registered. Frances asked how often classes will be offered moving forward. Steve said staff will try to match the demand for classes.

Status report on Left Hand Trail improvements

Jim Reeder, Land and Visitor Services Division Manager, gave an update on the Left Hand Trail improvements. He noted that several projects have been completed such as locking gates open when no cattle are in the area.

Status report on Skunk Canyon Trail alignment

Jim Reeder gave an update on Skunk Canyon and a possible trail alignment.

Tom asked about the timeline for this trail work, and if there would be any delays due to the Preble’s meadow jumping mouse habitat and getting clearance for the work. Heather Swanson said she has a large number of projects this year that require a Preble’s consultation. Tom asked if the Board made a decision tonight, would it make a difference in the timing. Heather said if this were decided upon now, it would be at the top of her list because other projects are not ready. Frances asked if it is worth using this section of trail; it is very short and needs go through the Preble’s review. Jim said whether the trail is designated or not, it is likely to still be used. Tom said this is the best solution he has seen. Molly Davis asked if the old trail will be filled back in. Jim said yes; in this habitat the trail is likely to be re-vegetated very quickly. The Board agreed that the proposed alignment is good, and staff should move forward.

Status report on Gregory Canyon step repair

Jim Reeder gave an update on Gregory Canyon, and the staff work moving forward. He said rock steps have been put in and a contractor is being contacted for the trailhead work.

FEMA Update

Mark Gershman, Environmental Planning Supervisor, gave an update on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) coordination.

Frances asked if trails are considered infrastructure. Mark said yes. Frances asked how many trails are back to the condition staff would like them to be. Mark said he does not have a specific number, but he can report back. Tom asked what the biggest limiting factor is in how quickly this work can get done. Mark said access to properties can be difficult. Tom encouraged staff to continue to use contractors, such as Front Range Climbing Stewards if they are a good model. He said if staff needs additional resources which the Board can help obtain to please ask. Frances said it seems the trails more recently engineered weathered the flood better. Mark agreed; this was the intent when they were built. Kevin suggested staff should look at projects where volunteers could be used; this could save staff time/resources.

Opening of US36 underpass/South Boulder Creek Trail

Mark Gershman gave an update on the underpass at US36 and South Boulder Creek Trail.

Update on Joder property next steps

Jim Reeder gave the Board an update on Joder Ranch (this is what the Joder Family would like this property to be officially named). The Board supported this change.

Shelley asked if resources need to be taken away from other projects if work on Joder Ranch is to be completed. Tracy said potentially, staff is currently stretched pretty thin and there is a lot of overlap on projects. Kevin asked if staff is aware of the property for sale to the south of Joder Ranch, and if this will affect anything. Tracy said she is unsure, but can follow up. Kevin said it would be a good idea for staff to take advantage of offers from the equestrian community to visit the property with staff. He said there are a lot of trails on the property, and they do not seem overgrown and have good structure; whether they become official or not, the management of what is out there will be critical as staff moves forward. Frances said staff needs the time to do this right; if the Board continues to ask them to step off the timeline to evaluate different options, this will sway staff from the TSA process.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Matters from the Board

Tom Isaacson moved to elect Leah Case as the Board Secretary. Shelley Dunbar seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

Tom asked if work on the Sanitas Valley Trail could begin towards the bottom, so by early spring the connection to the East Ridge Trail could be open. Jim said he would have to check on this plan and report back. Heather Swanson noted that the prairie falcon nest dictates a lot of where this trail work needs to go. Tom expressed his thanks to staff for the good effort in notifying the public about this project.

Kevin said he has been researching public processes that have worked well. He asked the public to send information on successful processes they have been a part of to him, so he can incorporate those ideas into the North TSA.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – Consideration of a motion to approve the purchase of 5 acres of land and all mineral rights located at 38474 Boulder Canyon Dr. from the Bonnie L. Schnell Revocable Trust for \$400,000 for Open Space and Mountain Parks purposes and an additional \$20,000 is recommended to be authorized from the acquisition budget for deconstruction and recycling of the existing house. Consideration of a motion to recommend that this parcel be included as part of the Western Mountain Parks Habitat Conservation Area.*

Jim Schmidt, Property Agent, gave a presentation to the Board on a possible acquisition.

Shelley asked if there is a benefit for certain areas to not be designated as an HCA, specifically parking areas and the walking path. Jim said when this gets revisited this designation can be looked at again. Shelley suggested leaving the HCA designation until more is known. Jim said there is a possibility that

this will not come back to the Board. Heather said the high-quality habitat is not necessarily near the parking, but starts pretty quickly past that. The current parking lot is within the existing HCA, so the designation is not unprecedented.

Public Comment

Gary Lacy, Boulder, said he is interested in seeing the existing house used as a European-style trail amenity; providing a place for people to relax while they are out hiking. This would be a mutual benefit for the city and the public.

Shelley asked if the county has already approved this use. Gary said he has spoken with them briefly, but he did not get a clear reading; it is likely this would have to be re-zoned for commercial use. Kevin said he is interested in this idea; this creates a safe place for people to gather and to provide a natural rest experience. Tom said this is something that deserves some further discussion, and he would like to hear from the resource staff about potential implications of this disposal. Shelley said this sounds really interesting and a great idea for the community.

Ray Bridge, on behalf of PLAN-Boulder County, said they strongly support the acquisition of this property. This is one of the most important HCAs and he would strongly encourage keeping the designation. The Board should not wait to make that decision; this section has been a part of this ecosystem all along.

Karen Hollweg, on behalf of Friends of Boulder Open Space (FOBOS), said they support this acquisition and the HCA designation. The packet shows important habitat values, and rationale for its inclusion into the larger HCA. She said they would encourage this acquisition and the HCA designation.

Return to the Board

Shelley asked if the owner would independently be able to divide this parcel on her own. Jim said no. Kevin suggested having a Conservation Easement put on the house, and then purchasing the area in its entirety. Tom said once OSMP owns the property, staff and the Board can choose to do with it as they see fit. Kevin suggested holding off on the HCA vote until next meeting so the public can be involved.

Motion

Shelley Dunbar moved the Open Space Board of Trustees approve a motion recommending that the Boulder City Council approve the purchase of this 5-acre parcel located at 38474 Boulder Canyon Dr. for \$400,000 and an additional \$20,000 be authorized from the acquisition budget for the potential deconstruction and recycling of the existing house. Molly Davis seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

Frances Hartogh moved the Open Space Board of Trustees approve a motion recommending that the Boulder City Council approve inclusion of this parcel as part of the Western Mountain Parks Habitat Conservation Area. Tom Isaacson seconded. This motion passed three to two. Kevin Bracy Knight and Shelley Dunbar dissented.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

These draft minutes were prepared by Leah Case.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Open Space Board of Trustees

FROM: Tracy Winfree, Interim Director, Open Space and Mountain Parks
Jim Reeder, Land and Visitor Services Division Manager
Mike Orosel, Financial Services Manager

DATE: February 18, 2015

SUBJECT: 2015 Work Plan

The final 2015 Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) Department Work Plan includes over 300 individual projects to begin and/or to be completed in 2015. There are a number of projects and programs that are a part of the department's core mission, such as ongoing strategic property acquisitions; conservation easement compliance; day-to-day and major maintenance of trailheads and trails; agricultural lands management; visitor education, safety and enforcement; ecosystems monitoring, maintenance and restoration; festivals and events; providing media services, web based information and social media; permitting and fees management; providing support for the Open Space Board of Trustees (OSBT); etc. The core services of any municipal department can often be invisible to its customers, yet are important to manage and maintain the valuable assets supported by the local community.

While core service delivery continues throughout the year, OSMP also is pursuing high-profile community initiatives in support of board and council goals. Those community initiatives translated into department priorities are as follows:

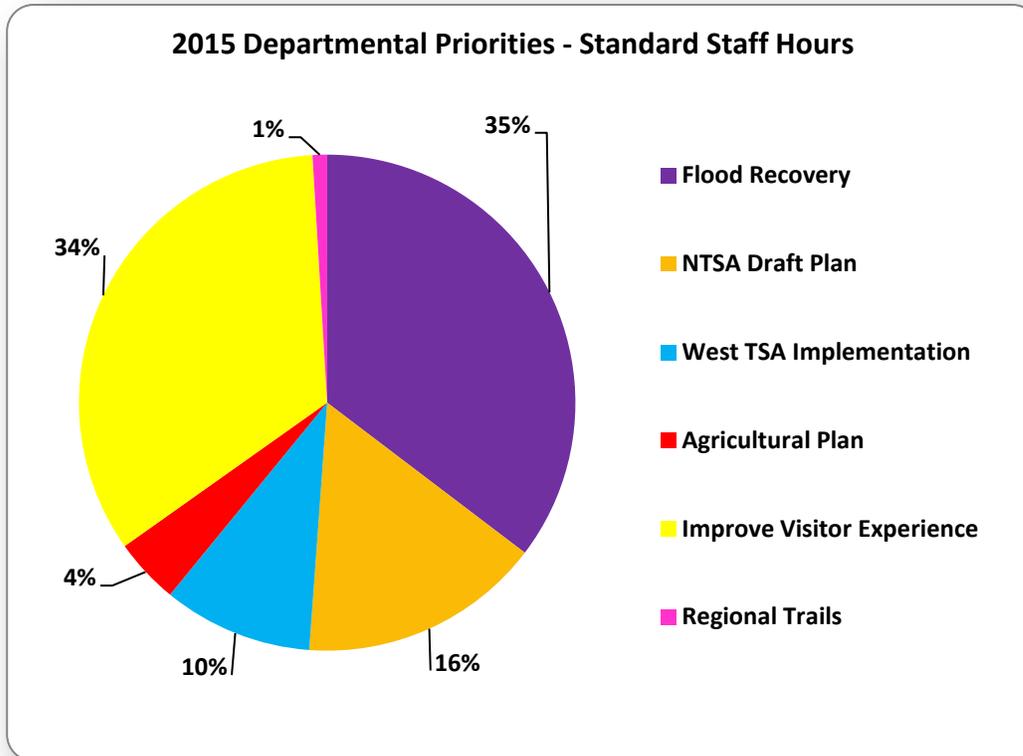
Six Department Priorities

1. Ongoing flood recovery;
2. Completion of the draft North Trail Study Area (TSA) plan by the end of 2015 for review by the OSBT in January 2016;
3. Ongoing implementation of the West TSA Plan;
4. Completion of the draft Agricultural Resource Management Plan (supports council's local foods goal);
5. Improving the visitor experience; and
6. Regional trails.

Project Priorities, Project Scheduling and Quarterly Tracking

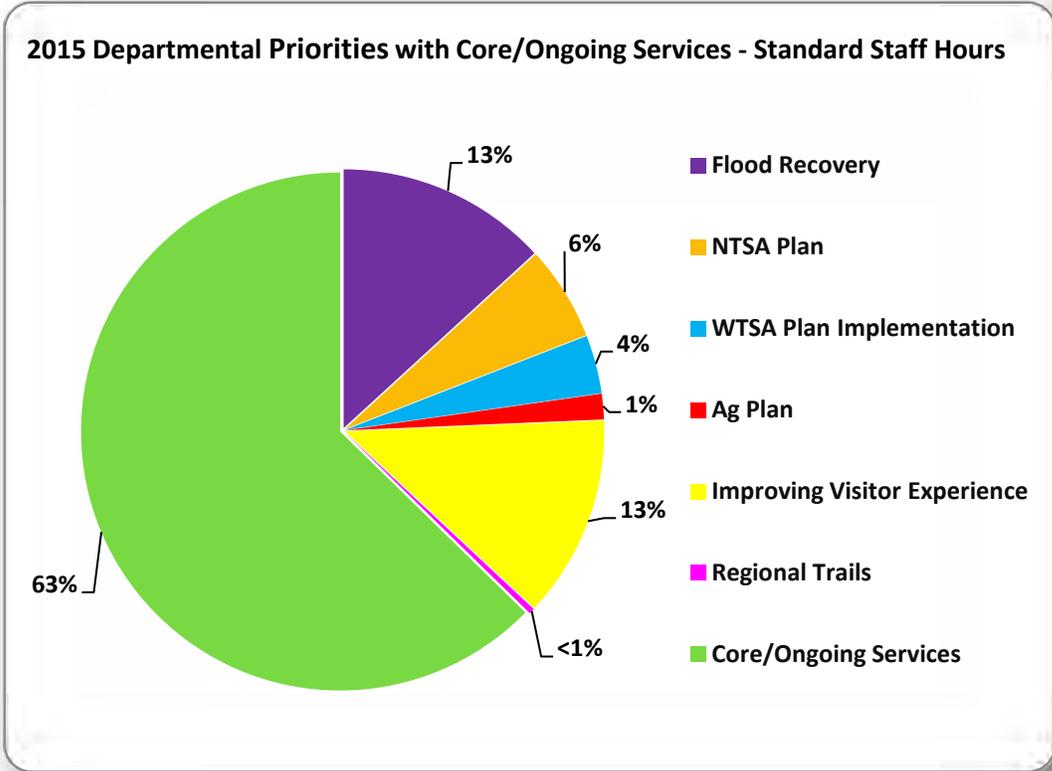
Attachment A was developed to identify and help track quarterly milestones across OSMP priorities. Project status and progress will be reviewed quarterly and adjustments will be made to the 2015 Work Plan as necessary.

The following chart reflects the allocation of standard staff hours required to achieve the 2015 priorities:



A brief description of each of the priority areas can be found later in this memorandum. The chart illustrates the continuing significance of flood recovery and repair on the overall priorities and helps illustrate the impact on other priorities such as West TSA implementation. Improving the visitor experience, a more positive expression for addressing visitor conflict, also requires a significant amount of staff time. While the Regional Trails priority does not currently require significant staff time, it is important to note that timely coordination and communication with regional partners is essential to make progress on this important goal. Also, as regional projects transition from study and evaluation to implementation, the involvement of staff could also shift. The Agricultural Plan also requires relatively less staff time to bring to completion, but is an important prior commitment and component of council’s local food goal.

Staff also identified the number of staff hours to continue to manage and maintain the valuable OSMP system. When including the standard staff hours to perform these day-to-day functions, flood recovery and other department priorities still require significant staff effort. In other city departments, “core services” are considered to be 80% to 85% of the work load.



A brief description of each of the 2015 department priorities follows:

Ongoing Flood Recovery

Staff continues taking action in response to the City Council approved key objectives for near-term flood recovery and long-term resiliency with a focus on “Restoring and Enhancing Infrastructure” and “Pursuing and focusing resources to support recovery efforts.”

In 2015, and into 2016, staff anticipates substantial completion of recovery from flood impacts to trailheads, fencing, irrigation infrastructure, riparian systems and roads. Trail crews and contractors will also be repairing trail damage with the intent to complete work on the following trails: Bear Peak West Ridge, Chautauqua Meadow, Towhee, Homestead, Doudy Draw, Goshawk, Gregory Canyon, Long Canyon, Sanitas Valley and Chapman Drive trails. Ecological restoration projects include on-going integrated pest management to control and avoid establishment of weeds in flood affected areas, and a variety of restoration projects including restoration of the Boulder Creek/South Boulder Creek Confluence area. Staff will continue its work documenting expenses in accordance with state and federal requirements, submitting request for reimbursement and providing regular updates to City Council and the OSBT. To align with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) timelines and to maximize reimbursement eligibility, staff is likely to submit a request to adjust the budget to accelerate flood recovery.

Completion of the draft North TSA

In 2005, the city council approved the OSMP Visitor Master Plan (VMP), which identified TSA plans as a framework for OSMP to manage for a high-quality visitor experience and a sustainable trail system while ensuring that natural, cultural and agricultural resources are protected for future generations. The North TSA Plan was identified as a priority by the OSBT in 2014, and affirmed by council during their Jan 2015 retreat. The planning process is currently in the inventory and assessment phase. A study session with the OSBT about the scope, goals and process for the plan is scheduled for Feb 18 as the first of a series of check-ins with the board.

Ongoing Implementation of the West TSA

Continued implementation of the West TSA is OSMP's third priority. 2015 will be the fourth year of implementation since the West TSA was adopted by City Council in late 2011. Implementation of the West TSA has been delayed to some extent because of reallocation of resources to flood recovery. At the same time, some FEMA-reimbursable flood projects are within the West TSA and must meet FEMA deadlines to maintain eligibility.

Completion of a draft Agricultural Resource Management Plan

Council identified the OSMP Agricultural Resources Management Plan (Agricultural Plan) in 2014 as a component of their goal for supporting local food production. The emphasis of the plan is the long term sustainability of agricultural operations on city Open Space and compatibility with visitor access and other open space resources. In July 2014 the OSBT reviewed the scope of the plan. Since then, staff has held a community open house to gather further input on the project scope and is now drafting the various components of the plan. Staff anticipates updating the Board on its progress regarding the subset of plan topics listed below in April. A draft plan will be presented to the OSBT for its approval by the end of 2015.

- Strategies to evaluate the suitability/feasibility of alternative agricultural uses.
- Increasing diversified organic vegetable farming on OSMP land.
- Policies for a) pest management specific to OSMP agricultural operations and b) the appropriateness of greenhouses on OSMP lands.

Improving Visitor Experience

The focus of this goal is to address user conflicts; specifically the Voice and Sight Control program and council identified concerns related to camping issues and other visitor management policies. There are currently other projects and programs underway that advance this goal, including testing of new signage to encourage visitors to pick up dog waste, adding trash receptacles at trailheads, a dog waste composting pilot program and other initiatives. While there is overlap with core services that also improve the visitor experience, staff is striving to distinguish between new, pilot and/or expanded programs. Refinement to these estimates may occur for the 2016 Work Plan.

Regional Trails

In 2015, staff will continue working with county, state and federal partners on a variety of planning, design and construction projects. Some highlights include:

- After receiving direction from the OSBT and coordinating with Boulder County implementation steps are underway to provide an interim trail on the Joder Property to connect US Highway 36 to Olde Stage Road. The alignment and management of the trail will be finalized in the North TSA plan.
- Boulder County, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and OSMP will complete the evaluation of alternative alignments for a multi-use trail between the Eldorado Springs area and Walker Ranch. Staff anticipates gathering feedback on the evaluation and presenting a recommendation to the OSBT later this year.
- Staff has prepared a city-county intergovernmental agreement that would support the county's extension of the Boulder Creek path westward creating a multi-use connection with the Chapman Drive Trailhead and the county's Betasso Preserve.

Finance

There are sufficient funds in both the 2015 approved OSMP budget and the unappropriated Open Space Fund balance to support the above priorities. In addition to the approved budget, the department will request additional funding in the 1st Adjustment to Base in March, 2015, to supplement the previously appropriated funds for flood recovery and an enhanced North TSA process.

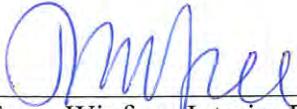
In addition to developing the 2015 Work Plan, staff developed a set of guiding principles as it prioritizes work and coordinates across the department to achieve multiple objectives. An abbreviated version of these Guiding Principles follows:

Guiding Principles for Implementation of the Work Plan

- Our primary task is to implement the Charter.
- We put safety first. The safety of staff and visitors on the open space system is paramount.
- Taking care of what we have is a critical part of our work.
- We are opportunistic. We take advantage of unique, one-time opportunities as they arise.
- We strive for efficiency and to facilitate the work of our colleagues.
- We are flexible, knowing the only certain thing is change.
- We work in partnership and collaboration as much as possible—within our workgroups, within OSMP, and across the City organization.
- We are committed to consistent and clear communication, particularly related to the work plan.

Finally, staff pursued a new process for finalizing the 2015 work plan and will turn its attention next to developing the 2016 Work Plan. Staff intends to return to the board with the 2016 Work Plan in conjunction with the 2016 Budget process. Staff anticipates that a number of the priorities noted above will continue into 2016.

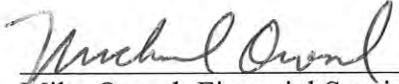
Submitted by:



Tracy Winfree, Interim Director



Jim Reeder, Land and Visitor Services Division Manager



Mike Orosel, Financial Services Manager

ATTACHMENT

A: 2015 Work Plan Priorities with Quarterly Milestones

Priority	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Ongoing Flood Recovery	FEMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit materials for time extension. <COMPLETED> • Submit Q1 materials for update to City Council, OEM/FEMA <COMPLETED> • Track expenses/prepare materials for audits/reimbursement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare quarterly updates 		
	TRAILS & TRAILHEADS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final trail restoration design: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Bear Canyon (road portion) -South Mesa, -North and South Shanahan -Lower Big Bluestem • Flood restoration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Chapman Drive Trail -Sanitas Valley Trail -Bear Canyon (trail portion) -Bear Peak West Ridge -Cowdrey -Doudy Draw -Goshawk -Gregory Canyon -Towhee -Homestead -Gregory Canyon Access Rd • Replace bridges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Hedgecock Property -S. Bldr Creek at S. Bldr Rd. 			
	Ecological Restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boulder Creek <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Floodplain restoration -Fish passage structure -Repair breach near S. Boulder Creek Confluence -Paricitate in Master Plan -Vegetation restoration -Repair ERTL Pond/Dike • South Boulder Creek <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Restoration of Fancher wetlands • Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Post flood IPM Activities -Post flood Preble's Meadow Jump Mouse Surveys -Miscellaneous Restoration Proejects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Restoration of aquatic and riparian habitat improvements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Integrated Pest Mgmt. Weiser Property 	
	Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irrigation Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Repair of Eggleston #4 headgate due to flood damage -Replace culvert and headgate and improve trail crossing on the Flatirons Vista spillway. • Cultural Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Stabilize Old Lime Kiln • Fencing 			
North Trail Study Area Plan	North Trail Study Area Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSBT Study Session Scope, Goals, Objectives, Public Process • City Council Information Packet • OSBT Updates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inventory, Key Issues and Opportunities • Habitat Suitability indices, Analysis and Maps • Public Process (TBD) Community Open House 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory/Assesment Report Public workshops or meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preferred Plan Recommendations • Draft Plan Public workshops or meetings

Priority	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Ongoing Implementation of the West Trail Study Area Plan	Information gathering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use LiDAR pre/post flood data to inform various implementation actions Continue wildlife studies, data management that support West TSA projects 			
	Signs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sign review and updates Chautauqua Meadow and Crown Rock interpretive signs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create/install new Fire Danger sign at So. Mesa Trailhead 		
	Trailheads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structural improvements to So. Mesa bridge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade facilities to ADA standards at Realization Pt. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create/install kiosk at Chautauqua Meadow
	Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construct Anemone Hill Trail Construct Long Canyon re-route Construct NIST area trails Sunshine Canyon crossing to connect Sunshine Canyon Trail to Lion's Lair Trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installation of Anderson Ditch crossing Complete Lion's Lair Trail 		
Agricultural Resource Management Plan	Agricultural Resources Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OSBT Study Session 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Rights Analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft plan to OSBT, council and public 	
Improving Visitor Experience	Rangers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ranger patrol focus on V&S and camping issues. Training 2 additional rangers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued ranger patrol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of ranger database updates 	
	Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active Bike Patrol and Trail Guide volunteers, recruitment of new volunteers Volunteer presence on system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training additional Bike Patrol volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible recruitment of additional Trail Guide volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of volunteer program and planning update for 2016, volunteer appreciation events
	Information Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update remaining V&S signs Begin updating wayfaring and closure signs Evaluate pilot signs to encourage dog waste pickup Replace/update reg boards 			
	Visitor Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin trailhead recycling program Expand dog waste composting program 			

Priority		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Regional Trails	Regional Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSBT Update • IGA for Boulder Creek Path Extension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boulder Creek Path extension, design and permitting • Review of Eldo-Walker trail feasibility study • OSBT/Council action as needed on Eldo-Walker trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joder Interim Trail construction - goal to complete ASAP 	





**CITY OF BOULDER
OPEN SPACE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AGENDA ITEM**

MEETING DATE: February 18, 2015

AGENDA TITLE: Recommendation to dispose of an interest in Open Space lands pursuant to Boulder City Charter Section 177 through the grant of an easement to Public Service Company of Colorado for three power pole support beams on the East Rudd Open Space property that were required to be relocated by the construction of the Boulder County/Colorado Department of Transportation road improvements on State Highway 93.

PRESENTER/S

Tracy Winfree, Interim Director, Open Space and Mountain Parks
Jim Schmidt, Property Agent

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of the Community Ditch underpass construction project, State Highway (SH) 93 is being widened and repaved in a project administered by Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) with assistance from Boulder County Transportation Department. Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) has previously granted Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCo) an easement to move three power poles that had been in the CDOT right of way to the adjoining East Rudd Open Space land in order to facilitate the Community Ditch underpass construction. Project engineers later discovered that three additional PSCo power poles, north of the underpass construction zone also needed to be relocated to allow for the lane widening portion of the project (see Attachment A). These three poles required support beams to keep the poles upright against the strong winds in this area. At the Aug. 20, 2014 Open Space Board of Trustees (OSBT) meeting, the Board recommended granting, for expediency reasons, a nonexclusive revocable license (NERL) to construct the pole supports on OSMP lands with the understanding that a permanent easement would be granted by the city.

OSMP staff is now requesting the Board to approve the city granting a permanent easement to PSCo for these power pole supports.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Consideration of a motion to approve the disposal of an interest in Open Space lands pursuant to Boulder City Charter Section 177 through the grant of an easement to PSCo for three power pole support beams on the East Rudd Open Space property that were required to be relocated by the construction of the Boulder County/CDOT road improvements on SH 93.

COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENTS AND IMPACTS

- Economic –This SH 93 improvement project may entice more people to visit and do business in Boulder, possibly creating an economic gain for the community and increased tax base for the city.
- Environmental – There are no environmental impacts associated with the construction of the support beam on OSMP lands.
- Social - There are no known negative social impacts associated with this easement.

OTHER IMPACTS

- Fiscal – This easement will have no fiscal impact on the city. The poles have already been relocated at PSCo's expense.
- Staff time – The only staff time involved is the time needed to create and execute the easement document.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND PROCESS

This item is being heard at this public meeting, advertised in the *Daily Camera* on Feb.15, 2015. A Notice of Disposal of Open Space Lands was published in the *Daily Camera* on Feb. 7 and 8, 2015 pursuant to Section 177 of the City Charter.

ANALYSIS

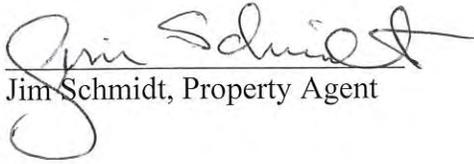
OSMP has previously granted PSCo an easement to move three power poles that had been in the CDOT right of way to the adjoining East Rudd Open Space land in order to facilitate the Community Ditch underpass construction. Project engineers later discovered that three additional PSCo power poles, north of the underpass construction zone also needed to be relocated to allow for the lane widening portion of the project. These three poles required support beams to keep the poles upright against the strong winds in this area. Since granting an easement requires going through the Charter Section 177 disposal process which takes between 90 and 120 days to perfect, OSMP granted a nonexclusive license to PSCo in August 2014 to allow the poles to be relocated as quickly as possible. Now that the poles have been relocated, PSCo requires an easement from the city to maintain the pole supports which are on the East Rudd Open Space property.

The approval of the granting of an easement by the Board is required before council can approve an easement (Charter Section 177, BRC 1981). OSMP staff is now requesting the Board to approve the city granting a permanent easement to PSCo for these power pole supports.

Submitted by:



Tracy Winfree, Interim Director

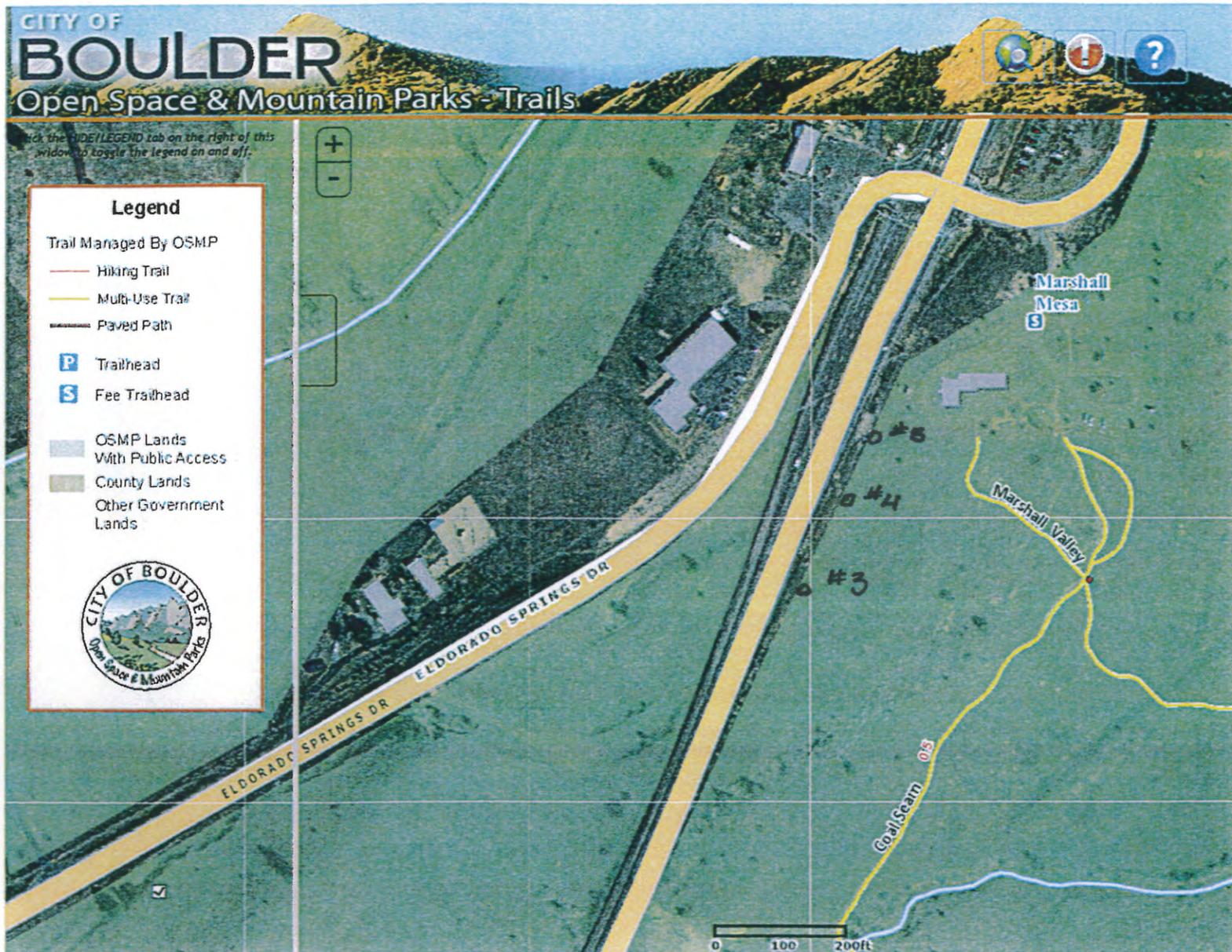


Jim Schmidt, Property Agent

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Map of Pole Locations

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**CITY OF BOULDER
OPEN SPACE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AGENDA ITEM**

MEETING DATE: February 18, 2015

AGENDA TITLE: Consideration of a motion to recommend that City Council authorize an Intergovernmental Agreement with Boulder County for design and construction of the extension of the Boulder Creek Bike Path.

PRESENTER/S

Tracy Winfree, Interim Director, Open Space and Mountain Parks
Jim Reeder, Land and Visitor Services Division Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Boulder County Transportation has been awarded a Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) grant to design and construct an extension of the Boulder Creek Bike Path from its existing terminus to the State Highway (SH) 119 tunnel. This regional trail has been a desire of both the city and county for some time.

Segments of the trail will be built on both city-owned land and CDOT right of way (ROW). This trail will provide non-motorized, grade-separated access to Open Space and Mountain Parks' (OSMP) Chapman Drive Trailhead and to the county's Betasso Link Trail, both on SH 119.

Both parties jointly participated in the development of a conceptual design for this trail in 2011. County staff used the conceptual designs developed at that time to apply for state transportation funds to design and construct the trail. The estimated cost of the project is approximately \$5.5 million. The grant awarded to the county is for \$4.4 million (80 percent of the total) which will require a 20 percent match of \$1.1 million split between the county and the city.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Open Space Board of Trustees recommend City Council authorize the attached Intergovernmental Agreement with Boulder County for design and construction of the extension of the Boulder Creek Bike Path.

COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENTS AND IMPACTS

- Economic - Overall economic impacts on the business community are unknown. It is anticipated that this trail will attract more users (pedestrians and bike riders from outside the city). A portion of these users will shop in Boulder during their trip to the area.
- Environmental – Every trail has an environmental impact. However, staff continues to work toward minimizing environmental impacts of this trail.
- Social – This trail will connect downtown Boulder to the city’s Chapman Drive Trailhead and to the county’s Betasso Link Trail making additional progress on the city’s regional trails priority.

OTHER IMPACTS

- Fiscal – This project is receiving the majority of its funding from a CDOT grant of approximately \$4.4 million which is 80 percent of the estimated total cost. The city’s portion of the required 20 percent match will be \$546,635.
- Staff time – Under the proposal, city staff will facilitate needed design reviews by the city, facilitate obtaining all required city permits and assist with notification of public meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND PROCESS

This item is being heard as part of this public meeting advertised in the *Daily Camera* on Sunday, Feb. 15, 2015.

ANALYSIS

Background

The extension of the Boulder Creek Bike Path has been a high priority for both the city and county for some time. It is a goal in the City’s West Trail Study Area Plan and is also in the County’s Regional Trail Master Plan.

In 2011, the city and Boulder County jointly commissioned the development of a conceptual design to extend the Boulder Canyon Bike Path from its present terminus at Four Mile Creek to the county’s Betasso Link Trail (see Attachment A). This extension would provide access to both the city’s Chapman Drive Trailhead and to the county’s Betasso Open Space. The estimated cost of the extension at that time was close to \$5 million.

In 2013 the county used that conceptual plan as a basis to apply for a CDOT grant to help design and construct this trail extension. The county was awarded the grant which requires a 20 percent local match. In consideration of the mutual benefits of the project and the council Regional Trails priority, city and county staffs have agreed to partner for the design and construction of this trail. Attachment B, the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA), spells out the terms of that agreement. The IGA includes an equal sharing of the local match. The total local match requirement for the CDOT award is \$1,093,270 with the city’s share being \$546,635.

This construction, which is anticipated to begin in 2016, will result in a 10-foot wide path from downtown Boulder to Boulder County Parks and Open Space’s network of trails in

Betasso Reserve with access along the way to OSMP's Chapman Drive Trailhead and Trail. It will provide a much safer way for pedestrians and bicyclists to use the canyon. It will be advantageous for drivers since they will not need to be as concerned about pedestrians and bicyclists on the highway.

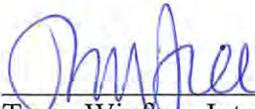
The county will be the lead agency on this project and will develop appropriate scopes of work for the design and construction. The city will review and provide comments on all aspects of the project. The city also agrees to facilitate any needed design reviews by city staff, boards and the City Council, to facilitate obtaining all required city permits and to assist with notification of public meetings.

Once built, the county will have maintenance responsibilities.

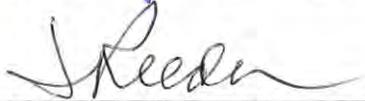
Recommendation

Since this trail is a highly desirable addition to regional trails in the Boulder area and the city and county can leverage substantial external funding, OSMP staff recommends that the Open Space Board of Trustees recommend that City Council authorize this IGA.

Submitted by:



Tracy Winfree, Interim Director

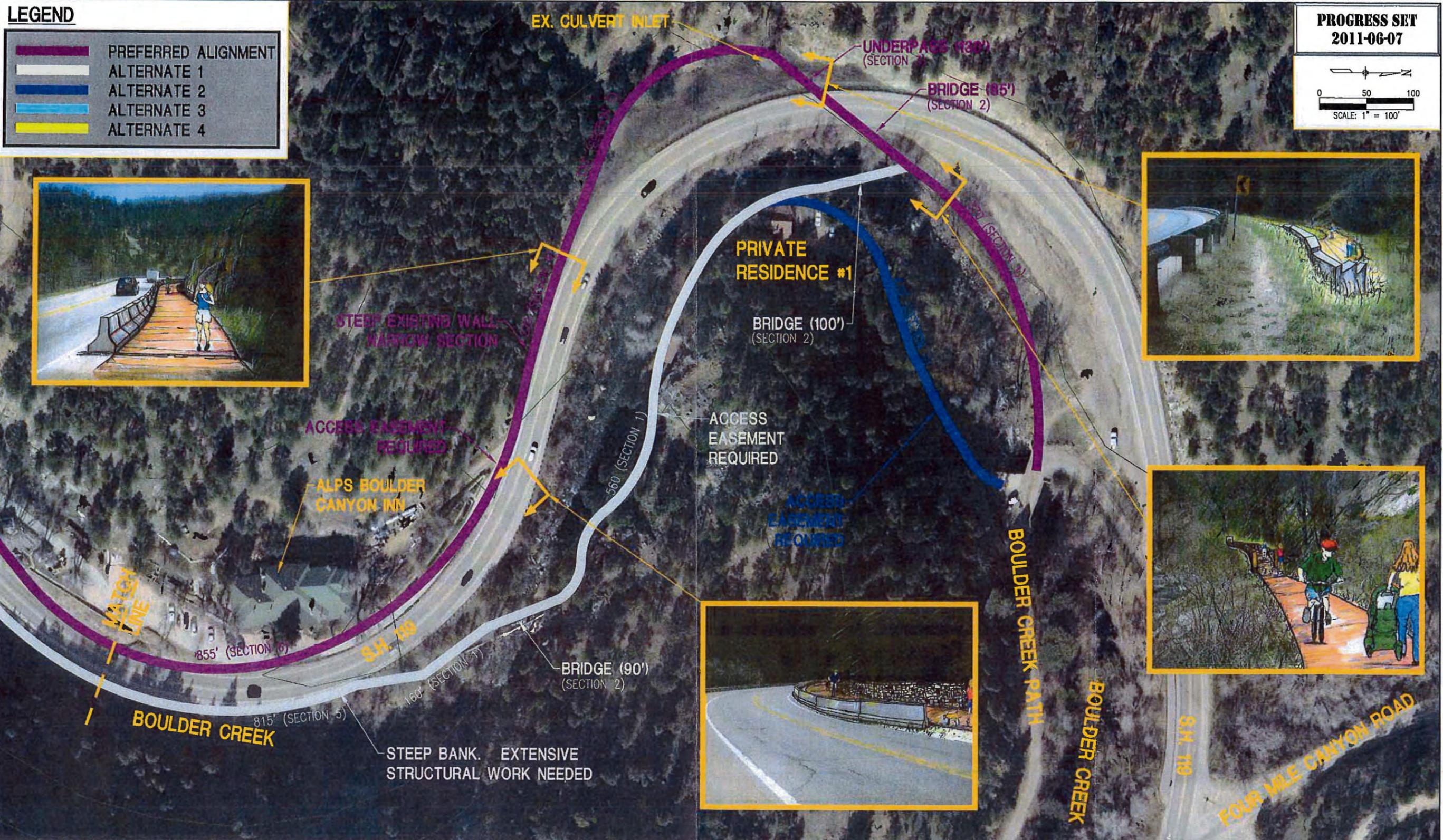


Jim Reeder, Land and Visitor Services Division Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Maps of proposed trail alignment
- B. Intergovernmental Agreement

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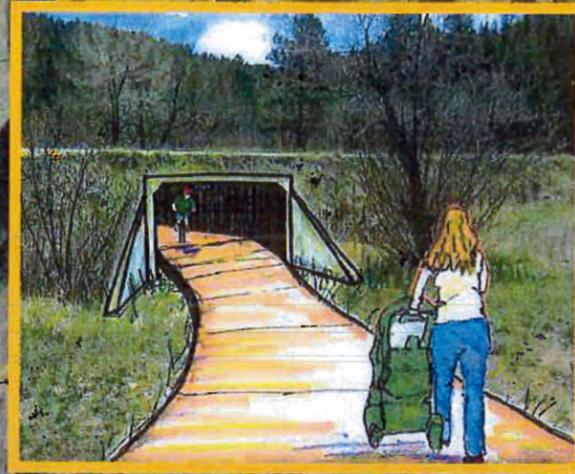
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Horiz. Scale: As Noted					Revised:		FOUR MILE CANYON TO TUNNEL #1		-		
Unit Information					Void:		Designer:		Structure Numbers		
Unit Leader Initials							Detailer:		Subset Sheets:		
							Sheet Subset:		Sheet Number 1		

LEGEND

- PREFERRED ALIGNMENT
- ALTERNATE 1
- ALTERNATE 2
- ALTERNATE 3
- ALTERNATE 4

PROGRESS SET
2011-06-07



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Unit Information		Unit Leader Initials			Void:		Designer:	Structure Numbers	Sheet Number	
						Detailer:	Subset Sheets:	2		

LEGEND

- PREFERRED ALIGNMENT
- ALTERNATE 1
- ALTERNATE 2
- ALTERNATE 3
- ALTERNATE 4

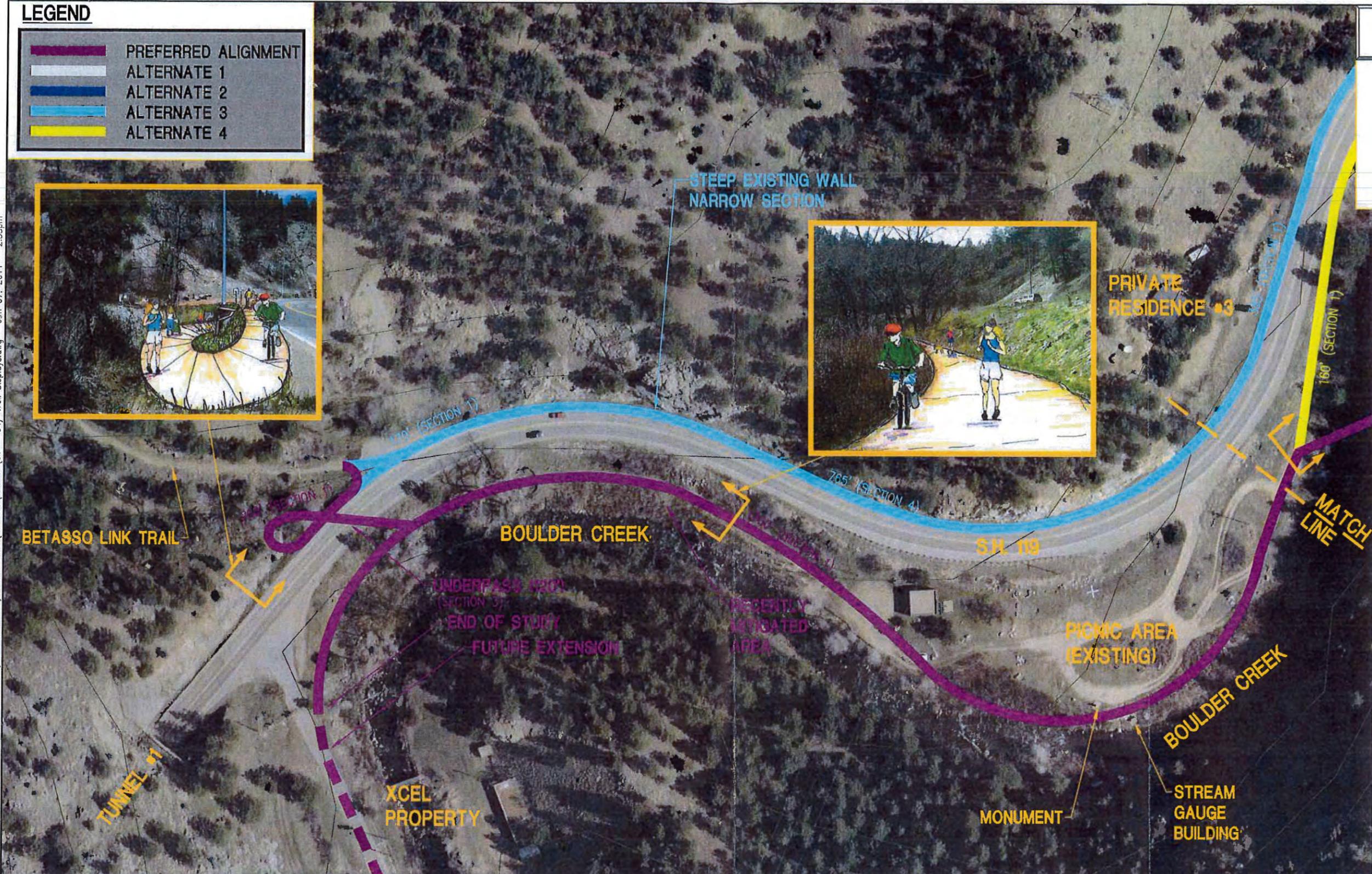
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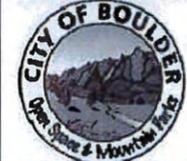
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Print Date: Jun 07, 2011		Sheet Revisions		 Loris and Associates, Inc. 2656 Trail Ridge Drive East Lafayette, Colorado 80026 303.444.2073 www.LorisandAssociates.com	 CITY OF BOULDER Open Space & Mountain Parks	TRAIL STUDY		BOULDER CREEK PATH		Project No./Code			
File Name: 4/26/11 BAO		Date:	Comments			Init.	No Revisions:	S.H. 119 TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY			FOUR MILE CANYON TO TUNNEL #1		-
Horiz. Scale: As Noted		Vert. Scale: As Noted					Revised:	Designer:	Structure				-
Unit Information		Unit Leader Initials					Void:	Detailer:	Numbers				-
						Sheet Subset:	Subset Sheets:			Sheet Number			
										4			

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

**FOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE BOULDER CANYON TRAIL
EXTENSION**

THIS INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE BOULDER CANYON TRAIL (“the **Agreement**”) is entered into this _____ day of _____, 2015, by and between the CITY OF BOULDER (the “**City**”), a Colorado home rule municipality, and BOULDER COUNTY, a political subdivision of the State of Colorado, (the “**County**”), collectively referred to herein as the “**Parties.**”

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the Parties are authorized to enter into this Agreement pursuant to C.R.S. §29-1-201 et seq.;

WHEREAS, the Parties jointly participated in the development of a conceptual design to extend the Boulder Canyon Trail (the “**Trail**”) from its existing terminus to the SH 119 tunnel; and

WHEREAS, the County used these conceptual designs to apply for state transportation funds to design and construct the Trail; and

WHEREAS, the Trail would in part provide non-motorized, grade separated access to the City’s recently completely Chapman Drive trailhead; and

WHEREAS, some segments of the Trail would be located on City owned parcels; and

WHEREAS, the County has been awarded Colorado Department of Transportation (“**CDOT**”) funds to design and construct the Trail; and

WHEREAS, the local match requirement of the CDOT award is \$1,093,270.00; and

WHEREAS, in consideration of the mutual benefit of the projects, the Parties have agreed to both participate in providing the local match;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants below, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is acknowledged, the Parties agree to the following terms:

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The Recitals set forth above are incorporated herein and made a part of this Agreement.

2. The design and construction of the Trail, as referred to herein, pertains to all aspects of development of the Trail. This includes but is not limited to topographical survey, preliminary and final designs, environmental clearances, public process, traffic control, storm water management, mobilization, construction and construction management.
3. The County will be the lead agency on the development of the scopes of work for the design and construction of the Trail. The City will review and provide comments on all scopes of work. The County will be the sole agency to enter into agreements with selected contractors.
4. The City agrees to the contractor procurement processes established by and agreed to by CDOT and the County for all design and construction.
5. The City will contribute 50% of the local match requirements for the Trail via the following procedures:
 - a. As the agency entering into all contracts with selected contractors, the County at its sole discretion will approve and pay for all project invoices related to the design and construction of the Trail.
 - b. In a schedule that is in accordance with the agreement between the County and CDOT, the County will invoice CDOT for 80% of project expenditures.
 - c. The County will invoice the City for 10% of all project expenditures on a monthly basis.
 - d. The City shall pay all project related invoices within 30 days of receipt of the County invoice.
6. Project representatives from the Parties will meet in person no less than monthly to ensure smooth collaboration and communication. Meetings will begin at the signing of this IGA and continue to the conclusion of all invoicing and reimbursements.
7. Upon receipt of the bids for construction but before construction contractor award, the Parties will review remaining budget available for construction and all construction related activities. Based upon this information the Parties will in good faith effort revisit the scope of work and determine if all components identified in the design of the Trail can be constructed with the remaining budget. Should the Parties determine it necessary and prudent to contribute additional local funds to this project, an additional agreement between the Parties will be developed.
8. The City will be responsible for the following tasks:
 - a. Facilitate any needed design review by City staff, Boards and Commissions, and City Council.
 - b. Facilitate obtaining any and all city permits as needed for the design and construction of the Trail including construction on City owned parcels.
 - c. Assist with notification of public meetings through the City's public information officer(s).

ATTACHMENT B

18. Each party agrees to be responsible for its own negligent actions or omissions and those of its officers, agents and employees in the performance or failure to perform work under this Agreement. No waiver of any of the provisions of this Agreement shall be deemed to constitute a waiver of any other provisions of this Agreement, nor shall such waiver constitute a continuing waiver unless otherwise expressly provided herein, nor shall the waiver of any default hereunder be deemed a waiver of any subsequent default hereunder.

19. Nothing herein shall be construed as a waiver of the rights and privileges of the City or the County under the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act, § 24-10-101, *et seq.*, C.R.S.

20. The Parties agree that in connection with the performance of this Agreement, they will each maintain an environment free from discrimination. To that end, each shall comply with any applicable federal, state and/or local law or regulation regarding non-discrimination, affirmative action, and/or disadvantaged business enterprises.

21. Nothing herein shall constitute a multiple fiscal year obligation pursuant to Colorado Constitution, Article X, Section 20. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, the City's obligations under this Agreement are subject to annual appropriation by the City Council of the City. Any failure of a City Council annually to appropriate adequate monies to finance the City's obligations under this Agreement shall terminate this Agreement at such time as such then-existing appropriations are to be depleted. Notice shall be given promptly to the Parties of any failure to appropriate such adequate monies.

22. No Joint Venture. The Parties are independent contracting parties. Nothing in this Agreement shall create a joint venture, partnership, employer-employee or other relationship between the Parties. Except as expressly permitted under this Agreement, neither Party may act as agent for, on behalf of, or in the name of the other or otherwise make representations or commitments, verbal or written, on behalf of the other Party without the other Party's prior consent.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this Agreement to be duly executed and delivered by their respective officers thereunto duly authorized as of the date first above written.

CITY OF BOULDER:

By: _____

Jane S. Brautigam, City Manager

ATTEST:

City

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney

Date: _____

**COUNTY OF BOULDER, STATE OF
COLORADO COUNTY:**

Cindy Domenico, Chair, Board of County
Commissioners

ATTEST:

Mike Ryder, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

TO: Open Space Board of Trustees

FROM: Tracy Winfree, Interim Director, Open Space and Mountain Parks
Mark Gershman, Environmental Planning Supervisor
Steve Armstead, Environmental Planner

DATE: February 18, 2015

SUBJECT: North Trail Study Area Plan

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this study session is for the Open Space Board of Trustees (OSBT) and staff to discuss the scope, goals, process, and public engagement strategy for the North Trail Study Area (TSA) Plan.

II. QUESTIONS FOR THE BOARD

1. Does the OSBT have questions or comments on the goals, objectives, phasing, deliverables, and timeline proposed by staff for the North TSA Plan?
2. Does the OSBT recommend changes to the community outreach or engagement approach, including the amount and mix of community engagement options?
3. Are there changes to the expert panels which the OSBT would like to recommend?
4. Does the OSBT have comments about staff's proposal that it host the community engagement process?

III. BACKGROUND

Trail Study Area Plans

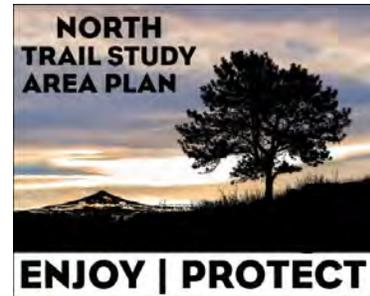
In 2005, the Boulder City Council approved the Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) Visitor Master Plan (VMP). The VMP created a framework for the department to manage for high-quality visitor experiences while ensuring that the lands are protected and preserved for future generations.

An integral feature of the VMP was the creation of TSA Plans, which established visitor access and recreation resource management priorities and projects for specific areas of Boulder's public lands. So far, three TSA Plans have been completed and are being implemented: the Marshall Mesa / Southern Grasslands TSA, the Eldorado Mountain / Doudy Draw TSA and the West TSA. Three TSA plans remain - the North, East and South TSAs.

North TSA

The North TSA includes lands north of the Diagonal Highway on the east and lands north of Linden Avenue on the west (Attachment A). The North TSA Plan will include management recommendations for 7,600 acres that OSMP owns and manages. The North TSA area also includes 1,945 acres of land with some level of city open space ownership, but where OSMP

does not provide or manage public access (conservation easements: 1,031 acres lands jointly owned with and managed by Boulder County: 914 acres).



The North TSA landscape is varied and includes foothills topped with ponderosa pine woodlands, and grassy slopes with occasional shrub thickets leading up to the ridges. Hillsides and mesa sides are dissected by drainages and dotted with springs that support riparian and wetland habitats. The bulk of the TSA is comprised of grasslands, much of which is used by Boulder County farmers and ranchers. Existing visitor amenities include a network of 20 miles of trails as well as 14 trailheads and access points that provide access to popular destinations such as Wonderland Lake, the North Foothills, and Boulder Valley Ranch.

IV. ISSUES

North TSA Plan Goals and Objectives

North TSA Plan Goal

The goal of the North TSA Plan is **to provide management direction and implementation actions to maintain and improve the visitor experience, protect natural, cultural, and agricultural resources, and provide a physically and environmentally sustainable trail system in the North TSA.**

TSA plans focus on the designated and undesignated trails, trailheads, access points and recreational activities. TSA plans describe how existing trailheads, access points, infrastructure and trails can be modified to improve visitor access and experiences compatible with natural, cultural and agricultural resource conservation.

North TSA Plan Objectives

1. Enhance recreational opportunities where a high quality experience can be provided and the activity is compatible with resource conservation.
2. Minimize conflict among visitor activities.
3. Ensure that new or rerouted trails and trail connections result in physically sustainable trails that conserve natural, agricultural and cultural resources, provide a high quality visitor experience, and encourage visitors to stay on-trail.
4. Retrofit, reroute and improve the existing trail system to make it more physically sustainable and compatible with ecological and agricultural management objectives.
5. Recommend that undesignated trails either be formally designated or closed and restored. Designating previously undesignated trails may also involve re-routing to improve sustainability.
6. Provide an appropriate balance of resource protection and visitor access matched to the specific natural and recreational qualities of different management areas designations. *The Visitor Master Plan provides general guidance in balancing resource protection and visitor access opportunities for four management area designations; Passive Recreation Areas, Natural Areas, Agricultural Areas, and Habitat Conservation Areas.*
7. Provide recommendations for adjustments in management area designations and for designating management areas on properties that don't have designations.

North TSA Planning Process, Deliverables, Timeline and Sideboards

Process

The proposed planning process has four phases (Figure 1). The first phase is focused on collecting and compiling information about the TSA that will help inform the development of scenarios which in turn will be refined into the draft plan's recommendations. The primary deliverable for the first phase is an inventory/assessment report to be completed in the second quarter of 2015.

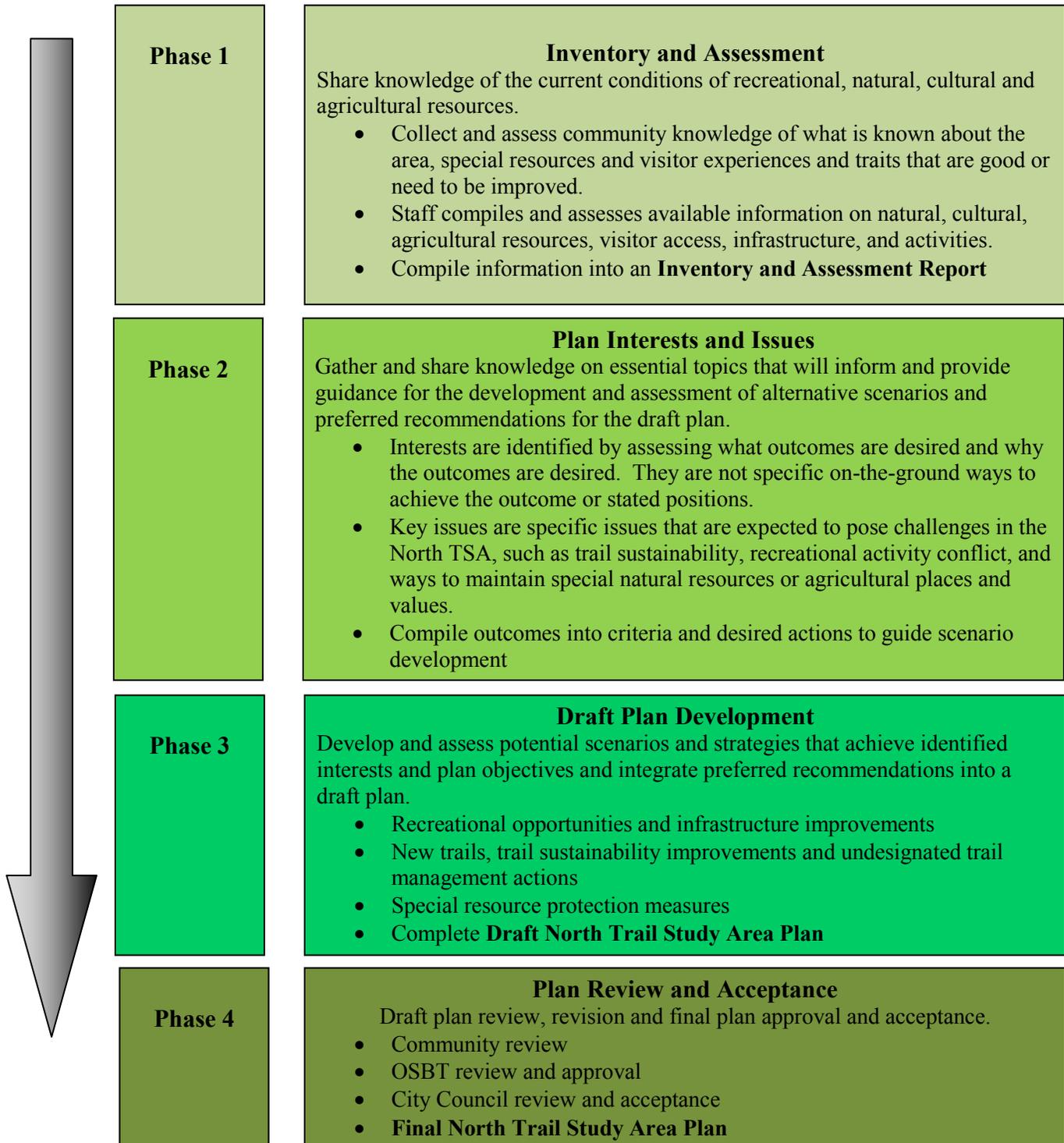
The second phase identifies key interests and issues that will further inform and guide the development of scenarios and recommendations. This phase will result in a list of criteria and desired actions from the community to help direct the development of scenarios and will be completed by the third quarter.

During the third phase, staff, the community, and the OSBT will generate and assess potential scenarios that achieve planning objectives and community interests. This part of the planning process will begin in the third quarter and conclude with the completion of a draft plan at the end of the fourth quarter of 2015.

The fourth and final phase begins in the first quarter of 2016 and includes the review of the draft plan by the community, the OSBT and recommendation and acceptance of the plan by City Council.

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Figure 1. The Four Phases of the North TSA Planning Process



Deliverables and Timeline

The proposed timeframe for the North TSA Plan is based upon having a draft plan available for review at the end of 2015. Review and acceptance of the draft plan would then potentially begin during the first quarter of 2016. The North TSA Plan is a high priority for OSMP. A list of potential plan milestones is provided in Table 1. Preliminary project timelines for the overall project and just for 2015 are available in Attachment B.

Table 1. Possible North TSA Plan Milestones for 2015

1 st Qtr	2 nd Qtr	3 rd Qtr	4 th Qtr
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSBT Study Session (SS) plan scope and public process • City Council information packet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSBT SS assessment • OSBT SS interests • Begin community engagement • Open invite community workshop assessment • Workshop key interests • Workshops/Expert Panels key issues • Inventory/assessment report • City Council information packet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops/Expert Panels key issues • Workshop(s) TSA-wide and subarea scenarios • City Council information packet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops TSA-wide and subarea scenarios • OSBT SS Alternative scenarios • OSBT SS Preferred scenarios • Draft plan • City Council information packet

Plan Sideboards

The North TSA sideboards will define the decision space for the North TSA planning process. Sideboards clarify what is “on the table” for discussion, and what is beyond the scope of consideration. Sideboards provide critical guidance that allows the public engagement process to answer questions such as: 1) What constraints must the plan account for? 2) What considerations are essential for the plan to be supported as a viable set of recommendations? The plan may include recommendations for minor changes to existing agreements, city regulations or code if such changes are desirable, feasible and necessary to meet plan objectives. However, recommendations for changes to agreements or regulations/code will be subject to the necessary processes and subsequent outcomes.

An initial set of sideboards will be developed by staff and the OSBT by the beginning of the second quarter. Refinement and additions to the sideboards can occur after the inventory and assessment phase based on what is learned from this phase.

Community Engagement

Community Engagement Objectives

Consultation and collaboration among interested community members is fundamental to identifying community supported actions to recommend in the plan. The following are staff's proposed objectives for the community engagement process:

- Keep people informed, allow for sharing, learning and understanding among the department, the OSBT, and the community.
- Encourage public interaction, and the sharing of ideas and feedback through both internet-based tools and in-person workshops.
- Support the development of a plan through an inclusive and transparent process that adds clarity to the decision making and rationale for plan outcomes.
- Build relationships, trust, capacity and commitment for the North TSA Plan.
- Foster collaboration among the public, the OSBT and staff to develop common understanding, share perspectives, generate ideas and ultimately create a plan that benefits from the knowledge and values of the community, OSBT and staff.
- Engage a broad cross section of the community.

Staff recommends that the North TSA community engagement process include outreach tools that notify and inform community members of the planning process and participation opportunities and a variety of tools that foster the sharing of perspectives and ideas and offer ongoing involvement in the development of the plan. In order for public participation to be most effective, people will engage directly with one another, OSBT and staff. OSMP is proposing using a variety of venues including interactive internet-based input tools and specially designed community workshops to learn, share ideas, and problem-solve challenging issues.

Community Engagement Approaches

Staff reviewed the public participation steps from previously completed TSA plans, ideas offered by board members, other public land planning processes other city departments' planning efforts and a professional facilitator with experience working with the city and a wide range of public land and resource managers. A summary of the public participation tools used in past TSAs is available in Attachment C.

After considering the available options and integrating the experiences learned from previous TSA processes, staff is recommending the community engagement strategy outlined in Attachment D as a starting point for discussions with the board. Selected elements of the proposed strategy are further discussed below.

The strategy includes a very robust level of community engagement and numerous strategies for outreach and participation. The proposed timeframe (Attachment B) for the North TSA Plan is based upon the goal of completing the draft plan by the end of 2015. Staff believes this is feasible, yet challenging, and recognizes that achieving this goal is dependent on the number and type of community engagement opportunities. It may not be possible to complete the plan on this schedule if the planning process includes the full range of community engagement options.

Community Outreach and Notification

Informing

A critical component of the public engagement process is the strategies and tools to share information with the community about the planning process, opportunities to participate and progress on the planning process. Staff proposes to employ a variety of communication tools to share information with the community. Tools successfully used with the West TSA and the recent implementation of the revised Voice and Sight Tag Program help shape the components staff recommend for a successful communication and outreach campaign. Examples of the tools proposed include:

- Project website
- Social media (Interact Boulder)
- Emails and newsletters
- Neighborhood mailings
- Natural Selection hikes
- Trailhead kiosk signs

Updating

Another important element for public engagement is outreach to community members who may not usually participate in TSA planning. Using mailings to both city and county neighborhoods adjacent to the North TSA, utility bill notices, and outreach to neighborhood HOAs and organizations are ways to make neighbors aware of the process and potential involvement opportunities. The use of social media (Twitter, Facebook) and internet based input and feedback tools (Inspire Boulder) will also give convenient access to information. Based upon the experience of other city departments, this approach should encourage involvement by individuals who have not typically attended OSBT meetings that use more traditional meeting oriented engagement processes. Trail-based and store-front outreach and participatory strategies may also reach new community audiences.

Public Engagement Opportunities

Staff is proposing to use a mix of engagement strategies and tools to encourage participation in the North TSA planning process. Two important strategies that will be used in all phases are the city's internet-based participatory platform called [Inspire Boulder](#) and a planned series of open-invite community workshops. Inspire Boulder is a digital town hall and community engagement platform that has been successfully used by the city in the development of numerous planning efforts and allows feedback through a variety of input tools including questions, polls, surveys, issue prioritization, budgeting, and simple map based feedback.

Staff is also proposing a series of workshops to gather community knowledge about the North TSA, issues, and key interests along with workshops to refine alternative TSA-wide and subarea scenarios (Table 2.). A series of one to four workshops focused on specific "key issues" will include expert panel presentations followed by community discussion and idea sharing.

Table 2. Possible Community Workshops

Workshop Topic	Workshop Purpose	Workshop Deliverable
Assessment	Learn about the community’s knowledge of conditions in the North TSA. Answer the question: “Where are there problems in the TSA and where is there something great to be maintained?”	Community information on the condition of recreational, natural, cultural, and agricultural resources. Identified areas of concern and areas of importance. This assessment information will supplement and be integrated with staff’s inventory information.
Interests	Answer the question: “What outcomes for the North TSA plan are most important and why?”	Plan outcomes that are most important and are priorities for the plan to address to improve conditions in the North TSA. Identifying ways to achieve the outcomes occurs later in the process.
<p>Key Issues One or more workshops on challenging issues. Potential topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Trail Sustainability</i> • <i>Recreational Conflict</i> • <i>Significant and Special Natural Resources</i> • <i>Significant Agricultural Resources</i> 	Learn about ways experts have addressed specific issues that are likely to pose challenges in the North TSA. Answer the question: “What was learned from the experts and which idea(s) would be good to implement and why?”	The main outcome from this step is a list of desired actions for staff and the OSBT to consider in the development of alternative scenarios and preferred recommendations.
TSA and Subarea Scenarios	Staff will use information from the previous steps to develop alternative scenarios for managing the TSA and challenging issues that the community can comment on, suggest modifications, and rank preferences. Answer the question: “What scenarios are preferred for the North TSA?”	The desired outcome from this step is feedback on the scenarios for staff and the OSBT to consider in selecting preferred recommendations for the draft plan.

Considering the proposed timeframe (Attachment B) for the North TSA Plan, staff recognizes that it may not be possible to complete the plan on this schedule if the planning process includes

the full range of community engagement opportunities. Some options to consider for scaling back outreach and engagement could include:

- Reducing or eliminating on-trail and/or store front outreach/comment stations for all or some of the steps in the plan.
- Including only online review and feedback of the inventory/assessment information.
- Reducing the number of expert panels or consolidating several expert panels into a single workshop.
- Reducing the number of workshops and rely on other sources of community participation such as on-line feedback or on-trail/store front.
- Reducing the number of times feedback is requested using Inspire Boulder and simplifying the types of feedback requested to the tools most suitable for Inspire Boulder.

A summary of proposed outreach approaches along with engagement options for the first three phases of the plan is included in Attachment E.

OSBT Hosting of the Process

Staff would like to involve OSBT in the development of the North TSA plan from the beginning and proposes that OSBT consider itself as “host” of the North TSA plan. The intent is to make it clear that OSBT is the recommending body to the city council and to support staff in engaging the community. As host, the community and the City Council can clearly see the board’s involvement. Staff is hoping this approach would raise the board’s visibility in different types of community forums, not just during the two- or three-minute per public comment hearings before the board. The intent is to have more inclusive and informal dialogue and to connect with the community in different and more meaningful ways. Staff has heard from community and board members alike that these short formal “testimonies” were less than optimal opportunities for input.

Actions that the OSBT could take to support the role of hosting the plan include:

- Providing a statement of invite and welcome to the community to participate and share in the development of the North TSA Plan.
- Writing a board-supported guest editorial explaining the process, goals and inviting participation.
- Having board member representation at each community workshop/meeting, offering a welcome to participants and observing the process to share insights and perspectives about workshop outcomes.
- Discussing with staff during board meetings and at study sessions the information provided by the community and staff and assisting in revising and integrating milestone content into the development of plan recommendations.
- Reviewing information updates, presentations and materials that go to City Council.
- Providing a recommendation to City Council based on what is heard and learned throughout the process and working with staff through each phase of the process.

V. NEXT STEPS

Staff will revise the community engagement strategy based on OSBT feedback from this study session and similarly update the planning process and timeline. An information packet summarizing the outcomes of the study session will be provided to City Council at either their first or second meeting in March depending on the revisions necessary to update documents and provide supporting information.

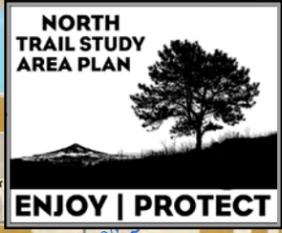
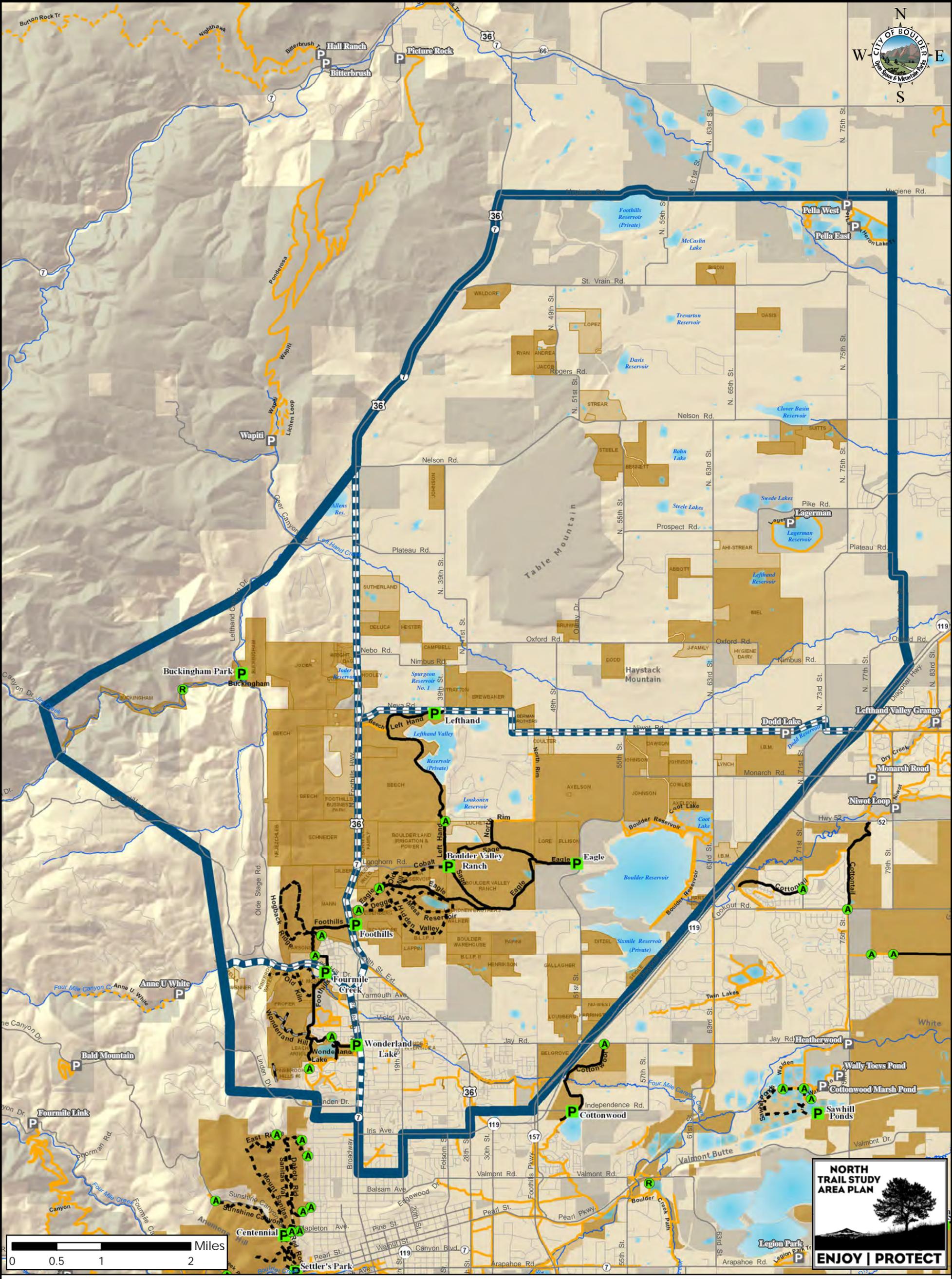
Staff will continue to collect, assess and compile information relevant for the TSA inventory and engage in steps necessary to proceed with implementing the community engagement strategy, including planning logistics for engagement approaches, identifying staffing needs and roles, hiring necessary consultant services, and beginning preparations for the first outreach and engagement opportunities. A [North TSA project website](#) has been set up and will be updated with information as it becomes available on the planning process, community engagement opportunities, and supplemental TSA information. Staff will provide an update to OSBT on progress at the March meeting and plans to begin public engagement.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A: North TSA Map
- B: North TSA Timelines
- C: Comparison of TSA Plans' Public Engagement Opportunities
- D: North Trail Study Area Plan Draft Community Engagement Strategy
- E: North TSA 2015 Plan Phases and Community Outreach and Engagement Options

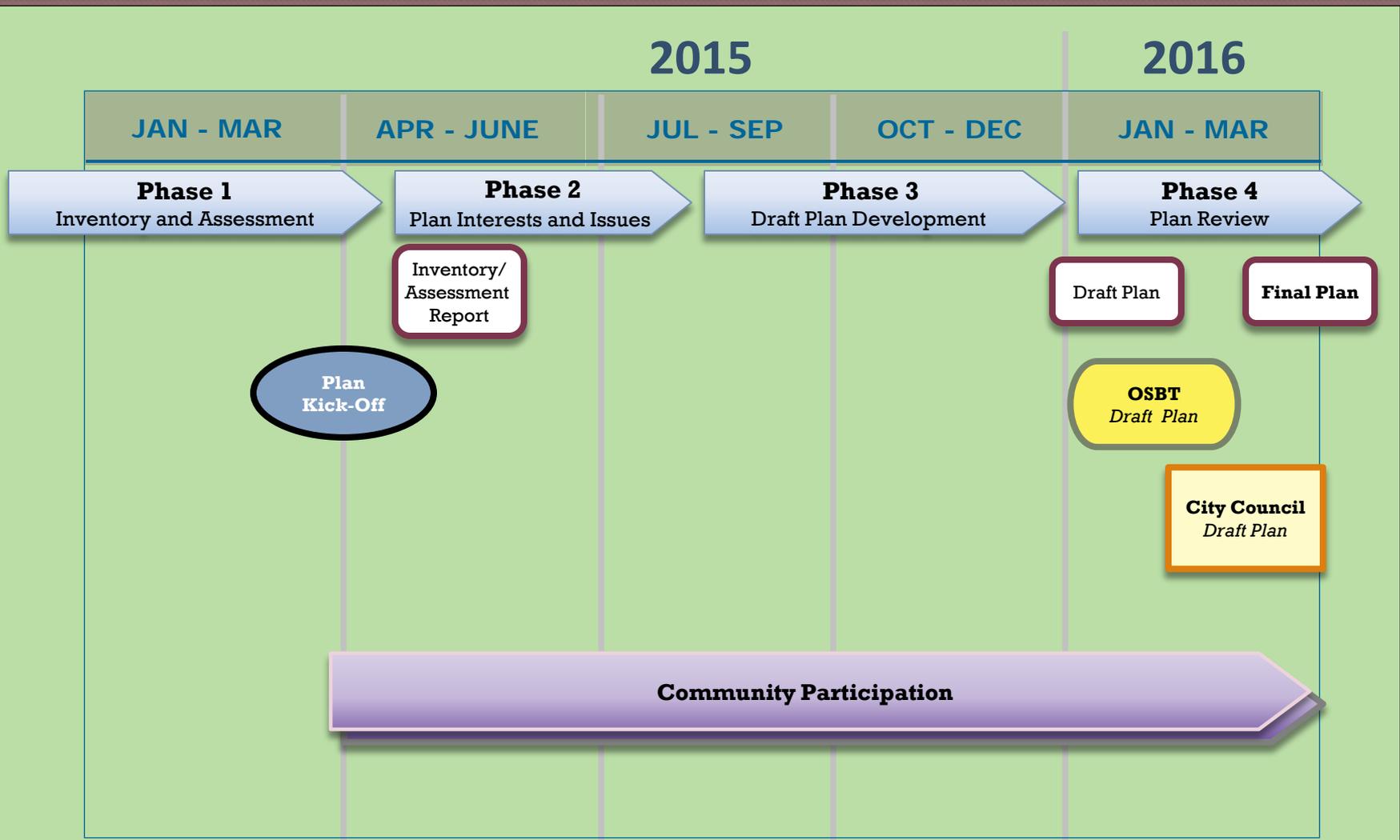
City of Boulder OSMP North Trail Study Area

Date: 2/2/2015



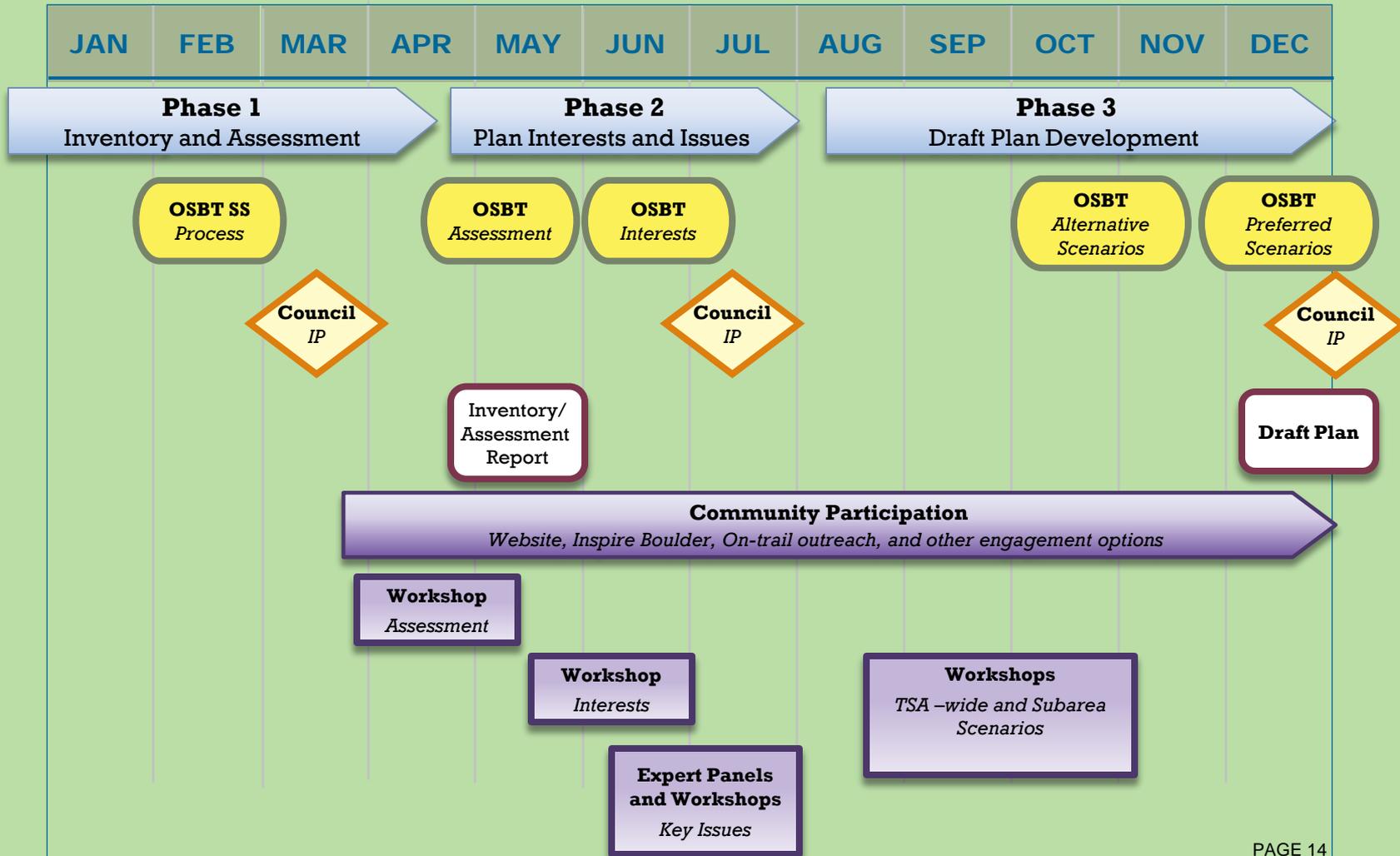
- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| OSMP Trailhead | OSMP Hiking Trail | NTSA Boundary |
| OSMP Access Point | OSMP Multi-Use Trail | NTSA Subareas |
| OSMP Recreational Feature Access | Gliding Access | OSMP Fee Property |
| Boulder County Trailhead | Other Hiking Trail | OSMP Easement |
| | Other Multi-Use Trail | Other Protected Land |

North TSA Timeline



North TSA Timeline

2015



ATTACHMENT C: Comparison of TSA Plans' Public Engagement Opportunities

Items in red text indicate approaches not used in other TSAs

TSA Plan	Plan Kick-Off and Inventory	Draft Plan Development	Draft Plan Review and Approval
Marshall Mesa / Southern Grassland	Outreach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> E-mails Project website Press releases 	Outreach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> E-mails Project website Press releases 	Outreach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> E-mails Project website Press releases
	Input/Feedback <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community questionnaire Community workshop to review inventory report and create trail scenarios (<i>open invitation</i>) 	Input/Feedback <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community workshop to review trail scenario alternatives (<i>open invitation</i>) Open House to review alternative trail scenarios 	Input/Feedback <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community workshop to review draft plan Open House to review draft plan
			Public Hearing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public hearing at OSBT meeting
Eldorado Mountain / Doudy Draw	Outreach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> E-mails Project website Press releases Signs & flyers Post cards to area residents 	Outreach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> E-mails Project website Press releases Signs & flyers 	Outreach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> E-mails Project website Press releases
	Input/Feedback <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listening sessions with stakeholders 	Input/Feedback <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two open houses to review alternatives Listening sessions/discussions with stakeholders Community field trips Community feedback requested on seasonal grassland nesting bird closures (<i>plan specific issue</i>) 	Input/Feedback <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two community open houses to review draft plan Post planning process questionnaire
			Public Hearing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public hearing at OSBT meeting

TSA Plan	Plan Kick-Off and Inventory	Draft Plan Development	Draft Plan Review and Approval
West	Outreach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-mails • Project website • Press releases • Signs & flyers 	Outreach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-mails • Project website • Press releases • Community collaborative group outreach to constituents 	Outreach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-mails • Project website • Press releases
	Input/Feedback <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community open house on process and public involvement • Feedback requested on inventory report • Community open house on inventory report 	Input/Feedback <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community meeting to select collaborative community group • Collaborative community process (Community Collaborative Group) • Bi-monthly Community Collaborative Group meetings have public comment opportunity • Community Meeting by the collaborative group on mountain biking opportunities (<i>plan specific issue</i>) • Community meetings or open houses hosted by staff for trail projects not included in the TSA planning process. (Goat Trail, Green Mountain West Ridge) (<i>plan specific issue</i>) 	Input/Feedback <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community meeting on collaborative group recommendations
			Public Hearings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public hearing at OSBT meeting for CCG recommendations • Public hearing at OSBT meeting for draft plan • Public hearing at City Council meeting

North Trail Study Area Plan DRAFT Community Engagement Strategy

Step 1: Participation in the Assessment

The goal of this step is to get the community engaged from the beginning by inviting their participation in the documentation of the current conditions in the North TSA. This step involves getting members of the public to identify where they have seen problems in the North TSA and where there is something great they want to maintain. They will basically help catalogue the current conditions of the area.

This step would occur through several types of engagement to reach a broad segment of the community, beyond those who attend OSBT meetings and typical open houses:

- An open public workshop during which participants identify specific areas of concern or of high value on maps
- Optional meetings with targeted invitations to specific experts and/or stakeholders to discuss the current conditions on a specific topic (e.g., songbirds, raptors, trail sustainability, etc.)
- On-trail outreach with staff providing questionnaires or maps at trailheads
- Store front/coffee shop outreach with staff hosting a map-based station at local shops
- Web-based questionnaires and possibly web-based maps to allow for similar input through the Inspire Boulder website

Results:

- The primary output from this step would be a series of identified areas of concern and areas of importance to be integrated into work on the inventory/assessment.
- Outcomes from this step include early community engagement, increased community role in and hopefully acceptance of baseline data, and increased trust in the process.

Additional resources needed:

- Venue costs
- Facilitation for the open public meeting; possibly for the optional meetings with targeted groups
- PR/Outreach staff not currently budgeted/integrated into the project
- Cost, if any, for “setting up shop” in stores and coffee shops
- Printing for maps and information sheets/handouts

Step 2: Review and Comment on the Inventory and Assessment

The public will be invited to provide comment on the inventory and assessment. The assessment will be posted online for the public’s review and comment. Optionally, OSBT could also host a public meeting to unveil the assessment, have staff answer questions, and encourage small group discussions on what members think about the assessment. If OSBT opts to host a meeting, additional costs include meeting facilitation and small group facilitators (see below for more details on small group facilitators).

Step 3: Identification of Interests in the North TSA

The goal of this step is to get community involvement in the identification of the interests in the NORTH TSA. Rather than invite a list of positions or “wants” in the North TSA, this conversation focuses on why people want what they want. For example, if someone suggests moving a particular trail from location A to location B, the interest that underlies that might be improved views or a trail alignment that avoids commonly wet and muddy areas.

This step would occur through the following steps:

- An open public workshop for small group discussion to answer two questions: “What would you like to see in the North TSA?” and “Why?” Non-staff small group facilitators would assist in managing the small group discussions.
- On-trail outreach with staff asking users to share their responses to the same questions
- Store front/coffee shop outreach with staff hosting a station to get responses to the same questions
- Web-based questionnaires to get responses to the same questions

Results:

- The primary output from this step is a list of interests in the North TSA, which can be integrated and balanced to be approved or revised by OSBT and, once finalized, could be used as a set of criteria for a good area plan (i.e., a good plan is one that meets most or all of the identified interests).
- Outcomes from this step include ongoing community engagement to help set priorities for the planning process and increased trust in the process.

Additional resources needed:

- Venue costs
- Facilitation for the open public workshop
- Small group facilitators (conflict resolution students can likely be used to get skilled facilitation for a reasonable cost)
- PR/Outreach staff not currently budgeted/integrated into the project
- Cost, if any, for “setting up shop” in stores/coffee shops

Step 4: Education and Discussion of Key Issues and Options

The first goal of this step is to help the community and OSMP staff learn about different ways experts have addressed specific issues that are expected to pose challenges in the North TSA, such as user conflicts, trail sustainability, ways to preserve unique agricultural places and values, and ways to maintain special or unique natural resources. The second goal of the step is to encourage community dialogue about what was learned from the experts and which idea(s) the community would like to see implemented in the North TSA and why.

The primary way this step will be implemented is through four expert panels on the topics identified above. Community members will be invited to attend these panels to learn from the experts; then they will discuss what they have learned in small group. The primary discussion question for the small groups will be “Which of the ideas on [topic] resonates with you as a good

approach for the North TSA?” Small group facilitators will be helpful in keeping participants focused on the questions.

The panel discussions will be video recorded and posted online for community members who do not attend the meetings in person. Additionally, an online dialogue can be created on the Inspire Boulder site to give these virtual participants a similar opportunity for discussion as that available for in-person participants.

Results:

- The primary output from this step is a list of desired actions from the community for the North TSA for staff to consider in the development of the draft plan.
- Outcomes from this step include increased knowledge among community members about issues and options for the North TSA, ongoing community engagement to help frame potential recommendations, and increased trust in the process.

Additional resources needed:

- Venue costs
- Speaking fees and/or travel costs for experts
- Facilitation for the panel discussion meetings
- Small group facilitators (conflict resolution students can likely be used to get skilled facilitation for a reasonable cost)
- Recording costs (for Channel 8 or another recording company)

Step 5: Discussion of Proposed Scenarios for Issues and Areas

Based on the ideas that emerge from the above steps, staff will develop scenarios for ways to manage the North TSA and/or ways to address challenging issues. Once these scenarios are available, the community will be invited to respond to them, providing comments and suggestions and/or ranking them based on preference (if staff develops multiple scenarios for a single sub-area or issue). This can be done during an open public workshop, as well as online using the Inspire Boulder website. Additional opportunities for comment on the scenarios could also be provided at trailheads and in store/coffee shops.

Results:

- The primary output from this step is feedback on the scenarios for staff to consider as the draft plan is developed; staff could select a preferred scenario based on feedback and/or integrate components from different scenarios into a hybrid scenario. The list of interests developed in Step 3 can also serve as a guide in determining which scenarios go into the draft plan.
- Outcomes from this step include ongoing community engagement to help revise scenarios and identify preferred scenarios for inclusion in the draft plan and increased trust in the process.

Additional resources needed:

- Venue costs

- Facilitation for the open public meeting
- Small group facilitators (conflict resolution students can likely be used to get skilled facilitation for a reasonable cost)
- Printing costs for handouts (if needed)
- Cost, if any, for “setting up shop” in stores/coffee shops

Step 6: Comment on the Draft Plan

The public will be invited to provide comment on the draft plan that results from the above steps. The draft plan will be posted online for the public’s review and comment. Optionally, OSBT could also host a final public meeting to unveil the draft plan, have staff answer questions, and encourage small group discussions on what members of the community like and would like to see changed before the plan is finalized. If OSBT decides to host this final public meeting, additional costs include meeting facilitation and small group facilitators.

Community Outreach and Engagement	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
	Inventory and Assessment	Plan Interests and Issues	Draft Plan Development
<p>Inform/Outreach</p> <p><i>Providing information to assist in understanding the process, opportunities for input, issues to resolve, and progress on developing the plan.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media (Facebook, Twitter) • Project website • Emails and project newsletters sent to interested individuals and stakeholders • Media releases • Neighborhood mailings • Inside Boulder/Channel 8 information • Natural Selection hikes, programs, walking tours • Utility bill notices or inserts • Fact Sheets • Trailhead signs and kiosks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media (Facebook, Twitter) • Project website • Emails and project newsletter • Media releases • Neighborhood mailing • Inside Boulder/Channel 8 information • Natural Selection hikes, programs, walking tours • HOA Notifications, newsletters, websites • Online mapping resources —Inventory data layers available for Google Earth mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media (Facebook, Twitter) • Project website • Emails and project newsletter • Media releases • Neighborhood mailing • Inside Boulder/Channel 8 information • Utility bill notices or inserts
<p>Engage/Involve</p> <p><i>Providing input on specific topics and issues and feedback on alternatives, scenarios and preferred recommendations.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspire Boulder (MindMixer) -Digital town hall • Website and comment form • Open-invite workshop on current conditions in the TSA (assessment) • On-trail outreach and questionnaires provided by staff or maps for providing comments placed at trailheads • Storefront/coffee shop outreach and map-based station for comments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspire Boulder (MindMixer)-Digital town hall • Website/ comment form • Open-invite workshops on interests in the TSA and on issues and likely challenges in the TSA • On-trail outreach and questionnaires provided by staff • Storefront/coffee shop outreach and comment station for commenting on questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspire Boulder (MindMixer) -Digital town hall • Website/ comment form • Open-invite workshop(s) on staff proposed scenarios for TSA-wide and subarea management actions
Additional Options			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional meetings with specific experts and/or stakeholders • Community open house to review Inventory and Assessment information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen and learn sessions with stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen and learn sessions with stakeholders • On-trail outreach and comment opportunity on scenarios • Store/coffee shop outreach and comment station for commenting on scenarios