

EMAIL FEEDBACK RECEIVED 5/13/2016-5/31/2016

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| Email Date | 5/31/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Council Members,</p> <p>This is my very first letter to city council. I wish to STRONGLY oppose the proposed “west side” proposal for a trail north of Boulder to Joder Ranch. The very fact that this is even being considered is a shocking reversal of what Boulder’s unique open space program is all about. To turn this special property into a playground for mountain bikers is unthinkable. Please resist the intense, well-funded pressure from this small but extremely vocal group. If a trail is built through the West Beech Habitat Conservation Area, it can never be removed, and the damage will be forever. I know you have heard all the reasons why this HCA is so valuable, and the damage that the trail will cause. Rather than repeat those reasons, I simply ask you to think about the long term future, and protect this area from selfish short term destruction for this one specific use.</p> <p>One final point...anyone who says that hikers can use a trail built for mountain biking has not tried to hike Betasso Preserve (on bikes-allowed days) or Heil Ranch. Hiking and mountain biking are not compatible. I have tried many times to hike Heil Ranch, but after being (politely) asked to step off the trail to allow a bike to pass over and over again, I simply had to give up. It is just no fun. So make no mistake about it, you are being asked to build a mountain bike recreational trail, NOT a multipurpose trail. All the wonderful comments about hikers enjoying the peaceful quiet of the HCA on this trail are disingenuous. Hiking will not be peaceful, quiet, or even possible.</p> <p>Please support the “east of 36” trail alignment, and protect this special property for future generations.</p> |
| Email Author | David A. Rudman |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/31/0216 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Council members,</p> <p>I would be with you at the June 7 meeting, but have to be out of town. Hence, I'm writing to urge you to preserve the west side of 36 intact, the HCA. The trail connection from north Boulder to the Joder Ranch Trails can be built on the east side of 36. The HCA would remain intact. AND the cost of the East side trail would be less.</p> <p>I bike, I hike, AND I am adamant that we need to preserve our open space heritage.</p> |
| Email Author | Sally Blaser |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/31/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Dear Council Members,</p> <p>I am in support of mountain biking in selected places in our open space system. I am also in support of opening some more area of designated open space to recreational use. However, I think that a very good case has been made why the Joder connector should be on the east side of 36, and that it can be a very good trail on the east satisfying the recreational and transportation objectives without compromising the unique and critical habitat and vegetation issues on the west side. The west side is also a basically uninterrupted entrance to the City, and as such, functions as a natural boundary which we have voted for decades to maintain.</p> <p>I also think that this decision creates precedents which will influence future decisions about use of open space. Pressure is going to increase to open up protected land, and I think you should err on the side of caution here and take the option which will satisfy the most number of interested parties, and that definitely includes the impressive list of environmental and stewardship organizations urging the east side trail. You can create a win-win, rather than make a divisive and unnecessarily impactful decision.</p> |
| Email Author | Randi Stroh |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/31/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear City Council -</p> <p>Please vote in FAVOR of the proposed EAST side connector trail! It is the environmentally sound choice and will preserve wild plants, animals, and the scenery we all so value in Boulder - for years and years to come, unlike the West side proposal which is destructive.</p> <p>And just like it's destructive opposite proposed trail, the EAST trail will also enable mountain bikers, runners and walkers to get to Heil Ranch, the Joder property and other north destinations.</p> <p>Please show that you care about Boulder and future generations.</p> <p>Vote in favor of the EAST side connector trail.</p> |
| Email Author | Barbara Lamm |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/31/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Members of Boulder City Council:</p> <p>It is my understanding that some members of City Council believe that the decision on the proposed trail in the North Trail Study Area is political.</p> <p>While the processing of this issue is political, the decision is moral; it is ethical.</p> <p>We are facing massive extinctions of species worldwide and (according to a recent study by an OSMP staff member) a decline in the biodiversity of our own Open Space. Each of you, as inhabitants of this earth and this City, so renowned for its environmental values, has an obligation to protect and preserve what we have left.</p> <p>Please decide against carving up the habitat of the rare, imperiled, declining, and significant native species in the Habitat Conservation Area of the North TSA. Even a talented Open Space staff cannot mitigate the effects of habitat fragmentation.</p> <p>Do not approve a trail on the west side of U.S. 36.</p> |
| Email Author | Edie Stevens |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/31/2016 |
| Email Detail | Another voter saying respect the HCA, provide an east side trail. |
| Email Author | David lucas |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/31/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Members of Boulder City Council:</p> <p>I write to add my weight to strong arguments against having a bike trail along the West side of US36. Putting this trail there will</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sabotage the precious Habitat Conservation Area for this region, and more generally be a president diminishing the future recognized importance of this designation. 2. Invite a future extension of the Front Range Greenways trails through this HCA. Such heavy use from much of the Denver metropolitan area will add even more damage and might in the future require construction of a costly additional trail on the East side of US36. <p>Thanks for your efforts to continue the protection of our natural habitats as required by our City Charter.</p> |
| Email Author | Dick Harris |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/31/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Sam, Lisa, Matt, Jan, Aaron, Suzanne, Bob, Mary and Andrew:</p> <p>By now, you've probably heard every conceivable argument for or against the Open Space Board of Trustees recommendation to Boulder City Council regarding the North Trail Study Area. As many of you know, as executive director I represent approximately 1000 Boulder Mountainbike Alliance members from the greater Boulder area. BMA enjoys another 5000</p> |

friends of the organization that either regularly open our bi-monthly newsletter or click through on one of our social media sites. Importantly, BMA has embraced our community and have aligned with OPENBoulder and their outdoor recreation coalition. In my conversations with BMA's constituency, I am continually reassured of the environmental consciousness of the mountain bike community. I myself have a Master of Public Affairs in Environmental Policy from the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Because of my academic training and 25-plus years of local advocacy work, I've come to realize that, at the end of the day, people want to trust the public process, i.e. they want a process that is Fair, Accessible and Transparent.

The OPENBoulder coalition, of which BMA is part of, believes the NTSA process to be a vast improvement over the West TSA, and I thought it to be a fairly robust process, though seemingly long. It met the Accessible standard in that there were many ways to give input if you were a community member; it seemed Transparent in that OSMP took great strides in explaining how they would come to recommendation based on input from the community and eventually, OSBT; and, now the community awaits to see if the process is Fair. How do I define fair in this instance? Simply put, Fair in this instance would be enforcing that the process be followed: OSMP management created guidelines for the process, staff investigated and reported on the various scenarios and the impacts on flora and fauna, OSBT reviewed staff analysis, weighed community input and ultimately approved the staff recommendation, and finally, OSBT made their recommendation to Boulder City Council.

While BMA and the OPENBoulder coalition are disappointed that our original recommendations to OSMP to greatly increase public access to NTSA Open Space were not incorporated into the final recommendation, we understand that the opposition also received less than it asked for in their request to OSMP. In other words, the definition of compromise was achieved, i.e. we all walked away from the table slightly disgruntled, but assured that it was a reasonable compromise. I do not believe that this previous comment has even been addressed by the conservation community. I have yet to hear from them that either the process was fair or not fair. Their position is to question OSMP management's policy interpretation, OSMP staff's body of work, and the outdoor recreation community's environmental awareness/consciousness. I find this ironic that the (former) progressives of Boulder, think PLAN, FOBOS, Sierra Club, Audubon Society, etc., would ignore the process question, especially in light of findings of a recent publication, Progressive Thinking: A Synthesis of American Progressive Values, Beliefs and Positions by the American Values Project (<http://americanvaluesproject.com/>). As the handbook states, the central progressive message is one of fairness and equality:

"Our approach is simple to summarize and is built upon the ideas of generations of progressives from Theodore Roosevelt and Franklin Roosevelt to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Barack Obama: everyone gets a fair shot, everyone does his or her fair share, and everyone plays by the same rules. As progressives, we believe that everyone deserves a fair shot at a decent, fulfilling, and economically secure life. We believe that everyone should do his or her fair share to build this life through education and hard work and through active participation in public life. And we believe that everyone should play by the same set of rules with no special privileges for the well-connected or wealthy."

WE all played by the same rules and now we ask that you as our elected officials uphold the process, embrace the rules, and vote to accept the NTSA Plan as recommended by OSBT. Thank you for your work

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| Email Author | Steve Watts Executive Director--Boulder Mountainbike Alliance |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |

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| Email Date | 5/31/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>As a long term citizen of Boulder County, and a frequent user of Open Space, I am writing to say that I oppose the creation of a high use trail (mountain bike use) west of highway 36 along the North Foothills area. I understand that this area is a Habitat Conservation Area and would like pains taken to keep it as untrammelled as possible. It is the only place I have seen a bobcat in 30 years. Although I also ride bikes I do enjoy not having to dodge and fear them on every trail. I would like to see the area remain with just the single track pedestrian trail; the extant trails east of 36, already used by bikes seem the more likely route to take. Please leave some areas of Boulder alone. I do not believe we are entitled to all the acreage in our backyards.</p> |
| Email Author | Jane Crawford |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/30/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Council,</p> <p>I am writing this note to express my concern with the discussions regarding the North Trail. I am writing as a hiker and a mountain biker who has lived in south Boulder for nearly 25 years.</p> <p>I understand that the purpose of the North Trail is to provide a multi-use connecting trail to Joder Ranch; this seems like a reasonable and worthwhile goal. I further understand that there are two competing proposals for the trail — to the east and to the west of 36. I also understand that the land under consideration on the west side has been deemed to be critical habitat.</p> <p>So, my question is why the land on the west side is even under consideration if it is critical habitat? Why bother designating critical habitat if those designations are not going to be respected? I could see the difficulty in this decision if the west route were the only route available—you would have to choose between the habitat and the trail. But that is not the case here—there’s a perfectly good trail alternative on the east side of the highway.</p> <p>I know that the bike lobby has become more organized and is making a lot more noise than it used to, but that doesn’t make the lobby right on this issue. I encourage you to consider all of your constituents (even the quiet ones) and support the broad conservation values that Boulder claims it stands for.</p> |
| Email Author | Susan Cornick |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/30/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Dear City Councilor:</p> <p>I am opposed to OSBT/OSMP recommendation to you, our City Council, for the segment of the North Trail Study Area that places the (now infamous) "connector trail" on the WEST side of Highway 36.</p> <p>I support plans for constructing the connector trail on the EAST side of Highway 36 for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserves the iconic view of the grasslands & hogback as you drive out of and into North Boulder • Preserves the unique foothills riparian drainages and extraordinary habitat on the West side • Less costly by 1/2 of the estimated cost of the West side • It is scenic without road noise • Adequate parking is available on the east side but not on the west side • Will provide access to Joder from both the South and from the East/Gunbarrel & Boulder Reservoir <p>I know you know the OSBT vote was 3 to 2 in favor of the west side connector. To me this means more information MUST be gathered before final decisions are made.</p> <p>As a Boulder resident and property owner and member of our local Sierra Club, Indian Peaks Group, I ask you to seek more information about the following matters listed below - BEFORE a final approval and decision goes into effect.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing costs for the underpass from the East Side Trail to Joder with state & federal sources • How to control the invasive plant jointed goat grass (brought in by human visitors) and keep it from degrading the valuable west-side habitat • The feasibility of getting wetlands permits for crossing drainages • Potential for trail damage on each route in the next extreme weather event/flood |
| Email Author | Virginia L. Winter |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/30/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>I am writing in support of the North Sky Trail. I am a Boulder county resident and someone who appreciates the beauty of our area and all of our open space. I am also a mountain biker and would like to see more quality mountain bike trail access in Boulder county. I believe trails, nature, hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers can all coexist. Especially, to the west side of 36. This would provide a wonderful, safe riding experience, and more access to the great open space that's been preserved, hopefully for everyone's enjoyment.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> |
| Email Author | Laura Snyder |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/30/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Dear Ms/Sirs,</p> <p>I am writing to urge you to vote to pass the plan recommended for the North Sky Trail without any changes. I am a mountain biker, hiker, father & conservationist who has lived in Boulder since 1969. I raised my family, started and grew businesses and volunteered here in many capacities. I have helped build, maintain and patrol Boulder County trails for the benefit of ALL users and it is my pleasure to do so.</p> <p>But frankly I'm fed up with agencies paying lip service soliciting input from user groups to attend planning sessions only to have the voices of a persistent few override the requests/needs of many. My friends and colleagues in the bicycle community are upstanding members of the fabric of Boulder. Business leaders, educators and families dedicated to the quality of life that makes our city a beautiful place to live. We are not the enemy or the root of all evil on the trail systems of Boulder. Every group has a minority of bad actors. Mountain bikers walk the walk as well as ride the trails. We assist all local, state and Federal land management agencies more than anyone and our efforts improve the safety and enjoyment for everyone.</p> <p>The proposed plan is not perfect but it is a perfectly fair balance of conservation and recreational access that Boulder residents and visitors deserve.</p> |
| Email Author | Herschel Goldberg |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/30/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed North Sky Trail. I was born and raised in Boulder and am now 25 years old. I have enjoyed our scenic open space and nature for my whole life, and would hate to see the unique ecosystems that they support damaged and possibly ruined. The land through which the proposed trail (along the west side of Highway 36) would cut through is home to a variety of plant and animal species including ones that are rare, sensitive, and declining. They depend on this land for their survival. I don't understand why we would put this native grassland and the delicate life that it sustains (the value of which has been recognized in City and County planning processes and City Council-approved documents for 20 years) at risk for a trail that could be just as effective and enjoyable on the east side of the highway. The eastern site would be a viable connector trail and is already frequently used by bikers, equestrians, hikers, and runners. It has beautiful views and would likely draw a larger user base than a trail on the west side of the highway anyway. Why put an important ecosystem at risk when there is a better alternative that we know of? Please vote to oppose the North Sky Trail.</p> |
| Email Author | Katie Schweber |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/29/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Boulder Council</p> <p>We need to rebuild and make sustainable the East side trail – so, let's use it as the connector from North Boulder to Joder. We do not need to – nor should we – bisect and degrade the important habitat on the West side of Highway 36.</p> |
| Email Author | John Metcalf |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |

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| Email Date | 5/29/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>Please allow mountain biking on the North Sky trail. This area is already in close proximity to a major highway, so unless that is closed for some reason, the ecological impact of a single ribbon of bike trail is almost laughable. This is a trail that is accessible without a motor vehicle which will save car trips as mountain bikers no longer have to drive to Lyons to access Front Range trails. When it comes to preserving the natural domain, rather than discriminating against one non motorized user group, please limit automobile parking at trailheads.</p> |
| Email Author | Ryan Balciar |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/27/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Council Members,</p> <p>I am writing in support of the 'West of 36' trail alignment for the Northern Sky Trail.</p> <p>As both an avid trail runner and experienced mountain biker, the existing social trail and proposed multi-use path that have been in the news definitely peaked my interest. So, yesterday, I decided to check it out for myself- on foot of course.</p> <p>The trail and its surroundings were gorgeous! Expansive views, abundant flowers, and lively wildlife were in abundance. The contrast to the experience one has on the collection of trails in the cattle-stomped plains on the east side of 36 was stark. The only real detraction was the road noise from Highway 36 at rush hour.</p> <p>Boulder is a town addicted to recreation (duh). Mountain bikers struggle like no other users to find their place in the mix. At this point, the only car-free accessed mountain biking (real, engaging mountain biking- I wish critics would please stop with the "140 miles of trails..." ignorance), is from SOBO (Marshall Mesa, et al) and central Boulder (Betasso, seasonally). One day Walker Ranch too? Oh to dream!</p> <p>As I ran the existing social trail yesterday, I kept thinking that construction of the North Sky Trail and regional connector trails to Heil & Hall Ranches would finally give NOBO riders something interesting that would not necessitate car trips (ironic how we nature lovers love the earth to death via our combustive transport vehicles). And, this trail and the regional connectors would sit in that sweet spot so many prefer- enhanced local recreation that is not likely to attract hordes of "destination" riders.</p> <p>I've ridden the collection of trails and dirt roads on the east side of 36 in desperation to find a dirt way to Heil Ranch. But, it's been several years. There's nothing very interesting about the terrain. Better to just motor.</p> <p>Indubitably, the 'west of 36' trail alignment would be a real winner for Boulder. Combined with the regional trail connectors, it would make the journey north as interesting as the destinations, provide recreation for NOBO users, and help keep cars off the roadways.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my opinion.</p> |
| Email Author | Sam Hoaster |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/27/2016 |

Email Detail

Hello council,

I strongly urge you to approve the North Sky Trail as part of the NTSA plan. The political dynamic around open space is broken. Extreme views are tainting common sense solutions and making them unnecessarily controversial. You can end that with a strong statement of support for OSMP staff, for Tracy Winfree as the new OSMP director, and for the process of compromise that led to the NTSA plan presented to council, including the North Sky Trail. Please make such a strong statement of support to send a signal to the public that staff, OSBT, and council all support compromise and science-based decision making.

Do not cave in to those who masquerade as the only voice for "conservation." I am a conservationist...and a mountain biker. I earned a PhD in Environmental Studies from the University of Colorado. I bike to work every day in downtown Boulder working as an environmental consultant. I work almost exclusively for clients trying to address the impacts of climate change - which most of you view as the greatest environmental threat to the survival of mankind and perhaps planet earth itself. I have also done my homework on the NTSA: I read most of the NTSA resource inventory report; I spoke at length with staff environmental experts; and I had many conversations with concerned citizens from FOBOS and PLAN Boulder County.

I did these things because I am a conservationist. I do not want a trail through the West Beech property if it puts rare or sensitive environmental resources at unreasonable risk.

But do you know what I discovered after seemingly endless conversations with people opposed to this trail? Their hearts are in the right place, but they have no factual basis for preventing the North Sky Trail. When you ask most of these folks for details about which species will be harmed and for constructive solutions for how to protect them, they struggle to come up with legitimate, science-based reasons for concern, and have not even thought of how to mitigate impacts (e.g., trail alignment, seasonal closures, no off-trail access) because the thought of the trail's existing at all is anathema to them (ironically 2/3 of the trail already exists!). These folks use emotionally loaded terms like "habitat fragmentation," "pristine habitat," a "death zone" around a trail, "rare and unique" species," our "last chance" to save a particular habitat type, etc. These arguments pulled at my heartstrings when I first heard them. So I did my research. What I discovered is that there was very little substance or science to back up these emotionally loaded claims.

On the other hand, this trail would be a highly valued community asset; it would provide the only trail access for mountain bikes from town; it would affirm a long-term effort to construct a regional recreational trail connecting Boulder to Lyons (we are building part of it at Heil Valley Ranch II on National Trails Day June 4th!); it would fulfill a promise at the conclusion of the West TSA that although mountain bikers do not belong in the mountain areas immediately west of town, our needs and desires to ride from town to fun and interesting trails could be addressed in the NTSA. Most of the North Sky Trail already exists on the ground; what needs to be built can be built next to a fence and a commercial warehouse facility; your own OSMP staff says that the inevitable environmental impacts of building and using the North Sky Trail can be managed.

There really is no science-based or process-based justification for opposing the North Sky Trail. And those of us who are both conservationists and recreational users see that. It is long past time for council to stand up to the political pressure from organized groups who lobby to keep people off the land at all costs. Some of these people were crucial supporters of the open space program in its early years, and they deserve our respect for that. But you cannot jettison a well-

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| | <p>reasoned and well-executed process or ignore the science just because they want you to.</p> <p>When recreational users of open space are told the reasons for restrictions on recreation (think raptor closures for climbing in the Flatirons) recreational users are generally very supportive of use restrictions and very compliant of regulation - often leading to user groups' self-regulating. When decisions are not made on a scientific basis, and cannot be justified objectively, the public begins to lose faith. Neither staff nor OSBT has found a justifiable, science-based reason to preclude the North Sky Trail. As such, I hope that council will send an overwhelming message that you support the recommendation of staff and OSBT as well as the compromise and science-based process that led to the NTSA plan, including the North Sky Trail.</p> |
| Email Author | Jason Vogel |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/27/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Councilpersons:</p> <p>Please vote YES for preserving habitat and tax payers' money by using the east-side connector! The notion of spending our tax money to create a new trail on the west side of 36 is absurd given that it would duplicate the existing trail from a transportation perspective.</p> <p>Thank you</p> |
| Email Author | George Weber |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/27/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>To whom it may concern. We would love this trail for our family. Boulder needs more MTB trails like crazy, and this would keep my kids and husband off of 36 which is hugely important. Thank you for considering!!</p> |
| Email Author | Sara Knight |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/26/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>An amazing opportunity we have to add this trail to the Boulder area network. Please approve the North Sky Trail as proposed.</p> <p>Add Good,</p> |
| Email Author | Garrett Simon |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/26/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Dear City Council Members:</p> <p>I support the efforts of the OSMP Board and City Staff in recommending the addition of the North Sky Trail, to connect Wonderland Hills with the Joder Ranch trail system.</p> <p>While much of the debate around this proposal before Council is a classic preservation vs. recreation argument, I want to reinforce for you all that this vote has important economic impacts.</p> <p>Boulder is able to sustain a vibrant economy because of the high quality human capital we attract from around the country. These are individuals that can go anywhere they want in the world and choose to come to Boulder because of our exceptional access to Open Space.</p> <p>Increasing our access to Boulder Open Space through projects like the North Sky Trial increases the value of human capital in Boulder, which benefits us all.</p> |
| Email Author | Kyle Lefkoff |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/26/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>First of all I want to thank you for your continued support of creating thoughtful trail use designations. As an avid hiker/trail runner and mountain biker I can understand how challenging it can be to keep our community safe, happy and organized.</p> <p>I wanted to take the time to voice my support of the North Sky Trail for mountain bikers. Riding on 36 to Heil is not fun (I feel somewhat dangerous) and clogs the road with mountain bikers and road cyclists. I think this trail is a great solution to connect Boulder to Lyons and I wanted to share my support.</p> |
| Email Author | Justin Gold |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/26/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear council,</p> <p>I just watched a video about the North Sky Trail and wanted to let you know I support it and the entire NTSA plan. I live in north Boulder and would enjoy it very much.</p> |
| Email Author | Roger Martin |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/26/2016 |
| Phone Call Detail | <p>I am opposed to a trail on the east side of Dakota Ridge because this area is fairly undisturbed by trails and human activity. There is already extensive access provided for bikes and other recreational activities throughout the Open Space and Mountain Parks system. Recreational access disturbs wildlife. I don't want to see this trail added because I would rather see wildlife including groundnesting birds and deer protected. Some places on the front range should not be disturbed.</p> |
| Telephoner | Dolores Albrecht |

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| Staff Response | <p>Thank you for your interest in and feedback on the North Trail Study Area Draft Plan proposed recommendations. Your comments were received and will be considered during refinement of the plan.</p> <p>Kind regards, The North TSA team</p> |
| Email Date | 5/26/2016 |
| Email Detail | I am a resident of Boulder. I strongly support the North Sky Trail Project. |
| Email Author | Charles Goldman |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/26/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Captivated by Boulder’s special environment, I've been a resident since 1978, avidly hiking, climbing, running, and biking locally and throughout Colorado. I'm also a dedicated conservationist who recycles obsessively, lives in a small townhouse, and is a legacy donor to the Nature Conservancy.</p> <p>To support and preserve Boulder’s open spaces I've volunteered frequently, with ten years on the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee, many years as a trail host for both Boulder City and County, and over 25 years building, maintaining, and designing environmentally sustainable trails.</p> <p>I've participated in many open space planning processes, including 1997's initial North Boulder Valley Area Management Plan. As a member of the Community Group Forum I contributed to the Open Space and Mountain Parks Visitor Master Plan (VMP) and have been involved in the subsequent Marshall Mesa/Southern Grasslands, Eldorado Mountain/Doudy Draw, West, and, of course, North TSA Management Plans.</p> <p>Of all the Boulder City open space processes I've observed, the North TSA is the most carefully designed. Last year's public sessions and the years of preceding research were well executed to offer environmentally acceptable alternatives, gather and evaluate public responses, and provide the public and staff inputs to the OSMP Board.</p> <p>The proposed eastern alignment presented significant additional cost, safety hazards, and diminished visitor quality that greatly concerned me. The board’s decision to recommend the western alignment, and the North Sky Trail in particular, although not unanimous, was carefully considered and well thought out. The Open Space staff and management have concurred.</p> <p>Despite the emotional appeals of some of those in opposition, I can see no good reason to reject the results of the past years' effort. I encourage the council to support the staff, the board, and the public in approving the North TSA Management Plan as submitted.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and service,</p> |
| Email Author | Eric Vogelsberg |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/26/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>I've been engaged in this process for over a year now, and even I learned one or two things. Kudos to the staff for an excellent, fair presentation.</p> <p>I want to update you on the status of Open Boulder's Change.org petition, supporting the Board of Trustees' compromise plan that they recommended in March. We recently passed the 1,500 signature mark, which had been our original goal, and we'll continue to push toward 2,000 before your June 7 meeting. As a reminder, all of these folks signed a statement that reads, in part: "We support the draft plan because it strikes a reasonable balance between encouraging residents to get out and enjoy the outdoors, and conserving it for future generations." Obviously, most of these open space enthusiasts will not be present during your public hearing, but we hope their thoughts will be in your minds.</p> <p>The petition signers continue to run roughly 65% City of Boulder, and the rest mostly county residents.</p> <p>Thank you again for your work on this!</p> |
| Email Author | Andy Schultheiss |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/25/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>I am writing to vote in favor of the Western trail option recommended by open space. Construction and long term sustainment costs would be much less, while environmental impact from what used to be a railroad grade that then runs next to a large fence at the McGuckkins area seem blown out of proportion when thinking pragmatically.</p> |
| Email Author | Scott Hicar |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/25/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>City Council Members: I urge you to consider future generations as you deliberate the northern trail development and the connection to Joder Ranch. Having enjoyed the open space and many trails in Boulder and Boulder County for many years, I understand the desire for expanded recreational opportunities for hikers and bikers, especially as the population increases. However, it is just as important to conserve the smaller and smaller areas of both plant and animal habitat, so rare this close to the city. I feel our conservation of open space is a gift we can give to our children and grandchildren and one reason we continue to tax ourselves to make this gift, not just for our personal enjoyment today.</p> |
| Email Author | Barbara Gigone, long-time resident of Boulder County |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/25/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>The city owns property that runs north from Boulder Res to Hiway 66 along the canal that brings water to Boulder Res from Windy Gap. It should be easy to connect that to the Boulder bike trail system and connect to bike path along us36 from Westminster to Boulder. It seems like you are making the problem more complicated than it needs to be.</p> <p>Would anyone like to answer why you don't want to consider that option?</p> |
| Email Author | Gary Urling |

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| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/25/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Boulder City Council members,</p> <p>I wrote you the other day to express my support for the North TSA and in particular the North Sky Trail. When I wrote that letter, the North Sky Trail was a hypothetical to me- just a line on a map of what could be.</p> <p>Then I hiked part of the social trail that would become the North Sky Trail and I was blown away. The views from this perch on the hogback are stupendous... hiking south back towards Boulder this trail offers as spectacular entrance to Boulder as any trail in the OSMP portfolio. Visitors have expansive views over Gunbarrel, the farms north of Boulder, north Boulder, the flatirons/ South Boulder Peak and all the way down to the wind farm on 93.</p> <p>What also struck me is that this trail would not be a new impact on the lands. The trail is basically already there. There is an extremely well-worn singletrack, and while OSMP staff would undoubtedly make some changes for erosion, sustainability, etc., the trail is mostly already in place- it just needs your approval to become official. Given a good trail, the vast majority of users will stick to it instead of wandering off-trail. OSMP has a strong history and track-record of placing trails in or next to HCAs and with appropriate signage keeping people on-trail.</p> <p>If you haven't explored this (social) trail already, I would strongly urge you to pay it a visit before you vote on its future. The views are world class, and while you can still hear Foothills Hwy, it is perched high above the road and would provide hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians an amazing opportunity to recreate right out of Boulder without driving to a trailhead. For mountain bikers in particular, there aren't really any other options to do this on OSMP lands.</p> <p>So again, please vote to approve the North TSA Plan as is, including the North Sky Trail.</p> |
| Email Author | Alex Hyde-Wright |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/25/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Council,</p> <p>I am writing to support OSMP staff's decision on the North Sky Trail. There are a lot of different reasons I think you need to support this decision but the one I want to focus on is more important than this trail or this decision and I think it goes to the heart of the issue in question which is whether this trail will have an unacceptable impact on the environment. Unfortunately in Boulder and around the country protection of the environment is often used to mask other issues like not wanting development on a neighboring lot that was defacto open space before or wanting to manage/control what is really a user conflict. Unfortunately many people who I have spoken too feel like this often happens in Boulder and it is undermining the strong tradition of protection of ecological resources that we have here. I love that there are raptor closures and that you cannot go off trail when ground nesting birds are nesting. These types of restriction are clearly bright lines and make sense even to the layperson. I worry when impact are immaterial, trumped up or unsubstantiated that we actually undermine our protection efforts. All use of open space has an impact and that cannot be the test. Please make the right decision here to allow the North Sky Trail.</p> |
| Email Author | Mike Higuera |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |

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| Email Date | 5/25/2016 |
| Email Detail | Please make a trail between Boulder and Heil Ranch. I do not ever want to ride on the roads. Reason See pictures below. |
| Email Author | Dennis Bashline |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/25/2016 |
| Email Detail | Boulder City Council, I'd love to see the development of the North Sky Trail from Wonderland Lake to Lyons. Jason and the BMA have an outstanding plan for an environmentally friendly route connecting Boulder to Lyons, Hall Ranch, and Heil Valley using existing trails and minimizing impact to sensitive species in the area. An alternative to riding on the shoulder of highway 36 would be greatly appreciated by myself and the rest of the Boulder/Lyons cycling, hiking, and equestrian community. |
| Email Author | Alex Caurdy |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/25/2016 |
| Email Detail | Dear Boulder City Council, I would like to voice my support for the proposed North Sky Trail plan and emphasize how great it will be to have a trail that could connect Boulder to Lyons! Thank you for considering my support for this project. |
| Email Author | Jaimie Portelle |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/25/2016 |
| Email Detail | The best choice for the North Trail is on the east side of Hwy 36. So much of the natural preserved area is on the west side. That side should not be further fragmented by a wide new trail. Keeping natural areas less fragmented allows wildlife to have corridors to move about, increasing genetic mixing within a species. A larger intact environment provides for greater diversity for all species in a healthier ecosystem. People and their constructions already overwhelm so much of the environment. We are a part of the ecosystem and should be willing to share with the rest of nature. The "west side" is not just a pretty background and recreation playground. It is a unique and precious area with much more natural and much less human imprint. Size matters, and to have so much connected in national forest and Indian Peaks Wilderness, up to and over the Continental Divide, and Rocky Mountain Park to the north is far more than a county treasure. It is of regional importance. So much of the Front Range is an urban corridor, increasingly overwhelmed with housing development, transportation woes, and much congestion. Keep the "west side" a more natural corridor as much as possible. |
| Email Author | Madeline Goldhawk |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/25/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Hi!</p> <p>I think developing the North Star trail would be a great addition to the outdoor lifestyle in Boulder, especially the running and cycling communities.</p> <p>Thanks! Bryson</p> |
| Email Author | Bryson Ross |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/25/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Council Member,</p> <p>I watched last night's study session on the North Trail Study area and am writing in order to correct some mis-information given to you by Steve Armstead, and to add information about the OSMP/underpass discussion.</p> <p>In relation to a Council question about use levels and trail density in HCAs, Steve said that there was no mention of a requirement for low levels of use, but instead, he noted the VMP text which states, "Minimize new trails and trail density." I want you to know that in the VMP, on the very same page (p.51) as the "trail density" information, listed under "Trail Design for Level of Use" in the HCA column, is the following management strategy: "Design and construct trails and other facilities to sustain a low level of visitor use". The underline for emphasis is the VMP's, not mine.</p> <p>Another Council question regarding possible underpass construction as part of this TSA could have benefitted from the following information which I gained at January's County Open-House on proposed alternatives for the Boulder Canyon path extension.</p> <p>As a result of the West TSA, land was acquired in order to open Chapman Drive to mountain-biking, and a collaborative OSMP, County, and CDOT effort was pursued to create safe mountain-bike access to both Chapman and Betasso bike areas. This is a huge endeavor, with CDOT footing 4.4 million dollars, and both the City and County paying \$550,000. Jim Reeder said OSMP's commitment is \$500,000 with Transportation paying \$50,000. These estimates will surely go up as they were made a few years ago. This project is likely to include three underpasses to be constructed under the SH119 between Four-Mile and Chapman Drive.</p> <p>The County (Matt Wempe, AICP - Regional Trails Planner 303-441-4554) said the North TSA Foothills Highway underpass was, at that time still under their (County) consideration. The Boulder Canyon extension project represents another precedent of OSMP collaborative road projects which improve biker access and visitor safety in general. The Boulder Canyon proposed underpasses and State Highway 93 underpass both relate to previous OSMP Trail Study Areas.</p> <p>Bottom line = there is a huge precedent for OSMP-supported underpasses and, for everyone's safety we need one across from the Joder property.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration</p> |
| Email Author | Susan Douglass |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |

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| Email Date | 5/25/2016 |
| Email Detail | Hi, I'm writing to express my total support of the North Sky Trail proposal. Thanks! |
| Email Author | Benjamin D. Buren |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/25/2016 |
| Email Detail | To City Council: Please do not support the West Trail proposal. From my home on Olde Stage Road, adjacent to the open space in question, one can observe an area that serves as a sanctuary for migratory and resident songbirds including Poorwills, Flammulated Owls, and Yellow-breasted Chats. Over the last several years, I logged in over 50 different species. This area seems to be the first "bump" you come to if you're a bird travelling from east to the mountains. It is also part of the area that would contain the proposed West Trail. Why would we need to disturb this pristine and secluded habitat when we can use the East Trail alternative. Bicyclers already have special lanes up and down Olde Stage Road. They can access Heil Valley trails easily from these bike lanes. Once the proposed West Trail area becomes part of a recreation area it will become lost to wildlife. Let's share the land. Choose the East Trail proposal and leave the west side of Hwy 36 for wildlife. |
| Email Author | Madeline Day |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/25/2016 |
| Email Detail | Dear Boulder City Council- I am writing to urge you to approve the North Sky Trail and the entire NTSA plan. I am very much in support of these proposed trails and the added enjoyment and safety it will provide to my mountain biking kiddos and trail running husband. Happy to keep them off of 36 and keep us all out of the car! |
| Email Author | Colleen King |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/25/2016 |
| Email Detail | Dear Boulder City Council I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to express my support for the proposed North Sky Trail to connect Boulder to Lyons. As an avid cyclist, hiker, and individual who is very active in the conservation community, I think this trail will greatly benefit outdoor recreation in the Boulder area. As a conservationist, I am well aware of the need to protect ecosystems and habitat, but also believe we can strike a balance between the two goals, which do not have to be mutually exclusive. I have found that the majority of trail users are respectful of ecosystems and sensitive habitat, and that adding the trail will not be detrimental to efforts to protect habitat for butterflies and other species. |

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| Email Author | Greg Jackson |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed North Sky Trail. I'm a Boulder native who has recently graduated from university, and have enjoyed our beautiful open space my whole life.</p> <p>The land through which the proposed trail (along the west side of Highway 36) would cut is a unique ecosystem, home to a rich array of plant and animal life including imperiled, rare, sensitive, and declining species that depend on this land for their very survival. I cannot understand why we would put this native grassland and the fragile life that it supports (the value of which has been recognized in City and County planning processes and City Council-approved documents for 20 years) at risk for a trail that could be just as effective and enjoyable on the east side of the highway. That eastern site would serve for a viable connector trail and is already frequently used by bikers, equestrians, hikers, and runners. It has stunning views and would likely draw a larger user base than a trail on the west side of the highway.</p> <p>Why put a fragile and important ecosystem at risk when there is a better alternative so close at hand? Please vote to oppose the North Sky Trail.</p> |
| Email Author | Megan Duffy |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>I am 24 years old, a native of Boulder, and I have enjoyed our beautiful Open Space all my life. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed North Sky Trail.</p> <p>The land through which the proposed trail (along the west side of Highway 36) would cut is a unique ecosystem, home to a rich array of plant and animal life including imperiled, rare, sensitive, and declining species that depend on this land for their very survival. I cannot understand why we would put this native grassland and the fragile life that it supports (the value of which has been recognized in City and County planning processes and City Council-approved documents for 20 years) at risk for a trail that could be just as effective and enjoyable on the east side of the highway. That eastern site would serve for a viable connector trail and is already frequently used by bikers, equestrians, hikers, and runners. It has stunning views and would likely draw a larger user base than a trail on the west side of the highway.</p> <p>Why put a fragile and important ecosystem at risk when there is a better alternative so close at hand? Please vote to oppose the North Sky Trail.</p> <p>Warm regards</p> |
| Email Author | Katie C. Browning |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>From the discussion about the east and west trail routes north from Boulder to the Joder Ranch, it seems the trail alignment east of Highway 36 is the better route. We need to preserve the ever-shrinking natural areas surrounding Boulder and support the diversity of wildlife that thrives on the west side of the highway. Only this generation can do that -- if the trail degrades the natural area, it will cause irreversible damage. Humans need to share the earth with other species, and to think ahead to future generations for all life.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration</p> |
| Email Author | Diane Curlette |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>To the Boulder City Council:</p> <p>Please make the preservation of open space and wildlife habitat the top priority for the City and County of Boulder. We need trail connectors to create and sustain a wildlife corridor from Twin Lakes to Walden and Sawhill Ponds, and forever protect the area by designating the fields on both sides of Twin Lakes Road as Boulder County Open Space. This critical action must be taken because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Boulder County Charter, policies, and plans for decades have emphasized preservation AND recreation • As open space visits increase, we cannot allow people everywhere in the system and sustain healthy ecosystems • Habitat Conservation Areas set aside about 25% of open space for preservation of our most sensitive species; the other 75% is available for human uses (agriculture and recreation of all kinds) • Habitat sustains native species • Passing on natural resources to future generations <p>Thank you very much.</p> |
| Email Author | Caroline Hogue, M.Ed. |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>To protect the critical habitat that has been identified as significant, please rebuilt and make sustainable the East side trail. Please do not degrade the habitat on the West side of Hwy. 36.</p> <p>Please defend our local wildlife. I understand the appeal of having a more exciting and fun bike trail, but nature trumps that desire and our special role as guardians of this habitat now and in the future.</p> |
| Email Author | Karen Sandburg |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Hi Council members:</p> <p>John and I have been hiking every day on the Mesa and Chautauqua trails getting ready for a long distance hike and have had lots of time to reflect on the wonders of our open space system and the on going stewardship it requires.</p> <p>I would encourage you to make sure that the choices you make in the NTSA are sustainable, will keep eco-systems in tack as well as providing for access. - no one said this will be easy but you are all smart and if you don't think you have the right alternatives take the time to question and find the best way forward.</p> <p>I also think you need to take stock of the ongoing maintenance projects to trails as well as the health of forest and grasslands now that the two expiring OS taxes (2018 and 2019) will be repurposed and funds will be reduced - while use will continue to increase. Be sure you are realistic in any new trail building you will take on until you have the problems with the over loved trails at the heart of our system are taken care of.</p> <p>I am not saying don't build new trails but don't start new ones until you have the older ones fixed. I know some say that building northern trails will take the burden off of Chautauqua but from daily hiking for the past 5 months I can say visitors want to 'experience' the Flatirons and dramatic mountain parks - so continue to take care of them. I know locals will use northern trails but Chautauqua has a special draw and it needs attention.</p> <p>Right now the Mesa and Chautauqua trails need a lot of work due to floods and just plain use. Glance up the Chautauqua meadow and you will see that the main trail is in need of reconstruction, the crossing of Bear Creek is now a precarious log and the bank along the Skunk creek crossing is eroding.</p> <p>Susan Osborne had a goal of hiking all the trails in our system when she got elected in 2007 so grab a map and try to best her - and you too will be very well informed stewards of our public lands when you get done.</p> |
| Email Author | Crystal Gray |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Council,</p> <p>The Organic Dish, supporters of natural habitat, bees and all pollinators -- because it gives our precious bodies the organic food we need, are writing to let you know we support the east-side connector and habitat preservation.</p> <p>We are asking you to please not support the construction of an un-needed path, the west side connector trail, that will be very destructive to our environment and cost money that would be better spent elsewhere. It makes no sense when we can spend our money on the trail restoration needed from flood recovery that we have yet to complete.</p> <p>Thank you very much for your consideration</p> |
| Email Author | Dan and Drew Sorrells The Organic Dish |

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| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Council,</p> <p>We're about to lose an important part of Boulder's critical wildlife habitat to recreational use. While not against recreational use, I think it should be in appropriate places, not in the midst of critical wildlife habitat. Frederick Law Olmstead, in Yosemite in the 1830's, said, "the rights of posterity are more important than the desires of the present." I would argue that those rights of posterity are about more than just human rights, they are about the rights of nature.</p> <p>We need to rebuild and make sustainable the East side trail – so, let's use it as the connector from North Boulder to Joder. We do not need to – nor should we – bisect and degrade the important habitat on the West side of Highway 36.</p> |
| Email Author | Eileen Kay |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>I write to express my strong view that we need to rebuild and make sustainable the East side trail – so, let's use it as the connector from North Boulder to Joder. We do not need to – nor should we – bisect and degrade the important habitat on the West side of Highway 36.</p> |
| Email Author | Heather Ryan |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Council members;</p> <p>At your study session this evening on the NTSA, I hope that staff will enlighten you on the following topics (mostly, but not entirely, on the so-called North Sky Trail):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The staff should be able to provide you with an estimate of rare plant, animal, and associated habitat impacts of a trail that would bisect this HCA, perhaps modulated by levels and times of use that apparently some Council members are proposing as mitigations. Hopefully, they will cite any data they have on the impacts of HCA and other trails on the habitat value of surrounding open space lands. Of course comparisons with any impacts of new or improved trails on the east side of Hwy 36 would also be useful, although we don't believe that such impacts are likely to be as high. It might also be useful for Council to ponder the zoning and other rules that OSMP has devised to allow it to manage the City's wildly popular properties in something vaguely resembling a sustainable way. If OSBOT and Council are willing to compromise this HCA for the sake of an apparently overriding recreational use, perhaps they should declare the area not an HCA in order to maintain the integrity of the category. 2. The staff should be able to provide you some analysis of the desired width and detail about the route of the proposed North Sky Trail, and some estimate of what it might cost to construct. Included in such an estimate should be several bridges and mitigations for wetland disturbance. Ideas about the trail width and route do not in our view appear to be settled. Biking groups mention a 3-foot wide trail with some degree of challenge included in the route, and the OSMP Director seems to favor that. Unfortunately, trail construction guidelines for multi-use trails of this sort can have a tread as narrow as 3 feet, but require a cleared space of between 8 and 10 |

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| | <p>feet so that users can get off the trail briefly to allow others to pass. Such a total trail cross-section will surely require cut-and-fill construction at least in places, increasing both initial cost and ongoing maintenance. I would also suggest that Council not consider construction of a Hwy 36 underpass near Joder Ranch as part of a cost advantage of the North Sky Trail, for a variety of reasons, and it should also keep in mind the post 2013 flood trail reconstruction that needs to be finished in order to get federal disaster money before this trail would be constructed.</p> <p>Thanks very much for your consideration of these opinions.</p> |
| Email Author | Kirk Cunningham, Conservation Chair Indian Peaks Group, Sierra Club |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Members of the city council,</p> <p>My family is somewhat of a rarity in Boulder. My grandfather played football at CU and both of my parents grew up in Boulder. My wife and I are both Boulder natives and my daughter is a 4th generation Boulderite. How many people have you met with a connection to Boulder going back to the 1930's? I bring this up not because I think my voice should carry greater weight, but because I feel I have an insight into the original intents of Open Space and what makes Boulder Boulder.</p> <p>I have seen the rapid growth in demand for recreational use on OSMP land and am concerned that over-use and potential expansion of recreational impacts will not preserve the land for future generations; for my 2 year old daughter. Open Space was my playground as a child. I gained an appreciation for nature while exploring Red Rocks and Mount Sanitas. While recreational use of OSMP did foster my appreciation of nature, there comes a point when access becomes over-use and we are currently loving open space to death.</p> <p>I do not think any amount of expansion into protected areas will quench the current demand for recreational Open Space use. We will not be able to go back to the wildness I experienced as a child in existing recreational areas when human traffic on the trail was much less than it currently is. We should not take the idea lightly of considering the conversion of Open Space to recreational use. Conversion of land is a slippery slope and has the potential to continue to undermine my childhood experience for future generations. The proposed new mountain bike trail west of HWY 36 will create ~3 miles of terrain. At the end of the day 3 miles of relatively flat trail for a mountain biker is about 15 minutes of travel time. Do we really want to fragment the North Foothills Habitat Conservation Area to provide 15 minutes of recreational use, when other options are available? HWY 36 already provides access between OSMP properties in the area and the proposed alternative east of HWY 36 would also provide access with much less disturbance. I say this as someone who frequently mountain biked in the area during my teenage years. If we cannot inconvenience ourselves for 15 minutes to go around a conservation area what does that say about us? Where do our priorities lie? In the absence of conservationist and forward thinking of the Boulder City Council we would not have this land to even be debating its use. OSMP is rooted in conservation of land both accessible and inaccessible to the public.</p> <p>The Open Space concept started as a desire to protect and preserve the natural uniqueness that is Boulder. While I agree that we need to strike a balance between preservation and the demand for recreational use, adding trails to facilitate convenience over preservation does not make any sense. I strongly urge the Council to remove the proposed western trail from the North Trail Study Area.</p> |
| Email Author | J Ryan Allen |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |

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| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>I am writing to urge you to support the positioning of the new trail on the EAST side of HW 36.</p> <p>The main reason for my request is to maintain the integrity of the existing HCA located on the west side of the road. This area includes valuable riparian habitat and a numbr of key species, both fauna and flora. Our ecosystems are already being challenged by the impacts of climate change. Adding further insult to injury by human encroachment into and around these sensitive areas will result in both loss of precious habitat but also the probable loss and or extinction of species.</p> <p>I am a keen hiker and spend much of my time hiking on Boulder open space. As a resident of Lyons, I am especially keen to minimize development and loss of public lands already set aside for our wildlife.</p> <p>Again, I respectfully request you to support positioning of new trails on the EAST side of HW 36.</p> |
| Email Author | Deirdre Butler Sierra Club IPG Treasurer & Outings Leader |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Today I just rode the east side trail and recorded the route with a GPS. It dawns on me that these so called east or west connector trails connect to nothing but HWY 36. The east trail already does that and is plenty challenging and scenic. In fact at many locations you can see the mountains and the Highway is hidden. On the west side the highway will always be part of your "scenery". So do we really need a redundant "connector" that will damage a high quality habitat? This is getting silly. If, and when, a connector is ever actually developed that goes to Lyons, it will most certainly be on the east side of 36, unless you have billions and billions of dollars to build the Glenwood Canyon version of a bike trail.</p> <p>Just based on money, don't you realize not only how damaging, but also costly the west trail will be? I recall that the City income isn't quite what was expected, so maybe now isn't the right time to scar a habitat conservation area for a redundant trail...at great expense!</p> |
| Email Author | Patrick Murphy |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Dear City Council Members,</p> <p>I support plans for constructing the connector trail on the EAST side of Highway 36, instead of the WEST for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserves the iconic view of the grasslands & hogback as you drive out of and into North Boulder • Preserves the unique foothills riparian drainages and extraordinary habitat on the West side • Less costly by 1/2 of the estimated cost of the West side • It is scenic without road noise • Adequate parking is available on the east side but not on the west side • Will provide access to Joder from both the South and from the East/Gunbarrel & Boulder Reservoir <p>I value open space and the preservation of habitat and believe we must consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Boulder County Charter, policies, and plans for decades have emphasized preservation AND recreation • As open space visits increase, we cannot allow people everywhere in the system and sustain healthy ecosystems • Habitat Conservation Areas set aside about 25% of open space for preservation of our most sensitive species; the other 75% is available for human uses (agriculture and recreation of all kinds) • Habitat sustains native species • Passing on natural resources to future generations <p>I think it is important for Council to ask staff and Open Space Board of Trustees to provide more details about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing costs for the underpass from the East Side Trail to Joder with state & federal sources • How to control the invasive plant jointed goat grass (brought in by human visitors) and keep it from degrading the valuable west-side habitat • The feasibility of getting wetlands permits for crossing drainages • Potential for trail damage on each route in the next extreme weather event/flood |
| Email Author | Dorothy Podel |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear members of City Council,</p> <p>There has been some chatter today about potentially reviewing earlier NTSA scenarios and second-guessing the long, well-analyzed process involving OSMP staff, the OSBT and the public that resulted in the compromise proposal before you.</p> <p>Let's make no mistake: the intention of doing this is to re-litigate the matter under a new OBST regime.</p> <p>I would proffer that this is akin to what the Senate Republicans are doing to Merrick Garland in the hope that Trump will be elected.</p> <p>If you don't like what's happening in the U.S. Senate, then let's not replicate the bad governance here, too. Please respect the work that has been done by the staff you hired, the board you appointed and the constituents you represent.</p> |
| Email Author | Jim Butterworth |

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| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Hello.</p> <p>I am a Boulder citizen writing in to support North Sky trail. My family and I have lived here in boulder and enjoy all aspects of the city and the surrounding area. We try to do as much as we can locally and work to better the environment by riding our bikes to places versus taking our car. We also utilize public services such as buses, eco passes, etc.</p> <p>I had the opportunity to manage a bike shop years ago near campus, and the parents of the students would ask about the trails their kids could ride on, and they were always amazed of how quickly their child would need a car to get to the trails. Why can't there be trails closer to Boulder they would ask.....</p> <p>I will say you all have done an excellent job over the years of adding and opening up trails down south, and in other areas.....so thank you. Now we need this trail in the north to connect additional areas. This would be enjoyed by me, friends, parents, children, and generations to come.</p> <p>Seriously looking forward to it.</p> <p>Thank You.</p> |
| Email Author | Tom Needy |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Council Members,</p> <p>I would like to ask for your support of mountain bikes on the North Sky Trail. As a frequent recreationalist of the Heil trail system I currently ride from my home in North Boulder to Heil using the road over Olde Stage to Lefthand Canyon. While this is a fine way to get to Heil, having an off-road experience on a mountain bike is much preferred.</p> <p>Thank you for listening.</p> |
| Email Author | Jeff Brown |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>As a former ranch manager who believes in protecting the environment, wildlife corridors and knows how vulnerable a ground nest is to a horse's hoof, you would think I oppose any use of Open Space. In some ways, I do wish we could protect more and more space where humans do or do not go. After living here for the past five short years that I have, I know that each of you is an outdoor enthusiast. I know that each of you uses our Open Space. I am sure you know the problems that I personally have brought up like poor stewardship practices by Open Space. I do not want to see us encroach anymore on wildlife BUT I think we are overusing some of our trails. I am hoping that by opening up this north south byway for bikers that we take some burden off of other trails. I am hoping that since this trail is already used, we might work as a team to do a better job actually of protecting this environment. While I no longer am able to personally ride horseback, I think it is important to keep a diversity of uses on as many trails as possible which this does!</p> <p>Please vote in favor of the North Trail Study Plan with this terrific addition!</p> |
| Email Author | Amy Helen Tremper |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Members of the Boulder City Council:</p> <p>The Boulder County Horse Association (BCHA) urges you to support the vote of the Open Space Board of Trustees regarding the North Trail Study Area.</p> <p>We have participated actively, not only in every step of the NTSA process for the past year and a half, but also in every other OSMP evaluation, acquisition and recommendation for this area for the past 25 years -- ever since the Joder family first sold two parcels of their ranch in 1991 to OSMP for "trails and trailhead parking." The purpose of those acquisitions was stated clearly in the original documents: "to be used for the following Open Space purposes: 'a 3-acre parcel adjacent to Six Mile Fold which will be used for a parking lot and a trail to Beech; and a 20 acre parcel that will contain a trail linking Beech to Buckingham Park.... The acquisition would include an important trailhead and trail link from the Six Mile Fold property to the Beech property and Buckingham Park'...."</p> <p>(November 13, 1991 OSMP/OSBT agenda item). Dan Joder has testified at two public meetings concerning his family's ranch (May 8, 2013 and November 12, 2014 OSBT) explaining that the family's intent was to see their ranch remain open to the public, especially equestrians. Not Closed Space.... Open Space. It's finally time, after 25 years, for this open space to be open.</p> <p>Joder Ranch was, for more than 50 years, the heart and soul of the Boulder horse community. Together we had many education clinics, 4H events, trail rides, horse shows, and even BCHA Board meetings, at the ranch complex. Bob and Eloise Joder's first love was trails, specifically trails on their ranch and specifically regional trails that would enable equestrians to make the large loop over to Boulder Valley Ranch via the West Beech parcel, and up to the Continental Divide and Heil Valley Ranch via the Buckingham parcel. I personally rode all over this entire area with them, exploring various trail alignments, and I know from personal experience that the current recommendation for the North TSA/Joder Ranch/North Sky Trail is what they would have wanted.</p> <p>There were over a hundred horses and their people on the Joder Ranch for the past six decades. Yet OSMP considers the property to be excellent wildlife habitat. Why? -- because horses,</p> |

people, wildlife, and plants can coexist. That won't change with a trail. In addition to the old railroad grade, there are many existing historic trails and ranch roads on the west side of Highway 36, many of which could be used as the starting points for an excellent designated trail system. Trails won't "fragment" the habitat, and no data have been produced claiming that they will. Just saying they will doesn't make it a fact.

Indeed, OSMP's own data, for example on birds, reveal that the trail effect, if any, is vanishingly small -- on the order of 0.012%. (This number is so small as to be statistically insignificant. How much prime recreational habitat must we give up for a one-hundredth-of-one- percent diminution of possible wildlife habitat?) The North Sky Trail can be built sustainably and attractively, and will become the pride and joy of the Open Space & Mountain Parks system. After careful deliberation, staff recommended that the OSMP approve the North Sky Trail on the west side of Highway 36. It was approved by the OSBT. Please don't allow a few fear-mongerers to override the facts.

Finally, we urge you -- the Boulder City Council -- to endorse the process you set up. All participants in the NTSA followed the City Charter and the Visitor Master Plan to the letter, as well as all the other sideboards guiding the process. You -- the Boulder City Council -- hand-appointed all the members of the Open Space Board of Trustees. They, and we, have spent thousands of hours participating in open houses, expert testimony, field trips, negotiating sessions, and much more.

(Are we happy with the compromise? -- not entirely, but it's what a lot of thoughtful people have worked together to achieve.) The North TSA Plan reflects a very careful balance on everyone's part, and now -- after 18 months of exhaustive analysis and duly following the appropriate public process -- is not the time to throw it out. To do so now would be to disrespect the public, staff, and the people who really are the experts.

Please respect the participants who offered valuable expertise and vast amounts of their time. Please respect the people you chose to represent the citizens of Boulder. Please respect the careful vote they made. And please respect the process for making important OSMP decisions like this. Please support the vote already made by the Open Space Board of Trustees by ratifying the final NTSA plan as submitted to Council.

Thank you, and happy trails!

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| Email Author | Suzanne Webel BCHA External VP |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing to oppose the West side trail alignment that is currently being considered. I am aware of the volume of lobbying going on from the mountain bike community and other recreational trail users but sometimes it is more important to pay attention to what is best for open space and the natural world that exists on it in spite of what people may want. Mother Nature must always be considered as a stake holder.</p> <p>Any trail on the West side of 36 will be more costly, more disruptive, and more damaging in the long run than an East trail. Views, parking, and access are best on the East side of 36. In addition, we cannot create more open space just to put people everywhere on it. Open space needs to have open and non disturbed natural areas as well as recreational areas. It is not all about recreation. Consider the natural environment. Please do not approve any trail on the West side of 36. Thank You.</p> |
| Email Author | Jim Wilson |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear members of the City Council,</p> <p>You are being asked to make a final decision about two competing proposals for the North TSA. As a former OSMP board member, I remember us discussing whether it made sense to build a trail on the old railroad grade in this area. Even then (before the enormous growth in popularity of mountain biking) it was clear that any kind of trail would impact an array of important ecological values in this part of open space. I thought Pat Billig's article did an excellent job of making clear what those values are. There had not yet been a proposal for an alternative trail but now there is.</p> <p>I recognize the pressure you are under to make open space lands more accessible for recreational purposes. It is hard to resist that pressure when the values you are being asked to protect are primarily environmental. But in this case I hope you will make that choice, keep an important remaining area of open space with high ecological values more or less intact and ask those wanting to use open space for exercise to do so in places that are not so sensitive.</p> <p>Thanks for your work. We have a remarkable asset for the community that deserves the very best of care.</p> |
| Email Author | Larry MacDonnell |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear City Council:</p> <p>I am writing to ask you to vote in favor of the North Sky Trail in the NTSA. It is a great option that balances conservation and recreation. The OSBT and city staff made the right decision after a thorough study and an exhaustive public process.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> |
| Email Author | James Martin |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>City Council Members,</p> <p>I live in north Boulder and use the trails north of Boulder. I am also a member of Boulder County Nature Association and Boulder Bird Club. While these groups seem to oppose the west trail to the Joder Ranch I disagree and think the west trail is the best option and will have little effect on wildlife. Therefore, I hope you vote for the west trail.</p> |
| Email Author | Neal Zaun |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>As development and growth proceeds, we have precious few places for our native plants and wildlife to thrive. Please preserve the functioning riparian and grassland ecosystems on the WEST side of Hwy 36 and place the connector trail on the EAST side of the highway.</p> |
| Email Author | Tom Dugan |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Council Member,</p> <p>The established trail east of Hwy 36 provides an excellent recreational experience as it is largely isolated from highway noise and residential areas. A short stretch of the trail does pass near a residential neighborhood but is still sufficiently buffered as to avoid invasion of privacy to the residents as well as providing open-space enjoyment for trail users.</p> <p>Part of the proposed west-side trail would also be subject to highway noise and, as has been noted by others, crosses environmentally-sensitive riparian areas. One of these, a major canyon and upland meadow that extends westward for about 3/4 mile, almost to the Old Stage Road, provides essential isolated bird and wildlife habitat that would inevitably be degraded by intense recreational traffic. This is but one example of the unnecessary loss of natural habitat that development of this prospective trail would incur.</p> <p>Boulder County is to be complimented for its designation of extensive open space. That's one of the major reasons we decided to move here when I retired in 2002. However, in this densely populated area, which is replete with intensive hiker-biker traffic throughout the foothills, it is essential to strike a balance between extended human use and undiminished natural areas.</p> <p>I strongly encourage you, therefore, to avoid invasive degradation of the area west of Hwy 36, especially where an obvious and well-established alternative already exists.</p> <p>Thanks for hearing and considering my concerns.</p> |
| Email Author | George Oetzel |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Dear City Council, when considering the NTSA Plan, please respect the advice of your open space advisory board and the vast majority of your constituents. It seems as if far too often Boulder City Council governs by quieting the squeakiest wheel rather than consensus. Please don't do it for the NTSA Plan, Accept it as presented by your advisory board and the people of Boulder.</p> <p>Rather than going on and on, I'll just point you to the following OpEd by Andy Schultheiss, as he sums my opinion up perfectly. Thanks...</p> <p>http://www.dailycamera.com/opinion/ci_29863606/andy-schultheiss:-respect-the-ntsa-public-process?mc_cid=50f911e574&mc_eid=544c864462</p> |
| Email Author | Kevin Moore |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>To whom this concerns,</p> <p>My name is Darryl Leopold and I have lived in Boulder since 1974. Open space has been the cornerstone of what makes Boulder, Boulder. The west side of 36 which has the views of prairie and at the same time our iconic flatirons has been under threat for many years. We can still see the CU signs along the high to show the intent that has been there for some time. Lately there have been many attempts to chip away at what makes Boulder such as the 4 story limit and much more development. Some is good and we should make decisions that preserve Boulder's character such as smart urban planning and open space. I feel we should consider options on the east side of Highway 36 way before we yield to west side of 36.</p> <p>Please help preserve what makes Boulder, Boulder one of the most beautiful cities and open space in the World. Boulder punches way above its weight when progressive cities of beauty are thought of.</p> |
| Email Author | Darryl Leopold |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear council,</p> <p>Please do not develop the west side of 36 in the conservation area and continue to leave it open to hikers only and preferably no dogs (or on leash only). I hike this area regularly and it is too fragile an area to withstand increased recreation use. Please proceed with building a connector trail on the east side to facilitate the increased recreation use.</p> <p>Thank-you.</p> |
| Email Author | Betsy Heppner |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>My husband and I have lived in Boulder since 1966. One of the most valuable features of living here is the open space that allows recreation and preservation of critical wildlife areas and migration routes. Living in harmony with nature has always been a key policy in Boulder, one that makes it outstanding in our minds.</p> <p>The idea that a designated Habitat Conservation area, designated as such by intense documentation by biologists and experts in the field of birds ,mammals ,butterflies ,and plants, should be disregarded for a bike trail is beyond comprehension.</p> <p>This is especially hard to believe since there is a perfectly good trail to connect with on the east side that already exists.</p> <p>As population pressures mount it is imperative that we preserve wildlife areas. To not do so goes against the whole philosophy that the open space program and Boulder is about.</p> |
| Email Author | Marcia and Alex Barber |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |
| Email Detail | I strongly recommend that the areas west of US36 be kept in the most natural condition possible. This means that recreational trails should be developed and maintained east of US36. |
| Email Author | Filip Sokol |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear City Council members,</p> <p>I was reading Boulder County's 2012 Regulation Compliance Study, and it found that at many leash-only trails, there were a high number of violations. The three places with the highest percent of dogs off-leash were Walker Ranch Loop Trail (40%), Anne U. White Trail (31%), and Walker Ranch Meyers Homestead Trail (23%).</p> <p>In light of this, I'm hoping you will ask OSMP staff to address two questions at the study session tonight:</p> <p>1) Is there a risk that some people will have their dogs off-leash and/or bring dogs during the seasonal dog closure? If so, is there a risk dogs will harm vulnerable ground-nesting birds and other wildlife?</p> <p>2) Is there a risk that people will create social trails? For example, during rest breaks, picnics, "bathroom" breaks, and just explorative forays, is there a possibility of social trails being created that will further impact and fragment these ecosystems?</p> <p>I believe the best solution is the East Side connector trail. Pasted below is my guest opinion letter on this issue that ran in Sunday's newspaper.</p> <p>Thanks for your consideration!</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Kristin Bjornsen</p> <p>A win-win solution North Trail Study Area</p> |

By Kristin Bjornsen

Regarding the North trail debate, the choice seems straightforward: have the best of both worlds. Build the heavy-traffic trail on the east side of U.S. 36, and retain the quiet hiker's trails on the west side, while keeping the West Beech Habitat Conservation Area intact. When you want to travel with larger groups of people, dogs, horses, and bikes, you can travel on the six-foot-wide east-side trail, which would connect north Boulder to Lyons. You'll still get beautiful vistas and rolling dips and rises; more of the latter could even be built into the trail. Yes, the trail would cross U.S. 36, but with an underpass (the cost shared with county, state, and federal agencies), that would fly by in the blink of an eye.

When you want a more solitary experience, you can hike, run, or walk the primitive west-side trails. Here, you can see rare birds, such as the lazuli bunting, deer herds, imperiled butterflies, and other denizens of the tall grass prairie. What you won't see are lots of people. Quiet trails like that, solace for the soul, are in short supply in Boulder. Do we want to extirpate that experience?

Putting the main connector trail on the east side would also preserve the exceptional West Beech Habitat Conservation Area (which would still be accessible through a permit system). Given the number of outdoor athletes in Boulder, if the main trail is put on the west side of U.S. 36, it will only be a matter of time before other trails, social and formal, get made. Like cracks spreading through glass, the habitat will fragment. And the ground-nesting birds, rare native flowers, like Bell's Twinpod, and other imperiled species taking refuge there will decline, if not disappear altogether.

Research backs up what experience tells us. In a Colorado State University study of Boulder trails, for example, researchers found that songbird populations, particularly specialist species, are lowest near trails. One of the study's authors, Professor Rick Knight, has referred to this as "a bit of a 'death zone' of 100 meters" on both sides of a trail, with fewer nests built, eggs laid, and chicks hatched or fledged.

This isn't to say we shouldn't enjoy open space. Of course we should! I enjoy the 440 miles of mountain biking trails in Boulder County, along with the countless running trails, climbing crags, and so forth. But I also want to respect sensitive ecosystems and other user experiences. Right now, the West Beech is identified as having "exceptional ecological value." Do we really want to compromise this?

Creating a connector trail is right and good; insisting that it must go through a protected area seems a little like a case of the "galloping gimmies," to quote the Berenstain Bears. Let's be smart in where we place our trails. If we can preserve a rare habitat and quiet visitor experiences by placing the heavy-traffic trail a little farther east, we can continue to enjoy the golden eggs from these ecological treasures in perpetuity. Or we can slice into the West Beech habitat for short-term reward and long-term deprivation.

The City Council's study session on this issue is May 24, with a decision expected June 7. I encourage everyone who cares about this issue to write the council. Although it's true all living things cast a shadow, we can affect how large that shadow is and where it falls. Rather than sacrificing something, we actually would be gaining something priceless.

Kristin Bjornsen lives in Boulder.

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| Email Author | Kristin Bjornsen |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>I would greatly appreciate if you would approve the OSBT's chosen plan for the North TSA that includes the North Sky Trail. As a north Boulder resident, I would greatly appreciate more opportunities to ride and hike directly from my house instead of driving.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> |
| Email Author | Eric Gordon |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Council Members,</p> <p>I am asking that you do not approve major trail proposed for construction that would fragment the untrailed Habitat Conservation Area along west of Highway 36. For 40 years I have had faith that the City Council and Open Space Department would make the right decisions concerning natural areas, and have not had much to worry about until recently. In fact, I have always supported most of the work you all have done for the city over those years. But as of late I am troubled by the absolute sway of the people who just want to find use and profit in all that Boulder has labored to protect.</p> <p>Please allow this area to stay untrammled and unfragmented. The destruction in the Boulder area never ceases anymore. This is a chance to protect what little we have in way of peace and tranquility for the wildlife and for those of us who simply find great solace in knowing that there are still some parts of our town that remain relatively safe from the completely lopsided view that all is for the taking.</p> |
| Email Author | Eleni Arapkiles |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Dear Council Member,</p> <p>The established trail east of Hwy 36 provides an excellent recreational experience as it is largely isolated from highway noise and residential areas. A short stretch of the trail does pass near a residential neighborhood but is still sufficiently buffered as to avoid invasion of privacy to the residents as well as providing open-space enjoyment for trail users.</p> <p>But part of the proposed west trail would also be subject to highway noise and, as has been noted by others, crosses environmentally-sensitive riparian areas. One of these, a major canyon and upland meadow that extends westward for about 3/4 mile, almost to the Old Stage Road, provides essential isolated bird and wildlife habitat that would inevitably be degraded by intense recreational traffic. This is but one example of the unnecessary loss of natural habitat that development of this prospective trail would incur.</p> <p>Boulder County is to be complimented for its designation of extensive open space. However, in this densely populated area, which is replete with intensive hiker-biker traffic throughout the foothills, it is essential to strike a balance between extended human use and undiminished natural areas.</p> <p>I strongly encourage you, therefore, to avoid invasive degradation of the area west of Hwy 36, especially where an obvious and well-established alternative already exists.</p> <p>Thanks for hearing and considering my concerns.</p> |
| Email Author | Martha Oetzel |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Council Members,</p> <p>As I'm sure you know, the lengthy and carefully developed North Trails Study Area process has resulted in staff and OSMP Board of Trustees recommending a plan which includes the much desired North Sky Trail on the west side of highway 36. As a long time resident on Wonderland Lake I strongly support this plan and trail location and certainly hope each of you will uphold the thoroughness, integrity, and expertise involved in the process by supporting the current plan.</p> <p>Virtually everyone in Boulder is concerned with careful management of environmental impacts and staff plans and efforts here include steps to minimize or mitigate such problems. The North Sky Trail uses considerable existing trail, some old railroad bed routing, close proximity to existing fencing around a commercial property, and other specific construction and management approaches to accomplish this.</p> <p>This approach also reduces very significant costs and safety issues relating to highway crossings.</p> <p>Completion of the North Sky Trail can and will be well done with minimal negative impacts. This is , after all, a relatively short trail extension. It is not a housing, business, or highway development.</p> <p>Again, please respect the process, effort, and expertise involved and support the current NTSA plan.</p> |

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| Email Author | James Lackey |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Council Members -- I have lived in Boulder for over 25 years (3186 Galena Way) and am proud of its commitment to conservation AND recreation, including biking, in appropriate areas. However, I oppose the proposed new trail on the west side of Highway 36 for the following reasons (whether such trail is open to hikers, bikers or horses):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It will require the construction of up to 11 bridges which will permanently alter the natural look of the property. The construction of 11 large bridges is not appropriate on such highly visible open space property. 2. The argument that the trail will simply follow an existing footpath along an old railroad grade is disingenuous. The current footpath is only a few feet wide and hardly visible. The new trail would be much wider and be an eye sore. 3. The proposed trail will cross at least 11 riparian drainages that are important for wildlife in the area. In addition, the area is home to some of the last native grasslands, and several threatened plants and species. Bike trails on the west side of the highway will introduce invasive plants and weeds. 4. The proposed alignment east of the highway will still provide the link that mountain bike community want to other mountain biking trails without the harmful environmental and aesthetic impacts. Bikers are not entitled to have bike trails wherever they want. Please stand up to the pressure from special user groups. <p>Thanks for your service</p> |
| Email Author | Mike Browning |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Dear City Council Member:</p> <p>I would like to express my strong opposition to the North Sky Trail as proposed in the OSMP North TSA. The proposed trail on the west of Highway 36 would jeopardize a critical and unique habitat area for rare plants and animals.</p> <p>Please consider what has already happened on heavily-visited trails on OSMP.</p> <p>1) Trails act as conduits to allow noxious weeds to invade, then spread through unbroken habitat blocks.</p> <p>The photo on the left shows how jointed goat grass, with seeds carried by hikers’ boots, has colonized the trail margins at NCAR.</p> <p>The photo on the right shows a similar effect, with invasive burdock spreading into an area along the Mesa Trail near Eldorado Springs.</p> <p>The North Sky trail will open up the rare and fragile shale plant community to colonization by aggressive non-native plants. Please do not compromise this unique habitat of the globally rare endemic Bell’s twin pod. Keeping it intact is its best protection.</p> <p>2) Existing trails through muddy areas widen quickly as hikers leave the trail tread to avoid slick, wet or icy patches, creating extensive networks of braided trails.</p> <p>This recent photo shows what has become of the Chautauqua Trail as a result of hikers avoiding mud and ice: in places it has become as wide as 11 people stretched arm to arm.</p> <p>The shale-based soils in Chautauqua are similar to the soils along the proposed route of the North Sky trail. This photo from Chautauqua Meadow shows how one designated trail turns into many parallel ruts as hikers leave the trail tread to avoid mud.</p> <p>A further photo shows trail widening and erosion from hikers and mountain bikers avoiding wet muddy patches. This photo was taken at the point where the North Sky trail would start, north of Wonderland Lake on the Four Mile trail.</p> <p>The North Sky Trail will allow noxious weeds to penetrate the heart of a nationally-recognized fragile community of rare plants. It will widen and will suffer significant trail braiding in the heart of a Habitat Conservation Area.</p> <p>These recent photos from Boulder’s Open Space show the future of the unique Habitat Conservation Area to the west of Highway 36 if the trail is built. I cannot believe this is what you would wish.</p> <p>Please do not approve the alignment of the North Sky Trail. Other better alternatives exist east of the highway. These will continue to allow recreational access without jeopardizing an irreplaceable natural gem.</p> |
| Email Author | Diane Vega |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |

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| Email Detail | Hello, I have used open space trails etc for the past 45 years in Boulder. I am generally impressed with OSMP and their stewardship, I cannot, however, see any advantage in putting a connector trail on the west side and potentially harming the ecosystem when an fine alternative exists on the east side. Please do not proceed with the west side plan! |
| Email Author | Donella Novak |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear City Council members, Please consider the following comments concerning the decision of the North Trail Study. Molly Davis and Frances Hartog Open Space Board of Trustees Why We Opposed Constructing the NS Trail in the West Beech HCA Molly Davis and Frances Hartogh, OSBT Trustees May 2016</p> <p>We would like to briefly explain why, as OSBT Trustees, we both opposed construction of the proposed “North Sky (NS) Trail” through the West Beech Habitat Conservation Area. Major and local environmental groups—including the Sierra Club, Audubon Society, Colorado Native Plant Society, Boulder County Nature Association, Friends of Boulder Open Space, and PLAN Boulder—also strongly oppose the NS Trail. Scores of public comments oppose this trail. Why the intense opposition?</p> <p>It is important to note that we, too, have spent many hours on the NTSA process, much of these focused on locating a viable north-south connector trail. In addition, and of critical importance to her knowledge of the area, Trustee Davis has spent literally hundreds of hours walking and painting the West Beech HCA, and thus is intimately familiar with this habitat and the plants and animals that call it home. We write as individual Trustees, and do not purport to speak on behalf of the OSBT or other board members.</p> <p>(1) OSMP staff have stated on the record that the NS Trail is “ecologically unsustainable”: The West Beech HCA’s native grasslands and 11 riparian drainages are home to a rich array of plant and animal life, including imperiled, rare, sensitive, and declining species that depend on this habitat. Introduction of a regional, multi-use trail through this habitat presents known risks that can’t be adequately mitigated.</p> <p>(2) The NS trail would introduce invasive species that destroy habitat: The most noteworthy invasive is jointed goat grass (a Colorado List B invasive) that occurs on both sides of the old railroad grade at the southern end of the proposed trail. OSMP staff stated on the record that they do not have viable means to combat this invasive grass. Recreational trails are known to be avenues for invasive plant infestations.</p> <p>(3) The city’s last unfragmented foothills riparian-grassland habitat, this HCA provides rich habitat for elk and deer, numerous species of snakes and birds, mountain lions, foxes, and coyotes that roam the entire area. In our own Spring Brook Loop trails, OSMP monitoring identified detrimental effects of trail construction and use on ungulate populations. The effects of mountain biking on elk populations is documented (details below).</p> <p>(4) The NS Trail would cut through 11 sensitive riparian drainages: Construction and use of multiple bridges, including one over 60 feet in length and over 6 feet across, will impact these sensitive areas. Based on our experience with damage in the OSMP system due to the 2013 flood, there is a likelihood of additional damage in the millions of dollars to such construction in the next extreme weather event of similar magnitude.</p> <p>(5) Unbroken vistas are important: Our iconic views of the western grasslands and stunning</p> |

montane upsweep as you enter Boulder from the north are iconic. Scarring these priceless vistas with bridge and trail construction isn't worth the perceived recreational experience it would provide to a minority of users. With the trail as a regional greenways connector (standard greenways width is 10 feet), even without multiple bridges this heavily used trail will be an eyesore.

(6) Violation of Open Space Charter and "sideboards": .The NS Trail violates the sideboards adopted by the OSBT as the foundation for the NTSA planning process (details below). These sideboards are legal requirements that underlie the entire process, ranging from federal laws to policies previously adopted by City Council after lengthy public input. The sideboards are specified as the most important criteria for the NTSA management plan, yet they have been all but ignored since they were adopted by the Open Space Board of Trustees in June 2015.

(7) Why build a trail for the minority?: The specific recreation groups that want the NS Trail (bikers, and some runners and equestrians) do not represent the majority of people who recreate on OSMP lands. The most recent Resident Survey of the city's registered voters (2010) shows that 90% use open space for walking and hiking—this majority is not asking for the NS Trail, which would damage a fragile habitat in exchange for less than 30 minutes of bike trail time.

(8) Safety Concerns:

- The HCA contains a very high rattlesnake population, including hibernacula that are critical for over-wintering snakes. To avoid bikers and equestrians, pedestrians and dogs will step off trail and into grassy areas where snakes abound and are not easy to see.
- Soils in the HCA are highly erosive and high in shale content. Trail closures will be frequent. Also, constructing a trail in this area could compromise the integrity of the hillside, which, along with degradation of the grasslands, increases risk of flood damage, slumps, and landslides.
- Industrial contamination: Adjacent industrial activities have resulted in contaminated soils and a plume of contaminated water underlying portions of the HCA. The effect of bridge and trail construction on this contamination has not been adequately considered.

(9) Cost: NS Trail construction costs have been underestimated. Staff acknowledges that helicopters will be used for bridge placement/installation due to the need to protect sensitive habitat. Soils in the area will require constant trail maintenance, resulting in future maintenance costs much higher than if the trail is located east of the highway.

(10) Why not construct the trail on the east side?: An alternate trail—with better mountain views and far less damage to the environment—can be expeditiously completed on the east side of the highway.

- This proposed eastern route (Scenario A) was much improved during the NTSA process, adding many trail features and rerouting to make the trail more appealing to bikers, while providing a more family-friendly route than the circuitous, steep NS Trail.
- The eastern route can be completed quickly; it avoids environmentally sensitive areas and some trail portions already exist. The NS Trail will be subject to lawsuits over violation of the Charter and sideboards and in opposition to wetlands permits.
- Highway crossing/underpass: Even proponents of the NS Trail acknowledge that the crossing will have to be built anyway. The price tag originally provided for the highway crossing failed to take into account cost sharing. Previous crossings, such as the one recently completed under Highway 93, have been funded through cost sharing.

(11) The NS Trail is not "there already": Prior to the NTSA planning process, the HCA contained evidence of the old RR trail and a few undesignated trails, and although some rec groups have endeavored to "establish" a through trail in the last year, the difference is huge between the impact of existing social/undesignated trails and that of constructing and using the proposed NS Trail for increasingly larger numbers of visitors. The current "out-and-back" does exist, and were it possible to control the spread of invasive species, could provide an enjoyable recreational experience to the majority of users and a priceless opportunity for education about the

protected grassland & riparian habitat in which we “wisely refrained” from trail construction. We recognize the intense pressure Council is under from certain groups to locate the north-south connector trail through the West Beech HCA. These groups argue that, compared to the entire HCA, the footprint of the trail is very small—however, this argument ignores the effects of habitat fragmentation, wildlife disturbance, and introduction of invasives, all of which have a much larger “footprint” than the trail itself. Based on public comment from both the public at large and six respected environmental organizations, we believe that the majority of the public would prefer to see the connector on the east side of the highway. The West Beech HCA should be protected not only for the sake of the plants and animals that need it to survive, but—in the words of the Open Space Mission—“to foster appreciation and use that sustain the natural values of the land for current and future generations.”

Additional Notes:

Sideboards: What’s all this fuss about the “Sideboards” being ignored? As agreed to by both the OSBT and OSMP, the NTSA plan had to “meet the criteria in the sideboards.” In the widely distributed document “North Trail Study Area Plan Scenarios,” #1 of the three criteria for “What makes for a successful scenario?” is “Consistency with the North TSA Plan Sideboards.” Despite repeated requests by the public, environmental groups, and two Trustees, OSMP staff have not provided an accounting of how the NTSA Scenario advanced by a 3-2 OSBT majority meets the criteria of the Sideboards.

The Sideboards are the laws, regulations, and preexisting approved plans that have bearing on the NTSA. These include:

The Charter – Open Space should be managed primarily for preservation, with biking and riding allowed only where “specifically designated.” See <https://bouldercolorado.gov/osmp/charter-and-mission>.

Open Space Long Range Management Policies - regarding long-term viability and health of natural ecosystems; all adopted by City Council after extensive public processes.

North Boulder Valley Area Management Plans - specific guidance about the West Beech and East Beech properties; the spread and introduction of invasive plant species; effects of recreational development on rare species, communities, and potential habitat. Policy of placing trails on the perimeters of important natural areas.

Visitor Master Plan – guidance regarding recreational opportunities; management strategies for Habitat Conservation Areas; no-dog opportunities. The VMP was adopted by Council in 2005 after a five-year public process, specifically designated the North Foothills Habitat Conservation Area (West Beech), and identified the natural resources and their critical importance (pages A-48-49).

Grasslands Ecosystem Management Plan – guidance on West Beech/North Boulder Grasslands and blocks of grasslands and shrub communities of this size and quality; undesignated trails in HCAs; dog management in areas of special conservation value or sensitivity.

What’s this about the elk herds?: The West Beech HCA is home to a healthy herd of elk. There have been a number of studies on the effects of recreation activities on elk. A recent literature review by McCorquodale (2013) with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife summarizes research on ways roads (and motorized trails) may potentially affect elk: 1) physiologic and energetic effects, 2) effects on distribution and habitat use, and 3) effects on vulnerability to mortality and, potentially, population dynamics. Naylor (2006, Naylor et al. 2009) found that off-road recreation produces a change in elk behavior. Results of studies demonstrated that activity budgets of elk were altered during exposure to off-road recreation disturbance in the elk summer range in Oregon at the Starkey Experimental Forest and Range. Elk increased their travel time during most disturbance, which reduced time spent feeding or resting. Elk travel time was highest during ATV exposure, followed by exposure to mountain biking, hiking, and horseback riding. It appeared that elk would habituate to horseback riding,

but not to mountain biking. In one well-designed study, Wisdom et al. (2004) observed increases in elk flight response and movement rates related to human recreational use in the same 3,590 acre section of the Starkey Experimental Forest and Range in Oregon. Elk flight response was greatest for ORV use, followed by mountain biking, and finally human hikers and horseback riders. "Higher probabilities of flight response occurred during ATV and mountain bike activity, in contrast to lower probabilities observed during hiking and horseback riding."

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| Email Detail | A note--Molly and I wrote these comments as individual board members, and not on behalf of the OSBT, and in response to written comments provided by a fellow board member and distributed to the public at one of our board meetings. As current board chair, I recognize that these views do not reflect the views of the 3 board members, including the former board chair (and hence the board majority) who voted to support the west trail connection. |
| Email Author | Frances Hartogh and Molly Winter |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Dear City Council members,</p> <p>The Denver Post recently ran this article about the "Disappearing West" study and Colorado's natural lands being lost to a development boom: http://www.denverpost.com/2016/05/16/hundreds-of-miles-of-colorado-wilderness-lost-to-21st-century-development-boom/</p> <p>This is of particular interest to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the Twin Lakes fields, which serve as a wildlife corridor, wetlands and buffer habitat 2) Hogan Pancost, which has documented threatened species on it. 3) the West Beech Conservation Area, one of the last remaining unfragmented habitats in Boulder County <p>Boulder truly must put very strong protections on its natural lands. This includes strong restrictions on annexation and strong restrictions on cutting into a Habitat Conservation Area. Otherwise, we will lose the things we've worked so hard and long to protect.</p> <p>Especially applicable quotes in the article: "If we want to have wildlife populations be able to move across the land, the most widely recommended strategy is to maintain connectivity of landscapes," he said. "If we are increasingly fragmented, that does not bode well."</p> <p>"Interior Secretary Sally Jewell has cited the study, calling for a renewed emphasis on large-scale planning. Jewell warned against "a haphazard web of transmission lines, pipelines and roads" and that "if we stay on this trajectory ... national parks and wildlife refuges will be like postage stamps of nature on a map — isolated islands of conservation" that people visit like zoos to try to glimpse nature."</p> <p>Saving open space would require "big-picture, roll-up-your-sleeves, get-input-from-all-stakeholders" planning, Jewell said, and cannot be done by simply creating new parks.</p> <p>"We're losing a lot. We're losing the natural lands that Westerners and other folks appreciate," said David Theobald, a Colorado State University geographer and conservation biologist and the Conservation Science Partners senior scientist who led the study.</p> <p>http://www.denverpost.com/2016/05/16/hundreds-of-miles-of-colorado-wilderness-lost-to-21st-century-development-boom/</p> |
| Email Author | Andy Baker |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |
| Email Detail | I support placement of the trail along the east side of US 36. I hike many of the trails over Boulder open space, and I know how busy and disruptive those trails can be. One of the few areas of undisturbed open space should be left that way. |
| Email Author | Jean Dubofsky |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |
| Email Detail | Please know that I fully support the work that OSMP staff has done to strike a compromise to achieve this North Sky Trail. Please approve it so this great city can have great trails. Getting mountain bikes off highway 36 is an added bonus as well. |

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| Email Author | Kate Higgins |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear council,</p> <p>I'm writing to express my support for the proposed north sky trail. I have 2 young kids, one just old enough to begin exploring the world by bike. She loves it. The confidence and sheer joy she had on her face this past weekend during a camping trip, when she navigated a new single-track trail with her dad said it all. Sadly this is not an activity they enjoy often at home in boulder since bike trails that do not require a car ride are very limited. As a parent I want to encourage a healthy outdoor activity and for my kids to learn to love and respect nature. BUT I don't want to teach her that every fun activity begins in the car and I'm certainly not willing allow her to risk her life on hwy 36. The north sky trail would allow us to bike off road, on single track, from our house in north boulder. It would be massively important to us.</p> <p>Preventing responsible access to the back country is a short sighted conservation stance. Unless we allow the next generation to explore and enjoy nature, (and mountain biking is one way that kids love to be outside, away from their electronic screens) they will have no motivation to protect it. Please allow the north sky trail to be built, and create a much needed car-free recreation opportunity for our kids.</p> <p>Thank you for your work on this.</p> |
| Email Author | Eleanor Needy |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/24/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>I'm writing in support of putting the North Sky Trail to the west of US-36. There are arguments that the trail will affect wildlife and will fragment the ecosystem. While there may be some truth to this, the impact of a dirt trail with occasional foot and bicycle traffic will be tiny in comparison to the existing environmental impact of Highway US-36 to the east and Olde Stage Road to the west.</p> <p>Let's get real: It's the pavement and traffic on these roads that have significant environmental impact. A trail between these two roads will have NEGLIGIBLE IMPACT compared to the roads. How often do you see dead wildlife by the side of US-36? Usually. How often do you see dead wildlife by the side of a trail? Never.</p> <p>Putting the trail to the west of US-36 makes sense on many fronts. Please use common sense. PS: I can't wait to start enjoying those trails from a Boulder trailhead, rather than driving to Heil or Hall Ranch.</p> |
| Email Author | Stan Needle |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Hello Council Members, On behalf of the FIDOS board, I am sending you the following letter with FIDOS' input on the North TSA Draft Plan. Thank you for this opportunity and for your hard work in reading likely hundreds of emails! Eileen Monyok - FIDOS Board Member</p> <p>Dear City Council Members:</p> <p>FIDOS is writing to request your consideration of our views on the North TSA, as you prepare for the May 24th study session. Thank you in advance for your time and service on this important segment of Boulder's Open Space system.</p> <p>FIDOS supports the North TSA Draft Plan, as approved by the Open Space Board of Trustees on March 9th. We feel that this plan represents a fair balance among Voice & Sight, Voice & Sight On Corridor, On Leash, and No Dog trails. For those who are unfamiliar with the Voice & Sight On Corridor designation, it allows Voice & Sight Control of your dog within a 20 foot corridor on either side of the trail.</p> <p>The North TSA process, although longer than planned, provided numerous opportunities for input from all stakeholder groups, under the guidance of OSMP staff. FIDOS was an active participant in the process, and we feel that the final North TSA Draft Plan represents a compromise for all stakeholder groups, with balance across the entire North TSA system. Although TSAs have a reputation for being difficult, FIDOS feels that OSMP staff and the OSBT conducted a good, even-handed, and open process with the North TSA.</p> <p>The most contested issue of the North TSA process has been the location of the north-south connector trail between Wonderland Lake and Joder Ranch. The current Draft Plan places this trail on the west side of Highway 36. Even though this trail does not have favorable designations for dogs, with No Dog for 3 months of the year and On Leash for the other 9 months, FIDOS still supports the west placement of the connector trail. An additional trail will help to disperse potentially heavier usage on the eastern trails. Also, the western trail should be able to minimize impacts in that it will use an existing trail/railroad bed along its initial part. It will then run adjacent to an industrial park and chain link fence, until it nearly reaches another currently existing trail.</p> <p>FIDOS asks for your thoughtful consideration and approval of the current North TSA Draft Plan.</p> |
| Email Author | The FIDOS Board Jim Illg – President Lori Fuller Tony Gannaway Eileen Monyok Aldona Siczek Dan Sukle |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Dear City Council Members.</p> <p>I have lived in Boulder for 45 years. Our open space is our last great resource. Please do not allow a trail to be built on the west side of 36. Very respected professional ecologists and wildlife biologists at OSMP have aside a Habitat Conservation Area here as a refuge and safety net for native plant and animal species. An east side connector trail already exists. We don't need another one on the west side. Please let's listen to the experts on this and not approve this west side trail.</p> |
| Email Author | Harvey Wellman |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>I don't see any good reason to build the trail on the West side, when there are clear reasons to build on the east side. With the growing population in Colorado, and Boulder, let's take the more conservative choice to protect wild life.</p> |
| Email Author | Jenny Devaud |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>City Council - Please heed the biological and ecological values present in an intact, unfragmented habitat west of US36 in favor of a connector trail on the east side of US36. both trails will provide the bottom line connection northward out of Boulder. Please do not put trail experience at the same level of importance as habitat integrity and value, when you can still achieve the northward connection - and a considerable trail experience, utilizing a trail on the east side of US36.</p> |
| Email Author | J. David Hoerath |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>I support the east side trail, NOT the trail on the west side. There is already industrial on the east side and it is far more appropriate. Do not disrupt wildlife and riparian aspects by destroying that location.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> |
| Email Author | Carroll McCorkel |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Boulder City Council Members:</p> <p>I am a third generation Colorado native and have lived in Boulder County since 1984. Large areas of open space are critical for healthy ecosystems.</p> <p>In a recent report that assessed habitat fragmentation in the U.S., Colorado is losing critical habitat for many species more quickly than most states due to increasing population, housing development, and recreation pressure.</p> <p>Therefore, I object to building a major new trail across the North Foothills Habitat Conservation Area on the West side of Highway 36. Since the East side of Highway 36 has a more accessible trail as suggested by staff, please choose the East side option to preserve critical habitat on the West side for many organisms.</p> |
| Email Author | Nancy Kellogg |

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| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Councilors,</p> <p>I am writing to express my support for the East Side Trail and my opposition to the West Side Trail to connect the Joder Property and Heil Ranch. Construction of a new trail through the North Foothills Habitat Conservation Area (HCA) on the west side of Highway 36 would irreparably fragment and damage critical habitat for ten rare plants species that are tracked by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program as well valuable wildlife habitat. Improvements to the connector trail on the east side - one that is already being used by hikers, runners, bikers and equestrians - will not only preserve the large expanse of intact habitat on the west side of Highway 36 but also enhance the current trail corridor for its many users and make it less prone to closures.</p> <p>As a member of the Colorado Native Plant Society, I urge the Council to select the East Side Connector Trail and preserve the riparian drainages and critical habitat on the that exists on the west side as well as the scenic views of the grasslands and the hogback enjoyed by travelers to and from North Boulder. I further urge the Council to request Open Space managers to carry out comprehensive invasive species management to preserve the habitat value of the HCA.</p> |
| Email Author | Leslie Woollenweber |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>To members of the Boulder City Council:</p> <p>I am a hiker, bicyclist and member of the Colorado Native Plant Society, who values our native plants. For the past 20 years, I have performed weed control as a volunteer with the city, county and U.S. Forest Service to help stewardship of our natural areas.</p> <p>When you vote on proposed trails in the North Trails Study Project, I am writing to urge your support for "Scenario A," a trail on the east side of U.S. 36, rather than "Scenario B," which would cut through the North Foothills Habitat Conservation Area (HCA).</p> <p>This North Foothills HCA has been recognized by the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan and the Colorado Natural Heritage Program as well as the City's Open Space and Mountain Parks Department to be of great significance because it contains both animal and plant species of special concern. The HCA includes valuable wetlands, unique habitat for birds, and 10 rare plant populations, 3 of which are 'threatened' and 3 of which are 'critically threatened,' including Venus's looking glass, birdsfoot violet, and dwarf leadplant.</p> <p>I oppose routing a trail through this HCA because: 1) if these rare animal and plant species are harmed, they are likely to be lost permanently; 2) use by hikers, cyclists, horses and dogs will directly degrade both the specific trail and adjacent areas as social trails emerge and as dogs wander off trail (to annoy wildlife and leave feces and urine that can change soil chemistry); 3) fragmentation of this area discourages wildlife (which requires large blocks of habitat) and reduces plant and animal diversity, and 4) non-native plant species will increase on and adjacent to trails as people, horses, and dogs bring weed seeds into disturbed areas. This area should remain closed to human use (except by special permit as is currently the case).</p> <p>Habitat Conservation Areas set aside only about 25% for preservation, leaving 75% for other uses such as recreation and agriculture. A west-side trial is not needed because the east-side trail can meet the needs of hikers, riders, and cyclists. Please keep this important HCA intact and conserved for plant and animal wildlife.</p> |
| Email Author | Patricia Butler |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Dear Members of Boulder City Council,</p> <p>Despite being an avid backpacker, hiker, and mountain biker, I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed East Side Connector Trail.</p> <p>Wildlife faces pressure from development all along the Front Range, and these animals rely on having space where they can retreat from human activity for raising young. Although trails serve as a wonderful source for us to access the natural world and appreciate the wildlife within it, if we continue to fragment habitat with excess trails, the wildlife will cease to use these areas.</p> <p>Please reconsider whether the East Side Connector Trail is absolutely necessary.</p> |
| Email Author | Tyler Stuart |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>As a resident of the city of Boulder, I strongly oppose the proposed west-side connector trail of the NTSA. I agree with the reasons stated in a recent guest opinion by Patricia Billig in the Daily Camera (May 22, 2016).</p> |
| Email Author | Clara Deser |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>PLEASE do the right thing for wildlife and its habitat by preserving the HCA and the riparian and grassland areas WEST of Highway 36. All of the bikers and equestrians will have a perfectly fine ride on the EAST side of the highway, while we allow the remaining plant and animal species to survive. This solution is a WIN/WIN for both recreationists and conservationists. PLEASE do the right thing by our wildlife!</p> |
| Email Author | Ann Tagawa |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear City Council Members,</p> <p>No doubt you are being inundated by those on both sides of the OSMP North Trail Study Area (NTSA) recommendation, but our civic duty must not be shirked! I will try to be brief!</p> <p>The entire NTS process has been alarming to those of us who have been on hand since the City of Boulder pioneered the preservation of open space half a century ago! A strange new system was implemented by OSMP staff that actually developed multiple outcomes or “scenarios”, one that conformed to historic doctrine and one that cut across the grain. An unintended consequence of this new process was it neutered staff by providing an obsequious Open Space Board of Trustees with the “scenario” the majority coveted. Or was it unintended?</p> <p>There are so many unanswered questions surrounding the NTS: the actual west side trail alignment remains a mystery; the potential for routing the west side trail through the Beech Conservation Easement has not been fully explored; demonstrable cost sharing for the east side trail underpass, which will considerably reduce the east side over west side cost, has not been determined; mitigation of impacts to the many wetland encroachments that will occur on the west side require further assessment, etc., etc.! And this does not even begin to address the known debasement that will infiltrate the North Foothills Habitat Conservation Area (HCA),</p> |

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| | <p>which despite arguments to the contrary, remains largely intact. Please consult at length with your OSMP plant and wildlife ecologists who can give you a thorough accounting of their detailed Resource Inventory.</p> <p>It is apparent to many this exercise is intended to appease a large and influential stakeholder group that wants to have “fun” and if, indeed, this is the case, our once heralded open space program will set a new standard, environmental degradation just for the fun of it!</p> <p>Please make the right choice or table the issue until we have the answers we need to competently make that choice!</p> |
| Email Author | Sue Cass and my six generation Boulder family |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>To the Boulder City Council:</p> <p>There is a way in which the spirit is uplifted by looking up from a populated area to untrammled vistas above. The undeveloped cliffs and crags of the Flat Irons and Dakota Hogback that rise west of Boulder allow our eyes and spirits to be lifted daily by the dramatic topography that is the hallmark of our city.</p> <p>Selecting the trail alignment east of Highway 36 in north Boulder will maintain and bolster the value of this scenic contrast--between height and flatland--by facilitating visitor exposure to the visual inspiration of the north Boulder Hogback. In an increasingly populated world, undisturbed vistas like these have become all the more rare and sought after.</p> <p>The east side trail alignment makes sense from many perspectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating an efficient through-connector that opens up many miles of trail experience by joining Gunbarrel to the east and the city of Boulder to the south with recreation opportunities to the north, such as the Heil Ranch and Joder properties. • Becoming a truly fun trail experience through minimal engineering and trail reconstruction that create the flow experience by removing mud and other obstacles • Constituting a better investment of city funds by avoiding the high cost of new trail construction, flood control, wetlands mitigation and parking space • The HCA being featured in the business and residential communities as an educational amenity, preserved in its natural state as a unique foothills grassland and riparian ecosystem <p>Interpretive Signing</p> <p>If protected, a North Boulder natural heritage area would be promoted in visitor signs and publications as an example of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intact populations of rare and sensitive bird, butterfly and plant species (including CNHP element occurrences) • A micro-system of bird, insect and butterfly interactions, combined with a macro-system of riparian corridors that facilitate movement of larger mammals. • A healthy predator-prey relationship between raptors and prairie dogs <p>Interpretive signing like this would allow the HCA to become an exemplary Boulder attraction, not through direct use, but through fostering an appreciation of the beauty and importance of a naturally functioning grassland ecosystem.</p> <p>The specialness of the HCA in its natural state would become particularly apparent to visitors if they were made aware, through education, of how little of Boulder County still remains undisturbed, by agricultural, residential and recreational use---25% natural, 75% now modified by human use.</p> |

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| | <p>Nature walks If the HCA remained free of biking, it could in fairness remain free of pedestrian trails as well, except for possibly being opened up infrequently-- as a special community amenity-- to low-impact nature tours for small groups of school children or bird watchers, etc.</p> <p>Sustainable Trail Design To make all the above possible, I recommend the city adopt, for its north Boulder trail system, the principles of Ecological Trail Design developed by the Colorado State Trails Program as follows:</p> <p>Avoid large untouched areas of wildlife habitat Route a trail around the edge of an area of high quality, undisturbed habitat rather than through its center Avoid small patches of high quality habitat. Such patches may be important stepping stones used by wildlife to move across the landscape Trail corridors may encourage some species of wildlife, such as jays, raccoons and other edge-loving generalists, but these species are already increasing across the landscape and do not need encouraging Seek out degraded areas that have the potential to be restored when aligning a trail, rather than creating another disturbed area (6 - 8 Planning Trails with Wildlife in Mind, Colorado State Parks, pp. 6-8)</p> <p>In conclusion, I urge the City Council to follow Boulder's exemplary path of stewardship by permanently setting aside the North Boulder HCA as a unique and historic habitat area.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> |
| Email Author | Roz McClellan |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |

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| <p>Email Detail</p> | <p>Dear Boulder Council Members,</p> <p>The North Trail Study Area decisions soon to be made are, to me, about Boulder’s decision-making process itself, and whether in the future, we will be able to trust Board recommendations and Council decisions.</p> <p>The Open Space Board of Trustees that recommended a major trail through a Habitat Conservation Area did so with, I feel, disrespect for the public creative compromise, science, and Council approval of the departmental Plans they were required to follow. The people of Boulder were assured by OSBT and Staff that the sideboards would define the decision space and be the legal solid ground of the NTSA process. But during the public process, prior to Board voting, no elements of the NTSA Plan were publicly analyzed in relation to the Visitor Master Plan, OSMP Long Range Management Plan, North Boulder Valley Management Plan, and the Grassland Ecosystem Management Plan. I could respect the NTSA recommendations now before you a great deal more if, instead of reflecting a perceived balance of personal desires, they rested on the required elements of the above sideboard Plans.</p> <p>When I conversed in late 2015 with the Open Space Staff Director and NTSA Project Leader, I was told that Staff had discussed in non-public meetings and informal get-togethers various relationships between NTSA elements and sideboard documents. A few months later, Staff gave a brief Powerpoint presentation including minimal sideboard analysis to the OSBT at a study session - the same one at which OSBT voted for Staff to prioritize efforts towards construction a high-use bike trail to the west of Highway 36. No public comment was allowed at that decision-making January 2016 meeting. I hope that you agree that this is unacceptable as public process.</p> <p>In a past letter to you I gave numerous quotes from the VMP regarding the clear ecosystem preservation guidance for Habitat Conservation Area lands. Within our HCAs, trail construction is only allowed for a low level of use, with resource protection the priority over human use. If the sideboards are to be changed, a full public process would be required.</p> <p>I want to believe that Council honors it’s own approved Plans, and that appointed Boards abide by Departmental Master Plans and Council directives. When a new Plan is approved, don’t you expect, that in addition to the Plan itself, all of the knowledge and effort involved in it’s creation be respected?</p> <p>Another factor to consider in the NTSA decisions, is the fact that at the end of the West Trail Study Area deliberations, Council recommended that Staff work on a list of “Overarching Issues.” High on that list was Carrying Capacity of OSMP lands.</p> <p>I believe it is a natural progression for growing populations such as ours along the Front Range to overwhelm local ecosystems with both physical presence and continued demands to override habitat protections. By voting in a consistent manner with the sideboards - to place regional trails in OSMP “Natural Areas” instead of “Habitat Conservation Areas”, you will also be addressing your 2011 directive to Staff on Carrying Capacity. An example-setting step in tackling that scary term would be to follow the already-in-place policies of HCA protections. Don’t you think it is the least we can do to preserve our HCA’s, our most sensitive areas.</p> <p>Please give some thought to preservation of Boulder’s decision-making system. Personally, I think of our Plans as buffers to the “emotional issues of the day.”</p> |
| | <p>Email Author</p> |

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| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>I am writing you today to express my support for the North TSA Plan and in particular for the North Sky Trail in the hopes that you will approve the Plan including this trail.</p> <p>I know you are hearing from many conservationists who are opposed to the trail on the grounds that it will degrade critical wildlife and plantlife habitat. While this is a valid concern, I would urge you to trust your OSMP staff to be able to design and build a trail that provides a high quality visitor experience while minimizing impacts. The Open Space Board of Trustees voted for the Plan, thus voicing their confidence that a balance can be struck.</p> <p>The North Sky Trail would provide a critical link in the creation of an off-road multi-use connection between Boulder and Lyons, benefitting hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers. This corridor would provide an unrivaled visitor experience for OSMP in that no other multi-use trail connects Boulder with another community. I am sure Lyons would welcome a direct trail connection to further strengthen the ties between our cities.</p> <p>Boulder County Parks & Open Space is on the verge of approving a trail plan for the Heil 2 property which connects Heil with Lefthand Canyon. A multi-use trail will be provided, which would stop just shy of the proposed North Sky and Joder trails, in anticipation of a future regional connection from Boulder to Lyons.</p> <p>Again, I want to stress that I am not advocating for ignoring the impacts of the trail, rather I am advocating that you join your staff and OSBT in believing that it is possible to create this trail while minimizing impacts. Please approve the North TSA, including the North Sky Trail, and do not pass up this opportunity to create a one of a kind regional connection.</p> |
| Email Author | Alex Hyde-Wright |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Council members,</p> <p>I have noticed a lot of editorials in the Camera lately and would like to add my input regarding the west side of 36 sky trail.</p> <p>I have been using this trail as an out and back for over 20 years. As I am sure you are aware it currently follows an old rail grade until it dead ends at the old Beech property. The current trail runs through a Habitat Conservation Area which allows for on trail use only(except by special permit). In all the years I have used this trail I have never seen anyone off trail and it looks as though people have done a good job respecting this rule. The current alignment does run through some sensitive drainages and I believe the new proposed alignment does a good job of avoiding those areas. I believe the new trail can actually have less impact and greater protection of the HCA than the current trail if constructed well. I would also encourage closures seasonally if needed or due to muddy conditions.</p> <p>Also, I would like to see dogs allowed on leash only to avoid conflicts with other users or wildlife and possibly not allow dogs on this section at all due to the long distance from trail heads. I can only imagine the number of dog poop bags left along the trail as people are reluctant to carry them very far.</p> <p>The main reason I feel this trail is needed is a safe and popular way to get to Joder ranch and beyond. A trail on the east side of 36 would get far less use due to its increased distance,</p> |

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| | <p>especially by foot. Anything we can do to reduce traffic on 36 should be encouraged.</p> <p>On a side note, somewhat related, I would love to see the speed limit on highway 36 reduced. I know of several people who have been hit by cars or trucks along this route and I think with the potential popularity of the Joder Ranch these instances could increase.</p> |
| Email Author | Andy Ames |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Hello Council Members,</p> <p>I am writing to request that you put the NTSA trail on the East side of Rt 36. The west side has a special protection designation already, and it would be shortsighted not to honor this. The alternative path suggested for the East side of the highway is not as fragile environmentally, so makes much more sense.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this important matter.</p> |
| Email Author | Margit Johansson |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | Please! There are so few well preserved natural areas. Please enhance trails on the east of 36 or improve access along 36. Leave the HCA on the west of 36 alone! |
| Email Author | Zeb Delk |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | I was dismayed that the plans for the North TSA ignore long established guidelines for protecting the North Foothills Habitat Conservation Area. By building the proposed west-side trail through this ecologically fragile area, many plant, insect, and bird populations will be imperiled. I urge you to support the East Side trail that was proposed earlier in the planning process. This trail will provide recreational use without damaging the fragile ecosystem on the west side. Please help make this right for our environment. We cannot go back once the damage is done. |
| Email Author | Carol McCasland |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Dear City Council Members,</p> <p>I am writing to you in support of the current proposal for the North Sky Trail as developed by city staff and approved by the Open Space Board of Trustees. As proposed, the trail will add to the creation of a regional trail that will allow me (and others) to ride from North Boulder to Lyons by way of the foothills. My house is near Wonderland Lake, and with this trail, I could ride from my home to Heil Valley Ranch and on to Lyons primarily off-road with the exceptions of crossing one paved road (Lee Hill) and having to ride the stretch of pavement along Olde Stage and Lefthand Canyon. This will allow me to eliminate numerous car trips to Heil Valley Ranch each year to get to trails suitable for riding.</p> <p>Others have suggested that a trail east of Hwy. 36 would provide the same experience as the proposed trail, but I strongly disagree. People develop a stronger connection to nature when they are able to immerse themselves within it. The sounds, smells, and other sensations provided by being up close are the reasons we have trails through National Parks and not just roads circling them to allow us to look at the pretty scenery from afar. My experience with the current trail system near the Boulder Reservoir, including the Eagle Trail, is such that I ride there only once every year or so because those trails do not feed the soul like trails within the foothills.</p> <p>I realize that the council will hear from many competing voices and that it is not possible to please everyone on an issue, so thank you for your work on this project and your consideration of this letter.</p> |
| Email Author | Larry Fabiny |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear council members,</p> <p>As development and growth proceeds, we have precious few places for our native plants and wildlife to thrive. Please preserve the functioning riparian and grassland ecosystems on the WEST side of Hwy 36 and place the connector trail on the EAST side of the highway.</p> |
| Email Author | Dara Kerr |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Good Day,</p> <p>I am writing to express my support and beg yours for the VERY, VERY important trail connection between Wonderland Lake and the Joder Ranch. The North Sky Trail, and the inclusion of mountain bike use on that trail, should be a no-brainer for Council at this point. We all know the benefits of trail connectivity- Boulder was and may still be the undisputed national leader on the greenways and bike/ped facilities side of non-motorized interconnectivity- but various forces still seem to want to deny this opportunity for cyclists on non-paved trails.</p> <p>The science is well-founded that bikes cause no more sedimentation or impact to vegetation than do pedestrian users. There is no credible, peer-reviewed science that states otherwise. When you add the OSMP study that demonstrated much higher levels of pedestrian off-trail use relative to bikes, with its resulting impacts on vegetation, sedimentation/deposition, and potential wildlife impacts, there is NO leg to stand on related to keeping bikes off the North Sky Trail.</p> <p>Modern, purpose-designed trail that accounts for different types of users traveling at different speeds results in a very different, sustainable, low maintenance trail than the legacy trail system that was hiked in around Boulder with very steep, eroding gradients that would not handle shared-use well at all. In fact, those legacy trails often don't handle any use well and have incurred a huge maintenance deficit and natural resource impacts.</p> <p>Finally, please do not develop a soft spot for the "wilderness character" of our Open Space lands as the North Sky Trail is discussed. This corridor may have a relatively natural prairie-forest ecotone assemblage of plant and animal species, but by no means are we looking at pristine lands. From the farming and ranching history in this corridor, the nearby and recently developed residential areas, and the always busy 36 corridor, to argue that a 3-4' wide trail is going to even minimally alter the existing ecology is preposterous.</p> <p>Please see this issue as what it is- a small and supremely vocal minority that wants to turn back the clock twenty five years to a time when they remember having more of the Open Space to themselves, umm, I mean the animals. Again, I urge you to be forward-thinking regarding connectivity, health, safety, access, opportunity, and a personal choice of how to lightly travel on trails versus the regressive stance that is constantly put forth by conservationists in this City in some kind of attempt to "maintain the purity" of our Open Space.</p> <p>I am a home owner, business owner (providing nationwide consultation on minimizing impacts of recreation systems), and a tax payer. As a recreationist and conservationist, I have done my part to support our progressive self-taxation to maintain our incredible Open Space network. After the debacle that was the South and West TSA, I have seriously considered changing my stance of continued taxation support for Open Space- when our Public Lands become managed by and for the minority, we have lost our way. Please don't let this happen again!!</p> |
| Email Author | Scott Linnenburger |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>I encourage you to construct a connector trail on the east side of Highway rather than on the west side, in order to protect and preserve the North Foothills Habitat Conservation Area with its views to the west, foothills riparian drainages, ten rare plant species and its unique native plant and animal associations. Please do not fragment this important conservation area.</p> |
| Email Author | Diane Brown |

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| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>RE: CLARIFICATION: Recommendation for an east side connector in the NTSA to accommodate bikers and minimize ecological risk.</p> <p>Dear City Council:</p> <p>In a letter on May 16 I stated the following:</p> <p>“ Our OSMP lands are showing directional changes associated with global environmental change drivers. All analyses to date suggest declines in local indices of biological diversity. (Anacker, OSMP unpublished results, Beals et al.2014). These changes are real and cannot be disputed.”</p> <p>I need for you to know that the statement “These changes are real” is mine and mine alone (with the Beals et al. 2014 work having been peer reviewed and approved by the Ecological Society of America). I would be pleased to explain these to you, but this conclusion and my letter were not made in consultation or with the approval of Brian Anacker and OSMP.</p> <p>Sincerely, Tim Seastedt Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Fellow, Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research.</p> |
| Email Author | Timothy Seastedt |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>I would like to strongly recommend not building a trail through the North Foothills NCA. The environmental damage of slicing through this area cannot be undone. I can't even imagine why this option is on the table. Please, please, please help preserve this area.</p> |
| Email Author | Janna Gustafson |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear council members:</p> <p>I strongly urge you to choose the east trail option (east of 36) for the North Trail Study Area connector trail rather than the west trail option through fragile habitat. The trail promises heavy traffic from many user groups, and there is simply no way they would not have a very high impact on a Habitat Conservation Area, so designated for the sensitive and irreplaceable plants and wildlife there.</p> <p>I say this as a hiker and dog walker who tries to be as careful as possible on Boulder trails. I have seen and heard what happens with heavy trail traffic, even when users play by the rules and stay on the trail. The disturbance is significant, without question. With the current proposed trail on the west side, the loss of habitat would be incalculable - and irreversible, no matter how many barricades would be thrown up by OSMP after the fact, as they are inclined to do when they second-guess poor decisions. The east side presents a reasonable and easily do-able alternative.</p> <p>Please vote to preserve this rare gem on the west side as it is, and choose the far less destructive east side for the connector trail.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> |

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| Email Author | Cindy Cornelius |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>All,</p> <p>Please build the north sky multi use trail.</p> <p>My family has lived in Boulder for 15 years and we treasure our time outside actively communing with nature via bike and hiking.</p> <p>Yesterday I was biking at Marshal Mesa and has the privilege of watching a coyote at close range. Last weekend the same experience while hiking at Bear Canyon. Nature and trail use can - and do - coexist.</p> <p>This is a precious and prominent opportunity to connect open spaces that the community has invested in along the front range. Let's make it happen.</p> |
| Email Author | Isaac, Erin & Logan Stokes |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear City Councilors,</p> <p>I volunteer as a mountain bike patroller for Boulder County Open Space. I am also the proud father of two young girls who love to mountain bike. I have attended planning meetings for the North TSA, and have contacted OSMP via email in the past to provide my input. I am writing to voice my support for the plan put forth by OSMP for the North TSA. I strongly support development of the North Sky Trail as a means to provide connectivity to existing trail systems between North Boulder and Joder Ranch, and for the possibility of future connectivity to Lyons. This proposal minimizes environmental impact by using much of already existing trails in the area. City staff have done extensive studies of sensitive species and have come up with a sustainable trail alignment that avoids these sensitive areas.</p> <p>Please act on behalf of the majority of trail users who wish to see these trails opened for public use. Please consider all of the hard work OSMP has put into the development of this plan. Please consider future generations of trail users like my daughters who will be spending time on the North Sky Trail and Joder Ranch trails upon your approval.</p> |
| Email Author | Philip Schreiber |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>I wrote a letter the other week expressing my support for the North Sky Trail. I'd like to take this opportunity to reiterate my strong desire to see a trail connection from Boulder to the Open Space to the north.</p> <p>I live in Boulder and I work at the National Renewable Energy Lab in Golden. I take the bus to work every day. My wife and I share a car, and the majority of our trips around town are done by bike. As a strong conservationist, I do as much as I can to minimize my carbon footprint by driving as little as possible.</p> <p>But, I love to experience nature by riding my bike on trails. Unfortunately, in Boulder, most opportunities to mountain bike just aren't accessible from town. That means I frequently have to drive to ride.</p> <p>For example, on Saturday morning, I went mountain biking in Lyons and spent almost an hour in my car. That's more time than I'd spent in a car in two weeks!</p> <p>The North Sky Trail is an important regional trail connection that could make big rides from town a realistic option for me and my family. It would help us keep the car in the garage, enjoy nature together, and connect us to miles of wonderful trail in northern Boulder County.</p> <p>Please support the North Sky Trail.</p> |
| Email Author | Stephen J. Lommele |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Council Members,</p> <p>Thank you for considering what I believe to be one of the most important trail additions to the City of Boulder and greater Boulder County as well, The North Sky Trail. This trail in the Western alignment will provide a way for users to be dis-pursed in a much more meaningful way than has been done yet in Boulder. I acknowledge the task you have in weighing conservation vs. recreation and being good stewards of the land for the future but also offering a meaningful user experience for recreational users. The benefit of users being able to access other trail systems through connectivity and thus not driving to a trail to recreate would seem to far outweigh any negative impacts of a 2' wide trail running through an already developed and heavily traveled area (Hwy 36). North Sky Trail is a shining opportunity for Boulder to give back to the people who have repeatedly voted to give the City of Boulder the funding to create open spaces with a balance of recreation and conservation. People seem to be reaching a tipping point in this area these days. Please take this opportunity to give a small piece back to those who have been so engaged in procuring and maintaining the open space that we currently enjoy by approving the Western alignment of The North Sky Trail.</p> |
| Email Author | Troy Mandery |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |

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| Email Detail | Dear City Council Members, I fully support the the West TSA Draft Management Plan. Open Space staff and the OSBT did an amazingly inclusive process that sets the high mark for public engagement. The plan, as presented, represents a careful balancing of diverse and somewhat contradictory objectives. The Blue Sky Trail is the lynchpin of this balance and I believe it will ultimately be highly valued by the entire community. Please vote in favor of the draft West TSA plan without alteration. |
| Email Author | Jim Mapes |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | Regarding the North Foothills HCA: Please preserve one of the largest remaining unfragmented habitat blocks in Boulder’s Open Space and Mountain Parks system. The grassland nesting birds, shrub-nesting birds, imperiled butterflies, birds-foot violets, and other residents cannot speak for themselves. They need US to protect them and they have so few places left undisturbed. |
| Email Author | Jessica Sandler |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | Dear City Council- Please approve the North Sky Trail, as approved by Open Space Board of Trustees and City Staff, to connect the city of Boulder to the beautiful landscape and trails to our north. As a resident of Boulder for more than a decade, the North Sky Trail is a dream come true, especially the ability to avoid riding on Highway 36. As an adult, it is a horrible endeavor to ride on 36 (especially if you have seen a bike/car accident first hand), but as I strive to pass on a love of outdoor recreation to my two daughters, it is not an option. The plan to use existing trail, a historic road bed, and to incorporate sustainable trail alignment throughout is a perfect balance between conservation and recreation, and I hope to use this important regional connector trail with my family in years to come. Thank you for your time. |
| Email Author | Aaryn Kay |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | All, please vote in favor of mountain bike access to the North Sky Trail. Sadly, most times I want to ride, the bike goes on the car. The parking lot at Heil Ranch is packed with cars because no one wants to ride on 36. If you want to get cars off the road, this is a small step in the right direction. |
| Email Author | Bobby Noyes |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Dear Council,</p> <p>I consider myself to be part of the environmental community, however, I am completely in favor of the North Trail Study Area, including and especially the new trail west of 36 through the North Foothills Habitat Conservation Area.</p> <p>I participated in the excellent community involvement meetings by Open Space and Mountain Parks and I feel sufficiently knowledgeable about the issues. The outcome was well balanced between recreation and preservation.</p> <p>My vote is YES for North Trail Study Area.</p> |
| Email Author | Marie Caldwell |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Council:</p> <p>My wife and I would strongly encourage that the East trail be approved. Having hiked both of these areas, it seems to us that the east side trail would be much better in terms of preserving the environments concerned and would provide a better hiking experience.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and for this opportunity to comment.</p> |
| Email Author | Dennis R. Briscoe, PhD |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Dear Council Member,</p> <p>I have hiked the "east" trail from Boulder Valley Ranch around Left Hand Reservoir many times, as well as occasionally the ersatz dead-end trail on the west side of Hyw 36.</p> <p>The established east trail provides an excellent recreation experience as it is largely isolated from highway noise and residential areas. A short stretch of the trail does pass near a residential neighborhood but is still sufficiently buffered as to avoid invasion of privacy to the residents as well as providing open-space enjoyment for trail users.</p> <p>Conversely, a part of the prospective west trail would be subject to highway noise and, as has been noted by others, crosses environmentally-sensitive riparian areas. One of these, a major canyon and upland meadow that extends westward for about 3/4 mile, almost to the Old Stage Road, provides essential isolated bird and wildlife habitat that would inevitably be degraded by intense recreational traffic.. This is but one example of the unnecessary loss of natural values that development of this prospective trail would incur.</p> <p>Boulder County is to be complemented for its designation of extensive open space. However, in this densely-populated area, which is replete with intensive hiker-biker traffic throughout the foothills, it is essential to strike a balance between extended human use and diminished natural areas.</p> <p>I strongly encourage you, therefore, to avoid invasive degradation of the area west of Hwy 36, especially where an obvious and well-established alternative already exists.</p> <p>Thanks for the opportunity to comment.</p> |
| Email Author | Doyle McClure |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>As a resident of the city of Boulder I am writing to ask you to support the north sky trail that is part of the north trail study area (NTSA) as well as the entire NTSA as approved the open space board of trustees.</p> <p>Having a regional trail connector that would allow me to trail run, walk my 2 dogs and bike from Boulder to Heil valley ranch would be a huge community asset.</p> <p>Today if I want to go biking or trail running at Heil ranch or hall ranch, I would get in my car and drive from downtown Boulder where I live. If this trail was available I would simply ride instead which would be so much better for me and the environment.</p> |
| Email Author | Nikki Ward |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>I support using the East Side Trail Connector in North Boulder instead of bisecting natural habitat in the west side of 36.</p> |
| Email Author | Kari Armstrong |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |

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| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Council Members,</p> <p>I have followed the developments of the NTSA process and am dismayed to see that voluntary human recreation is still being considered equal to continued existence of species that have evolved in unique habitats over thousands of years. When working to balance human wants and whims against the ecological needs of imperiled and critical species, especially in few HCA zones, it seems reasonable and prudent to minimize exposure to human, dog, horse and weed traffic by positioning any new trails in the other 75% of Open Space.</p> <p>Please consider making the connector on the East side trail proposal.</p> <p>Thank you for all of your hard work...I know it is not easy.</p> |
| Email Author | Dale Ball |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Council Members,</p> <p>I support the east-side connector and preservation of the HCA on the west side.</p> <p>Thank you so much for your help.</p> |
| Email Author | David Roederer |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Boulder City Council,</p> <p>I am a member of the Boulder community who believes that open space should be made available responsibly to all citizens and all appropriate uses. I am a property tax paying citizen, an environmentalist, conservationist, hiker, parent, responsible dog owner, and cyclist.</p> <p>Please do not be swayed by special interests and approve the NTSA plan as recommended by OSMP Staff and the OSBT, including the so-called western alignment. Safe connected non-vehicular access to close in mountain biking trails is LONG OVERDUE! If we want fewer cars on the road, less congestion at trailheads, and happier safer citizens -- this trail makes sense!</p> |
| Email Author | Mike Walsh |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Dear Mayor Jones and Members of Boulder City Council,</p> <p>Please keep our northern open space west of U.S. 36 intact for wildlife of all sorts and rare native plant life that doesn't need to compete with invasive grasses. If we do not build the connector on the west side, we will save the spectacular unspoiled view at the northern entrance to Boulder and save the wild area for future generations to enjoy from afar as we do now. We have a perfectly good place to put the NTSA connector trail: on the east side of U.S. 36. Use the money saved to improve other trails and fix flood damage and normal wear and tear on much-loved existing trails. Get matching funds to build an underpass for Joder access. Please familiarize yourselves with the "sideboards" that were to have guided the NTSA process, including potential impacts of federal wetlands regulations that would appropriately complicate if not squelch the contemplated damage to riparian areas on the west side of U.S. 36. Please listen to the conservationists (at least seven local conservation groups such as Friends of Boulder Open Space) and put the trail on the east side. Leave some space for wild lands. Humans, their pets and horses, debris and smells, and machines and equipment don't need to be everywhere. This two square miles is a piece of wild beauty and habitat that we can save and we are so lucky to be able to do so.</p> <p>We must take a more responsible approach to development and consider not only the impacts of the project footprint but the impacts on the overall local and regional landscape and larger wildlife migration corridors. While rules and regulations can be established for the trail system, compliance is an ongoing battle. Are there resources available to watch and protect the off trail areas adequately? The endangered plants and habitat can't relocate. Be we can. We can select the environmentally sound alternative which is either no action or build on the other side of the highway.</p> <p>Please weigh heavily the long-term environmental impacts in making the final decision. Our undisturbed rich landscape is quickly vanishing and setting a lower standard for quality living.</p> |
| Email Author | Patty Corbetta |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Hello,</p> <p>I'm a longtime resident of the City of Boulder, an ecologist for a local firm and a member of the Colorado Native Plant Society. I'm writing to you in support of the East side connector trail option, which is currently being studied as part of the City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) North Trail Study (NTS). By enhancing this trail corridor and making it more sustainable, OSMP users will continue to enjoy the beautiful native grassland views and rock ridgeline to the west. This trail option preserves the unique foothills riparian drainages and extraordinary habitat on the west side. The alternative trail alignment (West Side Connector Trail) proposes a new trail through the North Foothills Habitat Conservation Area, bisecting irreplaceable, habitat for at least 10 rare plant species as well as critical wildlife habitat and riparian corridors. Habitat Conservation Areas set aside only 25% of open space for preservation of our most sensitive species; the other 75% is available for human uses (agriculture and recreation). It is critical that this 25% actually be preserved and this sensitive habitat be protected.</p> <p>Our front range ecosystem is threatened by habitat fragmentation and encroaching developments. As our Front Range population increases, we need to use the best planning methods available to sustain healthy ecosystems. I value our open space habitat; it's a large reason that I am raising my family in such a beautiful, unique and progressive City and I implore the City Council to use policy decisions which emphasize both preservation and recreation.</p> <p>Moving forward, I think it's important for Council asking staff and Open Space Board of Trustees to provide more details about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sharing costs for the underpass from the East Side Trail to Joder with state & federal sources - how to control the invasive jointed goat grass and keep it from degrading the valuable west-side habitat <p>Please help to keep Boulder the unique and sustainable City we know it to be. Use the current East Side Connector Trail rather than creating a new trail through critical Front Range Open Space.</p> <p>Thank you for your time. Kind Regards,</p> |
| Email Author | Diane Krzysztof Wright |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Boulder City Council, I am a long time resident of the City of Boulder and Boulder County. I have seen the steady loss and destruction of natural habitat in the area and am writing to urge you to approve a trail on the east side of Highway 36, not the west side. There is so little natural habitat left that is free from threats from bikes, dogs, and hikers for birds, butterflies, and plants. This is the last riparian foothills habitat without trails that is left; when it is gone, it is gone for good. The grassland and shrub nesting birds really need this habitat. There are so many other places where bikes can go. Please take your responsibility seriously for leaving a legacy of at least a small fraction of the natural habitat that has been here for millennia before the arrival of Europeans. Thank you.</p> |
| Email Author | Elena Holly Klaver |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Dear Boulder City Council, I am a member of the Boulder community who believes that open space should be made available responsibly to all citizens and all appropriate uses.</p> <p>Please do not be swayed by special interests and approve the NTSA plan as recommended by OSMP Staff and the OSBT, including the so-called western alignment.</p> |
| Email Author | Not signed |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear City Council:</p> <p>I am an ecologist and strongly request that you opt for the trail alignment on the east side of U.S. 36. Wildlife is substantially impacted by these trails, and the west trail option has the few drainages and foothills reaches that do not have this impact on them. The Saints Valley Trail is an example of what happens with human activity present - the birds that nest in shrubs along drainages are no longer present. This applies to a suite of other “shy” animals that avoid these types of disturbed areas: spotted skunks, weasels, uncommon songbirds, and various arthropods.</p> <p>Thanks for you consideration</p> |
| Email Author | Carron Meaney, Ph.D. (co-author of Mammals of Colorado) |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Dear Council Members,</p> <p>I oppose the west-side connector trail in the North Trail Study Area (NTSA).</p> <p>I support the East-Side Connector Trail and the preservation of the un-fragmented habitat on the west side.</p> <p>We can accomplish the recreational goal of trail connections/expansion through the East-Side Connector Trail AND preserve critical un-fragmented habitat. We must balance recreation desires/needs with habitat protection.</p> <p>Habitats are not all equal. We must not approach, or measure, measure preservation by acreage. The type, and quality, of habitat makes a difference. Fragmenting habitat has an enormous, significant, and irreversible impact on animal and plant species. The North Foothills Habitat Conservation Area (HCA) is very special habitat, supporting an amazing diversity of species--some specifically dependent on this habitat. We must preserve and protect these species and this area. We must recognize that building a trail through the area --fragmenting the habitat--will alter it forever.</p> <p>In this case, we have an opportunity to satisfy recreation desires and protect/preserve important habitat. Please take trail plans through the North Foothills Habitat Conservation Area off the table. Please develop/promote the East-Side Connector.</p> |
| Email Author | Brookie Gallagher |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Council,</p> <p>We have been following the north TSA study plan and just have one final/ important concern. The North Foothills trail and parking areas are now voice and sight. Years ago this was okay, but now with the population growth these areas have become de-facto dog parks. Watching dogs run all over the grasses chasing birds is really disheartening. Please reconsider this area to be leash only and not voice and sight, or possibly leash only from April 1-July 31. To help protect this fragile area.</p> <p>We understand and appreciate that this has been a long and thorough study of all the areas, but we ask that this area better protected for the future.</p> |
| Email Author | Pam Proto Donna Williams Eve Berman Ashley Syms |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | I am a 30-year resident of Boulder, and Colorado native and am writing to support the proposed North TSA plan, especially the continued access to trails and the new, limited Voice & Sight trails for dogs. |
| Email Author | Diana Fields |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |

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| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Hello City Council,</p> <p>I respect the work you do and the complex issues you seem to constantly have to grapple with. The upcoming decision on the north trail system is no exception. We must continue to preserve the land on the west side of 36 and I urge you to vote against any additional trail development. The entire eco system thanks you.</p> <p>With a completely reasonable approach being development of a trail system on the already developed east side of 36 as an alternative, everyone wins.</p> |
| Email Author | Linda Pounds |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>I am opposed to a bike trail through a Habitat Conservation Area "HCA". An HCA is defined as a high ecosystem value area that should have minimal usage. It is meant to be protected! The proposed trail west of 36 would go through an HCA.</p> <p>Here are several reasons to continue to protect HCAs.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is a great alternative to the proposed trail - build it east of 36. 2. While there could be some effort to keep people, dogs, bikes on trail, it is highly doubtful this will be completely effective. People pretty much go where they want to go, causing damage that the HCA designation is meant to protect against. 3. If an HCA is not protected this time around, then what is an HCA and will it ever be protected. Why is there an exception to the HCA designation this time around? |
| Email Author | Leslie Pizzi |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/23/2016 |
| Email Detail | I'm writing this in support of the east side connector only and agree with ALL the major conservation groups BCNA friends of open space BC Audubon etc that leaving the west side untouched is critical |
| Email Author | Mark Ponsor |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/22/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Dear Boulder Council,</p> <p>I absolutely love biking and enjoying time outside with my dogs, my dream is to someday have a community garden. I also love horses and think some of the best horse ranches are in Boulder. I beg you guys to please protect the North Foothills habitat conservation for numerous reasons, environmental, social, economic- it is the cheapest choice. But mostly, I am asking you to restore a little of my hope and faith in humanity. Right now there are millions of troubles coming our way, from the presidential election, growing hate groups, the constant threat of climate change...etc. The decision not to develop a trail on land that houses so many species seems trivial, if we decide to put a trail there maybe some species will be extinct in the future but in the great scheme of things this doesn't seem vast or wrong, since we are catering to the bikers in our town. I beg you to step away from this thinking and consider the following: I can't go save more famous and beloved species like the elephant and I can't cure cancer tonight or any time soon. But I think Boulder, among its many Nobel laureates and scientist, will some day-after years of work churn out some solution to the horrible pitfalls we face. Our community is strong, intellectual, capable, and sustainable. And most of us are environmental activists who have pledged to protect the world. I wonder what a blow our reputation and sense of self will get once we develop one of the last reserves in our own back yards? Next year if another Nobel laureate or group of NCAR scientists begs to protect a landmass, how will the opposition react?</p> <p>Boulder is about growth, not destruction. What if we have some horrible floods again, mass species extinction, or some disease and that diverse habitat that cushions and protects us was the only thing in the way of such troubles. We might be getting rid of our buffers. What is next, our national parks. Will our foothills be covered in tracks to the point that we have mines instead of mountains? Boulder is amazing because we nurture ideas and make them come alive! How can we make our ideas lead the world as an example, when we destroyed something we pledged to protect. There are better and cheaper options, and I don't think our environment should pay the price for our hobbies. Business such as Spruce Confectioners and Amante coffee, where bikers are seen daily meeting and eating after their rides would suffer. Our reputation would suffer, our land and resilience would suffer, how many more blows can we take? We have had international triathlons, we have ski resorts, we have small businesses, we have everything we need, we don't need another road...but we sure could keep our hope and nurture our resilience. We never know how that patch of land may help us, and I don't want to find out how it's destruction can doom us. So, tonight, when we read the news and see all the horrible things we can't prevent we can at least know we did a little bit to protect our economic future and the future of our beloved earth! Lets make sure we leave some hope for the future generations</p> |
| Email Author | Adelmut Duffing Romero |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/22/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Dear Council,</p> <p>I would like to add my voice to that of Patricia Billig whose editorial appeared in the Sunday Camera to the effect that a connector trail to the north should be located EAST of Highway 36, not on the west side.</p> <p>She made a very eloquent argument for the reasons to locate it on the east rather than to disturb fragile habitat in the western portion of the Habitat Conservation Area. I agree that the western portion should remain untrailed and that the current social trail on the west side should be reclaimed.</p> <p>This area is the closest OSMP area to where I live and I am a current hiker on that railroad grade trail. But I am willing to forego my use in favor of protecting the area. I don't believe that any use should be allowed there. Of course, the area would be open to those who obtain a permit as are all HCA areas. But the west side HCA is too valuable with its rare plants, grasses, wildlife and habitat to allow it to be trammed by trail usage.</p> <p>Thank you for considering these comments</p> |
| Email Author | Beverly Gholson |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/22/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Council Members,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The trail system expansion is clearly best accomplished East of hwy 36 2. Do not create irreversible environment damage West of hwy 36 3. Do not allow an aggressive bike lobby (often outside of Boulder) to argue what is in their narrow interest and prevail over the large number of citizens who aren't vocal. Clearly the large majority of citizens, if polled, would not allow plowing of a trail on the West side of hwy 36 <p>Don't plow a trail on the West side of Hwy 36!!!!!!</p> |
| Email Author | Walt Pounds |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/22/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Dear Council,</p> <p>As someone who has driven, walked parts of (and, yes, even bicycled) the US 36 corridor from Boulder to Lyons and enjoyed the vistas of this unique backdrop to our valley, I find the idea of scarring this land with a pathway "half-way up the slope" totally abhorrent.</p> <p>Again, placing a heavily used path through the middle of a habitat conservation area effectively cuts it in two, essentially destroying the advantage of a large undisturbed area.</p> <p>Any disturbance such as this makes it easier for invasive species to gain foothold.</p> <p>Visitors using an east trail will experience foothills views just as I have in the past.</p> <p>The east trail would cost half as much, so why waste money?</p> <p>As our elected stewards, do what is best for our land. Place the trail on the east side of US 36.</p> |
| Email Author | William R. Eberle |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/22/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Boulder City Council Members:</p> <p>As a graduate of the CU Boulder School of Arts and Sciences, I have long admired Boulder's thoughtful and conservative approach to balancing the dual recreation and conservation purposes of Boulder Open Space. I know that, with time, growing populations and changing priorities of users, pressures increase to develop more areas for recreational use.</p> <p>Boulder is not alone in facing these demands. I recently visited the Big Horn and Sheridan, Wyo., areas where a controversy has developed over a bicycle trail plan for an area known as the Red Grade Road. Expanding bicycle use is endorsed by the Sheridan Community Land Trust, but opposed by conservation groups who fear ecological values will be lost.</p> <p>Boulder is in a similar position, but has an opportunity to provide for enhanced recreational opportunities while preserving natural habitat by placing the connector trail on the east side of the highway.</p> <p>I hope you will take seriously the views of the six conservation organizations seeking an east side connector and continued protection for five globally-vulnerable and state-imperiled butterfly species, numerous grassland birds and shrub-nesting bird species that are in decline, the plant communities these species depend on plus populations of 10 rare plant species that are tracked by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program. It is vital to protect ecologically important riparian corridors that provide for the movement of wide-ranging mammals (like elk, bobcats, fox), foraging areas for birds of prey, and special habitats for rock wrens (another species of concern). Natural habitat, once disturbed, is almost impossible to reclaim.</p> |
| Email Author | Steve Wynkoop (Former Environment writer for The Denver Post and former Wilderness Society executive) |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/22/2016 |

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| Email Detail | We have a few precious places for our native plants and wildlife to thrive as development and growth proceeds. Please help preserve the functioning riparian and grassland ecosystems on the WEST side of Highway 36 and place the connector trail on EAST side of the highway. |
| Email Author | Margot Wynkoop |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/22/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear City Council Members,</p> <p>Please respect what is supposed to be a Habitat Conservation Area and put the NEEDS of flora and fauna before the WANTS of the user groups. The user groups have many, many miles of trails and roads to ride on, both in this County and in surrounding areas. Our Open Space Charter clearly attempts to balance conservation with recreation. As Boulder County has become a mecca for outdoor bike and horse riders, (many from out of the County), greater weight should be given to preservation of what little remains in a semi-wild state.</p> <p>Our natural world is suffering greatly from fragmentation and the insidious spread of non-native organisms, particularly plants. The western route has species with limited ranges and those that are of, "special concern". Most of the folks who are insisting the loudest that only the western route will do, never, ever stop or go slow enough to appreciate or have the slightest idea what could be lost by using this alignment.</p> <p>We would hope that you would take your role as conservators of the living things that have no voice very seriously. Please put the route on the east side, save money and preserve some semblance of an intact ecosystem.</p> <p>Thank you for the hard and thankless work you do!</p> |
| Email Author | Pam and Joe Piombino |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/22/2016 |
| Email Detail | Please, Please, Please preserve the west side of the Habitat Conservation Areas by blocking any and all further development there. Put your improvements on the east side where they will do far less damage. |
| Email Author | John Bermingham |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/22/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Council Member:</p> <p>I oppose the West side trail that bisects one of the largest remaining Habitat Conservation Areas in our open space system. We established the HCAs to preserve habitat for our native species, NOT to provide recreational experiences.</p> <p>As development and growth proceeds, we have precious few places for our native plants and wildlife to thrive. Please preserve the functioning riparian and grassland ecosystems on the WEST side of Hwy 36 and place the connector trail on the EAST side of the highway</p> |
| Email Author | John McComb |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |

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| Email Date | 5/22/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>I have lived in Boulder for 32 years and paid taxes for Open Space. I have run and hiked VERY often on the trails - they preserve my sanity. 25% of the open space is designated for nature, not people. That is one of the goals of open space, and while I regret not being able to easily access those areas, that is part of the responsibility of open space. It is not responsible for us to put the North Trail through the west side's HCA. If we enable a lot of traffic through that area, the changes can never be reversed. While other governmental groups are making efforts to preserve habitat, we in Boulder are making a conscious choice to STOP PROTECTING an area that we previously protected. This contradicts the ethic that Boulder is known for. The Western Governor's Wildlife Council is working on the Initiative on Wildlife Corridors and Crucial Habitat and Boulder is putting a major trail through an HCA. Whoops!</p> <p>Now, when hiking on current open space trails, parking is sometimes impossible. Busses do not go to the trailheads and, since I am 68 years old, it is not easy for me to ride my bike there. (Although I rarely notice younger people biking to the trailheads!) There are more options for parking if the North Trail goes on the east side of Hwy 36. This is important. Parking will be more difficult on the west side.</p> |
| Email Author | Jean Aschenbrenner |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/22/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Members,</p> <p>I've lived here in Boulder since 1983 and love it with all my heart as do each and every one of you. Please don't encourage additional human traffic in any of our habitat conservation areas for the simple reason that these precious places are irreplaceable once degraded. Why preserve them? They are home to rare plants, rare butterflies, and ground-nesting birds. The "wild" parts of our foothills are disappearing due to ever-increasing human use. Once gone, they're gone.</p> <p>There are surely many Boulderites who revel in the peace and mystery of quiet Nature—don't our voices count? To enjoy Nature so close by is a gift and privilege beyond any other because we humans keep multiplying in numbers while also multiplying our means of accessing every inch and cranny of our world. So, yes, give the cyclists what they need on the East side of 36—they pay their taxes and they know how to mobilize their supporters. The human desire for physical exercise and for chasing adrenaline rushes is a powerful motivator, isn't it? I can't deny that, but I can write to urge you with all my heart and all my soul to preserve all remaining habitat conservation areas, including the very beautiful North Foothills HCA.</p> <p>Thank You for Your Time and for Your Service to Boulder!</p> |
| Email Author | Gloria L. Main |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/22/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>We need to rebuild and make sustainable the East side trail – so, let’s use it as the connector from North Boulder to Joder. We do not need to – nor should we – bisect and degrade the important habitat on the West side of Highway 36. We want to preserve the functioning riparian and grassland ecosystems on the WEST side and to place the trail on the EAST side.</p> <p>By enhancing this trail corridor and making it more sustainable and less prone to muddy trail closures, OSMP users will continue to enjoy the magnificent vistas of grasslands and rock ridgeline to the west, the sight of raptors foraging in the prairie dog towns, and the wealth of wildflowers, grassland birds and insects that thrive in this Natural Area.</p> <p>The addition of an underpass north of Lefthand Reservoir and Neva Rd. will enable recreationists to safely cross Highway 36 to the new trails on the Joder property (west of Hwy 36).</p> <p>Thank you for considering this request.</p> |
| Email Author | Joe and Elsie Steele |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/22/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Members of City Council,</p> <p>What I like most about living in Boulder is the trails. But please, let’s give the living world beyond our neighborhoods a break. An alternative to damaging ever-more-scarce habitat for wildlife along the front range is available by selecting a connecting trial on the east side of US 36.</p> <p>I am a resident of North Boulder and have lived in the city for about 40 years. In that 40 years the earth has lost half of its wildlife [World Wildlife Fund 10th edition of The Living Planet Report]. In response to this devastating statistic, George Monbiot wrote in The Guardian:</p> <p>"This is a moment at which anyone with the capacity for reflection should stop and wonder what we are doing."</p> <p>- George Monbiot, The Guardian</p> <p>I would add, in the case of wildlife vs. mountain bikers et. al for a west connector trail, "And why we are doing it?"</p> <p>Why are we proposing to bisect a Habitat Conservation Area?</p> <p>I know staff say they can adequately preserve habitat in the proposed west connector trail area, but my 40 years of experience of how people use trails and the extent to which they obey the rules convinces me otherwise. Also convincing are the results of multiple studies that expose the extent of damage that could be done if we create a west connector trail (dead zones around the trail, spread of invasive goat grass, etc.). These results have been brought to your attention by just about every environmental group in town so I will not list them all here again, but please, take time to consider what scientists are saying.</p> <p>Birds and butterflies have no vote, no citizenship, and no money.</p> <p>I know you have many political interests to consider, but please consider the interests of those</p> |

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| | <p>with no voice.</p> <p>Let the inherent value of our natural capital be a cornerstone of the decision regarding the North TSA connector trail. Choose the east alternative.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and service to the community.</p> |
| Email Author | Karen George |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/22/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Mayor and City Council:</p> <p>Re: the North TSA Plan, please support an EAST side connector trail.</p> <p>You already know the reasons.</p> <p>Thank you for your hard work for all if us.</p> |
| Email Author | Sara Michl |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/22/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>To Whom It May Concern:</p> <p>As an ecologist I can state with certainty that it is essential to protect all remaining intact ecosystems and habitats that exist because our new normal is one with continually-degraded natural habitats. Ever since pioneers swept across N. America the natural habitats that define this continent have been conquered and exploited. Natural lands are used for grazing and they are increasingly invaded by noxious invasive plants, streams have been and are continually being altered (the largest alteration of all was the extirpation of the American beaver by 1850's such that people today haven't much of an idea of what streams were like before the steel trap.) We honestly do not need every tract of land developed for recreational use. We should reserve some lands as fully natural areas, as sanctuaries for other species, which otherwise have been massively displaced with human settlements and changing land use patterns.</p> <p>Superimposed upon ecosystems that are changing at increasingly accelerated rates is the looming global climate change and the uncertainty that this brings to all people and natural ecosystems. The risk of loss of biodiversity is increasing. For quality of life we need biodiversity and the ecosystem products and services that nature provides. Therefore, failing to protect existing natural areas is myopic because these refugia for biodiversity will become increasingly important as the climate change drama unfolds. In order to maintain community resiliency we, I believe, will discover that natural areas will be increasingly important in the future as a hedge against climate chaos.</p> <p>The trail system along the Front Range is arguably already the most developed in the world. We don't need to perpetually try to develop new trails. While it's true that it would be very nice to expand the trail system to increase recreational options for the community, it's also important to bear in mind that our natural systems provide other important contributions for society such as biodiversity, carbon sequestration, water purification and other benefits. It's important therefore to hold some properties in reserve and place protections that will preserve habitats in a state that is nearest to natural as practicable under today's circumstances in order to benefit</p> |

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| | <p>future generations of people and all other species.</p> <p>So, please weigh all of the variables when coming to a decision on the fate of this natural area. If we just focus on access, recreation, and short-term economic gain, then an irreversible decision today may be regrettable in the future. Thank you for considering my comments.</p> |
| Email Author | Thomas J. Slabe |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/22/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Council members:</p> <p>We were surprised to see Glenn's photos used to illustrate the two op/ed essays on the North Trail Study Area in the Sunday Boulder Daily Camera. The photos were taken on the Interim Joder Trail and originally used to illustrate our "Nature Walk" column last March. We're concerned because one of photos illustrates the essay supporting the west alignment whereas we oppose that alignment since it fragments an important Habitat Conservation Area.</p> <p>The east alignment, though not quite as scenic as the west alignment, goes through lovely countryside with beautiful views. Bikers and hikers can also take the Interim Joder Trail that goes through meadows and ponderosa forest to connect to Olde Stage Road.</p> <p>We have written several times in the past few months in support of the east alignment, so we won't repeat our arguments which are very similar to those made in Kristin Bjornesen's article in the May 22 Daily Camera.</p> |
| Email Author | Ruth Carol and Glenn Cushman Co-authors, Boulder Hiking Trails |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/22/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Council Members,</p> <p>I am opposed to the west side connecting trail. I firmly believe that a trail through the Habitat conservation Area will alter the ecology in a way that future generations will never get to see the diversity there today. Why? For recreation? There are many other trails on the east side of Highway 36 for bikers, horses, hikers, on and off-leash dogs, etc. There are or will be new trails for these interest groups at Joder, Boulder Valley Ranch, and Wonderland. Why break up the HCA?</p> <p>I am a volunteer naturalist and I co-lead hikes with Staff on OSMP properties. For example, to protect the unique and fragile White Rocks, OSMP takes a limit of 15 people once a week for three months on a tour on a very narrow designated trail. The impact of this traffic is being studied. Some of the areas west of Hwy 36 are also unique and as fragile and they will not survive the impact of the kinds of users proposed.</p> <p>Nowhere else is there an unbroken undeveloped section where Plains and Foothills meet creating plant and animal associations not found elsewhere. Please preserve it.</p> |
| Email Author | Sue Ellen Hirschfeld, Ph.D. |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |

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| Email Date | 5/22/2016 |
| Email Detail | Please do NOT further disrupt our wildlife by putting another trail on the WEST side of Hwy #36 north of Boulder. |
| Email Author | Catherine Nicole deLorimier |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/22/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Council Members,</p> <p>Very soon Boulder will have acquired most of the open space land that is available. As we approach that limit, should we put a trail on every square of open space? Having recreational trails and undisturbed open space strikes a balance between conservation and recreation and leaves intact ecosystems for future generations to enjoy.</p> <p>As you are reviewing the proposal to put a recreational trail on the west side of 36, a few things to consider. Some people will argue that there is already a railroad cut on the west side, that the area is already disturbed, and that "the damage is done." The railroad cut is a social trail not meant for public use and not officially mapped. Social trails are created by people who do not stay on the Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks marked trail and we shouldnt reward that behavior. There are reasons the areas are not designated for use. Every year OSMP spends time and money (taxes) redirecting people away from social trails, rebuilding and revegetating areas damaged by social trails, and rerouting existing trails to prevent social trails from forming again. Volunteers like myself are asked to help - trading our time for a lowered cost to the city and county. Furthermore, the damage is contained to a very small area and can be corrected. Again, volunteers like myself can work on this task. Putting a trail through the HCA will cause damage that no one will be able to correct.</p> <p>Rather than building a trail on the West Side of 36, let's use the current trail system already in place directly across the street on the East Side of 36. Underpasses can be created to move people to the other side of the road. Parking is readily available on the east side. Trails can be improved to resist muddy conditions (a problem that will be mediated with significant, long term trail closures on the west side.) Trails can also be improved to create a more exciting experience for cyclists, also headed north to other trail connections. All of this can be done at a far lesser monetary cost than building a trail on the west side.</p> <p>The non-monetary costs to building a West Side Connector Trail are as high as the amount we would pay to construct it. A new trail (width is TBD) through the North Foothills Habitat Conservation Area (HCA) would endanger the home of 5 globally-vulnerable and state-imperiled butterfly species, numerous grassland birds and shrub-nesting bird species that are in decline along with the plant communities they depend on, populations of 10 rare plant species that are tracked by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program, ecologically important riparian corridors that provide for the movement of wide-ranging mammals (like elk, bobcats, fox), foraging areas for birds of prey, and special habitats for rock wrens (another species of concern). These are the very things that brought me to Boulder. Human presence in these areas damages and pushes these populations out.</p> <p>Please help protect this area as it has been for decades. People already come to Boulder for outdoor recreation. Most communities can't hold a candle to what we have available. If someone feels the need to make up for something that was done in the past to the cycling community, well as they say, "Two wrongs dont make a right."</p> |
| Email Author | BethAnne Bane |

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| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/22/2016 |
| Email Detail | No west-side connector trail through Habitat Conservation Area. Use the east side trails that are already established. Boulder County Nature Assoc, Sierra Club Indian Peaks Group, Colorado Native Plant Society Boulder Chapter, Boulder County Audubon, Friends of Boulder Open Space and PLAN Boulder County have all spoken. Please listen - May is Preservation Month. The theme for 2016 is "This Place Matters" It is up to you to decide if it does! |
| Email Author | Susan Jeter |
| No Staff Response | Email to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/22/2016 |
| Email Detail | You can add my name to the list of people who are concerned about the proposed trail west of Highway 36 to the Joder Ranch. I am much against that idea. The East side trail is sufficient for that purpose, in my opinion It is so easy to destroy natural areas but very difficult to restore them once they are destroyed. |
| Email Author | Douglas Hunter |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/22/2016 |
| Email Detail | West is waste. East is least. The east trail provides all the north-south connections as well as built in connections to the east. o Would you like to see JUST the rare plant communities that the west trail would impact? The trail hasn't actually been defined, and approving a trail that is not defined is the same as approving a trail when the impacts and costs are not defined. That makes no sense at all. There are 5 Google Earth files in this link. http://tinyurl.com/NTSAWest 1. Rare plants polygons 2, Polyline of my conversion of the pdf route 3. My BestGuess Polyline that deviates from their alignment in obvious areas. 4. A north to south fly through of my best effort at the trail (that is not finalized) produced in pdf format. 5. A south to north fly through of my best guess of a trail alignment. Download all files then open them sequentially. Open the rare plant population, and the polylines first so you can see the alignments where they hit the rare plant polys. You need to have google earth installed for these to work. Count all the times you cross rare plant sites and drainages. |
| Email Author | Patrick Murphy |

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| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/21/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>I have lived in Boulder for 29 years and value Colorado's natural resources, including plants and wildlife. I'm also an avid hiker.</p> <p>Please adopt the east connector trail option. The west connector trail option would damage transition zone flora and fauna that exist only in small, irreplaceable corridors.</p> |
| Email Author | David Julie |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/21/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Council,</p> <p>I appreciate how much time you must be investing in this decision with pressure from different fractions. I'm concerned with the economics of maintaining the West trail option and the challenges future councils will have in maintaining OSMP lands. With increasing populations in our heavily used wonderland I imagine future maintenance budgets will be growing substantially. The added traffic of Greenway Trail will add significantly to those expenses, so I encourage you to keep the trail on the East side of 36 and eliminate the expenses of maintaining the trail sections over fragile shale on the West side of 36. Also, if we don't honor "critical habitat" areas, we're going to lose plant and animal species of critical concern. Please remember the old adage regarding ecosystems: "There's strength in diversity."</p> <p>As Boulder's fiscal stewards and guardians of our public lands, I encourage you to keep the trail on the East side of 36.</p> |
| Email Author | Terry Stuart |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/21/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Council Members</p> <p>I would like to say I support plans for constructing the connector trail on the EAST side of Highway 36 and I hope this is the council choice too. I am President of the Colorado Native Plant Society. Some of my reason on supporting this choice are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - preserves the iconic view of the grasslands & hogback as you drive out of and into North Boulder - preserves the unique foothills riparian drainages and extraordinary habitat on the West side <p>Maintaining our open space and the preservation of habitat is very important for the people of Colorado and the human race:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - our Charter, policies and plans for decades have emphasized preservation AND recreation - with population increases, we cannot allow people everywhere in the system and sustain healthy ecosystems - Habitat Conservation Areas set aside about 25% of open space for preservation of our most sensitive species; the other 75% is available for human uses (agriculture and recreation of all kinds) <p>Thank you for listening to my thoughts and what I would like the Boulder City Council to choose.</p> |
| Email Author | Charles Turner member of the Colorado Native Plant Society |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/21/2016 |

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| Email Detail | I was a long time resident of Boulder and still hike the open space areas regularly. I am also a certified Native Plant Master and urge you to connect the ranches by way of the east Hwy 36 route because the western route endangers at least ten rare native plants and disrupts an important wildlife corridor from the foothills to the plains. The eastern alternative has less impact. Thank you. |
| Email Author | Rob Pudim |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/20/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>I would strongly urge you NOT to approve a new recreation trail across the North Foothills and West Beech Conservation Area.</p> <p>This area is hugely important to the integrity of Boulder’s Open Space, not to speak of the natural habitat of our region. I see habitat being fragmented everywhere, and if Boulder is to remain a progressive city, with a commitment to conservation of natural habitat, we need to stand strongly against recreation trails that will disrupt our lands.</p> <p>My understanding is that at the Feb. 10, 2016, meeting about this issue, more citizens opposed the trail than supported it.</p> <p>But numbers are not the whole issue anyway. Once broken by a trail, and habitat for wild life and flora becomes hugely reduced.</p> <p>Please allow the mandate to stand: “to preserve and protect the environment and land resources that characterize Boulder” that appear in the OSMP Mission Statement. I suspect that most of the advocacy for building new recreation trails comes from various industry interests—and this will damage the long-held values that drew many of us to the city decades ago.</p> |
| Email Author | Andrew Schelling |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/20/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Council Members,</p> <p>I, Cheryl Roth, support the work that OSMP staff members have done to strike a compromise to achieve the North Sky Trail. Please note that I am a cyclist, equestrian, hiker and dog owner. Education is the key to protecting our environment and limiting user conflicts. I believe both can be achieved for this trail.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> |
| Email Author | Cheryl Roth |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/20/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>I am writing to urge you to reject the proposed construction of a new trail that would fragment the Habitat Conservation Area on the west side of Highway 36 north of town. As a resident of Boulder County for the past 30 years, I've been fortunate to enjoy Boulder Open Space and its many natural wonders. In fact, I dedicated an entire chapter to it in a book I wrote titled The Way Home: Essays On the Outside West.</p> <p>Situated on the edge of two major biomes, Boulder Open Space encompasses an incredibly rich and valuable ecosystem. In fact, it is the single most important asset that makes the city of Boulder the desirable place that it is. Degrade the ecology of Boulder Open Space, and you degrade the special quality of the entire area.</p> <p>I implore you to make conservation the number one priority, and protect our natural heritage from further human encroachment in the form of development and mechanical recreation.</p> |
| Email Author | Jim McVey |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/20/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>o Would you like to see just the rare plant communities that the west trail would impact? The trail hasn't actually been defined, and approving a trail that is not defined is the same as approving a trail when the impacts and costs are not defined. That makes no sense at all. There are 5 Google Earth files in this link. http://tinyurl.com/NTSAWest</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rare plants polygons 2, Polyline of my conversion of the pdf route 3. My BestGuess Polyline that deviates from their alignment in obvious areas. 4. A north to south fly through of my best effort at the trail (that is not finalized) produced in pdf format. 5. A south to north fly through of my best guess of a trail alignment. <p>Download all files then open them sequentially. Open the rare plant population, and the polylines first so you can see the alignments where they hit the rare plant polys. You need to have google earth installed for these to work.</p> <p>Count all the times you cross rare plant sites and drainages.</p> |
| Email Author | Patrick Murphy |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/20/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Dear Council,</p> <p>Please approve the NTSA plan as recommended by OSMP Staff and the OSBT, including the so-called western alignment.</p> <p>I've have lived in Colorado for 50yrs, and Boulder half of that. This is the smartest and most useful (for all modes) connector trail that I have ever seen proposed.....not to mention the beauty along this route that all will be enjoyed by all.</p> <p>Thank you for your hard work in considering this trail.</p> |
| Email Author | Joe Passalacqua |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/20/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Council members –</p> <p>I'm writing to affirm strongly the protection of our remarkable natural resources in the NTSA, by placing the connector trail on the east side of HWY 36.</p> <p>No one knows better than all of you the growing pressures on Boulder open space. Boulder's hard-won preservation of undisturbed natural habitat and its species is such a treasure that increasing numbers of users are drawn to the area from all around the state and even the nation. Sadly, vulnerable ecosystems and their inhabitants are at serious risk of "being loved to death." And the threat will only grow greater and greater with time. Making the right decision in the NTSA is one of our last chances to draw the protective lines that can at least minimize the impacts of the growing deluge of use, which will increase as well due to connections with other future regional trails already being discussed.</p> <p>I am sure you know all the following well, but a brief rundown of the assets of choosing this option.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balancing the interests of stakeholders by improving connectivity while "avoid[ing] direct, indirect or cumulative negative effects on rare species, communities and potential habitat," as directed in the North Boulder Valley Area Management Plan. • Preserving especially vulnerable species such as Lazuli Buntings, Rock Wrens, Golden Eagles and rare butterflies, while offering a haven to several herds of deer and elk. • Protecting valuable terrain that also supports these and many other species, such as the last undisturbed foothills riparian drainages, high-quality shrub-nesting habitat, and important plant communities, such as big-bluestem and other native grasses. • Preserving noteworthy geological formations such as exposed rock and cliffs which serve as home for at-risk species. <p>Choosing the east side connector trail is also in concert with the explicit directives of all the relevant city and county planning documents, from the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan and the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan, to the Grassland Ecosystem Management Plan and the North Boulder Valley Area Management Plan.</p> <p>Thank you for continuing to support our long-term community commitments to protect these highly sensitive areas and all the species who depend upon them.</p> |
| Email Author | Cathy Comstock, Ph.D. |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/19/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Dear Council Members,</p> <p>Please vote to support the NTS plan as approved by OSMP. A great deal of community input and compromise has gone into creating the proposed system of trails. I am satisfied with the significant efforts made to engage the community during the planning process. I attended comment sessions and submitted written comments. My husband and I have reviewed the proposal carefully and are very pleased with the current plan.</p> |
| Email Author | Mary Faltynski |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/19/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Mr. Armstead;</p> <p>Looking at the map of the West Beech parcel, I am immediately perplexed as to why the proposed trail is so far down the slope (along the so-called railroad grade) and not proposed to go along the ridge from the top of the existing loop trail due north to some part of the Joder property. With the exception of a 200-300 foot drop down to circumvent the head of Schneider Gulch, the top of the ridge has remarkably little up and down and certainly would be on former soil than any trail downslope, plus at least some of the sensitive habitat issues would be avoided. Could you let me know why this route was not considered? Thanks for any response.</p> |
| Email Author | Kirk Cunningham, Conservation Chair Indian Peaks Group Sierra Club |
| Staff Response | <p>Hi Kirk,</p> <p>Thanks for your inquiry about options considered for the conceptual routing of the North Sky Trail. Staff looked at a range of options both east and west of the proposed route. A route higher up and along the ridge going from Hogback Trail to Joder was assessed and staff concluded there would be greater natural resource impacts with this route. Such a route would cross through a greater number and extent of sensitive natural resources that we were trying to avoid or minimize locating the trail through. Hogback Trail loops across a very steep slope and is not designed for bike access. To make it more compatible as a multiple use connection would require significantly greater relocation of the existing trail than currently proposed in the draft plan to improve the sustainability as a hiking trail. Rerouting Hogback Trail would also result in a greater extent of new trail in the HCA in addition to the continuance of the new trail required to connect to the Joder trail through the remainder of the West Beech parcel and across the western part of the Joder property where higher quality natural resources are located. Constructing a trail on the steep ridge slopes would be very challenging and expensive to construct. Additionally, integrating the existing social trail on the railroad grade (an area with existing use and disturbance) into the trail route and keeping the trail closer to the east edge of the HCA along Foothills Business Park was determined to be a better option when prioritizing routes with lower resource impact.</p> <p>Thanks for your ongoing interest and involvement in the North TSA.</p> <p>Steve</p> <p>Steve Armstead North TSA Plan Project Lead City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks</p> |

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| | armsteads@bouldercolorado.gov |
| Email Date | 5/19/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Hello there, I'm writing today to urge you to go through with approval of the North Sky Trail and the entire NTSA plan as approved by the Open Space Board of Trustees.</p> <p>As a cyclist here since I was a young kid, I've seen counties/areas surrounding us embrace a more progressive attitude towards trail building and have consequently mitigated the overuse that the current Boulder area trails have been subjected to. We can't continue to limit the amount of new trails that get approved while the number of mountain bikers increases steadily- it's just going to cause more trail use conflict.</p> <p>Please please please, approve the plan so that us mountain bikers can have a way to ride safely to Lyons without having to ride on HWY36.</p> |
| Email Author | Dave Reed |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/19/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>I am writing to urge you to support the placement of the connector trail in the NTSA on the East side of Highway 36.</p> <p>-Other trails in HCAs are only on the perimeters of the protected areas (except those trails that preceded the formation of our Open Space Department) so as to prevent fragmentation of sensitive and protected habitat and also to promote strong, resilient ecosystems for the challenges of climate change that are already appearing.</p> <p>-The East trail is a perimeter trail preventing fragmentation of the HCA and destruction of species and rare grasslands. It is scenic without road noise. It will provide access to the Joder property from both the South and from the East/Gunbarrel/ Boulder Reservoir areas. It preserves the iconic view of the grasslands and hogback as you drive through North Boulder.</p> <p>-Our Open Space program provides for preservation, conservation, and human use for the long-term, not only for fun today. Our Open Space program is created to avoid the short-term thinking that governs so much of our culture.</p> <p>-The people advocating for the West trail are a vocal minority of open space users (14% of users from a 1995 survey) who have access to 1/3 of City Open Space trails plus miles of trails in the County.</p> <p>-The Open Space Board vote on this issue did not honor the numbers of the public turnout pleading for protection of the HCA nor the weight of the letters to the Board advocating for the East trail.</p> <p>-Choosing a trail bisecting the North Foothill and West Beech Habitat Conservation Areas violates all the prior citizen-approved planning documents and threatens the integrity of our Open Space program.</p> <p>Thank you for your hard conscientious work on this issue.</p> |
| Email Author | Catharine Harris |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/19/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>I am writing you to voice my objection to the proposed West Side connector trail – as part of the larger North Trail Study Area Plan. The environmental impacts including a negative impact on the untrailed Habitat Conservation Area on the west side of Hwy 36, will be significant. As you may know, of all of our Open Space lands, only 25% have been carefully selected by professional ecologists and wildlife biologists from OSMP to be set aside as Habitat Conservation Areas. These areas are intended as a refuge and safety net for native plant and animal species. This set-aside represent is a reasonable balance of the land management.</p> <p>However, I see that recreational interests, particularly mountain biking, are chipping away at the existing balance of environment and recreation. Our beautiful Boulder suffers tremendously as a result, including the wealth of flora and fauna. Your approval of the proposed connector trail would be a travesty, and , in my opinion out of step with the original intent/mission of OSMP.</p> <p>I believe there are reasonable alternatives that can be reached. Meanwhile, I urge you to reject the proposed west side connector trail.</p> |
| Email Author | Rita C. Klees, Ph.D. |

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| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/19/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Boulder City Council,</p> <p>I urge you to accept the balanced recommendations of the Open Space and Mountain Parks Staff and the public regarding the North Trail Study area (including the North Sky Trail), which has already been formally approved by the Open Space Board of Trustees.</p> <p>Thank you for your service</p> |
| Email Author | Joe and Kim Andrews |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/19/2016 |
| Email Detail | As a homeowner in North Boulder I support the train expansion and changes to open spaces proposed. It would open up many more biking and hiking options for our young family! |
| Email Author | Janessa Berggren |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/19/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>I would like to urge the Council to ratify the above-referenced plan and recommendations of the Open Space & Mountain Parks staff, which has included the public's participation, and has already been approved by the Open Space Trustees.</p> <p>As an equestrian rider who moved here a few years ago from the suburbs of Washington, DC, I am amazed at the lack of equestrian trails available in this part of the country!</p> <p>If the Council had concerns, why weren't they surfaced during the planning process which has been on-going for almost two years plus? A last-minute attempt to undermine a planning process that has taken thousands of hours of time, from many people who've participated in a good faith effort is completely inappropriate.</p> |
| Email Author | Lois Bennett |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/18/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>I am writing to encourage the approval of the North Trail Study area plan in it's current form. This plan seems to have been well thought out and provides a good compromise amongst the parties. The Open Space Board has done a great job and the council should respect the people they have hired figure this stuff out. The controversy of putting the trail on the west side of Highway 36 is not well founded, there is a highway nearby anyways, hikers, bikers and equestrians are not going to change what happens there.</p> <p>I feel this trail system is an important part of helping Boulder become a more progressive city and will help alleviate some of the overuse of the trail system in the immediate city areas (Sanitas, Chautauqua/Flagstaff etc..) which have been overwhelmed by the usage.</p> |
| Email Author | Ed Balduf |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/18/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Dear Council Members:</p> <p>As you are aware of and in light of the following:</p> <p>* THE WEST SIDE CONNECTOR TRAIL would have the City build a new trail through the North Foothills Habitat Conservation Area on the WEST side of Highway 36 – thereby bisecting irreplaceable habitat for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -5 globally-vulnerable and state-imperiled butterfly species; - numerous grassland birds and shrub-nesting bird species that are in decline; -the plant communities the butterflies and birds depend upon; -10 rare plant species that are tracked for their sustainability by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program; -ecologically important riparian corridors that provide free movement of wide-ranging mammals (like elk, bobcats, fox), foraging areas for birds of prey, and special habitats for rock wrens (another species of concern). <p>Fragmentation of habitat destroys the amount of land that these species, birds, plants, and mammals, need for their safety, food, and reproduction. The destruction of habitat cannot be mitigated.</p> <p>How could you even consider the West Side option over the East Side Connector Trail, in looking at the harm the West Side option could visit on habitat and species!</p> <p>Our environment must take precedence over misguided recreational thinking.</p> <p>Please support THE EAST SIDE CONNECTOR TRAIL as the only logical, reasonable option.</p> |
| Email Author | Richard Stehlik |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/18/2016 |
| Email Detail | Please pass the NTSA Plan as approved by OSMP. As a member of BMA and an avid mountainbiker, I support the development of new trails like this one. |
| Email Author | Carrie Fross |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/18/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>To: Boulder City Council Members:</p> <p>The following is the position statement of Boulder Rights of Nature which pertains to the North Trail Study Area (NTSA).</p> <p>Boulder Rights of Nature has 300 followers.</p> <p>Boulder Rights of Nature is opposed to building a trail through the heart of the NTSA.</p> <p>We hold true that, in the year 2016, in Boulder County and beyond, the land which remains more or less as natural ecosystems, supporting wildlife such as a Habitat Conservation Area (HCA); and where especially there exists one or more extirpated or threatened species or rare plant communities; or where the same land is suitable to support particular species of concern; should foremost remain protected and undisturbed from development; rather than further dedicated for human recreation and use or immediate economic benefit; and therefore be placed in trust for the future as natural and wild.</p> <p>There is a goal statement in the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan that asserts: "We have the responsibility to ensure that all naturally occurring ecosystems and their native species populations continue to exist and thrive in Boulder County."</p> <p>Boulder County Parks and Open Space has committed to working toward restoring extirpated species and conserving threatened species throughout Boulder County. We sincerely hope that Boulder City will honor that commitment.</p> <p>To our knowledge, the NTSA report does not include a list of native mixed grasses, sensitive vertebrates or mention of extirpated species which might be reintroduced; or maps of their historic or critical breeding or nesting habitat; or how this land may serve as a crucial wildlife corridor.</p> <p>Boulder Rights of Nature is opposed to building a bisecting trail through this HCA.</p> |
| Email Author | Kitty Brigham |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/18/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Good Day- I live in Boulder and wanted to voice my support for the North Sky Trail. I would love to be able access the Heil valley trail north of town without having to venture onto Hwy 36 ESPECAILLY when my children are with me and being able to access other trails in Lyons. I thank you</p> |
| Email Author | Scot Ruch |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/18/2016 |

Email Detail

Dear City Council Members:

We are writing to urge your reconsideration of the Open Space Board of Trustees action to approve construction of a multiple-use trail through the North Foothills Habitat Conservation Area (West Beech and Joder Open Space properties) as part of your review of the North Trail Study Area Plan. Our opposition to construction of a multi-use trail through this ecologically important grassland is based on several reasons, but the most fundamental one is the importance of protecting intact and functioning native prairie grasslands which are among the most endangered ecosystems in North America.

That we have the luxury to discuss the future of a few hundred acres of Open Space lands as part of the North Trail Study Area is no small thing. We only have to look as far as yesterday's (May 16, 2016) Denver Post page one headline – "Encroaching on Wilds of the West" -- to once again have the importance of what we have done and what we are about to do highlighted. In fact, this decision is symbolically one of the most significant you will make.

We are at this decision point because of the considered and deliberate work your predecessor Councils performed in determining the direction of the Open Space and Mountain Parks Program. The citizens of Boulder voted to establish the Open Space Program in 1967 and have supported it for 50 years. That establishment and support was predicated on the intention that Open Space lands be protected in perpetuity and that recreational uses occur only where appropriate in that protection and where impacts would be none or minimal. Program founders never envisioned a recreational theme park latticed with connecting trails or a Wild West movie set and backdrop for adventure sports entertainment. Program founders fought for something natural and wild that preserved the character of this place. Now, it is in danger of turning into a caricature of a place, just like everywhere else.

Make no mistake, the proposed north-south trail through the North Foothills HCA will bring dramatic and irreversible changes to one of the last remaining functional natural areas in the Open Space and Mountain Parks system. No matter what you hear, the proposed trail will look like a road, act like a road, must be a road to handle the levels and types of uses being proposed. The Chautauqua Trail and Mt. Sanitas Trail are examples of what this proposed trail will necessarily be (with 9-11 constructed bridges, to boot).

These last remnant grasslands in North America are, in fact, relics. They are almost all gone. In the past fifty years native prairies have become one of the most endangered ecosystems in the country. Once significantly altered or destroyed their natural functions can never be completely recovered or restored.

You have heard a lot about the need for a major trail connection, especially for bikes, north of the city. A two mile bike trail through this grassland doesn't seem like much. But, decent alternatives to this proposed trail already exist with far fewer destructive impacts.

Native prairie grasslands have been replaced by fields of weeds, corn and hay, oil and gas fields, bluegrass lawns, roads and freeways and tract home subdivisions. That is our inheritance. It may be our legacy, as well. And, that is very upsetting.

We expect that in Boulder, that self-described environmental center of the world, we might be able to contribute a small part to protect all that is left of an endangered native prairie. That's why your decision is so important to get right.

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| Email Author | Patti Mulvihill and Dave Kuntz |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/18/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>I am writing to urge you to support the NTSA trail plans as put forth by staff and OSBT. Please support the North Sky trail.</p> <p>You may have heard these points from others, but I feel they bear repeating:</p> <p>1) Respect the City's own process - After an expensive and extremely thorough process, OSMP Staff Recommended and the Open Space Board of Trustees voted to Approve a west side alignment (called the North Sky Trail). To overturn the exhaustive work employees as well as citizens have invested would be a violation of public process and trust.</p> <p>2) The environment is being protected - The west side alignment follows an existing trail along a constructed former railroad grade, then skirts a high chain link fence around where Beach Aircraft used to manufacture missile heads. This is not pristine wilderness. The natural resources present are still there after surviving far more severe impacts than a little trail.</p> <p>3) This is unquestionably the best route - The east side alignment would cross under Highway 36, then require another expensive tunnel to cross back under. This illogical detour would be in proximity to a busy highway, would cost 2 million dollars, all for no demonstrated additional environmental protection.</p> <p>My understanding is this alignment also makes possible a trail from Boulder to Lyons, which would be a very valuable asset to local outdoor enthusiasts. I personally try to avoid driving or biking on US 36 heading north, and this trail would enable trips without the use of a car.</p> |
| Email Author | Ann Haebig |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/18/2016 |
| Email Detail | I encourage you to approve the North Sky Trail and the entire NTSA plan as approved by the Open Space Board of Trustees. |
| Email Author | Jenifer Kwasniewski |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/18/2016 |
| Email Detail | PLEASE keep the open space OPEN! I urge you to accept the recommendations of the Open Space & Mountain Parks Staff, AND THE PUBLIC regarding the North Trail Study Area (including the North Sky Trail), which has already been formally approved by the Open Space Board of Trustees. |
| Email Author | Linda McBee |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/18/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>I am writing to urge you to reject the proposal to construct the north trail through the North Foothills Habitat Conservation Area.</p> <p>I love trails. I love our open space. But there has to be a limit to what we build. What little remains of our native ecosystems is finite and precious. It is up against the almost infinite pressure of a burgeoning human population. Our open space is under increasing pressure because, no matter how many houses are built in the metro area, there are no additional Flatirons. The planet is not erupting with new acres of native grasslands.</p> <p>So we are faced with difficult decisions, decisions that call for your leadership. Building ever more trails, especially through a critical habitat area, could irretrievably destroy precisely what people want from their trails.</p> <p>In connection with the proposed north trail, I can't help thinking of the Vietnam-era statement, "We had to destroy the village in order to save it." Adding a trail in this area contributes to our already shifting baseline of what we expect from a natural area around Boulder. (See: http://www.shiftingbaselines.org/op_ed)</p> <p>Again, I urge you to reject the proposed trail.</p> |
| Email Author | Chris Hoffman |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/18/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>I'm aware that decisions are being made about a wide variety of proposals for the North Trail Study Area. I've recently walked much of the alignment of the East Connector trail and also the temporary Yoder Ranch trail. The East Connector is, in some ways, less dramatic than a West Connector would be. However, it's a pleasant place to walk. I think that preservation of the habitat to the west is of great importance and weighs more heavily in the balance (long term) than the small esthetic gain we'd get by building the western connector.</p> |
| Email Author | Robley Williams |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/18/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>I urge you to accept the balanced recommendations of Open Space & Mountain Parks Staff and the public regarding the North Trail Study Area (including the North Sky Trail), which has already been formally approved by the Open Space Board of Trustees.</p> <p>This area needs to be open to equestrians. I support the Boulder County Horse Association's stance on this issue.</p> |
| Email Author | Shari Jones |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/18/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Please consider creating the trail on the East side of the highway. The more we encroach on our precious foothills, the less wild and natural we will be.</p> |
| Email Author | David Powell |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/17/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Dear Members of Boulder City Council:</p> <p>I am writing to express my concerns regarding a proposed trail that would bisect the North Foothills (including West Beech) Habitat Conservation Area. This area is jointly owned by the city and county of Boulder.</p> <p>There has been long recognition of the geological and ecological values of this area, containing important grasslands, foothills shrublands, and the Dakota Ridge hogback. The area is recognized as an important wildlife movement corridor and is sandwiched between Old Stage Road and North Foothills Highway, which already fragment the landscape. Maintaining connectivity within the landscape will be important for animals whose spatial needs are larger than existing protected lands. The concept of Habitat Conservation Areas is to designate islands of land where animals and plants can have the upper hand. Context is just as important as content. One must look at the entire county, where the landscape is highly fragmented by roads, homes, and trails, to better understand the value of each HCA.</p> <p>Trails are not a benign use of the land but bring a set of impacts that are being well-documented through a growing volume of studies. Some mid-sized and large mammals will avoid the trailed area, use it less, or be forced to alter their timing of use. The mantra of needing more trails and needing a higher trail density being espoused by some trail advocates does not provide any balance and ignores the impacts. It is simply "supply side economics" and the argument never ends in light of a growing Front Range human population. Spreading out recreational use only brings impacts to a new area, and there is no lasting "release" of recreation pressure on the older trails for as the population grows, use levels remain high. More intense management of existing trails will be needed to deal with the growing numbers of people wanting to enjoy public lands in an urbanizing landscape. And we may have to learn to deal with more people on the trails. But there is no lack of trails in Boulder County for its citizens to enjoy when looking at the entire landscape, including our largest block of public land - National Forest.</p> <p>Habitat Conservation Areas are studied, planned, and recognized. For the North Foothills HCA, it does not deserve to be further fragmented. If approved, this does not bode well for other conservation areas.</p> |
| Email Author | Dave Hallock |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/17/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>I am writing to express my concern over the proposed North Sky Trail, west of US 36 in North Boulder. I am a recreational mountain and road biker but I am opposed to this trail. The Boulder Mountain Bike Alliance already lists close to 100 trails for mountain biking. Isn't it fair to ask, "When do we have enough trails?" There is no shortage of trails in Boulder for mountain biking or road biking. There is a severe shortage of common sense over some issues in Boulder, and I ask the City Council to stand up for what is best for all citizens. Undisturbed land is precious, and there is precious little left. Let's do the right thing for our children and those who inherit the land after us. I urge the Council to reject this proposal and explain to the community that everyone is best served by NOT developing this trail.</p> |
| Email Author | Tom Lemieux |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/18/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Boulder has great road biking, limited mountain biking if you are looking for nice long trails that are not extremely technical. Most trails here are short, steep, and difficult.</p> <p>This would be a great trail and an attraction for the people that visit Boulder for the biking. But even better for locals.</p> |
| Email Author | Pete Vegas |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/17/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>I am writing to express my support for the plan for the North Sky Trail in the North TSA. This would provide a wonderful recreation opportunity, allowing access to Heil ranch without getting in a car. Boulder is very lacking in trails that can be reached by bike, and this would be a wonderful addition.</p> |
| Email Author | Dan Hickstein |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/17/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>I implore you to decide against putting a major trail you are considering through a critically sensitive area which is a designated Habitat Conservation Area. There are many creatures such as Golden Eagles and other vulnerable birds and mammals that would be impacted, plus the trail would have to be closed at times because of flooding. Please, please, please put the trail on the east side of the highway and leave the pristine west side alone.</p> <p>There are already enough trails in this area, plenty for people enjoy. Let's think of the other critters, ok?</p> |
| Email Author | Cara Anderson |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/17/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>I urge you to reject the proposal for the western location of the North Trail.</p> <p>The area west of US 36 includes a Habitat Conservation Area that supports rare species and distinctive geological features.</p> <p>I have visited this area on many field trips and also studied this area as an ecological contractor for Open Space.</p> <p>Simply stated, it would be a breach of the purpose of the Open Space program to locate the trail west of Broadway.</p> <p>I have lived here for over 45 years and raised my family here. I care deeply about the future of Boulder. The future of our Open Space program is closely intertwined.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention.</p> |
| Email Author | Jane Bunin, PhD |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/17/2016 |

Dear Boulder Council Members and Community Decision Makers,

I am currently writing this letter from the Royal Norfolk Hotel across the street from Paddington Station in London (technically Westminster), England. I just finished reading the first half of Bill Bryson's book *The Road to Little Dribbling*. I live in Boulder County and am visiting the UK to explore trails such as the Celtic Trail in Wales and a rail trail near Stratford-Upon-Avon.

You may be wondering what all this has to do with the North Sky Trail. Well I just discovered that the wonderful open space program in Boulder County is a mere infant compared to Great Britain's 1947 Town and Country Planning Act, the grandfather of green belts. In essence, it is what makes London & the UK so incredibly special. Long before the Boulder County Open Space was a twinkle in anyone's eye, the Town & Country Planning Act began preserving massive tracts of public lands for the sake of conservation, tranquility and the environment.

How do I know about this? Because Bill Bryson wrote about it in *The Road to Little Dribbling*. And how does Bill Bryson, an American from Iowa, know about it? Because he has hiked many of the trails, greenways, footpaths and canal towpaths in the London area and throughout England. And in the process of these hikes, he became a huge supporter of preserving open space in and around urban areas.

Yes, we must preserve open space for many reasons. But one of those reasons includes the ability for humans (the ones who pay the taxes that make open space possible) to be able to explore that open space. Some people in Boulder want us to preserve open space and then build a Trumpian wall around it to keep people off of it. This is wrong for so many reasons.

1. Whether in England or in Boulder, Colorado, people are not going to support the purchase of open space lands unless they have some connection to that land. Trails provide an environmentally sound connection to the land.
2. One reason for preserving the land is so that people can stay in touch with nature. We can't do that if the land is hermetically sealed from all human interaction with it.
3. Trails provide so many benefits: recreation, alternative transportation, access to nature, exercise, etc.
4. Humans are a part of nature too. As long as they aren't in cars or on motorcycles/ATVs, humans have as much right to explore and benefit from open space as other animals do.

The notion of banning humans/trails from open space is ridiculous. To say that hikers and bicyclists are harmful to the environment is completely unrealistic. They are part of the environment. Should we also ban coyotes, foxes & hawks because they disrupt the tranquil lives of rabbits and prairie dogs? Of course not. All living creatures should have access to this land as long as they aren't polluting it with cars, ATVs and motorcycles.

Please be open-minded about this and approve the North Sky Trail. We need more trails & footpaths, not less. If you ban people from the land, who is going to continue supporting the acquisition and preservation of open space? I know I certainly wouldn't. I live on open space and have a major trail directly behind my house. I also have a connector trail that literally borders the side of my yard. Instead of taking a NIMBY outlook to this trail, I love it. It brings me great joy to see people using the trail. My heart sores when I see children riding their bikes and hiking with their families on the trails by my house and throughout Boulder County.

As a retired teacher, I'm a huge supporter of education. But there is no education better than getting our children out into nature where they can breathe fresh air, frolic on the trails and commune with wild-lands. To deny them access to this community treasure would be pure folly.

Email Detail

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| | We need to expose them to more nature, not less. Please put an end to this crazy talk about restricting trails on open space. Start by approving North Sky Trail and other connector trails. The people who want to restrict responsible access to public lands give environmentalism a bad name. |
| Email Author | Kevin Purdy |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/17/2016 |
| Email Detail | I am writing to express my support of opening more Open Space trails to mountain bikes, at least on certain days of the week. This allows for a fair and equitable enjoyment of the trails by a greater number of the citizens whose tax money funds these trails. It does not limit the enjoyment of the trails to hikers. I hike and bike, and believe both should be allowed on the trails. |
| Email Author | Karen Goubleman |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/17/2016 |
| Email Detail | My husband and I moved to Boulder in part due to our coexisting values of environmental conservation and outdoor recreation. We recently purchased our first home just south of Lee Hill Drive and west of Broadway, at 4750 8th St. We would value the opportunity to hike and bike in the North Sky Trail. This would enhance our home value and add immensely to our lifestyle. Please approve the North Sky Trail and the entire NTSA plan as approved by the Open Space Board of Trustees. |
| Email Author | Alisha Stagg |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/17/2016 |
| Email Detail | I would like to strongly object to the proposal to build a new trail across the North Foothills Habitat Conservation Area. New trails and Habitat Conservation Areas are totally incompatible. Building this trail would be an enormous ecological insult and would go against everything that City and County Open Space hold or should hold most sacred: unfragmented and critical habitat for relatively pristine grasslands and all the species that inhabit this area. Please listen to Open Space staff and preserve the integrity of the Open Space Program. |
| Email Author | Tom Andrews |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/17/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>As Boulder prepares to connect recreational resources, I urge City Council to bear in mind that the preservation of habitat and protection of native species are very important goals that can be met as we accommodate the recreational use of open space and mountain parks. The compromises involved in choosing the east side connector trail benefit the goal of preservation without greatly inconveniencing recreational users. The plants, insects, birds, and other animals rely on us to make choices that serve them as well as us.</p> <p>For the following reasons, I support the east side connector trail rather than the west side connector trail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preserves an extensive and unfragmented block of valuable habitat on the west side, thus helping to protect and sustain native species, including plants, insects, birds, and mammals • preserves the foothills riparian drainages and corridors on the west side • fulfills open space commitment to preservation as well as to human recreation <p>My concerns about the west side connector include the likely introduction and spread of invasive plant species that will degrade habitat, parking issues, and the greater financial expense of that option.</p> |
| Email Author | Frances Costa |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/17/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>I deeply appreciate Boulder's remarkable investment in Open Space for conservation as well as recreation. There is a strong push from highly organized, funded recreational interests (especially representing mountain bicyclists) to build a major trail on the West side of highway 36 North of town that would fragment a currently untrailed Habitat Conservation Area. I ask you to reject this proposal in order to preserve a precious ecosystem. Specifically, West Beech is identified in the Natural Resource component of the North TSA Inventory and Assessment Report as a "Best Opportunity Area" to preserve one of the last remaining examples of a native mixed-grass prairie. Habitat protection is hard, because once we let an area like this go, it's gone. There are always other opportunities for recreation.</p> <p>I think you for your consideration.</p> |
| Email Author | Gary Hardin |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/17/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Here we go. I am a long term resident of [moved here in 1972] Boulder, own my own home and have had my business at 1045 Pearl St. since Jan. of 1974. During these past 44 years I have been a 4-season mountaineer, runner and cyclist. At 70 years of age I am still mountaineering. Our Open Space has come under very heavy use and abuse and has squeezed the wildlife into smaller and more fragmented areas since I first moved here. This does not promote a healthy environment for these animals. We need to keep the remaining Open Space a viable habitat.</p> <p>I want the Council to vote to refrain from building the proposed trail through the HCA west of Co36. There are enough trails already in the OSMP system.</p> |
| Email Author | David Goodrich |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/17/2016 |
| Email Detail | I support the NTSA Plan as recommended by the Open Space Board of Trustees which includes the North Sky Trail on the west side of US36. |

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| Email Author | Byron Murray |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/17/2016 |
| Email Detail | I am writing in support of the proposed east side connector trail north of Boulder. It is important to keep the large and, as yet, unfragmented habitat conservation area on the west side intact. The riparian drainages and extraordinary habitat there will continue to support the traditional patterns of flora and fauna west of the highway. There is already activity to the east that can be extended to Joder and Heil ranches at a lower cost than cutting new trail to the west. The east side alignment will provide access every bit as effectively to recreationists of all sorts without the environmental degradation caused by the west trail alignment. Please keep critical habitat preservation as your first priority. |
| Email Author | Thom Krueger |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/17/2016 |
| Email Detail | Please approve the NTSA plan as recommended by OSMP Staff and the OSBT, including the so-called western alignment. I have been a resident of Wonderland Hills for almost 40 years and use the Wonderland lake trail system daily. I hike, ride, bird watch, run, you name it. This extension is a wonderful compromise of protecting the wildlife and habit and allowing your users and tax payers access to our very special open space. The east side access is not even comparable. Please adopt the North trail study are as it is written including the North Sky Tail and listen to your community. |
| Email Author | Jennifer Hudson |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/17/2016 |
| Email Detail | I support the NTSA Plan as recommended by the Open Space Board of Trustees which includes the North Sky Trail on the west side of US36. I urge you to approve this plan. |
| Email Author | David Wagner |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/17/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Please do not allow this north of Wonderland Hills and west of 36 bike trail at all. This is an absurd waste of Boulder tax payer money designed by and for the biking industry to make even more money. It was designed for Metro area bike groups to inundate this beautiful area. Bus 'em in and let 'em take over Boulder Valley.</p> <p>The attitude of the majority of the mountain bike industry and much of the bicycle industry in general is, "This is my day off and I'll go wherever and do whatever I want--to hell with the environment, to hell with other people and all those lazy vehicle drivers." It's a weekend warrior greed, self centered mentality. I've witnessed it for many years. It is as if we are all to admire their, 'I'm an athlete, watch me roll!" Just bizarre.</p> <p>This whole idea was not even designed for the Boulder County people--it's being pushed by the Denver Metro bike industry owners. Bike clubs will bus additional hordes of bike group enthusiasts over here weekly and take over most of the trails. Yet Boulder tax payers are stuck with 'their' entertainment bill and will continually pay to maintain it in perpetuity. A few trail bridges to be flown by helicopters--good lord, what are they thinking??? It's a stupid waste of money, time and energy. Think about those who proposed this idea in the first place. Think about who is on the committee pushing it.</p> <p>Once again it's the greed by a few overtaking our public environmental decisions. Our duty is to maintain this beautiful mountain open space and its meadows.</p> <p>Have the state widen Hwy 36 for the gangs of invincible neoprene bikers who are always riding side by side and causing accidents and deaths. No need to destroy any more meadows or alpine habitat.</p> <p>I am a bicyclist and have been one my entire life. I love to bike. I worked for the National Park Service in many beautiful areas for many years and in all of its divisions. I understand how easily land is destroyed by selfish people and how many stupid decisions are made and influenced by greed. I have been a property owner in Boulder County since 1983.</p> <p>Use the East Side connector if you must.</p> |
| Email Author | Mary Ann Penttila |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/17/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>This message is to voice to City Council my support for the North Trail Study Area Plan. The importance of balance in Boulder County's heavily used Open Space is important to me. I wish to see it preserved for our posterity.</p> <p>I support the draft plan, because it strikes a reasonable balance between encouraging residents to get out and enjoy the outdoors, and conserving it for future generations. Both of these are extremely vital to the health of our community and our landscapes.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to give you my opinion on this matter.</p> |
| Email Author | Matt Kobzik |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/17/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>I feel it's very important for Boulderites to be able to ride trails from home instead of getting in cars to drive to remote destinations. Please support bicycle access on the North Sky trail.</p> <p>This will help get myself and friends out of cars and allow us to enjoy nature while riding from home. With the potential of linking to Heil ranch we can get a lot of riders out of their cars with this connection. Hence this has positive ramifications on Boulders carbon footprint. We really need to look at this situation holistically. Boulder is increasing in population and density. Is it the intention to have Boulderites load up bikes in cars and drive to trailheads or can we encourage riders to ride from home? What's more sustainable? More cars driving north on Hwy 36 leading to more pollution and animals dying as roadkill; or more bicyclists on a designated connector trail appreciating and enjoying nature with their friends and loved ones. Please approve this connector and help move us towards a vision that will get more of us out of our cars.</p> |
| Email Author | Don Elsborg |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/17/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>I implore you to please vote to build the connector trail from north Boulder to Heil Ranch on the EAST side of Highway 36.</p> <p>It is only logical not to build a trail through the North Foothills Habitat Conservation Area on the WEST side of Highway 36. It is a HABITAT CONSERVATION AREA! We must protect what little open land we have left from the pressures of humans and their desires for ever-more recreational trails.</p> |
| Email Author | Mary Castaneda Balzer |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/17/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>I urge you not to approve the proposed trail in the foothills north of town. While the area may seem unexceptional, especially from the window of a car traveling Highway 36, it is in fact an area rich in natural values, designated a Habitat Conservation Area. Constructing a trail through this area, and the resulting impacts of recreation, would degrade the area and undermine the whole idea of habitat protection. There will always be arguments and pressure to privilege human use of protected natural areas. Boulder County has a long and proud history of balancing the needs and demands of people with the value of protected open space.</p> <p>Please uphold this wise tradition and say No. Not here. to this trail proposal.</p> |
| Email Author | John Fox |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/17/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>As a cyclist and environmentalist, I support the NTSA Plan as recommended by the Open Space Board of Trustees which includes the North Sky Trail on the west side of US36.</p> <p>I hope you vote in favor of this plan and reduce help the number of cycling fatalities on the roads around our great town.</p> |
| Email Author | Greg Koeka |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/17/2016 |

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| Email Detail | The North rails Study Area (NTSA) planning has involved input from many OSMP staff members and many members of the community, and now comes the time to decide. As a long time resident, may I urge you to to stray on the side of conservation and preservation of the unspoiled acres west of Highway 36, by choosing the less damaging eastern trail option. If we are serious about protecting natural habitat and all the inhabitants of this relatively untouched area of the lower foothills, it makes no sense to blaze an all-purpose trail through the middle of it. A trail on the east side of 36 would get us humans to the same end point without the destruction of those very environmental values we claim to believe in so strongly. |
| Email Author | Ann Cooper |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/17/2016 |
| Email Detail | Please approve the north sky trail from north Boulder to Lyons. As a boulder citizen, we need more trails to use to recreate and enjoy nature |
| Email Author | David Meldman |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/17/2016 |
| Email Detail | to whom this may concern- I'm writing as a concerned citizen, there have been so much growth in population in Boulder and the Greater Boulder county area, with very little added open space, this is concerning to me as these areas are getting crowded and trashed with more and more people. It is not fair to take away more open space from the residents of Boulder County when we voted and pay for these in our taxes. I live in the county and the roads are heinous and getting worse, and there will be more user conflicts with added people on limited open space. Seriously we have done what we need to now the city and county need to create more access to what we already have paid for and promised. |
| Email Author | Louisa Jenkins |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/17/2016 |
| Email Detail | I am an avid mountain biker and trail runner. This purpose of this letter is to ask you to support the NTSA Plan as recommended by the Open Space Board of Trustees which includes the North Sky Trail on the west side of US36. |
| Email Author | Ned Riedel |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/17/2016 |
| Email Detail | I am extremely concerned about he proposed trail that would bisect the North Foothills Habitat Conservation Area. The proposed trail would negatively impact some of the most important and rare critical habitat communities on Open Space lands. It is imperative that this Habitat Conservation Area be left as intact as it can be and I implore you to deny this short sighted request to build this trail. The institutional mandate of the department of Open Space is to "preserve and protect the natural environment and land resources that characterize Boulder." What a perfect opportunity to do just that. |
| Email Author | Tina Arapkiles |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/17/2016 |

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| Email Detail | As a Boulder resident and voter, I'm writing to express my support for the NTSA Plan as recommended by the Open Space Board of Trustees which includes the North Sky Trail on the west side of US36. The draft plan OSBT plan is a strong compromise between preservation of natural resources, enhancement of passive recreation enjoyment, and ensuring our agricultural heritage. These purposes are not mutually exclusive: We can achieve multiple objectives for OSMP in the same area, on the same properties. I ask Council to make no major changes before approving the NTSA plan. |
| Email Author | Chris Crosby |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/17/2016 |
| Email Detail | West side trail of NTSA seems illogical when the east side is right there. I got to all the GIS/Google Earth layers on the OSMP web site, and none of them include the actual proposed trails as Google earth files, so it makes seeing the actual impacts difficult. It is probably too late, but they should post the Google Earth kmz files of the alternative trail alignments as well. That way you could see what the actual impacts are for the west side trail. It seems very strange that anyone would let the trail be on the west side when the east side is so easy to develop. |
| Email Author | Patrick Murphy |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/17/2016 |
| Email Detail | Hello. I am writing about the connecting trails to open space in North Boulder. Wildlife habitat should be first and foremost and thus the East Side trail which already exists is the logical and ecological solution. Why build a new trail and negatively impact wildlife? Frankly, the overuse of Heil by mountain bikes means that we hike elsewhere. They seem to have more power than any other group. But the group without any power at all is wildlife so we should remember their needs first. Conservation before recreation. We have enough fragmented habitat. Don't add more please. Thank you |
| Email Author | Naomi Rachel |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/17/2016 |
| Email Detail | As a volunteer who helps survey butterflies in the open space areas north of town, I ask you to please reject the West Side Connector Trail option and recommend the East Side Connector Trail option. I feel it is cheaper and makes substantially less environmental impact. |
| Email Author | Lawrence Crowley |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/17/2016 |
| Email Detail | We work in Boulder and live in Lyons and are in great favor of the North Sky Trail. Extensive studies and surveys have been done that document the great benefit for the community and protection of wildlife and open space. |
| Email Author | Sarah Vasel |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/17/2016 |

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| Email Detail | I ride in Boulder often and would really appreciate an alternative North/South route to Hwy 36. The proposed trail seems like a no-brainer to me. |
| Email Author | Kelly Niquette |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/17/2016 |
| Email Detail | Hi there, I'm writing to urge you to approve the North Sky Trail and the entire NTSA plan as approved by the Open Space Board of Trustees. I think this will be a fantastic addition to an already great trail system in the area, providing access to even more of this beautiful space so close to us, and will help cut down on road traffic between various trails. |
| Email Author | Jonah West |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/17/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Please Do Not Develop a trail on the West side of Highway 36</p> <p>I am of hiker, dog owner and horse owner and I am very disappointed in three of our five Open Space Board of Trustees and their vote to move ahead with a plan to develop a trail on the highly-sensitive habitat on the West side of Highway 36.</p> <p>Their mission is: The Open Space and Mountain Parks Department preserves and protects the natural environment and land resources that characterize Boulder. We foster appreciation and use that sustain the natural values of the land for current and future generations.</p> <p>This area contains several key drainages that are extremely important to wildlife. I think that three of our five Open Space Board of Trustees are moving ahead too fast in approving this area for development and are not acting true to the oath they took. The impact of a trail on the West side will be detrimental to the hillside and the wildlife that use it.</p> <p>What will be the visual future as you come into our city from the North? It will be a bike highway smack in the middle of this now beautiful hillside— a negative impact in my opinion. The outcome will be a highway of bikes moving at high speed along this corridor, and this will affect these important wildlife corridors and habitat. We need to preserve our lands not continue to cave in to the pressure of an increasingly hungry and growing population of recreational users with no care for the future.</p> <p>Cyclists and some other users cry for a better "user experience" and are supporting a trail on the west side for this and many other reasons. But I point out that a cyclist can not enjoy the view, their eyes must be focused forward not outward on a landscape or they will crash or ride off the cliff side.</p> <p>I urge City Council to reconsider development on the West side of Highway 36 and take time to study this area. Please keep any new trail development to the existing trails on the East side of 36 and let this highly sensitive area be a sanctuary for pressured wildlife.</p> <p>Stay true to the Mission, protect the future of our "natural environment and land resources" first, before providing recreational access to an increasingly hungry and insatiable population of tunnel-visioned users.</p> |
| Email Author | Linda Parks |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |

“Our results suggest that preservation of plant biodiversity is crucial to buffer negative effects of climate change and desertification in drylands” (Maestre et al. 2012). “High plant diversity is needed to maintain ecosystem services” (Isbell et al. 2011), and “intact communities are needed to increase the resistance of ecosystem productivity to climate change” (Isbell et al. 2015). As species are lost on OSMP (Anacker, unpublished, Beals et al. 2014), then the impacts of biodiversity loss will escalate (Reich et al. 2012). The heating and impermeable surfaces of trails will generate new microclimates that can further escalate native species losses. Animals not disturbed by human activities will be affected by the direct and indirect effects on vegetation.

If I were a scientist with a passion for mountain biking, a desire to see more young people get involved in using open space, and the belief that the east side connector trail was unrealistic, could I argue the opposite conclusion? Sure, although the arguments are based more on emphasizing uncertainty surrounding the facts rather than actual evidence. Proving harm is more difficult (from a statistical sampling perspective) than not proving harm. Also, since other directional environmental changes are occurring, how do we separate out the local human impacts from the regional trends? How can we prove harm from a specific activity when multiple stressors are in play? These are legitimate questions. However, the decisions to fragment and enhance human recreational use all come with risks that do not need to be incurred by routing a trail around the existing conservation area.

The best science would argue that to protect the long-term biological diversity of a conservation area and OSMP as a whole, one would route any new bike trails in OSMP outside of established HCAs. As you can see by the citation dates of the above literature, much of this science is new and recognizes the reality of the radical changes in our environment that are currently underway.

Conservation area preservation and reducing fragmentation are the minimum activities that can maintain communities and ecosystem resilience in the face of directional changes.

Fragmentation and active trail use will harm multiple metrics of biological diversity, and this biodiversity – while being a goal of the OSMP system – is now a requirement to maintain resilience and maximize the probability of community sustainability. It may sound like a tautology – diversity is needed to preserve diversity – but it’s not. We need these intact systems in place to provide the resilience to recover from the next multi-year drought or wildfire.

Please support the east side connector route.

Sincerely,

Tim Seastedt

Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology,
Fellow, Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research.

Literature Cited

Anacker, B. et al. 2016. OSMP-CU preproposal to NSF: Analysis of factors affecting biodiversity loss. (unpublished OSMP analysis).

Beals, S. C., Hartley, L. M., Prev y, J. S., & Seastedt, T. R. 2014. The effects of black-tailed prairie dogs on plant communities within a complex urban landscape: An ecological surprise?. *Ecology*, 95(5), 1349-1359.

Isbell, F., et al. 2011. High plant diversity is needed to maintain ecosystem services. *Nature*, 477(7363), 199-202.

Isbell, F., et al. 2015. Biodiversity increases the resistance of ecosystem productivity to climate extremes. *Nature*, 526(7574), 574-577.

Maestre, F. T., et al. 2012. Plant species richness and ecosystem multifunctionality in global drylands. *Science*, 335(6065), 214-218.

Reich, P. B., Tilman, D., Isbell, F., Mueller, K., Hobbie, S. E., Flynn, D. F., & Eisenhauer, N. 2012. Impacts of biodiversity loss escalate through time as redundancy fades. *Science*, 336(6081), 589-592.

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| Email Author | Tim Seastedt, Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Fellow, Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/16/2016 |
| Email Detail | Boulder City Council, I am writing to you to encourage you to ratify the OSBT vote on the North TSA. As both a resident of Boulder County and user of Open space, I have such an appreciation for the careful study and time taken to review and come up with a plan that both allows for multi-use while preserving the balance of nature and keeping the area available for future generations. Our trail systems are well used and this provides an important connection for users as well as another area to help spread out the impact of trail usage across the county. As both an Equestrian, Mountain biker and Hiker, I appreciate the diversity our trail systems offer. |
| Email Author | Annette Nusser |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/16/2016 |
| Email Detail | I am writing to express my support for the North Sky Trail to Joder Ranch. I am an avid runner, hiker and mountain biker who resides in N. Boulder (near the Holiday neighborhood) and am very excited by this proposal. |
| Email Author | Sabrina Neu |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/16/2016 |
| Email Detail | I am against this,, there already is a nice trail on the east side of 36 thats quite pleasant. You will be destroying alot of the open space widening the trail on the that side. The bike people want to ride, then ride the other trail, there should be no short cut though the open space and the horse riders, me one of them, I don't see an advantage in this trail to make me want to destroy open space for it.. |
| Email Author | Frances Marino |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/16/2016 |
| Email Detail | It took the people of Lyons a long time to get a trail head to the Heil Ranch as some people selfish people would have liked to keep the public out. I experienced this first hand as a Trustee of the Lyons Board of Trustees. None-the-less, we got the trailhead. We would now like to be connected to the areas to the south. This is a big opportunity. Using an old railroad grade makes sense and connecting Boulder to Lyons via the North Sky Trail and future links would be absolutely wonderful. Please move forward on the North Sky Trail. |
| Email Author | Peter Baumgartner |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/16/2016 |
| Email Detail | Please Ratify the OSBT Vote on the North TSA |
| Email Author | Peter Baumgartner |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/16/2016 |

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| Email Detail | My name is Chase Kregor and I am an upcoming senior at The University of Colorado. As a cyclist and as someone who now calls Boulder home I am urging you to approve the North Sky Trail and the entire NTSA plan as approved by the Open Space Board of Trustees. As a member of the community I truly believe this is in the best interest of the people. |
| Email Author | Chase Alexander Kregor |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/16/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Boulder City Council,</p> <p>I produced a 3 minute video which gives a brief overview of the NTSA plan, specifically the North Sky Trail: https://youtu.be/CwgBbckNZjs I created the video after realizing many citizens of Boulder had only a vague idea of what was proposed in the NTSA plan or what was at stake. I hope you find it helpful too.</p> <p>I ask that you please vote to approve the North Sky Trail and the entire NTSA plan as approved by the Open Space Board of Trustees after an exhaustive public process.</p> <p>In drafting the NTSA plan, it is my sincere belief that City Staff did an excellent job balancing environmental protection, trail connectivity, and many other values important to the NTSA process and this community. This trail is an important connector to the trail systems to the north, utilizes existing trails and a railroad bed, and has been routed to avoid sensitive areas. Many people - not just cyclists - have wanted this trail for many years. It is the obvious missing link in the north / south connectivity in the NTSA.</p> <p>For those of you who may disagree with this plan, please remember City Staff worked countless hours to put together a balanced proposal for a single trail through this area after an exhaustive public process. Dogs must be on leash and will be banned altogether during fledging season. Off trail permits will not be allowed. The trail skirts the eastern side of the OSPM property and is within several hundred yards of highway 36. The trail will allow many people to ride their bikes from home vs driving to Heil Valley Ranch, reducing traffic and emissions. This is no environmental disaster. This is about creating world class trail connectivity and connecting more citizens to Open Space - which is good for conservation! Many who will become the next generation of conservationists own trail running shoes and mountain bikes. The recreation vs conservation dichotomy is an unhelpful fiction in my view, largely a product of vocal minorities on each side. Protection and connectivity go hand in hand when done well.</p> <p>If you are interested in seeing the data I used to produce the video, or if you would like to explore the area on your computer, please download the following .kmz file and open it in the Google Earth application on a mac or windows computer:</p> <p>https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/13299738/NTSA%20Google%20Earth%20Data%20-%20Open%20Boulder.kmz</p> <p>The .kmz file contains a mixture of OSMP data, Boulder County data and tracings I produced directly from the NTSA draft plan. The "North Sky Trail Overlay" layer is actually page 35 of the NTSA plan projected onto the ground, which gives a good perspective on the North Sky Trail.</p> <p>With respect and admiration for those who had and still have the vision to protect the open spaces in our community, for both wildlife and our community,</p> |
| Email Author | Brady Robinson |

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| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/16/2016 |
| Email Detail | Please continue the tradition of horses We are and will be responsible equestrian citizens for boulder County |
| Email Author | Linda J |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/16/2016 |
| Email Detail | I live at 5318 5th St in Dakota Ridge, 100 yards from the proposed modified trail system and I support it 100%. |
| Email Author | Matt Wiencek |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/16/2016 |
| Email Detail | I would very much appreciate the ability to ride, run, and hike from the Wonderland Lake area of Boulder to the Joder Ranch trails. If approved, the North Sky Trail would provide this much-needed link between open spaces. In addition, it would decrease greenhouse gas emissions (fewer folks driving to the trailheads). Thank you very much for your consideration. |
| Email Author | Peter Shellito |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/16/2016 |
| Email Detail | To me it's a no brainer that we'd have a trail heading north out of Boulder to Joder and beyond. Please make it so for us and future generations of Boulderites to enjoy. |
| Email Author | Jonathan Sackheim |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/16/2016 |
| Email Detail | I'm writing to ask you to support the excellent North Sky Trail plan, as approved by the Open Space Board of Trustees. This would be a tremendous addition to our recreation possibilities for all trail users. |
| Email Author | Mike Ahnemann |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/16/2016 |
| Email Detail | The public has spoken - please support the NTSA plan as presented to you. The community has come together and done the work for you, to create a plan that is sensitive to wildlife yet open to recreation, with an eye on safety (no crossing of Hwy 36) and connectivity to existing trail systems. Please vote YES. |
| Email Author | Steve Rane |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/16/2016 |

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| Email Detail | I am writing this email to to urge the council to accept the balanced recommendations of Open Space & Mountain Parks Staff and the public regarding the North Trail Study area. I am an avid equestrian who enjoys the open space resources here in Boulder County. Please accept the recommendations provided by the Open Space & Mountain Parks Staff and the public to open this area to equestrian usage. |
| Email Author | Brian Boone |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/16/2016 |
| Email Detail | I want to urge the members of the Boulder City Council to accept the balanced recommendations of Open Space & Mountain Parks Staff regarding the North Trail Study Area, including the North Sky Trail. It has already been approved by the Open Space of Trustees. |
| Email Author | Pamela Fowler |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/16/2016 |
| Email Detail | I've lived in the North Boulder area for 25 years (Boulder County for 45 years) and I urge you to approve the North Sky Trail and the entire NTSA plan as approved by the Open Space Board of Trustees. I, for one, look forward to walking it. |
| Email Author | Paulette Forbes |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/16/2016 |
| Email Detail | TO the members of the Boulder City Council: Please accept the recommendations of Open Space & Mountain Parks Staff and the public regarding the North Trail Study Area (including the North Sky Trail), which has already been formally approved by the Open Space Board of Trustees. This is an important resource to all of us in Colorado, and your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. |
| Email Author | Vicki Cowart |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/16/2016 |
| Email Detail | Hello everyone! I promised to keep you updated on the progress of our petition supporting the OSBT compromise on NTSA (rather than you getting pinged every time someone signs it). This weekend, we crossed the 1,000 signers threshold, and we're continuing to grow. These are mostly City of Boulder residents (with the remainder Boulder County, most of whom live within the NTSA boundaries). All support a balance between conservation and passive recreation, and are asking you not to overhaul the Trustees' plan in a major way. Many of them will be at your meeting in June (hopefully not all!) |
| Email Author | Andy Schultheiss |

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| City Council Response | <p>Hi Andy, thank you for the update. I would appreciate a breakdown of folks as per my previous request.</p> <p>Best,</p> <p>Mary Dolores Young Mayor Pro Tem Boulder City Council 303-501-2439</p> |
| Email Date | 5/16/2016 |
| Email Detail | Please approve the Sky Line Trail and NTSA plan as recommended by the Open Space Board of Trustees. This trail will provide an excellent link. So many people have worked hard to make this trail a reality, and the Board of Trustees has concluded the current plant to be the best option. I hope you will listen to their recommendations. |
| Email Author | Kristin Gablehouse, DVM |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/16/2016 |
| Email Detail | Please approve the North TSA plan as recommended by the OSMP Staff and Open Space Board of Trustees. The North Sky Trail will be a great benefit to our community while still respecting and protecting the local environment. |
| Email Author | Scott Gurst |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/16/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Boulder City Council,</p> <p>A few years ago when there was some threat of the Beech Trail being closed down I came to a city council meeting and did an interpretative dance of the wonderful experiences one can have while using said trail.</p> <p>Being a North-West Boulder Resident, this trail is a very important part of our neighborhood. It provides nice views and a great single track experience without the steep elevation of the Hogback Trail or Mt. Sanitas. Also, watching the flowers come and go through the seasons is amazing.</p> <p>Although this trail is in an HCA, I think its impact on animals is minimal: the cars racing down US36 are much more harmful, based on the number of dead deer, prairie dogs, etc, I often see or smell in the ditches while biking that road. Before closing the trail for conservation's sake, I suggest you close the road, or lower its speed limit to 25 mph.</p> <p>If further convincing is needed, I shall come and dance again,</p> |
| Email Author | Johannes Rudolph |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/16/2016 |

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| Email Detail | I am writing to endorse the west side trail option. As I have said on many occasions in OSB meetings and communications, data from numerous studies which I summarized in my Open Space board application, indicate that in that area a trail would have little impact on natural populations. Please support the ongoing process and vote in favor! Thanks for all the time and energy I know you have all put into this massive effort! |
| Email Author | Beth Bennett PhD |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/16/2016 |
| Email Detail | Greetings, Please register my support of the NTSA Plan as recommended by the Open Space Board of Trustees which includes the Sky Line Trail on the west side of US36. This is a critical decision point for the future of trails in the Boulder area. Please follow through with the work that has been done by the OSMP staff wherein the Open Space Board of Trustees voted to Approve a west side alignment (called the North Sky Trail). To overturn the exhaustive work employees as well as citizens have invested would be a violation of public process and trust. This is unquestionably the best route. |
| Email Author | Randy Cantu |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/16/2016 |
| Email Detail | Boulder City Council, I'm writing to voice my support for the NTSA Plan created by the community and the Open Space Board of Trustees that includes the new North Sky Trail on the west of rt 36. This would be a wonderful and elegant addition to our trail system with minimal impact to the environment. |
| Email Author | Alan Powers |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/16/2016 |
| Email Detail | Boulder City Council, I am writing to ask you to vote for building the Joder Ranch trail on the West side of US-36. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect the City's own process - After an expensive and extremely thorough process, OSMP Staff Recommended and the Open Space Board of Trustees voted to Approve a west side alignment (called the North Sky Trail). To overturn the exhaustive work employees as well as citizens have invested would be a violation of public process and trust. • The environment is being protected - The west side alignment follows an existing trail along a constructed former railroad grade, then skirts a high chain link fence around where Beach Aircraft used to manufacture missile heads. This is not pristine wilderness. The natural resources present are still there after surviving far more severe impacts than a little trail. • This is unquestionably the best route - The east side alignment would cross under Highway 36, then require another expensive tunnel to cross back under. This illogical detour would be in proximity to a busy highway, would cost 2 million dollars, all for no demonstrated additional environmental protection. |

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| Email Author | Sabine Bildstein |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/16/2016 |
| Email Detail | Please vote to build the Joder Ranch trail on the West side of US 36. |
| Email Author | Fred Coogan |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/15/2016 |
| Email Detail | To the Boulder City Council, I am urging you to accept the balanced recommendations of Open Space & Mountain Parks Staff and the public regarding the North Trail Study Area (including the North Sky Trail), which has already been formally approved by the Open Space Board of Trustees. Please keep Boulder horse friendly. My husband and I love riding the Boulder trails on our horses. |
| Email Author | Donna Taylor |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/15/2016 |
| Email Detail | Dear Council, I'd like to voice my support for the North Sky Trail. I'm a mountain biker, but also deeply concerned about the future of our wild places. I think this is a great example of putting usable space in our "frontcountry" to use Chris Solomon's words. Here is a recent article of his: http://www.outsideonline.com/2059261/big-idea-conservationist-recreationist-wilderness-clash Conservationists that oppose the North Sky Trail point to this article to support their statements that we should build no new trails. However, to cite his article directly: "the future looks like a managed system that balances several uses in the "frontcountry" near town, rather than pushing more people into the backcountry to disperse the crowds. " Colorado has lots of backcountry that is wild. More trails in the frontcountry (specifically areas that can be biked to from towns, such as this trail from Boulder) will reduce vehicle trips out of town and trail use in the backcountry, all while engaging people in the outdoors and helping to teach them to take care of our wild places. As a personal anecdote, this trail would reduce the number of vehicle trips I make to Heil Ranch by 90% or more (a once weekly excursion). I'm always looking for ways to avoid getting in my car, without having to bike on roads as dangerous as Highway 36. From my house in Boulder, I could safely cross to Foothills trail and not need to cross 36 near Joder Ranch, where there is no light or crosswalk. This is THE frontcountry connector trail that I've been hoping for. Please support the current plan to go forward with the North Sky Trail. |
| Email Author | Kevin Moynihan |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/15/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>hello-</p> <p>please support the NTSA plan as recommended by the Open Space Board of Trustees which includes the Sky Line Trail on the west side of US36.</p> <p>many many hours of work have been done by the people involved in this process. this plan has been put together by so many interest groups. please listen to The People and support boulder's open space charter which states "Preservation of land for passive recreation use, such as hiking, photography, or nature study, and if specifically designated, bicycling, horseback riding, or fishing."</p> <p>please support passive recreation on our open space</p> |
| Email Author | kristen campbell |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/15/2016 |
| Email Detail | I'm writing to humbly request that you proceed with the recommendations of the Open Space Board of Trustees, and please provide a trail through the old Joder Ranch property on the west side of US36 to link the North Boulder trails into Heil Ranch without having us pedestrians play Frogger across US36. |
| Email Author | Fred Ecks |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/15/2016 |
| Email Detail | I support the work that OSMP staff has done to strike a compromise to achieve this trail. Please vote for it! Thanks |
| Email Author | Daniel Layton |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/15/2016 |
| Email Detail | I urge you to approve the North Sky Trail and the entire NTSA plan as approved by the Open Space Board of Trustees. As a Boulder resident I am thrilled at the possibility of a way to get to Lyons completely on-trail. |
| Email Author | Alexander Sollie |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/15/2016 |
| Email Detail | This plan has been carefully researched and discussed. All the correct procedures have been followed. I urge you to finally put this plan into action without further delay. Thank you for your consideration. |
| Email Author | Louise Gorsuch |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/15/2016 |
| Email Detail | I love the North Sky Trail proposal and can't wait to ride it with my young son. Please approve it as is. Thx! |
| Email Author | Margaret Martin |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/15/2016 |

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| Email Detail | As a horses owner, rider and lover I asks you to please accept the balanced recommendations of Open Space & Mountain Parks Staff and the public regarding the North Trail Study Area (including the North Sky Trail) Thank you, |
| Email Author | Erin Rae Hooper, Boulder County resident |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/15/2016 |
| Email Detail | I wanted to let you know that I support the work that OSMP staff has done to strike a compromise to achieve this North Sky Trail! Thanks for your support!!!! |
| Email Author | Jason Long |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/15/2016 |
| Email Detail | As a citizen of Boulder, I support the development of the North Trail Study Area plan. I believe it will further support the development and appreciation of Boulder Open Space Areas. Thank you. |
| Email Author | David Hartzell |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/15/2016 |
| Email Detail | As an equestrian I appreciate being able to ride my horse on the trails between Boulder and Lyons. Please ratify the OSBT vote on the North TSA. Thank you for your consideration. |
| Email Author | Arleen Miller |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/15/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>I am contacting you as concerned citizen and a member of the Front Range Back County Horsemen.</p> <p>I urge you to vigorously support open access to all trails in the Open Space and Park area.</p> <p>For trail use to be successful, it must be viewed as a group activity by all of the public for all the public.</p> <p>As horsemen we continue to encourage training events to school our horses and riders for bikers, hikers and all other folks on the trails.</p> <p>Please allow the problems that may arise when different users interact to be discussed and solutions to be accomplished between the folks that are using the trails. Shutting out a segment is easy but not thoughtful or useful answer. We can do better when given a chance.</p> <p>Thank you for you consideration.</p> |
| Email Author | Nora T. Midkiff |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/15/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>I would like to voice my support for the sky trail system. Specifically I support allowing bicycle access on the new connection from North Boulder to Joder Ranch and the loop trail at Joder. I also support directional restrictions for bicycles on the new loop at Joder so long as the direction is reversed on a regular basis. Finally I would like to voice support for an eventual connection for bicycles from Joder to Heil ranch.</p> |
| Email Author | Anthony Schubert |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/15/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>As a Boulder resident since 1972 and an avid outdoor person who has been enjoying Boulders stunning trail system for these many years, I urge you to accept the balanced recommendations of Open Space & Mountain Parks Staff, the Open Space Board of Trustees, and the public, regarding the North Trail Study Area, including the North Sky Trail.</p> |
| Email Author | Linda Levy |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/15/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Please keep moving forward with improved access for off road cycling. Take an opportunity to capitalize on our topography and not just build a flat path but make a trail network. Especially with regards to Heil and future developments to the north and west. There are so many open acres where mountain bike trails would have limited impact and be maintained by the people who use them. Please look toward Whistler, Fruita, and Jackson and see what a positive impact "bike community" trails can have.</p> |
| Email Author | Dr. Erik Allison |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/15/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Hi, my name is Samantha McBride.</p> <p>I am an equestrian and I do NOT support the connector trail to Joder Ranch on the West side of highway 36. I believe that the expanded trail, the added human, horse and dog influence in this area will have a negative effect on this fragile environment. A better plan is to place the trail on the East side of highway 36, where the habitat is not as fragile.</p> <p>I attended the majority of the OSMP planning meetings, and felt all along that their agenda for the connecting trail to Joder was always the west trail. I also believe that this decision has been strongly influenced by the biking community, (which might not be as environmentally aware as many other Boulder citizens) which seems to be a very strong force in many decisions being made in Boulder, i.e. "Right Sizing".</p> <p>I would also like to point out that there are many Equestrians in the Boulder area, that do not agree 100% with the BCHA suggestions.</p> <p>Let us not succumb to Chief Niwot's "Curse of Boulder Valley " which states: "People seeing the beauty of this valley will want to stay and their staying will be the undoing of the beauty."</p> <p>Thank you for considering my opinions.</p> |
| Email Author | Samantha McBride |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/15/2016 |
| Email Detail | Please ratify the OSBT vote on the North TSA. I think it is a fair, balanced & well thought out plan that will serve Boulder and Boulder County very well. Allow the hard work & many hours of time count for something positive as it should. |
| Email Author | Linda & Steve Marshall |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/15/2016 |
| Email Detail | I would love to see the North Sky Trail be added to Boulder's array of outdoor activities. I have been riding mountain bikes in Boulder since I was three years old and I absolutely love Boulder and the options that I have for a daily ride. I think the Heil, Picture Rock, and Hall mountain bike trails are great trails and to have the ability to link them up FROM BOULDER would be AMAZING!. The North Sky Trail would be a fantastic addition to Boulder's outdoorsy personality and so from the bottom of my mountain biker heart please, please, please let this trail happen! |
| Email Author | Maxwell Boice |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/15/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>I wholeheartedly support the work that OSMP staff has done to strike a compromise to achieve the North Sky Trail!</p> <p>As Boulder is one of the biggest mountain bike epicenters in the world please allow us this access. For the incredible amount of mnt bike riders and enthusiasts who reside here it is a shame we don't have more riding capabilities within Boulder.</p> <p>Please.</p> |
| Email Author | Tom Boice |

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| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/15/2016 |
| Email Detail | I am writing to express my full support for the development of the land north of Boulder for multi-use trails. I am aware of the extensive research that has been done to ensure this development is sustainable and ecologically sound, and I hope the project will move forward. Please consider allowing us to enjoy the land that we all admire so much! |
| Email Author | Max Aguiar |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/15/2016 |
| Email Detail | I am writing to encourage final approval for the current plan on the North Trail Study Area. I have been following the study and progression of this plan, and I feel it is balanced, appropriate, and will serve Boulder County in many wonderful ways. Thank-you so much for all of the work that you do to care for this beautiful land. |
| Email Author | Deborah Inanna Krenza |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/15/2016 |
| Email Detail | Please accept the balanced recommendations of Open Space & Mountain Parks Staff and the public regarding the North Trail Study Area (including the North Sky Trail), which has already been formally approved by the Open Space Board of Trustees. Much of this area has a very long history of equestrian use. The horse owning community would appreciate equestrian access along these trails. |
| Email Author | Dr. Nancy S. Loving, DVM |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/15/2016 |
| Email Detail | My husband and I have lived in the Boulder area since 1973. One of the reasons we moved here was for the great greenbelt areas that surround the city and the great trail system the city and county have provided that allows for public recreation activities. We have ridden horseback and hiked a number of the trails in the area. We are very excited about the possibility of an eventual trail from Boulder to Lyons. We are also concerned with the environment that surrounds us and support a balanced approach to trail development and maintenance. Because of this, we support the recommendations of the Open Space and Mountain Parks Staff and the public regarding the North Trail Study Area. These recommendations have already been approved by the Open Space Board of Trustees. Thank you for your consideration. |
| Email Author | Eileen Hunnes |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/15/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>hello...</p> <p>as an equestrian with 2 young daughters just starting to use the trail with their horses... I would love to see more open space used as trails for my kids to take their horses. We live in this wonderful area of Boulder County and love taking advantage of all the open space around us. The more the better in my opinion.</p> <p>There is no better opportunity for kids (and adults alike) to get out and enjoy our beautiful area than using trails such as these incredible ones we have just outside our back door. From one outdoor family... please know that we would use this trail often and enjoy it's multi use.</p> <p>Thank you for considering the continual expansion of the open trail system that keeps Boulder County so different than so many other towns/counties in the country.</p> <p>Happy Trails to you...</p> |
| Email Author | Mea French |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/15/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Please approve the North Sky Trail and the NTSA plan as approved by the Open Space Board of Trustees. A connector trail to Lyons would be a great addition to the trail system. I live right off the trailhead to the current trail and use it quite often, summer and winter. To cycle it would be a wonderful alternative to the increasingly busy US36.</p> |
| Email Author | Johan Erasmus |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/15/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>I have been following the work done on the North Study trail area. I urge you to accept the recommendations of Open Space & Mountain Parks Staff and the public regarding the North Trail Study Area (including the North Sky Trail), which has already been formally approved by the Open Space Board of Trustees. I believe this is a balanced approach for all users.</p> |
| Email Author | John Cowdrey |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/15/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>I am writing to urge your approval of the proposed North Sky Trail and the entire NTSA plan as approved by the Open Space Board of Trustees. The building of an environmentally sensitive hike-and-bike trail running along the foothills parallel to Hwy 36, with hopes that it would eventually reach Lyons, is very appealing. It would also be safer for both bicyclists and drivers if the bicyclists could use the trail instead of Hwy 36.</p> |
| Email Author | Alonzo West |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/15/2016 |

Email Detail

Dear Boulder City Council,

I'm writing to you to ask that you support the NTSA plan as submitted. While I am the official representative of the Boulder Trail Runners for the NTSA process, I'm writing to you today not as a trail runner but rather as an individual who manages a professional worldwide trail consulting, design and construction organization for the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA). We work with local, state, and federal agencies all across the country to help land managers become more effective stewards of the lands under their management for the benefit of all members of the public. I should also state I am not writing from a mountain bike user point of view either - that is the responsibility of the Boulder Mountain bike Alliance (BMA). It's my hope that as a person who works professionally in this space on these kind of issues that I can shed some light on some of the dynamics happening currently with the NTSA.

First, it's important to start with the governing document, in this case the City of Boulder Charter, which lays out a number of purposes for Open Space. Below I have quoted the two main purposes that are related to public use and recreation:

- "Preservation of land for passive recreation use, such as hiking, photography, or nature study, and if specifically designated, bicycling, horseback riding, or fishing."
- "Preservation of land for its aesthetic or passive recreational value and its contribution to the quality of life of the community."

So the City Charter identifies "passive recreation" as an activity to be "preserved" on Open Space. I believe this is an important point as the dialogue that get's thrown around all too easily is that preservation and passive recreation are at odds with each other. And this is true in the sense that any human activity on a natural landscapes has impact. But the words of the Charter specifically say passive recreation is an activity that is to be preserved on Open Space, not that passive recreation is only to be allowed if there is no negative natural resource impact. So yes there is going to be an impact - it then becomes the land manager's responsibility to manage that impact in a responsible manner. And that's where we find ourselves now with the NSTA. OSMP set up a process designed to engage the community and come up with the best way to balance the competing public interests for Open Space. The OSBT was actively involved in all steps of that process and the outcome is the recommended NTSA plan you are now being asked to review.

For the following reasons, I strongly support you accept the plan as submitted.

Respect the public process.

Hundreds of individuals and community leaders participated in OSMP's NTSA process spending 1,000's of volunteer hours working through the details. If City Council comes in at the last minute and makes changes to the recommended plan, it will completely undermine this process and send a clear message to the public that rather than participating in future OSMP planning processes, it's more effective to just lobby City Council directly.

OSMP is not in a position to represent the recreational community point of view.

After the WTSA process with the Community Group Forum approach, which pretty much everyone I think agrees was a failure, OSMP took a different approach with the NTSA; break all the users up into tightly managed forums in hopes this will promote a cross sharing of views. Unfortunately this left very little room for different groups to actually engage each other and identify the different groups user needs and desired user experiences, nor a way to negotiate the trade-off's needed to get to a compromise position for individual trails. This process is commonly referred to as Recreational Planning.

As a result the recreational community formed their own working group coalition under the Open Boulder framework. Hundreds of hours of meetings were held between mountain bikers, equestrians, dog walkers and trail runners for the hard work of compromise among competing interests. We then presented to staff a single consolidated view of the recreational community at each major decision point of the NTSA process. But a consequence of staff not managing this fundamental aspect of recreational planning is they don't know what trade-off's were made between these groups and thus are not in a position to now advise you of the impact to these groups of any changes you might make to the recommended NTSA plan. So one small change could upset the delicate balance negotiated by the different recreational groups.

Council is not hearing a balanced view.

Staff is overwhelmingly preservation oriented and as a result produces voluminous amounts of data documenting the impact to grasslands, waterways, wild life and other aspects of the natural eco-system - all absolutely important work mind you. But look at the NTSA inventory assessment and count how many pages document natural resource considerations vs. recreational ones. Recreational Planners are the equivalent of Ecologists and would produce a similar level of data representing the recreational user side of the equation which should be included in any such TSA report. The number of Recreational Planning positions on staff - zero. Number of Ecologists, Natural Resource Specialists and Environmental Planners - at least 15 based on the last organizational chart I have. As a result, the preservation community has lots of data to support and reinforce their argument that public access negatively impacts open space, and therefore the North Sky Trail for example should not be built. But there is no equivalent counter to this information, because there are no resources on staff to prepare it (and it's beyond the ability of informal volunteer recreational advocacy groups to produce).

Back to the Charter - to preserve passive recreational activity. The North Sky Trail effectively exists today as a current recreational experience, just not a very good one. The trail exists now from the north end of town all the way out to the McGuckins Distribution center, or about 3/4 of the distance to Joder Ranch. It's also important to note that in both the recommended plan and the alternative option, this trail to the McGuckins property line becomes an officially designated trail. This is because staff realizes that there is a high current and historical use of this trail and thus are trying to fulfill the Charter requirements of preserving a historical passive recreation experience. This is not a new trail that is all of a sudden going to introduce humans to the HCA - the trail has been here being actively used for decades (it's signed on the ground as a trail but not officially on OSMP maps).

From McGuckins to Joder Ranch is the roughly 1/4 distance of new trail that would be built to form the Sky Line Trail. What exists here currently? An industrial complex and some private houses. So again we are not introducing people into an area with no human activity currently. And there is a huge benefit to building an official trail here - it will keep people away from the most sensitive natural resources in this area. Currently some people turn around at the McGuckins property line, but others continue on and this is where the real environmental damage occurs because you have people going in all different manners in order to connect to Joder or Boulder Valley Ranch. This use will continue whether there is an official trail here or not, so by designating an official one you dramatically improve the protection of the sensitive resources in this area. So ironically while this trail is being portrayed by some as damaging sensitive resources, it would actually have the exact opposite effect.

Alternative NTSA plan option has not been vetted.

Throughout the NTSA process it was our understanding that it was going to result in a single

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| | <p>plan recommendation. It was only at the end of the process that staff all of a sudden informed us that they were going to submit a recommended plan as well as an alternative one. The recreational community has spent no time discussing the alternative option - it was hard enough to come to agreement on the recommended plan which is where we spent all our time. As a result if Council were to go with this option it would not even begin to provide an appropriate sense of balance across the recreational user groups.</p> <p>Superior recreational user experience.</p> <p>My final point will be that there is no comparison between the proposed Sky Line Trail and potential trails on the east side of US36. Human beings love to get up high and look out over beautiful vistas, and the Sky Line Trail provides this experience. It's one of the few areas north of town where the public can have this experience (the other being the Hogback Loop but that is too technical for many people), as everything on the east side of US36 is down low and there are lots of trails already at Boulder Valley Ranch which provide this user experience. The high historical use of the rail road grade trail demonstrates this is the experience the public wants. The Open Boulder recreation coalition is unanimous on this front as well.</p> <p>Let's provide the public with the inspirational open space experiences they want so that we can continue to have strong support for the funding of Boulder's Open Space program. Please approve the NTSA recommended plan as submitted.</p> |
| Email Author | Dan Brillon |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/15/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>I am a Equine assisted therapy instructor.</p> <p>One of my clients favorite activities is to trail ride.</p> <p>Please don't exclude horses from open space.</p> <p>Horses helped to make Boulder great.</p> <p>Horses still serve Boulder county and are necessary for a healthy community.</p> |
| Email Author | Janine Coughlin |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/14/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>I just wanted to let you know that I think that the planned North Sky trail would be a wonderful plan. Connecting routes to north and to Lefthand canyon would minimize people feeling the urge to drive their cars with their bikes on top to trailheads. Who can blame anyone for trying to avoid highway 36 north of Boulder, where frequent accidents happen between bikes and cars because there is only a shoulder. There are currently no good alternatives that are not out of the way to that area on a bike. This trail would be a great idea to connect routes, encourage non-motorized travel and minimize the need to drive to biking trailheads.</p> |
| Email Author | Marieke Dechesne |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/14/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Dear Councilmembers:</p> <p>I'm sure you will be hearing different stances from constituents on the North TSA.</p> <p>I am writing to strongly urge you to vote in favor of the plan put before you.</p> <p>My two solid reasons for being in favor of a sanctioned trail on the west side of US 36 are primarily for the safety and well being of users. If trail access were east of the highway, so many users would have to cross that I am certain we would have a fatality. Have you ever looked at the maps from Strava on where cyclists ride? More and more people are selecting routes that reduce the times they cross major highways. Road cyclists go north from Boulder to get to Lyons and then may head east and return via the Diagonal. So they don't have to cross the roads. It's hard enough sharing roads of high speeds, but for cyclists to need to cross a major highway to access a trail? No thank you.</p> <p>Also, by approving the west side route, we are finally creating a route in our system which will actually encourage riders to ride to their ride. Seriously, cyclists would rather not have to drive to get to good mountain biking. But that is what is happening now.</p> <p>I believe that with clear route planning and delineation, along with good signage that indicates to users why some lands need to be off limits, this scenario will be good for all users.</p> <p>The North TSA area is one I use quite often and I am excited about bringing a good variety of recreational opportunities to the lands along with continued conservation and stewardship of these lands.</p> |
| Email Author | Elaine C. Erb |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/14/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>As a North Boulder resident (Dakota Ridge neighborhood) I hereby declare my support for the so-called North Sky Trail and I respectfully urge you to approve the and the entire NTSA plan as approved by the Open Space Board of Trustees.</p> <p>Thank you very much for your attention.</p> |
| Email Author | Eduardo Iturrate |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/14/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>I am writing to urge you to approve the construction of the multi-use trail along the mostly existing trail west of I36. With minimal new trail development along the McGuckin Distribution Center fence line impact upon existing eco-systems appear slight.</p> <p>Giving riders off-road access from Wonderland Lake to up and over Joder Ranch will greatly enhance a currently bleak trail situation for so many riders in such a big cycling town.</p> <p>Please vote YES!</p> |
| Email Author | Jeff Maxim |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/14/2016 |

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| Email Detail | Please approve the North Sky Trail and the entire NTSA plan as approved by the Open Space Board of Trustees. 10 people in my family including 4 kids would love to ride their mountain bikes along this trail! Mountain biking is a lot of fun and also a great family activity. Trails like this make Boulder a great place to live! |
| Email Author | Chrysteen Weihe |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/14/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>I'm a resident and business owner in North Boulder. I employ 150 staff in one location in Gunbarrel.</p> <p>I urge you to approve the North Sky Trail and the entire NTSA plan as approved by the Open Space Board of Trustees after an exhaustive public process.</p> <p>In our current situation we are forcing Boulder residents to drive to single-track mountain trails west of highway 36, which seems a shame. This one connector could not only provide a world class mountain bike trail, but it could also lessen traffic to the existing trailheads as it would make an easy link for north Boulder residents to enjoy. Many of us came to Boulder for the mountains and the city has very few options when it comes to single-track trails for cyclists directly from within the city limits.</p> |
| Email Author | Dirk Friel |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/14/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear City Council Members,</p> <p>I am once again writing to ask that you approve the North Sky Trail (NST) and the entire North Trail Study Area (NTSA) plan as approved by the Boulder Open Space Board of Trustees. Here's why.</p> <p>Boulder is a place where mountain biking, hiking, horseback riding, being outside, etc. is hyped to the max and it is growing and growing. But, the the number of places for all to participate in these activities, especially places we don't have to drive to get to, are by far not keeping pace with the growth. We need more trails and well-planned utilization of the open space we have. The NTSA is a great example of such planning.</p> <p>I love trail riding and I ride east of US 36 a lot in the "off" season. But, this generally is an unpleasant (and potentially dangerous) experience due to the housing developments, numerous fence crossings, major reservoir projects, and forced interaction with cars traveling at high speed when crossing the highway and then having to ride along it to go north. Thus, I ask that you enable equal access for all to the beautiful, car-free, and continuous route north on the west side of US 36 along the NST.</p> <p>Also, the scale of the NST project should be kept in perspective. We are talking about a trail corridor that is a few hundred meters wide with a one meter wide trail running down it, much of which is already in place on a railroad grade. The scale of the project is minuscule compared to the kilometers wide, hundreds of square kilometers region between the trail corridor and the foothills to the west where the deer and antelope play.</p> <p>The proposed trails are in a major and very busy highway corridor adjacent to suburban</p> |

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| | <p>development. Any idea that this is an unfragmented, pristine environment is pretty much denying reality. I believe the NST is well placed in this impacted corridor and will minimize overall impact. The NST may perhaps even reduce the volume of car traffic as being able to ride directly to trails from the heart of Boulder instead of having to drive to a trailhead would be a wonderful incentive not to drive.</p> <p>Finally, most of the trail networks in Jefferson county are shared among many users. Most of the mammals and plants generally get along, there are relatively minor impacts to the environment in spite of the much much higher degree of development there, it is beautiful along most of the relatively narrow trail corridors, and everyone gets to enjoy the Open Space. If JeffCo can do it, and they do it well, why can't we do it here in Boulder County?</p> |
| Email Author | Jonathan Caine |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/14/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>I'm writing to express my support for the North Sky Trail in the North Trail Study Area.</p> <p>By creating this new trail, Boulder will enable excellent recreational opportunities that can connect all the way to Lyons. This trail will have minimal impact on the ecosystem and will reduce driving to the trailheads.</p> <p>This type of thoughtful trail construction will reflect positively on Boulder.</p> <p>Please support the North Sky Trail.</p> |
| Email Author | Eric Zilling |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/14/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Hi, I'm a Boulder County resident, living in Lyons, and come into Boulder every day to visit my gym, volunteer at the Homeless Shelter, and shop. I use my road bike to commute 3 to 4 times a week. The option to ride it on a mountain bike, or to run/hike from Lyons to Boulder, would be spectacular. I strongly support the North Sky Trail and the plans to safely, sensitively, increase trail access between Lyons and Boulder along the 36 corridor.</p> |
| Email Author | Charles Partee |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/14/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Council people, I support this plan and the new North Sky Trail. I urge council to support this also. The study is complete and comprehensive. Now, put it into action. Thanks for your attention and the work that you do.</p> |
| Email Author | Jim Fugett |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/14/2016 |
| Email Detail | Please approve the North Sky Trail & plan approved by the OS Board of Trustees. |
| Email Author | Chris Archer |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/14/2016 |

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| Email Detail | Hello I am writing this email to support the North Sky Trail and NTSA Plan. As a resident of North Boulder I welcome well thought out extensions for hiking and biking trails on our open space. It sounds like there has already been an extensive review and am hoping we can move forward with this as soon as possible. |
| Email Author | Joseph Benjamin |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/14/2016 |
| Email Detail | PLEASE, approve this project!!! |
| Email Author | Andrew Zimmerman |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/14/2016 |
| Email Detail | This is the kind of thing that makes Boulder unique and special. It would appear to have very little environmental impact and terrific human impact. Thank you from a constituent. |
| Email Author | Chris Hauck |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/13/2016 |
| Email Detail | Support the sky trail Good work! I want the trail to proceed as you've outlined please. |
| Email Author | Jim Bowen |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/13/2016 |
| Email Detail | Please Ratify the OSBT Vote on the North TSA Please keep our Open Spaces accessible to Equine! |
| Email Author | Linda Kerske |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/14/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>My 3 generation family loves the idea! Having a connectivity is exactly what we all want and need.</p> <p>I live in Dakota ridge and am able to firsthand see how many cars travel north on 36 from the intersection of Broadway and 36. Not only is the connectivity on the west side logical and prudent from a recreational standpoint for hikers, runners and cyclists, it is needed to reduce the traffic on 36.</p> <p>We all know that 36 to Lyons will only become more crowded looking into the future and anything and everything that is serves the community at large should be implemented. From what I have witnessed, this study and plan has been well thought out and managed; with incredible outreach for all user groups.</p> <p>Many different users groups in my neighborhood are excited about this prospect and we hope this move forward without issue. Its basically a no-brainer.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> |
| Email Author | Scott Weiss |
| Staff Response | <p>Hi Scott! Thank you for your interest and participation in the North TSA planning process. Your comments were received and will be considered during refinement of the plan.</p> <p>Kind regards, The North TSA team</p> |
| Email Date | 5/13/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Please consider me as a strong supporter of north sky trail and the NTSA plan.I urge you to approve the north sky trail and the entire NTSA plan, as approved by the Open Space board of Trustees.</p> <p>Hope my vote counts,</p> |
| Email Author | Nikita Simonian |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/13/2016 |
| Email Detail | Please approve the North Sky Trail and the entire NTSA plan as approved by the Open Space Board of Trustees. I'm for it. |
| Email Author | Stuart Paul |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/13/2016 |
| Email Detail | Hello, I am writing to voice my support for the North Sky Trail and the NTSA plan as approved by the Open Space board of trustees. |
| Email Author | Jeff Valliere |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/13/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>I second the notion to approve the North Sky Trail. Currently, Heil Ranch, a highly trafficked mountain biking area north of Boulder, requires users to either drive or ride on Route 36N for access. Implementing a new trail access system would both greatly increase recreation for cyclists and decrease traffic and environmental impact for all users.</p> <p>Thank you for considering this option.</p> |
| Email Author | Tyler Prince |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/13/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>I would very much appreciate the ability to ride, run, and hike from Boulder proper (the Wonderland Lake area) to the Joder Ranch trails! This is a win-win for Boulder, a place that is severely lacking in connecting multi-use trails.</p> <p>If approved, the North Sky Trail would provide this much-needed resource. Not only would it save gas money (lower CO2 output from folks driving to the TH's), it would also provide a safe corridor for folks to recreate off the road where you have to contend with cars.</p> <p>Thank you very much for the consideration, I really appreciate you taking the time to read this.</p> |
| Email Author | Tom Robson |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/13/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>I am Boulder hiker, biker, and runner who would enjoy using the much needed resource of more trails in the Boulder Open Spaces. Connecting Boulder with Joder Ranch trails and Left Hand Canyon would provide a safe corridor for the off road activities I enjoy.</p> <p>Thanks for reading, and please approve the North Sky Trail,</p> |
| Email Author | Sarah Baker |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/13/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Hello Council Members,</p> <p>As a Boulder resident for the past 18 years and well over half my life, I want to express my approval for the North Sky Trail and the entire NTSA plan as originally approved by the Open Space Board of Trustees.</p> <p>Thanks for your time.</p> |
| Email Author | Andy Wenberg |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/13/2016 |
| Email Detail | I support the North TSA as approved by the Open Space Board of Trustees. Please build the trail as suggested on the west side of Hwy 36! |
| Email Author | Adam Haid |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/13/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>Dear Council,</p> <p>City open space staff and the Open Space Board of Trustees have recently recommended the construction of the North Sky Trail on the west side of U.S. 36 to connect Wonderland Lake and the city of Boulder to Heil Valley Ranch and Lyons.</p> <p>The North Sky Trail will form a critical missing link for a regional trail system, the first of its kind accessible from town.</p> <p>The trail alignment will have minimal environmental impacts (all can be mitigated), it will utilize much on an existing social trail corridor, and it will provide a valuable connection to Heil and Hall via trail, opening an opportunity for all to enjoy these beautiful resources.</p> <p>Please support the North Sky Trail.</p> |
| Email Author | Jeff Curran |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/13/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>City Council,</p> <p>North Sky Trail looks fantastic. Please move forward with it. I am a Boulder Mountainbike Alliance member and look forward to volunteering during trail construction.</p> <p>Also, this video from Open Boulder was extremely helpful in explaining the project. I appreciate the time taken by Open Boulder to film it. https://youtu.be/CwgBbckNZjs</p> |
| Email Author | Andy Wing |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/13/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Esteemed Council Members,</p> <p>I urge you to approve the North Sky Trail and the entire NTSA plan as approved by the Open Space Board of Trustees.</p> <p>This plan really makes sense. It means fewer cars on highway 36 by allowing runners and cyclists to ride or run from Boulder, it's non-intrusive environmentally, and is safe for trail users. Let's make this happen!</p> |
| Email Author | Dan DeGolier |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/13/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Boulder City Council,</p> <p>Please approve the North Sky Trail and NTSA as it is proposed. I am a long time Boulder resident who used to love walking and jogging that beautiful and unique part of Boulder's landscape. I hope I can continue to do so in an environmentally friendly way.</p> |
| Email Author | Dave Mackey |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |

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| Email Date | 5/13/2016 |
| Email Detail | Boulder City Council - Please support the North Sky Trail in North Boulder. This would be another amazing asset in our beautiful trail system and contribute to our north Boulder economy. Yes for North Sky Trail!! |
| Email Author | Nathalie Smith |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/13/2016 |
| Email Detail | Please approve the OSBT Plan for North Boulder |
| Email Author | Bob Manthy |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/13/2016 |
| Email Detail | I am writing to express my support for the North Trail Study Area's proposal to build a trail from North Boulder to the Heil Ranch system. As an avid runner and biker, this opportunity to basically connect Boulder to Lyons would be an incredible and much needed opportunity for further recreation options in North Boulder. As a realtor, I can attest that many of the people are moving to Boulder from across the country cite our incredible trail system as a huge draw for that move. I hope that this can move forward in the near future. More trail options in this area of Boulder make great sense. |
| Email Author | Laura Mayo |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/13/2016 |
| Email Detail | I'm writing to express strong support for approving this new trail system. Boulder needs more access to country trail systems accessible without having to get into a car. |
| Email Author | Roger Pielke Jr. |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/13/2016 |
| Email Detail | Dear City Council Members, Please approve the North Sky Trail and the entire NTSA plan as approved by the Open Space Board of Trustees after an exhaustive public process. I understand you are receiving a significant amount of pressure to go against the decision of the Open Space Board of Trustees. I urge you to listen to your board and not the vocal few in opposition to the NTSA plan. |
| Email Author | Brad Schildt |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/13/2016 |
| Email Detail | Please approve the North Sky Trail and the entire NTSA plan, as approved by the Open Space Board of Trustees. It's logical, environmentally sound and it will connect Front Range residents to the beauty of our foothills. Thank you for your consideration. |
| Email Author | Chris Weidner |

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| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/13/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Please vote to approve the North Sky Trail/NTSA plan. This will be a true gem in OSMP.</p> <p>Many hours and much thought have gone into the proposal. It achieves a balance between conservation, preservation, and recreation. The ability to use open space leads more people to support open space.</p> |
| Email Author | Alan Bol |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/13/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Boulder City Council:</p> <p>I believe it is in Boulder's best interest to approve the North Sky Trail and the entire NTSA as approved by the OSBT. The impact is limited relative to the benefits. The plan is a solid compromise between preservation of natural resources and improvement to the recreation opportunities that attract many talented people to Boulder.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and your service on Council.</p> |
| Email Author | Jason Wells |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/13/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Dear Boulder City Council-</p> <p>I have lived in Boulder since 1993 and am writing in support of the North Sky Trail and the entire NTSA plan as approved by the OSBT. The North Sky Trail in particular is a key connection piece of our trail system, and it actually boggles my mind that there is resistance/opposition to a hiking/biking/horse *trail* just a couple hundred yards from a *highway*! Please, please approve this this trail and plan!</p> |
| Email Author | Stefan Griebel |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/13/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>City Council,</p> <p>I'm writing today as an outdoor enthusiast and industry professional to echo the sentiments of the community regarding the North Sky trail.</p> <p>The NST is a critical connector for Boulder's outdoor enthusiasts, especially cyclists. Given limited access to bike-friendly trail systems, cyclists are forced to "drive to ride," or ride long portions of dangerous highway to take advantage of our shared open spaces. The NST would make it possible to run, hike or bike from Downtown boulder to Hiel Valley Ranch Open Space almost entirely on trail.</p> <p>Please consider this when addressing policy around this proposal.</p> |
| Email Author | Brian Smith |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/13/2016 |

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| Email Detail | <p>As a resident of the city of Boulder I am writing to ask you to support the north sky trail that is part of the north trail study area (NTSA) as well as the entire NTSA as approved the open space board of trustees.</p> <p>Having a regional trail connector that would allow me to trail run and mountain bike from Boulder to Heil valley ranch would be a huge community asset.</p> <p>Today if I want to go biking or trail running at Heil ranch or hall ranch, I would get in my car and drive from downtown Boulder where I live. If this trail was available I would simply ride instead which would be so much better for me and the environment.</p> |
| Email Author | Peter Lapidus |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/13/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>I would really love to have a trail connecting Boulder to the Joder Ranch property and not have to ride along Highway 36 which is a very dangerous stretch of rode. After being shut out of the West TSA it would be nice if the city of Boulder could allow more biking access outside of the "crown jewel" west TSA.</p> <p>Thank you!</p> |
| Email Author | Rex Headd |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |
| Email Date | 5/13/2016 |
| Email Detail | <p>Hello council members,</p> <p>Thank you for your time and energy in addressing the issue of Boulder's north trail study area.</p> <p>I applaud the work OSMP staff has done in researching and studying the impacts various user groups would have on the flora and fauna of this sensitive area. I believe they have been successful in reaching a compromise between user groups of all kinds. Please do not stand in the way of what has been a fair and well-considered approach that will go to great lengths to connect Boulder to Lyons via off-road trail in the form of the North Sky Trail.</p> <p>Our open space is our single greatest asset and access to that open space is extremely important. I love to ride my mountain bike and hike our trails but I hate to have to get in my car to traverse Boulder and its heavy traffic to access those trails. I would much rather ride straight out my door, ride some side streets through town and then hit the trail without the risk of riding on highway 36 alongside trucks and texters. I also prefer not to further contribute to Boulder's traffic congestion, to the creation of pollution, to the consumption of fossil fuels. Please give me the option to stay out of my car and ride all day in my own backyard.</p> <p>For the record, I'm a 50-year old woman--not a hell-raising, crazed, downhillin' mountain bikin' fiend. I'm just a gray haired lady who wants to stay fit and healthy for the rest of my life.</p> |
| Email Author | Kay Levesque |
| No Staff Response | Email sent to City Council |