

# GEBHARD ISP

## CITY OF BOULDER

5.20.2019

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### PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT #2

#### WORKSHOP NOTES AND GRAPHIC CONCEPTS



## WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

On May 20, 2019, OSMP hosted a public engagement in the community room at the Hub on 55<sup>th</sup> street at which participants were invited to come up with ideas for how to manage the project area. Approximately 21 members of the community attended, mostly residents of the Greenbelt Meadows subdivision. Many of the attendees wanted the existing trail between the bridge and the Greenbelt Meadows access to remain open. Below, these are the notes and reproductions of the sketches made at the workshop.

### GROUP 1

Main concern: Bicyclists' high speeds along the South Boulder Creek Trail that are not compatible with small children, elders, dog-walkers and walking at a slower pace. Shared a concern over access changing as well as the look and feel of the trail.

Ideas members of the group came up with to address the concerns:

- Re-routing bikes off the trail. – It was communicated that this would require further feasibility/impact study and would most likely require involvement of other city programs.
- Providing a separate path for bikes – same communication about possible inclusion in future planning efforts given.
- Bifurcating the path similar to the northern section of trail near the Bobolink trailhead. Then people and bikes can separate themselves – same communication about inclusion in future planning effort given.
- Providing a pedestrian bridge, located just north of South Boulder Road or north of the Howard Ditch, spanning South Boulder Creek. Some members preferred the further south location where they felt there would be fewer people. It was important to the group that this was a narrow and low-key bridge. Suggested

metal grate so that maintenance is easy and bikes do not want to use.

- Continue to manage the area directly east of the neighborhood consistent with how we manage 'Natural Areas', where off-trail use is discouraged, but allowed. The public could create a small loop. This option would require a connection to the east side of the creek to provide access to a longer walk/experience.
- This concept restores the entire area north of the Howard ditch, and closes it to off-trail use and dogs.

Other considerations members of the group came up with:

- Deter the public (and additional vehicles) from direct access into the neighborhood. Do not inadvertently do this by placing a bridge too close to the neighborhood as in the 1998 South Boulder Creek Area Management Plan (SBCAMP).
- Replace or repair fencing around the mitigated wetlands on Parks and Recreation property.
- Consider allowing dogs on South Boulder Creek Trail south of South Boulder Road.
- Create a loop trail through irrigated fields east of creek.
- Due more publicity to keep people from dumping, ends up in the creek

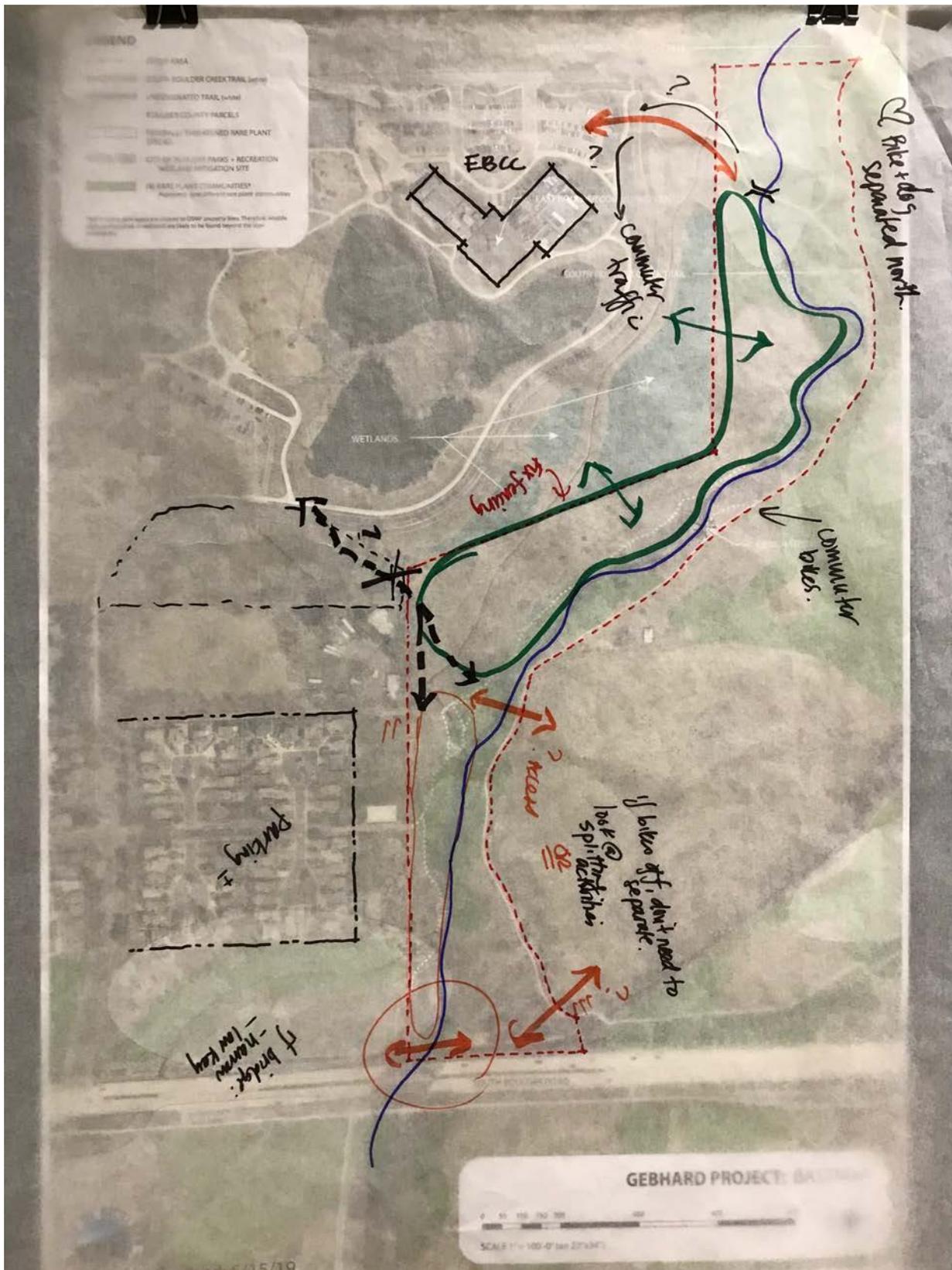


Figure 1: Table 1 Concept

## GROUP 2

Main concern: Bicyclists' high speeds along the South Boulder Creek Trail are not compatible with small children, elders, dog-walkers and walking at a slower pace. Shared a concern over access changing as well as the look and feel of the trail.

Ideas members of the group came up with to address the concerns:

- Separating trail on the east side of the creek
- Maintaining / creating no bike trail option similar to the west side, close to the creek
- Potentially bridging South Boulder Creek at the narrowing of the creek just north of the Howard ditch and providing a connection to 55<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Restoring the area north of the potential bridge location and closing the area to off-trail use and dogs.

Other considerations members of the group came up with:

- Additional fencing
- Establish leash requirements for dogs within Natural Area
- Offer volunteer stewardship projects
- Consider a boardwalk
- Formalize the existing trail on the west side
- Bridge – may be disruptive
- Separate uses (bike/ped) by time of day or day of week.
- Add more parking south of South Boulder Road

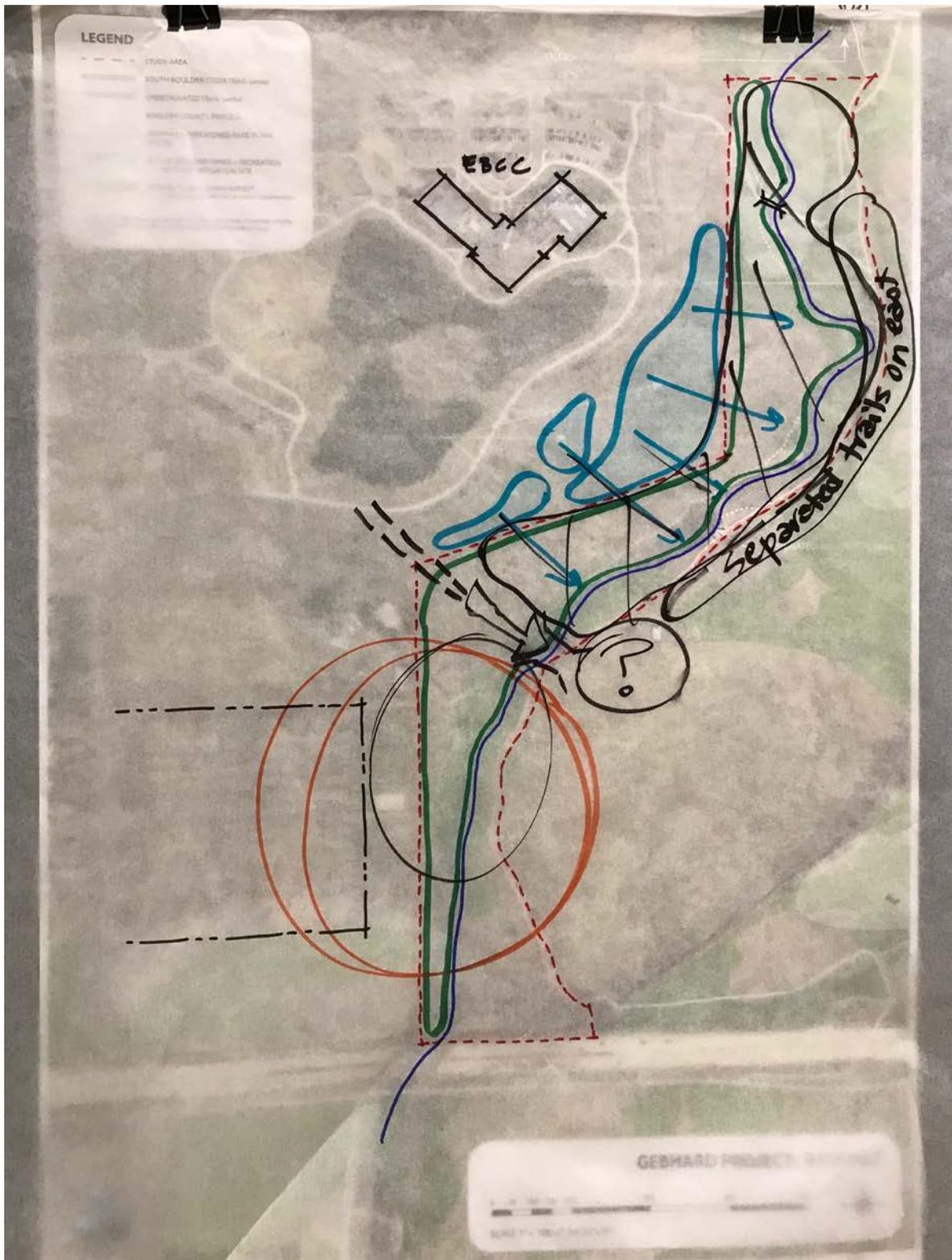


Figure 2: Table 2 Concept

## GROUP 3

### Concerns:

- Bicyclists' high speeds along the South Boulder Creek Trail which are not compatible with small children, elders, dog-walkers and walking at a slower pace.
- The potential loss of a favored recreational experience on open space. Several people remarked that they had purchased their homes because of the access to adjacent open space from the neighborhood.
- Possibility of local streets becoming congested by cars from people travelling from outside the neighborhood to gain access to open space.
- The lack of data-driven evidence to support the ideas that there are negative impacts to wildlife habitat, rare plant communities or creek patterns from current patterns of visitation by people and pets.
- Shared a concern over access changing as well as the look and feel of the trail.

### Ideas members of the group came up with to address the concerns:

- Installing signs at the specific locations of orchids and requests to "keep out" of specific areas. However, others thought that more signs in specific locations would attract people to the threatened orchid.
- Making temporary voluntary closures to manage situations like creek bank erosion—but without permanent or long term affects to current patterns of use.
- Considering boardwalks on the west side of the creek to mitigate effects of visitor use patterns on movement of Preble's meadow jumping mouse and northern leopard frogs.

Other considerations members of the group came up with:

- Asked about public access to Greenbelt Meadows Outlot C (eastern tot lot/park area) and through the gate between the neighborhood and open space.
- Address danger/hazard to open space visitors from falling trees—especially gridled crack willows.
- Manage feral cats living along the creek.

NO GRAPHIC CONCEPT.