

**EMAIL FEEDBACK RECEIVED 6/1/2016-6/6/2016**

<b>Email Date</b>	6/6/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear Council members:</p> <p>I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed new multi-use trail on the west side of Highway 36 north of Boulder through the Habitat Conservation Area, for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It will require the construction of at least one 100-foot-long and 6-foot-wide steel bridge, a 6-foot-wide trail, and numerous switchbacks, which will permanently alter the iconic views of this highly visible open space property.</li> <li>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 where it exists at all, and hardly visible. The new trail would be much wider and be an eyesore.</li> <li>3. The proposed trail will cross at least 11 riparian drainages that are important for wildlife in the area. The area is home to some of the last native grasslands, and several threatened plants and species. Trails will introduce invasive plants and weeds that, unlike our native grasses, provide poor habitat and poor carbon sequestration (important for abating climate change).</li> <li>4. The proposed alignment east of the highway will still provide the link that the rec groups affiliated with Open Boulder want to other mountain biking trails, without the harmful environmental and aesthetic impacts. Please stand up to the pressure from special groups that do not represent the majority of those who care about our Open Space.</li> </ol> <p>Thank you for your service.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Cydney Springer
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/6/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>As a near 30 year resident of Boulder I am saddened by the possibility of a bike trail on the west side of highway 36. Why do we want to destroy the view along with crucial habitat for many creatures? The east side is certainly a more intelligent choice. I am just not understanding the logic. I will attend tomorrow nights council meeting and perhaps learn something that i am totally in the dark about.</p> <p>Thank you for all of your hard work.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Roxanne Perkins
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/6/2016

<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Boulder City Council,</p> <p>I'm writing to express support for the North Sky Trail. I both work and reside in Boulder City. I enjoy mountain biking and hiking on our local trails. Please build this trail to connect the city directly to Joder Ranch. I nearly always drive to access trailheads; having the North Sky trail would allow recreating with a whole lot less driving, or none at all. More riding and less driving is a good thing! Being a connecting trail, the North Sky trail would also be a segment to build longer trail rides with. Many of the open space properties are islands, so connecting trails are particularly valuable. Please approve this trail!</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Jason Bartell
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/6/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear Council, thank you for your time.</p> <p>I urge you to accept the balanced recommendations of Open Space &amp; Mountain Parks Staff, the Open Space Board of Trustees, and the public regarding the North Trail Study Area. We think the experience offered by the North Sky Trail is well worth the effort of putting a sustainable path through this stunning scenery.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Jody Marken
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/6/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear Council:</p> <p>You are about to take a very important step in the outdoor history of the area. It will take you a few minutes or hours to decide whether to change an ecosystem that took hundreds or thousands of years to develop or to let it continue to develop as one of the few places in the country where many of its plants and animals exist. I would love to walk or ride through this area, but it loses its value if I do this because of the unintended consequences that human traffic brings to such an area. So the alternative adds a few minutes to a bike ride and it would appear to be less scenic since we always look to the foothills and there will be some cars in our view, but is it really a reasonable exchange. Somewhat better view and slightly quicker trip for the end to the sublime magic created over thousands of years. I think it is a very bad exchange. I urge you to approve the eastern alignment.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Paul Acker
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/6/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Boulder City Council members,</p> <p>I am writing to voice my STRONG support in favor of the "Eastern" option to connect trails in north Boulder with the Joder property north of the city. Large parts of linking trails already exist on the eastern side of US 36, which reduces the cost involved in making this connection. The largest cost would be to construct an underpass beneath US 36 near Neva Road, but this is far less destructive than developing a lengthy trail along the foothills on the west side of US 36.</p> <p>I'm opposed to the "Western" option for several reasons. First is that it would fragment</p>

	<p>important and largely undisturbed grassland habitat at the base of the foothills. There are few, if any, such large tracts remaining along the Front Range, and once disturbed, it is no longer pristine and is gone forever. Second, as a Boulder resident for more than 40 years, I've seen the adverse impact that a single trail can have on the surrounding environs. At the start, a well-defined, narrow trail seems harmless enough, but through time, sections of the trail become muddy forcing users to widen the trail and develop adjacent "social" trails. With heavy use, single "harmless" trail morphs into a network of "social" trails that result in accelerated erosion, higher runoff, and ends up impacting a much larger area than the original trail, itself. I've watched this happen in multiple locations: for example, Mt. Sanitas Trail, and parts of the Mesa Trail.</p> <p>We need intact habitats in our Open Space system, and the opportunities to preserve those habitats is becoming fewer and fewer. Given the adverse effects of a trail on the west side of US 36, and the benefits of utilizing existing trails and infrastructure on the eastern side, it is clear that the eastern route is the wise and prudent choice. Abide by a key mandate of our Open Space charter, assure that preservation of critical habitat remains a priority, and support completion of the eastern network of trails to maintain the quality and integrity of our Open Space system.</p> <p>Thank you for your support.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Anthony Crone
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/6/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear Members of Boulder City Council:</p> <p>The OSMP staff have clearly documented the ecological gem that composes the North TSA lands west of highway 36 to the extent that it warrants our highest level of protection as HCA.</p> <p>The ecological values of the landscapes west of highway 36 then are overall and obviously much greater than those of the landscapes east of highway 36. Can you not detect staffs' stuttering discomfort in declaring as much under the political pressures that they face from the OSBT and its 3-2 majority bias toward recreation, ecological costs be damned? (And please note the misleading and gratuitous statements about cost differences in trail construction. For one thing, an underpass doesn't have to cost \$2M or similar absurd expense.)</p> <p>Lost in all of the verbosity and avoidance of facts is the concept of the precautionary principle to risk management stating that if an action has a suspected risk of causing harm to the environment, the burden of proof that it is NOT harmful falls on those (YOU!) taking the action (i.e., habitat fragmentation through developing the west trail dedicated to mountain biking). Protections can be relaxed only if sound science produces evidence that NO harm would result from the west-side mountain biking trail.</p> <p>As City Council members, you have the social and ecological responsibility to protect the environment from slice-and-dice fragmentation and resultant ecological harm that includes loss of habitat, disturbance of wildlife, and loss of native plant species by alien plant invasions—an inevitable consequence of trail building in these kinds of settings. (I could show you many examples of this truly tragic phenomenon in the South TSA that resulted from creating the Spring Brook Loop by sloppy trail building.)</p>

	<p>Rightly so, Boulder prides itself by its actions and vision as an “Internationalist” city, trying to set examples in the global community. I support these intentions. Relevant here is the Law of the European Union, wherein the application of the precautionary principle has been made a statutory requirement in some areas of law. Let’s be consistent and follow the EU example in the North TSA and elsewhere on our Open Spaces. If not, please let me know why not?</p> <p>Please uphold the letter and spirit of the Open-space Charter. You know what that is.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Richard Reynolds
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/6/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	We want to thank you for preserving the Tradition of Horseback riding in Colorado. Please approving the connector trail so everyone may enjoy it. Again thank you for your time.
<b>Email Author</b>	Linda J. Johnston
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/6/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>Please consider the environmental impact of building the North TSA trail in the HCA open space. The organizations which have been asking you to build the trail on the East side of Hwy 36 are the ones which are responsible for keeping Boulder the exceptional place it is. Many of us contributed financially and with our votes to keep this area what it is. In my 44 years in Boulder many of us worked long and hard for preservation.</p> <p>We now have a well financed and well organized mountain bike organization. Many of their members didn't contribute to the effort to OSMP lands,don't live in Boulder but now consider themselves entitled to all our trails. There is a difference between recreationalists and preservationists. Bikers need long, connected trails.</p> <p>Last week, this wonderful Spring, my family and I hiked three trails w/out rutted paths, listened to meadowlarks and marvelled at the wild iris, arnica, penstemon and gaillardia. Please consider how fortunate we are to have inherited all this from our predecessors and please continue help us to preserve all this. Thank you</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Anne Fenerty
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/6/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	Please ratify the trail proposal put forth by the Boulder County Horsemen's Association regarding the North TSA. I believe it to be the best scenario for the majority for the population of abounded and the surrounding area. Thank you in advance.
<b>Email Author</b>	Jennifer Arnold
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/6/2016

<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Due to work obligations I will likely not be able to attend tomorrow's council meeting and, as such, am writing to register my opinion about tomorrow's Northern Trails Study Area vote. As 39 year citizen of Boulder, I have noted that our city takes pride in citizen involvement and as occurred when the WTSA vote occurred a few years ago, the Council noted that the citizenry had ample opportunity to provide input though the study process and the recommendation to not allow bicycles was approved.</p> <p>Now that OSBT has recommended bicycle access as a result of the NTSA study and as a fair compromise between all stakeholders, I strongly believe that the process must again be respected and approved as recommended,</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Shawn McQuerry
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/6/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear Council,</p> <p>I am writing to ask you to accept the Open Space Board of Trustees recommendations to keep the "status quo" regarding the smaller open space parcels and to keep them OPEN as they have been. There is one farmer who leases some of the parcels on Nebo Rd. his name is Fred Stengle and he did not know that the parcels were open. He thought he had complete control over the land because he holds the leases but there are 4 neighbors that have occasionally walked on the parcels because they have been "open", for years and years! I myself, 12 years walking or sitting near a pond on one of the parcels when the bulls aren't there and one neighbor 24 years. Mr. Stengle did not know anyone ever enjoyed those pieces of land yet he would like to see them closed. There has never been any problems, none, with those parcels being open to the public yet, some people would like to say there could be trouble and hence would like to see them closed. Again, if you explore it you will find that there has never been any problems and closing the properties because there might be just doesn't make sense. With that kind of philosophy we couldn't swim in Boulder reservoir or walk near a river or have any trails at all unmonitored.</p> <p>I would also like to ask that you open the Stratton Property. This property was bought by OSMP about 4 years ago or so for about \$3,000,000 and has been closed ever since. The only people allowed to use it are open space staff who use it as their private fishing grounds for the 3 ponds that are there. There is no reason stated anywhere I could find about why it is closed. Please do consider opening it. Not for trails, just open like the other small parcels on Nebo and Nimbus Roads that have been open for years and years.</p> <p>And finally, I would like to ask that you accept the recommendation of the Trustees to keep the North Trail on the West side of Highway 36 and for this reason, which I haven't seen discussed: UNDERPASSES ARE DANGEROUS FOR THOSE RIDING HORSES ESPECIALLY CHILDREN!!!</p> <p>I haven ridden through the underpass at Highway 36 and Nebo Road twice and it only took those two times for me to realize how dangerous it is and go over to Joders by riding over Highway 36 (which is not very safe either). Please realize that the noise when a car goes over the road and when a person is on a horse or walking a horse through the underpass can easily spook a horse and that means extreme danger for the rider, the horse, any other horses and anyone nearby. And when we talk about horses we must talk about children because I often ride with children...its part of the great joy of horse back riding...riding with kids on horse back. THINK OF THE KIDS ON HORSE BACK WHEN CONSIDERING A TRAIL WITH</p>

	<p>UNDERPASSES AND THE DANGER!!!</p> <p>And if you do decide to choose the eastern trail you will need to have a trail that will go over Highway 36 for horse back riders who will not want to endanger themselves by using the underpasses.</p> <p>I do hope you will take the horse back riders needs into consideration along with all the others that want this trail, and the consequences, essentially closing it to horse back riders if they need to go through underpasses to use it.</p> <p>Thank you for all you do!</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Catherine Corona
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/6/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear Concerned City Council,</p> <p>I know you work to balance the various users and interests of Open Space and I greatly appreciate that.</p> <p>I cannot attend and speak at the June 7th meeting because I am on the Design Team for the Shambhala August 12-14 Symposium, which meets same time.</p> <p>I have high appreciation for Open Space and the connection to nature it provides both human and other species.</p> <p>I have a high desire for our local plant and wild species to enjoy their space and protection in Open Space and ask that you support that.</p> <p>I object to building a major new trail across a Habitat Conservation Area when an east side connector trail already exists.</p> <p>I am concerned for the future integrity of the Open Space program if the trail is approved. Please vote against the new trail....and provide for human use apart from that HCA.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Bonnie Sundance
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/6/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear Boulder City Council,</p> <p>I am writing today to support the North Sky Trail and North TSA as staff has recommended, and been approved by OSBT.</p> <p>I look forward to being able to ride from my home in Lyons to Boulder while enjoying the land flora, and fauna that has been set aside by city and county open spaces. This trail as designed is a great compromise that protects fragile environments and opens access to the lands that my tax dollars have supported for nearly 20 years.</p> <p>I hope that you trust the process designed by your staff, and follow through with your department's recommendations for this area.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Bryan Ganzel
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/6/2016

**Email Detail**

Dear City Council Members,

In your deliberations on the North Trail Study Area, several of you have indicated that the primary basis for your decision will be the impacts on natural resources. We hope that will be the case, and offer our thoughts, as well as some of the history of the process, in which we have participated throughout.

Recommendation:

Boulder County Audubon Society strongly recommends that you adopt the draft plan with three modifications:

1. The regional connector from the Foothills Trail to Joder should be on the east side of Highway 36, not on the west. As shown on the attached map, this can almost completely follow existing trails, rather than fragmenting functioning habitat and degrading sensitive resources.
2. The Longhorn Trail segment of the eastern connector should not be included. All the ecological impacts that have been cited by OSMP management for the eastern connector are due to the Longhorn Trail segment, which is not needed to make the regional trail connection. Actual possible routing for the Longhorn Trail, the ecological impacts, and potential benefits can be studied by the department in due course, and recommended for construction if it seems appropriate and justified. This could presumably be decided at the board/staff level.
3. Close the undesigned trail along the railroad grade south of the conservation easement to allow the department to determine whether management options can be found that will eliminate the Jointed goatgrass (*Aegilops cylindrica*—a class B invasive) that has infested this trail. Once restoration is successful and invasives are under control, staff can consider whether this trail should be reopened as an out-and-back opportunity.

Background:

The open space west of the highway, variously known as the North Foothills HCA and the West Beech HCA, has been heavily studied, documented, and recognized as very important to preserve at least since 1970. It has been studied and documented by biologists from OSMP, BCPOS, CU and CSU and is cited for its biodiversity, rare plants, and species of special concern in the Visitor Master Plan, the Grasslands Ecosystem Management Plan, the North Boulder Valley Management Plan, the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan, and the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan.

The North Foothills HCA contains an extremely biodiverse habitat that supports several species of rare and globally-imperiled butterflies, grassland and shrub-nesting birds that are species of concern because of their declining populations, and globally rare plants and plant communities. The city’s OSMP ecologists have stated (in the January OSBT study session) that the high value resources are so dense in the area West of the old Beech facility that it is “impossible to thread the needle” (i.e. to wend the trail between them and avoid ecological impacts). They say that the West trail would cause “extensive impact” and, because of the steep slopes there, the area impacted by the trail would be considerable.

The grasslands that would be cut by the Longhorn Trail on the east are also valuable, though nowhere near as biologically diverse as the west side. Nonetheless, there is no reason to fragment them without careful examination, since the east side connector trail can be implemented on existing trail corridors.

The Process:

The North Trail Study Area Process has been poorly handled from the very beginning, and has been driven primarily by political considerations. In December 2014, at his very last Open Space Board of Trustees meeting, former Director Mike Patton promised that an interim trail would immediately be built on the Joder property without waiting for the North Trail Study Area process under which it would normally have been planned, and, second, that the North TSA process itself would begin immediately and would be completed in 2015—a schedule that was obviously absurd to anyone who had been involved in the three previous TSAs. Incoming Director Tracy Winfree was therefore handed these commitments with no definition of what they entailed, along with a backlog of flood repair work, deferred maintenance, and a large amount of work remaining to complete implementation of the West TSA. Staff time was therefore diverted in 2016 from more urgent priorities to construction of the interim trail and to the North TSA.

One thing that was learned in the first two TSAs (Southern Grasslands and Eldorado Mountain-Doudy Draw) was that it is critically important to have two things done before starting the public process: 1) the Resource Inventory (natural, cultural, and recreational resources) and 2) Sideboards (legal requirements and governing policies). Otherwise, public participants don't know what the constraints are and become invested in expectations that may be unrealistic. This in turn leads to areas of major controversy that could have been avoided if the preconditions had been dealt with at the start. This was one lesson that was carefully followed in the West TSA. When the Community Collaborative Group first met, it received the Resource Inventory and the Sideboards, so that all the participants were working from the same data and under the same well-understood constraints.

With the North TSA we went backwards in process. Public meetings began in spring, and the public was solicited for input at that time. While staff attempted to constrain the input to information initially, it was predictably unsuccessful in doing so. For example, Open Boulder's map of desired trails and explanatory letter were dated May 15. Conservation organizations like Boulder County Audubon are data-driven and base their input on the Resource Inventory.

The Resource Inventory came out in mid-June and was a sufficiently massive document as to take at least a month to digest. Workshops for input were held in the third week of June, a few days after the release of the inventory and shortly after the approval of the Sideboards. Web input from Inspire Boulder was open from June 23-July 19. Those who wished to provide input based on doing field verification of plants and animals were out of luck, since input ended about the time one needed to be out making observations or walking the routes of potential trails.

The resource inventory itself could be improved if there had been a chance for review and feedback, but it is an excellent piece of work overall, and the staff who compiled it deserve an award for an amazingly good job under a very constrained schedule. Those of us who based comments on it, however, had to do so without adequate time, and with only a few hard copies available.

Finally, during the various iterations with different scenarios, and despite the principal criterion for selection being listed as compliance with the sideboards, none of the staff presentations to OSBT analyzed that compliance, nor was this a topic of discussion by the board, except for a few points made by the two dissenters. There are numerous apparent violations of the sideboards, but they were hardly mentioned after their adoption by the board at its June 2015 meeting.

#### The Connector Trail:

Boulder County Audubon Society has consistently supported a regional trail connection from Foothills Trail to the Joder property, in order to ultimately allow hikers, runners, bicyclists, and equestrians to travel from North Boulder to Heil Ranch and beyond by trail.

We believe the connection should be made on the east side of the highway, primarily along existing trails, so that no additional disturbance of the East Beech natural area is required. We do not oppose studying the route of the Longhorn Trail shown in staff's Alternative proposal, so that it might be proposed for implementation at a later date when both possible recreational values and impacts on natural resources have been thoroughly evaluated.

We suggest that Council direct staff to begin exploration immediately of cost sharing for a highway underpass at the Joder property. BCAS believes this is essential for safe crossing, and it will be necessary regardless of the route chosen for the connector because the Joder property will be a destination for open space users coming from the east or using the Boulder Valley Ranch trail system. It may also be required for Rocky Mountain Greenway users.

One major advantage to approving the east connector using mainly existing trails is that progress could be made relatively soon. OSMP has a big backlog and has said that work cannot begin on either connector until 2021 (which begs the question of why we are in such a hurry to make a decision now!, now!, now!). Using mainly existing trails will allow the department to prioritize improvements in whatever way makes the most sense, potentially providing a connector much sooner and certainly less expensively.

#### Problems with the west side connector

We have carefully reviewed the Resource Inventory, and it is clear that the proposed connector trail on the west side would result in major degradation of the valuable natural resources there: grass-nesting birds, shrub-nesting birds, rare and imperiled butterflies, snakes, and rare plant communities. This violates both the mission of the department and Boulder's long-espoused principles, which are embedded in the Open Space Charter, the Boulder Valley Comp. Plan, and the Boulder County Comp. Plan.

In the presentations by the staff ecologists at the OSBT study sessions, this problem with the west side was made clear. For whatever reason, City Council did not receive the same information at its study session. We can only conclude that politics are at play.

Finally, any geologist walking the proposed route on the west side of the highway can point to all the evidence of slumps along the route. A trail along this route will suffer damage whenever there is flooding and will be likely to require frequent maintenance and construction of retaining walls to cope with movement of clay-rich soils under the influence of gravity. A trail on the east side will be far more resilient and sustainable.

#### Conclusions:

Boulder County Audubon Society strongly recommends either that City Council approve the North Trail Study Area Management Plan with the three changes listed at the beginning of this letter, or that you approve all the sections other than the connector trail and ask staff to return when it has studied the two connector alternatives carefully with specific routes and can report back to City Council with details on costs, environmental impacts, and sustainability. At your study session, questions about these details were generally answered

	with the assertion that answers would not be available until a route was approved. That is not an acceptable reply in our opinion.
<b>Email Author</b>	Pam Piombino, President , for the Boulder County Audubon Board
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/6/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Hello Council people, I regret I can't be there in person to give my remarks. But here is what I would have said: My name is Catharine Harris, 2645 Briarwood Drive, Boulder.</p> <p>I am encouraging you to vote for the East Trail, if you in fact feel you are ready to vote. I encourage you to vote for the long-range thinking reflected in the compromise East trail. Some of you have said this is politics not biology. This is what gives politics a bad name: responding to the noisiest interest group with paid lobbyists who think only of what they want today. Our Open Space charter looks to what is best for today as well as for future generations as a guide for our decision making. This is long-range thinking. Long-range thinking supports the compromise East trail that minimizes damage to the flora and fauna of our open space.</p> <p>Secondly, some of you have said that our open space professionals have not been clear about which trail would do the least damage. Staff at a January 14 Open Space Board of Trustees meeting described the relative sustainability of the two proposed trails with the following words: "far more ecologically sustainable on the East than it is on the West – to a fairly large magnitude"</p> <p>Have you looked at the series of maps that show the endangered grasses, fauna, and other plants? You can tell which trail is most sustainable. It is the compromise, perimeter East trail.</p> <p>I know this is a hard issue. I appreciate your work. Thank you.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Catharine Harris
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/6/2016

<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>I urge Council to adopt the NTSA plan as recommended by the Open Space Board of Trustees for the following reasons:</p> <p>First, the plan recommended by the Trustees resulted from a lengthy, diligent process which took into account the numerous competing interests affecting this particular open space area. The Council should validate this process by adopting the recommended plan.</p> <p>Second, the route adopted by the Board on the west side of Highway 36 has been in use (at least up to the former Beech Aircraft site) since long before I moved to Boulder in 1982. Opponents to that trail describe it as a mere “social” trail, but signage from where it departs what was formerly called the Eagle Trail belies that assertion. Admittedly, dogs and bikes are not currently allowed on the trail, but there has never been any effort to keep people on foot from using trail. I have enjoyed hiking and running on it for years.</p> <p>Third, the western route is far superior to the eastern route from both an access standpoint and a scenic one, and would be far less expensive to construct. The purported adverse impacts on certain of the areas crossed by the trail can be mitigated, if necessary, through the use of, among other things, raised walkways incorporating metal grates.</p> <p>Lastly, those of us who recreate in and around Boulder have been promised a trail connecting Boulder to Heil Ranch and on to Lyons for years. This is best served by the western route recommended by the Open Space Board of Trustees, not the longer, circuitous, less visually appealing route to the east, which requires crossing under Highway 36 twice.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Robyn Kube
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/6/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear Council,</p> <p>Please accept the balanced recommendations of the Open Space and Mountain Parks Staff, the Open Space Trustees and the public regarding the North Sky Trail-I have ridden the beautiful Joder Ranch trail over the years and have dreamed long of a trail from Boulder to Lyons-for myself and my children and grandchildren to ride, hike and enjoy.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Sandra J Hancock
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/6/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>With all due respect. I urge you all to accept the recommendations of the Mountain Park staff &amp; Open space board, also the public regarding the study area.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Marsha Eilert
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/6/2016

<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear Council Members,</p> <p>Currently, there is one large gap in a trail network that, if built, could eventually link Boulder to Lyons with a completely off-road, multi-use (mountain biking, hiking) trail. Boulder County Parks and Open Space is planning a trail from the Heil Ranch trailhead parallel to Geer Canyon all the way down to Lefthand Canyon Dr. The North Sky Trail would go a long way towards closing the gap between Boulder and Heil Ranch.</p> <p>Please help improve regional trail connectivity by supporting the development and implementation of the North Sky Trail.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Jennifer Severson
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/6/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>To the city council,</p> <p>As a 41 year resident of the city of Boulder and a homeowner since 1991 I would like to give my support to the new trail system west of Highway 36. I would like to see it be developed for multi use. I have been biking in Boulder since the early 80's and would love to ride beyond Wonderland Lake to Left Hand Canyon on a dirt trail. I am 66 years old with a sketchy knee so please don't wait too long to complete this trail.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	John Howlett
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/6/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Please vote in favor of the draft plan for the North TSA. In particular, the North Sky Trail would be an important and welcome addition to Boulder's trail network. The alternative route, east of Hwy. 36, is not nearly as good, as it would involve two crossings of the highway.</p> <p>Thanks.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Paul Siegler
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/6/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear Boulder Councilmember,</p> <p>I am writing to voice my strong support for the North Trail Study Area plan as it currently is. I would like to see a North Sky Trail approved so that Boulder residents can eventually ride from Boulder to Lyons on a mountain bike. Please approve the OSMP staff plan as it was sent to you</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Jordan Krechmer
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/6/2016

<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>To the members of the City Council, I have been aware that there has been a lot of information in the Daily Camera about this issue. Unfortunately, I haven't kept up with all of the details of this project, but I would like to add another observation and concern in addition to what is listed in the text of this letter. About 6 - 9 months ago, I had gone to Macy's and as I returned to my car (it was parked on the north side of Macy's) and looked up at the Flatirons, I was shocked that I was able to see the heavily used path that goes diagonally thru the meadow in Chautauqua Park. As you know, people head into the foothills by going up the Bluebell Shelter Rd or they use the path up towards the Flatirons.</p> <p>As a fellow Chautauqua neighbor said years ago, "Chautauqua is getting loved to death". That path has gotten so wide over the years because people in the winter want to avoid muddy areas and/or icy spots. Therefore, they walk around the bad spots and make the trail wider.</p> <p>This observation ties into this proposed trail system. People are going to cut across switchbacks, avoid muddy/icy areas and make the trails wider and more visible. It would be sad to see this same thing happen to the foothills north of town.</p> <p>Thank you for reading this and please consider a decision that would minimize the heavy use that could one day occur in this area.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Nancy Bartlett
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/6/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Hello!</p> <p>I'd like to express support for the Boulder to Lyons Bike Trail. This trail could significantly decrease bike traffic on the road to Left Hand Canyon and Lyons and could therefore eliminate a higher risk of accidents involving cars and bikes.</p> <p>Thank you!</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Lauren Garber
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/6/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Hello Council Members!</p> <p>My husband and I have lived in Boulder since our days at CU (1964) and we have witnessed many changes. We now live on acreage in Longmont which we share with horses, cattle, dog, cats and chickens. We certainly don't mind supporting the purchase of Open Space with our tax dollars. We hike, bike, and enjoy our horses. The Joder Ranch is a special place with a long history of "horse activities" . We hope that you will take that into consideration in the upcoming meeting that will decide the fate of this special piece of land that is now owned by the taxpayers of Boulder County!</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	David and Beth Newton
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/6/2016

<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Hello Council -</p> <p>I won't be able to make the upcoming meeting, but wanted to express my opinion (and that of many like me who use and love Boulder's open spaces) on the NTSA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please put the trails on the West side of 36. The experience for trail runners and mt bikers on the west side of US36 will be far superior to the east side.</li> <li>• A well thought out planning process concluded this. Hopefully the Council will respect the public process and thousands of volunteer hours put in to come up with the recommended NTSA plan.</li> <li>• A west side trail protects environmental interests as well! The west side trail already exists 2/3rds of the way (McGuckin rail road grade social trail) - please designate the last 3rd as the most effective way to protect sensitive environmental resources.</li> </ul> <p>Thanks for your consideration</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Mike McGarry
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/6/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Mayor Jones and members of Council,</p> <p>As you consider the adoption of the North Trail Study Area (TSA) Plan, I hope you will take to heart the comments made by Open Space Board of Trustees (OSBT) member Molly Davis during public comment at your May 17, 2016 meeting. Molly has been a participant in the entire North TSA process and she felt the language of labeling that occurred during the process was divisive and hurt the community. She said she felt the community was being pulled apart by the process and asked if we're building community. We should be "we" not "us" and "them." Molly's comments ring true and I see them as the continuation of the "us" and "them" that surfaced during the West TSA process. We have a divided community when it comes to weighing recreation and preservation with respect to Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) lands. This division is reflected in the OSBT vote of 3-2 to approve the North TSA Plan. Your job as Council members is to recognize this division and speak to it as you make your decision on the North TSA Plan.</p> <p>I was also struck by Pat Billig's comments on May 17. Pat is a former member of the OSBT who was on the Board during the West TSA Plan process and adoption. I met Pat in the early 1980s, through my sister, and have a lot of respect for her. Pat stated that the North TSA process was different from that of previous TSAs in that the inventory report was not available until six months into the process. I find this disturbing as the inventory report outlines the environmental considerations to take into account before work begins and sets the stage for the entire process. What I take from Pat's comments is that the discussion of trail alignments within the North TSA occurred without all the facts being on the table. I hope you will address this change in TSA process as you make our decision.</p> <p>The OSBT's split vote in the North TSA Plan had three trustees supporting the scenario with a trail from the Foothills Trail to the Joder Ranch located west of Foothills Hwy. The two dissenting trustees supported the scenario where this trail would be located east of Foothills Hwy. You are being asked to approve the North TSA Plan with the western trail alignment. This trail alignment will be the focus of public comment and your discussion on June 7. It's not surprising to me that the North TSA Plan hinges on the location of one trail. Before the Visitor Master Plan established the North Foothills Habitat Conservation Area (HCA), I took a hike on the old railroad grade that the western trail would take. I truly enjoyed my hike until</p>

	<p>I got to the first vegetation choked drainage. The vegetation was thicker and taller than any I had encountered on any of the established trails along the foothills. It just didn't seem right to wade through this riparian drainage so I could continue my hike. It made more sense to leave it to the plants and animals as one of the few places along the foothills they could exist with minimal human impact. Riparian drainages with little human impact are few and far between along the Front Range foothills.</p> <p>I urge you to not accept the North TSA Plan as recommended by the OSBT and support the alternative scenario with the trail from the Foothills Trail to Joder Ranch located east of Foothills Hwy. I believe this eastern alignment provides an opportunity for an acceptable visitor experience. The western alignment will take this north-south trail through the North Foothills HCA. The Visitor Master Plan (VMP) states that we locate new trails within HCAs to minimize impacts on habitat quality and design and construct these trails and other facilities to sustain a low level of visitor use. The majority of the OSBT agreed that an exception to this direction was warranted in this instance. I disagree. A multi-use trail west of Foothills Hwy. will be heavily used. It may be the only place along the northern Front Range where people will be able to travel north-south along the slope of the foothills and cross numerous drainages on foot and by bike and horse. It will be unique and a draw for people from around the Denver metro to Fort Collins area. Please honor the VMP and don't make an exception for a western trail alignment.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Ann FitzSimmons
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/6/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>I am writing the Boulder City Council to show my support for the North Sky Trail. This is an important trail project that begins to link together our open space. Boulder's progressive management of open spaces has preserved spectacular pieces of land, and has helped to provide great recreational opportunities.</p> <p>However, the number of users on these lands is steadily increasing and increasing faster than trails are being added. As a result there is congestion at trail heads, and sometimes on trails. By completing the North TSA project cyclists, equestrians, and all users can link open space together without use of their cars. As an avid mountain biker living in Gunbarrel this would provide essential links to a 'car free' mountain bike ride. The North TSA is a vital step in moving toward an integrated system of Boulder Open Space that will set a new standard to be emulated.</p> <p>I look forward to hearing about further progress on the North TSA project.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Dave Kuhny
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/6/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear Boulder City Council,</p> <p>I live in Lyons and work in Boulder, and I am an enthusiastic supporter of the North Sky Trail idea. One of the things I love most about Boulder is the amazing network of bike trails, paths, and lanes. I urge you to support the North Sky Trail and think it would help maintain Boulder as the bicycle-friendly, outdoor-friendly place that we want it to be!!</p>

<b>Email Author</b>	Stephen Irvin
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/6/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	Please approve the North Sky Trail with the connection along the fence-line of the McGuckin's warehouse and adjacent properties instead of the alternative proposal that would cross 36.
<b>Email Author</b>	Josie Varga
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/6/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	Dear Sir or Madam: Concerning the recommendations of the Open Space and Mountain Parks staff and the Open Space Bpard of Trustees for the North Sky Trail, we urge you to approve the same with your vote on Tuesday; i.e., the connection for the Boulder to Lyons trail that is scenic and safe.  Thank you for your consideration and support of this worth while cause,
<b>Email Author</b>	Janet Carabello
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/6/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	I am an avid hiker, mountain biker and equestrian and so I want to thank you for all the wonderful open space opportunities in Boulder County. Good job! I hope you will vote to accept the balanced recommendations of Open Space & Mountain Parks Staff regarding the draft plan for North TSA and the North Trail Study Area.  Thank you and see you at your meeting on Tuesday.
<b>Email Author</b>	Tim Breen
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/6/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	Dear Council Members,  You are considering if a proposed multi-use trail should be built on the west side of U.S. 36 or on the east side of 36. I think that that the trail should NOT be built on the west side of 36.  The east/west connector options should be renamed as the east/west "disconnecter" options. Either trail would cause further fragmentation of the environment. The West Disconnecter, however, seems to be the most egregious. It would pierce the North Foothills Habitat Conservation Area (HCA).  The HCA was described by Patricia Billing in a recent Guest Opinion piece in The Daily Camera. Her piece was entitled: "Defend our local wildlife". Billing wrote that the HCA has "five imperiled butterfly species" and "eight rare native plant species". If building the West Disconnecter would threaten any of these species; then what is the true cost of this trail? What is its benefit?  Some rare species that will be impacted if the West Disconnecter is built. There is also one common species that would benefit. It is the Boulder biker. You can stand next to many streets in Boulder city and watch them fly by. Yesterday, I saw some dressed in neon-yellow with red helmets. (Maybe their colorful attire meant that it's the breeding season.)

	Biking is fun but neither the East Disconnecter nor the West Disconnecter should be built until we understand the true cost. Let's stop scarring Mother Earth.
<b>Email Author</b>	Kristen Marshall
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/6/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear Council</p> <p>While I was driving yesterday, the bumper sticker in front of me said, "The best trails are illegal trails."</p> <p>I understand the appeal of exploring new, untouched areas and trying new terrain. I also understand that this can carry grave environmental consequences, so we must exercise self-restraint and respect.</p> <p>As the North TSA decision approaches, I'd like to call to mind the 2011 incident of a pro mountain biker riding through golden eagle nesting habitat behind Flagstaff:  <a href="http://www.denverpost.com/2011/03/30/pro-mountain-biker-mike-west-cited-for-using-illegal-trail-in-boulder/">http://www.denverpost.com/2011/03/30/pro-mountain-biker-mike-west-cited-for-using-illegal-trail-in-boulder/</a></p> <p>Rather than being an isolated anomaly, incidents like this happen far too often. If you break open the Foothills HCA, it will start happening there. The subset of people that violate seasonal closures and/or blaze new trails will damage the ecological value.</p> <p>I subscribe to several mountain-biking and open-space updates, and one thing I find frustrating is that some of the folks supporting the west side trail are failing to tell people that there's an east-side option. So many people are being given the impression that it's either the west side or no connector, which is of course false.</p> <p>I hope that you will care for our resources by choosing the East Side option.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Allison May
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/6/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear Council,</p> <p>I am writing to urge Council to accept the draft plan for the North TSA which has been approved by the Open Space Board of Trustees after a very long and intensive process.</p> <p>Many compromises were made by many different and varied special interest groups. I believe what we currently have is a balance, well thought out compromise.</p> <p>I encourage Council to accept this draft.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Kathy Hollister
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/6/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	Please support the draft recommendations of Open Space and Mountain Parks Staff regarding the North TSA.

<b>Email Author</b>	john fay
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/5/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear Boulder City coucil,</p> <p>I am emailing in my support for the North Sky Trail to approved in your meeting. I've been running that trail to the fence for decades and would love to have it go all the way to Joder. I am also an equestrian who would ride my horse along there too. I also used to ride at Joders"s. It sounds like the alternative down to 36 isn't such a great idea. So, please continue to create long lasting and easy access to our open space, multi-use trails.</p> <p>Many thanks to your for your work</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Jackie Ashley
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/5/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Hi Council,</p> <p>I wanted to write to encourage you all to support the North Sky Trail. This is a huge opportunity to increase the trail network in the area and would be a great benefit to the community.</p> <p>Staff has done a lot of great work and the Open Space Board of Trustees (OSBT) approved the plan; please support and accept the North Trail Study Area Plan.</p> <p>Thanks for your time!</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Hannah Polow
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/5/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>City Council,</p> <p>I am writing to let you know that I support the North Sky Trail that will help to connect Boulder with Lyons. It would provide a new path to Lyons where you would be able to enjoy the views and the countryside without having to ride on the road, which is loud and has large amounts of traffic. It would be a safer more relaxing option for those of us who dont feel safe riding in those large amounts traffic.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Jess Ebert
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/5/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>To Whom it May Concern:</p> <p>I support this trail, because it will connect Boulder to Lyons. It will offer great views and connections, and it will be far safer than current options.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Anne Strawbridge
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council

<b>Email Date</b>	6/5/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear board members, I am writing today to show my support for completing the trail east of North Foothills highway in the North TSA plan.</p> <p>I just graduated from the Environmental Design program here at CU, this is my fourth year living in Boulder and I have fallen in love with this city for all it has to offer as a close-knit community but more notably for leading by example to the rest of the world how to grow efficiently and sustainably. For example, when it wasn't considered anywhere else in the United States at the time, Boulders great citizens had the vision to tax themselves to protect the beautiful natural surrounding land and wildlife. Boulder's bicycle to car ratio is outstanding compared to other cities. Boulder was the first city to permit a bag fee law that reduced bag use by 68% its first year, and so many other great achievements.</p> <p>My reasons for supporting the trail east of North Foothills highway are as followed; In order to sustain the wildlife communities and protect the natural recourses in the Habitat Conservation Area, completing the trail East of foothills highway is the obvious solution for the North TSA.</p> <p>This plan will bypass the Monarch butterfly, Rattlesnake, and other wildlife communities that live in the Foothills. Second, the majority of the trail is already complete on the East; trails including the Foothills Trail, Degge Trail, Cobalt Trail, Left Hand Trail, and Beech Trail are all essentially infrastructure to complete the trail east of North Foothills highway. And third the difference between 3 miles and 4.3 miles may seem miniscule to anyone considering traveling that distance. Putting in a trail that would disturb ecosystems that are hundreds of years old is irresponsible, especially seeing the existing infrastructure in place. I believe the board and others involved in the decision making of this plan have over looked the irreversible impacts Scenario B will have on the environment. I truly don't see where considering a plan that has so much potential to do harm to the natural ecologies ever lies along this city's future.</p> <p>Thank You</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Ryan Walters
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/5/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear council members,</p> <p>I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed new multi-use trail on the west side of Highway 36 north of Boulder through the Habitat Conservation Area, for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It will require the construction of at least one 100-foot-long and 6-foot-wide steel bridge, a 6-foot-wide trail, and numerous switchbacks, which will permanently alter the iconic views of this highly visible open space property.</li> <li>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 where it exists at all, and hardly visible. The new trail would be much wider and be an eyesore.</li> <li>3. The proposed trail will cross at least 11 riparian drainages that are important for wildlife in the area. The area is home to some of the last native grasslands, and several threatened plants and species. Trails will introduce invasive plants and weeds that, unlike our native grasses, provide poor habitat and poor carbon sequestration (important for abating climate change).</li> <li>4. The proposed alignment east of the highway will still provide the link that the rec groups affiliated with Open Boulder want to other mountain biking trails, without the harmful environmental and aesthetic impacts. Please stand up to the pressure from special groups that do not represent the majority of those who care about our Open Space.</li> </ol>

	Thank you for your service.
<b>Email Author</b>	Ken Bettenhausen
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/5/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear City Council Members:</p> <p>I know you have been besieged by many groups about the west-side of 36 trail to Joder Ranch through the North Foothills HCA. I have followed this issue for several years, and have read all the opinions in the paper and emails from various groups, and I probably don't have any new facts to add to the discussion. I have lived in Boulder for 45+ years, and know the landscape around here, and I am a fan of our incredible open spaces.</p> <p>I have hiked most if not all the trails in the system, photographed many of them, and if I set out to hike them all again, it might take me a year or more to do so. Most trails are certainly worth seeing at least once a year, so in that respect, we have plenty of trails to keep everyone satisfied. And I believe this is true for hiking and biking trails. If a person wants to to hike or bike a new trail every time they go out, then Boulder will never satisfy this need, and the City probably shouldn't try . Also, trails are not the only purpose for our open space.</p> <p>There are plenty of trails in and around Boulder, and this trail will not significantly increase the number of miles of trails available for recreation. (And it will get you to the same destination as the existing trail and its planned developments on the E. side of 36.) This proposed trail seems to me to have a high environmental cost for a low recreational benefit.</p> <p>Development in an intact ecosystem is a one-way street, the consequences are irreversible, and some unpredictable. It appears that most every local environmental group, scientist and OSMP field staff (also scientists) are opposed to this trail. It seems smart to take the advice of informed environmentalists and professional environmental scientists, they are experts who don't have political or economic interests in the outcome.</p> <p>Given the intensity of this controversy, there is obviously lots of doubt about this project, and it seems prudent to me to conserve this landscape for now, and not make such permanent changes to a small but unique and pristine piece of the landscape. Isn't this kind of care for the Earth that Boulder prides itself for?</p> <p>I encourage you to vote against this trail it at this Tuesday's Council meeting.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Chris Brown
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/5/2016

<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear Council,</p> <p>I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed new multi-use trail on the west side of Highway 36 north of Boulder through the Habitat Conservation Area, for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It will require the construction of at least one 100-foot-long and 6-foot-wide steel bridge, a 6-foot-wide trail, and numerous switchbacks, which will permanently alter the iconic views of this highly visible open space property.</li> <li>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 where it exists at all, and hardly visible. The new trail would be much wider and be an eyesore.</li> <li>3. The proposed trail will cross at least 11 riparian drainages that are important for wildlife in the area. The area is home to some of the last native grasslands, and several threatened plants and species. Trails will introduce invasive plants and weeds that, unlike our native grasses, provide poor habitat and poor carbon sequestration (important for abating climate change).</li> <li>4. The proposed alignment east of the highway will still provide the link that the rec groups affiliated with Open Boulder want to other mountain biking trails, without the harmful environmental and aesthetic impacts. Please stand up to the pressure from special groups that do not represent the majority of those who care about our Open Space.</li> </ol> <p>Thank you for your service.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Julie Weinmeister
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/5/2016

<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Thank you for your service to Boulder and Boulder County. I understand it is your responsibility to provide and protect. I have been a resident of Boulder County since 1994 and have voted for taxes to purchase open space, when I have had the opportunity, with the understanding that it was for preservation and not necessarily for recreation. I am not opposed to recreation, but it is second to preservation.</p> <p>I am expressing my opposition to the proposed new multi-use trail on the west side of Highway 36 north of Boulder through the Habitat Conservation Area, for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It will require the construction of at least one 100-foot-long and 6-foot-wide steel bridge, a 6-foot-wide trail, and numerous switchbacks, which will permanently alter the iconic views of this highly visible open space property.</li> <li>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 where it exists at all, and hardly visible. The new trail would be much wider and be an eyesore.</li> <li>3. The proposed trail will cross at least 11 riparian drainages that are important for wildlife in the area. The area is home to some of the last native grasslands, and several threatened plants and species. Trails will introduce invasive plants and weeds that, unlike our native grasses, provide poor habitat and poor carbon sequestration (important for abating climate change).</li> <li>4. The proposed alignment east of the highway will still provide the link that the rec groups affiliated with Open Boulder want to other mountain biking trails, without the harmful environmental and aesthetic impacts. Please stand up to the pressure from special groups that do not represent the majority of those who care about our Open Space.</li> </ol>
<b>Email Author</b>	Linda Plencner
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/5/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>I have lived in Boulder since 1973 and have raised two children in this wonderful town. I am writing to Council in opposition to the proposed Western trail starting from Foothills trail going north to the Joder property.</p> <p>I do support the East connector trail and improvements to it. My children and friends have enjoyed the existing eastern trails whether on bike or foot. I do not understand why we need to invade and abuse this beautiful area to the west of 36 when we already have suitable trails on the eastern side.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	David Grojean
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/5/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>I regret I will not be available to speak in favor of the East selection for the trail. As I noted in my recent e.mail to council I strongly urge selection of the eastern placement of the trail. How much better to gaze up at the unmarred terrain without the darting effect of bicycles imposing on the view. Even a biker would appreciate that.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	George Coffee
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/5/2016

<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear esteemed council members,</p> <p>I have been a Boulder county resident since 1972 and a homeowner in Boulder proper since 1978. I am a hiker and a horseback rider.</p> <p>I am writing to urge you to accept the balanced recommendations of Open Space &amp; Mountain Parks with reference to the North Trails Study Area Plan. So much thoughtful work has gone into this plan. It is well balanced and serves so many. Please don't allow this great plan and all the hard work that has gone into it to go down the drain!</p> <p>Thank you for taking my views into consideration.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Linda Levy
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/5/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear City Council -</p> <p>I will be out of town on 6/7/16 so cannot come to the public hearing regarding the NTSA.</p> <p>However, I wanted to strongly state my opposition to the proposed new “multi-use” trail on the west side of US 36. This trail would severely damage sensitive habitat. This proposal is particularly troubling given that there is a routing possible on the east side of US 36 which would have far less negative environmental impact.</p> <p>Even though the new trail would allegedly be “multi-use”, the reality is that the push for it is coming from mountain bikers who appear to see every tract of Open Space as existing for their recreational use. As is clearly stated in the Open Space legal directives, the primary purpose of Open Space is CONSERVATION. Recreational usage is secondary and, in this situation, can readily be accommodated by a trail on the east side of US 36 instead.</p> <p>I live in SW Boulder, but this issue is important to me because my tax dollars have been and are being used to acquire, develop and maintain Open Space. It has always been represented that a vote for these issues was a vote for conservation. I am respectfully requesting that City Council stand up to the mountain biking lobby and manage Open Space lands in a manner consistent with the conservation mandate.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Harriet G. Olson
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/5/2016

<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>This correspondence is to voice my opposition to the proposed new multi-use trail on the west side of Highway 36 north of Boulder through the Habitat Conservation Area, for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It will required construction of a steel bridge, a 6-foot-wide trail, and numerous switchbacks, which will permanently alter the iconic views of this highly visible open space property.</li> <li>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 where it exists at all, and hardly visible. The new trail would be much wider and be an eyesore.</li> <li>3. The proposed trail will cross at least 11 riparian drainages that are important for wildlife in the area. The area is home to some of the last native grasslands, and several threatened plants and species. Trails will introduce invasive plants and weeds that, unlike our native grasses, provide poor habitat and poor carbon sequestration (important for abating climate change).</li> <li>4. The proposed alignment east of the highway will still provide the link that the rec groups affiliated with Open Boulder want to other mountain biking trails, without the harmful environmental and aesthetic impacts. Please stand up to the pressure from special groups that do not represent the majority of those who care about our Open Space.</li> </ol>
<b>Email Author</b>	Mary Kay Gilson
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/5/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed routing of the North Sky Trail through the HCA on the west side of US 36. While I appreciate city staff's efforts to limit impact on the sensitive natural areas surrounding the proposed trail, I believe that the trail will receive a lot of use and, as seen in other open space high use areas (e.g., Sanitas Valley), compliance with trail rules is marginal at best. Even if people behaved as hoped, I believe that the impact on sensitive habitats will be much greater than the draft plan suggests. -Actually the plan doesn't really go into impacts that I could find- It would have better served the public [i.e., me] if a readily accessible impacts assessment had been included - we all know there will be impacts even in the most optimistic scenario. The maps of trails winding through the area don't show the swath of invasive weeds, noise disturbance, habitat fragmentation, etc. that will be caused by the proposed routing.</p> <p>Please consider the east side alternative.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Darlene Steward
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/5/2016

<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Members of the Boulder City Council:</p> <p>I am very concerned about the loss of Open Space proposed in the North Trail Study. You folks represent all the Boulder community not just the developers. This is a very popular and attractive open space property just the way it is.</p> <p>Leave it alone!</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Tom Stevens
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/5/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>I am writing to ask that the bike,running trail to Jodar Ranch be developed on the east side of HW 36. The western side of the Highway is generally undisturbed presently and is not only serene to the view, it is a safe haven for plants and wildlife on the west. Council's recent well attended informational study session concerning the non-migrating elk on Rabbit Mountain concluded with one proven recommendation to encourage migration: to extend trails into wildlife grazing and loafing areas in order to encourage movement away from those areas. With this fact in mind, the LAST unintended consequence for a west trail construction could be the wildlife would move east across HW 36 rather than west into the foothills. Consider the beauty of the Blue Ridge Mountain Skyway in the Smokys. The spectacular vistas of the mountains provides a lovely drive undisturbed by billboards, trails and people and is incredibly peaceful to the mind. As I have grown older I must now admit that I cannot get into our wilderness areas to hike as I did once. HW 36 to Lyons could in some ways resemble such a skyway with relative undisturbed vistas for some distances. But most importantly is the effort to leave undisturbed the wildlife and plants that presently live on the west. With east sidell trail construction, bikers can bike, runners can run, lookers and travelers can gaze and best of all, wildlife and plants can thrive unmolested. A win win solution for all. Please consider this and construct the trail on the east side of 36.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Marilyn Whittaker
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/5/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Today's guest opinion by Steven Watts (Embrace the process - plan for NTSA is sound) ignores the fact that a Habitat Conservation Area (HCA) will be cut in half by a trail that will be heavily used. The process and the plan are gravely flawed. Although three of the OSMP Board of Trustees voted to proceed, two voted against it. A third former Trustee, Pat Billig presented her opposition to the council. In addition, an abundance of scientific leaders and environmental groups have opposed ignoring the values of the HCA. I am a botanist and plant ecologist that has worked for both OSMP and Boulder County Open Space, and have lived in Boulder for 47 years. The west trail is insane.</p> <p>There is no sanity in cutting through an HCA when there is an alternative route that already exists. Claims about excessive cost of the east trail vs. the west trail through the HCA are beyond ridiculous. As had been clearly acknowledged, the underpass that has been attributed only to the east trail is inevitably needed by the west trail as well. If you add the underpass to both trails, as would be honest, the east trail is about half as costly as the west trail. Only one underpass is not a reason to begin the degradation of an irreplaceable and globally unique HCA.</p> <p>The process is also flawed since it even allowed consideration of cutting an HCA in half when unbroken habitat has been known for decades as one of the most important components to</p>

maintain biological integrity. If the process allows this to happen it defies science, and any claimed commitment to environment. Cutting an HCA in half just begins a process of habitat degradation of the highest quality parcels, a process that would never end, and is deeply flawed. Perhaps what is needed is a unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees to bisect ANY HCA. The claims, and smoke and mirrors, presented by the argument that the west trail will closely follow an existing fence line to minimize impacts is specious. That component of the trail is only about 10% of the trail. 90% of the HCA would be cut in half.

So here you sit like Solomon with one group asking you to cut the baby in half and consider this to be fair, and those who truly love and cherish the baby ask you to let the baby survive. Solomon got it right.

Don't kill the baby.

Here is Aphorism 17 from Franz Kafka who had an excellent handle on the darker side of humanity.

Leopards break into the temple and drink all the sacrificial vessels dry; it keeps happening; in the end it can be calculated in advance and is incorporated into the ritual.

If the process allows this level of damage to an HCA, this will keep happening, and the future of Open Space inevitable excludes environmental values as each value is cut in half, then cut in half again, then cut in half again...and again.

<b>Email Author</b>	Patrick Murphy
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/4/2016

**Email Detail**

Dear City Council Members,  
PLAN-Boulder generally supports the North Trail Study Area Plan (NTSA) and specifically supports a north/south connector trail to Joder; however, we oppose the proposed West connector option from the Foothills Trail to Joder Ranch. We do strongly support the East trail connector option, which will clearly provide benefits to more OSMP users, will have significantly less impact to fragile ecosystems and has most of the infrastructure in place. The NTSA process has been rushed in order to be completed in one year, and the resource inventory, upon which TSA's are based, was not finished until 6 months into the project. Because of this, the process itself produced an incomplete result. There are many questions still to be answered regarding the potential resource damage resulting from a West trail connector, there has been no real cost comparison of the East and West connector options, nor any real investigation of the overall desirability and acceptability of the East trail connector. The NTSA process has primarily focused on a small percentage of the potential users (mountain bikers), but the average OSMP user is not yet even aware of the NTSA plan. OSMP has stated that any work on the NTSA would not begin until 2021 due to the backlog of flood and West TSA-related projects. At a minimum, the decision about the location of a connector trail should be delayed until OSMP develops more complete information upon which to appropriately base a decision.

What About the Resource Impacts? The NTSA resource inventory makes the strongest case for preservation of the resources in the North Foothills HCA. The OSMP professional staff have clearly stated that putting a trail through this HCA will have significant impacts to its habitat, especially to sensitive grassland species and numerous riparian areas. Placement of this trail through the HCA runs counter to the OSMP mission and Charter, the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan, several established council-approved planning documents, professional OSMP expertise, and violates the management specified for HCAs (please see "Attachment" following this letter for specifics). If there were no alternative location for a connector trail, that would be one thing. But the fact is that there is already a mostly-established and popular trail system on the east of Highway 36 with beautiful views and little road noise, and which will be augmented by a new trail specifically designed to be interesting for mountain biking. It makes no sense to damage the sustainability of important natural resources for a trail that could as easily be located in a less damaging location.

Who is the Trail Being Designed For? The West connector trail has been described in different ways throughout the NTSA process. Sometimes it is a designated multi-use trail, which according to OSMP trail standards are 10 to 12 feet wide. OSMP staff has said the trail tread would actually be 36 inches wide to allow for two-way traffic, with a 6 foot wide cleared cross section. It has also been described as a narrow single-track trail, which is what mountain bikers prefer. The mountain biking community, supported by three paid lobbyists who you hear from frequently, repeatedly claim to have been short-changed by OSMP, yet one third of all OSMP trails (54 miles) are open to mountain biking. On most of these trails mountain biking has become the dominant use, despite the fact that mountain bikers are, at most, only 16% of all OSMP users. Most of the existing and newly created trails in both the Marshall Mesa and Dowdy Draw-Eldorado Mountain TSA's were specifically opened to mountain bikers to accommodate their desire for access to Open Space trails. A trail along Boulder Creek in Boulder Canyon for mountain bikes to connect Chapman Drive to Betasso is in the early stages of planning. The estimated investment by the City to complete this trail is \$550,000 and by the \$500,000 by the County, in addition to state funds. Almost all of the County Open Space trails (104 miles out of a total of 118 miles) are open to mountain biking. And let's not forget the \$4M spent by the City for the Valmont Mountain Bike Park. This is hardly being short-changed.

Is Mitigation and Restoration Really Likely to Happen? It has been suggested by West connector proponents that monitoring for trail impacts will be able to detect and mitigate

any impacts that will occur (also known as adaptive management). Monitoring is technically difficult, expensive and time consuming, and there are many resource impacts that cannot be mitigated. OSMP has managed only very limited monitoring of the impacts of recreational users on the Open Space system; however, on Springbrook Loop in the Dowdy Draw area, where the most complete monitoring has been completed, it is clear that recreational use has had a significant impact on wildlife. It should be anticipated that such impacts will also result from the West connector, especially within the wetland ecosystems.

Can the City Council Provide the Larger Vision For Open Space That Has Been Missing in the NTSA Process? The movement to preserve natural resources was born in the United States and Boulder was one of the first cities to achieve the preservation of natural resources and ecosystems on the doorstep of an urban area. You have heard many voices complain that Boulder's Open Space is not wilderness; that Open Space should essentially be treated as a commodity that we pay for, and that we are entitled to re-engineer Open Space to serve people wherever it suits our desires. Our Open Space lands do contain wilderness areas, that is, carefully selected HCAs (25% of OSMP lands) where unfragmented natural ecosystems can flourish in the absence of human intrusion. These ecologically valuable HCAs directly and indirectly benefit all of the natural resources in the rest of the OSMP system. Survival of these lands uniquely located next to Boulder now depends on the leadership of City Council to hold these HCA lands in trust for the future, as Boulder citizens have trusted you to do for almost 50 years. PLAN Boulder asks you exercise that leadership by recommending that the NTSA Plan implement the East side connector from the Foothills Trail to Joder Ranch.

Respectfully,

Ray Bridge, Board Co-Chair

Allyn Feinberg, Board Co-Chair

Pat Billig, Board Environment Lead

#### ATTACHMENT: NORTH TSA SIDEBOARDS SUMMARY OF CITATIONS RELEVANT TO PROPOSED TRAIL THROUGH NORTH FOOTHILLS HCA

##### \*\* OPEN SPACE LONG RANGE MANAGEMENT POLICIES (Council approved 1995)

Objectives include consideration of "long-term viability and health of natural ecosystems"

p. 4-2 The emphasis shall be on minimizing human impacts on the native animal populations and their dynamics.

p. 9-1 ...minimize cumulative impacts to the natural ecosystems

p. 10-4 Trails systems and related facilities ...provided only where consistent with the protection of native ecosystems and the accomplishment of open space purposes

##### \*\* THE NORTH BOULDER VALLEY AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN (2-year public process, '97 Board approval)

p. 18/162 "Protecting the land comes first. Without the land there is no community and no place.

19/162 "The western half of the North Boulder Valley has a management focus on maintaining natural processes and functions to support and preserve native ecosystems.

Management of the eastern half of the North Boulder Valley is characterized by agricultural and recreational uses.

22/162 New trails and trailheads ... will be located at the "edges" of developed areas, where impacts on natural communities and agricultural operations are less severe.

\* VEGETATION Management Objectives 1 – 7 esp. 3, 4, 6

p.41/162 Avoid creating a trail corridor that stretches from a weed infested area into an area with relatively few or no noxious weed infestations.

45 Objective 4 Protect and maintain rare species and communities of special concern.

... The major threats to species and communities of special concern are loss of habitat,

displacement by non-native species, and direct destruction of individuals and habitat.

\* WILDLIFE Management Objectives

Because semi-arid environment... wetlands have especially high value

... the preferred alternative is to avoid placing trails in wetlands.

P.68 ...WEST OF US 36.... One of the two last remaining contiguous and unfragmented areas in the OS system. Raptor concentrations, due to the proximity of prey and critical habitats, make the Management Area unique in the Boulder Valley. ...

P 72 Encourage the protection of large tracts of unfragmented land, undisturbed from the effects of recreation trails. This maximizes available undisturbed habitat and minimizes impacts from the edges.

\* PASSIVE RECREATION Management Objectives 1-5 esp. 3-5

Preserve scenic vistas and undeveloped views. ...and provide aesthetic values for many people who never visit these lands ....

\*\* BOULDER VALLEY COMP PLAN (Council approved 2001, updated 2005)

1. General Policies (p. 5): "Commitment to open space preservation and the use of open space buffers to define the community."

4. Environment (p. 27): "...Environmental priorities set by the City Council include:...continuing our strong leadership in preserving native plant and wildlife habitat..."

4.06 Natural Ecosystems. The city and county shall protect and restore significant ecosystems and habitats for native plant and animal species on public and private lands.... Promotion of biological diversity and protection of federal endangered and threatened species and state, county and local species of concern and their associated habitat will be emphasized.

4.07 Ecosystem Connections and Buffers. The city and county recognize the biological importance of preserving large areas of unfragmented habitat. ...These areas are important for sustaining biological diversity and viable habitats for native species ...

4.10 Public Access to Public Lands. ...Public access to public lands shall be provided for, except where necessary, to protect such areas from unacceptable degradation, from unacceptable impact to habitat and wildlife, or for public safety.

\*\*VISITOR MASTER PLAN (Council approved April 2005)

Pages 49-50:

Habitat Conservation Area Designation

Goals

- Maintain, enhance, and/or restore naturally functioning ecological systems...and habitat for species of concern identified in the Boulder County and the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plans.
- Provide public access and passive recreational opportunities that foster appreciation and understanding of ecological systems and have minimal impacts on native plant communities and wildlife habitats or other resources.
- Eliminate all undesignated trails, unless they are made part of the designated trails system or provide specialized access to appropriate low-use destinations.
- Where sustainable infrastructure exists, continue to allow public access to appropriate destinations.

Criteria for Inclusion of Management Areas in the Habitat Conservation Area Designation

- Large habitat blocks with a low density of trails, roads, or development.
- High potential for restoration of natural ecosystems (including areas with restoration underway).
- Plant communities that are rare or unique on Open Space and Mountain Parks lands.
- Habitat for species of concern such as threatened, endangered, rare, and other species.
- Areas with high biodiversity such as wetlands and riparian areas (especially un-trailed

	<p>riparian reaches).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comparatively lower visitation levels.</li> <li>• Compatibility with adjacent land use.</li> </ul> <p>Pages A-48 and A-49: North Foothills Habitat Conservation Area Natural Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A large, relatively unfragmented habitat block, including a mosaic of mixed grass prairie, woodlands, shrublands, and riparian habitats. Includes a variety of steep draws and flatter mesas. The management area includes many Colorado Natural Heritage Program-identified sensitive plant communities... rare plants ... rare butterflies ... important habitat for ground-nesting birds, ... a major raptor use area ... rattlesnake hibernaculum. Protection of this habitat ...critical to allow reproduction.</li> </ul> <p>Management Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undesignated trails, if they continue to develop, will significantly degrade and fragment the habitat.</li> <li>• The steep draws, rocky hillsides, and shale barrens have highly erodable soils that are not suitable to sustainable trail construction and use.</li> </ul> <p>Recommended Management Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminate undesignated trails in the West Beech and Palisades areas.</li> </ul> <p>**GRASSLAND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT PLAN (Council approved 2010) Defines "best opportunity area" at some length based on habitat size, quality of vegetation, etc. ... and spells out management strategies that should be used to sustain and improve those areas. Notes habitat quality in the North TSA relative to the entire OSMP System: p.127 - 129/424 Schneider Draw, a riparian drainage in the North TSA, west of Hwy 36 ... one of the two best opportunities to conserve riparian habitat on OSMP-managed lands." p.113-114 and 116/424 the HCA west of Hwy 36 is one of two large "best opportunity" areas in the OSMP system for conservation of Upland Grassland Complex.</p> <p>Compiled by Karen Hollweg</p>
<b>Email Authors</b>	<p>Ray Bridge, PLAN-Boulder County, Board Co-Chair Allyn Feinberg, PLAN-Boulder County, Board Co-Chair Pat Billig, PLAN-Boulder County, Board Environment Lead</p>
<b>No Staff Response</b>	<p>Email sent to City Council</p>
<b>Email Date</b>	<p>6/4/2016</p>

<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear Boulder City Council:</p> <p>I would like to express my opposition to proposals to build the North Sky Trail on the west side of Highway 36 through the Habitat Conservation Area (HCA). The trail would do significant ecological damage to a fragile and unique habitat. I understand visitors' desire to enjoy the land and to be able to recreate on their preferred landscape, but in this case the cost is just too high.</p> <p>The alternative – constructing the connector trail on the east of the highway – is indeed more expensive and does not provide the lovely views and the sense of travel through a special wild area. However, this is a tradeoff we should accept to preserve something really special.</p> <p>As envisioned, the trail will act as a point of entry for noxious weeds to enter the heart of the rare plant community. Recreationists will carry weed seeds in on their boots, bike tires and dogs' fur. Once established along the trail margins, the weeds will spread outward and invade the shale plant community</p> <p>With so many tempting drainages to explore, visitors will use the North Sky Trail as a trunk to create a network of social trails into the hills. You know as well as I do that the "on trail" regulations of a Habitat Conservation Area will make no difference.</p> <p>The soft clay-based soils of the North Sky Trail will become muddy and unpleasant for bikers, runners and hikers. To avoid the mud, recreationists will leave the trail tread and create an every-widening braided trail through the rare plant community This pattern is clearly established all over the open space system wherever there are clay-based soils, and it will be no different here. And the weeds will quickly take advantage of the disturbed ground. The area is a haven for ground-nesting grassland birds, which taken together are in the steepest decline of any North American bird group. Research on Open Space has shown that many ground-nesters are clearly impacted by trail edge effects and are driven to nest up to 100 yards away from existing trails. Add to this the future proliferation of social trails radiating out from the designated trail, and you will see that the North Sky trail will compromise the habitat for these vanishing birds.</p> <p>I urge you to carefully consider the location of the connector trail to Joder Ranch. The Habitat Conservation Area to the west of the highway is beautiful...and irreplaceable. Constructing a trail through it will result in irreversible ecological damage.</p> <p>Those who will suffer for our selfishness are small and easily-overlooked, and unfortunately are rapidly disappearing from our landscape: scraggly plants, nondescript little birds, little brown reptiles. But as the custodians of this land, we owe them something better. If we just ignore them, they will all go away.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Dave Sutherland, I am writing this letter as a private citizen and resident of Boulder.
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/4/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear Council,</p> <p>When I moved to Boulder County over 40 years ago, I believe there existed a greater awareness and commitment to protecting land and its flora &amp; fauna than we see today. It truly was valued for what it was and not its recreational potential.</p> <p>We do not need a new trail through a Critical Wildlife Habitat. This is not part of Boulder or Boulder County conservation philosophy or standards.</p> <p>Our population continues to grow at an alarming rate. In addition to Boulder County's citizens, the greater metro citizens want to use our open space. We need to protect our land for its own sake.</p> <p>For too long we have given in to the more aggressive recreationalists.</p> <p>Let's place the trail east of US 36.</p>

<b>Email Author</b>	Todd Van Dyke
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/4/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear Boulder Council Members,  The Colorado Native Plant Society would like to submit comment on your impending decision of the North Trail Study Project.  Our comments are attached to this email.  Thank you for your interest.  Dear Boulder City Council:  We are writing this letter in support of the east-side alignment of the connector trail as proposed in the North Trail Study Project (North TSA). The Colorado Native Plant Society is concerned that critical native plant communities and the wildlife they support will be at extreme risk if the west-side alignment is approved.</p> <p>The Colorado Native Plant Society (CoNPS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to furthering the knowledge, appreciation, and conservation of Colorado native plants and their habitats. We have a local membership of 200 individuals and over 900 members statewide. Our year round programs are open to all and through education; stewardship and advocacy reach wildflower enthusiasts to professional botanists enriching their outdoor experience and respect for the natural world.</p> <p>Our objection to the west-side alignment of any trail is that it bisects the North Foothills Habitat Conservation Area (HCA). It is one of the few remaining un-fragmented land parcels of the OSMP system providing an intact, continuous habitat that has some of the last mixed grass prairies along the Front Range. As such this community is home to many rare and imperiled native plant species that can only grow in the limestone and shale formations in Boulder and Larimer counties.  Disrupting the established environmental balance that this HCA provides with any level of construction will only invite invasive plant species that typically replace the native plants; often permanently.</p> <p>CoNPS members report that invasive jointed goat grass has already invaded the current "social" trail on this HCA. Changing this "social" trail to an established trail and adding the expected high level of recreational use will only exacerbate the impact of invasive plants....</p> <p>We ask that the City Council maintain the North Foothills Habitat Conservation Area and approve the east-side alignment of the connector trail. Sacrificing this priceless resource for recreation purposes does not meet the measure of Boulder's long standing commitment to respecting the natural environment.</p> <p>If immediate approval of an east-side trail is not possible, we ask that the City Council delay their decision on the west-side trail in order to gather more information about the exact size and location of the trail so that there is minimal impact to the surrounding habitat. The North Foothills HCA is a critical refuge for native plants and the animals they support ; once disturbed any damage will be very hard and expensive to undo.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Mo Ewing Conservation Chair Colorado Native Plant Society

<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/4/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	I am writing to voice my support for the the North Sky Trail and the entire NTSA plan as approved by the Open Space Board of Trustees. This would be a wonderful addition for cyclists from all over, not to mention adding a MUCH safer route for cyclists. I began cycling 3 years ago and one of the main things that deters me from really embracing the sport is the lack of safe riding routes. The 36 N of Boulder is incredibly busy with cars moving at a really high rate of speed. This year alone 2 people have been hit by cars on that stretch. Providing trail options in safer areas & providing access to the beautiful lands surrounding Boulder is the right thing to do.
<b>Email Author</b>	Nikki Larsen
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/4/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Hello. Thank you for serving on our council.</p> <p>I write to request that the new trail be built away from the sensitive area that is on the west side of Hwy 36. Continuing Boulder's amazing respect for nature.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Judy O'Neill
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/4/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>I oppose building a multi-use trail on the west side of Highway 36 north of Boulder. Habitat Conservation Areas are more important than ever at a time when Boulder's growing population presses for ever more recreational land. But it is just that demand for increased human use of conservation areas that must be resisted.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The proposed trail will cross at least 11 riparian drainages that are important for wildlife in the area. The area is home to some of the last native grasslands, and several threatened plants and species. Trails will introduce invasive plants and weeds that, unlike our native grasses, provide poor habitat and poor carbon sequestration (important for abating climate change). Each loss of conserved habitat stress native flora and fauna, risking our diverse, sustainable environment. And there are lots and lots of rattlesnakes west of 36, making it less than ideal for kids and dogs.</li> <li>2. The construction of at least one 100-foot-long and 6-foot-wide steel bridge, a 6-foot-wide trail, and numerous switchbacks will permanently alter the iconic views of this highly visible open space property. The trail will not simply follow an existing footpath along an old railroad grade because the footpath is only a few feet wide where it exists at all, and hardly visible.</li> </ol> <p>A proposed alignment east of the highway will still provide the link to other mountain biking trails the rec groups affiliated with Open Boulder want, but without the harmful environmental and aesthetic impacts.</p> <p>Open space, and HCAs specifically, create the responsible, respectful, uniquely wild city that is Boulder. Please use the grit that is needed to protect it.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Wyncia Clute
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/4/2016

<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear Council Members,</p> <p>I probably have more questions than comments about this issue, but feel compelled to weigh in based upon the knowledge that I have, the bulk of which comes from the newspaper. I am a recreational trail user primarily for dog-walking and also engaged in mountain biking in the past when my physical condition was better. I understand how the scenic landscape enhances that experience. I also recall the long and contentious process to determine the HCAs which included some compromise among the various interest groups. I believe that effort should be respected especially when there is an alternative that avoids them. It is difficult to go back if it is determined in the future that the HCA is being compromised.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Dan Corson
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/4/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>The following words I have copied from a friend who notified me of the issue, but I would like to say that they highly resonate with me, so please don't put lesser value on it because they are a copy and paste.</p> <p>Thank you for your service.</p> <p>I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed new multi-use trail on the west side of Highway 36 north of Boulder through the Habitat Conservation Area, for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It will require the construction of at least one 100-foot-long and 6-foot-wide steel bridge, a 6-foot-wide trail, and numerous switchbacks, which will permanently alter the iconic views of this highly visible open space property.</li> <li>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 where it exists at all, and hardly visible. The new trail would be much wider and be an eyesore.</li> <li>3. The proposed trail will cross at least 11 riparian drainages that are important for wildlife in the area. The area is home to some of the last native grasslands, and several threatened plants and species. Trails will introduce invasive plants and weeds that, unlike our native grasses, provide poor habitat and poor carbon sequestration (important for abating climate change).</li> <li>4. The proposed alignment east of the highway will still provide the link that the rec groups affiliated with Open Boulder want to other mountain biking trails, without the harmful environmental and aesthetic impacts. Please stand up to the pressure from special groups that do not represent the majority of those who care about our Open Space.</li> </ol>
<b>Email Author</b>	Corrina Nedell
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/4/2016

<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear Council Members,</p> <p>Thank you for the time and energy devoted to studying the issues around the significant decisions with respect to the NTSA.</p> <p>We all have witnessed the spread of invasive weeds and loss of bird and animal species when the trails are built. The North Foothills Conservation Area is exceptionally vulnerable as a critical wildlife habitat area. Building a trail in this area will significantly impact the whole ecosystem. Birds, plants, butterflies and many larger mammals will all be adversely affected. It is an example of one of the last xeric tallgrass prairies in the whole Great Plains! We have the opportunity to protect a rare environmental treasure.</p> <p>There are policies in place to conserve these valuable habitat areas. Please protect this area by supporting the East side connector trail.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Maureen and Dan Lawry
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/3/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Please consider locating the north trail on the east side of highway 36 because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-the destruction caused by mountain bikes on either side will never be mitigated and if on the west side, the destruction of flora and fauna plus disruption of wildlife can never be repaired</li> <li>-use of an underpass cannot seriously hinder the enjoyment of bicyclists or walkers compared to the benefit to the environment, landscape and wildlife</li> <li>-the joys of an "epic mountain bike ride" (see daily Camera guest commentary page 9A June 3, 2016) from Boulder to Lyons on one continuous trail are transitory, that bicyclist will not remember that "epic ride" in a year; however the destruction he causes will remain forever</li> <li>-only mountain bikes will use the trail as it is dirt and gravel; these bikes do far more damage than road bikes</li> <li>-the goal of mountain biking is thrills and speed, bumps and sharp turns, all of which will tear up the trail and scare away all hikers as is evidenced by the trail from Walker ranch to Boulder creek</li> <li>- this trail is not a connector trail for commuters which would make their use of bikes instead of cars easier or faster; it is a recreational trail over which the Council has more discretion to think more broadly of the long term implications</li> </ul> <p>I implore you to decide in favor of the east side location for this trail. Such a decision will preserve a bit more of the rapidly dwindling natural landscape around us. Thank you for your attention.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Midge Korczak
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/3/2016

<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear Council,</p> <p>I live on Nebo Road, just across highway 36 from Joder Ranch. I am close to the proposed action and I don't even mountain bike. If the studies have shown the environmental impact is negligible, I support adding this trail which will provide an amazing experience of nature.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Dan Yechout
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/3/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear City Council:</p> <p>I am writing in support of a recreational trail east of 36 in North Boulder. I am persuaded by numerous articles, maps, histories and discussions that the matter is important. Apparently, the proposed West trail bifurcates fragile habitat. The cost of recreational biking to native species--including the globally endangered globe wren and five types of butterflies--would be severe.</p> <p>According to the city charter, one of the functions of green space is to preserve critical habitat and species diversity. The proposed West trail runs right through an environmental ark.</p> <p>Please support a trail on the East side of 36. Bikers can still ride safely to Joder Ranch, while the rights of nature can be respected.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Valerie Stoyva
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/3/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear Council Members -- I have lived in Boulder for almost 40 years 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 through the Habitat Conservation Area for the following reasons (whether such trail is open to hikers, bikers, or horses):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It will require the construction of at least one steel bridge, approximately 100 feet long and 6-feet wide, a 6-foot-wide trail, and numerous switchbacks, which will permanently alter the iconic views of this highly visible open space property.</li> <li>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 eyesore.</li> <li>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. Trails will introduce invasive plants and weeds that, unlike our native grasses, provide poor habitat and poor carbon sequestration (important for abating climate change).</li> <li>4. The proposed alignment east of the highway will still provide the link the rec groups affiliated with Open Boulder 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 that do not represent the majority of those who care about our Open Space.</li> </ol> <p>Thank you for your service.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Mark Holland

<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/3/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	Dear City Council,  Please support the east-side connector and habitat preservation. As humans, we have already taken away much of the prairie from its original inhabitants, and while our numbers and the focus on our own needs grows, theirs continues to dwindle. We need to preserve every piece of land we can to allow native species to thrive. Please do not support new recreational trails through the North Foothills Conservation Area (HCA).
<b>Email Author</b>	Genna Brocone
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/3/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	Council, I urge you to approve the development of the North Sky Trail. As a proponent of alternate forms of transportation and a resident of Lyons, CO it is exciting to imagine a commute to my north Boulder office exclusively via trail. Please do your part to enhance the trail system in Boulder County!
<b>Email Author</b>	Gary Gantzer
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/3/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	Dear Boulder City Council,  I live and work in Boulder, and I am an enthusiastic supporter of the North Sky Trail idea. One of the things I love most about our City is the amazing network of bike trails, paths, and lanes. I urge you to support the North Sky Trail and think it would help maintain Boulder as the bicycle-friendly, outdoor-friendly place that we want it to be!!  Thanks for listening.
<b>Email Author</b>	Blake Jones
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/3/2016

<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Council Members,</p> <p>I urge you to take the long view about maintaining remaining intact natural systems on Boulder Open Space, recognizing that a decision to place a trail along the foothills north of town would completely alter this fragile area. Our planning process has worked hard to balance our interests in maintaining intact natural systems and enabling increased use of open space for recreational uses. Sometimes these interests are in opposition. We look for ways to provide as many benefits from our special open spaces as possible. Here, fortunately, there is a way we can meet our growing recreational interests while also protecting, not impairing, our special places. If we foster recreational uses on the east side of the highway we can add a much desired linkage to places to the north while also holding onto an area and its special values that would otherwise be permanently impaired.</p> <p>As a former Open Space Trustee I remember Jim Crane taking us on a tour of the very area that is now in contention. Even then, some 14 or 15 years ago, the staff knew this dispute was coming. There was no need for any actions then but I was strongly impressed by unusual biology, geology, and hydrology of this area. I could also see the attraction for there to be a trail that would provide improved access to this relatively little used area. Now we are facing that very decision. In the meantime mountain biking has become a much greater use of open space. Now the pressure comes primarily from bike users who would prefer this more scenic trail to one on the east side. I understand that preference. But when the consequences for another highly valued purpose of open space would be so great it seems like we need to ask the mountain bikers to accept what would be a greatly improved means of getting north into the unincorporated county and support the importance of protecting the foothills ecosystem.</p> <p>I am relying on your responsibility as a council member to act as a steward of our open spaces and to choose the option that reasonably meets legitimate recreational interests while also keeping intact the unusual and fragile life that exists in this portion of the north TSA.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Larry MacDonnell
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/3/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear Council,</p> <p>I am writing to express my support for constructing the North Boulder connector trail on the east side of Highway 36. The cost would be considerably less than building the trail on the west side of 36. Also, very importantly, habitats of a number of endangered species within 50 feet on either side of a trail on the west side of 36 would be ruined. It seems to me that the objectives of having a connector trail in North Boulder could be more than adequately provided for by constructing it on the east rather than west side of 36, and with no negative impact on our precious environment.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Johanna Stoyva
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/3/2016

<p><b>Email Detail</b></p>	<p>Council Members: On behalf of Open Boulder’s 3,000 supporters and followers, as well as the nearly 1,600 people who have signed our NTSA petition (lots of overlap between those two groups, of course!) we’d like to make our final pitch for you to support the Board of Trustees’ plan for the North TSA.</p> <p>As we’ve mentioned to you before, Open Boulder took on the task of organizing the passive recreational community (hikers, runners, bikers, dog enthusiasts, equestrians, climbers, and others) into a cohesive coalition more than a year ago. We did that with more a hope than an expectation that the process this time around would be more welcoming to public input than the (somewhat notorious) West TSA. Nine months later, when OSBT finally made their recommendations, those hopes had been more than met. The process was professional, objective, fair, and open. Credit for that goes not only to OSBT members, but OSMP staff and their new leadership as well.</p> <p>At this juncture, we and our members and supporters feel the process should be respected, with minor changes only made to the basic compromise cut by the Trustees. It is Open Boulder’s founding vision to turn more Boulder residents on to participating in their municipal government. And hundreds of them did through the NTSA. To us, a decision to reverse the results of that process would be a major setback in achieving our vision.</p> <p>We don’t want this to become a purely process argument, however. The plan recommended by OSBT is smart, balanced, and includes one of the most exciting new trail opportunities in the Boulder system in years: The North Sky Trail. That trail, if completed on the West side of the highway as OSBT recommended, would fill one of the primary holes in the long-sought Boulder-to-Lyons trail. It would allow our residents to enjoy the whole network of trails farther North without having to get into a car and parking. Respectfully, we argue that the Eastern alignment is a very poor substitute: Two major highway crossings, a muddy, flat, unsustainable trail near a housing development. There is no comparison.</p> <p>All of us in our coalition are environmentalists (I worked as an environmental advocate for 17 years, and I’m not alone in our group). We have dived deeply into the possibility of building a sustainable trail on the Western alignment, and feel strongly that OSMP is capable of doing so with minimal damage to threatened resources. Careful placement, bridges over drainages, strict no-off-trail regulations, and more are built into the plan. We wouldn’t support it otherwise.</p> <p>All told, we hope you will listen hard on Tuesday – both sides will be out in force – and trust the judgment of the OSBT members, who put hundreds of hours into this. Thank you again for your service to our city!</p>
<p><b>Email Author</b></p>	<p>Andy Schultheiss</p>
<p><b>No Staff Response</b></p>	<p>Email sent to City Council</p>
<p><b>Email Date</b></p>	<p>6/3/2016</p>
<p><b>Email Detail</b></p>	<p>I want to let you know my support of the North Sky Trail. This is an example of what makes Boulder Great</p>
<p><b>Email Author</b></p>	<p>Cynthia Christensen</p>
<p><b>No Staff Response</b></p>	<p>Email sent to City Council</p>
<p><b>Email Date</b></p>	<p>6/2/2016</p>

<b>Email Detail</b>	To Boulder City Council -  I urge you to allow the passage of the North Sky Trail! History has shown that diverse trail users (including wildlife) can coexist to the enjoyment of all!
<b>Email Author</b>	Jason Ramus
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/2/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	Oh man, to have a trail to ride north that's not on a roadway would be A-MAZING! Think about it. My kids can't ride up old stage and there's no way I'm letting them ride on 36! A fun, safe, family friendly option for new biking trail heading north is just perfection.
<b>Email Author</b>	Lindsey sharp Robert sharp Lily sharp Wyatt sharp
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/2/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	Dear Council Members,  I live and work in North Boulder and strongly support the creation of the North Sky Trail. The lack of quality multi use trails in Boulder is frustrating and it would be great to have the ability to quickly access longer mt bike friendly trail resources without having to get in a car for a change.
<b>Email Author</b>	Heath Mackay
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/2/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	Dear City Council,  I am writing to urge you to please approve the proposed North Sky Trail. Mountain bikers in Boulder have limited local trail choices on which to ride. Building the North Sky Trail will offer bikers more terrain, cutting down on concentrated bike traffic on existing trails. Further it will cut down on automotive traffic, and reduce the risk of accidents as bikers will not have to drive the dangerous section of 36 to access trails north of Boulder.  Thank you!!
<b>Email Author</b>	Sabina Mackay
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/2/2016

<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>To whom it may concern - I am so excited about the possibility of the North Sky Trail happening. I am an avid mountain biker and live in Boulder. This trail would be an amazing experience for mountain bikers and hikers alike, and bring much needed connector trail to the North/Lyons area. If this were built, I know I would enjoy it often as well as many of my biking/hiking friends. I can only think this would also be great for tourism.</p> <p>I would be willing to help in building this trail if that is desired and needed. Thank you, I hope to speak at the council meeting this Tuesday. Would I be able to get on the list to say a few words in support of this great proposal?</p> <p>My name is Mark Quist, a new pastor in the area, living in Boulder, 80303.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Mark Quist
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/2/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	I would like to register my support of the proposed North Sky Trail.
<b>Email Author</b>	Dave DuPont
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/2/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear council members,</p> <p>Please hold to principles and guidelines established by prior unbiased study, and in this connection uphold the implications of the area resource inventory. I call on you to protect the natural values in the study area and support establishing the access trail on the east side of the highway. There would be trail resource for recreation, and the satisfaction that a sensitive area has been preserved. On my bike I would pause and gaze up with awe at a preserved landscape. It would have its natural calm and be without the charging and darting figures of bikers and dog walkers. That special view and understanding is good for all of us.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	George Coffee
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/2/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing in support of the North Sky Trail being proposed through the North TSA process. I live in North Boulder by Wonderland Lake and have always wondered if there might someday be a trail heading north on the west side of 36. So, I was pleased to hear that the North TSA planning process had come to a consensus which the Open Space Board of Trustees could support.</p> <p>My wife and I are hikers, runners and cyclist and use the Foothills trail nearly every day. The proposed North Sky Trail would extend the trail system to Joder Ranch (which we have already explored, although we drove there) making it possible to truly have a great trail experience in North Boulder without having to drop all the way down under 36 to the east and then have to hike back up to Joder Ranch to the west.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Gary Gomulinski
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council

<b>Email Date</b>	6/2/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	Please approve the North Sky Trail as part of the North TSA plan next Tuesday evening.
<b>Email Author</b>	Mark Bush
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/2/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	How is it possible that after spending much time from staff and citizen input to designate habitat conservation areas, that the council is even talking about ignoring this habitat designation to build a bike trail. Is habitat science and respect for existing designations valued, or is this government by popularity numbers?
<b>Email Author</b>	Elaine Hill
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/2/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Please approve the NTSA plan as recommended by OSMP Staff and the OSBT, including the so-called western alignment.</p> <p>I believe that this plan represents a compromise solution that will benefit both conservation and members of the Boulder community.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Rick White
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/2/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>We all owe Ruth Wright and Oakley Thorne III and the rest of their friends and supporters of Open Space our eternal gratitude for their hard work establishing and protecting Open Space, and I thank them for their recent Letter to the Editor. I understand their concern that we avoid destroying what we love, but I believe the best way for us to protect our Open Space legacy is to allow for the reasonable use and enjoyment of these treasured lands. A well-designed trail in North Boulder running along the west side of US 36 will provide the opportunity for all of us to get up close and personal with the incredible habitat and views that Ruth and Oakley describe. We need our kids to see rare butterflies, hear rattlesnakes, stand silent as a deer crosses the trail, and listen to the toads and crickets in the shady draws. We need for all of us, whether walking or biking, to have the ability to look out across the magnificent Great Plains as a hawk circles overhead. In my unscientific study of running along a trail this morning, I had many of these experiences, and I can't say any of these critters were too concerned about my presence so long as I was careful to stay on trail. A trail to the east of Highway 36 would be cut off from these personal interactions and would be similar to the miles of trails already in that area. A trail along the western foothills would be unique, a real motivation for all of us to get out on these incredible lands. How tragic it would be for our kids to only know our Open Space lands to the west from how they look from a car window as they tap away in the backseat on their I-Pads. In that case, we will have loved these lands but destroyed our own spirit.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	David Kirk
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/2/2016

<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear Council Members,</p> <p>I'm writing in support of keeping the North Sky Trail as was recommended by the Open Space Board of Trustees. As a long time resident and hiker and mountain biker there is a myth that Boulder has tons of mountain biking trails. My friends and I typically ended up driving out of town to Jeffco and other counties to do rides because there are actually not that many mountain biking trails in Boulder and particularly ones that connect with other trails like the proposed North Sky Trail. If there is a conflict with hikers why not do what you've done before with Betasso with non biking days or what Jeffco does with places like Centennial Cone which alternates odd and even days for hikers/bikers. For the supposed "bike capital" of America, Boulder is very lacking in mountain biking trails and this new trail would be a great addition/connector. I urge you to support what your own Board has proposed and approve the North Sky Trail. Thanks you for your time.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Brad Gilbert
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/2/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Hi City Council,</p> <p>I'm writing to convey my strong support for mountain biking and hiking opportunities in the proposed North Sky Trail. This trail would connect Boulder to other proposed and existing trail systems north of town. There are many existential benefits to connecting trail systems that add value to the system as a whole and have clear benefits to all trail users:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Connected trails results in more cumulative miles of trail accessible without leaving the system.</li> <li>- Trail systems with more miles allow for greater dispersion of trail users throughout the system, which benefits the experience of individual trail users and is less disruptive to wildlife due to decreased density of people.</li> <li>- Connected trails offer more variation to how trails can be accessed, explored and creates a more immersive experience.</li> <li>- Connected trails help reduce demand for limited trail head parking by allowing more bike and foot access from our neighborhoods, existing bike paths, and city bus routes to trails, which would reduce driving trips.</li> </ul> <p>City of Boulder residents would also benefit by having additional mountain biking opportunities both in and from the City. Currently, there is too much reliance on recreation resources in neighboring counties for our mountain bike riding citizens.</p> <p>Thank you for accepting feedback on this exciting project!</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Matt Rissing
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/2/2016

<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear Council,</p> <p>Although I imagine that many of my friends are contacting you with a different opinion, I want to ask you to please support the west-side trail for the connector trail up to Joder Ranch. I see it as a matter of equity. Along the South and Central edges of Boulder, there are many beautiful trails up into the mountain backdrop, with stunning views and lovely forests. Here up on the North side of town, almost all our trails are down on the flats, with only one trail up onto the escarpment behind town. That is the trail that heads north from Lee Hill and makes a loop up on the hogback. There is an informal loop trail up behind Wonderland Lake which may become a formal trail in the North TSA. But we need more. I so look forward to hiking a west side trail up to Joder, and enjoying the stunning views and varied ecology of the area. North-Boulder-ites are not any harder on wildlife or plants than South-Central-Boulder-ites. And if multiple trails in those areas can peacefully exist, then I think a west-side trail for North Boulder-ites will be just fine too.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Elizabeth Black
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/2/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear City Counsel,</p> <p>As an active cyclist in the Boulder community, I'd very much like to see City Counsel endorse the implementation of the North Sky Trail. There continues to be a dearth of true single track mountain biking in Boulder country. Mountain bikers continue to be excluded from Betasso on Wednesdays and Saturdays. And for this summer, Chapman road is closed all the way to November! This gives us bikers VERY few options, or we have to get in our cars and tote our bikes to far off trail heads that is not very desirable either.</p> <p>Please help alleviate this situation and for yes for the North Sky Trail expansion!</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Mike Devery
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/2/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>City Council Members,</p> <p>Like many, many of my fellow Boulderites, I love the Open Space system. I regularly hike in Open Space parks and occasionally bike in them, and I appreciate all the great work that Boulder has done in managing the Open Spaces. However, I am appalled that the Open Space Board of Trustees is recommending a new trail in the ecologically sensitive West Beech grassland west of Highway 36, and I urge you to reconsider their recommendation. The recommendation seems to have been driven largely by the vociferous interest (and paid lobbyists) of the mountain biking community, while Open Space staff have opposed the new trail. I recognize that there are always competing interests among different users of public lands, and I think everyone's voices should be heard in these discussions. For that reason, I urge you as elected officials representing the collective interests of the larger Boulder community to talk with a broad cross section of your constituents about this issue. You will find many who know nothing of the proposed new trail (and wouldn't support it if they did) and, I suspect, a majority who do not support it. There is already a great trail on the east side of Highway 36 connecting the north end of town and Joder Ranch (via Boulder Valley Ranch), and building another trail -- one that not only negatively impacts the conservation area, but also would be an expensive and unnecessary use of our collective tax dollars -- seems like a very poor choice. Please respect the Habitat Conservation Area, Open Space staff, and your larger constituencies and say NO to building a new, expensive, and unnecessary trail.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Stephanie Fitchett
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council

<b>Email Date</b>	6/2/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Council Members:</p> <p>I cannot make it to the upcoming meeting on Tuesday, but I would like to voice my strong approval for the North Sky Trail project. I believe this is a fabulous use of our taxpayer dollars, and is also a balanced use of the open space property that we all own. I live in this area, and it will provide a tremendous recreational use asset for all, while preserving the space as is for future generations. I urge you to approve the proposed plan.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Mark Lupa
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/1/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	It looks like a no-brainer to run the trails on the East side of 36.
<b>Email Author</b>	<p>Jeff Carter</p> <p>Active Open Space Advocate</p>
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/1/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear Council Members,</p> <p>As a long time North Boulder resident currently living in the Holiday Neighborhood, I have followed with interest the process discussions and opinions on the location and design for the trail from Wonderland Lake to the Joder Ranch Open Space.</p> <p>In my lifetime I have been fortunate to have witnessed and experienced the creation and evolution of our Boulder trail system and really appreciate the social as well as environmental advantages that it creates for our city.</p> <p>I feel that the process that has led to the balanced recommendations for the North Sky Trail was well handled and the trail should be approved as recommended. I am looking forward to hiking, with due awe and respect for the natural environment, this great addition to the Boulder trail network.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Jim Leach
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/1/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Hi Steve (sorry, my original msg to you bounced, so I'm sending it again--I'm having trouble with the city's email server.),</p> <p>Under the heading of "What's in a Name?" I offer the following:</p> <p>During the May 24 hearing, I was struck by the absurdity of not having a suitable name for the "Alternative Trail." What do you think of "Earth and Sky Trail" for the east side of U.S. 36? Has any other name been suggested? I saw "East Side Route" in one place in the agenda for May 24, but that is almost as drab as Alternative Trail.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Mary C. Eberle

<b>Staff Response</b>	<p>Hi Mary,</p> <p>I'm sorry your first email didn't get through to me. Thanks for following up to make sure you did get your question through to me.</p> <p>You are correct that there haven't been any names applied to the alternative trail connection to the Joder property from what is being considered with the draft plan. We only provided names to new trails that were recommended in the draft plan. It does make talking about the trail option easier when they have names, but staff was concerned about creating confusion about what is included in the draft plan versus the alternative ideas and thus only named draft plan items. Should we need a name for the east side alternative, your suggested name will go into the hat for consideration.</p> <p>Thanks</p> <p>Steve</p>
<b>Email Date</b>	6/1/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	Please approve the NTSA plan as recommended by OSMP Staff and the OSBT, including the so-called western alignment.
<b>Email Author</b>	Sasha Milhous
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/1/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Please approve the NTSA plan as recommended by OSMP Staff and the OSBT, including the so-called western alignment.</p> <p>Thanks for the consideration,</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Kelly Spear
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/1/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear Council members,</p> <p>I want you to know that I am very much in favor of the North Sky Trail that is under consideration soon. It seems very obvious that our city and county is a place where such amenities simply should happen, not much more to say about it.</p> <p>I urge you to vote in favor.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Duncan Scribner
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/1/2016

<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Ladies and Gentlemen: I strongly encourage you to approve the North Sky Trail proposal. It will enable the city's hikers and walkers to enjoy one of Boulder's most beautiful pieces of open space without the need to cross the highway. I have heard others complain that the extension would interfere with wildlife. I see this as highly doubtful and an argument usually proposed who want to ban access altogether.</p> <p>One point to consider: it is difficult to get voters to value something that they have never seen and do not understand what is being preserved. Allowing a trail through this property will enable the voters to see how important it is to preserve Boulder's open space in perpetuity.</p> <p>Do the right thing!</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Terry Gill
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/1/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	Please support the north sky trail at your city council meeting next Tuesday- it makes the most sense for the community. Thank you!
<b>Email Author</b>	Lynda Gibbons
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/1/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Council Members-</p> <p>I am writing for your consideration to vote FOR a shared and sustainable recreation plan for the North TSA. The proposed trail's impact on the environment appears minimal and I believe access for all trail users to enjoy this new connection will continue to foster a healthy, vibrant and environmentally friendly conscious community.</p> <p>The naysayers that continue to falsely propagate the notion that mountain biking is somehow anymore destructive than other activities could not be more wrong. Mountain bikers care about our environmental impacts just as much or even more than our fellow trail users. We are the ones who continually show up on trail work days and self-police our users to respect the environment.</p> <p>Adding additional trail that is accessible from town to mountain bikes will lessen our carbon footprint and allow families to have fun experiences together out on the trails.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Nick & Allison Lasure
<b>No Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/1/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>The proposal that states that a trail should be built that should bisect the Foothills Habitat Conservation Area should not be passed by City Council. There are a multitude of reasons why this should be vetoed and never thought of again. I am going into the summer from my freshmen year of high school. I volunteer copious amounts of hours volunteering for Wildlands Restoration Volunteers as an intern, crew leader, and project leader trying to restore areas like the one that this path would destroy. I also partner with City of Boulder Parks and Open Space (POS), and Boulder County Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP)</p>

and am a steward of the Peck Garden. I am very interested in protecting valuable land for the environment, and helping reduce CO2 levels in our atmosphere. I first heard about this proposal when I was planting native seeds in flats to grow out, and so they can be used in restoration work.

The main reason we should keep the large 1,000-acre land to itself is because of the native plants, shrubs, and flowers that thrive there. From my experience from talking to the Native Seed Project Manager of WRV, once native species are destroyed, it is very difficult to get them back again. Many of these native seeds are not available. If they are available, they cost lots of money to get the native seeds and often the seeds are not specific to our part of the country, and therefore, haven't adapted to our climate and land. This idea got me thinking. I asked, 'so if we take all the beautiful plants out, it will probably affect the ecosystem and the animals in it.'

So, besides affecting all the native scarce plants that are found on this property, all the animals are affected as well. The plants have adapted to this area, and so have the animals that eat them. This unbalances the equilibrium of their worlds, as well as forcing both the animals and plant to be displaced somewhere else. This creates a massive dilemma. As it says in 'Defend our Local Wildlife', only 25% of our land is used for Habitat Conservation Areas. It states that these Conservation area serve as a "crucial refuge and safety net for Boulder's native plants and animals." (Patricia Billig) The land is good for nesting, and even the native butterflies are dependent of that land.

For me, the natural beauty of Boulder makes it so special and unique and unlike any other city I have been to. Having pristine places where life thrives is pretty special. I, too, like to walk or bike in areas where I am surrounded by beautiful scenery and stunning wildflowers, we have so many beautiful bike paths already. Although less convenient for bikers, hikers and all the people who want this trail, I don't want to see another paved path that once used to be a thriving ecosystem that should have been left alone in the first place. The east-side connector in the NTSA is a great way to get around, and we don't need to spend our energy to something that will absorb natural beauty in that area.

Making this trail will also cost the city money and time that shouldn't be spent. To build bridges and unstable slopes involves a lot of labor, time, and money. Once you create a path, it is very hard to restore the area around it. The logistics don't even make sense.

In conclusion, this wonderful ecosystem should not be touched due to destroying plants and animal's lives, as well as costing the city lots of money. There are plenty of bike paths and now a popular route for anyone who wants to get to the Joder property. We should keep a balance on valued land and consider the needs of people, however this proposal, if passed, will make people a little happy, but the animals and plants will be hurting more than the success in fulfilling the needs of the people. I do not agree with this proposal and neither should you. The facts are there, and yet this doesn't make sense for the people of Boulder or any of the native ecosystems.

<b>Email Author</b>	Lauren Courtman
<b>Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/1/2016

<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Dear Council Members,</p> <p>I write to urge your approval of the North Sky Trail as part of the NTSA plan. As a resident (1730 Dogwood Lane), business owner (CanopyBoulder), and job creator in Boulder, it is clear that the residents of Boulder need more trail access that balance the needs of conservation and recreation.</p> <p>I believe the NTSA plan achieves this. Please support your tax-paying and city-council-member-voting residents who love to enjoy the outdoors in a responsible fashion an vote to approve the NTSA plan.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Patrick Rea
<b>Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/1/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Please approve the NTSA plan as recommended by OSMP Staff and the OSBT, including the so-called western alignment.</p> <p>Dear City Council,</p> <p>I may be out of town the night of the June 6 hearing but I would like to express my fervent opposition to mountain biking through north boulder open space. There are no do overs in nature. Once it is gone it is gone forever. The visionaries who preserved open space and created the Boulder we know and love did not intend for it to be abused in this way. Please, please do not give into the pressure of mountain bikers who want to turn our backyard into their personal and highly destructive playground.</p> <p>Please represent more than the loud and increasingly financially powerful of a small recreational lobby. Don't even represent me, but consider your obligation as stewards of the land. The nature that blesses us and defines us as a community cannot testify at a hearing. Its voice is a whisper, a gentle breeze deserving of our utmost care. Listen!</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Eve Rose
<b>Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council
<b>Email Date</b>	6/1/2016
<b>Email Detail</b>	<p>Please do not harm the natural beauty of the trails to the west of Broadway, whether north or south of the downtown.</p> <p>We live in the south part of Boulder but will be out of town at the time of the meeting. We support the positions of the Boulder County Nature Association and the Boulder Audubon....keep the mountain bikes to the East and protect older hikers (senior citizens like us) and all the natural beauty of the western part of our county.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
<b>Email Author</b>	Luize Zubrow and Bing Leverich
<b>Staff Response</b>	Email sent to City Council