



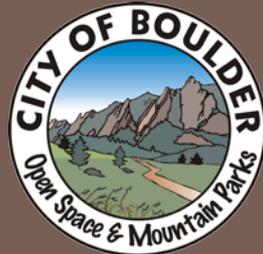
City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

North Trail Study Area Plan

North TSA Draft Plan Study Session

BOULDER CITY COUNCIL

MAY 24, 2016



North Trail Study Area Plan

GOALS

Improve Visitor Experiences

Increase Sustainability

Trails (19 miles)

Trailheads and

Other Visitor Infrastructure

Conserve Resources

Natural

Cultural and

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.

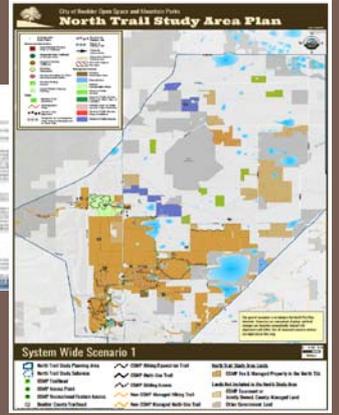
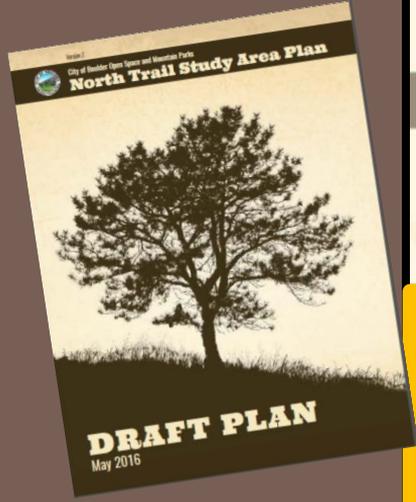
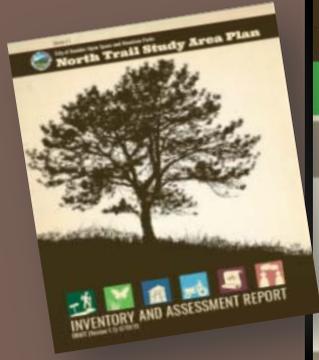
PURPOSE: Assess alternative scenarios and integrate preferred recommendations into a draft plan.

- 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

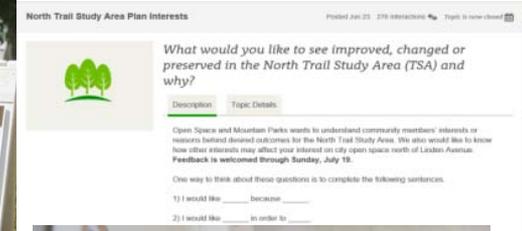
PURPOSE: Review draft plan and approve final plan.

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



Community Engagement

- Community Workshops - 9
- Online (Inspire Boulder / NTSA website)
- On-site
- Youth
- OSBT hosted process

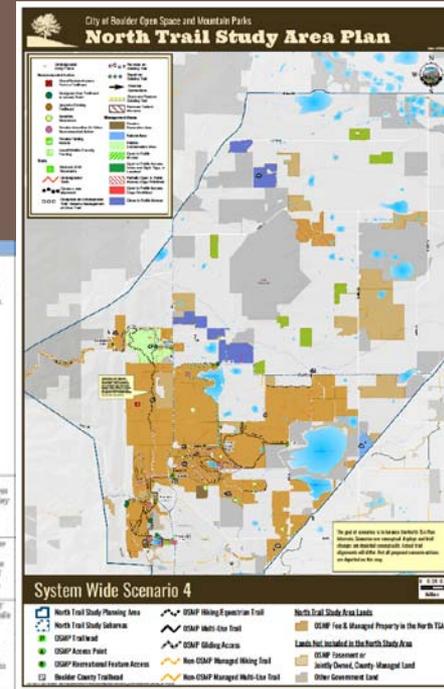


Scenarios: *Conceptual vision of a set of actions that balance interests*

Developing North TSA vision through refining scenarios

- Preliminary scenarios (4)
- Refined scenarios (2)
- Revised both scenarios

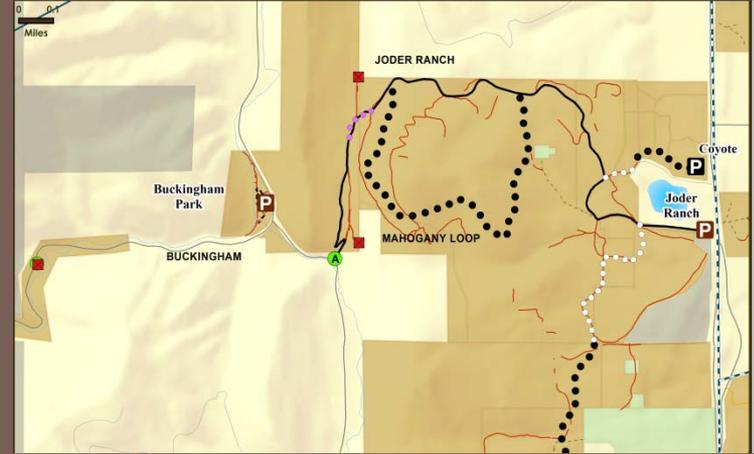
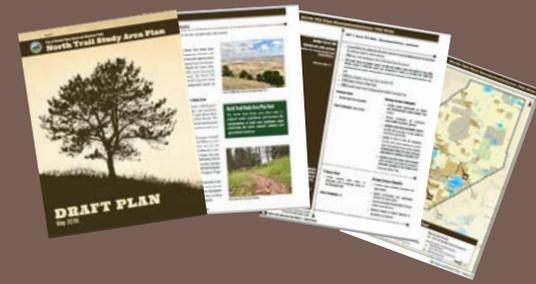
Action	Interests	Primary Goal
Bring Fourmile Trailhead up to standards to meet locking requirements and add a new trailhead including horse trailer parking at the Degge Trail access point.		Allow users to safely lock up at existing Fourmile Trailhead, add horse trailer parking access and provide additional facilities and parking access to benefit visitors.
Provide Longhorn Road or resurface with an alternative permeable surface material.		Provide a more sustainable surface, safer and improved access to Degge Trailhead at Boulder Valley Ranch (BVR).
Clearly sign H2K horse corral as open to public use and add educational/informative signage about the on-site active agricultural operation.		Maintain historical equestrian use of facilities by clearly marking public equestrian and increase understanding and awareness of the active agricultural operation.
Re-route west end of Degge Trail, close lateral area of Degge and create a trail from Fourmile to re-routed Degge Trail.		Replace high density, low-quality trails with lower, high-quality trails that are accessible and take advantage of the terrain to improve visitor experience and offer a safer way for visitors to connect from the Fourmile Trail to the H2K/News Reservoir area trails.



Draft Plan Recommendations

Improving the visitor experience

- Joder loop trail (Mahogany Loop)
- New trailheads and visitor amenities



Draft Plan Recommendations

Improving resource conservation

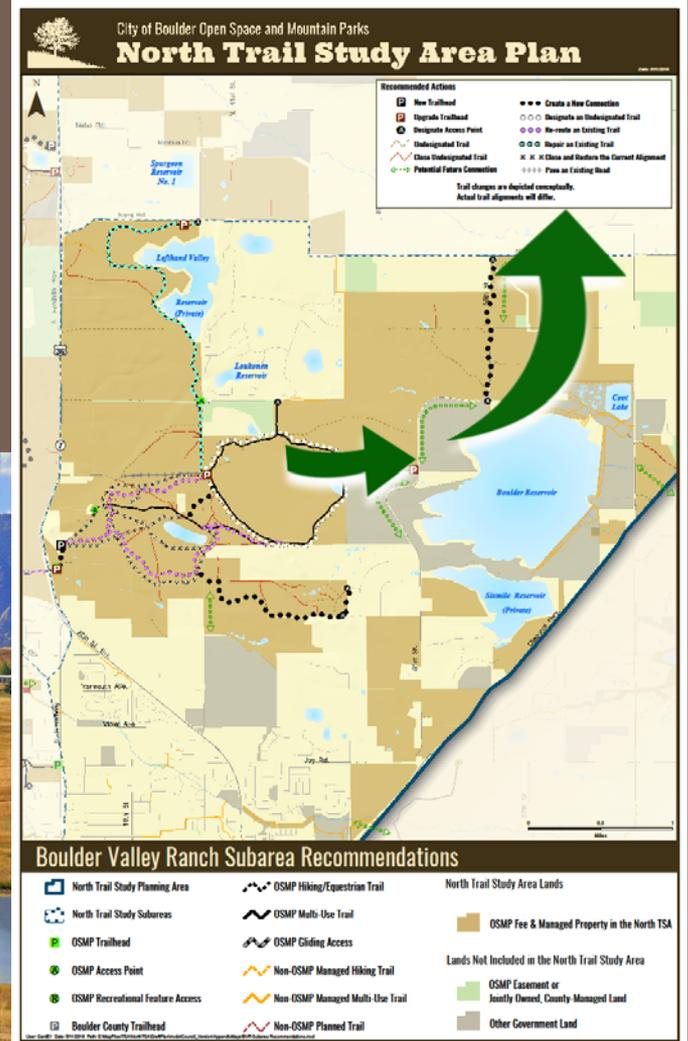
- Restoration and consolidation of social trails
- Directing trails and access away from sensitive natural resources



Draft Plan Recommendations

Regional trail connectivity

- Proposed Boulder Reservoir trail and new trail to Niwot Road (Talon Trail)



Draft Plan Recommendations

Rocky Mountain Greenway and the North TSA



Recommendations Specific to North Sky Trail

- No off-trail permits in the adjacent North Foothills HCA
- Conservation-design
- Integration of the railroad grade social trail
- Seasonally prohibit dogs (May – July)
- Use best efforts to locate part of the trail on the conservation easement

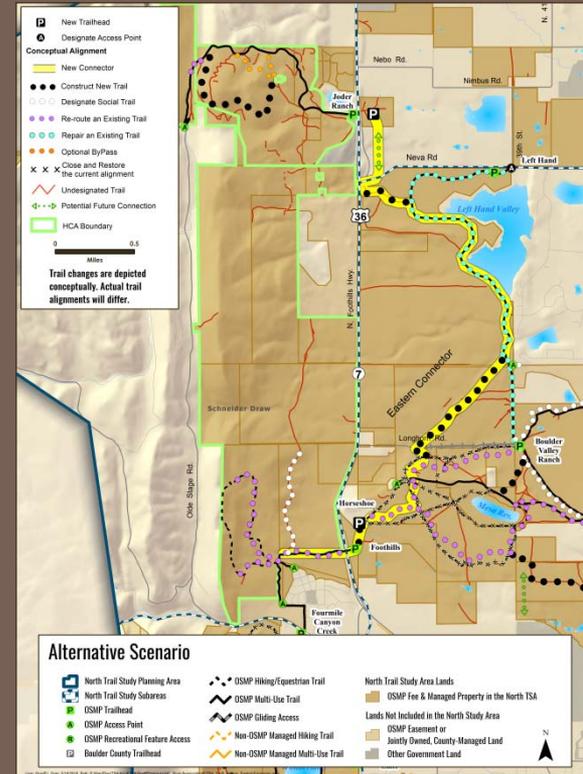


Comparison of Joder Connector Options

North Sky Trail



Alternative Scenario



Trail Design and Visitor Experience

North Sky Trail	Alternative Scenario
3 miles in length	4 miles in length
No road crossings	5 road crossings (one existing); underpass at Hwy 36
Remote, rugged, elevated trail with sweeping views	Views of Boulder foothills; diagonal link trail with remote feel
Likely several bridges and wetland permit	One new bridge and wetland permit
Estimated cost is \$805,000	Estimated cost is \$2.25 million <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trail is \$250,000• Underpass is \$2 million

Natural Resources

North Sky Trail	Alternative Scenario
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Area designated as HCA• Best Opportunity Area for Conservation in Grassland Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Area designated as Natural Area• Best Opportunity Area for Restoration in Grassland Management Plan
Crosses 11 drainages	5 existing drainage crossings and one new crossing
Proximate to xeric tallgrass communities (globally rare) and New Mexico feathergrass communities	New diagonal link situated in needle and thread grass community (globally rare)
Proximate to shale barrens (railroad grade)	Proximate to shale barrens (Lefthand Trail)

Actions Linked with Joder Connection

North Sky Trail	Alternative Scenario
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Off-trail permits <u>not allowed</u> in North Foothills HCA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Off-trail permits <u>allowed</u> in North Foothills HCA.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dogs required to be on leash on the North Sky Trail with a seasonal dog closure for nesting birds from May 1 through July 31. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Add a new diagonal link trail section between Longhorn Road and Lefthand Trail. Dogs prohibited on this section of trail.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Passenger vehicle parking at Dagle/Wright property 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Passenger vehicle parking at Schooley property
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Designate part of the railroad grade social trail as a designated (out and back) trail
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Add bypass trail to a steep section of the Joder Ranch Trail

Implementing the North TSA Plan

Restoration opportunities

- Hydrology and riparian vegetation
- Native grassland
- Prescribed fire plan
- Designing trails strategically



Implementing the North TSA Plan

Implementation costs

- Current total cost estimated at \$4.3 million
- Included in Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and annual budgets

Scheduling and phasing projects



Implementing the North TSA Plan

Follow up with City Council

- Return to City Council with recommended approach to establish North Foothills HCA by ordinance





North TSA Team:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Juliet Bonnell• Emily Garding• Annie McFarland• Lynn Riedel• Heather Swanson• Gabe Wilson• Lynne Sullivan | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arian Hampel• Julie Johnson• Eric Fairlee• Jake Cseke• Phil Yates• Deryn Wagner• Mark Gershman |
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Questions for City Council

- Do City Council members have clarifying questions for staff about the process used to develop the North TSA Draft Plan?
- Do City Council members have questions for staff to clarify the recommended actions in the Draft Plan?