



## 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

September 11, 2013 – 5:30 pm

#### REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Parks & Recreation Conference Room, Suite 200  
500 E. Third Street, Loveland, CO 80537

#### Notice of Meeting Posted

#### Call to Order

#### Public Comment

#### Approval of Meeting Minutes (July 10 and August 14, 2013)

#### 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)

#### Reports/Correspondence:

1. Parks & Recreation Master Plan – MIG Consultant Update/Discussion 5:30-7:00 pm
2. River's Edge Natural Area Update
3. Open Lands Projects Report

#### Commission Member Discussion Topics

#### Adjournment

**Next Regular Meeting Date:** October 9, 2013

Wi-Fi Access Code: accesswifi

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### CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Special Meeting Minutes – July 10, 2013  
River's Edge Natural Area, 960 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street

**Commissioners Present:** Gale Bernhardt, Rick Brent, Ross Livingston, Steve McMillan, Darren Pape, Jim Roode (alternate), Hugh McKean (City Council Liaison).

**Commissioners Absent:** Lori Bell, Andy Hawbaker, Ted Mioduski, Bill Zawacki.

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

**The public meeting was called to order at 5:40 pm.**

**Approval of the April 10, 2013 Commission Meeting Minutes:** Tabled until a quorum is present.

**Approval of the June 12, 2013 Commission Meeting Minutes:** Tabled until a quorum is present.

**Council Liaison Report:** Hugh McKean reported that 3,000+ signatures have been received on a petition for a moratorium on fracking to be placed on the fall ballot. Also, a revised GMA with Johnstown received Planning Commission approval.

#### **Reports/Correspondence:**

**1. Parks & Rec Master Plan Update.** Intercept events are planned to engage the public in the master plan process, at the Loveland Loves BBQ event, the Cherry Pie Festival, and the Loveland Library. The consultant, MIG, will contact OLAC members who did not attend the June 19 special meeting for their input regarding open lands for the update.

#### **2. Open Lands Projects Report:**

**a. Cedar Valley Drive Property.** The City closed on the purchase of 50 units of CBT water on June 28. A new Boundary Line Adjustment will include acquisition of the Cedar Valley Drive ROW to the west end of the parcel, for a total acquisition of 5.7 acres, to ensure access to the property regardless of the future status of the road.

**b. 57<sup>th</sup> & Taft Property.** Staff will present two scenarios for a Regional Trail connection to the landowner, who has indicated that he will consider a trail easement purchase that does not bisect the property. Ross Livingston noted that this site satisfies 8 of 12 Open Lands evaluation criteria, as well as priorities identified in the regional study including trails and connecting trail segments. The property may also provide a location for an initial wetland banking site.

**c. Marketing Subcommittee.** Staff met with the subcommittee to discuss possible logo designs and several concepts are being developed.

**d. Swartz Farmstead.** Open Lands and Planning staff met to determine a design concept for the farmstead area. Staff will refine the conceptual plan and representatives from OLAC and HPC will meet to discuss. The Historic Preservation Commission submitted an application for designation of all of the structures on the City of Loveland Historic Register.

**e. Nicholson Property.** The property owner and his attorney continue their efforts to resolve the existing lien on the property.

**f. Annual Report.** 2012 Open Lands Annual Report will be completed soon and posted online and on social media outlets.

**g. Big Thompson Canyon property.** Staff continues to investigate options for access, trails, regional trail connection, and development and long-term management costs. The Forest Service will support a regional trail connection through their property, citing a significant deficiency in foothills trails open to the public. Commission members reiterated their interest in the property, regardless of a regional trail connection. A joint Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park and Open Space property would provide both types of access and recreation.

**3. South Ryan Gulch Initial Property Review.** Staff presented information about an acquisition opportunity in Ryan Gulch of approximately 280 acres. Rick Brent made a motion that staff continue to pursue acquisition of approximately 185 acres of the property, subject to due diligence, with the landowner and trustee. Gale Bernhardt seconded and the motion carried.

**Commission Member Discussion Topics:** None.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.



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### CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes – August 14, 2013  
500 E. Third Street, Suite 200, Loveland

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

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

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

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

**Approval of the April 10, 2013 Commission Meeting Minutes:** Steve McMillan made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Ross Livingston seconded, and the motion carried.

**Approval of the June 12, 2013 Commission Meeting Minutes:** Steve McMillan made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Lori Bell seconded, and the motion carried.

**Approval of the July 10, 2013 Commission Meeting Minutes:** Tabled until a quorum is present.

#### **Reports/Correspondence:**

**1. River's Edge Natural Area Update.** The Grand Opening is scheduled for September 28. The dedication ceremony will include a flag ceremony by the Boy Scouts, several speakers, and a symbolic "fence tear-down" by members of Council and OLAC. Colorado Parks and Wildlife will run a fishing clinic, with the help of Loveland Fishing Club volunteers. Childrens' activities will include hands-on environmental education activities and nature-themed crafts. Other planned events include guided bird walks, nature hikes, scavenger hunts, informational booths, demonstrations, and lunch concessions (Fishing Club fundraiser). Construction is on schedule, with the ADA dock and the bridge to Jayhawker installed, entry sign under construction, shelter installation and renovations nearly complete, and wetlands 70% complete. The commission reviewed two concepts for the sign kiosk, with a preference for the rammed-earth walls rather than pilasters, and benches on the back.

Staff distributed a summary of the Loveland Historical Society (LHS) response to the lease terms presented for the Swartz farmstead. LHS would like to preserve the historical structures, but does not have "funding, fundraising ability, nor the manpower" to restore, maintain, operate or care for the 6 structures proposed in the lease. LHS proposed a long-term lease to maintain the tenant house only, with public viewing from the exterior. LHS requested funding and assistance from the City for grant

applications, historic designation, restoration, maintenance and operation of the farmstead. Open Lands Commission members were disappointed that LHS did not accept the lease terms or propose a reasonable alternative. The commission reiterated a preference for preservation of the barn and silo only, for possible open lands/environmental education use, depending on floodplain regulations and historic designation. Open Lands will await the results of the upcoming Historic Preservation Commission meeting and staff meetings.

**2. Parks & Rec Master Plan Update.** Staff continued to solicit public input at intercept events and via the online survey. Preliminary findings have indicated preferences for more water access, trails and open lands. The consultant, MIG, will present preliminary results and request OLAC input at the September meeting.

**3. Open Lands Projects Report:** Gale Bernhardt made a motion to suspend the open session and convene Executive Session for the following topic of discussion: Purchase, acquisition or negotiation of property. Bill Zawacki seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Executive Session was convened at 7:00 pm. The Executive Session concluded at 7:40 pm and the open session was reconvened.

**4. Boards and Commissions Handbook.** Gale Bernhardt reviewed the attendance requirements outlined in the Handbook. Commission members are requested to communicate with staff regarding absences, and attendance in previous years and projected future meetings will be taken into account. Staff will report member attendance at all commission meetings (i.e., regular and special meetings) to the City Clerk annually. Members are encouraged to contact staff or other members for updates on missed meetings.

**Commission Member Discussion Topics:** None.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.



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### LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

**AGENDA ITEM: 1**

**MEETING DATE:** September 11, 2013

**DESCRIPTION:** Parks & Recreation Master Plan

**SUMMARY:**

Cindy Mendoza, from the consulting firm MIG, will attend the meeting to present preliminary results and key findings from the Master Plan Update community outreach process. MIG will also begin discussing the Needs Analysis phase of the project. A draft meeting agenda is attached.

**Commission Discussion/Action Recommended:** Review preliminary results and provide input on Needs Analysis phase regarding Open Lands components of Parks & Recreation Master Plan.



## **Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

### **Open Lands Advisory Commission Meeting #2**

Wednesday, 9/11/13, 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Parks & Recreation Conference Room

## **Meeting Agenda**

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|---------|---|
| 5:30 pm | I. Welcome and Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Purpose of meeting</li><li>• Planning process overview</li></ul> |
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| 5:35 pm | II. Park, Facility & Program Analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Key findings (presentation)</li><li>• Comments</li></ul> |
|---------|--|

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| 5:55 pm | III. Community Outreach Findings <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Key findings (presentation)</li><li>• Comments</li></ul> |
|---------|---|

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|---------|---|
| 6:15 pm | IV. Preliminary Discussion of Needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Access maps</li><li>• Benchmarking findings</li><li>• Priority open lands</li></ul> |
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- |         |                     |
|---------|---------------------|
| 6:55 pm | V. Next Steps/Close |
|---------|---------------------|
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### **Preliminary Information**

- Park, Facility and Program Analysis
- Intercept, Questionnaire and Stakeholder Meeting Results



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### LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

#### AGENDA ITEM: 2

**MEETING DATE:** September 11, 2013

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

#### SUMMARY:

##### Grand Opening (September 28, 10 am - 2:30 pm)

- 10 am – Ceremony speakers Cecil Gutierrez, Gale Bernhardt, Rick Brent, Hugh McKean
  - Recognize site history, HP, funding, grants, partners, project improvements, property highlights, and symbolic fence tear-down
- 10:30 – 2:30
  - Colorado Parks & Wildlife Fishing Clinic supported by the Loveland Fishing Club
  - Children's activities, crafts, nature scavenger hunt
  - Guided nature hikes, guided bird walks
  - Vendor raffles and prize giveaways
  - Wildflower Seed Packets
  - Concessions – proceeds to benefit the annual Kids Fishing Derby

##### Construction

- Contractor
  - Entry sign along 1<sup>st</sup> Street under construction, complete week of 9/9
  - Boardwalk under construction, work to be complete 9/15
  - New shelter installations complete and renovations underway on existing shelter
  - Wetlands installation complete, plant protection in place
  - Restroom installation 9/10, stone veneer to be installed thereafter
  - Minor seeding, trail touch-ups, and site preparations being finalized
  - Watering contracts have been secured for both native seed and woody plant establishment, to be supplemented by Parks staff
  - City staff preparing for amenity installation and fencing teardown to begin the week of 9/16

##### Sign Kiosk

- Under construction – rammed earth walls concept selected

##### Swartz Farmstead

- City Manager to present to City Council.

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





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### LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

#### AGENDA ITEM: 3

MEETING DATE: September 11, 2013

DESCRIPTION: Open Lands Projects Report

#### SUMMARY:

##### **Open Lands Logo**

The new Loveland Open Lands logo has been approved by the Parks & Recreation Director and the City Manager. It has also been adapted for the River's Edge Grand Opening. The logos are being used online, on signage, and for the Grand Opening public outreach, and will be presented at the meeting.

##### **Property Updates**

*57<sup>th</sup> and Taft* – On August 15<sup>th</sup>, staff presented the landowners two trail easement options to consider, and neither was accepted. Landowners' only interest is a trade for developable property elsewhere in Loveland, or a purchase offer for the full 86-acre property. Staff will contact Larimer County to gauge interest in a partnership and GOCO grant for acquisition. The property does provide for regional trail connectivity from the Loveland Recreation Trail to Fort Collins' trail system, along Taft Avenue.

*Big Thompson Canyon* – Staff met with the landowners on August 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss preservation of 486 acres of Big Thompson Canyon property with connectivity to Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park. Landowners presented an idea to exclude river frontage parcels from the purchase, to potentially lower the total acquisition price. This would enable the landowners to retain more valuable river frontage, and still provide for public access to the rest of the property. Staff has scheduled a meeting for September 22<sup>nd</sup> with CDOT on site to discuss possible parking access off of Highway 34. Staff also contacted county engineers concerning a pedestrian bridge over the Big Thompson and a Floodplain Special Review permit would be required. Staff will continue to explore options for access, as well as any potential reduction in acquisition price.

*Boedecker Lake* – Staff has discussed the possibility of preserving the site by accepting a conservation easement. This would require the local HOA's to hold fee simple title.

*Jayhawker Annexation* – Planning staff is working with Larimer County regarding current code violations that may be present at the 1.5-acre enclave to the east. No decision will be made to proceed with the Jayhawker Annexation until Larimer County responds with a letter regarding the status of the current use of the neighboring property.

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