



Heads up!  
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May 11, 2011

Dear Council Members:

Here is some need to know information.

Prairie dogs occupying 39 acres on city parks and open space properties near Foothills Community Park are proposed for relocation to city open space north of Lookout Road at North 75<sup>th</sup> Street (Richardson II property). (See maps below) The prairie dog component of the city's Urban Wildlife Management Plan (UWMP), accepted by council in 2006, identified the Foothills Community Park area for near-term prairie dog removal primarily because prairie dog encroachment has the potential to adversely affect the park's developed assets, like multi-use fields. Richardson II is a 120-acre site that includes 12 acres currently occupied by prairie dogs. This population is much reduced following, a plague outbreak in 2008. This site meets the criteria outlined in the Grassland Plan to serve as a receiving site for prairie dog relocation.

A permit from the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) is necessary to relocate prairie dogs. This relocation project was originally planned for the fall of 2010. However, in response to feedback from nearby residents who requested more time to provide input, the project was postponed until this year. CDOW staff members, as well as state elected officials, have received comments opposing this relocation proposal.

Council members may begin receiving more emails as well as comments during public participation on this matter. Staff continues to work with community members, CDOW and other stakeholders to mitigate community concerns. A mitigation plan will be posted on the city website on May 24, and the permit request will be submitted to CDOW on June 2. An Information Packet will be distributed to City Council with more information in early June.

*For more information, contact Val Matheson at 303-441-3004.*

