



LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

MAY 10, 2017 – 5:30 PM

Mariana Butte Golf Course, 701 Clubhouse Drive, Loveland, CO 80537

www.CityofLoveland.org/OpenLands

Notice of Meeting Posted

Call to Order

Public Comment

Approval of Meeting Minutes: April 12, 2017

City Council Liaison Report

[Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board](#) **Liaison Report**

5:45-6:30 pm Discussion/Action Items:

1. Discussion of Mariana Butte Trail
2. 2018 Proposed Open Lands and Trails CORE Budgets (*attached*)
3. Project Outdoors Prioritization

6:30-7:00 pm Reports/Correspondence:

4. Property Acquisition Updates (*verbal*)
5. Open Lands Projects Report (*attached*)
6. Trail Updates (*attached*)

Executive Session (if necessary)

(24-6-402(4)(a) C.R.S.) For information or discussion of the purchase or acquisition of real property

News/Reminders/Events:

May 1-31 - [E. 1st St Natural Area Naming Contest](#) News Release

May 9 – [Project Outdoors Prioritization Open House](#) at Boys & Girls Club – 5:30-7:30 pm ([RH article](#))

May 9 – [HPEC Lecture – Native Pollinators & their Habitats](#) at High Plains Env. Ctr. – 6:00-7:00 pm

May 13 – [High Plains Environmental Center Grand Opening and Native Plant Sale](#) – 9:00 am-3:00 pm

May 13 – Guided Bird Walks at High Plains Environmental Center (Equalizer Lake) – 7:00, 10:00 am

May 18 – [PEEPs Preschool Program “Spring Peepers and Creepers”](#) at [Namaqua Park](#) – 9:30, 11:00am

May 20 – [Volunteer Trail Host Training](#) at [River's Edge Natural Area](#) – 8:15 am-1:00 pm

May 20 – [Milkweed Planting](#) for Monarch Butterfly Habitat with [LIMB](#) – 9:00 am-1:00 pm

June 3 – [National Trails Day Event](#) at Fairgrounds Park – 8:30 am-12 noon

Commission Member Discussion Topics

Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting: June 14, 2017

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PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes – April 12, 2017

Parks & Recreation Conference Room, 500 E. Third St., Loveland, CO 80537

Commissioners Present: Gale Bernhardt, Rick Brent, Ross Livingston, Darren Pape, Jim Roode, Nathan Thompson, Jean Whittaker, Kerri Rollins (LC OLAC Liaison).

Commissioners Absent: Andy Hawbaker, Bill Zawacki.

Staff Present: Debbie Eley, Brian Hayes, Marilyn Hilgenberg.

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

Approval of March 8, 2017 Meeting Minutes: Ross Livingston made an amendment to the minutes to change “Pheasants Unlimited” to “Pheasants Forever” on page 2. Rick Brent made a motion to approve the minutes with this amendment. Jean Whittaker seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board Report. Kerri Rollins reported on the following items: 1) The county has a signed contract to acquire a 400-acre parcel west of Horsetooth Mountain Open Space, which would provide a buffer from development, habitat for wildlife and a protected viewshed; 2) Plantings and other enhancements are underway at Lions Park and flood recovery work is ongoing at Hermit Park; 3) Trail closures are in effect at Horsetooth Mountain Open Space for wildlife resource monitoring; 4) A fishing access project is under construction at Eagles Nest Open Space.

Discussion/Action:

1. Open Lands Policy Review. Policies are reviewed annually by staff and every five years by the commission. OLAC members received copies of the draft revised Open Lands & Trails Policies 1-19, which were been updated with current terminology, consistent formatting, revision dates, and references to the 2014 *Parks & Recreation Master Plan* and Open Lands Management Types, for consistency throughout. Other policies will be presented for review and approval as needed. Information regarding trail rules and e-bikes will be presented for discussion at an upcoming meeting.

2. Boedecker North Property Review. A developer has proposed annexation and development of this property and the City’s Development Review Team is reviewing submittals. The development may involve discussions with Open Lands.

3. Fort Collins Natural Areas Partnership Request. Fort Collins Natural Areas has requested a partnership on a 40-acre property in the separator area, adjacent to Mudd Lake. The property is listed at \$689K and Fort Collins has it under contract for \$670K. OLAC expressed concern about dedicating funding outside Loveland’s land priorities and felt that this property is not a funding priority right now.

4. Naming of E. 1st St. Open Lands Property. The 79-acre property will be named in accordance with the Naming Policy, including public notice to solicit proposed names. Suggestions will be accepted until May 31, including during public outreach for Project Outdoors, since this property is the focal point and will provide key public access for the GOCO Inspire Initiative effort. Priority consideration will be

given to names that reflect the site's ecological features, such as plants or wildlife native to the Big Thompson River corridor, geological features, habitat types, or physical identifying features. Proposed names should not create confusion with existing parks, streets, or subdivisions. Names will be presented at the June OLAC meeting for review and selection.

Reports/Correspondence:

1. Boards and Commissions Summit Report. Jean Whittaker and Jim Roode attended as representatives of OLAC and gave a presentation on recent Open Lands activities, answered questions, and distributed information to other commissions. Other interesting presentations were Planning Commission's update on the Foundry downtown project, and the Youth Advisory Commission's report on their recent trip to Washington D.C.

2. Property Acquisition Updates. Several acquisitions are planned for the next few months. Boundary line adjustments for the two east Big Thompson River properties are nearly complete, which will allow the properties to close. The Nomina Nursery property was purchased except for approximately 3% on the north side of the river. Prescriptive access easements and a revocable license will be drafted to allow the neighboring landowner to use a portion of the property for access, but the city will own the fee simple land. A proposed access easement for Southside Reservoir has been requested by the developers of Waters Edge, adjacent to the Ryans Gulch property. The City owns shares of Southside Ditch water. Staff will research the city's ownership and the possibility of leasing the rights for passive public use only, such as non-motorized/wakeless boating.

3. Open Lands Projects Report.

High Plains Environmental Center. Construction of the new building is complete and the grand opening is scheduled for Saturday, May 13, along with HPEC's annual native plant sale. The City contributed \$400,000 towards construction of the new center and is collaborating with High Plains on environmental education and land management.

Invasive Phreatophyte Removal and Cleanup. Russian olive, tamarisk and Siberian elm trees have been removed and treated at Cottonwood Run North and Old St. Louis Natural Areas, with grant funding covering 75% of the cost. A group of CSU student volunteers removed 20 cubic yards of flood debris at Cottonwood Run after the invasive trees were removed. Work at Oxbow and Fairgrounds Natural Areas will continue in the fall.

Project Outdoors. Staff is working with program providers and partners to identify potential programs, career pathways and physical elements to include in the plan for public feedback. The Youth Advisory Council will tour the E. 1st St. property and create a draft plan to reach out to their peers for additional input. The Winona Elementary School community is also identifying potential outdoor improvements. A second public open house is planned for May 9 to help prioritize projects to include in the GOCO implementation grant. Applications are due July 26 and the GOCO site visit is scheduled for August 29.

Skyline Natural Area Management Plan. Dr. Jason LaBelle from CSU, along with a team of 8 graduate and undergraduate students, surveyed Skyline Natural Area on March 25 for archaeological resources.

Colorado Health Foundation Grant. Staff is working with the City Attorney's Office to finalize the contract with Squarei for the purchase and implementation of the Offero database management system for volunteer management and activity registration.

Environmental Education/Public Outreach/Volunteer Program. Spring training for volunteer environmental educators is complete and a total of 18 school programs are scheduled in April and May. Results of the volunteer-led bird walk on March 25 are available on ebird.org at: [Big Thompson River](#)

[Bike Trail Birding Hotspot](#). A volunteer trail project is scheduled for April 29 with Colorado Addicted Trailbuilders Society (CATS), to connect the Mariana Butte trail system to the Big Thompson River corridor. This trail system was planned in cooperation with the Golf Course to improve access and remove unsustainable social trails at Mariana Butte, as part of the Department-wide goal of providing public access and trails to access natural areas. The trail is pedestrian-only and will include signage and striping at cart path crossings. A site visit may be planned for OLAC to walk the trail corridor.

4. Trail Updates.

Trail Segment 10b – Namaqua Rd. to West US 34 Underpass – The old Viestenz-Smith Bridge was set over the Barnes Ditch on March 30. All but 200 feet of trail is complete; we hope to open the new trail in late April once all seeding, fencing, and signage is complete! We are a month ahead of schedule and the project is \$60K over budget due to a change in the fence design as requested by the landowner. We have made savings in other 2017 trail projects to account for the cost overrun.

Front Range Trail – The construction bids advertised in March and a pre-bid meeting is scheduled for April 5. Bids will be opened on April 14 and construction should start in late May. Construction is scheduled for completion in late August 2017. The project is a few weeks behind schedule but should still be completed by Labor Day 2017.

Long View Corridor Trail – The consultant completed 90% plans for CDOT FIR/FOR review and will meet with CDOT for final review in mid-April. Staff is coordinating with Xcel Energy to relocate the power lines on the south side of 57th Street and coordinating the bid schedule with the consultant. The schedule now puts the project bidding in June 2017 for a construction start in the fall of 2017.

Trail 10a – Wilson to Namaqua Avenue – Staff prepared final concept plans for the Namaqua underpass and the trail connection back to Wilson Avenue in March. The conceptual alignment is under review by City utility staff and a follow-up meeting with the landowner to discuss easements for this trail section is scheduled for early April. Staff hopes to secure easements for future construction.

Wilson Bridge and Taft/Wilson Trail – Work has proceeded quickly on the remaining trail work and the project is wrapping up. Bank protection work for the stormwater outfall is complete and the contractor is working on the final trail connection on the west side of Taft Ave. up to the roadway. RMC also completed pipe work in Centennial Park in late March and completed trail improvements in this area. A change order was issued to relocate a small section of trail west of Taft Avenue that was undercut from the river. The riverbank in this area will be lowered to accommodate a flood plain bench and will be stabilized once the 404 permit has been issued. Staff hopes to have all the work completed by mid-April and will reopen the entire trail in late April. A formal ribbon cutting for the new bridge is scheduled for June 3 to celebrate National Trails Day.

Executive Session:

A motion to convene Executive Session was made by Ross Livingston and seconded by Darren Pape. The regular session was suspended at 7:35 pm and the Executive Session was convened. Executive Session concluded and the regular session reconvened at 8:09 pm.

Rick Brent made a motion that the commission approve negotiating the best price on a potential acquisition, taking into consideration the terms set in the original contract. Jim Roode seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.



OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM: **2**

MEETING DATE: May 10, 2017

DESCRIPTION: 2018 Proposed Open Lands and Trails CORE Budgets

STAFF PRESENTER: Marilyn Hilgenberg

SUMMARY:

Staff annually evaluates and analyzes the Open Lands and Trails budget and identifies budget issues for discussion with the Open Lands Commission. At the last meeting the Commission discussed the Open Lands and Trails Capital Plans based on priority acquisitions and projects. Based on those projects, find below the CORE 2018 Operating Budgets for Open Lands and Trails.

5A. Open Lands – 2018 Proposed Budget

The Parks & Recreation Department administers and manages the Open Lands Program to identify, acquire, and maintain areas in conformance with the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the City's Capital Plan. Funding is from Loveland's portion of the Larimer County Open Space sales tax of 1/4-cent, which is approved through 2043, and through Capital Expansion Fees. There are nearly 8,000 acres preserved through Loveland's Open Lands Program.

The Parks & Recreation Department also administers and manages Recreational Trails in conformance with the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the City's Capital Plan. Funding is from Loveland's portion of Colorado Lottery Proceeds and Capital Expansion Fees. Currently the Recreation Trail runs 18.5 miles through Loveland.

The following is the CORE operating budget for Open Lands and Trails. Wages have been adjusted by 3.5% increase, operating supplies and services are budgeted at 2017 levels, and transfers for General Liability, Workers Comp and Administrative transfers have been assigned to the budget by the Finance Department.

OPEN LANDS

EXPENSE BY DIVISION/Program	'16 Actual	'17 Revised Budget	'17 Actual (Thru 4-30-17)	'18 Budget Proposed
PERSONNEL SERVICES	510,127	615,252	196,405	647,348
SUPPLIES	42,453	67,400	85,361	67,400
PURCHASED SERVICES	656,316	459,165	79,458	254,050
CAPITAL	<u>6,016,505</u>	<u>7,355,360</u>	<u>2,816,765</u>	<u>1,650,000</u>
Total Expense	7,225,402	8,497,177	3,177,989	2,618,798

REVENUE

INTERGOVERNMENTAL	2,883,167	2,844,663	799,816	2,553,519
CAPITAL EXPANSION FEES	512,319	451,125	89,991	499,990
INTEREST	101,090	59,076	31,626	70,143
OTHER	<u>591,506</u>	<u>411,094</u>	<u>38,614</u>	<u>196,844</u>
Total Revenue	\$4,088,082	\$3,765,958	960,047	\$3,320,496

FTE

3.50

5.25

5.25

5.25

TRAILS

EXPENSE BY DIVISION/Program	'16 Actual	'17 Revised Budget	'17 Actual (Thru 4-30-17)	'18 Budget Proposed
PERSONNEL SERVICES	159,624	193,305	49,392	203,635
SUPPLIES	11,139	10,900	2,860	12,900
PURCHASED SERVICES	34,341	48,533	16,057	48,455
CAPITAL	<u>185,017</u>	<u>4,849,321</u>	<u>172,306</u>	<u>205,000</u>
Total Expense	390,121	5,102,059	240,617	469,990

REVENUE

INTERGOVERNMENTAL	813,724	740,000	171,825	743,700
CAPITAL EXPANSION FEES	306,556	268,875	53,631	297,990
INTEREST	29,931	31,181	18,447	55,425
OTHER	<u>28,913</u>	<u>688,190</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>619,440</u>
Total Revenue	\$1,179,124	\$1,728,246	\$ 243,903	\$1,716,555

FTE

.92

1.25

1.25

1.25

2B. Open Lands and Trails 2018 Supplemental and Capital Requests

The following is a list of the anticipated new operating and capital items the Open Lands and Trails Division intends to submit for the 2018 Budget.

Operations:

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Personnel & Operations | \$ 80,000 |
| <i>OL Specialist from 35 hours/week to 40 hours/Wk</i> | |
| <i>Environmental Education Coordinator to 30 hours/Wk</i> | |
| <i>Additional Maintenance Worker</i> | |
| <i>Supplies (Dog Waste Bags, etc...)</i> | |
| <i>Weed Management</i> | |
| <i>Offero Software Subscription</i> | |

Capital:

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 2. Trail Sign Program | \$ 100,000 |
| 3. Trails (Namaqua Avenue Bridge & Underpass Design) | \$ 205,000 |
| 4. Open Land Acquisitions and Development | \$1,750,000 |
| <i>Meadowbrook, Morey, Oxbow, Skyline,</i> | |
| <i>Pfeiff, Prairie Ridge & Sunset Vista</i> | |

COMMISSION ACTION

RECOMMENDED: Informational and Budget Discussion



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM: 5

MEETING DATE: May 10, 2017

DESCRIPTION: Open Lands Projects Report

SUMMARY:

Weed Management

- ❖ The City of Loveland contracts with the Larimer County Weed District to manage weeds on large or difficult to reach open land areas. With recent warm weather and moisture, staff has been working to get an early start on problem weed areas.

Partnerships and Planning:

- ❖ United Way AmeriCorps and community volunteers constructed a new soft-surface trail at River's Edge Natural Area connecting Dragonfly Pond to the new parking lot area for an Earth Day event on April 22.



- ❖ A group of corporate volunteers from Constant Contact spent a morning planting wetland species at River's Edge Natural Area, as part of continuing habitat enhancement efforts.
- ❖ Students and teachers from Front Range Community College's Exotic Species Elimination Project have removed, treated and inventoried hundreds of Russian olive trees at the Ryans Gulch property and will finish up their spring semester at the E. 1st St. Natural Area.
- ❖ Colorado Parks and Wildlife offered a small youth fishing clinic on April 15 at Buckingham Reservoir. It was a great experience for families to enjoy an outdoor activity together and all of the kids were successful in catching fish.
- ❖ US Forest Service and community volunteers helped plant hundreds of native shrubs and remove invasive weeds at Morey Wildlife Reserve on May 6 as part of this spring's continuing flood restoration efforts.



- ❖ Colorado Addicted Trailbuilders Society (CATS) members hosted a volunteer trail project to connect Mariana Butte trails to Oxbow Natural Area via the Hidden Hogback Trail on May 7.

Programs/Environmental Education/Volunteer Program:

- ❖ The contract with Squarei for purchase and implementation of Offero has been signed. Staff will begin working with the contractor to convert data from existing systems into Offero's format and set up the new system.
- ❖ The spring Environmental Education season is in full swing, hosting school groups up to four times per week at River's Edge Natural Area with the help of trained community volunteers. Two local high school students completed their Front Range Community College Natural Resources internships through Loveland's environmental education program, assisting with lesson plans, preparation and teaching preschool and elementary school groups.
- ❖ Three local high school agricultural science classes participated in stewardship projects at River's Edge and Mariana Butte to collect and plant willow stakes and seed open lands restoration areas.





LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM: 6

MEETING DATE: May 10, 2017

DESCRIPTION: Trail Updates

SUMMARY:

Recreation Trail Projects:

- ❖ Wilson Bridge and Taft/Wilson Trail – Work is 99% complete and the trail will open in mid- May! The contractor completed the final trail connection on the west side of Taft Avenue in April and bank protection up to the roadway. A formal ribbon cutting for the new bridge is scheduled for June 3, 2017 to celebrate National Trails Day.



Looking west towards Wilson Avenue along new trail

- ❖ Trail Segment 10b – Namaqua to West US 34 Underpass – This project is 95% complete with fencing, roadway signage and abutment guard railing still to be installed. All trail and seeding work

is complete, but until the abutment railing is installed, the trail will remain closed. Staff hopes to open the trail in mid-May. A media release will be issued for the trail opening.



Trail segment 10b, old Viestenz-Smith Bridge over Barnes Ditch

- ❖ Front Range Trail – Bids opened for the construction of the trail project on April 13 with 13 bidders. The lowest bid was not accepted due to CDOT qualifying criteria. The next lowest bidder, Zak Dirt, was approved with a bid price of \$1,252,890.00. The Loveland portion of work is \$311,827. An amendment to the existing IGA will be brought to City Council in early June to adjust the final reimbursement of funds to reflect our 25% contribution to the project. The contract will be signed in late May, with construction starting after Memorial Day. Larimer County is managing the contracting and construction for the project. Construction is scheduled for completion in late August 2017.
- ❖ Long View Corridor Trail – The CDOT review went well and only minor plan changes were required. Staff completed our review of the plans and the project should be out to bid in early June. Staff is coordinating with Xcel Energy to relocate the power lines on the south side of 57th Street and coordinating the bid schedule with the consultant in May. The schedule puts construction starting in the fall of 2017.
- ❖ Wilson to Namaqua Avenue - City utility staff reviewed the conceptual trail alignment and underpass and a follow-up meeting with the landowner was held in April. More discussions on the final alignment for this trail section are scheduled with the landowner in late May. Staff still hopes to secure the easements, but the landowner is not ready to move forward until additional information is provided. This section is still under a DRMS mining permit.