

Draft OSMP Master Plan Components: Outcomes and Strategies by Focus Area

FOCUS AREA	Ecosystem Health and Resilience (EHR)
VALUE STATEMENT	<i>Using the best available science, we protect healthy ecosystems and mend those we have impaired.</i>
OUTCOMES	<p>EHR.A) HIGH DIVERSITY OF NATIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS: OSMP lands represent a high diversity of native plants and animals, expansive natural areas and some of the most critical wildlife habitat along the Front Range.</p> <p>EHR.B) RESTORED, RESILIENT HABITAT: Degraded habitat with high potential to support native species and extirpated (i.e., locally extinct) native species are restored and made more resilient to stressors like invasive species or direct and indirect human impacts.</p> <p>EHR.C) CLIMATE ACTION COMMITMENT: Native ecosystems withstand and slow the effects of climate change.</p> <p>EHR.D) INFORMED, SHARED STEWARDSHIP: OSMP and the community work side by side to develop a greater understanding of the land and to safeguard our natural heritage.</p>
<p>STRATEGIES</p> <p>* TOP FUNDING PRIORITIES (drafted with input from community members, staff and the Open Space Board of Trustees)</p>	<p>* EHR.1) CONSERVE AND RESTORE BOULDER’S NATURAL HERITAGE: Sustain, expand, enhance, connect and restore habitat blocks with high ecological value and potential through conservation practices.</p> <p>* EHR.2) CLOSE AND RESTORE UNDESIGNATED TRAILS IN SENSITIVE HABITAT AREAS: Especially where plant and wildlife communities are diverse, unique or made up of rare and/or native species in decline, close or reroute undesignated trails to reduce habitat fragmentation, using an appropriate public engagement process.</p> <p>* EHR.3) EXTEND REQUIREMENTS TO STAY ON DESIGNATED TRAILS INTO TARGETED LOCATIONS: Extend current requirements to stay on OMSP-designated trails into targeted locations, especially where plant and wildlife communities are diverse, unique or made up of rare and/or native species in decline, while providing permits or other mechanisms to allow off-trail travel for appropriate uses.</p> <p>* EHR.4) UNDERSTAND AND ADDRESS IMPACTS FROM NOISE POLLUTION, LIGHT POLLUTION, AND ADJACENT DEVELOPMENT: Work with partners to understand and mitigate impacts to wildlife or sensitive habitat areas that result from noise pollution, light pollution and adjacent development.</p>

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<p>EHR Strategies, continued</p>	<p>* EHR.5) MANAGE ENTIRE ECOSYSTEMS: Use management approaches that consider all elements and processes of natural systems rather than focusing on one species at a time.</p>
	<p>* EHR.6) CONTROL INVASIVE SPECIES: Prioritize management and control of species that have severe and/or widespread impacts, particularly those that are non-native and most likely to be controlled.</p>
	<p>EHR.7) PLAN FOR A CHANGING ECOSYSTEM: Increase the capacity of natural ecosystems to buffer the impacts of extreme events like fires and floods by integrating and coordinating consideration of climate change into future area plans and on-the-ground decision-making.</p>
	<p>EHR.8) DEVELOP A LEARNING LABORATORY APPROACH TO CONSERVATION: Conduct, support and widely distribute the findings of long-term, applied, scientific research and innovative data analysis and synthesis to inspire citizen science, community understanding, practical initiatives, pilots and catalyst projects to improve the city’s ability to recognize and respond to environmental trends.</p>
	<p>EHR.9) REDUCE AND OFFSET GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS: Support the citywide climate commitment by reducing and offsetting greenhouse gas emissions related to departmental operations and visitor travel.</p>

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FOCUS AREA	Responsible Recreation, Stewardship and Enjoyment (RRSE)
VALUE STATEMENT	<i>We are united by our connection to and enjoyment of nature and our obligation to protect it.</i>
OUTCOMES	<p>RRSE.A) DIVERSE RANGE OF RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES: A fun and diverse range of recreational opportunities reflects visitors' interests and abilities that contribute to our physical and mental wellbeing.</p> <p>RRSE.B) ENJOYABLE, RESPONSIBLE RECREATION: Amid changing visitor use levels and patterns, ecosystem health is sustained, and visitor experiences remain positive.</p> <p>RRSE.C) WELCOMING, ACCESSIBLE TRAILHEADS: Welcoming trailheads and supporting recreational amenities provide access to and highlight Boulder's scenic, natural and cultural landscape.</p> <p>RRSE.D) GREAT EXPERIENCES FOR ALL: Visitors respect and care for each other so all can enjoy themselves.</p> <p>RRSE.E) HIGH-QUALITY TRAIL NETWORK: Visitors can enjoy OSMP lands and reach a range of recreational destinations through a well-maintained, connected network of local and regional trails that is welcoming and accessible to all.</p>
STRATEGIES	<p>RRSE.1) SUPPORT A RANGE OF RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES: Continue to encourage a diverse range of passive recreation opportunities that honor and respect the unique character and history of the Boulder community and its surrounding open space lands, providing fun and memorable experiences.</p> <p>RRSE.2) ENCOURAGE MULTIMODAL ACCESS TO TRAILHEADS: Explore and partner on a range of coordinated transportation and design solutions to reduce parking congestion and promote active living, ecosystem health and public transportation.</p> <p>RRSE.3) PROVIDE WELCOMING AND INSPIRING VISITOR AMENITIES: Continue to provide and improve welcoming, sustainable and accessible trailheads and other amenities, such as the Ranger Cottage, Flagstaff Nature Center, Panorama Point and other viewpoints, picnic areas and wayfinding, to enhance visitor experiences and inspire understanding of the surrounding landscape for a range of visitor demographics.</p>
* TOP FUNDING PRIORITIES (drafted with input from community members, staff and the Open Space Board of Trustees)	

Draft OSMP Master Plan Components: Outcomes and Strategies by Focus Area

<p>RRSE strategies, continued</p>	<p>* RRSE.4) DEVELOP GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS FOR QUALITY TRAIL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION: Design and construct quality trails that facilitate a range of experiences through a variety of landscape types, using design guidelines and construction standards that elevate the quality and sustainability of trails and encourage the use of native materials that blend with natural surroundings.</p>
	<p>* RRSE.5) REDUCE THE TRAIL MAINTENANCE BACKLOG: Use technology to anticipate and address long-term maintenance needs and changing conditions through a prioritized, life-cycle approach to improving the condition of OSMP’s diverse portfolio of historic and modern trails and amenities.</p>
	<p>RRSE.6) IMPROVE TRAIL CONNECTIONS: Connect and improve the trail network where lands offer high recreational potential, leveraging citywide and regional partnerships.</p>
	<p>* RRSE.7) MANAGE INCREASING VISITATION: Develop an adaptive visitor use management toolkit that explores the expanded use and coordination of management tools that address visitation growth and support positive visitor experiences.</p>
	<p>* RRSE.8) REVIEW AND IMPROVE FEE-BASED RECREATION PROGRAMS: Support enjoyable and compatible recreation experiences by periodically evaluating and refining fee-based recreation programs, commercial use permits and related regulations to make programs easier to understand for visitors and easier to manage for staff.</p>
	<p>RRSE.9) DEVELOP A LEARNING LABORATORY APPROACH TO RECREATION: Combine community engagement results with scientific research and comprehensive data analysis to understand trends and to develop and assess practical initiatives and design approaches that seek to improve community wellbeing, enjoyment, understanding and stewardship.</p>

Draft OSMP Master Plan Components: Outcomes and Strategies by Focus Area

FOCUS AREA	Community Connection, Education and Inclusion (CCEI)
VALUE STATEMENT	<i>Together, we build an inclusive community of stewards and seek to find our place in open space.</i>
OUTCOMES	<p>CCEI.A) INSPIRING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION: Visitors participate in education programs and other forums that deepen their sense of place and appreciation for Boulder’s natural, cultural and scenic heritage and broaden their understanding of OSMP land and its management.</p>
	<p>CCEI.B) FULFILLING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: Community volunteerism, partnerships and neighborhood involvement serve an increasingly vital role in OSMP’s fulfillment of the City Charter Purposes for open space.</p>
	<p>CCEI.C) LIFETIME CONNECTIONS WITH NATURE: Long-term connections with OSMP lands are strengthened and deepened over the course of our lives and across generations.</p>
	<p>CCEI.D) PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELLBEING: Increase awareness of the benefits of nature and the ways visiting OSMP lands can reduce stress and increase physical and mental well-being.</p>
	<p>CCEI.E) ENGAGED YOUTH INSPIRED BY NATURE: OSMP is an emerging leader in promoting an increase in the time that youth spend outdoors and caring for their open space system.</p>
	<p>CCEI.F) PROMOTING EQUITY & INCLUSION: We are all part of an inclusive community, where all people feel welcome, safe and able to enjoy the benefits of open space.</p>
	<p>CCEI.G) CONNECTIONS TO BOULDER’S PAST: Cultural landscapes and historic resources on OSMP lands are preserved so that people can enjoy and understand the places and stories of Boulder’s past.</p>
STRATEGIES	<p>CCEI.1) INSPIRE AND DEVELOP NEW INVOLVEMENT IN OSMP: Foster interest, competence and confidence in enjoying and sustaining the OSMP system through a continuum of educational and service-learning experiences for people of all ages.</p>
	<p>CCEI.2) CULTIVATE LEADERS IN STEWARDSHIP: Advance skill-building and training for volunteers and stewards through expanded mentorship and leadership opportunities that increase OSMP’s capacity to address needs and support career development in open space management.</p>

Draft OSMP Master Plan Components: Outcomes and Strategies by Focus Area

<p>CCEI strategies, continued</p>	<p>CCEI.3) INSPIRE WELLNESS THROUGH IMMERSION IN THE OUTDOORS: Working with schools and organizations, raise awareness of how open space improves physical and mental wellbeing.</p>
	<p>CCEI.4) HEIGHTEN COMMUNITY UNDERSTANDING OF LAND MANAGEMENT EFFORTS: Heighten community and neighborhood understanding and involvement in OSMP management and planning efforts through targeted education, outreach and in-person engagements in support of on-the-ground action.</p>
<p>* TOP FUNDING PRIORITIES (drafted with input from community members, staff and the Open Space Board of Trustees)</p>	<p>* CCEI.5) ENHANCE SIGNS AND COMMUNICATIONS: Foster discovery, enjoyment and stewardship through a coordinated effort to enhance signs, communications and media that incorporate effective design, messaging and languages for a range of audiences.</p>
	<p>* CCEI.6) WELCOME DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS AND ABILITIES: Improve understanding, services and amenities for underserved communities through outreach, listening sessions, culturally-relevant programming, language translations, visual signs and materials, staffing and other creative means of empowering and engaging underserved members of our community.</p>
	<p>* CCEI.7) PROGRAMS TO CONNECT YOUTH TO NATURE: Foster youth interest, competence and confidence in enjoying and preserving nature for youth through a continuum of educational and service-learning experiences.</p>
	<p>* CCEI.8) CONSULT AND COLLABORATE WITH FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED NATIVE AMERICAN NATIONS AND HELP SUPPORT INDIGENOUS PEOPLES: Work in partnership with American Indian Tribes and other city departments through formal government-to-government consultations to support Tribal Nations and Indigenous Peoples' connections to their ancestral homelands. Support local organizations to help the community understand, honor and promote knowledge of Native Americans' historical presence in the Boulder Valley and their forced removal from the area. Enable visitors to learn from and about Native American Nations and Indigenous Peoples.</p>
	<p>CCEI.9) PRESERVE AND INTERPRET BOULDER'S CULTURAL HERITAGE: Complete an inventory and resource management approach for OSMP-managed cultural landscapes and historic resources to improve community connections with Boulder's past.</p>

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FOCUS AREA	Agriculture Today and Tomorrow (ATT)
VALUE STATEMENT	<i>Our legacy and future are based on working landscapes that are in harmony with nature.</i>
OUTCOMES	ATT.A) VIABLE AGRICULTURAL LIVELIHOODS: The city’s ranchers and farmers are valued and supported in their contributions to the stewardship of Boulder’s agricultural heritage.
	ATT.B) SUSTAINABLE, PRODUCTIVE AGRICULTURE: OSMP’s agricultural lands and infrastructure remain productive and sustainable long into the future.
	ATT.C) DIVERSE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS FOR LOCAL MARKETS: A diversity of food and agricultural products is grown on suitable open space properties to better meet the changing demands of the local agricultural economy and the needs of ranchers, farmers and city residents.
	ATT.D) HIGH-VALUE HABITAT ON RANCHES AND FARMS: City agricultural lands provide high-value habitat for rare and native species, integrating both agricultural and ecosystem objectives.
	ATT.E) SOIL HEALTH AND RESILIENCE: Appropriate agricultural practices protect high-quality soils from erosion, improve productivity, maintain soil health and increase resilience in a changing climate.
	ATT.F) RESILIENT AND EFFICIENT WATER SUPPLY: OSMP emerges as a leader in the acquisition and preservation of water assets and the application of innovative irrigation practices that anticipate environmental change.
	ATT.G) APPRECIATION FOR WORKING LANDSCAPES: Community members experience and better understand working landscapes, contributing to the preservation of Boulder’s agricultural lands and heritage.
STRATEGIES	* ATT.1) TAKE CARE OF AGRICULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE: Focus investments on maintaining and improving existing agricultural infrastructure to standards - both water-related and structural.
	ATT.2) INTEGRATE NATIVE ECOSYSTEMS AND AGRICULTURE: While maintaining the viability of agricultural operations, evaluate and increase the potential for improving the quality of habitat on agricultural lands through staff programs and partnerships with ranchers and farmers.

Draft OSMP Master Plan Components: Outcomes and Strategies by Focus Area

<p>ATT strategies, continued</p>	<p>ATT.3) SUPPORT RANCHERS AND FARMERS: Where appropriate, evaluate and pilot cost-sharing, partnerships and other mechanisms to encourage both responsible land stewardship and economic viability for a diverse range of current and future farmers and ranchers on OSMP lands.</p>
	<p>ATT.4) INCREASE AGRICULTURAL VARIETY: Partner with open space ranchers and farmers to analyze and where appropriate expand the variety of agricultural operations on OSMP lands, focusing on the infrastructure and technical assistance needed to support local food systems, including diversified vegetable farming, pastured livestock, micro dairies, and taking products to market.</p>
<p>* TOP FUNDING PRIORITIES (drafted with input from community members, staff and the Open Space Board of Trustees)</p>	<p>ATT.5) ENHANCE ENJOYMENT AND PROTECTION OF AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES AND VIEWS: Partner with community members, farmers and ranchers to maintain and enhance the condition and experience of working landscapes, viewsheds and historic structures.</p>
	<p>ATT.6) REDUCE OR ELIMINATE PESTICIDE USE: Reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides wherever possible. When reduction or elimination of pesticides is not possible, use the least toxic and least persistent pesticide that is effective.</p>
	<p>* ATT.7) REDUCE LOCAL IMPACTS FROM PRAIRIE DOGS: Increase the viability of agricultural operations to the extent possible by reducing impacts from prairie dogs on agricultural lands, especially in prioritized irrigated fields, while maintaining ecologically sustainable prairie dog populations across the landscape.</p>
	<p>ATT.8) MANAGE THE FUTURE OF WATER: Develop a water management approach that balances sustainable agricultural operations, ecosystem stewardship, protection of OSMP water rights, efficiency of water use and resilience in a more variable climate.</p>
	<p>* ATT.9) ENHANCE SOIL HEALTH: Manage agricultural activities in tilled lands and native grasslands to prevent soil erosion, maintain and/or improve soil health, and protect ecosystem function.</p>

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FOCUS AREA	Financial Sustainability (FS)
VALUE STATEMENT	<i>Shifting financial conditions require planning for the future.</i>
OUTCOMES	<p>FS.A) LASTING VALUE FOR THE COMMUNITY: OSMP effectively and efficiently manages city taxpayer dollars to build both trust and lasting open space value.</p> <p>FS.B) RESILIENCE TO CHANGE: Financial management strengthens adaptability and resilience to local, national and global market forces and environmental change.</p> <p>FS.C) PROTECTED INVESTMENTS: The community’s long-term investment in open space is protected or enhanced by prioritizing maintenance of OSMP properties and assets.</p> <p>FS.D) TARGETED ACQUISITIONS: Strategic acquisition of land, mineral and water interests continue to play an important role in preserving, enhancing and managing Boulder’s legacy of preservation, agriculture and passive recreation.</p> <p>FS.E) EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION: Financial information is proactively and clearly communicated to promote accountability, increase community understanding of OSMP financial management, and ensure alignment of spending with community priorities.</p>
STRATEGIES	<p>FS.1) STABILIZE FUNDING: Steadily generate funds through sales and use tax collections while strategically leveraging other revenue streams and local dollars to support OSMP’s capacity to deliver open space services.</p> <p>FS.2) BUDGET FOR FUTURE UNCERTAINTY: Create, optimize, and manage budgets that anticipate major change drivers such as extreme weather events and fluctuations in revenue and spending.</p> <p>FS.3) UNDERSTAND TOTAL COST OF SYSTEM MANAGEMENT: Adopt or create models to understand the total value and cost of managing the OSMP system and its many diverse assets, including impact and investment tracking for upfront and ongoing costs regarding land management, agriculture, trails and other infrastructure.</p>

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<p>FS strategies, continued</p>	<p>FS.4) TAKE CARE OF WHAT WE HAVE: Focus capital investments on retaining the health of ecosystems on OSMP properties, as well as maintenance of existing trails, amenities and agricultural infrastructure.</p>
	<p>FS.5) TARGET ACQUISITIONS: Prioritize opportunities to acquire land, mineral and water interests in the Area III - Rural Preservation Area of the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan to advance its goals, OSMP Master Plan focus areas and city charter purposes for open space.</p>
	<p>FS.6) PARTNER TO PROTECT LANDS BEYOND TARGET AREA: Consider acquisition of land, mineral and water interests outside the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan boundary where partnership opportunities help leverage costs and advance Master Plan focus areas and charter purposes for OSMP.</p>
	<p>FS.7) PARTICIPATE IN OTHER ACQUISITION OPPORTUNITIES: Consider acquisition of land, water and mineral interests within Area I and II of the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan only when coupled with planning, development or annexation projects or where citywide priorities or partnership opportunities emerge.</p>
	<p>FS.8) EVALUATE EXISTING REAL ESTATE ASSETS ON OSMP LANDS: To improve the protection of, and align with, Open Space purposes in the City Charter, assess real estate assets and explore alternative preservation and stewardship options to better enable staff to steward and manage for those purposes.</p>
	<p>FS.9) INVEST IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: To provide effective management of the OSMP system over time, maintain a team-oriented workforce that benefits from experience and ongoing training and is equipped with adequate resources to meet the expectations of the community.</p>
	<p>FS.10) UPDATE PLANNING FRAMEWORK: Refine OSMP planning methods and products to better inform and prioritize the efficient use of limited funding.</p>