Boulder County Parks & Open Space

2020 Strategic Vision

July 12, 2016 BOCC presentation
Boulder County’s Mission Statement

As trusted stewards of Boulder County’s future, we provide the best in public service.
Open Space Mission Statement

To conserve natural, cultural, and agricultural resources and provide public uses that reflect sound resource management and community values.
Why goals?

Every company needs goals.

We have division goals, department goals, district goals, personal goals and affiliate goals.

You will all attend a four-hour training session on how to write goals.

Every week you will report on how you are doing compared to your goals.

Those reports will be entered into a giant database.

Won't the size and complexity of the database make it impossible to know what's really happening?

Yes, that's why your raises will be based on what you look like.

Bummer for you.
Why Measure Performance?

• If you measure results, you can tell success from failure.
• If you can see success, you can reward it.
• If you reward success, you will not reward failure.
• If you can see success, you can learn from it.
• If you can recognize failure, you can learn from it.
• If you can demonstrate results, you can win public support.

Adapted from: Reinventing Government – How the Entrepreneurial Spirit is Transforming the Public Sector, by Osborne & Gaebler
Goals for 1977

- to continue protection of acquired County open space areas
- to provide minimum scheduled maintenance per the adopted Open Space Policies
- to continue construction and/or improvements of trails in accordance with the trails plan
- to schedule management activities for County open space areas
- to complete a resource inventory on County-controlled lands
- to prepare management plans as required for open space areas
- to formalize and expand our volunteer program to supplement requests for our program services
- to provide environmental interpretive activities designed to encourage safe and wise use by the public of existing and future open space areas
2008-2012 Highlights

- CE Baseline backlog banished!
- 99% of Russian Olive trees removed
- Doubled volunteer hours
- Created partner program
- Added 20 miles of trail
- Converted 10% crops to organic production
2013-2015 Highlights

• Preserved 5,264 acres, putting us over 100,000 acres total
• Completed ERE update
• Plant nursery for native plant propagation
• Communication study and implementation
• 20% Increase in visits to cultural history sites
• 15% ag land in organic production
• POS University
2020 Strategic Vision Process

• All staff brainstorm, spring 2015
• Managers’ Retreat, winter 2015
• Public Input:
  – Question on Visitor Survey, Summer 2015
  – Stakeholder meeting, March 22, 2016
  – POSAC, June 23, 2016
• BOCC Adoption, July 12, 2016
2020 Strategic Vision Themes

- Flood Recovery
- Demographic Shifts
- Climate Change
- Dynamic Agriculture
- Access and Transparency
- Acquire Remaining Properties
- Protect Species & Habitat
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5-Year Visitor Study question results (59% or 1,348 responded)</th>
<th>Percentage Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Build more trails</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Build/open more bike trails</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Build off-road connector trails between properties and communities</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know or don’t live in Area</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buy/acquire more open space</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain/manage land, preservation and stewardship of land</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keep up the good work</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flood repairs/re-open closed properties and trails</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve and maintain current trails</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase access to current land/open properties</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reasons to Extend Tax For Open Space

- Percent saying “Extremely / Very” important-

[n=605]

- To preserve/maintain wildlife habitat/corridors: 41% Very important, 24% Extremely important, 65%
- To manage & maintain existing open space: 43% Very important, 19% Extremely important, 62%
- To restore OS wetlands & areas damaged by 2013 flood: 39% Very important, 21% Extremely important, 60%
- To purchase the remaining targeted lands: 25% Very important, 15% Extremely important, 40%
- To construct more trails on or connecting to OS: 30% Very important, 9% Extremely important, 39%

Q8
Boulder County Population Forecast

The chart shows the population forecast for Boulder County from 2000 to 2050. The population is projected to steadily increase over time, with a significant rise expected by 2050.
Colorado’s Changing Demographics
1980-2040

The chart shows the percentage distribution of different demographic groups in Colorado from 1980 to 2040. The groups include White, Latino, API, Black, and Other. The chart indicates a significant increase in the Latino population percentage from 1980 (3%) to 2040 (33%), with a corresponding decrease in the White population percentage from 1980 (83%) to 2040 (56%).
Metro Area Age Wave

![Graph showing the age distribution of a metro area for the years 1990 and 2025. The graph indicates a peak in the 18-24 age group in 2025 and a sharp decline in the 65-74 and 75-84 age groups.]
Obesity Trends* Among U.S. Adults

BRFSS, 2008

(*BMI ≥30, or ~ 30 lbs. overweight for 5’ 4” person)
13
Number of states with adult obesity rates above 30 percent

41
Number of states with adult obesity rates of at least 25 percent

20.5%
Colorado
Lowest rate of adult obesity

34.7%
Louisiana
Highest rate of adult obesity
Many states and US territories are showing decreases in childhood obesity.
Climate Change Projections and Impacts for Boulder County

• Average temperatures expected to rise by ~2–3°F by 2030 and ~3.5–5.0°F by 2050
• more warming in summer than in winter
• More rain, less snow
• Stronger extreme precipitation events
• Decreased annual stream flows
• Increased duration and intensity of wildfires
Mean Minimum Temperature for Colorado -- Boulder County

12 month period ending in December

* 10-year running mean
Mean Maximum Temperature for Colorado -- Boulder County

12 month period ending in December

- Temperature
- ENDING YEAR OF PERIOD

* 10-year running mean
**Strategic Goal A:**

**Complete Flood Recovery**

1. Complete recovery of riparian corridors and reservoirs damaged during 2013 flood
2. Complete recovery of trails and facilities damaged during the 2013 flood
Strategic Goal B: Improve Public Access to Lands & Information

2. Complete 7-mile Tolland Ranch Regional Trail
3. Add 6 miles of trail and associated facilities at AHI
4. Add an additional 10 miles of trails and associated facilities
5. Facilitate regional trail planning/implementation efforts
6. Create construction & maintenance guidelines for POS facilities
7. Improve public information about Department and projects
8. Use new, creative ways to engage public in planning process
9. Integrate technology into nature based experiences
10. Increase participation in education programs
11. Improve public access to BCPOS monitoring data
Strategic Goal C: 
Protect and Restore Habitat & Species

2. Write and begin implementing 25 ERE Species of Special Concern conservation plans
3. Enhance and protect pollinator habitat, including planting 50 acres of new pollinator habitat
4. Reintroduce Black-footed ferrets to Boulder County Parks and Open Space lands
5. Complete wildlife surveys and baseline vegetation mapping on high-priority properties
6. Enhance and restore ecological values on 600 acres of forestland, on three degraded/nonproductive agricultural properties, on grassland habitat, and in and along the St. Vrain
7. Enhance native vegetation on three POS properties by removing Cheat grass
8. Minimize impacts to open space resources (natural and agricultural) from oil and gas, utility and other third-party impacts
Strategic Goal D: Acquire Significant Properties

1. Preserve 2,500 additional acres and associated water rights
2. Prioritize acquisitions that offer opportunities for important trail connections
3. Pursue alternative strategies for accomplishing land exchanges
Strategic Goal E: Plan for Demographic shifts

1. Create a diversity plan to engage new, diverse and underrepresented populations and partners

2. Identify a large site, preferably near water, for picnic and recreation use
Strategic Goal F: Foster Dynamic Agriculture

1. Convert 25% of agricultural land to organic practices by 2020
2. Implement Soil Conservation and Water Conservation Plans for POS Ag lands (see also B-11)
3. Implement and refine integrated pest management protocols
4. Support local food production efforts
5. Improve Fairgrounds utilization for agricultural activities
6. Implement Cropland Policy GE Transition Plan
**Strategic Goal G:**

*Adapt to Climate Change*

1. Develop and begin to implement a policy for climate change adaptation and mitigation
2. Reduce POS-related energy use
3. Implement Boulder County’s Zero-Waste policy throughout the POS system
4. Become a leader in carbon sequestration through land management
Strategic Goal H: Care for Cultural Assets

1. Complete and implement Cultural Resource Management Policy
2. Increase visitation to historical sites by 10%
3. Complete and implement a maintenance plan for priority cultural assets
4. Complete historic buildings defensible space grant and develop long-term defensible space maintenance plan
Strategic Goal I: Engage Volunteers in Stewardship

1. Increase volunteer hours by 20%
2. Expand partnership program by 20%
3. Strengthen collaboration between the department and volunteers
Questions, Comments?