



**PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**  
Civic Center • 500 East Third Street, Suite 200 • Loveland, Colorado 80537  
(970) 962-2727 • FAX (970) 962-2903 • TDD (970) 962-2620  
[www.CityofLoveland.org](http://www.CityofLoveland.org)

## **LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**April 10, 2013**

### **Regular Meeting Agenda**

**Parks & Recreation Conference Room  
500 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Loveland, CO 80537**

**Notice of Meeting Posted**

**Call to Order at 5:30 pm**

**Public Comment**

**Approval of March 13, 2013 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](http://larimer.org/boards/minutes/openlands_advisory_board.cfm)

**Discussion/Action:**

1. Open Lands Priority Areas
2. Big Thompson River West Upland Property Review

**Reports/Correspondence:**

3. Larimer County Regional Open Space Study
4. River's Edge Natural Area Update
5. Open Lands Projects Report
6. Annual Spring Waterway Cleanup – April 20<sup>th</sup>, 9 am-12 noon (*Loveland Civic Center*)

**Commission Member Discussion Topics**

**Adjournment**

**Next Regular Meeting Date:** May 8, 2013

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## CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2013

Parks & Recreation Conference Room

**Commissioners Present:** Lori Bell, Gale Bernhardt, Rick Brent, Andy Hawbaker, Ross Livingston, Steve McMillan, Ted Mioduski, Darren Pape, Bill Zawacki, Jim Roode (alternate).

**Commissioners Absent:** Hugh McKean (City Council Liaison).

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

**The public meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.**

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

Ben provided background information, survey data and analysis to support the fishing regulations approved by CPW for the River’s Edge ponds.

**Approval of the February 13, 2013 Commission Meeting Minutes:** Lori Bell made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Darren Pape seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of the January 9, 2013 Commission Meeting Minutes:** Rick Brent made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Ted Mioduski seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of the November 14, 2012 Commission Meeting Minutes:** Rick Brent made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Bill Zawacki seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Reports/Correspondence:**

**1. Larimer County Regional Open Space Study Update.** The public meeting on March 8 was successful, with about 80 participants. The 2<sup>nd</sup> survey and online GIS mapping tool were introduced and are available online. The study is expected to be completed by May, including a more detailed mapping tool available for partners, costs of acquisition/management for open lands types, and community-specific survey data. The Parks and Recreation Department Master Plan update planned for 2013 will include Open Lands and will utilize data gathered for the regional study.

**2. River’s Edge Natural Area Update.** A pre-construction meeting with Taylor Kohrs is scheduled for March 20 to discuss the project schedule and required permits. Staff continues to work on easements with Thompson R2-J, Agilent, Ryan Gulch and Big Thompson ditch companies for access and ditch crossings. Staff met with Larimer County Youth Corps staff on-site to familiarize them with the property and the fencing project. Plantings will be

installed in the fall with truck watering planned for B&B trees and native seeding. The Planning Department is in the process of determining costs to renovate the Schwartz Homestead structures. Staff submitted the Annexation and Zoning application for the Jayhawker property. Per an IGA with Larimer County, Current Planning will pursue annexation of the adjacent enclave between Jayhawker and River's Edge.

### **3. Natural Areas Projects Report.**

- a. Rossum Drive: Contracts are nearly complete. A lien on the property will need to be addressed by the landowner prior to signing the contracts.
- b. Ranger Assistance Program. Larimer County and the City of Fort Collins trained 30 new volunteers to provide stewardship and education, promote policies and regulations on natural areas and open lands properties. Loveland staff will incorporate the training into the existing Trail Host Program. Members of the Loveland Fishing Club will be recruited for education regarding fishing regulations at River's Edge.
- c. Parks and Open Lands Planner. Bill Wildenberg has accepted the position and will start on April 16.
- d. Marketing Plan. Staff will submit an article about the River's Edge construction and grand opening for the June City Update. An Open Lands Facebook page will be developed for publicity, with news, photos, naming contests, documents.

### **4. Annual Spring Waterway Cleanup.** April 20<sup>th</sup>, 9 am-12 noon (Morey Wildlife Reserve or other Big Thompson River sites).

#### **Discussion/Action:**

**5. Open Lands Priority Areas Discussion.** Staff presented a map of the existing open lands acquisitions, conservation easements, and partnerships in and around Loveland. Survey results from Our Lands-Our Future indicate a preference for regional trail corridors, ecologically sensitive lands, and lands within communities near neighborhoods and schools. Loveland-specific results show an equal balance on preservation and recreation as future open lands priorities. Commission members indicated a desire to be opportunistic in determining the most functional and cost-effective open lands acquisitions. Parcels outside the river corridor may be significant to underserved areas or populations. A range of experiences should be considered. The first priority would be inside the GMA/CIA and along the Big Thompson River corridor, but consider all possibilities.

**6. Big Thompson Canyon Property Initial Review.** Gale Bernhardt made a motion to suspend the open session and convene Executive Session for the following topic of discussion: Big Thompson Canyon Property Initial Review. Bill Zawacki seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Executive Session was convened at 7:50 pm. The Executive Session concluded at 8:27 pm and the open session was reconvened. Bill Zawacki made a motion to recommend that staff pursue negotiations on the Big Thompson Canyon property by requesting the asking price, scheduling a site visit for commission

members, and ordering an appraisal. Ross Livingston seconded the motion. Members recommended that staff make the landowners aware that funds are limited and other properties are also priorities for Loveland. The motion passed unanimously.

**Council Liaison Report:** Hugh McKean reported that Council passed the Oil & Gas Regulations proposed allowing oil and gas drilling within the City limits, under state regulations or more stringent City regulations.

**Commission Member Discussion Topics:** None.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.



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## LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

**AGENDA ITEM:** 1

**MEETING DATE:** April 10, 2013

**DESCRIPTION:** Open Lands Priority Areas

**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 was received at the March 2013 OLAC meeting. Through these discussions, staff was able to determine that OLAC's preferred approach is to maintain a strong balance between various types of Open Land acquisitions in and around Loveland. Staff has identified sixteen properties with varying levels of prioritization. Staff will present information about each of these opportunities to provide a better understanding of the location, acreage, costs, and landowner interests associated with each property.

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 that 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.



## LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

**AGENDA ITEM:** **2**

**MEETING DATE:** April 10, 2013

**DESCRIPTION:** Big Thompson River West Upland Property Review

**SUMMARY:**

This property is located just west of Morey Wildlife Reserve. The current landowner is still very interested in selling approximately 5 acres to the City as a potential trailhead parking lot for the Reserve. The property also provides a buffer to the Morey site, preserving a wetland and a viewshed to the west. Staff has been in contact with the landowners since 2008.

Staff has had recent discussions with the landowners regarding terms for the property that would include water shares in addition to the 5 acres of land. The location of the land is such that a trailhead parking lot and boardwalk could connect to Morey Wildlife Reserve. Staff will present additional information at the meeting along with a map of the area.

**Commission Discussion/Action Recommended:** Informational and discussion.



## LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

**AGENDA ITEM:** **3**

**MEETING DATE:** April 10, 2013

**DESCRIPTION:** Larimer County Regional Open Space Study Update

### **SUMMARY:**

The project website for *Our Lands-Our Future* now has links available to the 2<sup>nd</sup> survey and the GIS mapping tool ([http://www.larimer.org/ourlands\\_ourfuture/](http://www.larimer.org/ourlands_ourfuture/)). If you haven't already, please take the time to review the mapping tool, and participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> survey. Both provide yet another opportunity for the public to provide feedback that will be incorporated into the final project report. As of March 26<sup>th</sup>, 366 users have visited the mapping tool site with 84% new users, and 14% returning visitors. Peak usage was seen immediately after the March public outreach meeting and respective email blasts from partners to their interest groups. Also, we have received 273 of the targeted 300 second surveys returned from the original random sample participants. A final push will be made to reach our goal of 300 returned second surveys.

First survey results broken down by community are also available for analysis. Staff will extract pertinent Loveland-specific data and compare it alongside countywide results for OLAC review at the meeting. This has been an area of continued interest from all partners involved. The consultant has agreed to continue working towards providing specific partner data through second survey results, as well as incorporating those results into the final report.

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



## LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

**AGENDA ITEM:** 4

**MEETING DATE:** April 10, 2013

**DESCRIPTION:** River's Edge Natural Area Update

**SUMMARY:**

### Site Development

Construction has begun on April 8<sup>th</sup> with clearing and grading of the site taking place first. Construction access will be off of Roosevelt/Railroad Ave. to minimize site disturbance and potential trespassing off of 1<sup>st</sup> street. Updates will be provided as progress develops.

Open Lands staff finalized an easement agreement with Thompson R2-J, providing access to Ryan's Gulch through the school district property. The agreement allows for use of the school district parking lot (10 spaces), and will provide site access from the south end of the River's Edge property. A crossing agreement is in the final stages of review for Agilent, where a small portion of their property is needed for trail access between the R2-J parking lot and the northern portion of River's Edge. Draft agreements for both Ryan Gulch and Big Thompson Ditch companies are currently being developed by City Attorney staff, and are scheduled to be completed by 4/22.

### Jayhawker Annexation

Staff submitted the Annexation and Zoning application for the 31-acre Jayhawker Ponds property adjacent to River's Edge on February 13<sup>th</sup>. The Development Review Team has reviewed the project. Per an IGA with Larimer County, Planning is required to aggressively pursue enclaves for annexation.

### Swartz Homestead

The Historic Preservation Commission and the Loveland Historical Society, in cooperation with the Loveland Planning Department, have received a budget estimate from Wattle & Daub contractors for the rehabilitation of the Swartz Homestead Structures. The estimate was guided by the structural assessment submitted by Larsen Structural Design and a proposed *Use Plan* developed by the Historic Preservation Commission and Historical Society. Following the recommendations of the *Use Plan*, the budget estimate assumes the following treatments of the various buildings at the homestead:

- All seven structures to be abated of hazardous materials (lead paint and/or asbestos) as appropriate.
- The Barn and Agricultural Outbuilding to be restored to a degree that allows them to serve as staging areas for public events.
- The Farm House to be outfitted as both a meeting space and a residence for a full-time caretaker.
- The Silo, Machine Shed, Tenant House, and Lean-To to be stabilized or restored as required for interpretive purposes, to ensure public safety, and to forestall further deterioration.

**Final estimated costs = \$511,802.00**

The report indicates that some grant funding may be available, such as EPA Brownfields and State Historic Fund grants.

The Open Lands Program has initially identified the Barn, Machine Shed, and Silo for Open Lands use. The conflict in usage as well as identifying a budgeted request for \$500K +/- is to be determined.



## LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

**AGENDA ITEM:** **5**

**MEETING DATE:** April 10, 2013

**DESCRIPTION:** Open Lands Projects Report

**SUMMARY:**

### **OPEN LANDS MARKETING PLAN**

#### **Implementation Update**

Staff will work with OLAC on transitioning the draft marketing plan into an adopted working document. Action items have been identified and will be implemented throughout 2013.

### **ACQUISITIONS**

#### **57<sup>th</sup> and Taft Property**

Staff has scheduled a site visit for late April to evaluate the property's potential to serve several purposes. It has been identified as a potential trail linkage between the current Loveland Recreation Trail and a trail connecting Fort Collins to the north along Taft/Shields. Fort Collins will be constructing a trail south to Trilby Ave. in 2014. The trail linkage is identified in the NFRMPO Regional Bicycle Plan as a route providing connectivity between Berthoud and Fort Collins.

Historically the site contains natural drainages and wetlands. These wetlands have been channelized over time to accommodate farming on the site. Amy Laartz from EDM will also tour the site with staff, and provide feedback on the property's potential as an initial wetland banking site. An initial banking site is needed to finalize our application for an Umbrella Wetland Mitigation Bank to the Army Corps of Engineers.

Once an assessment of the property is finalized, staff will contact the landowners to discuss a possible purchase.

## **PLANNING**

### **Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update**

An RFP was distributed on April 3<sup>rd</sup> to five consulting firms for consideration. The submittal and selection process will take place in late April, and the project will begin in mid-May, with anticipated completion sometime in early 2014. The Open Lands Plan will be updated as part of this process and merged into the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, as will all Divisions in the Department.

OLAC will have three opportunities to provide input during the process. The first will be a presentation to OLAC during the community outreach process in identifying the needs and desires of the Loveland community. The second will be during the review of the Draft Master Plan, and the third opportunity will be to review the Final Master Plan before it is presented to City Council for adoption.