



Parks and Open Space

5201 St. Vrain Road • Longmont, Colorado 80503
303.678.6200 • Fax: 303.678.6177 • www.bouldercounty.org

NOTICE OF POSAC PUBLIC MEETING

The Boulder County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee (POSAC) will hold its annual retreat, which will be open to the public, on Saturday, February 11, 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Goodhue Farmhouse, located at 2009 S. 112th St., at The Carolyn Holmberg Preserve at Rock Creek Farm. POSAC members and Parks & Open Space staff will discuss projects, goals, and policies. The retreat will not provide an opportunity for public comment and POSAC will take no votes or actions at the retreat.

NOTICE OF POSAC EXECUTIVE SESSION

As part of its annual retreat, the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee (POSAC) will hold an executive session, which will be closed to the public, on Saturday, February 11, at approximately 12:30 p.m., immediately following the public portion of the retreat, at the Goodhue Farmhouse at Rock Creek Farm. The executive session will provide an opportunity for POSAC members to discuss properties currently under negotiation.

Due to the confidential nature of the purchase and/or sale of private property, this will be a closed meeting attended by POSAC members and relevant Boulder County Parks & Open Space staff. No final decisions will be made in this meeting; any final decisions regarding the purchase or sale of property will be subject to the public process at future POSAC and BOCC meetings.

The agenda and available staff memos for the retreat may be viewed on our website:

www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org/POSAC



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**Agenda for POSAC Retreat
February 11, 2017
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Goodhue House at Rock Creek Farm**

Suggested Timetable

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 8:50 | <i>Coffee and pastries</i> |
| 9:00 | 1. The Role of POSAC Now & Going Forward (Eric Lane) |
| 9:30 | 2. Management Plans: Staffing & Scope (Ernst Strenge) |
| 10:00 | 3. Regional Trail Connections (Matt Wempe, Al Hardy, & Ernst Strenge) |
| 11:00 | 4. Visitor Studies and User Needs (Pascale Fried) |
| 11:30 | 5. Diversity, Trail Use, and Volunteerism (Pascale Fried) |
| | <i>Working Lunch</i> |
| 12:00 | 6. Plans to Restore Extirpated Species (Susan Spaulding) |
| 12:30 | 7. Executive Session - <i>Closed to the Public</i>
-Update on Land Acquisitions (Eric Lane & Janis Whisman) |



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PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RETREAT

TO: Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee

DATE: Saturday, February 11, 2017

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: The Role of POSAC Now & Going Forward

PRESENTER: Eric Lane, Director

ACTION REQUESTED: Information Only

Recent decisions and actions by the BOCC and POS have raised concerns among some members of POSAC about the role of the advisory committee and how to provide useful advice and direction to the Department and the County in the future. This agenda item provides POSAC with the opportunity to reflect on their role in the past and present, and to discuss how POSAC can provide more effective input to the county in the future.

Included for background material are:

1. Email between Conrad Lattes (POS attorney) and me in which he provides a couple of relative documents and a note about a particular circumstance in which POSAC input is required.
2. A pre-existing memo that Conrad crafted pertaining to the legalities of POSAC as a “local public body.”
3. The existing bylaws for POSAC that may be as old as the 1980s. A lot has changed since then and we should discuss what is still relevant today and what isn’t. It’s an understatement to observe that much has changed in the County and the Department.

As you prepared for the retreat, I think it would be helpful for POSAC members, especially those that have been around the block for a number of years, to reflect upon what you think has worked well and the ways in which you feel POSAC has made its best contributions.



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PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

TO: Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee

DATE AND LOCATION: _____, 6:30 p.m. Commissioners Hearing Room, 3rd floor
Boulder County Courthouse, 1325 Pearl Street, Boulder, CO

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Open Records and Open Meetings

PRESENTER: Conrad Lattes, Assistant County Attorney

ACTION REQUESTED: Information Only

POSAC is an advisory board comprised of members appointed by the Board of County Commissioners to make recommendations to the Board regarding issues related to the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Department. POSAC does not make any final decisions; it makes recommendations to the Board, which is the ultimate decision maker. As appointed members of POSAC, you are part of a “local public body” and are subject to state laws related to open records and open meetings, each of which have been enacted in order to promote transparency and confidence in the operations of government. The idea with these laws is that the public has a right to know everything that has gone into the decision making process of all public bodies. The purpose of this memo is to provide an awareness of some of the considerations related to these statutory requirements so that you can better understand your responsibilities as a committee member. If you ever have questions about these issues, please feel free to either call (303-441-1761) or email (clattes@bouldercounty.org) me. Thank you.

Open Records Act

The Colorado Open Records Act states that all public records, with limited, enumerated, exceptions, are subject to disclosure upon request. Any communications to or from POSAC members related to issues before POSAC are considered public records subject to disclosure under the Open Records Act. The custodian of the records requested has to make the records available for inspection within 3 business days of the request, but can seek an extension of up to 10 additional business days if it is a voluminous request or for other compelling reasons. There is no requirement for the requester of information to provide any reason for the request. The county can charge \$.25 per page if the requester would like copies and, if the request involves an unusual amount of time to respond, the county can also charge for staff time necessary to compile the records. There are limited exceptions that apply in some circumstances that prevent disclosure (i.e. attorney-client privilege, deliberative process privilege, and negotiation of real estate purchases) but the general presumption is that any record of the government is subject to being inspected and/or copied.

Open Meetings Law

The purpose of the Colorado Open Meetings Law, also called the Colorado Sunshine Law, is fairly simple: "It is declared to be a matter of statewide concern and the policy of this state that the formation of public policy is public business and may not be conducted in secret."

While the purpose of having open meetings laws makes sense and is simple and straight forward, implementation of that law is more difficult:

The Colorado Open Meetings Law applies to all "meetings" of "local public bodies."

What is a Local Public Body?

A "local public body" is "any board, commission, authority, or other advisory, policy-making, rule-making, or formally constituted body of any political subdivision of the state and any public or private entity to which a political subdivision, or an official thereof, has delegated a governmental decision-making function." C.R.S. §24-6-402(1)(a). Although POSAC has not been delegated decision making responsibility and will not take any formal action on behalf of Boulder County, because the purpose of POSAC is to advise Boulder County, POSAC is a "local public body" that is subject to the Open Meetings Law.

What is a Public Meeting?

A meeting is "any kind of gathering, convened to discuss public business, in person, by telephone, electronically, or by other means of communication." C.R.S. §24-6-402(1)(b).

Under the law, all meetings of "a quorum or three or more members of a local public body, whichever is fewer, at which public business is discussed or at which any formal action may be taken are declared to be public meetings open to the public at all times." C.R.S. §24-6-402(2)(b).

Regularly scheduled meetings of POSAC are clearly public meetings that must be open to the public. In 2008, the Board of County Commissioners considered, but declined to agree to, having ongoing electronic public meetings by blog. Boulder County supports having POSAC conduct all of its public business at its monthly meetings and would like, to the extent possible, avoiding inadvertent public meetings from occurring. What this means is that 3 or more members of POSAC cannot have a discussion about any issues related to the work of POSAC except at regularly scheduled meetings.

Email

Email communications between a quorum or three or more members of the Council in which public business is discussed are also "public meetings." It would be difficult to provide advance notice of, or public participating in or monitoring of, electronic meetings to be held by email. Serial emails from one member to another, and then forwarded to another, have been held by courts to be public meetings under the law.

If email communications are between only 2 of the members, no advance notice or ability to inspect the records is required, so individual members are free to discuss public business via email with one other individual member at a time (however, these emails could be required to be produced after the fact under the Open Records Act), *but do not forward any emails to other members*. Also, by joining POSAC, members do not give up their free speech rights and members may contact the rest of the committee to make comments, just as any other

member of the public may, *but any comments may not solicit a response and a response may not be given by other members of POSAC* (i.e. one-way communication is acceptable, but not two-way communication). While email is a convenient method of scheduling meetings, coordinating carpooling, and other logistical issues, my recommendation is that POSAC members not discuss public business by email because it can be difficult to avoid the forwarding of chains of email and the inadvertent violation of the law.

Notice

“Any meetings at which the adoption of any proposed policy, position, resolution, rule, regulation, or formal action occurs or at which a majority or quorum of the body is in attendance, or is expected to be in attendance, shall be held only after full and timely notice to the public.” C.R.S. §24-6-402(2)(c). Postings are supposed to be made at least 24 hours in advance of meetings and shall include the agenda if possible. Boulder County will post notice of meetings about which it is aware, but can’t post notice of meetings it does not schedule and does not know about.

Minutes, Other Records and Executive Sessions

“Minutes of any meeting of a local public body at which the adoption of any proposed policy, position, rule, regulation, or formal action occurs or could occur shall be taken and promptly recorded, and such records shall be open to public inspection.” C.R.S. § 24-6-402(2)(d)(II). Local public bodies may hold executive sessions for narrowly defined reasons (receipt of legal advice, negotiation/discussion of proposed real estate transactions). In order to have an executive session, it must be requested by 2/3 of the local public body during a public meeting. If an executive session takes place, there must be an announcement in the public meeting of the topic to be considered and the legal authority for the executive session, and the minutes must contain the topic discussed at the executive session. Executive sessions are not subject to the Open Meetings Law, but any executive session must be recorded (so that someone can challenge, and a court can review, whether the topic of the executive session was actually for proper purposes), except for portions protected under the attorney-client privilege. If the procedural requirements are not complied with (i.e. improper vote, notice, or minutes) the entire record of the executive session must be disclosed.

Enforcement

Colorado courts have jurisdiction to issue injunctions to enforce the purposes of the section upon application by any citizen of the state. A prevailing citizen is entitled to an award of costs and attorney fees. Because Boulder County supports the purposes of the open meetings law and does not want to have to pay attorney fees, please help the County stay within the bounds of the law.

BYLAWS OF THE BOULDER COUNTY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

ARTICLE I

Name

Section 1. Name. The name of this Committee shall be the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee.

ARTICLE II

Purpose and Policy

Section 1. Purpose. The purpose of the Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee shall be to promote the development of a comprehensive open space and trails program for Boulder County and to advise the Parks and Open Space Department, the Boulder County Planning Commission, and the Board of County Commissioners on issues relating to open space, trails and parks.

Section 2. Policy. The Committee shall support the goals and policies contained in the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan and the County land use regulations contained in other documents.

ARTICLE III

Responsibilities

Section 1. Policy Development. The Committee shall assume a leadership role in developing, establishing, and, when necessary, recommending revisions to land use policies and regulations pertaining to trails and open space. In that regard, Committee recommendations shall be submitted in writing, through the Parks and Open Space Department, to the County Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners.

Section 2. Review Responsibility. The Committee shall review preliminary plans, subdivision sketch plans, and other applications such as special use permits and rezonings and make written recommendations concerning the open space, trail and park aspects of the plan or application, through the Parks and Open Space Department, to the County Planning Commission. Recommendations sent to the Land Use Department, shall be submitted, along with comments from other referral agencies, to the Board of County Commissioners. Recommendations shall conform to the provisions of the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan.

Section 3. Program Development. The Committee shall adopt, and revise when necessary, an open space and trails plan for the County; shall make recommendations on trails development and open space preservation to the Board of County Commissioners; shall, with the Parks and Open Space Department, develop and make available to the public a community education program on open space preservation and management; shall research and carry out projects authorized or

referred to it by the Board of County Commissioners; may advise the Parks and Open Space Department on matters of mutual concern such as the formulation of management plans, the establishment of procedures for monitoring the open space elements of approved applications, and budgeting for long-term open space needs; and may make recommendations regarding new programs to the Department and the Board of County Commissioners.

Section 4. Coordination. The Committee shall assume a leadership role in the coordination of City and County parks, open space and trails programs. Where possible, the Committee shall seek cooperation of state and federal agencies.

ARTICLE IV

Membership

Section 1. Number. The membership of this Committee shall be limited to thirteen members and shall be as representative as possible of the County as a whole. Particular consideration shall be given to geographic representation.

Section 2. Eligibility. Any qualified elector of Boulder County shall be eligible for appointment to the Committee.

Section 3. Appointments. Appointments to the Committee are made each January, or any time a vacancy occurs, by the Board of County Commissioners after a review of the applicants.

Section 4. Terms. The term of appointment to membership on the Committee shall be three years. Terms shall be staggered, with one-third of the members' terms expiring each year.

Section 5. Absences. Unexcused absence, by a Committee member, from three regular meetings or any absence from five regular meetings of the Committee, in any twelve month period, shall be cause for the chairman to ask the Board of County Commissioners to replace that member.

Section 6. Resignations. Any member who resigns before the expiration of his or her term shall do so in writing to the chairman of the Board of County Commissioners.

ARTICLE V

Officers

Section 1. Enumeration and Election. The officers of the Committee shall consist of a chairman and a vice-chairman and shall be elected at the first regular meeting following the annual appointment of new members by the Board of County Commissioners. Each officer shall hold office for twelve months until his or her successor shall have been duly elected. The Director of the Parks and Open Space Department, or a staff member designated by the Director, shall serve as secretary to the Committee.

Section 2. Duties. The chairman or, in the absence of the chairman, the vice-chairman, shall conduct all meetings of the Committee; maintain contact with staff of the Parks and Open Space Department and, when appropriate, the Board of County Commissioners; and perform other duties designated by the Committee.

ARTICLE VI

Meetings

Section 1. Meetings. The Committee shall meet regularly at a time acceptable to a majority of the members. Special meetings may be called by the chairman or by the Director of the Parks and Open Space Department with one weeks notice. All meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public.

Section 2. Public Notice. Meeting agendas and, when appropriate, accompanying press releases shall be distributed to the news media by the Parks and Open Space Department in time for publication prior to the Committee meeting. Agendas shall be posted in the Commissioners office.

Section 3. Quorum. A quorum shall consist of seven members of the Committee.

Section 4. Conflict of Interest. Any member with a conflict of interest shall disclose their interest and abstain from discussion and voting on that item, and the minutes shall note such action.

ARTICLE VII

Subcommittees

Section 1. Creation. Subcommittees, standing or special, shall be appointed by the chairman as the Committee shall from time to time deem necessary to carry on the work of the Committee.

ARTICLE VIII

Parliamentary Authority

Section 1. Parliamentary Authority. The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Committee in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the Committee may adopt.

ARTICLE IX

Amendments

Section 1. Amendments. These bylaws can be amended at any regular meeting of the Committee by a two-thirds vote of the members present,

provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting.



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PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RETREAT

TO: Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee

DATE: Saturday, February 11, 2017

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Management Plans – Staffing and Scope

PRESENTER: Ernst Streng, Interim Resource Planning Manager

ACTION REQUESTED: Information Only

Parks & Open Space has multiple levels of guidance for management of open space properties, including the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan, management policies, and property specific management plans. The Comprehensive Plan provides overarching guidance for management of county open space. Management policies provide more detailed guidance for landscape-level or system-wide issues and include policy documents related to cropland, grassland and shrubland, forests, wildlife, water, visitor use, and cultural resources. (To date, only the cropland, forest management, and water policies have been adopted.) Finally, property specific management plans offer the most detail and guidance of existing resources, desired future conditions, and on-the-ground actions for specific open space properties or groups of properties.

Parks & Open Space currently has over 20 adopted management plans for the majority of our major open space properties, including Walker Ranch, Betasso Preserve, Walden Ponds, Lagerman-AHI-Imel, North Foothills (Hall Ranch and Heil Valley Ranch), Caribou Ranch, Carolyn Holmberg Preserve at Rock Creek Farms, Pella Crossing, and Rabbit Mountain. Current management plans can be found at: <http://www.bouldercounty.org/os/openspace/pages/posplans.aspx>. Some of these management plans were prepared 20+ years ago and are scheduled for updates, while others have been updated or amended in recent years. New properties may require a completely new management plan, but are typically incorporated into an existing plan.

For the past 10 years or so, Parks & Open Space has maintained 3 Resource Planners to manage, facilitate, and prepare management plans and management plan updates for the department. Along with the assigned Resource Planner, each management planning process includes an internal multi-disciplinary team, which includes representatives from each of our various work groups (e.g. plant ecology, trails, wildlife, landscape architecture, GIS, forestry, agriculture, real estate, education and outreach, rangers, water, and cultural resources, as well as the director and division managers).

A typical planning process includes the following steps:

1. Project Initiation
2. Initial Internal Scoping
 - a. Team development
 - b. Background information gathering
 - c. Issues, interests, and ideas

- d. Prepare for initial public scoping
3. Initial Public Scoping
 - a. 30 day public comment period
 - b. Public meeting
 - c. Issues, interests, and ideas
 - d. Provide responses to initial public comments
4. Development of Draft Management Plan
 - a. Internal team brings together the natural, cultural, recreational, and agriculture resource information and initial public comments
 - b. Develop and vet various alternatives
 - c. May have one or more public or stakeholder meetings or site visits to update the public
5. Draft Management Plan
 - a. Internal review
 - b. Public review (30 days, plus a public meeting)
 - c. POSAC review and public hearing
 - d. BOCC review and public hearing
6. Management Plan Adopted

During this presentation, we will review the current planning schedule for Parks & Open Space (attached), current Resource Planning staffing, a typical management planning process, and a typical outline for an open space management plan (attached). In addition, we'll discuss whether Parks & Open Space has sufficient planning staff and whether management plans could be smaller and require less time to develop, as well as other ideas and suggestions.

**Boulder County Parks and Open Space
Tentative Planning Schedule**

	2020 Vision	RP Lead	Active (2017-2018)	Short-Term (2018-2020)	Long-Term (2020+)	Notes
Flood Projects - Top Priority						
Waterways Flood Projects - FEMA		JAW	x			
Lake 4/Lake 3	A1	JAW	x			Rehabilitation and Sediment Removal
Clough & True Ditch	A1	JAW	x			
A-Frame Pond	A1	JAW	x			
West Lake	A1	JAW	x			
Pella-Mariatt	A1	JAW	x			
Matthews/Holcomb/Otto Ditches	A1	JAW	x			
Peschel	A1/C6	JAW/ES	x			Longmont managing
Bailey Ponds	A1	JAW	x			
Close Out Process Coordination	A1	JAW/BB	x	x		
Trails and Facilities Projects - FEMA						
Pella-Mariatt	A2	JAW	x			
Anne U White	A2	JAW	x			
Hall II Access Road	A2	JAW	x			
Close Out Process Coordination	A2	JAW/BB	x	x		
St. Vrain Creek - CDBG-DR / EWP / COPS						
South St. Vrain	A1	ES/LJ/OB	x			St. Vrain Creek Coalition
Reach 3 - (breaches)	A1	JR/LJ/OB	x			
Left Hand Creek - EWP / COPS						
Bielins-Hock	A1	JR	x			Left Hand Creek Coalition
Brewbaker-Sorensen	A1	JR/JK/LJ	x			
Geer	A1	JR/JK/LJ	x			
Boulder Creek	A1	JR	x			
Fourmile Canyon	A1	JM/CD	x			
Little Thompson	A1	JM	x			83rd Street bridge replacement area
Other Flood Projects and Planning As Needed						
Waterways Group	A1	JR	x			
CRRP	A1	JR/ES	x			Creek Recovery and Restoration Program
Transportation projects	A1	ES	x			
Buy-Outs	A1	ES	x			
Coalition projects	A1	All	x			e.g. Apple Valley, Stream Restoration Handbook, Stream Crossings
Historic Structures Defensible Space	H4	CB/JAW	x			Project implementation led by Forestry
Trails, Recreation, and Visitor Use						
Rocky Mountain Greenway	B5/B4	JR	x	x	x	Marshall-Superior-Coalition MP amendment; Joder to Heil 2; Boulder-Longmont-Lyons connection
St. Vrain Greenway Planning	B5/B4	JR/JAW	x	x	x	Golden to Pella; Pella to Braly; based on opportunities and constraints
Regional Mountain Trails Master Plan	B5/B4	JAW		x	x	
Eldorado - Walker Connector Trail Plan	B5/B4	JR	x			
Tolland Ranch Trail	B2	JAW	x			
Magnolia Trails with USFS	B5/C8	JAW	x			
Boulder/Fourmile Canyon Connector to Betasso	B5/B4	ES	x			with RAF and Transportation
Trail Requests - Municipalities, Transportation, & Others	B5/B4	All	x	x	x	e.g. Superior and Louisville's requests for connections to the Mayhoffer-Singletree Trail
Management Plans						
Pella Crossing - Webster Pond Minor Update	A1/B1/C1	JAW	x			to address post-flood pond changes
Platt Rogers/Reynolds Ranch	B1/C1	JAW		x		access/trails with USFS; Castle Rock/Bowling Alley; Reynolds Ranch
Rabbit Mountain	B1/C1	ES		x		initial public and internal scoping completed in 2013
Sherwood Gulch Interim Management Actions Plan	B1/C1	JAW		x		long term management is planned for inclusion in the Caribou Ranch/Mud Lake update
South County Grasslands	B1/C1	JR		x		
North Foothills Open Space	B1/C1	JR		x		Hall and Heil Valley; update for new properties(?)
Lohr / Ag Heritage Ctr		JAW			x	
Kenosha Ponds (recreation plan)		ES			x	
Carolyn Holmberg Preserve at Rock Creek Farm		JR			x	
Ward Lands Complex incl. BLM, Grassytop, Duck Lake		ES			x	
Management Policies						
GIS / Data	B11+	KV/CI/ES	x			internal policy
Cultural Resources	H1	JAW/CB		x		started prior to flood
Grasslands and Shrublands	C1	ES		x		draft near completion
Wildlife	C1	ES		x		started prior to flood
Visitor Use	B1	TN/JAW		x		
Long Range Planning						
Open Space Element - BC Comprehensive Plan		TN/JR/ES	x			should be approved soon; Tina leading
Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan Update		RW/JM/ES	x			Land Use is coordinating for County
On-going Planning Projects						
Trail Reroute Team		ES	x	x	x	annual and periodic team meetings to review trail reroutes
Post-MP Follow-up / Implementation		JR/JAW/ES	x	x	x	work on post-MP projects as needed
Land Use Docket Review	C8	RW	x	x	x	on-going review of applications for POS and environmental issues
Other Plans and Projects						
Hall II - Lyons Quarry Reclamation	C6	ES	x	x	x	
Lower Boulder Creek Restoration	C6	ES	x	x		
Kenosha Ponds Reclamation	C6	ES	x	x		
Fredstrom Mine		ES	x	x		
Third Party Projects on POS	C8	ES	x	x	x	e.g. Xcel, Lafayette, SWSP II; 1041 review, etc.
Hessie Trailhead Planning	B5	JAW		x	x	work w/ USFS on long term proposals such as turn around and trailhead
Cultural Sites Framework Plan	H3/H4	JAW		x	x	drilling down on issues that emerge from Cultural Resource Policy (defensible space, etc.)
Gold Hill; BLM-Resource Mgmt Plan Update	D3	JAW	x	x	x	RPPA & trade lands, inc. BLM, mining claims, Wall Street, Cline, Ruth Reynolds - track status
Eldora Ski Expansion	C8	JAW	x	x		
Prairie Dog Element		JR	x	x	x	
Big Springs Egress		JAW	x			
2020 Vision (not covered above)						
Improve public information about Department and projects	B7	All	x	x		
Use new and creative ways to engage public in planning process	B8	All	x	x		
Improve public access to BCPOS monitoring data	B11	All	x	x		
Write and begin implementing 25 ERE SSC conservation plans	C2	TBD	x	x		
Reintroduce black-footed ferrets	C4	TBD	x	x		
Prioritize acquisitions that offer opportunities for trail connections	D2	All	x	x		
Create a diversity plan	E1	TBD	x	x		
Identify large site for picnic and recreation use	E2	TBD	x	x		
Develop and begin to implement a policy for climate change	G1	TBD	x	x		
Reduce POS-related energy use	G2	All	x	x		
Implement BC's zero-waste policy throughout POS	G3	All	x	x		
Become a leader in C sequestration through land management	G4	TBD	x	x		
Future Planning (lowest priority)						
Steamboat Mtn-Foresberg-Wyn - access issue (private road)						
Riverside Ranch MP						
Properties N. of Overland Road MP (including Prescott, Carrie, Becker, Randolph Pratt, Adams-Cowger, Brooks, Greenline) - note: some may be traded with USFS						
Updates to 1984 Property Man. Plans (approx. 70, many of which were land dedications)						
State Land Board Properties including Bald Mountain						

Terminology & Symbols

Short-Term = will resume once flood projects are at or close to completion, 2018-2020

Long-Term = likely 2020 and beyond depending on flood projects and other priorities

x = approximate timeframe of planning process (Note: Schedule is subject to change due to individual management plan timelines, shifts in priorities, new acquisitions, etc.)

Staff Initials

ES = Ernst Streng JAW = Justin Atherton-Wood

TN = Tina Nielsen RW = Ron West JM = Jeff Moline CD = Claire DeLeo

JR = Jesse Rounds LJ = Laura Jones CB = Carol Beam

KV = Kristi VanDenBosch CI = Carrie Inoshita JK = Jennifer Kesler

OB = Obadiah Broughton BB = Barb Brooks

AH = Al Hardy

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Parks and Open Space

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PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RETREAT

TO: Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee

DATE: Saturday, February 11, 2017

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: POS & Regional Trail Update

PRESENTER: Matt Wempe, BC Transportation Planner; Al Hardy, Recreation and Facilities Manager; Ernst Strenge, Resource Planning Manager

ACTION REQUESTED: Information Only

Boulder County's Parks & Open Space and Transportation departments are both heavily involved in regional trail planning and implementation, including planning for and constructing trail connections between communities and open space properties. Even over the past 3+ years of flood recovery, which has taken up a lot of time and resources for both departments, staff continues to be involved and pursue regional trail connections throughout the county.

In this presentation, we'll briefly update POSAC on a number of current regional trail plans and initiatives, many of which were requested by POSAC members, including:

Regional Trail Connections Status

- Boulder to Nederland, including East Magnolia to Winiger Ridge/Walker Ranch and other potential trail connections within vicinity of Platt Rogers – Reynolds Ranch Open Spaces
- Boulder to Betasso Connection
- Eldorado to Walker Connection
- Lagerman to Boulder Reservoir Connection
- Toll Trail

Regional Trails (Sales Tax) Plan (<http://www.bouldercounty.org/roads/plans/pages/regionaltrails.aspx>)

- Coal Creek / Rock Creek Trail
- Longmont-to-Boulder (LOBO) Trail
- Union Pacific (UP) Trail
- St. Vrain Trail
- US 36 Bikeway
- Lyons-to-Boulder (LYBO) Trail

Trail Initiatives

- Regional Mountain Trail Study (Boulder County, <http://regionalmountaintrails.com/>)

- Rocky Mountain Greenway (Federal, <http://rockymtngreenway.org/>)
- Colorado Front Range Trail (State, <http://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/TrailsCFRT.aspx>)
- 16 in 2016 Initiative (State, <https://cdnr.us/#/cothebeautiful>)

Based on staff experience, some key lessons and take-aways from regional trail planning include:

- It's all about process. We can't force these trail connections; but we can help lead the necessary processes, including determining public sentiment, identifying sensitive resources, looking at property ownership, and understanding opportunities and constraints.
- It's a marathon, not a sprint. Most trails take a lot of time and commitment of key partners to be successful. Although there is a desire at times to move quickly, the process of trail planning takes time.
- Partnerships and relationships with agencies, neighbors, stakeholders, etc. are essential. POS and Transportation work diligently to build and maintain these partnerships and relationships.
- A lot of the easy stuff is done. What remains has many challenges (e.g. land ownership, sensitive resources, topography, etc.), which we continually try to overcome.
- POS and Transportation are working on all of these issues and making strides where we can.
- And, of course, public participation is key and this too takes time!



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PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RETREAT

TO: Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee

DATE: Saturday, February 11, 2017

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Visitor and Trail User Studies

PRESENTER: Pascale Fried, Education & Outreach Supervisor

ACTION REQUESTED: Information Only

The Boulder County Parks & Open Space Department has conducted visitor and trail user studies for more than three decades. Below is a summary of those studies:

Visitor Observations: Since the 1980s, the department has collected information about park visitors on a regular basis. Observational data, collected by paid and volunteer patrol staff, provides the department a snapshot of visitor activities and park violations at properties open to the public. This information has been most useful in monitoring trends over the years.

Visitor Use Estimation: Vehicle and pedestrian counters are used to count visitors so the department can estimate visitation to POS properties opened to the public. Each month, data is collected. The raw numbers are subject to a number of adjustment factors that provide the final estimates. These numbers are used to track seasonal trends and changes in visitation, direct educational and enforcement efforts, assist in management plan development, and justify funding for projects/grant proposals.

POS Five Year Studies: Since the 1980s, the department has conducted studies at POS trailheads every five years. In the 1980s and 1990s, these studies were interviews but as visitation grew, staff converted to surveys so more data could be collected. The Five Year studies provide demographic information about park visitors as well as details about visitor activities, overall rating of the property and suggestions to improve visitor experiences. These studies are always shared with POS staff, POSAC members and the Board of Boulder County Commissioners in order to help guide future management actions and studies.

Program and Event Evaluations: Since the 1990s, POS has solicited feedback from people who attend interpretive programs and special events in order to improve programs/events.

POS Volunteer Program Evaluations: On an annual basis, POS volunteer coordinators formally solicit feedback from volunteers about that year's experiences to gauge whether POS met their expectations and solicit ideas to improve programs the following year.

The following is a summary of other one-time studies conducted by POS or sponsored through the Resource Management Small Grant Program.

- **1998 Dog Management Study:** POS conducted interviews with park visitors to find out what their perceptions were about the management of dogs on POS properties. The survey was not intended to change current regulations, but to provide insight on visitors' perceptions about dog management issues that could be useful in future management decisions. Overall, visitors had great support for the department's leash regulation. Seventy-seven percent of visitors supported closing areas to dogs due to wildlife considerations. However, only 45% agreed to prohibiting dogs to minimize visitor conflicts.
- **1998 Veterinarian and Human Society Study:** Eighty percent of the animal care professionals who responded to this survey acknowledged and supported the concept of a leash law for reasons of control to decrease unsolicited contact, increase dog safety and the safety of other people, and to lessen negative impacts to wildlife and vegetation. Another 1998 study conducted by the department found that 61% of park visitors interviewed felt that the leash law was beneficial.
- **1999 Hall Ranch Trail Use Study:** Conducted in 1998 and 1999, this study investigated the use pattern of pedestrians (hikers and runners) and equestrians after the opening of the Nighthawk Trail. Interviews found that pedestrians and equestrians used the entire trail system at Hall Ranch: 45% hiked/jogged and rode their horse on the Nighthawk Trail, 29% hiked/jogged and rode their horse on the Bitterbrush Trail, and 22% hiked/jogged and rode horse on both trails.
- **2002 Betasso Preserve Interviews:** In 2001, the Boulder County Commissioners implemented an alternate-use plan on the Betasso Preserve Canyon Loop Trail where bicycles were prohibited on Wednesdays and Saturdays. This was a result of visitor conflicts that were reported largely between hikers and bikers on the Canyon Loop trail. POS interviewed visitors to gauge the level of support of the 2001 decision. Overall, support for the alternate-use days outweighed non-support. In light of these results, public testimony and discussion, POSAC voted to continue the alternating use for another year and to revisit the issue in 2004.
- **2002 POS Angler Interviews:** POS conducted angler satisfaction interviews at Fairgrounds Lake, Cattail Pond, Lagerman Reservoir, Pella Crossing, Stearns Lake and Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat to better understand angler attitudes, activities, and opinions of fishing opportunities and regulations. Overall, anglers enjoyed the fishing opportunities but wanted the department to provide more shade and more fish.

- **2002 Twin Lakes Study:** Staff conducted surveys to determine the opinions and use patterns at the Twin Lakes area. The purpose of this study was to determine which activities were desired/not desired by existing visitors and neighbors to the newly acquired property. The department also mailed surveys to nearby residents and businesses. Many respondents voiced concerns about garbage; they requested trash receptacles and more stringent enforcement of dog waste pickup. There was fairly broad support for a leash regulation, with some neighbors (but not necessarily employees of nearby businesses) who wanted to maintain the voice and sight control regulation.
- **2003 Characteristics and Preferences of Mountain Bikers:** The department sponsored a small grant research project to survey visitors at six popular mountain biking properties. The demographic profile of the most typical rider was a working male in his 20s or 30s from the city of Boulder. The majority of respondents had a fairly high self-rated skill level (3.48 on a scale of 1-5) and generally preferred long, fairly technical, singletrack riding. On average, visitors were quite satisfied with trail quality (3.84 on a scale of 1-5) and somewhat satisfied with trail quantity (2.92 on a scale of 1-5). The most frequently suggested improvement was to add more trails and to open more trails near the city of Boulder.
- **2003 Walker Ranch Loop Mileage Markers:** The Walker Ranch Loop mileage marker study was designed to assess attitudes about newly installed mileage marker posts along the loop trail before installing at other properties. Study results indicated the mileage markers were a useful management decision. Moreover, the fact that 24% of respondents had not noticed the markers indicates that they were not obtrusive or “loud” while still beneficial to those who choose to utilize them.
- **2003 Mountain Bike Use and Regulation Compliance on the Canyon Loop Trail at Betasso Preserve:** POS conducted an observational study to assess visitors’ compliance of the “no mountain biking Wednesdays and Saturdays” regulation and whether the regulation had mitigated conflicts among trail users. Fifty-seven percent of visitors did not comply with the “no bikes on Wednesdays and Saturdays” regulation while 43% did comply with regulation. Staff felt that the sample size was not sufficient and would repeat the study in 2004, and would include data on days bikes were allowed in order to have a better understanding of use on the Canyon Loop trail.
- **2004 Mountain Bike Use and Regulation Compliance on the Canyon Loop Trail at Betasso Preserve:** POS conducted an observational study to assess mountain bicyclist’s compliance of the “no mountain biking on Wednesdays and Saturdays” regulation. Similar to 2003, 44% of the bikers on “non-biking days” complied with the restriction. As expected, more hikers visited the park on days when bikes were restricted. Conversely, more mountain bicyclists rode the Canyon Loop on days when bikes were allowed. This pattern reflects a trend toward staff’s intended

result: visitors began to regulate their own behavior in order to avoid unlawful or otherwise undesirable situations that might increase the chance of trail conflict. Also, we found that non-compliance was lowest in spring and highest in fall.

- **2004 Baseline Study of Recreational Conflict at Six Boulder County Parks and Open Space Properties:** The department surveyed visitors to obtain baseline data on perceived visitor conflicts. Results showed that only 2% of respondents experienced conflict on the day they were interviewed. Also, approximately 66% of respondents reported never having conflicts, while 34% had experienced conflicts at some point in the past at that particular property. Of the respondents who reported conflicts, those interviewed at Betasso Preserve reported conflicts most often. System-wide, those who reported conflicts mainly focused on mountain bikers' high speed and failure to yield, dog walkers' leashing and control behaviors, and the presence of horse feces on the trails.
- **2004 Visitor Support for Dog Restriction at Heil Valley Ranch, Hall Ranch and Rabbit Mountain:** This study's goal was to provide input from the public regarding Regulation #2004-101-5d (Dogs may be prohibited on specific County Parks and Open Space areas by action of the Board of County Commissioners). The restriction had been in place for four years at Heil Valley Ranch and Hall Ranch to protect sensitive wildlife habitat, and was up for review by the BOCC in 2005. The study collected information from visitors to Hall Ranch, Heil Valley Ranch and Rabbit Mountain about the regulation. Study results showed 65% of visitors to Hall Ranch and Heil Valley supported the regulation, 25% did not support the regulation and 8% were unsure. At Rabbit Mountain (the "control" property) 44% of visitor supported the regulation at Heil Valley Ranch and Hall Ranch, 34% did not, and 21% were unsure.
- **2005 Study of Adjacent Landowners:** The department sponsored a small grant research project to assess the attitudes of adjacent landowners and the exchange of information between the department and these residents. Results show that residents are generally happy with living next to open space primarily because open space provides rural landscape/lifestyle, land protection, and wildlife viewing. Neighbors did experience some problems -- mostly related to visitor activity and weeds. They indicated that they wanted to be more informed about POS activities but had generally received a timely response from staff to past inquiries.
- **2005 & 2006 Caribou Ranch Elk Closure Opinion Study:** Caribou Ranch Open Space opened to the public in fall 2004 and at that time department staff suggested closing most of the Delonde Trail and all of the Bluebird Loop Trail to visitors during September 2005 in order to gage the response of elk during their rut season. During that month, POS surveyed park visitors about their opinions regarding the trail closure. In 2006, the department opened the trail system to visitors in order to gage the response of the elk to human presence. In conjunction, staff surveyed park visitors about their opinions regarding the now-opened trail. Though half of the

respondents agreed with the trail closure in 2005, 68% agreed with the trail being re-opened in 2006.

- **2006 Lagerman Reservoir Creel Study:** The Lagerman Reservoir Creel Study intended to measure what fish were present (by species and size) and the level of fishing pressure. These two variables would help the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) evaluate the state of the fishery, species by species. In addition, this study investigated the quality of the anglers' fishing experiences and what POS can do to address those issues. Similar to the 2002 angler study, anglers at Lagerman Reservoir wanted the department to provide more shade and more fish. A handful of anglers also desired nighttime fishing opportunities for catfish.
- **2008 Study of Neighbors Living near Boulder County Parks and Open Space Forest Ecosystems:** This survey was conducted prior to the creation of the department's forest management policy. Over 1,000 neighbors returned surveys that indicated property owners were "very much" satisfied with how living near the open space affected them and their property, overwhelmingly approved of mechanically thinning the forests, and burning the resulting slash piles over winter. They also approved of prescribed burning both for improving forest health and for decreasing wildfire risks, but requested POS to use it "infrequently, in selected areas." Respondents supported using spot herbicide application and insect bio-controls to mitigate invasive weeds, but again asked that POS use these tools "infrequently in selected areas." Concerning communication, neighbors did not feel very informed about management activities on the nearby open space. The majority wanted to be notified about upcoming management activities via mail, email (list serve), notices posted at the property, or meetings with POS staff.
- **2008 Latino and Hispanic Perceptions of Open Space in Boulder County:** The department sponsored a small grant research project to investigate why a smaller proportion of Latinos and Hispanics visit Boulder County Open Space than their population in the county would suggest. Utilizing surveys and interviews conducted through organizations and local government, and at parks and events organized for Hispanics, study results indicated that many Hispanic people visited parks and open space in a group. Primary purposes were to relax, socialize, do children's activities, picnic or grill and hike. Respondents went to parks to enjoy nature and scenery, and most often visited a particular park because they are close to home and have good facilities and trails. The most common recommendation for improvement for POS properties were to add more restrooms, followed by more shelters, more tables, more facilities for children, more benches, and more grills.
- **2006 – 2008 Study of participants who attended Natural and Cultural History Programs:** POS surveyed program participants in order to enhance and extend programming. Study results were broken into three categories: Public programs, Requested Programs and School Programs. The majority of public program attendees were 40 years and older. Most knew a little about the topic prior to attending and preferred that programs occur on weekday or Saturday mornings.

The majority of those who requested a program for their group preferred indoor programs of 1.5 hours or less, and rated POS as “above average” compared to other local agencies. The majority of teachers (School Programs) had requested school programs about wildlife & habitats, or general nature hikes. On a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent), the majority of teachers rated POS programs either a 4 or 5.

- **2009 Survey of Visitors and Neighboring Landowners at Walker Ranch Open Space:** The objectives of this study were to determine the demographics, preferences and experiences of neighboring landowners and park visitors prior to the development of the Walker Ranch Management Plan Update. The majority of park visitors were between 25 and 39 years old who were mountain biking (46%) or hiking (41%). The most important concerns for visitors to Walker Ranch were protecting wildlife habitat and “keep the area the same.” Neighbors also believed it was important to protecting wildlife habitat and “keep the area the same.” Neighbors supported spot herbicide application to mitigate invasive weeds but many ask that POS use these tools “infrequently in selected areas.”
- **2011 Castle Rock Visitation Study:** This observational study was conducted prior to the department’s Reynolds/Rogers Management Plan Update. The primary objectives were to investigate the number of people per vehicle and the main activity in which visitors were participating. The top three activities, in decreasing order, were rock climbing, U-turn/drive through traffic, and fishing.
- **2012 Twin Lakes Observational Visitation Estimate:** This observational study was conducted in conjunction with the 2012 Compliance Study to provide a visitation estimate as one piece of the evaluation of the off-leash designation required by the *Twin Lakes Open Space Management Plan*. Based on the observational visitation estimates, visitation to Twin Lakes was comparable to other high use properties where mechanical counters are used to estimate visitation such as Carolyn Holmberg Preserve, Pella Crossing, and Walden Ponds.
- **2012 Compliance Study:** This compliance study is designed as a supplement to the Five Year studies in order to obtain baseline data of visitor compliance with regulations. Of the more than 6,500 visitors observed, 7% did not comply with POS regulations. (Therefore, resulting in a 93% rate of compliance.) The three properties with the highest violations were Boulder Canyon Trail (21%), Coalton (19%), and Betasso Preserve (12%). The two most common violations were biker’s not yielding to hikers and horses (14% of bikers did not yield) and dogs off leash (13% of dogs were off leash).
- **2013 Betasso Preserve Alternative Day Use Regulation Study:** This study was conducted to evaluate visitor opinion related to the alternative day use regulation. The regulation allows mountain bike use five days a week and prohibits biking on Wednesdays and Saturdays. We collected 458 surveys, and found that most visitors supported the regulation (68% supported, 19% did not, and 12% were not sure). On

non-biking days, visitors more often reported support for the regulation (84% supported, 4% did not) than on biking days (62% supported, 25% did not). The most common reasons for support of the regulation were: a) improves the visitor experience, b) provides a good compromise, c) reduces crowding, and d) relieves safety concerns.

- **2013 Amenity Preferences of Older Adults:** this telephone survey investigated Boulder County's older adult use of open space and preference for park amenities. The study was not solely focused on county open space. Over 70% of seniors visited an open space area that year. While hiking and walking are by far the most common activities, younger-seniors were more likely to participate in biking, running, photography, and dog walking. Older-seniors were more likely to watch wildlife and picnic. Of those who did not visit open space, seniors cited health and physical ability as barriers. Most seniors preferred trails made of dirt, trails that are wide enough for two people to travel side-by-side, and trails that were one to three miles long.
- **2014 Visitation and Use on Boulder County Regional Trails:** data collected better equip POS and Transportation departments to fund, manage and promote the growing trail systems. The observation study was conducted along the Coal Creek, Rock Creek and LOBO regional trails. Stratified observations were combined with an established estimation multiplier to derive estimations for season and annual use.
- **2014 Communication Practices Evaluation of Boulder County Parks and Open Space:** The goal was to enhance the public's knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of open space properties and rules and regulations through better communication with visitors and consistency of communications tools. Five focus groups and 436 open space surveys were conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of the department's public communication tools (such as web pages, park kiosks, and brochures) and to identify specific terminology for open space rules and regulation signs.



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PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RETREAT

TO: Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee

DATE: Saturday, February 11, 2017

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Volunteer Contributions

PRESENTER: Pascale Fried, Education & Outreach Supervisor

ACTION REQUESTED: Information Only

The Parks & Open Space volunteer program began in 1975 when the department was formed, and has a rich legacy of connecting the Boulder County community with its natural and cultural heritage.

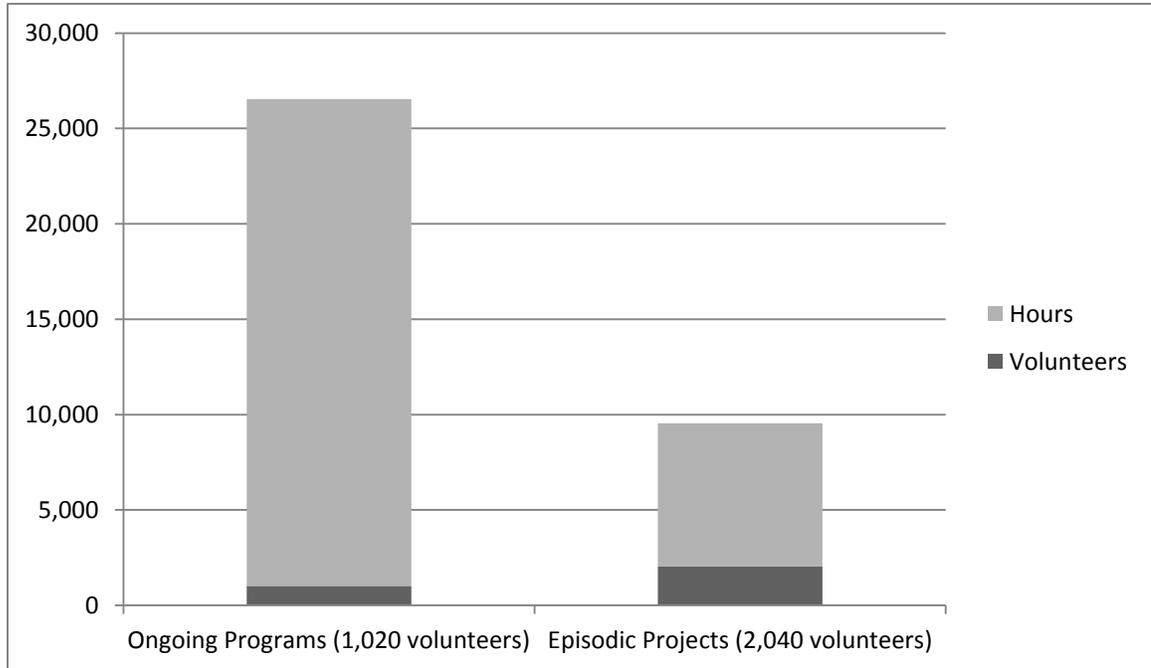
Involving volunteers in the work of Parks and Open Space connects county residents to their public land. Each year, volunteer projects and programs attract a diversity of people, creating a community of empowered and educated residents. Our volunteers get hands-on opportunities of land stewardship and public education. Labor-intensive work that may be cost or time prohibitive for staff such as seed collections and park patrol create a niche for volunteers. Involving volunteers makes our department stronger and more productive. Over 80 percent of department staff worked with volunteers in 2016.

The graph on the next page provides an impressive snapshot of the level of community engagement we see within the Parks and Open Space Department. Volunteers are an integral part of a thriving community and they make a tremendous impact on the quality of life in Boulder County!

Volunteer opportunities are divided into programs and work projects. Programs use a core group of volunteers to complete on-going skilled and semi-skilled tasks and interpretive functions such as park patrolling, bird monitoring, museum docents and naturalists.** These volunteers contributed 25,525 hours in 2016. These programs included:

- * Adopt-a-Park/Trail (314 volunteers, 3,768 hours)
- * Crew Leaders (27 volunteers, 207 hours)
- * Cultural History Program (97 volunteers, 3,487 hours)
- * Left Hand Outdoor Challenge (50 volunteers, 1,977 hours)
- * Natural Resource Monitoring Programs (274 volunteers, 4,353 hours)

- * Park Patroller Programs (139 volunteers, 2,861 hours)
- * Volunteer Naturalist Program (107 volunteers, 6,833 hours)
- * Miscellaneous Volunteers: Images publication, osprey camera chat moderator, video intern, and 3D map (12 volunteers, 2,039 hours)



Volunteer work projects are one-time events (episodic) that engage residents in labor-intensive projects while teaching them about natural resource management on open space properties. These projects include public, requested and partner work projects. The department sponsored a total of 131 one-day volunteer work projects at 30 different properties. There were 28 requested projects, 39 public projects and 64 work projects with groups that are part of the department's Partners Program. The 131 projects included 2,040 volunteers who contributed 7,511 hours of service.

Included in these episodic projects is the Partnership Program. In 2016, we had 48 partners. We continued to involve diverse businesses and organizations in the long-term stewardship of open space land through annual participation in outdoor projects. We are grateful to all of our partners and the liaisons at these organizations who recruit eight to 40 members for one or more projects each year to help us care for our special places. In addition, we had 12 Prairie Partners who contributed in-kind items, cash or helped us to recruit volunteers.

** POSAC members and their contributions are included in the Board of Commissioners Office, not POS



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PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RETREAT

TO: Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee

DATE: Saturday, February 11, 2017

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Species of Special Concern in Boulder County, and Conservation Plans (with progress report on Black-Footed Ferret Reintroduction plan).

PRESENTER: Susan Spaulding, Senior Wildlife Biologist

ACTION REQUESTED: Information Only

I will present a progress update on our conservation and recovery plans for our Species of Special Concern. Specifically, I'll discuss northern leopard frog and our recent completion of the conservation and recovery plan for this species. I will also provide information on which species we are focusing on for our next efforts in creating conservation and recovery plans.

Related to extirpated species, I will present a status update on what steps we have taken, and future plans towards reintroduction of black-footed ferrets to Boulder County.