



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Civic Center • 500 East Third Street, Suite 200 • Loveland, Colorado 80537
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www.CityofLoveland.org

LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

March 13, 2013

Special Meeting Agenda

**Chilson Senior Center, Cherry Room
700 E. 4th Street, Loveland, CO 80537**

Notice of Meeting Posted

Call to Order at 5:30 pm

Presentation – River’s Edge Fishing Regulations: Ben Swigle, CO Parks & Wildlife

Public Comment

Approval of Minutes:

1. February 13, 2013 Commission Meeting Minutes
2. January 9, 2013 Commission Meeting Minutes
3. November 14, 2012 Commission Meeting Minutes

City Council Liaison – Hugh McKean

Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board Liaison – Hugh McKean

OLAB Agenda/Minutes online: http://larimer.org/boards/minutes/openlands_advisory_board.cfm

Reports/Correspondence:

1. Larimer County Regional Open Space Study Update
2. River’s Edge Natural Area Update
3. Natural Areas Projects Report
4. Annual Spring Waterway Cleanup – April 20th, 9 am-12 noon (Morey Wildlife Reserve)

Discussion/Action:

5. Open Lands Priority Areas Discussion
6. Big Thompson Canyon Property Initial Review (*Executive Session*)

Commission Member Discussion Topics

Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting Date: April 10, 2013

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CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes – February 13, 2013

Parks & Recreation Conference Room

Commissioners Present: Lori Bell, Gale Bernhardt, Ross Livingston, Steve McMillan, Darren Pape, Bill Zawacki, Jim Roode (alternate).

Commissioners Absent: Rick Brent, Andy Hawbaker, Ted Mioduski, Hugh McKean (City Council Liaison).

Staff Present: Rob Burdine, Brian Hayes, Debbie Eley.

The public meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm.

Public Comment: Franci Wunderlich commented that, as a realtor, she is interested in Open Space because it affects property values and draws people to the area to relocate.

Approval of the January 9, 2013 Commission Meeting Minutes: Tabled until a quorum is present.

Approval of the November 14, 2012 Commission Meeting Minutes: Tabled until a quorum is present.

Discussion/Action:

1. Open Lands Marketing Plan Presentation (Draft). Ross Livingston presented a draft Open Lands Marketing Plan and requested input from the commission. Ross utilized the survey results from *Our Lands-Our Future* to develop the plan. He noted that lack of public awareness about open lands was a key finding that Loveland should focus on. Commission members discussed and recommended the following steps to increase open lands awareness: 1) develop a Facebook page and update with information, events, news, etc.; 2) submit articles about open lands for the City Update included with all monthly City utility bills; 3) explore an option to “opt-in” to the open lands email list on the Natural Areas website; 4) use QR codes on publications, kiosks, etc. to direct users to the website and updated information; 5) staff to add website address to e-mail signatures. Ross indicated that the plan will continue to evolve over time and become more robust with additional input.

Reports/Correspondence:

2. Larimer County Regional Open Space Study (*Our Lands – Our Future*). OLAC members were invited to attend an Advisory Committee meeting on 2/20/13 to provide feedback on the draft interactive GIS model and 2nd public survey. The 3rd regional outreach event is scheduled for March 6. The invitation will be forwarded to the commission.

3. River's Edge Natural Area Update. Staff displayed a new aerial photo-based map of the property, showing the location of the access road, parking lot, trails, core area and other

amenities. Award of the construction contract is scheduled for City Council on 2/19/13. Staff is developing a maintenance and operations plan for the site. The Historic Preservation Commission is investigating renovation costs for the Swartz Homestead. A concept plan was presented, showing possible uses of the area should the structures be removed. The annexation and zoning application for the Jayhawker Ponds property has been submitted to Planning for review. Enclaves will be pursued for annexation, per the City's IGA with Larimer County.

4. Open Lands Financial Report. A Year-end 2012 Financial Report was distributed with the agenda, showing fund balances, revenues and expenditures.

5. Natural Areas Projects Report.

a. Rossum Drive Property. A contract to purchase this west Big Thompson River property is being drafted by staff and the City Attorney's Office. The contract will state that the City will purchase Tract U in 2013 and Tract T in 5 years. This property could connect Rossum Drive to the Recreation Trail along the Barnes Ditch.

b. Larimer County and Fort Collins Ranger Assistance Program. Rob Burdine and Michele Van Hare will audit the Larimer County/City of Fort Collins volunteer ranger training program, to apply the concepts to Loveland's existing Trail Host Program and possibly participate next year.

c. Parks & Open Lands Planner. Interviews are underway for this position, which will support both Parks and Open Lands with Development Review as well as design work on current and potential acquisitions, trail connections, development cost estimates, and site management and master plans.

Commission Member Discussion Topics: None.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes – January 9, 2013

Parks & Recreation Conference Room

Commissioners Present: Gale Bernhardt, Rick Brent, Andy Hawbaker, Steve McMillan, Ted Mioduski, Hugh McKean (City Council Liaison), Jim Roode (alternate).

Commissioners Absent: Lori Bell, Darren Pape, Bill Zawacki.

Staff Present: Rob Burdine, Brian Hayes, Debbie Eley.

The public meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm.

Public Comment: Ross Livingston has been recommended for OLAC appointment. City Council will appoint new board and commission members at their January 15 meeting.

Approval of the November 14, 2012 Commission Meeting Minutes: Tabled until a quorum is present.

City Council Liaison Report. Hugh McKean reported that the Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board discussed the donation of the Roberts Ranch at their January 3 meeting. Hugh requested that staff provide additional information regarding operating costs and management options prior to voting on the donation.

Discussion/Action:

1. Election of Officers. Steve McMillan nominated Rick Brent for Chair, who declined the nomination based on having served two terms. Rick Brent nominated Gale Bernhardt for Chair. The nomination was seconded by Andy Hawbaker. Gale Bernhardt was elected Chair. Steve McMillan nominated Lori Bell for Vice Chair. The nomination was seconded by Andy Hawbaker. Lori Bell was elected Vice Chair.

2. River's Edge Natural Area Update. The Site Development Plan was resubmitted to Planning on 1/9. Required design changes included stormwater treatment facilities and the location of the restroom outside the floodplain/floodway. The Swartz Farmstead structural analysis has been completed and staff will discuss with the City Manager. Staff is in the process of submitting the Jayhawker property for annexation and zoning to PP-Public Park. The City's IGA with Larimer County recommends the annexation of enclaves, so the property between Jayhawker and River's Edge will be added to the annexation application by the Planning Department. The City has received a GOCO grant for \$18,715 to fund the Larimer County Youth Corps for 3 weeks to assist with fence construction at River's Edge.

3. Longview-Midway CE (Coulson) Project. The conservation easement appraisal has been completed. Staff distributed information regarding three options presented to the Coulsons, including the purchase of a conservation easement or purchasing all or a portion of

the fee simple property. The commission chose not to pursue acquisition of a conservation easement or the fee simple property, based on other open lands priorities at this time.

Reports/Correspondence:

4. Centerra Environmental Fees – Update. The transfer of \$32K back to the High Plains Foundation will be presented for approval by City Council on 1/15. The Centerra Open Space Fees will be collected until 2041, with a total projected amount of \$382K at full buildout. The City can request these funds for Open Lands acquisitions within the GMA.

5. Natural Areas Projects Report. Updates were provided on several possible property acquisitions and current projects.

6. Annual Boards & Commissions Summit – March 14, 2013. The 2013 Boards and Commissions Summit will be held at the Wapiti Grill at Mariana Butte Golf Course Clubhouse. Gale Bernhardt and Ross Livingston volunteered to represent OLAC at the Summit.

OLAC's major accomplishments in 2012 included:

1. *Design and develop the River's Edge Natural Area property.* A Master Plan for the property was developed with numerous opportunities for public input. Planned amenities include trails, picnic shelters, a boardwalk, fishing access, a parking lot, restrooms, and connectivity to the Recreation Trail and Jayhawker Ponds. Significant wetland creation and enhancement are also planned along the shorelines of the three ponds. The Site Development Plan was submitted to the Planning Department in November and the construction project was sent out to bid in December.
2. *Participate in the Larimer County Regional Open Space Study.* Loveland has been actively involved in the Larimer County Regional Open Space Study, also known as *Our Lands – Our Future*. The project includes public surveys and outreach, analysis of open space acquisition and management costs, and a Geographic Information System (GIS) model to be available online. The study will be completed in 2013 and results will be useful for the update of Loveland's 2003 *Open Lands Plan*.

The 2013 OLAC Goals are:

1. *Continue to develop River's Edge Natural Area and open for public access.*
2. *Acquire property with connectivity to existing open lands that would address fragmentation of wildlife habitat and link public access areas, including properties that meet the priorities and criteria set forth in the Open Lands Plan (2003) and Natural Areas Sites (2008).*
3. *Develop a Marketing/Public Awareness Plan for Open Lands, including signage, publications, etc. to promote stewardship of open lands.*
4. *Develop Management Plans for 1-2 existing Open Lands properties to open for public access.*

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

**CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 14, 2012
LARIMER COUNTY COURTHOUSE, LAKE ESTES ROOM
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioners Present: Gale Bernhardt, Rick Brent, Kathy Hartman, Steve McMillan, Darren Pape, Bill Zawacki, Hugh McKean (City Council Liaison), Jim Roode (alternate).

Commissioners Absent: Lori Bell, Andy Hawbaker, Ted Mioduski.

Staff Present: Rob Burdine, Brian Hayes, Debbie Eley.

The public meeting was called to order at 7:50 pm.

Approval of the October 10, 2012 Commission Meeting Minutes: Gale Bernhardt made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Darren Pape seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

City Council Liaison Report. Hugh McKean reported that the City expects water rates to increase due to major improvements required to the water system. The increases will be off-set somewhat by using excess revenues in the 2012 General Fund.

Discussion/Action:

- 1. Larimer County Regional Open Space Study.** Commission members participated in a joint regional open space summit prior to the regular commission meeting. Results of the citizen survey were presented and additional input was gathered.
- 2. River's Edge Natural Area Update – 95% Plans.** Staff submitted the Site Development Plan application to the City Planning Department on 11/13/12. A number of site features and amenities were shown in a short powerpoint, including fishing and boat access points, typical wetland enhancements, and the core area with parking, restrooms, shelters, and boardwalk.
- 3. Comprehensive Plan – Implementation Plan Update.** Planning Staff requested an update of the 2011 Implementation Plan. Open Lands goals were to develop management plans for the River's Edge and Wild properties, with restoration and public access components. Both of these objectives are underway, with completion expected in Q3 2013. Kathy Hartman made a motion to approve the update, Bill Zawacki seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Reports/Correspondence:

- 4. Natural Areas Projects Report.** Several updates were given on the status of property acquisitions. Staff will continue to research options and discuss with property owners.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.



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LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM: 1

MEETING DATE: March 13, 2013

DESCRIPTION: Larimer County Regional Open Space Study Update

SUMMARY:

The third regional event for *Our Lands-Our Future* was held at The Fountains in Loveland on Wednesday, March 6th to solicit additional public input and introduce new tools developed specifically for the study. Approximately 80 citizens attended. Partners distributed a 2nd survey to participants, asking for feedback; completed surveys were collected and exchanged for a beverage of their choice. Partners provided a revolving presentation, and information boards were displayed outlining the first survey results and the preferences shown by Larimer County residents. The presentation and display items also provided additional information to guests on cost analysis for different open space types related to acquisition, public access development, and long-term operations. The 2nd survey will be mailed to those who returned the 1st mailed survey and will also be available online.

A GIS mapping website was also released and available for guests to view and modify based upon their personal preferences. Partners were available to guide this exercise and discuss how this mapping tool will be a valuable resource for citizens to provide specific feedback on areas of interest most important to them. The mapping tool allows users to look in-depth at current protected land county-wide, apply criteria important to them for future preservation (e.g., urban or regional open space/trails, natural resource/wildlife areas, or working farms/ranches), and view their preferences on a map of the county highlighting where those opportunities exist. The mapping tool will be available online for the public to participate.

Partners were able to discuss the study with guests in a relaxed setting while providing several avenues for participation and public input. Partners will meet to share feedback, and discuss the outcome of the public event and how we can incorporate what we learned into the final study report. The project website for *Our Lands-Our Future* will contain links to the survey and GIS mapping tool when available (http://www.larimer.org/ourlands_ourfuture/).

Commission Discussion/Action Recommended: Commission members are encouraged to take the 2nd survey, try the GIS mapping tool online, and forward the information to other potential participants.



LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM: 2

MEETING DATE: March 13, 2013

DESCRIPTION: River's Edge Natural Area Update

SUMMARY:

River's Edge Site Development:

A pre-construction meeting is scheduled for March 20th. All related site and building permits, construction schedule, site access, and selection of sub-contractors will be finalized. The Fishing is Fun Grant has been sent to CPW for the final signatures needed to allocate funding. Weekly progress meetings will be held with the contractor once we break ground.

Natural Areas staff continues to work with Agilent, R2-J, Big T and Ryan Gulch ditch companies to finalize all easement requests and agreements associated with the site development and public access. Each has presented adjustments or modifications to the original easement requests, and staff from Natural Areas and the City Attorney's Office will continue to work towards cooperative solutions that will satisfy all parties.

Swartz Homestead

Larsen Structural Design completed a Structural Analysis of the Swartz Homestead on 12/31/12. The report concludes that the structures would require significant renovation to meet building codes. The Planning Department is now in the process of determining the potential costs associated with renovation of the structures.

Jayhawker Annexation

Staff submitted the Annexation and Zoning application for the 31-acre Jayhawker Ponds property adjacent to River's Edge on February 13th. Comments and conditions are due back from the Development Review Team on March 8th, and staff will review and re-submit any required changes.

Commission Discussion/Action Recommended: Informational.



LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM: **3**

MEETING DATE: March 13, 2013

DESCRIPTION: Natural Areas Projects Report

SUMMARY:

ACQUISITIONS

Rossum Dr. Property

The City Attorney's Office is drafting the purchase contract to forward to the landowner. The contract will provide for immediate acquisition of the 11.94-acre tract on the west side of Rossum Drive, as well as an option to purchase the 8.65-acre tract east of Rossum Drive in five years at a current price agreed upon by the landowner and the City.

STEWARDSHIP

Larimer County and Fort Collins Ranger Assistant Program

Staff members Rob Burdine and Michele Van Hare attended the joint Larimer County and Fort Collins Ranger Assistant training in February. The volunteer training is based on the principles of the "authority of the resource," stewardship, and education. Natural Areas staff will apply relevant aspects of the training to Loveland's current Volunteer Trail Host Program. This program will be expanded as additional properties are opened to the public, with additional volunteer recruitment and possibly a partnership with the county and Fort Collins on training in the future.

STAFFING UPDATE

Parks and Open Lands Planner

Second interviews and technical skills testing were held with the top two candidates on February 22, both of whom were well-qualified. An offer has been extended to the top candidate, who is expected to start in late April.

OPEN LANDS MARKETING PLAN

Implementation Update

Ross Livingston distributed a revised Marketing Plan to the commission, requesting input from members on several items. Staff has explored a number of opportunities to implement the marketing plan and public outreach objectives identified by the commission at the February meeting. An article will be submitted for the May or June issue of the City Update, with information about the River's Edge Natural Area construction and Grand Opening. A Facebook page will be developed in conjunction with updating the Natural Areas website, to be launched in coordination with the City Update article. Staff members have also added the Open Lands and Natural Areas website address to their e-mail signatures (www.cityofloveland.org/openlands). The inconsistency of the division and program names (*Open Lands* vs. *Natural Areas*) should be addressed in order to minimize confusion by the public.



LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM: **5**

MEETING DATE: March 13, 2013

DESCRIPTION: Open Lands Priority Areas Discussion

SUMMARY:

As staff prepares to update the current Open Lands Plan as part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan update for 2013, input from the Open Lands Advisory Commission is an initial part of that process.

New information acquired from the *Our Lands-Our Future* Regional Study has identified the priority preferences of our community for future acquisitions. Commission members are asked to take a closer look at the results of the first survey to better understand our residents' preferences and think about how we should incorporate these findings into our future planning and prioritization (http://www.larimer.org/ourlands_ourfuture/LarimerCountyReport_FINAL.pdf

Since Loveland's Open Lands Plan was last updated in 2003, we have primarily focused on areas within the city's Growth Management Area (GMA), specifically along the Big Thompson River corridor. We have also contributed as a partner on acquisition projects outside the current GMA and Community Influence Area (CIA). Discussions should be centered around whether to continue the current approach, expand upon it incorporating regional study findings, or focus solely on properties within the Loveland GMA or CIA. Please review the 2003 Open Lands Plan (<http://www.cityofloveland.org/index.aspx?page=873>) and the results of the Regional Study survey. It is our goal to determine how we can most effectively meet the future needs and desires of our growing community. As opportunities to work with willing landowners continue to present themselves, a clear direction on prioritization of properties will enable us to be more efficient in our process.

Commission Discussion/Action Recommended: Commission discussion regarding Open Lands priorities, based on the 2003 Open Lands Plan, Regional Open Space Study results, and past partnerships.



**JOIN
US!**

To Register:

Visit the City's
Volunteer

Registration Page:
[www.cityofloveland.org/
volunteerevents](http://www.cityofloveland.org/volunteerevents)

Call: 970-962-2794

Email:
[Stormwater@
Cityofloveland.org](mailto:Stormwater@Cityofloveland.org)

**Additional
Information:**

[www.cityofloveland.org/
waterwaycleanup](http://www.cityofloveland.org/waterwaycleanup)



or find us on
Facebook!

City of Loveland
Stormwater Engineering



Annual Spring Waterway Clean-Up

*Help us protect and improve our local waterways
by participating in this community service event.*

Date: Saturday April 20th, 2013

Time: 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

**Location: Loveland Civic Center &
other designated locations**



Scan this code with your smart phone to connect with
the City of Loveland Stormwater Engineering website!



Please dress appropriately: old clothes, work gloves, hats, work boots/shoes (waders, if possible). Garbage bags & water provided.

NOTE: Participants between the ages of 13-18 not accompanied by a parent or guardian must bring a pre-signed liability form. Children between the ages of 6-12 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Children under the age of 6 may not participate in the waterway clean-up.