LOOKING TO THE FUTURE: EMERGING TRENDS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS
This chapter provides information on trends and management approaches for each charter purpose:
- Natural areas and species of special value
- Water, landscapes and ecosystems
- Passive recreation
- Agriculture
- Limiting sprawl
- Urban shaping
- Floodplain protection
- Aesthetics and quality of life

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The master plan process is an opportunity to think about the future, and future thinking can help us face potential challenges with greater creativity, empathy, and optimism (McGonigal, 2017). As we think about our treasured open space lands, what conditions or trends may affect our future capability to uphold the Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) purposes defined in the charter? Given our current approach to managing these conditions or trends, what strategic policy direction will best prepare us to meet the needs of the future?

Topics that we have identified as being impactful to the future of open space include:

- Current perspectives on our relationship to nature;
- Ecological health;
- Biodiversity;
- Natural disasters;
- Water;
- Population and demographic change;
- Youth and families;
- Accessibility;
- Inclusion;
- Working landscapes;
- Stewardship and enjoyment;
- Technological advances;
- Health and well-being;
- Operational change and financial health;
- Mineral rights on open space lands; and
- Climate change and resilience.
LOOKING TO THE FUTURE: EMERGING TRENDS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

WHAT TRENDS, HOPES OR CONCERNS ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU?

We introduce many of these trends as initial questions to explore in the master plan process. Community members are encouraged to reflect upon these questions and ultimately, help identify focus areas for the forthcoming master plan. Initial questions to help start the conversation include:

1. How do we best steward nature?
2. How do we prepare for the impacts of climate change?
3. What could an increase in population and visitation mean for the future?
4. Who will visit in the future and how can we manage the system inclusively for all groups?
5. How could ownership of mineral and oil and gas rights affect open space (e.g., oil and gas development)?
6. What impacts and opportunities will technology bring?
7. What operational and financial futures do we anticipate?

HOW WILL THE NEXT 50 YEARS BE DIFFERENT THAN THE PAST?

REGIONAL/LOCAL CONTEXT

At the end of the second decade of the 21st century, there is less land available for acquisition across the country and in the Boulder Valley. Boulder open space sales tax increments that fund acquisitions are scheduled to sunset in 2018 and 2019. Population in the front range is growing, demographics are changing, fewer children are connecting with nature and visitor use is increasing. At the same time, the effects of climate change are being felt locally, nationally and globally. Invasive species are affecting OSMP’s ability to conserve important landscapes, and resilience to wildfires and flooding is a major focus for the City of Boulder and other communities along the Front Range.

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

What strategic policy can best address the rapid rate of change and increasing challenges facing stewardship of the system? The City of Boulder has worked to preserve and improve the OSMP system through a series of management plans, put in place over several decades to reflect changing demographics and community needs. Current and future trends require a more comprehensive review of policies that will occur in this master plan process through community engagement and planning investigation. The full content of Chapter 12 provides further information on the forecast for implications of trends.

CURRENT MANAGEMENT APPROACHES

The OSMP master plan process is a systemwide tool that relates to existing Boulder values, charter purposes and planning efforts. In planning for the future, OSMP staff is committed to this inclusive master plan process and invested in understanding national best practices through regional roundtables and collaboration with local, state and federal agencies.
The previous chapters offer a snapshot of facts, figures, and plans describing current conditions and management approaches for Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP). They are informed by the Boulder City Charter purposes for OSMP, which guide how we steward the land. This final chapter explores OSMP in the context of emerging trends and future directions, with the intent of facilitating a discussion around two questions critical to maintaining the City of Boulder’s remarkable and innovative investment:

- What conditions or trends may affect our ability in the future to uphold the OSMP purposes defined in the charter?
- Given our current approach to managing these conditions or trends, what strategic policy direction will most prepare us to meet the needs of the future?

This chapter begins with an exploration of big picture trends that may affect more than one charter purpose in the future. For each of these broader trends, we explore the regional and local contexts, highlight potential implications or management needs in the future and share our current management approach to addressing them*. We then lay out the same information as it relates to each charter purpose.

*Please note that these charts do not convey a comprehensive listing of all current and relevant policies. Rather, they highlight a sampling to broadly characterize our current management approach. As the master plan process advances, other relevant policies will be brought to bear on the development of strategies in the master plan.
Responding to both current conditions and emerging trends, OSMP’s systemwide master plan will create a vision for Boulder’s natural heritage that builds on the past 120 years and inspires a trajectory for continued stewardship in the future. As such, certain questions will help guide the development of this forward-thinking plan. These questions are only the beginning of a conversation with the community. We encourage community members to help shape our shared vision for the future.

1. **HOW DO WE BEST STEWARD NATURE?**

**Regional and Local Context**
OSMP has a legacy of protecting and stewarding nature over the last 120 years. How do we continue this legacy over the next 50 years given many interacting trends and changing dynamics?

Major challenges to nature conservation over the next 50 years might include drier, hotter conditions (more on climate change in Question 2 on the following page), more frequent and intense natural disasters and more invasive plants and pests. For example, the Front Range has seen an increase in droughts, fires, and floods in recent history that have had major ecological and financial impacts.

Restoration is a key stewardship tool used to return degraded areas to their natural states and recover from disasters or degradation, but can restoration remain effective given the pace of environmental change? Can we restore habitats to have even more ability to resist change and recover from disturbance? What are the attributes that make a habitat resilient in the first place?

As the Front Range population grows, so too has the interest in outdoor recreation, reflected by the booming outdoor industry in Colorado. However, a global review of scientific studies indicated that 93 percent of all articles surveyed revealed at least one negative impact of recreation on wildlife (please see Chapter 8 for more information). For example, trail use can flush wildlife and disturb acoustic environments. Trail use also can facilitate the movement of weeds and pests, cause erosion and damage vegetation. How do we provide high-quality visitor experiences while also minimizing recreation impacts to natural resources? With a growing population living in close contact with forests, wildfires are also a key concern. How do we avoid catastrophic wildfires that threaten life, property and air quality while ensuring forests burn with enough frequency to remain healthy?

**CONTEXT AND IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE**

- **3.03 Native Ecosystems**
  - Maintain, restore and preserve native ecosystems.
  - Restore and improve natural, cultural, passive recreational and agricultural resources where suitable.
  - Restore and conserve wetlands, riparian areas, creeks and ponds.
  - Preserve ecological systems and land resources that provide habitat for native plants and animals.
  - Maintain or enhance native species and their communities, along with the ecological processes that sustain them.

- **3.07 Invasive Species Management**
  - High priority will be given to managing invasive species that have, or potentially could have, a substantial impact on city and county resources or ecosystem function.

**RELEVANT CHAPTERS**
- Chapter 1
- Chapter 5
- Chapter 9
Land development across the region is also a challenge to nature conservation. As demand for housing and associated traffic increases across the Front Range, wildlife species are forced to relocate, or, if corridors don’t exist, be stranded in remnant patches. Landcover conversion around Boulder’s open space also impacts local climate, water quality and water retention, pollinator services and nutrient flows.

Even though interest in outdoor recreation in Colorado and the Boulder area appears to be at an all-time high, there is a competing trend that youth are increasingly uninterested or disconnected from nature. This is the next generation who will be asked to not just prepare for, but to fix the legacy of climate change we will leave behind. Strategies that directly address the relationship of natural and human communities will play an increasingly important role in the conservation and protection of biodiversity. How do we connect youth with the outdoors in ways that create a bond with nature and prepares them for future stewardship?

Implications for the Future
OSMP is committed to preserving natural environments, including creeks, habitat and their associated wildlife, as noted in the Boulder City Charter. We also engage in a large range of stewardship activities, sponsor research on conservation and offer a diversity of educational nature programs. The Master Plan is a great chance for the community to reaffirm its focus on nature conservation as a key value, and from there, work with staff to develop strategies on how to best steward nature in consideration of future challenges, changing dynamics and fiscal realities. We will need to work more with our partners across the Front Range on protecting corridors, addressing increased visitation pressures and understanding how we can better mitigate the range of human impacts facing nature as well as continuing to engage the next generation of land stewards.
Visitation patterns also will likely change, as fewer back-country skiing days in winter mean more Front Range days on muddy trails. In summertime, increased daytime temperatures above 95 degrees Fahrenheit may keep people inside, or steer visitation away from the most sunbaked trails and lower elevations. If wildfires become more common or smog increases, the scenic quality of Boulder also will decline. In addition, we will see impacts on existing facilities and trails, and new requests for facilities like shade structures that may increase costs.

Regional and Local Context
Climate change is a significant global challenge. In Boulder today, it is significantly drier and hotter than it was 50 years ago (Boulder’s Climate Commitment, 2017), which is troublesome given Boulder is in a semi-arid climate zone where water is at a premium. An even more arid future likely awaits, and we need to prepare for it as well as engage the next generation who will have to deal directly with the impacts.

What are the impacts for ecosystems? In Colorado, we might expect upslope shifts in plants, earlier arrival of migratory birds, advanced blooming time of plants, loss of plant populations in hot microsites, increased spread of invasive species and pests, and more frequent and extreme natural disasters.

What about agriculture? More CO2 may lead to more crop yields, but higher temperatures, lower water availability and increased winter survival of pests will likely offset those gains. The timing and availability of forage for cattle also will likely become less certain, making ranching operations more difficult.

Open Space fire management programs will be designed around resource management and community objectives subject to the limitations of equipment, personnel, and safety considerations.

• Forest Ecosystem Management Plan
• Grassland Ecosystem Management Plan
• Agricultural Resources Management Plan

• 3.10 Climate Change Mitigation, Adaptation and Resilience
City/County working to mitigate climate change globally and recognize climate change adaptation is an important area for consideration

• 3.15 Soil Carbon Sequestration
For the natural environment, the capacity of native grasslands and forests to sequester carbon will be important in city and county soil carbon sequestration efforts.

Open Space fire management programs will be designed around resource management and community objectives subject to the limitations of equipment, personnel, and safety considerations.
Implications for the Future

In the future, the severity and frequency of flood and fire regimes likely will cause significant damage across Open Space and Mountain Parks’ trails, facilities, agricultural infrastructure and scenic quality. Additional costs may be associated with complying to new climate laws or clean energy mandates (e.g., transitioning OSMP fleet to clean-energy vehicles).

Moving forward, staff needs to identify suitable metrics and targets that address long-term resilience, a term defined as the capacity to maintain species diversity and ecological conditions in the face of the stress of climate change and the shocks of natural disasters. These plans should integrate with existing wildland-management efforts, such as ongoing forest restoration and vegetation management. As we continue to prepare for climate change, partnering with city, regional and state agencies also will grow in importance.
WHAT COULD INCREASES IN POPULATION AND VISITATION MEAN FOR THE FUTURE?

Regional and Local Context
Communities across Colorado’s Front Range are anticipating significant population increases over the next three decades. By 2050, the Denver Boulder metro area could increase by 45 percent, or an additional 1.39 million people (Colorado Division of Local Affairs; State Demographer’s Office, 2017). By 2040, the City of Boulder population is projected to increase nearly 12 percent, to 123,000 residents (City of Boulder, 2017). Drivers of growth include a well-educated population, government research centers, the lowest unemployment rate in the nation, easy access to quality recreation opportunities and scenic landscapes (Community Foundation, 2017).

Lending credence to this population trend, Colorado’s Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan reports the North Central region of Colorado, including Rocky Mountain National Park and Boulder County, is the most visited area of the state for outdoor recreation, logging in almost 140 million activity days. An activity day is defined by one day of participation by survey respondents in outdoor recreation (Colorado Parks and Wildlife, 2014). The report also finds the primary motivations for visiting natural areas or parks include participating in recreational activities, enjoying special places and spending time with family or friends. Reflecting the statewide and regional trends, Boulder’s open space, an area almost three times as large as its urban area, attracted nearly 6.25 million visits annually in 2017, up 34% from 4.7 million in 2005.

Context and Implications for the Future

Drivers of growth include a well-educated population, government research centers, the lowest unemployment rate in the nation, easy access to quality recreation opportunities and scenic landscapes (Community Foundation, 2017).

3.08 Public Access to Public Lands
Public access to natural lands will be provided for, except where closure is necessary to protect areas from unacceptable degradation or impacts to agriculture, habitat or wildlife, for public safety or limits on access necessary to preserve the quality of the visitor experience.

- Provide for aesthetic enjoyment and provide for a passive recreation experience.
- OSMP developed facilities include passive recreation amenities, such as parking areas, picnic areas, regulation boards, trailheads, trails and bridges.
- Provide and maintain highly functional and sustainable visitor facilities.
- Ensure compatibility of passive recreational activities with long-term resource protection.
- Partner with the community in passive recreation decision-making and stewardship.
- Acquire the lands or interests to provide access to the city’s open space lands and relieve the adverse effects of crowding upon resources and the visitor experience.
- Improve the quality of visitor experiences and increase the sustainability of trails and trailheads while conserving resources.
- Balance and integrate the activities of nature and people in accordance with the Boulder City Charter.

Sustainability Framework:
- Healthy and socially thriving community
- Livable community
- Accessible and connected community
- Climate Commitment: Clean Mobility

Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan
Open Space Long-Range Management Policies
Systemwide Management or Geographic Area Plans
Related Plans and Ongoing Needs

VISITOR MASTER PLAN
TRAIL STUDY AREA PLANS

2010 City Council Identified Overarching Issue: Multimodal access to and parking opportunities for OSMP visitors Programs that promote public awareness of trail etiquette

RELEVANT CHAPTERS
Chapter 5
Chapter 8
Chapter 9
Implications for the Future

The increase in population numbers across the North Central region of Colorado parallels a rise in visitation to the OSMP system, a trend that will likely continue over the next decades. This rise will create stresses on a system designed to accommodate a lower number of visitors. The ability for facilities to function as intended and provide for a quality visitor experience will likely prove more difficult. For example, Boulder’s Mountain Parks covering the hills on the west side of the system were planned by the National Park Service in 1937, when Boulder’s population stood at about 11,000 people.

Today, many of the trailheads and gathering areas, including those on Flagstaff Mountain, have not changed much since their inception. Another example is the Ranger Cottage at Chautauqua, which receives about 80,000 visits a year and acts as a gateway for more than 700,000 visits to the Flatirons and mountain trails every year. Two single bathrooms were originally designed to deal with demand when it was at much lower visitor levels and lines now form around the cottage to visit the bathroom, reducing the quality of the experience for visitors.

Results of a 2016 Resident Survey suggest that there are areas within the OSMP system that are now perceived as overcrowded, including the Sanitas and Chautauqua areas. Similarly, nearby Eldorado State Park, with a single vehicle access point, will now stop visitors on a Saturday morning from entering when parking spaces are full within the park. While not unique to OSMP, management challenges related to increased visitation are monitored across the system, with a focus on retaining quality visitor experiences and understanding its effects on supporting infrastructure. The issue has been recognized by other adjacent departments including Jefferson, Boulder and Larimer counties. Conversations are now beginning as to how to better understand how increasing visitation may affect local public lands, and we will work on it together in the future, learning from each other and sharing solutions over the coming decade.
4. **WHO WILL VISIT IN THE FUTURE AND HOW CAN WE MANAGE THE SYSTEM INCLUSIVELY FOR ALL GROUPS?**

### Who will visit in the future?
Like many communities along the Front Range, Boulder is experiencing shifts in demographics that will impact future visitation of open space lands. For example, more baby boomers are choosing to age in place, and the number of employee commuters is increasing with the strong local economy. Levels of racial diversity and youth concentration, due in part to the university populations, are projected to remain steady (City of Boulder, 2017).

### Age Trends
- The number of school-age children (ages 5-17) in Boulder has remained level at about 9,600 since 1980, and this pattern is expected to continue.
- Boulder’s 55-59-year-old population grew by 53 percent and 60-64-year-old population grew by 80 percent, a direct reflection of the aging baby-boom generation. This age group increased specifically in north and central Boulder and makes up almost 10 percent of Boulder’s population.
- The 15-24 age range increased, reflecting the increase in university enrollments over the last decade.

### Ethnicity and Language Trends
- Eighty-eight percent of Boulder’s population defines as White, while nationally, the population is more diverse. Boulder’s population, when compared to that of the U.S., includes more Asians, Pacific Islanders, and persons of two or more races while it has a lower percentage of African-American residents and a higher percentage of American Indians. Since 2000, the number of people of Hispanic origin has increased by 8.3 percent in Boulder, while across the nation, the Hispanic population increased by 43 percent (City of Boulder, 2017).
- People who speak a language other than English at home make up 17 percent of the Boulder County population (Community Foundation, 2017).

### Related Plans and Ongoing Needs

#### Sustainability Framework:
- Healthy and socially thriving community
- Livable community
- Accessible and connected community
- Climate Commitment:
  - Clean Mobility

#### Management Approaches

- **Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan**
- **Open Space Long-Range Management Policies**
- **Systemwide Management or Geographic Area Plans**
- **Visitor Master Plan**

#### Visitor Master Plan
- Provide for aesthetic enjoyment and provide for a passive recreation experience.
- Provide and maintain highly functional and sustainable visitor facilities.
- Partner with the community in passive recreation decision-making and stewardship.

#### Relevant Chapters
- Chapter 5
- Chapter 8
- Chapter 9

#### 3.08 Public Access to Public Lands
Certain lands provide a means for educating users on the importance of the natural environment. These public lands may include areas for recreation and preservation of agricultural use, unique natural features and wildlife and plant habitat.

#### 8.05 Diversity
City/County support inclusion of racial, ethnic, socioeconomic and cultural diversity into physical, social and economic environments.
Big Picture Trends and Questions for the Future

4. CONT’D

WHO WILL VISIT IN THE FUTURE AND HOW CAN WE MANAGE THE SYSTEM INCLUSIVELY FOR ALL GROUPS? CONT’D

Gender and Sexual Orientation Trends
- Forty-nine percent of Boulder County residents identified as female during the last census with 51 percent identifying as male (U.S. Census, 2010).
- Boulder has a LGBTQIA+-friendly standing, but recent surveys suggest LGBTQIA+ students in Boulder can suffer increased rates of social isolation (Community Foundation, 2017).

Income Trends
- Despite a high annual median income of $103,037, Boulder County poverty rates are similar to the national average. About 1,500 children in the County are homeless, with some groups found camping in the mountains (Community Foundation, 2017).

Implications for the Future: How will future visitors interact with OSMP lands?
The holistic and long-term physical and mental health benefits of spending time in the outdoors are widely accepted as avenues for staying active and reducing stress. Community open space systems offer opportunities for residents to access the outdoors in a convenient and safe manner has helped Boulder to be recognized by National Geographic as the “happiest city in the United States.”

The forthcoming master plan will consider how patterns of use are impacted by current and future trends including the following:
- National and state trends suggest that the biggest barrier to recreating outdoors is lack of time, which is having the biggest effect on families (Colorado Parks and Wildlife, 2014) (Futura, 2017).
- Nature deficit disorder is now a nationally recognized phrase used to describe a phenomenon whereby children are spending less time outdoors. They are leading a more sedentary lifestyle, especially due to competition from time spent on screens, resulting in a wide range of health and behavioral problems.
- Colorado recreation trends indicate that recreation participation is more successful when communication is seamless and appropriate facilities to support traditional recreation opportunities are present (Colorado Parks and Wildlife, 2014).
- Colorado recreation trends indicate that the presence of inadequate transportation opportunities present a barrier to recreation participation (Colorado Parks and Wildlife, 2014), a factor that correlates with a lack of time and disposable income.
- In Boulder, visitation patterns to OSMP lands vary according to specific sports (e.g., mountain biking, hiking, etc.). In addition, visitation patterns are influenced by seasonal weather patterns, such as snow cover, temperature and wind.
- OSMP is seeing an increased demand for activities that appear to be in direct response to the stresses of a fast-paced lifestyle. These requests have led to an increase in programs that support relaxing, meditating and unstructured time in nature, including nature play programs for youth and guided meditations for adults.
• There is an increasing awareness at OSMP to support people experiencing disabilities and to be more considerate in providing equal opportunities for access to passive recreation activities and facilities. For example, OSMP recently purchased two power-driven hand cycles to increase biking opportunities for all.

• Along with the rise in visitation, OSMP has noted a growing trend in increased volunteerism.

• There is a nationally identified need to create a more inclusive and welcoming environment for underserved communities in natural areas. For example, Boulder County Parks and Open Space completed a 2010 visitor study that noted a 14 percent of the Latinx population in the county, but only 3 percent of this community visited open space. There is a need to work more closely with underserved communities and to create equal opportunities for all to visit OSMP.

• Developing an early connection to nature is recognized as a key component in the development of an ethic of stewardship. If today’s youth are less connected to nature, it is probable that they will be less interested in protecting it in the future. There is a community-wide trend to provide Boulder County youth with the knowledge, care, skills and connection to place required to become future stewards of the environment.

Implications for the Future: How can we manage the system inclusively for all groups?

Chapter 9 provides details on the work the department is doing to include all of the Boulder community including underserved groups. The 2005 Visitor Master Plan (VMP) set in motion Open Space and Mountain Parks’ framework for making decisions that foster the continuation of a high-quality visitor experience, confirming Boulder’s commitment to protecting and preserving its lands for future generations. It also presented opportunities to create a full range of visitor experiences, including extending a sense of welcome; enhancing visitor access; connecting to the land; and accessing various destinations.

Today, OSMP continues to advance this model of providing equal opportunities for all residents and visitors to connect with nature “for anyone to traverse,” as Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. described in his 1910 report. As a result, resident surveys conducted by OSMP, continue to reflect the public’s overall satisfaction with their open space experiences. To ensure an inclusive experience, this master plan process will engage with a variety of community interest groups including, youth leaders and liaisons to the LatinX community, and people experiencing disability.
Big Picture Trends and Questions for the Future

5. How could ownership of mineral and oil and gas rights affect open space (e.g., oil and gas extraction)?

### Regional and Local Context
For decades, the City of Boulder has worked to acquire subsurface property interests – including oil, gas and mineral rights – as part of any new open space acquisition or where the opportunity has existed to acquire them separately. These acquisitions have helped to better control oil, gas and mineral development in the Boulder area that could cause detrimental impacts to city open space and adjacent properties. In some cases, the City of Boulder has not been able to acquire the oil, gas and mineral rights when it purchased surface lands, resulting in a “severed mineral estate.” In these cases, state law provides mineral rights owners the right of entry to explore for, develop and produce their oil and gas rights as long as they reasonably accommodate the surface owner’s activities and minimizes intrusion and damage; additional surface protections can be requested through surface-use agreements. Ownership of both the surface and mineral estate doesn’t guarantee control of mineral development, as the extraction of oil and gas along the horizontal wells (“forced pooling”) is permitted even if a company only has fractional ownership in the oil and gas interests.

### Implications for the Future
The City of Boulder supports the right and responsibility of local governments act to protect the public health and well-being of its residents as well as the environment. The city supports state legislation that clarifies and strengthens the authority of local governments to use their existing land-use authorities to manage and tailor oil and gas activities within their borders or on property that they own to ensure public health, safety and welfare, and to protect the environment. The City of Boulder also opposes legislation that would pre-empt local authority to establish and enforce regulations over oil and gas operations.

City staff is not aware of and has not seen any specific plans, permits or applications for future drilling on City of Boulder-managed open space. The City of Boulder’s Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) Department is currently evaluating and analyzing its overall oil, gas and mineral holdings and acquisition opportunities to help determine and prioritize additional ways to protect Boulder’s open space. With the City of Boulder’s moratorium set to expire in 2018, staff is currently evaluating the possibility of creating new city regulations for oil and gas development to minimize the impact development has on residents and city-owned land including open space.


### Relevant Chapters
- Chapter 1
- Chapter 5

### Management Approaches

- 3.17 Mineral Deposits
  - City/County will work together to acquire mineral rights as appropriate

- Preserve ecological systems and land resources that provide habitat for native plants and animals.
- Maintain or enhance native species, their communities and the ecological processes that sustain them.
- Acquire and maintain lands consistent with the Open Space Charter and the Area Management Plan goals.
Regional and Local Context
Handheld, connected devices have revolutionized the way we share information and interact with each other and the natural world – but not always for the better. The negative impacts of technology on both adult and children’s interest in, and exposure to, the outdoors is now well described. Appropriate use of technology through positive social media presence can reverse that trend by encouraging awareness and participation in nature enjoyment. Finding the right balance of screen time and outdoor time will continue to be an important debate.

Implications for the Future
The advent of smart phones makes it even easier for visitors to discover recreational opportunities, find their way, learn about trail conditions and interact with other visitors. For example, fitness apps encourage outdoor recreation through the promotion of individual fitness goals. How do we support the use of these technologies for improving the visitor experience while not reducing trail safety?

Text-messaging services can help the department solicit input from visitors who use our trails.

The launching, landing and operation of drones on city open space, along with the use of e-bikes (electric bikes that can be used recreationally) is prohibited on city-managed open space. However, e-bikes are allowed on OSMP land by people experiencing disabilities. Recognizing changing demographics and changing technological trends, OSMP will continue to seek ways to allow for a range of activities that provide high-quality and technologically advanced visitor experiences.

RELEVANT CHAPTERS

Chapter 2
Chapter 4
Chapter 5
Chapter 8
Chapter 9
Chapter 10
Chapter 11

WHAT IMPACTS AND OPPORTUNITIES WILL TECHNOLOGY BRING?

• Regional and Local Context
• Implications for the Future

Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan
Open Space Long-Range Management Policies
Related Plans and Ongoing Needs

manoa framework:
Healthy and socially thriving community
Livable community
Accessible and connected community
Economically viable community

• 8.19 Information Resource/Community Center
City will facilitate information by providing materials, technology and services to enhance the personal development of the community’s residents

Use education and outreach to help accomplish management goals.
Big Picture Trends and Questions for the Future

WHAT OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL FUTURES DO WE ANTICIPATE?

Regional and Local Context
Public lands add significant economic, environmental and social value to Boulder’s identity and inspires investment in nature. Several Front Range communities, including Boulder, Arvada and South Suburban Park and Recreation District are looking for methods to acquire precious remaining lands for open space while also keeping pace with rising costs and maintaining funding mechanisms needed to oversee existing assets.

Today, fewer priority acres for acquisition remain and the costs to acquire them are greater than in the past. At the same time, we recognize the need for funding to maintain and restore what we currently own. Moreover, continuing to defer major maintenance projects also will likely lead to total higher total costs as construction costs will likely continue to grow due to a shortage of skilled labor. These higher costs are especially concerning given our existing primary revenue sources are set to decline as sales tax increments either sunset or decrease, and retail transitions to online stores from brick and mortar stores.

Implications for the Future
As we address these implications for the future, we strive to improve our ability to forecast multiyear work planning and budget needs. Innovative improvements and advancements in operational efficiencies will support restoration, protection, restoration and maintenance of the open space system. The master plan process will seek the community’s feedback on priorities and strategies given different operational and financial future scenarios.

RELEVANT CHAPTERS
Chapter 1
Chapter 5

Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan

Open Space Long-Range Management Policies

Related Plans and Ongoing Needs
Sustainability Framework:
Healthy and socially thriving community
Livable community
Climate Commitment:
Clean Mobility

5.08 Funding City Services & Urban Infrastructure
The city will encourage a strong sustainable economy to generate revenue to fund quality city services and recognizes that urban infrastructure, facilities, services and amenities are important to the quality of life of residents, employees and visitors to the community.

5.17 Partnerships to Support Economic Vitality Goals
The city and county work in partnership with a number of organizations, each of which has an independent focus but contributes to the overall quality of life enjoyed within the community.
Trends Affecting Each OSMP Charter Purpose

Coupled with the previous exploration of big picture trends, this chapter offers the following charts to describe trends specific to each open space purpose defined by the City of Boulder’s Charter. The charts also highlight some of our current management approaches to help answer the question: What is our current approach to managing these conditions or trends, and how might this approach need to change to meet the needs of the future?

A. NATURAL AREAS AND FEATURES OR SPECIES OF SPECIAL VALUE

**Emerging Trends and Future Directions**

- **Biodiversity**
  OSMP lands support a vast diversity of native flora and fauna— including 64 mammal species, 303 bird species, 741 native plant species. As temperatures and climate change affects our ecosystems, how can we maintain and restore natural areas to prevent species loss?

- **Ecological Health**
  Together with its partners, the City of Boulder engages in stewardship and restoration activities to enhance ecological health of natural areas and features, the protection of which enable species of special value to thrive. Several management approaches are currently in place to maintain, restore and preserve native ecosystems. How will we continue to integrate scientific research into management practices and quickly respond to ecological threats?

- **Disturbances**
  OSMP plays a vital role in managing and preserving forests and grasslands, which are subject to human-caused disturbances, such as the diversion of water, the proliferation of invasive weed species and natural disturbances like floods and fires. How will we prepare natural areas for future disturbances and how will we restore them if they are disturbed?

- **Wildlife Populations**
  Preble’s Meadow Jumping Mouse is endemic to upland habitats in Wyoming and Colorado (and found nowhere else in the world). Threats to this species include urban development, habitat fragmentation, drought and climate change. How will we encourage an increasingly greater role of socio-ecological strategies to conserve and protect our wildlife populations?

*Please note that these charts do not convey a comprehensive listing of all current and relevant policies. Rather, they highlight a sampling to broadly characterize our current management approach. As the master plan process advances, other relevant policies will be brought to bear on the development of strategies in the master plan.*

**Management Approaches**

- **Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan**
  - Maintain, restore and preserve native ecosystems.
  - Restore and improve natural, cultural, passive recreational and agricultural resources where suitable.
  - Restore and conserve the native flora and fauna (of the Colorado Tallgrass Prairie) to approximate pre-settlement conditions.
  - Maintain natural ecological processes in the tallgrass communities.
  - Encourage scientific research consistent with the basic purpose of the (Colorado Tallgrass Prairie) natural area.

- **Open Space Long-Range Management Policies**
  - Forest ecosystem management plan
  - Grassland ecosystem management plan
  - Trail study area plans

- **Systemwide Management or Geographic Area Plans**
  - Sustainability Framework: Environmentally Sustainable Community
  - Climate Commitment: Wildland Ecosystems
  - **2010 City Council Identified Overarching Issue:** Integration of science into trail planning

- **Related Plans and Ongoing Needs**
  - 2.04 Open Space Preservation
    City/County will permanently preserve lands. With open space values or accept donations of fee simple interests, conservation easements or development rights.
  - 3.03 Native Ecosystems
    City/County will protect significant/rare native ecosystems on public/private lands with land use planning, conservation easements, acquisitions and public land management.

**Relevant Chapters**

Chapter 5

**Overarching Issues**

Past City Councils have provided guidance or questions to OSMP staff about existing programs, planning and management practices, and potential new policies. Many of these issues have been resolved over the years, while others remain to be explored in this master plan process. We highlight the latter in this chapter to feature some of the broader conversations that the current City Council may still find important.
**Trends Affecting Each OSMP Charter Purpose**

**B. WATER, LANDSCAPES AND ECOSYSTEMS**

**EMERGING TRENDS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

- **Iconic Landscape Features**
  The department stewards iconic features in the landscape for the benefit of residents and visitors. Scenic values will become even more important to preserve and enhance as development evolves over time. *How do we measure, protect and improve our scenic quality?*

- **Landscape Connectivity**
  OSMP manages large, intact habitat blocks that act as key movement corridors for wildlife. *How do we continue to support species that need vast areas and a variety of habitats for survival?*

- **Cultural History**
  While no comprehensive plan or strategy has been developed to guide the management of the 1,000 known cultural resources and scenic areas on OSMP-managed land, more than a dozen documents or intergovernmental agreements, including OSMP’s Long Range Management Policies, provide guidance in specific areas. *How will we coordinate these efforts to provide cohesive guidance?*

**MANAGEMENT APPROACHES**

- **Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan**
- **Open Space Long-Range Management Policies**
- **Systemwide Management or Geographic Area Plans**
- **Related Plans and Ongoing Needs**
  - Sustainability Framework: Environmentally Sustainable Community
  - Climate Commitment: Urban Ecosystems

**Water Quantity**
Demands on limited water resources are increasing with the population growth of the Front Range. Currently, OSMP owns water rights estimated to be worth $60 to $70 million. *How can we further engage in cooperative management approaches of water resources beyond our boundaries at the watershed scale?*

**A Changing Climate**
Temperatures along the northern Front Range have increased nearly 2 degrees Fahrenheit above average. If this warming trend continues, temperatures are projected to increase an additional 2 to 6 degrees Fahrenheit by 2050. Climate changes, such reduced snow pack and diminishing water availability, will affect our diverse and sensitive natural areas. This raises an important question: *How do we prepare for an increasingly arid future?*

**RELEVANT CHAPTERS**
- Chapter 2
- Chapter 5
- Chapter 6

**2.27 Preservation of Historic & Cultural Resources**
City/County will identify, evaluate and protect buildings, structures, objects, districts, sites and natural features of historic, architectural, archaeological or cultural significance with input from the community.

**3.01 Incorporating Ecological Systems into Planning**
Approach planning and policy in Boulder Valley through an ecosystem framework, natural regions like bioregions, airsheds and watersheds.

**3.06 Wetland & Riparian Protection**
Continue to develop and support programs to protect, enhance and educate the public about wetlands and riparian areas in Boulder Valley.
C. PASSIVE RECREATION

Community Stewardship
Like many land managers across the country, Boulder faces visitation management challenges – from increased visitation to water conservation – that need to be balanced with preservation and enhanced by community input and involvement. How will we work, as a community, to protect and preserve the lands for future generations?

Visitor Use
A new OSMP estimates indicates that the open space system now receives 6.25 million visits – up 34% from 4.7 million in 2005. And statewide, about 66 percent of Colorado residents recreate outdoors one time per week, and it is projected that 60 percent will “greatly increase/somewhat increase” their participation over the next five years (Colorado Parks and Wildlife, 2014). An OSMP 2005 Visitor Master Plan established a framework for decisions to foster a high-quality visitor experience. How will we manage visitor expectations and visitor conflicts as visitation increases?

Visitation and Visitor Conflict
Because visitors are more likely to arrive during certain times of the year, days of the week and times of day, peak use patterns can affect some visitors’ experiences through perceived parking congestion and/or trail crowding. How will we manage access of our properties?

Trail Conditions
Trail impacts, such as erosion, braiding and widening, can damage trails, affect adjacent natural areas and diminish OSMP visitors’ outdoor experience. Undesignated trails – which are also known as unofficial, informal, visitor-created or social trails – are also widespread throughout OSMP land and managing them is a critical component of the new focus on stewardship. In response, OSMP has expanded its focus to encompass maintenance and trail stewardship. Moving forward, how do we best construct, repair and maintain trails to sustain current and future use levels?

Recreation Impacts
The City of Boulder is not alone in grappling with the management challenges that high visitation creates. Stressors to the natural environment can affect ecological health and recreation may also affect natural resources, due to cumulative impacts of recreation activities on sensitive or fragile environments. National Parks around the country are experimenting with strategies to address topics, such as crowding, congestion and related effects on visitor experience and resource conditions. While conditions are constantly and proactively monitored on all properties and trails, how will we utilize this information to improve visitor experiences while protecting our important natural resources?

Sustainability Framework:
- Healthy and socially thriving community
- Livable community
- Accessible and connected community
- Economically viable community
- Climate Commitment: Clean Mobility
- Resilience Strategy

2010 City Council Identified Overarching Issue:
- Multimodal access to and parking opportunities for OSMP visitors

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- Climate Commitment: Clean Mobility
- Resilience Strategy

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8.16 Trail Functions & Locations
City/County recognize that trails should be designed to provide a safe and enjoyable experience and help minimize conflicts among users. Trails should sustainable.

VISITOR MASTER PLAN
• TRAIL STUDY AREA PLANS

Nighttime access management
Temporal access management (e.g., alternating days for activities)
Penalties for violations
Programs that promote public awareness of trail etiquette
On-trail travel requirements

Visitation and Visitor Conflict
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Local Food Systems
We maintain an agricultural program focused on production of food, feed and fiber. Today, we lease 15,000 acres to agricultural producers (mostly for grazing to 26 ranchers and farmers). Of the 15,000 acres, about 6,000 are irrigable, facilitating crop production-mostly hay-and livestock uses. In addition to the lands OSMP leases to ranchers and farmers, we also protect thousands of acres of agricultural land through conservation easement agreements. How will we continue to sustain thriving agricultural operations on open space?

Farmers and Ranchers
The City of Boulder has a long history of working in partnership with agricultural operators to manage open space lands. Many farmers and ranchers have been working the same lands for decades-some since before the city acquired the lands as open space. They have learned valuable lessons on overcoming challenges of farming in an urban environment. How will we work to pass on these lessons and work ethic to a new generation of farmers and ranchers?

Pest Management
We work with ranchers and farmers to maintain healthy soils and follow best-management strategies, including integrated, non-chemical pest management and water conservation. Environmental conditions limit agricultural production to mostly livestock grazing or hay/forage production. We encourage non-chemical pest management, where possible, and the least persistent and least toxic pesticides when chemical treatment is determined to be necessary. What other management approaches and treatments might need to be evaluated in the future?

Technology
Improvements in digital technology can provide data from sensors on farm equipment or detailed weather tracking. The future of technology could bring tracking of water use on a plant-by-plant basis and other monitoring information (Johnson, 2015). How can data and technology be used in the future to improve crop yields and help manage a healthy open space system?

Agri-tourism
Farm events, agri-tourism and community farming help connect our community to our lessees and OSMP’s agricultural lands. Service-learning programs, which provide volunteer opportunities in collaboration with farmers and ranchers, opportunities also provide community members opportunities to connect with local agriculture. How could these opportunities be expanded?

Environmental and economic sustainability in the planning and implementation of agricultural activities.
Integrate sustainable agricultural land uses with ecological conservation objectives.
Maintain and enhance the city’s agricultural operations and relationships with ranchers and farmers.
Integrate agricultural, scenic, cultural and ecological stewardship.
Support and enrich opportunities for people to connect with agriculture.
Maintain sustainable agricultural operations by balancing economic and natural resource considerations.

3.09 Integrated Pest Management
The city aims to reduce/eliminate, where possible, the use of pesticides and synthetic fertilizers on public properties.

9.06 Food System Resilience
The city will explore local food system vulnerabilities, assess the local productive capacity to buffer future shocks and develop solutions to address them.
Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan

Open Space Long-Range Management Policies

Systemwide Management or Geographic Area Plans

Related Plans and Ongoing Needs

Sustainability Framework:
- Livable community
- Accessible and connected community
- Environmentally sustainable community
- Good governance

Climate Commitment:
- Clean Mobility
- Resilience Strategy
- 2010 City Council Identified
- Overarching Issue: Collaboration with regional land managers

Regional Open Space Systems
City and county open space systems are growing where they can while others in the region have no more lands to preserve. This has two impacts for OSMP. First, there is the growth of a regional network of complementary and nearby federal and state lands. Secondly, where there are reduced options for neighbors to acquire more open space, OSMP lands may see increased focus from the region.

- Boulder County: 103,147 acres/110 miles of trail/2 million visitors annually
- Jefferson County: 54,000 acres/236 miles of trail/5 million visitors annually
- Fort Collins Natural Areas: 36,000 acres/100 miles of trail/2 million visitors annually

Urban Development in Neighboring Communities
Rising costs of homes in Boulder is encouraging growth in nearby Lafayette and Erie, the two fastest growing communities in Boulder County. These places offer bigger homes at lower prices which lends to more diverse residents. Population patterns suggest Colorado's population will continue to grow around the urban centers in the Denver area.

What are the potential impacts of adjacent community development to our open lands?

Density and Composition of New Growth
Most new growth is occurring in north Boulder. The median detached and attached home sales prices increased from 2013 to 2016 at a rate of 34 percent for detached homes and 52 percent for attached homes. Meanwhile, the median household income for Boulder County increased by 7 percent in that same time-frame. More people are opting to live in group quarters, like student housing, with the exception being seniors who are increasingly aging in place rather than in group homes. How will rising costs of homes and density of development impact our open lands?

Urban Sprawl
Beginning with the purchase of Chautauqua in 1898 and followed closely by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.’s call to preserve the Boulder mountain backdrop and areas along major waterways, over 45,000 acres of public land – a natural resource almost three times as large as the surrounding urban landscape – have been acquired to date. OSMP’s vast system of open lands has been utilized to shape the development of Boulder, limit urban sprawl and discipline growth. How do we continue to fulfill this specific charter purpose at a time when there are only about 5,000 acres left to acquire to complete a comprehensive open space system?

Management Approaches

- Use land preservation to support the city’s Climate Action Plan.
- 1.06 City’s role in Managing Growth and Development
  City will implement urban design/growth management tools to control scale, location, type, intensity of new development/redevelopment
- 1.14 Definition of New Urban Development
  New urban development will not occur unless adequate urban facilities/services are available to serve set out in Chapter VII Urban Service Criteria and Standards
Trends Affecting Each OSMP Charter Purpose

F. URBAN SHAPING

EMERGING TRENDS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Open Space and Identity
Open space lands define the urban area and shape the identity of Boulder. Working to maintain the system and complete the greenbelt is an essential endeavor to spatially define the extent of urban growth and define rural and undeveloped areas.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)
The impact of wildfires has been felt in the Boulder Community. It is a City that interfaces with forested areas and open lands, often referred to as a wildland-urban interface (WUI) community. Areas where homes border on the wildland present unique challenges for land managers. A 2007 Colorado State University analysis projected that the state’s WUI areas would increase from 715,500 acres in 2000 to 2,161,400 acres in 2030, a 300 percent increase. As more people are projected to live in proximity to OSMP lands, how will we utilize non-urban lands to shape the urban edge and decrease intermixing of homes and wildlands?

Agricultural Lands
Colorado ranks fifth in the U.S. in land conversion of agricultural areas to residential and community development. Between 2002 and 2007, 139,000 acres of agricultural land were converted to developed land in Colorado. While OSMP has worked to protect 15,000 acres of agricultural and productive lands, parcellation for new development continues to occur. This trend has also led to transfer of water supplies to development, leaving land that isn’t viable for farming. How will we work to preserve our agricultural lands that contribute to the urban shaping and scenic resources of our community?

Land Costs
OSMP’s budget, which totaled nearly $33.5 million in 2016, is highly dependent on sales tax revenues. In fact, 88 percent of OSMP funding comes from citizen-approved sales tax increments, many of which will decline as taxes sunset or decrease and retail transitions to online stores. With critical lands still left to acquire, and cost of land per acre increasing: How will we diversify funding streams and partnerships going forward?

Center for Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Startups and Venture Capital
Boulder’s identity and reputation as a center for innovation and the quality of life are among many factors driving growth. As of March 2017, government research centers including the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Center for Atmospheric Research generated $1.1 billion for the county, employed nearly 4,000 people and supported close to 8,000 other jobs. How will we preserve our non-urban lands that contribute to our quality life and continue Boulder’s long tradition of innovation?

RELEVANT CHAPTERS
Chapter 5

MANAGEMENT APPROACHES

Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan

Open Space Long-Range Management Policies

Systemwide Management or Geographic Area Plans

Related Plans and Ongoing Needs

Sustainability Framework:
- Safe community
- Livable community
- Accessible and connected community
- Environmentally sustainable community
- Good governance

Climate Commitment:
- Clean Mobility
- Agricultural Ecosystems
- Resilience Strategy

2013 ACQUISITIONS PLAN UPDATE

- Enhance the aesthetic value of open space in supporting an urban form that attracts employers and residents.

3.20 Wildfire Protection & Management
City/County will require onsite and offsite measures to guard against the danger of fire in developments adjacent to natural lands in a way that also sustains forest and grassland ecosystems health.
Risks
Boulder is an especially flood-prone urban area because it lies at the base of Rocky Mountain foothills and at the mouth of Boulder Canyon, and has extensive infrastructure and development located within the 100-year floodplain. How do we avoid and minimize risks to human safety and property?

Availability of Lands in the Floodplain
Preventing development from encroaching on lands in the floodplain can be accomplished by protecting areas adjacent to rivers that are subject to flooding. OSMP currently owns 73 percent of the floodplain in the perimeter of land around Boulder. How do we best steward land to reduce flood risk for the urban core (the most susceptible area to severe flooding events in terms of potential property damage or risk to life)?

Environmental Benefits
Floods are natural processes with ecological benefits. They result in an exchange of nutrients and sediment between the creek and its adjacent floodplain, benefiting both habitats. The scouring and deposition associated with flooding create new habitat adjacent to and within the creek, and cleans sediment from fish spawning areas. They foster the regeneration of native riparian communities by establishing germination sites for cottonwood seed, which is particularly important on the lands we manage, where riparian communities lack young cottonwood seedlings and saplings needed to replace the mature cottonwood trees along perennial streams. How will we mitigate risks of flooding while at the same time allowing for the environmental benefits floods bring?

Flood Resilience
In September 2013, the Front Range received a year’s worth of rainfall within an eight-day period. Boulder County was the hardest hit county: the flood caused $300 million of private property damage, affecting 14 percent of Boulder’s households and leading to $27 million of municipal property damage. Estimated costs to repair OSMP infrastructure damaged during the floods is estimated to total more than $7 million, with trails and irrigation water-delivery systems hardest hit. In addition, as members of many ditch companies, we contribute increased assessments to the costs of repair to the ditch companies’ infrastructure. The flood also affected the land itself, necessitating restoration of native vegetation channels and floodplains. These projects have a price tag of more than $2.5 million and climate trends point to increased intensity of flood events. How will we budget for natural disasters into the future?

RELEVANT CHAPTERS
Chapter 6
3.24 Protection of High Hazard Areas
Trends Affecting Each OSMP Charter Purpose

AESTHETICS AND QUALITY OF LIFE

Quality of Life
Boulder’s quality of life is enriched by the diversity of scenic resources and landscapes in and around the City. Residents recently revealed that “aesthetic purposes” is the most important reason for having Open Space and Mountain Parks (2016 Resident Survey). As “the best place to raise an outdoor kid,” according to Backpacker Magazine, Boulder boasts an extensive network of facilities, trails and amenities that OSMP maintains. They offer multiple opportunities for youth, families and people of all ages to connect with and explore nature. How can we best engage a community of all ages, abilities and backgrounds to ensure current and future generations value and protect open space lands?

Working Landscapes
Boulder residents value OSMP’s scenic resources including agricultural, working landscapes. These working landscapes and OSMP’s management of open space lands enable the beautiful scenery to exist. How do we support working landscapes to help protect scenic resources?

Community Health
Boulder County has lower death rates than the national average from cancer, heart disease, diabetes and pneumonia. 88 percent of Boulder County residents ranked their health good to excellent and the County boasts the lowest obesity rate for adults in the State with the lowest obesity rates in the nation. The case is not the same for children and adolescents; 24 percent of Boulder County children are overweight or obese. How do we encourage community health through open space programming?

Inclusivity
The department is committed to sharing open space lands to everyone. How do we can we support quality experiences of OSMP lands for all?

EMERGING TRENDS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

RELEVANT CHAPTERS
Chapter 11

Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan
Open Space Long-Range Management Policies
Systemwide Management or Geographic Area Plans
Related Plans and Ongoing Needs

Sustainability Framework:
Safe community
Healthy and socially thriving community
Livable community
Accessible and connected community
Climate Commitment: Urban Ecosystems

- Provide for aesthetic enjoyment and provide for a passive recreation experience.
- Create opportunities to encourage the public to participate in accomplishing the purposes of open space.
- Maintain or enhance the quality of the visitor experience.
- Coordinate open space acquisitions with other compatible community needs.
- Demonstrate a “best value approach” for public funds.
- Balance the protection of open space near the city with acquisitions farther away.
- Reduce the wildlife risk to forest and human communities.
- Manage and preserve land for passive recreation use, for its aesthetic or passive recreational value, and for its contribution to the quality of life of the community.
- Use education and outreach to help accomplish management goals.
- Use the outdoors for teaching children and adults about wetland ecology, environmental restoration and land stewardship.

- 8.08 Health & Well Being
City/County strive to ensure that the community continues to be a leader in health. Neighborhood/Community design will encourage physical activity and healthy eating.

- Encourage education and interpretation of tallgrass prairie relicts.
- Maintain Boulder Mountain Parks as a place of inspiration, natural wonders, spiritual renewal, and educational benefit for the community.
- Inform and engage the community in setting policy and managing the land.
Questions of resiliency, sustainability and implications to open space charter purposes outlined in this chapter introduce some emerging trends and future directions for OSMP. The Master Plan is envisioned as an engaging, easy-to-use document that calls out major focus areas that respond to the City of Boulder’s open space charter purposes and community values. The plan also will describe measurable strategies that establish an integrated vision for the next decade. During this planning process, questions to be explored further include:

- What other topics, trends and directions may be important now and over the next decade?
- As OSMP and the community continue to plan a future for our natural areas, agricultural lands and visitor services, we want to know what is important to you. What do you value about OSMP and what are your hopes or concerns for the future? How can OSMP anticipate future changes and uphold the community values as stated in the Boulder City Charter and its open space purposes?
- How can we emphasize and ground management strategies in financial realities, recognizing the need to prioritize work over the next 10 years?

With your help, the OSMP Master Plan will establish an integrated, strategic approach to OSMP management over the next decade and beyond.

Thank you for your continued support of Boulder’s open space and mountain parks