

North TSA Public Feedback 11.2014 - 5.27.2015

INSPIRE BOULDER FEEDBACK 4/22/2015 - 5/11/2015	
Topic Name	<i>North Trail Study Area Plan</i>
Idea Title	More Trail and more users- mountain bikers, runners, hikers
Idea Detail	One thing lacking on Boulder trails is the opportunity to create long off road loops for mountain bikers, hikers and runners. please use NTSA to enhance this for users
Idea Author	Jennifer H
Number of Stars	32
Number of Comments	1
Comment 1	You forgot equestrians in this request. Many of us ride between 7 and 15 miles a couple of times weekly and loop trails of this length would be wonderful for us also. By Randy W
Idea Title	More local loop trails needed
Idea Detail	As North Boulder becomes much more dense (see Dakota Ridge, all along Broadway, and soon the old National Guard site), we need to provide more trails for the increasing number of users in North Boulder. These residents should be able to access trails without getting in their cars, clogging up roads, and not finding parking in over-crowded lots in South Boulder (see Doudy Draw every weekend). Making a loop trail that uses the current Beech-trail alignment and comes back higher on the Hogback would be a great close-in addition comparable to trails in South Boulder (see Springbrook/Goshawk). In addition, connecting the top of the glider-take-off point to the top of Old Kiln, or even the west side of the Hogback above Old Kiln would provide a scenic alternative loop, comparable to some of the many Shanahan loops. Hikers/runners/horse riders, they all love loops. Let's make a few more.
Idea Author	Johannes R
Number of Stars	27
Number of Comments	0
Idea Title	More connecting trails to Lyons and other Trail Systems
Idea Detail	We need to encourage people to ride from their homes instead of driving to trails. The only way this can be done is by creating connector trails from Boulder to Lyons and Heil. We also need many more miles of trails to relieve overcrowding. There are so many possibilities for additional trails that need to be looked into.
Idea Author	Peter J
Number of Stars	21
Number of Comments	0
Idea Title	Please keep Horses on the trails.
Idea Detail	I grew up in Boulder with horses and currently work at Rocky Mountain Riding Therapy in Boulder. There are fewer and fewer places to ride in Boulder. Horses are still an important part of Boulder and Boulder's history Thank you
Idea Author	Janine C

Number of Stars	9
Number of Comments	0
Idea Title	I love the access to Open Space.
Idea Detail	I would like to see a trail that is dog friendly through Joder Ranch connecting North Boulder to Lyons. Isn't there an abandoned Railroad line we could use?
Idea Author	Amy T
Number of Stars	7
Number of Comments	1
Staff Comment	In the 1880s the Boulder, Left Hand and Middle Park railroad project failed and the excavated bed for the line bisects the lower portion of the Joder property. The abandoned railroad bed also crosses part of the OSMP Beech property and private property south of Joder. As part of the North TSA planning process, staff and the community will be evaluating and assessing all of the existing resources on the Joder property and determining how to best manage visitor activities and access on the property. By Juliet B
Idea Title	Open Space needs to manage range and agriculture responsibly
Idea Detail	I am saddened when I see terrible management practices that ruin our land. It feels unfair that the residents of Boulder are told we need to protect Habitat in HCA places and yet Boulder's Open Space staff and the range management plan allow overgrazing, ruin to grasslands by Prairie Dogs and sloppy day to day practices on agricultural land.
Idea Author	Amy T
Number of Stars	6
Number of Comments	1
Staff Comment	Amy: Thank you for sharing your concerns about OSMP's land management practices. OSMP staff greatly value the natural and agricultural resources of which we are stewards and have done extensive research, gathered public feedback, and received the Open Space Board of Trustee's approval and City Council's adoption of a Grassland Management Plan and are in the process of developing an Agricultural Resources Management Plan to ensure that we are implementing best practices in the management of these resources. Please consider contacting either Josh Bilbao or Lauren Kolb, OSMP agricultural specialists, to discuss specific feedback and ideas you have about how management practices could be improved. Josh and Lauren can be contacted by calling the OSMP administrative number at 303-441-3440. By Juliet B
Idea Title	Create loop trail experiences
Idea Detail	As a hiker and equestrian I think the user experience is enhanced with loops. Where the terrain and visibility may cause dangerous visibility I suggest day use closures similar to Betasso. In the last year many users in Boulder (cyclists, runners, dog walkers) are wearing ear buds. It has caused them the inability to hear requests from other users. Gates: the recently installed bike ramps are a nice addition for one user group, but the installation poorly executed. Just last weekend I had to get off my horse three times at gates that before I could open from my horse. My rein has gotten caught up in the latches. That same day walkers opened the gate and it fell off the hinges and dropped to the ground. Please design these better. Night use: wildlife needs time without high powered lamps and hundreds users with head lamps.
Idea Author	Linda P
Number of Stars	3
Number of Comments	4

Comment 1	I'd prefer day closures to full closures, but there's plenty of land for everyone out here. I'd like to see more dedicated use trails for mtn bikers and horses. I really like the new bike ramp/gates. By Bryan B
Comment 2	Jason, I have to agree with Linda. The configuration of the bike ramps made it impossible to open and close the gates from horseback. After some discussion with the OSBT it was agreed to leave the gates open when there are no cattle in the area. But the design of ramps and gates definitely needs to be revisited. I gave a design to the OSBT and would be happy to work with the bike community as well to get this worked out. By Randy W
Comment 3	Also, not a fan of day use closures unless they are equitable. There are already over 100 miles of trail where bikes are not allowed in the West TSA. The trails are already crowded because demand from this user group is high. Let's look at the whole system in making decisions about the appropriate place for a no-bike or a no-dog or a no-horse experience. Personally, I think the NTSA is a great place for a shared-use trail system. By Jason V
Comment 4	Hey Linda P. As one of the people who advocated for the cattle grate crossings, I'm confident the mountain biking community would be more than happy to work with equestrians and open space on better design of those crossings to reduce any inconvenience. Sounds like we might even be able to improve the equestrian experience as well - a nice win-win. By Jason V
Idea Title	Increase Silver Lake Ditch Flow East of Broadway/28th
Idea Detail	we hike Degge Trail and others out to Mesa Reservoir. Mesa is a gem as a wetland and wildlife refuge. it is always at risk of drought (it was completely dry for a year or two before the Flood.) The Reservoir, and the trails in that area, would benefit from a greater or more frequent flow of water out there. I understand the City has limited current rights to that flow, but also know that the City over time does have a right to purchase more rights as property along the ditch is sold. It is not clear what the City does with additional rights, but some designation of added rights for the purpose of more flow would increase the attractiveness and usage of those trails compared to more crowded mountain trails.
Idea Author	Donald D
Number of Stars	0
Number of Comments	0
Idea Title	You've asked what we value about the North TSA - my answer:
Idea Detail	I value the native habitats in the North -- especially the large unfragmented areas, the unique 6-mile fold, and the unique shale areas (I'm not sure what specific designation you use for them).
Idea Author	Karen H
Number of Stars	0
Number of Comments	0
Idea Title	Hold public consultations in the NTSA!

Idea Detail	I find it very strange that this planning process is about the NTSA but the two public consultations are being held in East Boulder. I did that drive the other day and it can take 20 minutes. The workshop also appeared to be poorly attended given the significant number of people who live in the NTSA and are on the trails. Please consider holding another consultation IN THE NTSA. I know it can be challenging to find venues, but I find it hard to imagine that one of the schools couldn't host something like this. The consultations also are very poorly advertised -- there should be notices of the meetings -- not just of the NTSA process and web site -- at the trail heads. Finally, in your descriptions of the NTSA process, you give the impression that public opinion will drive the process, when I am certain that you are also relying on data in support of evidence-based decision-making. This should be emphasized more so people know that their inputs will be balanced by objective measures.
Idea Author	Elizabeth O
Number of Stars	0
Number of Comments	1
Staff Comment	<p>Elizabeth</p> <p>Thank you for sharing your concerns about the location and advertisement of the NTSA public workshops as well as the way public input will be included in the development of the plan.</p> <p>We are currently working on finding locations within the NTSA to house our next set of public workshops to increase the ease and accessibility for interested community members. The facilities more commonly used for city sponsored meetings located closer to the NTSA were not available for our first set of workshops. If you have any suggestions about locations that would be a good fit, we'd be glad to look into them for future NTSA events.</p> <p>We will continue to do a broad-based effort to get the word out about the NTSA plan and community participation opportunities. It is indeed important to make sure people who have interest to get involved know about the opportunities that occur for them to share their ideas. We plan to have staff out at NTSA trailheads, post information at trailheads and send out mailings to continue to spread the word about the plan and upcoming events. Additionally, we send updates to the 550 people who have signed up to receive our project newsletter and share project information on Facebook and other social media. We'll continue to explore ways we can communicate with the community about the NTSA.</p>
Idea Title	Open more areas to hanggliding and paragliding
Idea Detail	There are very few sites in Boulder for Hanggliding and Paragliding. Please open more areas to this low impact activity.
Idea Author	Java M
Number of Stars	0
Number of Comments	0
Idea Title	Enhance the visitor trail experience

Idea Detail	Roads are not trails. We should not accept existing conditions as a desirable state for the NSTA area. It can be dramatically enhanced by focusing on the quality of the visitor experience. This means providing alternate routes to existing "trails" that are actually old roads. There is a reason that the SoBo trails are well used and NTSA trails are underutilized - they are *BORING*. We need to develop a trail system in this area that is fun and exciting and adventurous to help reduce the crowding of the SoBo trails. This includes more interesting trail alignment, converting roads to trails, providing alternate routes for current roads. We should also consider developing a stacked loop trail system, especially for mountain bikers currently prohibited from some trails that could form loops. Developing loop options enhances the user experience, reduces perceived crowding, and reduces trail user conflict. Building out cattle guard crossings also reduces the annoyance of stopping every 5min.
Idea Author	Jason V
Number of Stars	46
Number of Comments	1
Comment 1	Agree 100%! By Richard H
Idea Title	Regional MTB-friendly trail west of 36 from Boulder to Lyons
Idea Detail	An MTB-friendly trail west of 36 from Boulder to Lyons/Heil is a necessity. Boulder has almost next to zero trails you can ride to from town, forcing people into their cars to drive to rides. This has negative rippling effects; more cars on the roads, more traffic, more crowded trail heads, and congested trails. These effects are in direct contrast to Boulder's allegedly "environmentally friendly" image it tries to hard to portray, as it increases traffic in an already gridlocked town, and CO2 emissions associated with recreation. Creating this west-of-36 trail connector using trails that are largely in existence reduces the number of cars on the road, thins out congestion on trails, eases the concentrated beat-down our trails receive, and reduces trail-user conflict, enhancing the outdoor experience for all users. Mitigating CO2 emissions associated with recreation and enhancing the trail-user experience for all parties; that sounds like something Boulder should get behind!
Idea Author	Adam M
Number of Stars	41
Number of Comments	0
Idea Title	New and improved trails for recreation.
Idea Detail	I'm eager to see new trails, and improvements to existing ones, in the North TSA. I live in north Boulder and my wife, kids and I are all keen mountain bikers, trail runners and hikers.
Idea Author	Mark E
Number of Stars	40
Number of Comments	0
Idea Title	A fun trail to get to Heil Ranch
Idea Detail	I usually drive to Heil Ranch as 36 is very dangerous with all the bikes and cars. I would ride there if we had a fun trail to ride my mountain bike on.
Idea Author	Robert N
Number of Stars	39
Number of Comments	1

Comment 1	With a focus on the "fun" part. If it's just a fire road or flat trail, I'd probably still drive most of the time. If it's enjoyable in and of itself to also get to heil, that'd be great. By Marcus P
Idea Title	Please provide a robust series of loop trails ...
Idea Detail	Provide loop trails, open to mountain bikes, both sides of Foothills highway. Trails should connect through to Heil, Lyons and Hall ranches. Many sections of the currently existing trails should be re-routed for a more sustainable alignment. Provide a true single track, quality riding experience.
Idea Author	catherine S
Number of Stars	39
Number of Comments	0
Idea Title	More people on trails; fewer people on roads
Idea Detail	The opening up of the North TSA to mountain bikers, hikers, trail runners, etc. will go a long way in reducing the amount of bike and running traffic on -- and along -- an already congested shoulder of US 36. Providing responsible and sustainable access to these lands for multiple trail users is a win-win for not only the various trail users, but for the motoring public as well.
Idea Author	Kurt S
Number of Stars	37
Number of Comments	1
Comment 1	And remember... converted ranch roads are NOT trails. When you don't properly design trails for multiple use an simply call doubletrack ranch roads trails, the opportunity for speed gradients occur and user conflict is a logical result. This is agency designed user conflict! By mike B
Idea Title	Regional trail connections for Lyons, Boulder, Niwot, Gunbri
Idea Detail	<p>The NTSA provides an incredible opportunity to pursue regional trail connections.</p> <p>First - a Boulder to Lyons trail on the west side of US36 would enable cyclists and trail runners to recreate from the city to higher quality trail systems and ultimately connect to Lyons. Ideally this trail would use the old railroad grade on the Beech Property and lead into Joder Ranch before dropping to Buckingham Park. The County in its Heil2 planning process is considering extending trail all the way to Left Hand Canyon.</p> <p>Second - integrate the existing trail system with Boulder Res. The Boulder Res Master Plan calls for a trail around the Res. Land under the control of the City Parks Dept is important wetlands habitat, but OSMP could help realize this trail to connect the Boulder Valley Ranch to the Res, the Niwot trail system, and the LoBo trail. It would allow residents of Niwot, Gunbarrel, and Boulder to access trails as well as connect to a future Feeder Canal trail.</p>
Idea Author	Jason V
Number of Stars	37
Number of Comments	1
Comment 1	I don't understand why his didn't happen 10 years ago. It makes so much sense. By Chris E
Idea Title	The Holy Grail for NTSA - Boulder to Lyons Trail

Idea Detail	A trail West of the highway accessible to hikers, runners, mountain bikers, equestrians, and dog owners that connects the two cities through Hall, Joder, and Heil. This trail could and should be the crown jewel of the Colorado Front Range Trail.
Idea Author	Bob M
Number of Stars	36
Number of Comments	3
Comment 1	I agree that the key to this is to do this right. It is a long ways to go to get to Heil Ranch from Boulder (nearly 10 miles). If a connection was made that was uninspiring, use would be negligible compared to what is possible. If, on the other hand, a safe trail that avoided crossing Hwy 36 and at the same time was both beautiful and fun may be a gem. Most long-distance trail users (equestrians, trail runners, bicycle riders) will drive to a trailhead if the non-driving option is long and dull. It's largely a matter of not having enough time to do both the "good" section and the long "bad" approach. By Kevin B
Comment 2	Let's call it the Lyons to Boulder Trail, shall we? The LyBo Trail? By mike B
Comment 3	I absolutely agree. This idea has tremendous support across the conventional recreation/preservation divide. It has many political leaders lined up behind it. But we still need to get it right. We need to avoid highway crossings and maximize the fun factor to make sure people use this trail instead of drive in their cars. Doing so will reduce VMT and reduce trail crowding. This means building a *FUN* trail, not just an old road. Also, people want to take the most direct path - not a ridiculously circuitous route. I think we can achieve this and still respect the natural resources of value in the area. To really make the trail a success, consider making both the regional connection as well as a loop trail that can be ridden from town. This will reduce perceived crowding and the consequent user conflict. This really could be a jewel - *IF* we do it right. By Jason V
Idea Title	Connecting Communities & properties
Idea Detail	Need to think beyond individual trails on individual properties. Linking open space properties and towns with trails will greatly expand recreational opportunities while reducing peoples need to drive to recreate. Regional connections such as Boulder to Lyons, with a DIRECT route, west of 36, not a Random stringing of existing roads & trails would provide a welcome change to current use. Must go beyond City land only, to include county. Connecting Boulder Res/Boulder Valley ranch with Oxford Rd & Lagerman/Lagerman south would provide additional off- highway and off road connections toward Longmont. Many of these trail corridors are shown not the Trail Concept map here: http://bouldermountainbike.org/sites/default/files/North%20TSA%20Conceptual%20Trail%20Alignments%20v4%202015-05-01.pdf Most of these corridors would add little impact, as they follow existing highway/road corridors, existing roads & social trails, as well as have long history of farming & ranching impacts.
Idea Author	Dale R
Number of Stars	33
Number of Comments	1
Comment 1	The map is effectively "taking the blinders off" and going through the exercise of "what ifs" opportunities present in the future. Any management plan should consider these opportunities now so when they do present, the community doesn't have to wait 5, 10, 15 years for a plan revisit. By mike B
Idea Title	Opportunity for more trails and access

Idea Detail	South Boulder has very extensive trail system with multiple access points. NoBo needs more. The talked about Joder access to Heil Ranch is very much wanted and needed.
Idea Author	John H
Number of Stars	32
Number of Comments	1
Comment 1	This is an excellent point. The SoBo trail system is so well loved that it seems crowded at times and has led to some concern about trail user conflict. Developing a similar (dare I say better!) trail system to the north will provide a pressure relief valve on one of the most heavily used recreation destinations on OSMP property. The primary cause of this sense of crowding is that so few trails city-wide are open to mountain bikes - thus concentrating all use by that group in the SoBo system. An important secondary cause is that there are not many good loop options in SoBo, so you often have to see the same trail user twice - once on the way out and once on the way back - making the trail seem more crowded than they actually are. Let's not make this same mistake in the NoBo trail system. By Jason V
Idea Title	Include rural Boulder County and Lyons
Idea Detail	The North TSA has the wonderful opportunity to open a trail corridor from Boulder to Lyons...no cars! Let's make this happen.
Idea Author	Chris E
Number of Stars	32
Number of Comments	1
Comment 1	I'm psyched to hopefully be able to ride from Boulder to Lyons, completely on trails. That's much safer for me and my family, more fun, and helps get me out of the the car. So I'm happier, healthier, and there is lower CO2 emissions and fewer parking spaces needed at the trailheads. Winning all around. By Jonathan S
Idea Title	off road access to Lyons
Idea Detail	There are some great trails in the north TSA. We would do better if these traILS linked to more communities like Lyons and Niwot . Mountain bikers should be able to hop on their bikes nd go, not need to drive everywhere just to bike. more trails on beech would be great
Idea Author	Elaine E
Number of Stars	30
Number of Comments	0
Idea Title	Foothills - Heil connection
Idea Detail	A logical connection to Heil follows existing several social trails. Start at Foothills trail before it drops down toward 36, head north along the ditch that trail runners use. Nearing the Beech property the trail would switch back uphill to the west to get above the Beech fence, then continue north to the Joder ranch buildings. There it would connect to the proposed initial Joder trail. That trail heads north and then west to climb over the first hogback then drops into the valley between two hogbacks. Current plans have that trail then turning south to hit Old Stage Road. I propose that a spur head north along this hogback valley towards Heil ranch. One possibility has it following an existing dirt road to hit Four mile canyon at the north end of the second hogback. A better option would have the trail could continue north along the western base of the first hogback just above Four Mile creek. Then finally crossing the creek just across from Heil. This may require an easement.
Idea Author	Joe Z

Number of Stars	30
Number of Comments	6
Staff Comment	Joe: Thank you for your trail connection suggestions and attempting to share an image map that you created to illustrate your proposed trail route. Unfortunately, the Inspire Boulder platform does not support attachments. If you would like to share the map you created, please email it to northtsa@bouldercolorado.gov by May 10 and it will be reviewed by staff and included in the North TSA Inventory and Assessment Report along with other feedback we've received from community members on this topic. By Juliet B
Comment 2	Hear hear! Social trails already exist to enable a person on foot to get nearly to Heil Ranch from the North Foothills trailhead. If we could simply normalize and improve this system of trails, it'd be a great start. OSMP currently has a bad reputation for constantly striving to shut everything down and bar access; here's an opportunity to actually serve the constituents and provide what we're paying for. By Fred E
Comment 3	West of 36! And also, let's not just make a single trail, let's make a trail system heading up the side of the foothills. so it's not just for the endurance rider to ride to Lyons, think many riders doing loops without having to get into their cars. By Marcus P
Comment 4	I agree that we should stay west of US36 if at all possible. We should also maximize the value of the recreation experience within any necessary constraints - this means trail, not road; the most direct route possible; and maybe even create a loop trail in this area. By Jason V
Comment 5	That's a railroad grade that you see on Google Earth... commonly referred to as the Foothills Trail. By mike B
Comment 6	I attached an image map showing the proposed route but don't see it on this page. Where can people see it? By Joe Z
Idea Title	open up the beech group site to all users when not reserved
Idea Detail	It's always completely empty. It would give overflow parking to the lefthand trailhead. Additionally, I'm completely behind the BMA's proposed trails to make a loop in this area not right by the highway and over to the otherside. It would create access and incredible views.
Idea Author	D B
Number of Stars	30
Number of Comments	0
Idea Title	Adapt to current bike trail design
Idea Detail	Take inspiration from Fruita, Jackson, Moab, Whistler, etc and build trails with features for more advanced riders that are still safe or avoidable for beginners or hikers etc. We have some incredibly talented riders that represent more trail hours than the beginners by a long shot but we have to travel to "mountain bike destinations" to find trails to suit our riding styles. While any trail in this corridor is a move in the right direction why not break from the overly tame design and give the riders who spend the most time out there something to LOVE while still being totally approachable for novices and giving them something to grow towards.
Idea Author	Erik A
Number of Stars	29
Number of Comments	3
Comment 1	Great idea, I totally would love to see trails built with features for more advanced mountain bikers that are still safe or avoidable for beginners and hikers and horses. And loop trails, or course. By Richard H

Comment 2	This could also counter the "humdrum" of some of the flat trails in the North TSA area. Making these trails fun is probably critical to seeing usage. By Kevin B
Comment 3	This is a fantastic idea. Boulder lacks for an educational trail where riders can learn to progress in ability, where parents can ride with their kids, and everybody is still having fun. Note that such trail construction is relatively easy to do and has been adopted widely on public lands. This is definitely pushing the envelope, but when you see what kids can do at Valmont, it is clear that the gap between NTSA trails and the abilities of locals is simply too big. Please add some fun into the trails! By Jason V
Idea Title	Not Just regional trail, regional TRAILS (note the plural)
Idea Detail	I don't want to just see a single trail heading up north, over the joder fire road and hooking up to Heil. I want a series of loops if possible so we can ride without getting in our cars. Some days I may only have time to hop on my bike and do a loop system ending up at joder and doing some loops there before heading home. So I want both the connector to Heil for my big weekend rides, but something I can get out and enjoy (with nice elevation change/flow) for the mid-week rides without loading up the truck.
Idea Author	Marcus P
Number of Stars	25
Number of Comments	0
Idea Title	Create better tra
Idea Detail	The North TSA area is the opportune place to apply management and trail building practices to create a great user experience that both allows folks to enjoy nature, and protect it. Please consider expanding regional connections to Heil Ranch, Boulder, Lyons, and Longmont in this area. If possible, rework trails so they are "fun" to hike, run, and ride on. This means creating flow, playing with grade reversals, and using natural features (rocks, logs, etc) to make things more exciting. Also, to create a variety of user experiences, and to reduce conflicts, please create looped trails (not roads) for all user groups. As much of this land is pastoral, some looped trails would have minimal impact and reduce the number of times each user passes by another, or a sensitive habitat/species. Finally, provide access from town to the Joder property on the west side of Highway 36 to reduce risk of death/injury, and to allow for a variety of natural experiences (foothills/plains).
Idea Author	Kevin B
Number of Stars	24
Number of Comments	1
Comment 1	Totally agree! By Richard H
Idea Title	24/7 open space
Idea Detail	Please ensure that 24-hour access is retained in our open space. We saw nighttime curfews enacted in the aftermath of the flood, which only served to compound that tragedy. In the winter months, it's dark when folks get off work, yet we still need to get out in nature. Please continue the longstanding OSMP policy of 24/7 public access to our public lands. Thank you!
Idea Author	Fred E
Number of Stars	24
Number of Comments	1
Comment 1	More night riding! Excellent suggestion! By Marcus P

Idea Title	Connectivity
Idea Detail	I can't believe we're still talking about regional trails as if they're some sort of new idea. The reasons for having a regional trail that connects Boulder to Lyons should far outweigh any other priorities the city considers. Taking a property that has been a recreation destination for decades and continuing it's historic recreational use to greatly increase the value of our trail system should be a no brainer. After years of let downs from The City of Boulder I'm skeptical this will ever happen but hopeful none the less. Get people out of their cars for a change and stop the legacy of destination trailheads for good!!!
Idea Author	Troy M
Number of Stars	23
Number of Comments	0
Idea Title	Trail connector from Boulder to Sunshine Saddle
Idea Detail	Sunshine Saddle is a hub where several beautiful trails meet not far from Gold Hill, but the only way to access it is via narrow winding mountain roads. It would be great to see a trail connecting the Sunshine Saddle to Boulder, perhaps via the Anne White trail and the Old Kiln trail.
Idea Author	Sam P
Number of Stars	15
Number of Comments	0
Idea Title	MORE trails!
Idea Detail	<p>The North TSA should contain a stacked system of trail loops. There simply aren't enough trails in Boulder County. The overwhelming majority of open space users agree with this point. More trails will reduce user conflict.</p> <p>Trails should maintain the character of the area and incorporate natural features. The trails should be interesting for all users. No gravel paths.</p> <p>Trails should be multi-use, but some should be specifically designed for mountain bikes. Bikers represent the majority of trail users at many open space properties. It's time to meet the needs of this growing user group.</p> <p>Trails should be accessible 24/7. When the days are short it's very difficult to enjoy outdoor recreation when you're worrying about getting a ticket because you got off the trail late.</p>
Idea Author	Greg C
Number of Stars	15
Number of Comments	1
Comment 1	Easy access is good, but being able to close the area when conditions warrant has to be part of the solution. Too many access points (West TSA) makes it too difficult to shut down. By mike B
Idea Title	Maximize recreation while enabling the resources to thrive

Idea Detail	<p>I'm looking forward to the workshops being held this Saturday and Wednesday. I'm also looking forward to getting the resource inventories... the agricultural, cultural, recreation, and natural resource maps will be distributed digitally in KMZ files so anyone with Google Earth or Google Maps will be able toggle on and off the layers of interest. The next question we'll need to tackle is "What are the sensitive resources present, what can be done to maximize the recreation experience while enabling those sensitive resources to thrive.</p> <p>These lands sit in an ecotone, the cusp between the plains and subalpine ecosystems. I understand there are processes and critters that happen here and hardly anyplace else. But i also know these lands have been "disturbed" by humans for a very long time. It is hardly pristine wilderness, so let's not characterize it as such.</p> <p>That being said, I an all for creating access to watch these natural process thrive under our stewardship.</p>
Idea Author	mike B
Number of Stars	14
Number of Comments	1
Comment 1	<p>Agreed. In Larimer County, a resident survey indicated residents want conservation AND recreation to be given equal importance: http://www.larimer.org/ourlands_ourfuture/chapter2-fr.pdf#page=14</p> <p>We can both conserve AND provide great recreation. By Richard H</p>
Idea Title	More trails with improved quality and neighborhood access.
Idea Detail	<p>If you live near a trail you should be able to access it. For example, at the top of Spring Valley road there is an access trail to the Wonderland Lake trail system, but it has a closed sign on it. That access should be open and maintained for that neighborhood.</p> <p>Deferred trail maintenance. For example the Foothills trail just below the intersection with the hogback is washed out and wide.</p> <p>Is enforcement of dog poop removal possible? The wonderland lake trail system is used by many people and there are some scofflaws who leave poop all over the paved and gravel trails.</p>
Idea Author	Cynthia H
Number of Stars	9
Number of Comments	0
Idea Title	Connect the Trails
Idea Detail	Connect hiking trails from Chautauqua all the way to the North TSA to create a continuous north-south footpath along the hills.
Idea Author	Jack G
Number of Stars	8
Number of Comments	1

Comment 1	I think you can already do this by taking Red Rocks to Sanitas, then up through Wonderland Lake and past Hogback, right? By Sam P
Idea Title	Maintain voice-and-sight access in Boulder Valley Ranch area
Idea Detail	Off leash use is compatible with other current recreational and agricultural uses of the area. Boulder Valley Ranch is unbeatable for exercising with your dog off leash, and it would be tragic to lose that privilege in this area.
Idea Author	Kathy T
Number of Stars	8
Number of Comments	0
Idea Title	I'd love to see an asphalt mixed use path in the NTSA
Idea Detail	Rollerskiing is a training activity for XC skiing that is done on Asphalt surfaces. An asphalt mixed use path would be an asset to the Boulder XC ski and cycling communities similar to the Summit County- Vail bike paths and the Leadville Mineral Belt Trail.
Idea Author	Adam S
Number of Stars	7
Number of Comments	0
Idea Title	Retain and expand off-leash V&S trail access
Idea Detail	As a North Boulder resident, I am on the NTSA every day with my two dogs. In fact, I moved to and have stayed in North Boulder because of the trail system and the easy access to Boulder Valley Ranch, Lefthand, and the trails immediately east of "North Broadway." Not only is there good V&S at BVR, these trails tend to be much less overrun by users and so I can relax a little more with my dogs (I tend to keep a very tight rein on them on very busy trails for obvious reasons). I love that they can run and get exercise, as I am not able to run due to bad knees. All of that said, IMPROVED SIGNAGE is desperately needed. I believe strongly that a good number of folks not following the V&S rules either don't have their tags or aren't from Boulder at all. They need to see clear direction at the trailhead instructing them of the rules so they stop giving the rest of us a bad name. There also needs to be an additional waste receptacle near the Eagle/Sage junction to encourage waste pickup.
Idea Author	Elizabeth O
Number of Stars	6
Number of Comments	0
Idea Title	Bring back the bison
Idea Detail	I know this is probably a bit "out there", but there are many places in the US where bison are allowed in open space with people (Yellowstone is probably the most obvious). Bison are a keystone species for the plains ecosystem. Ted Turner offered to donate Bison to the City of Boulder. Why not take him up on the offer? Yes, it would cost money to build better fencing. Yes, we'd need management. But, as acquisition of lands declines (necessarily as we're running out of lands to acquire), we could use the open space tax funding for management. This means maintenance of trails, building better visitor facilities, and maybe some ecosystem restoration in the form of bison. Sure, there is risk when humans interact with wildlife, but most people accepts rattlesnakes, and mountain lions as critical to the system. Why not bison?
Idea Author	Kevin B
Number of Stars	4

Number of Comments	1
Staff Comment	<p>Kevin: Thanks for your question about bison on OSMP lands. The OSMP Grassland Plan leaves the introduction of bison onto open space as a possibility. The offered donation of bison to the City of Boulder in 2011 was declined after an evaluation in 2012 that took into consideration the potential effects of bison upon agricultural operations and ecological systems, aesthetics associated with viewing bison on key entry points to the city as well as the suitability of lands managed by OSMP both north and south of US Highway 36. Based on the high cost, the need to dedicate a large area of OSMP-managed lands to a single purpose, agricultural and ecological effects as well as substantial public/neighbor opposition, staff recommended that the areas north and south of US Highway 36 be removed from further consideration as locations for a bison ranching operation as part of the proposed bison donation. It was deemed possible that there may be properties in the Boulder Valley that could provide benefits similar to the evaluation areas, but face fewer challenges.</p> <p>Based on staff's evaluation the Open Space Board of Trustees (OSBT) recommended to City Council that the OSMP-identified parcels north and south of Highway 36 be removed from further consideration as the location of a bison ranching operation as part of the offer of a donation of bison to the City of Boulder. It also voted to recommend to City Council that OSMP staff not continue to consider other OSMP locations and cost efficiencies; however, if the community at large identifies other opportunities and funding sources, OSMP would certainly</p>
Idea Title	trail connection from Wonderland Lake to Heil Ranch
Idea Detail	This is a great opportunity to realize a north-south regional trail connection along trails (no along hwy 36) that links wonderland lake/north Boulder with Heil Ranch. Please also consider developing looped trails in the North TSA and ensure trails are multi-use and open to all user groups.
Idea Author	Mimi M
Number of Stars	3
Number of Comments	0
Idea Title	Assessment
Idea Detail	Private property seems to be identified as "other OSMP property." Also not sure what "Other protected land" is referencing.
Idea Author	Carl M
Number of Stars	3
Number of Comments	1
Staff Comment	<p>Carl:</p> <p>Thanks for sharing your thoughts about the North TSA map. The map has been revised to clarify that what was previously described as "other OSMP property" includes OSMP easements or jointly owned, county-managed land and "other protected land" refers to other government land. By Juliet B</p>
Idea Title	Variety

Idea Detail	<p>There is a lot of variety in the NTSA from the water at the Rez and Coot to the Open Boulder Valley Ranch. Parts are very lightly used such as BVR allowing walkers to get right away. Also the shorter loop trails are pleasant to allow a walk to tailored according to conditions, bad weather, walking with kids etc. There is a huge area in the the North Section which is primarily agricultural which could be made a destination for walkers to walk to farms and refreshments if the landowners were interested,. Thiis is VERY common in parts of Europe,</p> <p>I'd like to see trails routed along the edge of pastures rather than thru them to keep larger areas of habitat intact while providing access to visitors.</p> <p>I'd like to see more V&S access in the area as I only actually only walk and explore new areas with my dog, particularly Hog Back Ridge which I believe has some Paleoindian structures which should receive greater attention and the Joder ranch which has great possibilities..</p>
Idea Author	tony G
Number of Stars	0
Number of Comments	0
Idea Title	Improve sight lines at Wonderland Hill entrance
Idea Detail	<p>Bicyclists and runners traveling south on the path approach Wonderland Hill Ave with increasing momentum from the hill above the water reservoir. The path is often used in the morning by bicycle commuters (young and old), on their way to school and work. The STOP sign is not much of a deterrent for users who dump out onto Wonderland Hill (sometimes out of control) and into on-coming traffic. There are three trees on City property (southwest of path) which block the path users view of on-coming traffic (including people walking dogs on the sidewalk). I would recommend removal of the trees (perhaps replaced by lower barrier shrubs). In addition the entry should be widened to help users maneuver from and onto Wonderland Hill Ave.</p>
Idea Author	Jenna M
Number of Stars	0
Number of Comments	0
Idea Title	Pella Crossing consideration
Idea Detail	<p>Lets not forget about the remaking of Pella Crossing which was devastated by the flood. While a lot of focus is on bike routes which this area was not, it was a much loved area.</p>
Idea Author	Randy W
Number of Stars	0
Number of Comments	2

Staff Comment	<p>Randy: Thanks for signing up and contributing. We are aware of the significant damage to Pella Crossing from the flood. This is a parcel owned by Boulder County and managed as part of their Parks and Open Space system. It falls outside the city's open space system and therefore is not part of the North TSA. Don't worry, it's easy to confuse open space agencies in Boulder--it happens all the time!</p> <p>If you'd like a better idea of the boundaries of the North TSA, you can view or download a copy of the North TSA map at www.NorthTSA.org. Look for the link on the right side of the page under the heading "North TSA Plan Information".</p> <p>If you have specific comments you would like to share with the managers of Pella Crossing, you can contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space staff at POSinfo@bouldercounty.org or 303-678-6200. By Mark G</p>
Idea Title	Coot Lake and Boulder Reservoir
Idea Detail	I will be unable to attend your workshops, but wanted to mention a concern that I have that may or may not be pertinent to this study. Specifically, I am concerned about the severe erosion that is occurring along the north shore of both Coot Lake and Boulder Reservoir. At Coot, the erosion appears to be primarily due to dogs (including my own) climbing in and out of the lake; at the reservoir the erosion seems to be due to recent high water. Regardless, in both cases the shore and accompanying bluffs are, in some cases, eroded back to and even cutting into the nearby paths. I know that some remedial work has been done at Coot - concrete slabs have been placed along the shore. However this is an ugly (and temporary) solution to a problem that will require more design, planning, work, and, of course, money. In any event, the erosion has been particularly significant since this 2013 flood . . . and it continues to get worse (and, in the case of Coot Lake, uglier).
Idea Author	David B
Number of Stars	0
Number of Comments	0
Idea Title	Longer trails that connect Boulder to Lyons and other trails
Idea Detail	There are so many mountain bikers who would love to ride from Boulder to Lyons or to Heil ranch but there are a lot of missing segments that force you on to the road. There is a huge lack of trails for all abilities and access to mountain bikers is severely constrained. The more trails we have the less crowded they will be.
Idea Author	Peter J
Number of Stars	0
Number of Comments	0
Idea Title	Off-street Transportation
Idea Detail	I think it's a fabulous amenity to be able to move about the various parks and neighborhoods in our City without having to be on-street. Please consider neighborhood links to the trail system as well as making future connections to larger regional parks such as Heil Ranch.
Idea Author	Jason H
Number of Stars	0
Number of Comments	0
EMAIL FEEDBACK RECEIVED 1/1/2015 - 5/27/2015	

Email Date	5/23/2015
Email Detail	<p>I have lived in Boulder for 6 years, and use Open Space trails almost every day. I own a home in Dakota Ridge (off Lee Hill Road), and have my business office in a commercial area nearby on North Broadway.</p> <p>I have a 2-year old dog who has his Voice Control tag. I really like the way the Open Spaces are managed, and am very happy with the VC tag program. I am a responsible dog owner, and an outdoor enthusiast.</p> <p>I am writing to request that you please consider opening up some more trails for people to hike with their well-behaved, VC tagged dogs off leash. In particular, it would be great if the area nearby the Dakota Ridge neighborhood (or perhaps nearby the Foothills Park) had a dog-friendly trail which went up into the foothills.</p> <p>Thank you considering my request, as you are creating policy to manage the Boulder Open Space.</p>
Email Author	Joe McGuire
Staff Response	<p>Hi Joe,</p> <p>Thank you for your feedback on the city's Voice and Sight Tag Program. We're glad that you and your dog enjoy the Open Space and Mountain Park (OSMP) trail system.</p> <p>The department is currently engaging the Boulder community in developing a plan for the north and west part of the OSMP system to assess and recommend changes to the trails and activities occurring on the trails. The process to develop the North Trail Study Area (TSA) Plan will consider ideas for new voice and sight dog walking opportunities and your suggestion for additional off-leash trails in the Dakota Ridge area will be considered with how it intersects with other community interests. The next step in developing the plan, which begins next month, is to gather community ideas on outcomes the plan might accomplish.</p> <p>If you would like to become involved and receive the latest information about the North TSA Plan, please sign up for email updates at: https://bouldercolorado.gov/osmp/north-tsa-email-list</p> <p>You may also provide additional input through Inspire Boulder, the city's 24-hour digital town hall and get more information about the planning process at NorthTSA.org</p> <p>Thank you, Juliet Bonnell</p>
Email Date	5/16/2015
Email Detail	<p>General Comments: Great work on magnificent trails. Like: Beauty, variety, community involvement. Improvements: Anything that decreases the muddiness of some trails would be helpful. This would not only make for more pleasant experiences, but also protect the trails from people widening to avoid mud.</p>
Email Author	Mark Vick

Email Date	5/14/2015
Email Detail	<p>Steve Armstead & Mark Gershman Open Space and Mountain Parks City of Boulder 66 S. Cherryvale Road Boulder, CO 80303</p> <p>Dear Steve and Mark:</p> <p>By now you have received the “NTSA Conceptual Trail Map” proposed by the coalition of seven recreation groups facilitated by Open Boulder Foundation. This map is the product of the coalition’s collective wisdom of what a built-out trail system for the NTSA might look like. We would appreciate OSMP’s analysis of the sustainability and feasibility of the proposed trails and conceptual corridors.</p> <p>This letter is intended as an accompaniment to that map, as it details some non-trail management changes we would like to see in the NTSA, as well as higher-level recommendations related to new trails. We request that they be given the same level of consideration as the proposed conceptual trail corridors.</p> <p>Overall, we are advocating for a balanced outcome that accounts for both the need to preserve our open space in good ecological shape and the desire of the Boulder community to enjoy it, as the open space charter envisions. We will advocate for management decisions that are based on objective analysis of recent scientific data when available, rather than anecdotes.</p> <p>The following are our specific recommendations unrelated to the siting of new trails:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OSMP should add a Recreational Planner to its staff to complement the Environmental Planning section. - The Boulder Valley Ranch (a.k.a. Hidden Valley Ranch) complex was originally supposed to be managed in part for public equestrian use but, in practice, has not been for many years. The current lease arrangement should be re-examined to reinstate public equestrian use at the ranch, including a riding lesson program

possibly through Boulder Parks and Recreation, a livery operation, and access to the existing outdoor arena. There should be horse trailer parking at the ranch complex. Similarly, Joder Ranch has a long history as a horse ranch, and should be managed (in part) to maintain that traditional use.

- OSMP properties west of Highway 36, which are within yards in many cases of a major highway and population center, should be re-designated as either Natural or Passive Recreation Areas, unless documented ecological values require greater restrictions in specific areas. This includes Joder Ranch, Hogback, West Beech, and Buckingham. These properties more closely match the criteria for Natural and Passive Recreation Areas, as defined in the Visitor Master Plan.

- The NTSA contains several sub-optimal trailhead arrangements, including Joder Ranch, Sage, Boulder Valley Ranch, and Foothills Trailheads. Joder Ranch trailhead should accommodate three horse trailers (given the historic use of the property) and Foothills and Sage Trailheads should be significantly expanded to include both additional passenger vehicles and horse trailers. All OSMP trailheads should incorporate contemporary design features, such as angled parking, landscaping, kiosks, and restrooms. Where possible, expanded weekend parking should be incorporated.

- There are many opportunities for non-problematic Voice & Sight destinations in the study area, including Joder, West Beech, Left Hand Trail, Old Kiln Trail, and others. This is the area where the City's vision on V&S can reach its fruition, where dispersion of off-leash use can occur.

- Hogback Loop trail should allow dogs (on leash).

- Off-trail equestrian use of Boulder Valley Ranch and Joder Ranch are documented historic uses and should be continued.

- Night use of appropriate trails should be part of area management.

For new trails, we recommend the following:

- Whenever possible trails should be constructed away from roads and other developed infrastructure.

- Trail planning should be done on a map that shows all existing trails as well as other public lands, so that decisions can be made based on full opportunities.

- Trails should emphasize stacked loops and connections to minimize user conflict, be primarily multi-use, and should include some family-friendly shorter loops with interpretive signage.

- Trailheads should quickly disperse users over multiple routes.

- Trail design should not be "one-size-fits-all," but should be chosen after consulting with the community on sustainable design reflecting different potential uses.

- Agricultural lands and conservation easements can be compatible with trail use and should be considered for that purpose.

- If fee lands are unavailable, trail easements should be sought and used as a cost-effective means of accomplishing trail connection objectives.

- Crossings of roads and highways should be constructed to maximize safety for trail users, including synchronizing expansion of existing box culverts if the overlying road is being reconstructed, and some form of trail-activated traffic signal for other crossings such as at Left Hand Canyon Drive for the connection from Buckingham to Heil Valley Ranch.

Again, we thank you for your and your fellow staff members' consideration, and we look forward to working with you on these requests.

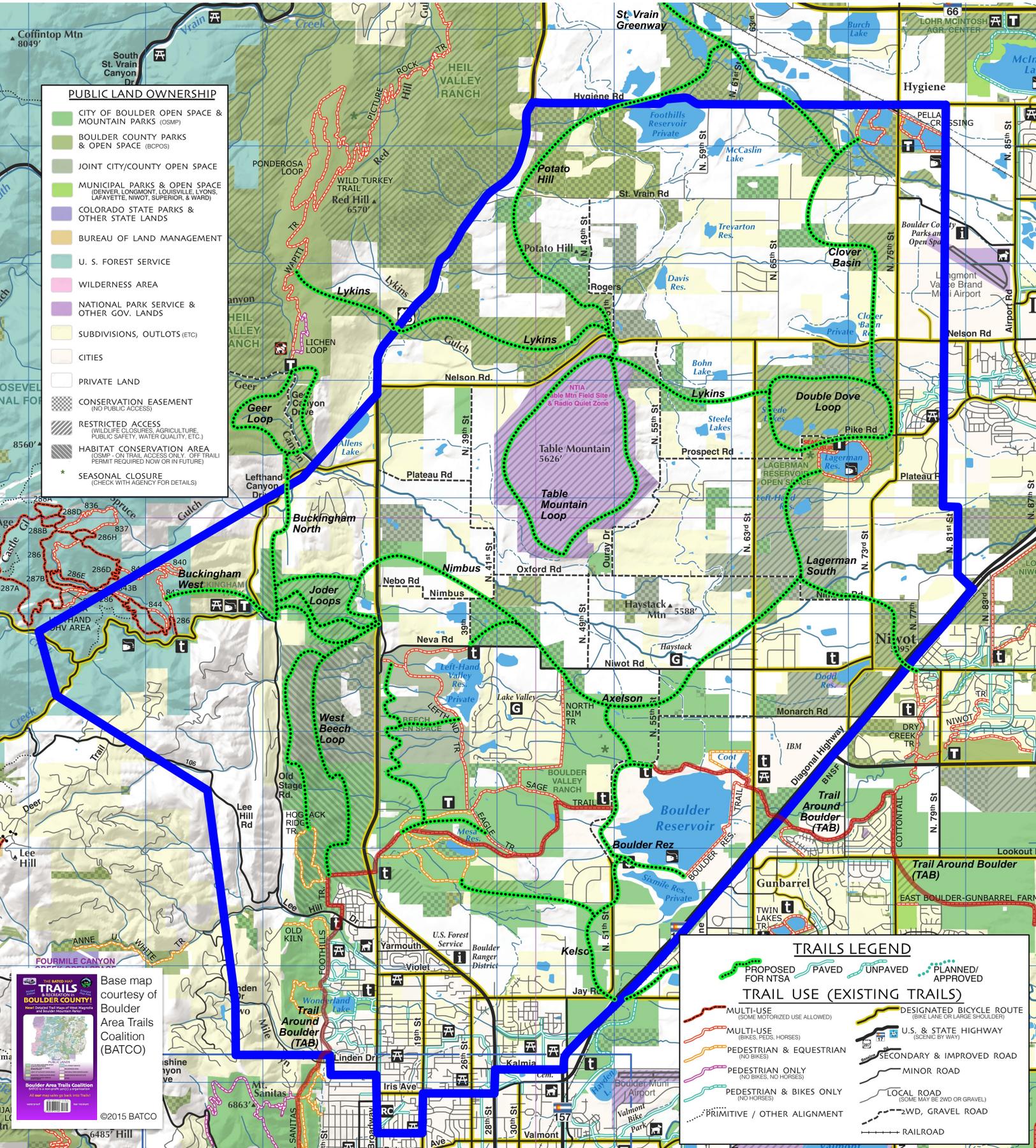
Sincerely,

Email Author

Open Boulder, BATCO, BCHA, FIDOS, Access Fund, BMA, Boulder Trail Runners

North TSA Conceptual Trail Alignments

v5 May 9, 2015



PUBLIC LAND OWNERSHIP

- CITY OF BOULDER OPEN SPACE & MOUNTAIN PARKS (OSMP)
- BOULDER COUNTY PARKS & OPEN SPACE (BCPOS)
- JOINT CITY/COUNTY OPEN SPACE
- MUNICIPAL PARKS & OPEN SPACE (DENVER, LONGMONT, LOUISVILLE, LYONS, LAFAYETTE, NIWOT, SUPERIOR, & WARD)
- COLORADO STATE PARKS & OTHER STATE LANDS
- BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
- U. S. FOREST SERVICE
- WILDERNESS AREA
- NATIONAL PARK SERVICE & OTHER GOV. LANDS
- SUBDIVISIONS, OUTLOTS (ETC)
- CITIES
- PRIVATE LAND
- CONSERVATION EASEMENT (NO PUBLIC ACCESS)
- RESTRICTED ACCESS (WILDLIFE CLOSURES, AGRICULTURE, PUBLIC SAFETY, WATER QUALITY, ETC.)
- HABITAT CONSERVATION AREA (OSMP - ON TRAIL ACCESS ONLY, OFF TRAIL PERMIT REQUIRED NOW OR IN FUTURE)
- SEASONAL CLOSURE (CHECK WITH AGENCY FOR DETAILS)

TRAILS LEGEND

— PROPOSED FOR NTSA — PAVED - - - UNPAVED - - - PLANNED / APPROVED

TRAIL USE (EXISTING TRAILS)

- MULTI-USE (SOME MOTORIZED USE ALLOWED)
- MULTI-USE (BIKES, PEDS, HORSES)
- PEDESTRIAN & EQUESTRIAN (NO BIKES)
- PEDESTRIAN ONLY (NO BIKES, NO HORSES)
- PEDESTRIAN & BIKES ONLY (NO HORSES)
- - - PRIMITIVE / OTHER ALIGNMENT
- DESIGNATED BICYCLE ROUTE (BIKE LANE OR LARGE SHOULDER)
- U.S. & STATE HIGHWAY (SCENIC BY WAY)
- SECONDARY & IMPROVED ROAD
- MINOR ROAD
- LOCAL ROAD (SOME MAY BE 2WD OR GRAVEL)
- - - 2WD, GRAVEL ROAD
- RAILROAD

Base map courtesy of Boulder Area Trails Coalition (BATCO)

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Staff Response	<p>Hi Andy,</p> <p>Thanks for sharing the conceptual map and accompanying letter of recommendations from Open Boulder. I certainly understand the challenge of developing a shared vision that represents a lot of different interests and appreciate the commitment and hard work that Open Boulder is undertaking to coalesce ideas.</p> <p>The Conceptual Map and recommendations will be very helpful as we move into the next phase of the North TSA plan and community participation as we discuss Interests and Issues for the plan. Information for this step that will be particularly helpful will be understanding more about “why” these conceptual trails or management actions are meaningful and beneficial. This will help staff and other community members understand more about how we can achieve the desired outcomes included in the conceptual map and recommendations.</p> <p>Thanks for sharing this information. I look forward to discussing these ideas when we engage next month to discuss interests and issues.</p> <p>Steve</p>
Email Date	5/14/2015
Email Detail	<p>I was out at the Boulder Valley Ranch this morning and it's getting worse after every rain... and people just keep cutting into the grass. The road well... someone needs to go out there because there is a section where cars/trucks have carved into the adjacent grasses. Also the gate is broken again on the NW area. Is there someone to call - because if you are part of a study project I imagine it will take a long time till actual work happens!</p>
Email Author	Elvera Sciarra
Staff Response	<p>Thanks again for sharing your observations about trail conditions at Boulder Valley Ranch. I have shared this information with our trail staff for them to investigate and address.</p> <p>Moving forward, the best way to report conditions like this so that trail staff will be aware is to call our main main office at 303-441-3440 and trail staff will be sent out to investigate it.</p> <p>Thanks! Juliet Bonnell North Trail Study Area Associate Planner City of Boulder Open Space & Mountain Parks</p>
Email Date	5/13/2015

Email Detail	<p>general_comments: I'm glad your organization is working to better plan and maintain this area of the open space system like: The vast area and varied terrain. My family uses portions of the area for both hiking and biking.</p> <p>improvements: I think we need better, family-friendly bike paths from North Boulder (i.e. Wonderland Lake area) north out of the City on the west side of US36. The current trail system - while appreciated by technical mountain bikers - is dangerous and not family friendly.</p> <p>We also need a bike path system that better allows riders on the east side of US36 (say, returning to Boulder from Boulder Valley Ranch) to avoid the dangerous intersection at Broadway and US36 and to avoid riding on the shoulder of the busy Jay Road.</p>
Email Author	John Bevilacqua
Email Date	5/9/2015
Email Detail	<p>general_comments: I would love to see some new quality mountain biking trails - 50 miles in total - added to alleviate some of the pressure on other rides. I feel like there are great ways to manage user conflicts and create win-win solutions if we can get past opposition to bikes. Please do not let ecological concerns trump biking when the real argument is about user conflicts. I am 100% in favor of managing us to minimize damage to sensitive resources but too often that argument is used to eliminate biking in the name of nature.</p> <p>like: I like the vastness of the open space and how it is a buffer to the northern edge of Boulder.</p> <p>improvements: Access into the foothills for mountain bikes. Flat mountain bikes rides is really more cross bike riding - not mountain bike riding. The potential in NTSA is huge for mountain bikes.</p>
Email Author	Michael Higuera
Email Date	5/4/2015
Email Detail	<p>general_comments: I would like to recommend Tim Hogan, Collections Manager, Botany/Herbarium for the Henderson Museum of Natural History for THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE of experts.</p> <p>"Tim Hogan has served as collection manager of the Herbarium since 1991. Along with his responsibilities in the herbarium, he has pursued floristic studies throughout Colorado. Areas collected and reported on include the Sangre de Cristo Mounts, the Needle Mts. in the San Juans, the Eagles Nest Wilderness in central Colorado, Boulder Mt. Parks and Open Space, and Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. He also serves on various boards and advisory groups interested in conservation biology and ecological restoration."</p>
Email Author	Catharine Harris
Email Date	5/2/2015
Email Detail	general comments: What's happening with the Anne White trail? Is there a plan to reopen it?
Email Author	Donna Casey

Staff Response	<p>5/4/2015 Hi Donna, The Anne White Trail is outside the City of Boulder's Open Space system and is instead managed by Boulder County Parks and Open Space. Information about the county's plans for the Anne White trail as well as county contact information, should you have additional questions about this trail, can be found on their website at: http://www.bouldercounty.org/os/parks/pages/anneuwhite.aspx</p> <p>Thanks for your interest, Juliet Bonnell, North TSA Associate Planner</p>
Email Date	5/1/2015
Email Detail	<p>How can riders have more impact on trail development style and amount of trail in the proposed study? I commented on the site today and will try to make one of the meetings but work tomorrow. I'd love to talk with some of you about this and become more involved in the future as my wife and I are local ER docs, runners, cyclists etc.</p> <p>Thanks Erik</p>
Email Author	Erik Allison
Staff Response	<p>5/1/2015 Hi Erik,</p> <p>Thanks for your interest in participating in the North Trail Study Area planning process and for joining Inspire Boulder and contributing your comments on this 24-hour digital town hall.</p> <p>If you are not already signed up for our email updates, this is the best way to stay informed about upcoming workshops and other opportunities to provide feedback and can be done here: https://bouldercolorado.gov/osmp/north-tsa-email-list</p> <p>It sounds like you won't be able to make it to the workshop we're having tomorrow, May 2, at the East Boulder Community Center, 5660 Sioux Drive, from 9 to 11:30 a.m., but there will be another workshop in which we will cover the same topics on Wed, May 6, at the Municipal Services Center (City Yards), 5050 Pearl Street from 6 to 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>During these workshops, participants will be asked to describe their experiences of what is functioning well in the planning area and what needs improvement. There will be many more opportunities to provide feedback at additional workshops and new questions and materials will continue to be posted on Inspire Boulder and on the North TSA website at NorthTSA.org</p> <p>Thanks for your interest and we look forward to your feedback throughout this planning process.</p> <p>Juliet Bonnell North Trail Study Area Associate Planner City of Boulder Open Space & Mountain Parks</p>
Email Date	5/1/2015

Email Detail	<p>general_comments: I have a well behaved dog with a blue tag. We like as much off leash areas as possible. Please keep those that exist now and add more. Thanks.</p> <p>like: Lovely trails. Close to home. (All around me.)</p> <p>improvements: More dog off leash areas please.</p>
Email Author	Susan Shank
Email Date	5/1/2015
Email Detail	<p>general_comments: I appreciate that the North TSA process is underway. It's important to continually reassess whether a system of conservation lands are fulfilling their intended purpose. It seems that much of the input to the process will be via community engagement. I am wondering what actual evidence base you are also using -- studies, research, evaluations (including baselines), etc. Since the public are not experts on conservation or recreation planning, it would seem that objectively and rigorously obtained information also is needed. I'll look forward to hearing more about that at the upcoming meetings.</p> <p>like: I use the North TSA every day with my two dogs, in both on- and off-leash areas. I appreciate that there are great off-leash areas to take them that are not enormously crowded (unlike Sanitas, for example). I love the mix of natural habitat, grazing land, hills, and lakes. Wonderful, wonderful area.</p> <p>improvements: I am concerned that dogs and dog owners are increasingly regulated and charged while other users are not at all. I understand that off-leash dogs can impact user experiences and biodiversity, but so can horses, mountain bikes, strollers, etc. In fact, the vast majority of the trail erosion and damage that I see is not from dogs, yet I see little effort to regulate or educate non-dog-related users. I am also concerned that people from outside of our tax base are not being educated nor charged appropriately. Many of the negative dog encounters, for example, occur on weekends and with people who are clearly not from Boulder. In sum, I'd advocate for OSMP to stop placing an overly biased emphasis on dogs and start focusing on some of the other pressing problems.</p>
Email Author	Elizabeth Oneill
Email Date	5/1/2015
Email Detail	<p>general_comments: Working on this area could provide excellent recreational opportunities. What I would mainly like to see would be access from north Boulder to Joder Ranch west of US36. A connector trail from Joder Ranch to Heil Ranch would be an amazing addition. Completion of the Trail Around Boulder (TAB) could be a great draw for cyclists and runners!</p> <p>like: I am very excited that this discussion has been opened up for public comment.</p> <p>improvements: see general comments</p>
Email Author	Kristin Gablehouse
Email Date	4/30/2015

Email Detail	<p>general_comments: I would like to kindly request the committee to pay much more attention to the needs of the horse community when making these important decisions concerning the North TSA plans for placement and conditions of trails, trailheads and feasible accessibility for horses. The horse owner community is a very large active group that has become increasingly frustrated with being ignored as contributing members to the betterment of all our trail system.</p> <p>like: That you are trying very hard to move forward in your efforts to expand Boulder's trails system. But, please seriously take into consideration the needs of ALL trail users...no matter how big or small or powerful/influential the group is. Be equal and fair.</p> <p>improvements: There should be a few more horse trails, especially now that the Joder Ranch has been acquired. Connect this to Heil/Hall trails?</p> <p>More horse trail parking is greatly needed. Some trailheads that allow horses, either have no parking for trailers, or only 3-4 spots... not enough on weekends.</p> <p>Plus...more patrolling since cars help themselves to these limited spaces.</p> <p>Maintenance! Especially the south Boulder trails. I understand about the flood destruction, but it has been over 1 1/2 YEARS....not much attempted over there?!?</p> <p>Thank you for reading my comments.</p> <p>I plan to attend your meetings.</p>
Email Author	Jill Talbot
Email Date	4/29/2015

Email Detail	<p>I received an email regarding the study being coordinated for north Boulder open areas. Before I spend time participating in another city 'study' I would like to know what is being proposed for re-establishing contiguous access to the Foothills/Wonderland Lake trail. With density increasing in North Boulder, the use of this trail has sky-rocketed. The flood, which occurred 20 months ago has left thousands of citizens without access to major sections of the trail, including the Foothills dog parks.</p> <p>I am attaching a photo of what we have to go through, either on foot, walking or jogging, or on bike, both adults and children, with dogs on leash, and sometimes pushing a stroller or carrying a baby in a pack. The photo does not show a second ditch carved out by the flood waters that is deeper, steeper and dry. Hundreds of people use this section of the trail every day.</p> <p>One of the first things the city provided immediately following the flood was reclamation of the 'party section' of Boulder Creek just below the entrance to the canyon adjacent to Eben G. Fine Park. We were hopeful that meant our open space would be on the schedule for reclamation as well. It has been over a year since the downtown flood work was completed, over a year and a half since the flood, and we are still contending with the ramifications of flood damage.</p> <p>The situation is completely unsafe. The boards placed across the waterway roll under foot and are now submerged. This is an accident waiting to happen.</p> <p>Why are funds being spent for a 'study' on what we would like in the way of more trails and more open space when the trails we currently have are not maintained, are inaccessible and dangerous?</p>
Email Author	Karie Koplak
Email Date	5/1/2015
Email Detail	I am hoping to hear from you regarding repairs we can look forward to along the Wonderland/Foothills trail.
Email Author	Karie Koplak

Staff Response	<p>Hi Karie,</p> <p>Thanks for checking back in and I apologize for the lag in response time. I have reached out to our trail staff who are more knowledgeable about trail conditions, planned repairs and timeframe to provide a response. As soon as I hear from them I will pass this information along to you (I'm hoping I'll know more by this afternoon).</p> <p>Thanks for your patience,</p> <p>Juliet Bonnell North Trail Study Area Associate Planner City of Boulder Open Space & Mountain Parks</p>
Email Date	5/5/2015
Email Detail	<p>Thank you, Juliet. I look forward to hearing from you.</p> <p>Rain, rain and more rain! We really do need a safe crossing!</p>
Email Author	Karie Koplak

Staff Response	<p>5/7/2015 Dear Ms. Koplak,</p> <p>Thank you for your message of 4/29/2015. We appreciate and value your input. Community feedback on trail conditions helps Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) to respond to visitor needs across the city's 145-mile trail system. After receiving your email, OSMP staff went to the Four Mile Creek area to evaluate a temporary safe passage across the creek now that the stream flow is increasing. But we also wanted to reach out to you again to provide additional information.</p> <p>The September 2013 floods affected much of the OSMP trail system, and staff has been working constantly since the floodwater receded, planning for or actively engaging in flood restoration. Part of this process has been to prioritize flood recovery actions; and we understand recovery is advancing slowly, and this can be frustrating.</p> <p>With regard to your specific concerns about the crossing of Fourmile Creek on the Foothills Trail, OSMP installed a temporary crossing to allow passage over the creek immediately after the flood. With recent rains and spring runoff, staff recognizes that this is not the optimal solution. You posed the following questions and comments in your message, and we wanted to respond to them as best we can.</p> <p>"The situation is completely unsafe. The boards placed across the waterway roll under foot and are now submerged. This is an accident waiting to happen."</p> <p>Flood damage resulted in the destruction of trails and bridges, and changes to the landscape have affected people's feelings of safety throughout OSMP lands. Initially, areas were closed until staff had the opportunity to evaluate the extent of damages and identify threats to public safety. Many of these issues have been addressed, but the level of impact has been staggering, and some areas are still awaiting repairs.</p> <p>As you know, the Four Mile Creek area has dramatically changed as a result of the flood; and there are no simple solutions. The city has done a great deal of work in the creek area to try and prevent similar damage in the future.</p>
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At this time, OSMP staff is exploring a short-term solution to allow for safe crossing of the creek. Activities in the floodplain and those affecting water bodies require permits from local and federal agencies. Because of OSMP's commitment to maximize federal reimbursement, extensive coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is also necessary. All these processes take time.

Like I mentioned earlier, OSMP's engineering manager visited the crossing this week. Because of the sensitive natural resources in the area, the department's ecologists and its recreation staff, along with our engineering manager, will collaborate to design and implement a long-term solution for this area. During that process, we will be working to implement a safer, temporary creek crossing.

"Why are funds being spent for a 'study' on what we would like in the way of more trails and more open space when the trails we currently have are not maintained, are inaccessible and dangerous?"

OSMP staff works to both take care of facilities on the ground, and to plan for community needs by working on opportunities to improve visitor access and resource conservation, and make plans for newly acquired properties. Taking care of what we have and planning for the future are both important components of the community services that OSMP provides. The North Trail Study Area (TSA) Plan was delayed for over a year in recognition of the need to attend to the damage from the flood of 2013.

However, community interest in examining and potentially expanding access and trails in the northern portion of the OSMP system is strong. In 2014, the Open Space Board of Trustees recommended and City Council endorsed the development of a draft North TSA Plan by the end of 2015.

I know this is a lot of information, but we wanted to provide you with a full look at how we are working to maintain our community's trails while ensuring their continuing sustainability for future generations. Please feel free to call me at if you have any additional questions. Thank you for sharing your input about our community's trails.

Sincerely,

Phillip Yates

Communications Specialist

Open Space and Mountain Parks

City of Boulder, Colorado

Email: yatesp@bouldercolorado.gov

Office: (720) 564-2051

Cell: (303) 349-2438

Email Date

4/28/2015

Email Detail

general_comments: Leave the area as is with no new development for trails or recreation. The beauty and value of this open space would be negatively impacted by building access for more people. More people inevitably means more dogs, trash, increased fire danger, negative impact on wildlife and vegetation, and privacy issues for nearby landowners. It is a quiet and rural place and should stay that way.

Email Author	Terry Drissell
Email Date	4/28/2015
Email Detail	<p>like: I love the peace and quiet and beauty!!</p> <p>improvements: I walk Boulder Valley Ranch at 6 am nearly every morning. Today because of the rain the trail has several areas that the mud is causing visitors to walk around thus creating erosion. The trail erosion is happening at a very quick rate and needs attention soon. Also, that north west gate keeps breaking and then it gets repaired and then breaks again. Needs a better maybe more simpler design. Lastly, over the past weeks there have been 2 out of state vehicles sleeping overnight in the parking lot several nights. I wrote down the license plate numbers if you are interested. Longhorn road needs a re-scraping.</p>
Email Author	Elvera Sciarra
Staff Response	<p>5/1/2015 Hi Elvera,</p> <p>Thank you for your helpful feedback about the trail conditions at Boulder Valley Ranch and the condition of Longhorn Road.</p> <p>In regard to your concern about out-of-state vehicles in the parking lot overnight, the best way to report incidents like this is to call our non-emergency line at 303-441-3333 or our main office at 303-441-3440 and a ranger will be sent out to investigate it.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Juliet Bonnell North Trail Study Area Associate Planner City of Boulder Open Space & Mountain Parks</p>
Email Date	4/26/2015
Email Detail	<p>general_comments: Looks like an excellent plan coming together, with a generous timeline.</p> <p>like: We enjoy OSMP trail hikes with our dog. She has a 2015 "blue tag" and enjoys being off-leash. We would like to put in a word for the well-behaved dogs in our community and we would like to see the off-leash opportunities remain as they are now, without being subjected to future restrictions.</p> <p>improvements: Not much need for improvement in my opinion. I'm impressed with the parking lots, toilet facilities, signage, and condition of the trails. We've lived here in Boulder for over 3 decades but we appreciate every day out there on the trail! Thank you.</p>
Email Author	Mike Benson
Email Date	4/23/2015

Email Detail	Hi, would you please expand the Eagle Trail parking lot on 55th to make room for horse trailers? it's a mess up there with all the cars. There is so much space to do something. I have been riding there for 20 years and its getting ridiculous.
Email Author	Frances
Email Date	4/24/2015
Email Detail	Drew Peterson retweeted Boulder OSMP Another #discgolf course would be awesome!
Email Author	Drew Peterson
Email Date	4/23/2015
Email Detail	general_comments: Conditions need to be improved especially in areas in and around Boulder Valley Ranch. like: Boulder Valley Ranch and surrounding area is beautiful; nice buffer zones from surrounding development. improvements: Better biking opportunities and contiguous trails. Contiguous, well maintained singletrack (mountain bike, cyclocross) from Wonderland Lake thru Boulder Valley Ranch and thru or around Boulder Res to 63rd and/or Niwot Road.
Email Author	Jason Ramus
Email Date	4/23/2015
Email Detail	general_comments: One of the things I would like to do is educate staff, Board and the public on equestrians. My experience is that equestrians are seen singularly as one type. The reality is that equestrians vary as much or more so than those on bikes or on foot. Not only do the riders vary in experience, way of using the trails and knowledge but you also have the added "complication" of the horse's varied knowledge, experience and temperament. This is important in developing mixed use trails which are safe and enjoyable for all. A question I would ask equestrians is not what do you want but rather "What discourages you from using a trail?" like: I have lived in the NSTA for 31 years and have used the trails extensively over the years. The recreation availability mixed with the natural environment is wonderful. improvements: As far as equestrian use trail surface conditions could be improved. Get rid of all the chunky stumbly rocks. As I a hiker I avoid those trails also. Water tanks or streams made more safely accessible for horse's to drink could be improved.
Email Author	Randy Winter
Email Date	4/16/2015
Email Detail	general_comments: The governmental body that controls the feeder canal to the Boulder Res. needs to stop fighting with other other governmental body that wants to allow people to use the trail and stop costing the taxpayer's money. Also, the desire to cover the entire canal with a concrete roof is just stupid and a waste of money. I believe that proposal is done only to drive up the cost so high that the public will balk at the cost. Put in some escape routes in front of the drop offs and get on with it. Also, cows graze all along the canal, so stop blaming dogs for water quality.
Email Author	Michael Kearney
Email Date	4/16/2015

Email Detail	<p>general_comments: We are interested in any habitat restoration projects. Our company is Natural Resource Services, Inc. and we specialize in remote restoration projects.</p> <p>like: We like any habitat restoration projects. Good work.</p>
Email Author	Steve C. Johnson
Email Date	4/16/2015
Email Detail	<p>Dave Sutherland suggest i participate in this study and he said there was a way to sign up on the OSMP web site. I saw a way to sign up for email updates but nothing else. Are email updates the extent of public participation or are there other venues available?</p> <p>I live in S Boulder area now but am moving to N Boulder (right by Foothills TH) in July.</p>
Email Author	Marcia Weaks
Staff Response	<p>5/1/2015</p> <p>Hi Marcia,</p> <p>Thanks for your interest in participating in the North Trail Study Area planning process. The best way to become involved and receive information about the process and opportunities to provide feedback is to sign up for our email updates at: https://bouldercolorado.gov/osmp/north-tsa-email-list</p> <p>I also wanted to let you know that we are holding the first of many community workshops at the following times and locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 to 11:30 a.m., Saturday, May 2, at the East Boulder Community Center, 5660 Sioux Drive. • 6 to 8:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 6, at the Municipal Services Center (City Yards), 5050 Pearl St. <p>During these workshops, participants will be asked to describe their experiences of what is functioning well in the planning area and what needs improvement. The community may also provide input through Inspire Boulder, the city's 24-hour digital town hall.</p> <p>For more information, please visit NorthTSA.org</p> <p>Thanks for your interest and we look forward to hearing your thoughts.</p> <p>Juliet Bonnell North Trail Study Area Associate Planner City of Boulder Open Space & Mountain Parks</p>
Email Date	3/18/2015

Email Detail	<p>I wanted to let you know that the FCC will not be advocating for designated climbing access in the North TSA. I recently visited some crags in the area, which I thought might have potential, but it turns out they are low-angle walls with poor quality rock. I also reached out to the FCC and various climbers in the community and we don't know of any worthwhile climbs in the area.</p> <p>I wanted to point out that Olde Stage Wall (just north of Buckingham Park on the east side of the road) does have some exceptional climbing potential, but it is all on private property. If the City ever wanted to expand its property to the north by acquiring this relatively small parcel, the FCC would welcome to the opportunity to partner and create sustainable trails and staging areas, update the fixed hardware and anything else to make it a quality climbing area. I also told Tom Isaacson with the OSBT that the FCC will not advocate for access in the North TSA process, but if there is anyone else who I should inform, please let me know. Feel free to let me know if you have any questions.</p>
Email Author	Ted Lanzano
Staff Response	<p>Ted:</p> <p>Thanks so much for providing OSMP with information about FCC's position regarding climbing access on OSMP. I really appreciate your reaching out so early in the process to OSMP staff and the board chair. Because FCC's long-term and on-going collaboration with the city—and some stated future vision, I would encourage you, and your membership to sign up for the North TSA mailing list. It will be an easy way to keep up to date with information availability, the project schedule, and special opportunities for public input. The page also has a link to a comment form (no need to re-enter what you have already sent) in case you or other members would like to share thoughts any time day or night.</p> <p>The North TSA webpage is simple to find/remember www.NorthTSA.org links are on the right side of the page.</p> <p>Steve Armstead (armsteads@bouldercolorado.gov) is the project manager for the North TSA. He happens to be out of the office this week, and would be the go-to person for questions that FCC may have about the project. Feel free to drop him a line, if there are questions, comments that aren't readily answered by the web page.</p> <p>Again Ted, thanks for the early feedback.</p> <p>Mark</p>
Email Date	3/11/2015
Email Detail	general_comments: I sure like to see a connector from Buckingham Park to the Beech property. Thanks.
Email Author	Michael Kearney
Email Date	3/10/2015

Email Detail	<p>general_comments: I am 67 years old and my husband is 77 years old. We very much enjoy walking on the trails on the west side of Broadway, both North and South of town. I also like to bicycle on paved bike trails. But I think it is very important to separate out mountain bikers from hikers. No matter how "polite" the mountain bikers are (and many are) the experience of walking on a trail is very changed and much less pleasant if one is in constant fear of being approached by a rapidly moving mountain bike either from the rear or the front. This is a particularly difficult problem for hikers who need more time to get off the trail. Although the hiker has the "right of way", the biker has to get around or past you. So in making this plan for the North area, I hope that you will keep some trails for hikers only. (We have never had difficulty sharing trails with horses.) If it is necessary to have "biking" days and "hiking" days we are OK with that as long as the rules are enforced.</p> <p>Thank you for taking these comments into account.</p>
Email Author	Luize Zubrow
Email Date	1/24/2014
Email Detail	<p>At the Reservoir open house on Wednesday, I met Jennifer Arnold, a Valhalla resident. She asked about the plans for a trail through Papini connecting Boulder Valley Ranch to Eagle trailhead.</p> <p>Can you update Jennifer (copied here) on the timing for the North Boulder Trail Study Area or other efforts you have going?</p> <p>Jennifer, Mark Gershman is the environmental planner for city of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks Department.</p>
Email Author	Alice Guthrie, Recreation Superintendent

Staff Response	<p>Jennifer: Thanks for your interest in the city’s plan for Open Space and Mountain Parks lands in your neighborhood. We are very thankful to have neighbors who help us keep an eye on the open space, and try our best to encourage positive connections between neighbors and the nearby open space lands. I would be happy to discuss your specific questions on the phone, if that would be more useful than an email. I can give you some information to answer the question that Alice posed after she met you at Wednesday’s open house (thanks Alice!):</p> <p>Question: Can you update Jennifer (copied here) on the timing for the North Boulder Trail Study Area or other efforts you have going? Answer: The timeline for the North Trail Study Area plan has not been determined. OSMP staff is involved in a number of projects associated with flood recovery, implementing the West TSA, Grassland Plan, Forest Ecosystem Management Plan, and preparing for the North TSA plan. The OSMP website provides more information about what we are up to. There will be an Open Space Board of Trustees meeting on Wednesday evening at which staff will be providing the Open Space Board of Trustees with an update on the 2014 preliminary workplan. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6pm at Open Space and Mountain Parks Administrative Office, 66 S. Cherryvale Rd. Boulder, CO 80303</p> <p>Context In 2005, City Council approved the Visitor Master Plan (VMP) which described how Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) would manage the visitor experience (fun, safety, aesthetics, diversity of experience, access to destinations, etc.), the visitor infrastructure (trails, trailheads, access points) in a manner sensitive to other OSMP resources (mostly ecological and agricultural). You can read/skim that plan by following this link.</p> <p>The plan established a number of “Trail Study Areas” (TSA) where the city determined there was the greatest need for planning around the core deliverables of the VMP. After completing two of the original 9 TSA plans (Marshall Mesa/Southern Grasslands and Eldorado Mountain/Doudy Draw); the city determined that all OSMP lands should be included in a TSA plan and there should be fewer. The result was direction from City Council to pursue four TSA plans, one for each cardinal direction. A map of the TSA’s can be found here. Staff completed the West TSA plan in Nov. 2011.</p> <p>Each plan contained a list of implementation actions, and while staff was generally able to maintain a schedule of planning and implementation, the amount of work associated with the West TSA plan was so great, that OSMP focused on an accelerated implementation</p>
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of that plan, and delayed the North TSA planning process until the department had made enough headway taking action on the commitments in the West TSA.

OSMP was approaching the point where we had begun preparing for the North TSA (identifying and filling information gaps, structuring and inventory report), when city open space lands were significantly affected by September's floods.

The department made and kept a commitment to quickly restore public access to open space. However there is much more to be done to restore the trails system, repair damaged agricultural infrastructure and protect ecological systems. There is a need to address flood damage now, including the availability of federal (and other) funding, potential cascading impacts of unaddressed problems. Unfortunately one consequence has been that the department is not in a position to set a timeline for completion of the North TSA plan.

I would like to assure you that the department has allocated 2014 funding to continuing data collection to fill information gaps and to complete other aspects of the background work we know will be useful and beneficial for the North TSA.

Please feel free to contact me with questions or comments.

Ref:

<http://www.osmp.org>

<https://bouldercolorado.gov/osmp/visitor-master-plan>

<https://www-static.bouldercolorado.gov/docs/final-mmsg-tsa-plan-1-201304101023.pdf>

<https://www-static.bouldercolorado.gov/docs/final-emdd-tsa-plan-1-201304101019.pdf>

<https://www-static.bouldercolorado.gov/docs/trails-study-areas-map-1-201304101255.pdf>

EMAILS TO OSBT RE: NORTH TSA PUBLIC PROCESS FOR 2/18/2015 OSBT STUDY SESSION

Email Date

2/17/2015

Email Detail	<p>Dear Open Space Board of Trustees, FIDOS would first like to thank you for your involvement in the facilitation of the North TSA plan. We hope that the North TSA process can be collaborative and minimally contentious, particularly in comparison to the West TSA.</p> <p>In the North TSA, FIDOS hopes to see a public process where public input is valued, considered, and fairly incorporated. Concerns have been expressed previously that public input was solicited, ut then either disregarded or very selectively considered. We ask that the reasonable interests of all user groups are treated equitably and without bias toward any specific user group.</p> <p>In the past, OSMP staff has often taken the approach of seeking input as to where there are problems or conflict in Open Space. We ask that the public be invited to share what they like and what works well with North TSA trails. FIDOS asks to be part of any small group sessions that are part of the North TSA process and that we be kept informed of all North TSA proceedings so that we can then forward this information to our membership base.</p> <p>Finally, since the Joder property is a new addition to the North TSA, we feel that it deserves special public input sessions, workshops, and discussion. There has already been a great deal of discussion on the Joder property and its appropriate land designation. Providing special sessions on the Joder property will allow this property the additional attention that it deserves. Also, it would be an opportunity to demonstrate to the public the openness of the process that underlies management considerations for Open Space.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of our requests.</p>
Email Author	The FIDOS Board
Email Date	2/18/2015
Email Detail	<p>Dear OSBT,</p> <p>I had been planning to attend Wednesday's study session but was called out of town on business at the last minute. But let me urge you to come up with a process that values legitimate input from all stakeholder groups but doesn't pit one user group against others, is constructive, and -- most important -- gets the job done by the end of 2015 as has repeatedly been promised.</p> <p>I live in north Boulder, and border the open space just south of Lee Hill Road, and am very much looking forward to this.</p>
Email Author	Joe Glynn, BATCO President
Email Date	2/19/2015

<p>Email Detail</p>	<p>Dear OSBT and Acting OSMP Director,</p> <p>Again, I just want to say how great it is that your meetings are now televised, as it makes it possible for those of us who just can't make it to the meetings in person to be kept abreast on what is happening with Open Space.</p> <p>Regarding last nights meeting, Kevin I just want to say thank you for bringing the concept of User Experience into the discussion around the NTSA process. I'm pretty sure this is the first time that concept has been mentioned in the context of OSMP trail design. I'm also pleased to hear based on Tracy's comment about the staff presentation earlier in the day that trail design standards do in fact exist, because we've been trying to get these from staff for years. Can these please be made available to the public? Based on what I've heard, it seems as though the OSMP trail design standard is completely focused on sustainability as being the key attribute of good trail design. This is where the problem effectively starts because sustainability alone is not enough to make a good trail.</p> <p>As I've shared before, there are four basic tenants to comprehensive trail design: 1) User Safety, 2) User Experience, 3) Resource Impact and 4) Regulation Compliance. As a community we really need to have a conversation around trail design standards. Until we do so, we are going to continue to have potentially dangerous situations, with low user satisfaction, high user conflict and low compliance with regulations.</p> <p>Again, I point to OSMP's most recent newly designed trail Lion's Liar on the Wittermyer property as an example of this problem. While this trail meets a subset of tenant 4 above (sustainability), it fails in the following key ways: 1. User Safety - allows a novice hiker to go up Lions Lair and all of a sudden be presented with a very technical descent down the Sanitas south or east ridge. This is the equivalent of a ski area having a green run (easy) drop the user at a triple black diamond run (most difficult).</p> <p>2. User Experience - users of Sanitas are looking for a technical hiking experience. Lions Liar is anything but that resulting in comments as you heard at your last meeting of it being too easy and boring. Additionally, from a dog user point of view it creates a very poor experience because of the fact that both Sanitas and Sunshine Canyon are open to dogs, but the connection between them is now not.</p> <p>3. Resource Impact - the mountain bike flow design (this is the basic standard OSMP appears to have adopted because of its sustainability qualities) uses a much larger area of land than an equally sustainable trail designed exclusively for foot traffic, thus impacting more wildlife and sensitive land features.</p> <p>4. Regulation Compliance - as noted above, the no dog policy on Lions Lair presents the dog user with two bad decision points at the end of Sunshine Canyon trail and the top of Sanitas to break the rules and continue the logical connection between these two trails.</p> <p>So again, I ask that there be a public conversation around comprehensive trail design standards. Only be doing this will we truly address the user issues associated with our trails.</p>
<p>Email Author</p>	<p>Dan Brillon</p>
<p>Email Date</p>	<p>2/21/2015</p>

Email Detail	<p>Okay, thanks to a very helpful board member I now have the actual OSMP trail design standards. And if you can bear with me for one more email, I want to show you what I believe to be one of the critical changes which if made for the NTSA process would significantly improve the public view of both OSMP and result in better trails for users.</p> <p>I'm assuming as Board members you've all seen this, but if not the trail design standards are here: https://www-static.bouldercolorado.gov/docs/trail-design-standards-1-201308051352.pdf</p> <p>OSMP is using what's referred to as a "ground based" view of trail design - basically design a trail to the highest level of development that the land allows based on a set of characteristics the land manager has decided desirable (usually focused on maintenance and sustainability considerations).</p> <p>This ground based view is the general approach that land managers adopted back in the 70's as they started to become aware that trails actually needed to be maintained. It's also a time when the primary user group of trails were simply "hikers." It was a good approach to trail management for the time, but in today's world of hikers, mountain bikers, runners, horseback riders, etc., the situation is a lot more complicated and thus the approach to trail design needs to evolve as well.</p> <p>There are three critical steps when assessing the development of a trail:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Where should the trail go?2. Who should be allowed to use the trail?3. What should the trail look like based on the intended use? The current TSA process addresses steps 1 and 2, but there is literally no public conversation around step 3. Step 3 - what the trail looks like - is ultimately what most directly affects a user's experience of a trail. While steps 1 and 2 will always be controversial, step 3 is what creates the ongoing user perception of a land area and the land manager's effectiveness. <p>In today's world of multiple user groups sharing the same trail, the best practice land management technique is to use a "user based"</p>
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based" approach to trail

design. This allows the actual design of the trail to factor in the desired attributes of the different user groups. Below is an overly simplified matrix of some attributes which hikers, runners and mountain bikers might have:

Group Level Grade Speed Attribute Length

Hiker Novice Flat Slow Smooth Short

Hiker Intermediate Intermediate Slow Mixed Medium

Hiker Advanced Steep Slow Technical Long

Runner Novice Flat Slow Smooth Medium

Runner Intermediate Intermediate Medium Mixed Long

Runner Advanced Steep Medium Technical Long

Biker Novice Flat Medium Smooth Medium

Biker Intermediate Intermediate Fast Mixed Long

Biker Advanced Intermediate Fast Technical Long

Using the example of the Lions Lair trail on the Wittemyer property, OSMP saw the opportunity based on the land conditions to build what I believe is a Fully Developed Class 5 trail, a primary characteristic of which is a max grade of 8%. But if you were to approach the design of this trail from the attributes of the user groups who are going to use it, you would end up building a trail that would look very different. The primary user of the trail is likely an Intermediate to Advanced Hiker and as such they would be looking for a fairly technical trail with some quite steep sections and of medium to long distance as this user wants a vigorous experience - this is why they are on Sanitas and not the Wonderland Lake trail. So in this case OSMP delivered half of what this user group is looking for (distance) but missed on creating the technical attributes this type of user desires (challenging Sanitas like conditions). And again a trail like this can be built in a manner that is as sustainable as a Class 5 trail - it just requires a different approach to trail building.

The real value of a user based approach to design comes when you have more than one user group sharing a trail. In this instance you identify the "primary" user group and begin with their attributes as the default design position, then look for overlap in the secondary user groups attributes and emphasize those features in the design. Where attributes conflict, you do what we label "designing our conflict". A good example of this is where hikers and mountain bikers share a trail. One of the biggest conflicts between the two groups' attributes is that of speed - hikers are slow while riders are fast.

To design out this conflict you create long lines of sight so mountain bikers have time to slow down before encountering a hiker, and the hiker has plenty of time to see them coming. When line of sight isn't possible, you then use corners or technical terrain to slow the bikes down. There a lot of techniques like this for each set of user groups - this really is the key to managing user group conflict.

Let me give you a slightly absurd analogy to try and emphasis this point. Let's pretend OSMP was tasked with the responsibility of delivering music to Boulder residences. As a result OSMP builds a recording studio, brings in the best artists it can find, and sets up transmission stations to deliver crystal clear signals to every home in Boulder. They now would expect that the community would be very happy to have music, and in that respect they would have accomplished their mission. But what if the artists OSMP was able to attract were mainly classical? How would the music lovers who want rock or country music feel about the experience? This is effectively what is happening with our trails - we are getting trails, but they aren't meeting the requirements of the different user groups and thus we have low user satisfaction, high conflict and low regulation compliance. OSMP's Class 5 trail, which I assume is their most desirable as all the newly developed trails seem to be being built to this standard, is effectively a mountain bike "Flow" trail design and as such is the classical music equivalent in the above analogy - great for mountain bikers (although these trails aren't open to bikes), but not so satisfying for the other users.

When a land agency switches from a ground based to user based approach to trail design, something magical happens - the user feels like it is "their" trail. It has the attributes they desire (even though the user may not explicitly realize what these are) and as a result they feel really good every time they use it. They'll say that was a "good" trail. As the Federal land managers have seen over the last decade or so, when this happens user satisfaction goes way up, user conflict goes down, and compliance becomes much less of an issue. This results in the agencies saving money as they don't have to spend anywhere near as much on Rangers to enforce regulations and deal with conflict, and it also results in much lower maintenance costs as the users themselves are more likely to volunteer to do the upkeep on "their" trail.

So I am more than happy to work you and staff to whatever degree desired if you want to pull in this critical Step 3 of what the trail should look like

to the NTSA process. Just the acknowledgement and documentation of specific user group trail attributes would go a long way towards starting to pull the public into the "ownership" role of "their" trail system vs. the current experience of it being "OSMP's trail system." I've seen time and time again how this simple shift dramatically changes the entire feel of a trail system and the public perception of the land agency.

As such I am willing to do whatever necessary to help OSMP embrace this approach so that this TSA can finally be viewed as a success in terms of the kinds of trail experiences it produces for users on the ground.

Email Author	Dan Brillon
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PUBLIC OUTREACH CONDUCTED AT AMANTE COFFEE, SPRUCE CONFECTIONS AND SWEET COW
MAY 1-12, 2015

Some people preferred to log onto NorthTSA.org to give feedback via Inspire Boulder. People were encouraged to sign up for the email distribution list. Many people felt like they didn't have enough knowledge on the area to provide specific feedback, but reported being very satisfied with their experiences on OSMP in the NTSA.

Total Contacts

167

Amante Coffee (3), Spruce Confections (2), Sweet Cow

Most Commonly Used Trails In Order

All NTSA trails-most people reported using all the trails included in the NTSA.

Most used individual trails:

BVR/Eagle Trail

Wonderland Lake

Hidden Valley

Hogback

Comments:

-The more restroom facilities at any/all trailheads the better. *9

-The more dog friendly trails system wide the better. *3

-More trails everywhere, nothing specific just the more the better system wide. *4

-We are very happy with the new V&S regulations in NTSA. *2

-Very happy about the lack of dog waste and the amount of guardians actually picking up and disposing of dog waste in NTSA. *2

-Please make more dog friendly trails in north Boulder including off leash trails. *4

-Foothills to Hogback trail steps need improvement.

-It would be nice to see a connection between Sanitas and Wonderland Lake.

-More neighborhood access points with better signage near Foothills and Wonderland Lake.

-Boulder Valley Ranch gets muddy and needs more gravel.

-Road to BVR needs improvement. *2

-Connect Hogback and Joder.

-Connect Foothills to Heil. *8

-The old social trail off Hogback should go further and be a permanent trail.

-More trails all over so there will be fewer people on each one.

-More mountain bike trails.

-Lee Hill Road needs a wider area (shoulder) for bikers to ride on safely. (subarea)

-Keep dogs off 6 mile fold (county)

-Steps made with large logs are hard for people to use and cause people to make trails around to avoid them. Please find another way.

-Backside of Wonderland Lake get's beat up with drainage. OSMP is doing a good job keeping up with it. -thank you

-Hidden Valley/Cobalt should be mountain bike accessible at least a couple days a week.

-I love hiking BVR with my dog. *4

-We are very happy with the trails./-We are grateful to OSMP./-Everything is working for us./-We are very happy with the current system./-Thank you for the hard work OSMP does! *dozens of these comments

* multiple comments on the issue

Feedback from Youth Opportunities Advisory Board (YOAB): May 1, 2015

16 participants, plus Allison Bayley (facilitator)

Additional Stakeholder Groups Suggested

- Boulder High School Mountain Bike Team
- Fairview High School Mountain Bike Team (team email list: fhsmountainbiketeam@gmail.com)
- High school cycling league: www.coloradomt.org
- Fairview HS cross and field
- Wildland Restoration Volunteers (lots of passionate youth are involved there)
- Students in general, beyond YOAB, for example student councils
- Parents of young people
- Families in Gunbarrel that live right by the TSA boundary

Communication Tools

- Email is only used for official communication with teachers or YOAB (most kids never use it)
- City of Boulder Communications Office spoke to YOAB about their plans to use [Textizen](#), which YOAB members were open to.
- Print materials
 - In general, these aren't that useful – they look too official
 - But they like maps! Especially when they can find where they live on the map.
 - TSA as acronym is really off-putting – makes them think they're in trouble at the airport
 - Ask questions to draw people in, like "Want to help improve trails in Boulder?"
- Social media:
 - Facebook is probably the best tool, but the likelihood that anyone their age or younger would follow the City of Boulder is next to never
 - They suggested we consider using existing accounts that young people already follow (i.e. go to where your audience is, don't expect them to come to you). They offered to write down suggestions and leave them with Allison.
 - They suggested Facebook ads that are engaging – not too official. Ask questions to draw people in! Don't use the ads on the side bar – use ones on central feeds that grab you.
 - There have been issues on other projects with privacy settings where young people's posts were set to private so the agency couldn't see their comments.

Feedback Specific to the Plan

- Allow more mountain bike racing in this area (high school mountain bike teams have to travel long distances for every event)
- Consider separate trails for mountain biking versus other uses
- Mountain biking in the north TSA isn't technical enough and routes aren't long enough