



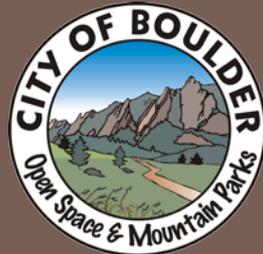
City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

North Trail Study Area Plan

North TSA Plan

BOULDER CITY COUNCIL

JUNE 7, 2016



North Trail Study Area Plan

GOALS: Improve Visitor Experiences

Increase Sustainability

Trails

Trailheads

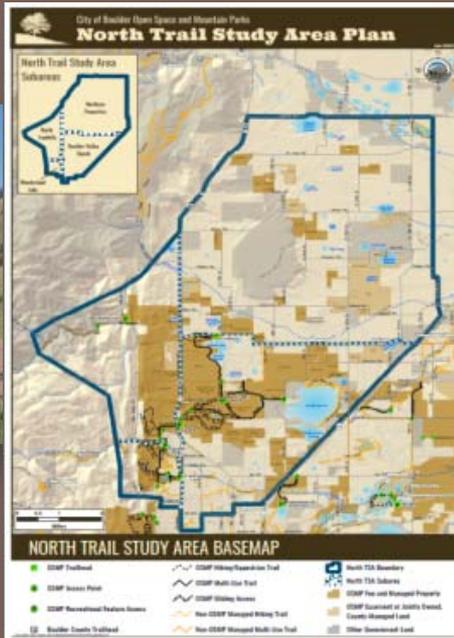
Other Visitor Infrastructure

Conserve Resources

Natural

Cultural

Agricultural



City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks
North Trail Study Area Plan

PLANNING PROCESS

Phase 1 Inventory and Assessment

PURPOSE: Share knowledge of the current conditions of recreational, natural, cultural and agricultural resources.
RESULTS: Inventory and Assessment Report.

- KEY INPUTS:**
- Community knowledge of visitor experiences, resources, what is functioning well in the North TSA and what needs improvement.
 - Staff-prepared information on recreational, natural, cultural and agricultural resources.

Phase 2 Interests and Issues

*An interest is the WHY behind the WHAT.
 An issue is WHAT may need to be changed.*

PURPOSE: Share knowledge about desired outcomes and topics that will guide the development and assessment of alternative scenarios and recommendations for the draft plan.

- RESULTS:** Desired actions for consideration in scenario development.
- KEY INPUTS:**
- Community interests about desired plan outcomes and why the outcomes are wanted.
 - Discussion of issues that could pose a challenge in the North TSA.
 - Community dialogue about what is learned and can be implemented in the North TSA and why.

Phase 3 Draft Plan Development

A scenario is a set of potential actions that addresses interests and issues.

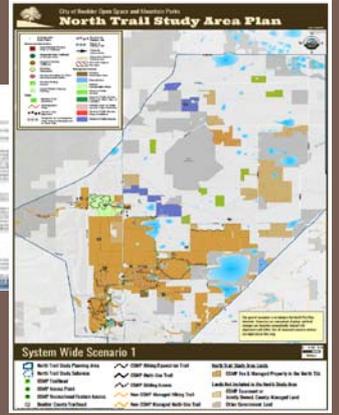
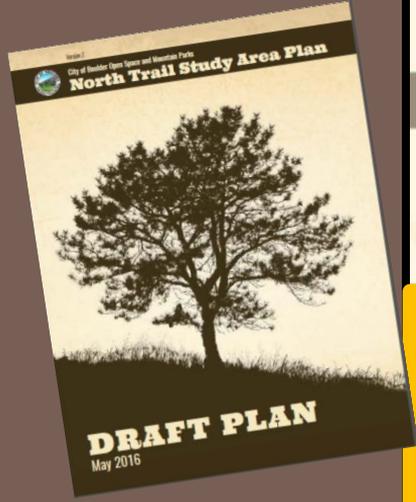
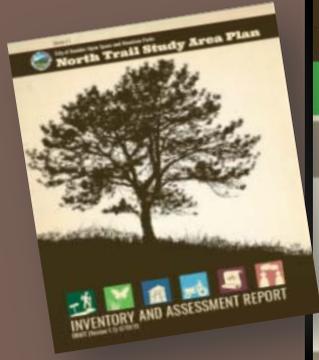
PURPOSE: Assess alternative scenarios and integrate preferred recommendations into a draft plan.

- RESULTS:** Preferred scenarios compiled into a draft plan.
- KEY INPUTS:**
- Draft alternative scenarios developed by staff to achieve identified interests and objectives.
 - Community feedback on draft scenarios to inform preferred scenarios and recommendations.

Phase 4 Plan Acceptance

PURPOSE: Review draft plan and approve final plan.

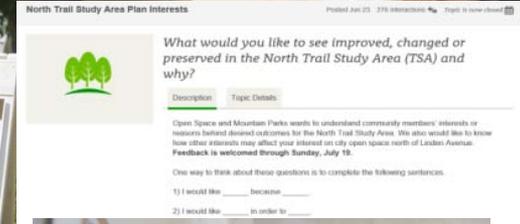
- RESULTS:** Final North Trail Study Area Plan.
- KEY INPUTS:**
- Community review.
 - Open Space Board of Trustees review and approval.
 - City Council review and acceptance.





High Level of Community Engagement

- Nine Community workshops
- Online feedback and on-site
- Partner agencies
- Youth (Growing Up Boulder)
- OSBT participated in every step



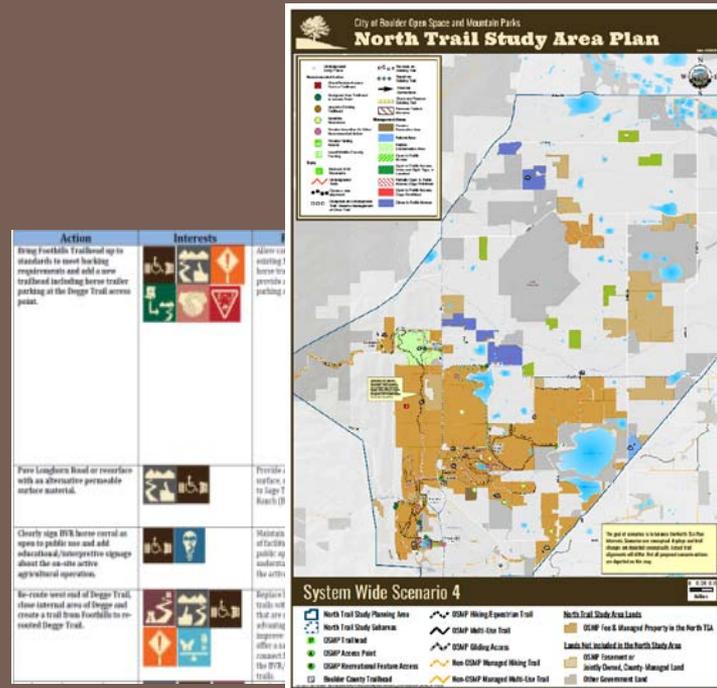
Community-shaped plan



Scenarios: *Conceptual vision of a set of actions that balance interests*

Developing North TSA vision through refining scenarios

- Four Preliminary scenarios
- Two Refined scenarios
- Revised both scenarios
- Draft plan based on preferred scenario



Converging Ideas that Balance Community Interests

Recommendations in draft plan and alternative scenario:

- Retain the Joder Ranch Trail
- Single Joder loop (Mahogany Loop)
- Redesign Boulder Valley Ranch (BVR) trails
- Antler Loop (Wonderland Hill loop trail)
- Wrangler Trail



Continuous Improvement

Applying what we've learned:

- Seasonal visitor access closures and restrictions
- Creating new trail connections to successfully reclaim undesignated trails
- Parallel single track trail (Sage and Eagle loop)



Continuous Improvement

Creative ideas and approaches:

- Voice and Sight on Corridor (off trail dogs on leash)
- Not allowing off-trail permits in most of the HCA
- Directional and temporal requirements for bikes
- Conservation-oriented trail design for North Sky Trail (bike dismount trail sections)



Directional Travel

Bicyclists are required to ride in one direction only (uphill/west) on odd-numbered calendar days. Please see posted signs.



Challenge of Balancing Community Interests

Determining a trail connection to the Joder property

North Sky Trail



Alternative Scenario



Study Session Follow Up Topics

- Rocky Mountain Greenway
- Highway 36 underpass
- Visitor Master Plan guidance on trails in HCAs
- Maintenance of Joder Connector alternatives
- Area III Planning Reserve

Rocky Mountain Greenway and the North TSA

- Support locally-driven projects and existing trails
- Section from Boulder to Lyons pending outcomes of North TSA
- Generally family-friendly trails
- North TSA Plan provides connection options



Highway 36 Underpass

- Not in Draft Plan
- Included in alternative scenario with the east route
- Additional costs, resource impacts and marginal benefit if included in the draft plan
- Uncertainty of partners for potential cost sharing



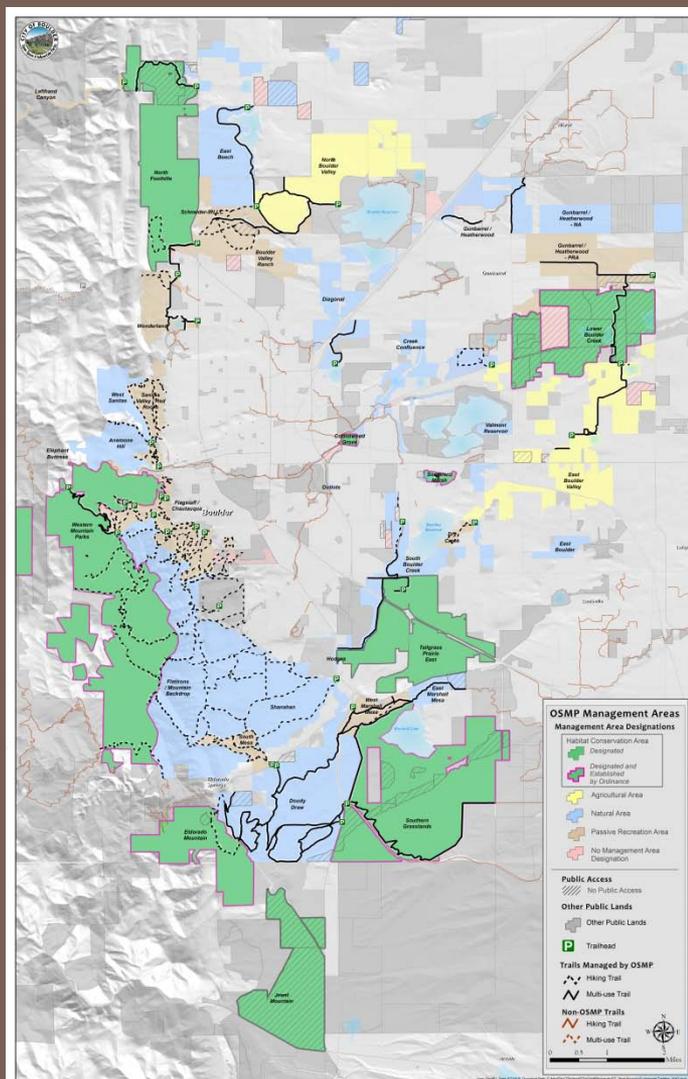
Co. Hwy 93 underpass at Community Ditch Trail

HCA Guidance for Trails

- Visitor Master Plan (VMP) framework with defining characteristics and goals
- Strategies for management area designations

"Minimize new trails and trail density; locate new trails to minimize impacts on habitat quality."

"Design and construct trails and other facilities to sustain a low level of visitor use."



HCA Guidance for Trails

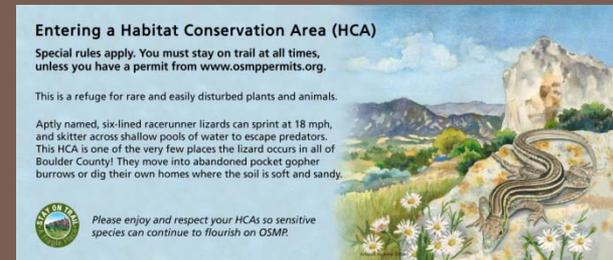
The VMP anticipated the need for flexibility

Introductory statement:

"...strategies normally applied in specific management area designations. (That does not preclude localized application in any of the management areas where needed.)"

Provide higher levels of protection in areas with greatest vulnerability

- Draft plan includes protective strategies



Joder Connection Trail Maintenance Cost Factors

- Trails require maintenance and repair even with sustainable trail design and engineering.
- In areas of less sustainable soils and slopes, design and construction practices can help minimize erosion and frequency of repairs.



Access Point near Area III Planning Reserve

Factors to be considered:

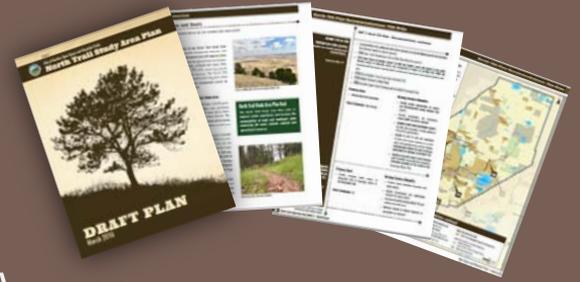
- Terrain
- Natural Resources
- Visitor Experience



Implementing the North TSA Plan

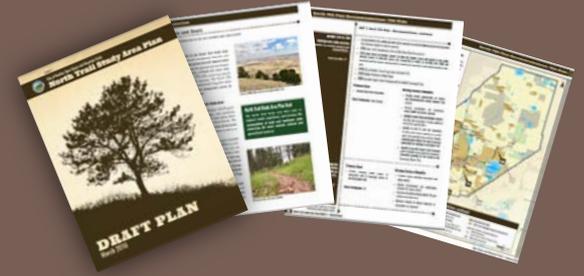
Draft Plan includes many positive enhancements to the visitor experience and resources of the North TSA.

- ✓ 8 New Trails
- ✓ 7 Rerouted Trails
- ✓ 23 Miles of Undesignated Trails Reclaimed
- ✓ 5 Miles Integrated into North TSA Trails



Implementing the North TSA Plan

- ✓ Additional trails with Voice and Sight control
- ✓ A new trail where dogs are prohibited
- ✓ Additional trails accessible to bikes
- ✓ All trails open to equestrians with one exception



Implementing the North TSA Plan

Projects that coincide with flood repairs and implementing the West TSA

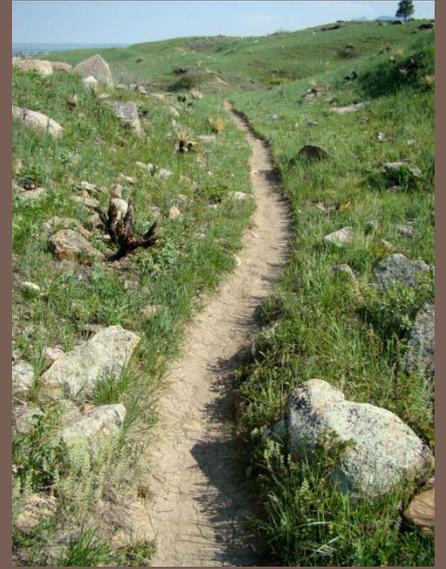
- Reclaim the flood damaged section of Old Kiln Trail
- Design and build the Shale Trail
- ADA access improvements and bring trailheads up to standards
- Initial design and alignment field assessments for priority new trails



Implementing the North TSA Plan

Focus projects for 2018 – 2022

- North Sky Trail and restoration projects
- New Horseshoe Trailhead
- Mahogany Loop and the new Coyote Trailhead
- Begin work on redesign of the Boulder Valley Ranch trails



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Next Steps:

- Finalize the plan
- Return to City Council with HCA ordinance recommendation
- Return to OSBT with monitoring recommendations
- Prepare for implementation





City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

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Staff Recommendation:

Staff requests the Boulder City Council accept the North Trail Study Area Plan.





North Trail Study Area Plan

Questions?

