



City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

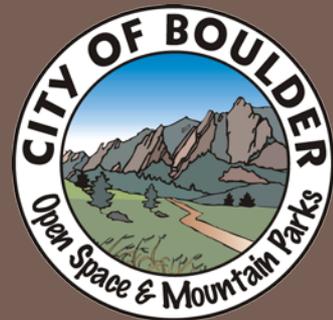
North Trail Study Area Plan



North TSA Plan Workshop

PRELIMINARY SCENARIOS

OCTOBER 5, 2015





North Trail Study Area Plan

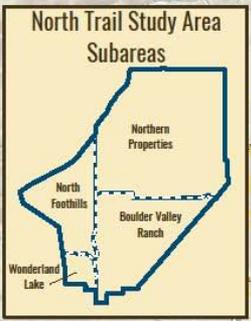
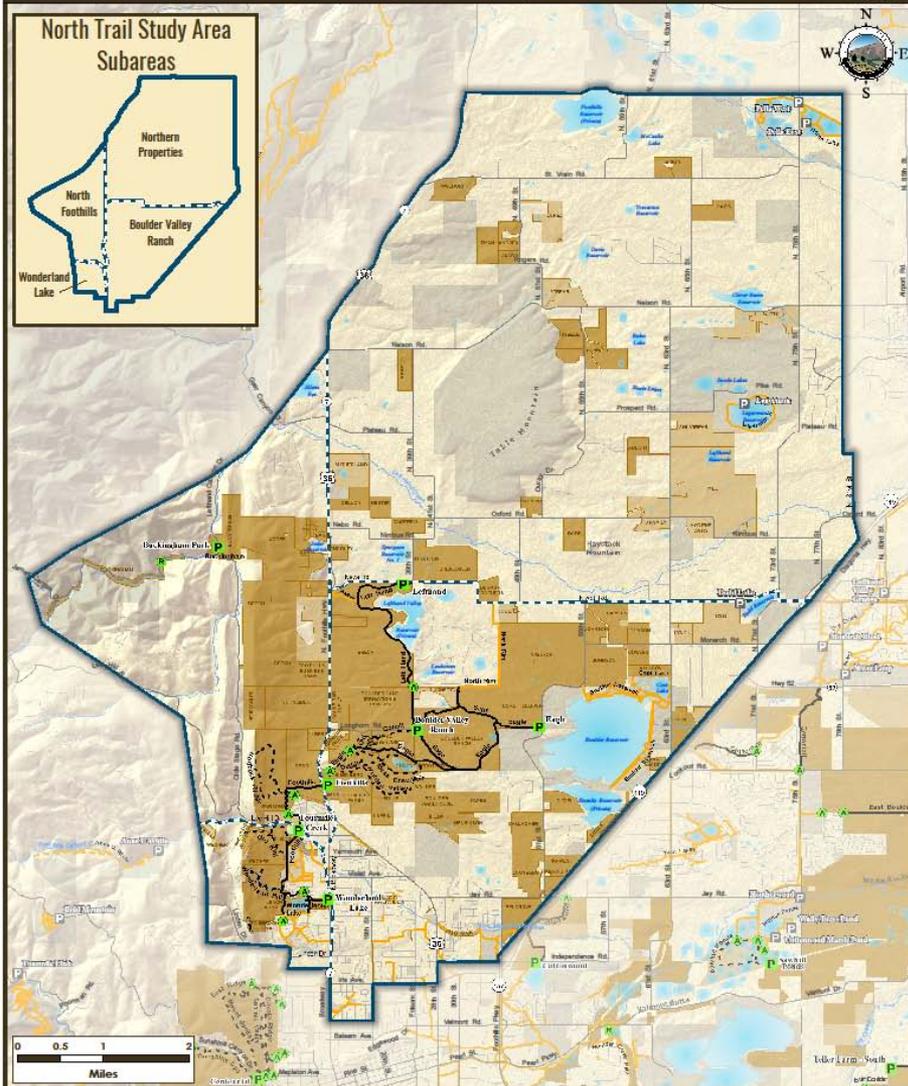
Goal

Improve visitors' experiences and increase the sustainability of trails, while conserving natural, agricultural and cultural resources.





North Trail Study Area Plan



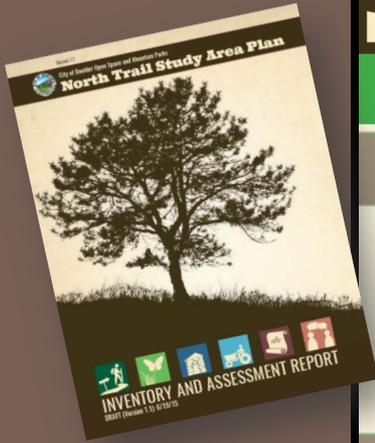
NORTH TRAIL STUDY AREA BASEMAP

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| North Trail Study Planning Area | OSMP Hiking/Equestrian Trail | North Trail Study Area Lands |
| North Trail Study Subareas | OSMP Multi-Use Trail | OSMP Fee & Managed Property in the North TSA |
| OSMP Trailhead | OSMP Gliding Access | Lands Not Included in the North Trail Study Area |
| OSMP Access Point | Non-OSMP Managed Hiking Trail | OSMP Easement or Jointly Owned, County-Managed Land |
| OSMP Recreational Feature Access | Non-OSMP Managed Multi-Use Trail | Other Government Land |
| Boulder County Trailhead | | |

(www.NORTH TSA.org)



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.

North Trail Study Area Plan Interests

Interests	Interest Icons
Improved Visitor Experience	[Icon]
Conservation of Resources (Natural/Agricultural/Cultural)	[Icon]
Improved Access and Accessibility	[Icon]
Resourcing Community Values and Commitments	[Icon]
Increased Education and Understanding	[Icon]
Improved Connectivity	[Icon]
Balance of Recreation and Resource Conservation	[Icon]
Increased Safety	[Icon]
Decreased Visitor Conflicts	[Icon]
Effective Planning Process and Plan Implementation	[Icon]

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.



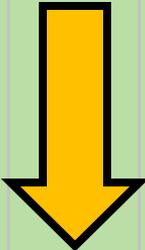


North Trail Study Area Plan

2015

2016

JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE
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Ways To Be Involved

Specific Opportunities

- Workshops
- Online
- Look for us in the North TSA



Throughout the Process

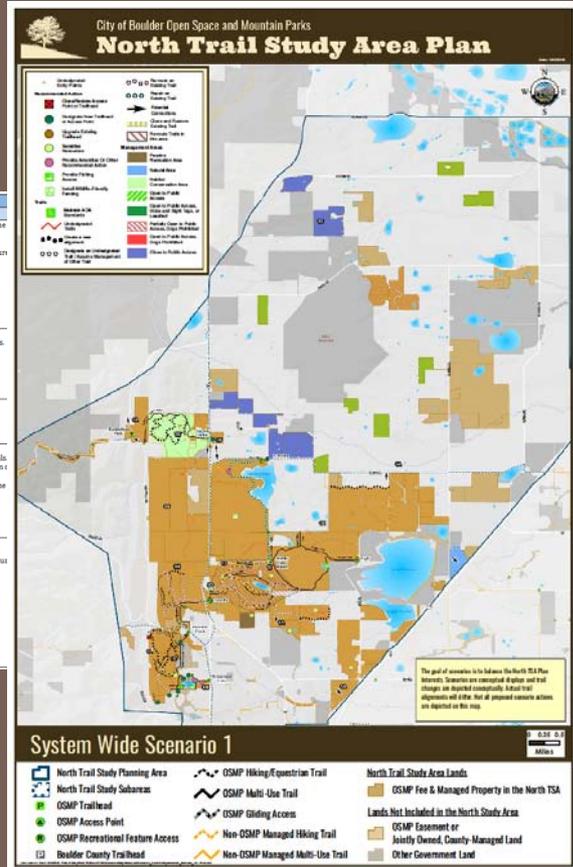
- Website comment form

North Trail Study Area Plan

PRELIMINARY SCENARIOS



Action	Interests	Primary Goal	Driving Factors/Benefits
Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) is interested in collaborating with community and partner agencies to create local connections as opportunities arise that include North TSA trails.		As future opportunities allow, collaborate on a north-south trail connection from Boulder's Area III (city park properties) to North TSA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase accessibility for neighbors and Boulder residents to the North TSA. Provide more connections to the North TSA. Consider benefits, constraints, impacts and implications of future development in this area.
Tabletop agricultural operation headquarters from Boulder Valley Ranch (BVR) and turn it into a trailhead.		Increase space for trailhead and parking along with opportunities for interactive educational visitor experiences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue existing agricultural operations. Convert existing BVR structures into interpretive opportunities. Allow current tenant to relocate agricultural headquarters. Avoid creating new trails in this area. Increase parking, especially for horse trailers. Increase opportunities for educational experiences.
Clearly sign Boulder Valley Ranch's horse corral as open to public use.		Maintain long standing equestrian use of facilities by clearly marking public opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase opportunities for equestrian activities. Maintain connection to equestrian history/educational experiences.
Re-route and rebuild trails extensively south of the Boulder Valley Ranch trailhead.		Improve visitor experience with new and renovated trails.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce trail density but increase quality by removing and relocating Digger, Hidden Valley and lower portion of Eagle trails. Remove trails that run through prairie dog colonies to maintain or improve rangeland highly suitable habitat (GSH). Re-route east portion of Eagle Trail and Cobalt Trail as they come into Boulder Valley Ranch Trailhead to increase sustainability. Retain access to Old Trail. Utilize terrain effectively to create a better mountain biking experience.
Provide trail connection from Boulder Valley Ranch to Silver Road by connecting North Rim Trail to 55th Street.		Increase connections between North TSA and other regional destinations and provide another point of entry for visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide trails that increase opportunities for regional trail connections. Allow visitors a safe alternative to current connections along bus roads. Provide an alternative to using Monarch Road as a regional connection.



North Trail Study Area Plan

What is a Scenario?

A scenario is a set of potential actions that addresses interests and issues in the North TSA.

Preliminary scenarios are conceptual visions of potential trail changes and, proposals for new trail connections and trailhead improvements for the North TSA that also advance efforts to conserve the area's diverse natural, agricultural, and cultural resources.

North Trail Study Area Plan

What are North TSA Plan Interests?

An interest is the “why” behind a desired outcome for the North TSA.



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

The goal of the North Trail Study Area Plan is to improve visitors' experiences and increase the sustainability of trails while conserving natural, agricultural and cultural resources.

PHASE 1 Inventory & Assessment → **PHASE 2** INTERESTS & ISSUES → **PHASE 3** Draft Plan → **PHASE 4** Plan Acceptance

What would you like to see improved, changed or preserved in the North Trail Study Area (TSA)?

Tell us why.
I would like _____
because _____

Places within the study area you may know:
• Boulder Valley Ranch
• Wonderland Lake
• North Foothills Trail

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE . . . www.NorthTSA.org

Recreation
Hiking, dog walking, running, biking, horseback riding, paragliding, nature study and more . . .

Natural Resources
Rare plants, butterflies, grassland birds, native frogs, wetlands and more . . .

Cultural Resources
Historic architecture, homesteads, fossils and more . . .

Agriculture
Ranching, hay fields, vegetable farming and more . . .



North TSA Plan Interests

Improved Visitor Experience		Improved Connectivity	
Conservation of Resources (Natural/Agricultural/Cultural)		Balance of Recreation and Resource Conservation	
Improved Access and Accessibility		Increased Safety	
Honoring Community Values and Commitments		Decreased Visitor Conflict	
Increased Education and Understanding		Effective Planning Process and Plan Implementation	



Developing the Scenarios

- *Created actions based on the 10 community interests.*
- *Included ideas heard when people were sharing their interests, and from the expert panels.*
- *Actions include proposals for:*
 - Regional and local trail connections
 - New trail connections in the North TSA
 - Trail re-development (sustainability) enhancements
 - Measures to avoid habitat fragmentation and conserve sensitive resources
 - Innovations to decrease visitor conflict
 - Trailhead and access improvements

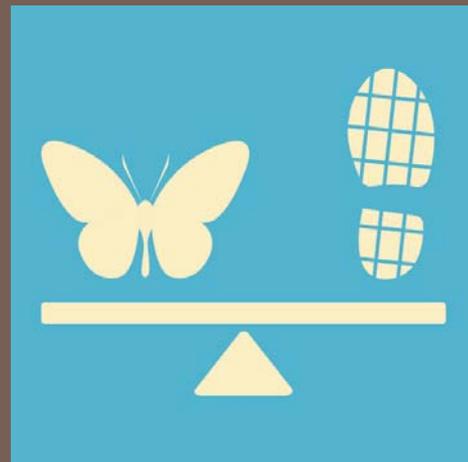
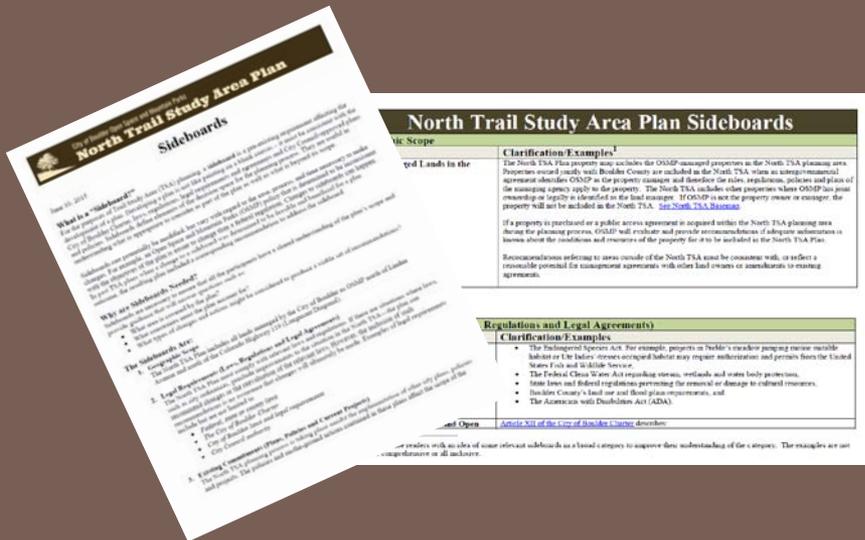


North Trail Study Area Plan

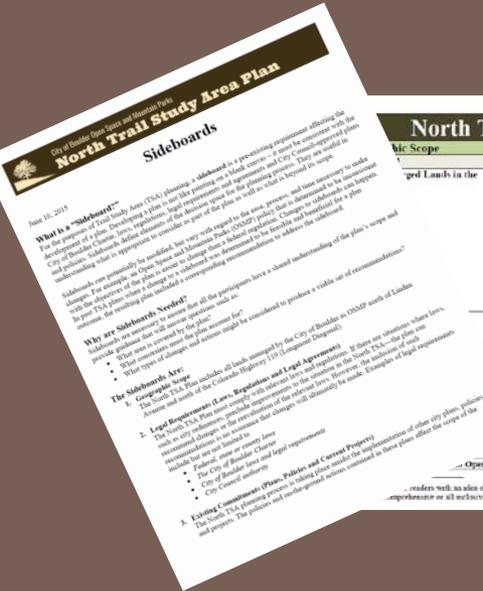
Successful Scenarios

A successful scenario is based on:

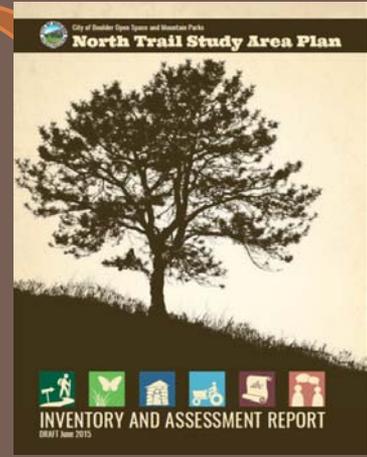
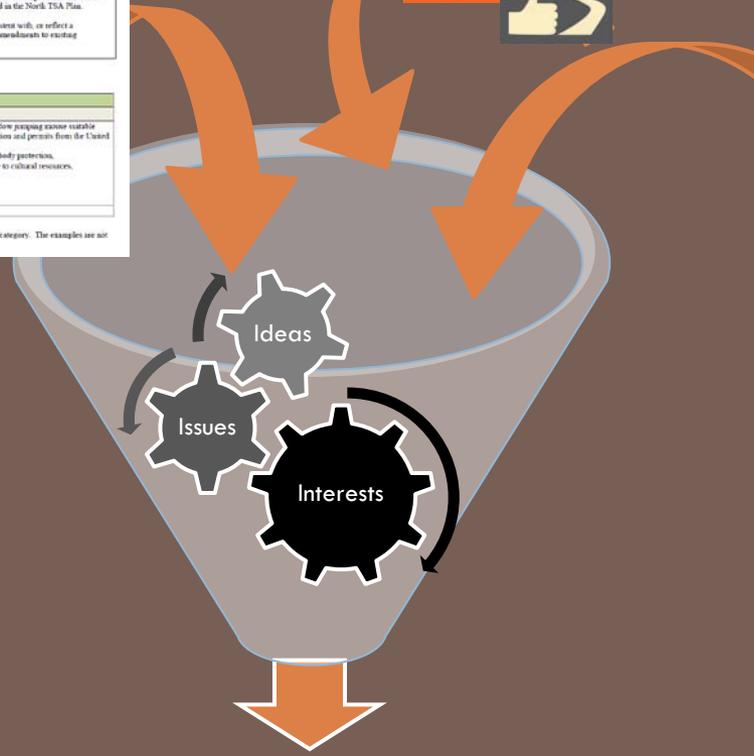
1. Consistency with the North TSA Plan Sideboards.
2. How well the scenario balances the interests.



North Trail Study Area Plan



North Trail Study Area Plan Sideboards	
Public Scope	Clarification/Examples¹
Designated Lands in the NTSA	The North Trail Study Area (NTSA) planning area includes the OSMP managed properties in the North Trail Study Area planning area. Properties owned jointly with Boulder County are included in the North Trail Study Area as intergovernmental agreements identify OSMP as the property manager and describe the rules, regulations, policies and plans of the managing agency apply to the property. The North Trail Study Area includes other properties where OSMP has joint ownership or legal title in the land manager. If OSMP is not the property owner or manager, the property will not be included in the North Trail Study Area. See North Trail Study Area Overview .
Regulations and Legal Agreements	Clarification/Examples
Open Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Endangered Species Act. For example, projects in riparian or mountain jumping mouse variable habitat or the Interoceanic Wetlands may require authorization and permits from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. The Federal Clean Water Act regarding stream, wetland, and water body protection. State laws and codes of regulations preventing the removal or damage to cultural resources. Boulder County's land use and flood plain requirements, and The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).



Preliminary Scenarios

Scenarios

- Each scenario seeks to balance the interests in a different way.
- The staff team worked hard to listen to each other and balance the interests.
- There is no “right” answer. There are lots of ways to balance the interests.
- We know we didn’t get it exactly right in any scenario.
- The ideas are conceptual with the details yet to be known



Key Points

- Scenarios are conceptual displays and trail changes are depicted conceptually.
- Actual trail alignments will differ from conceptual lines
- All proposed actions are not shown on maps
- Putting all the pieces together can be challenging, focus on the overall “narrative” of the scenario

Included in all Scenarios

- Collaborating with community and partner agencies on regional and local trail connections as opportunities arise.
- Bring all trailheads and access points up to standards.
- Restore and revegetate all undesignated trails not integrated into designated trail connections.
- Do not replace the extensively flood damaged northern section of Old Kiln Trail.
- On Wonderland Hill create a loop trail connection including reroutes of existing trails, paragliding access trails, and undesignated trails.



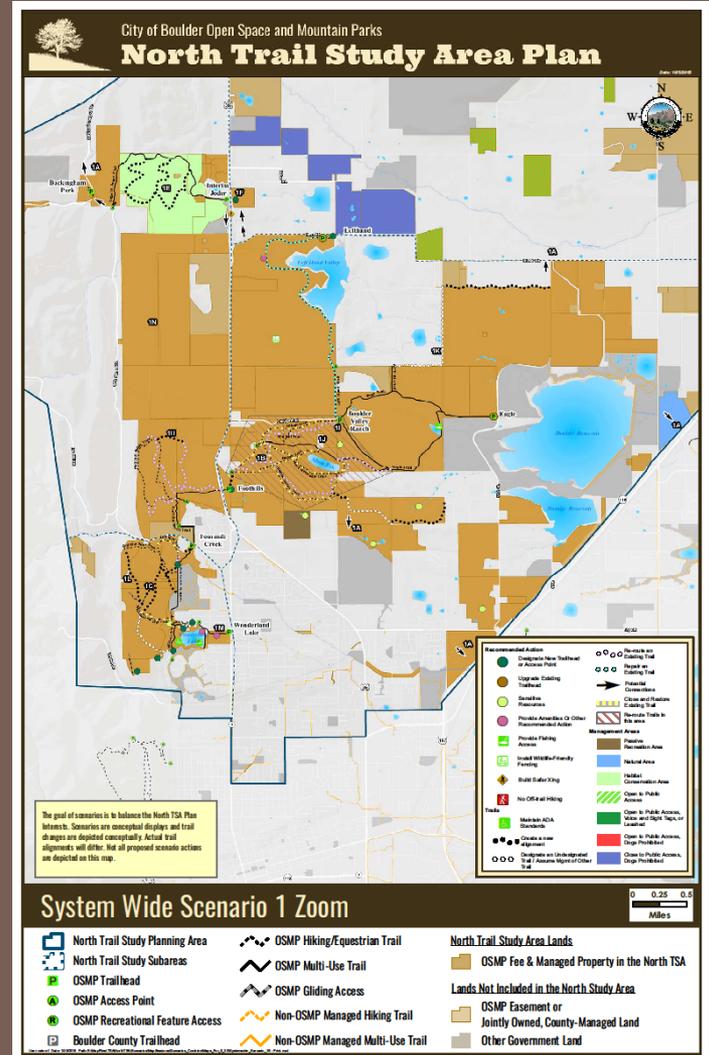
Included in all Scenarios-Cont.

- Retain the recommended Habitat Conservation Area designation for the Joder Property.
- Retain the Joder Interim Trailhead for equestrian and bus parking and retain the Joder Interim Trail.
- Create space for interpretive program and nature study on Wonderland Lake peninsula; add a fishing pier.
- Proposals for trail improvements, actions to protect natural resources, interpretive signs and nature study.

North Trail Study Area Plan

Highlights of Scenario 1

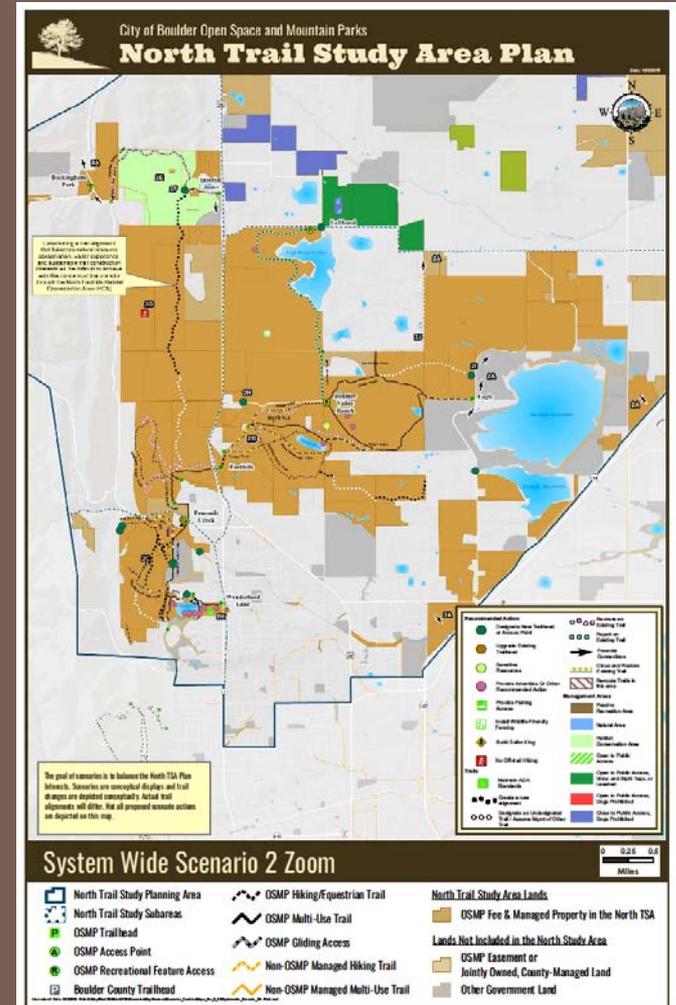
- Significant redevelopment of trails and connections in Boulder Valley Ranch utilizing terrain to provide a more exciting and diverse visitor experience.
- Changes in Wonderland Lake area with new trail connections to replace undesignated trails and trails damage by the flood. Improving nature study and fishing opportunities at Wonderland Lake.
- Moderate trail development in North Foothills area with new loop trails on Joder and Hogback. Maintaining a large habitat block in the North Foothills Habitat Conservation Area (HCA). The Joder trail connection is located east of US 36.



North Trail Study Area Plan

Highlights of Scenario 2

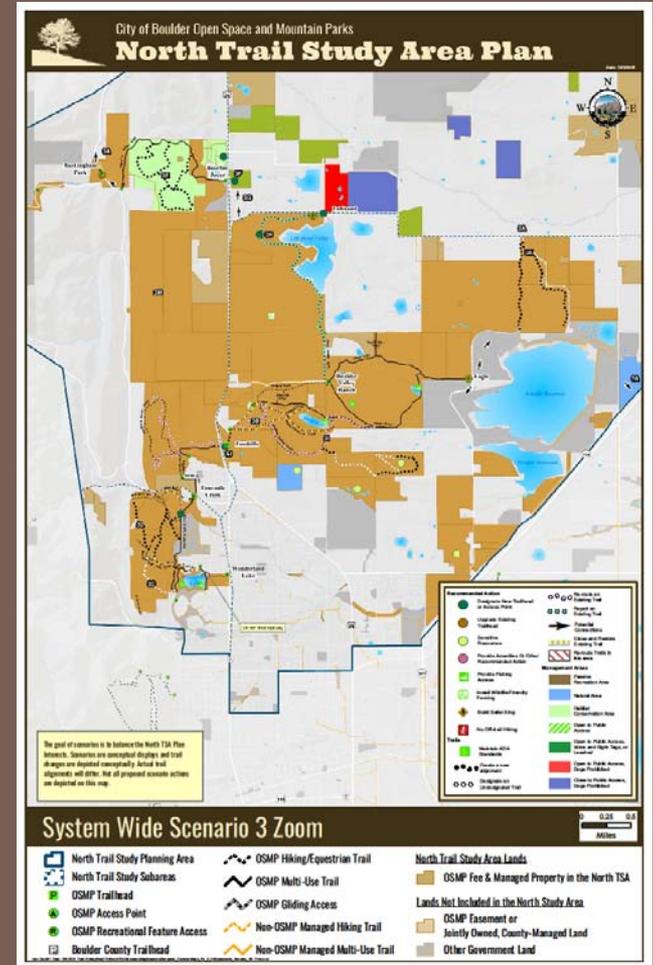
- Minimal trail redevelopment in Boulder Valley Ranch around Mesa Reservoir, focused on improving connectivity and repairing trails.
- Changes in Wonderland Lake area with new trail connections to replace undesignated trails and trails damage by the flood. Improving nature study and fishing opportunities at Wonderland Lake.
- Moderate trail development in North Foothills with minimal trails on Joder coupled with the creation of a connector trail to the Joder Property through the North Foothills Habitat Conservation Area (HCA) bisecting the large habitat block.



North Trail Study Area Plan

Highlights of Scenario 3

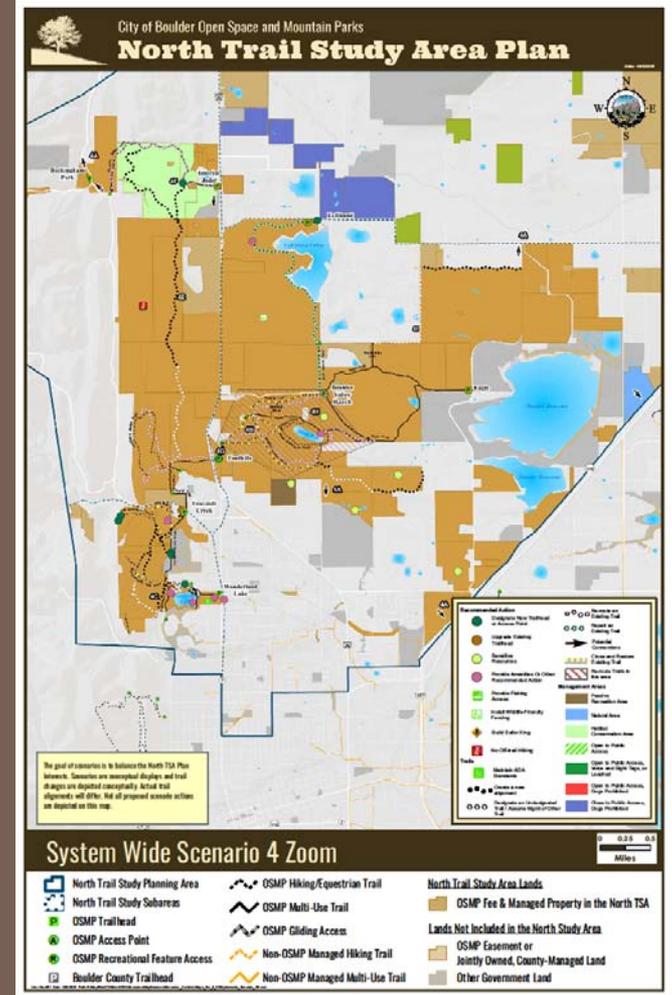
- Moderate redevelopment in Boulder Valley Ranch around Mesa Reservoir; utilizing terrain to provide a better visitor experience.
- Changes in Wonderland Lake area with new trail connections to replace undesignated trails and trails damage by the flood. Improving nature study and fishing opportunities at Wonderland Lake.
- Moderate trail development in North Foothills adding three loop trails on Joder and maintaining a large habitat block in the North Foothills Habitat Conservation Area (HCA). The Joder trail connection is located east of US 36.



North Trail Study Area Plan

Highlights of Scenario 4

- Significant redevelopment of trails and connections in Boulder Valley Ranch utilizing terrain to provide a more better visitor experience with less bike access than Scenario 1.
- Changes in Wonderland Lake area with new trail connections to replace undesignated trails and trails damage by the flood. Improving nature study and fishing opportunities at Wonderland Lake.
- Moderate trail development in North Foothills with a single large loop trail on Joder coupled with the connector trail to the Joder Property through the North Foothills Habitat Conservation Area (HCA) bisecting the large habitat block.





North Trail Study Area Plan

Comparison of Key Differences

Action	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3	Scenario 4
Joder Connection	East of US 36 via Lefthand Trail	West of US 36 and Foothills Business Park	East of US 36 via Lefthand Trail	West of US 36 and Foothills Business Park
Joder Trails	Two loop trails	Joder Interim Trail (rerouted)	Three loop trails with temporal separation	One loop trail
Joder Trailheads	Schooley Property (east side US 36)	Car parking on Joder	Car parking on Joder	Schooley Property (east side US 36)
BVR Trailheads	Relocate Sage to BVR Ranch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move Sage west • Relocate Eagle 	Relocate Sage and combine with Foothills	Relocate Sage and combine with Foothills
Wonderland Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Kiln link • Additional nature study access 	Covered meeting area near trailhead	Old Kiln link	

North Trail Study Area Plan

Opportunities for a Variety of Activities

- Trail access on Joder, varies from a single trail to different loop configurations
- Redesign of trails in Boulder Valley Ranch
- Connections to planned trails in neighboring public lands and around Boulder Reservoir

North Trail Study Area Plan

Innovative Opportunities to Manage Activities

- Temporal management with the proposal for 3 loops on Joder (Bikes allowed on alternate days)
- New Voice and Sight Control on-corridor trail opportunities in the Wonderland area and Boulder Valley Ranch (Lefthand Trail and Papini Trail)
- Bikes allowed on Old Kiln trail Monday-Friday in one scenario
- New Axelson trail connection with seasonal closure



Opportunities for Conserving Natural Resources

- Alternatives for locating a Joder trail connection
 - East option maintains large HCA habitat block
 - West option is paired with not allowing off-trail permits west of the trail in the HCA
- Special protection areas for wetlands, ponds, nesting areas for raptors and locations where grassland birds such as bobolinks nest.

Reminders

- The most helpful feedback will be about whether a scenario balances the interests and why or why not.
- Tonight's goal is to assess the scenarios as they are currently written. What works? What's missing?
- October 19th is the time for you to provide your visions on how improve the balance of the scenarios.