



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

LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
JUNE 14, 2017 – 5:30 PM

500 E. Third St., Suite 200, Parks & Recreation Conference Room, Loveland, CO 80537
www.CityofLoveland.org/OpenLands

Notice of Meeting Posted

Call to Order

Public Comment

Approval of Meeting Minutes: May 10, 2017

City Council Liaison Report – Appointment of Don Overcash as Liaison to OLAC

Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board Liaison Report

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

1. Recommendation on GOCO Inspire Grant to City Council (*attached*)
2. Naming of E. 1st St. Natural Area (*attached*)

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

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

Events/Reminders/News:

June 12 – [Disabilities Advisory Commission](#) at Library, 6:00 pm – Parks & Recreation ADA Plan 2017

[Colorado Trails Explorer](#) Statewide Online Interactive Trails Map by CO Parks & Wildlife

[An oasis named Old St. Louis Natural Area](#) Reporter-Herald Article, May 18

[Chimney Hollow Reservoir project could begin in 2018](#) Reporter-Herald Article, May 19

[Storm turns into spring cleaning](#) Reporter-Herald Article, May 20

[Loveland recreation trail reopens from Wilson to Taft](#) Reporter-Herald Article, May 26

[A new way to play](#) (new River's Edge parking area and trails) Reporter-Herald Article, June 6

Commission Member Discussion Topics

Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting: July 12, 2017

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JUNE 2017 OPEN LANDS EVENTS



Saturday, June 3 – 8:30 am-12:00 noon

National Trails Day Celebration and Youth Bike Rodeo

Fairgrounds Park, 700 S. Railroad Ave.

Thursday, June 15 – 9:30 am and 11 am

PEEPs Preschool Program ~ That's Not a Kitty, Honey

Namaqua Park, 730 N. Namaqua Rd.

Saturday, June 17 – 6:00-8:00 pm

Dog Day of Summer ~ Fun for dogs and their people



River's Edge Natural Area, 960 W. 1st Street

Saturday, June 24 – 7:30-9:30 am

Guided Bird Walk with Open Lands/Audubon Volunteer

River's Edge Natural Area, 960 W. 1st Street



Saturday, June 24 – 8:30 am-12:30 pm

Trail Host Training for Volunteers

River's Edge Natural Area, 960 W. 1st Street

Saturday, June 24 – 9:00-11:00 pm

Stargazing with Northern Colorado Astronomical Society

Cedar Valley Drive, west of Morey Wildlife Reserve

For more information and to register, visit:

WWW.CITYOFLOVELAND.ORG/OPENLANDS



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CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Special Meeting Minutes – May 10, 2017

Mariana Butte Golf Course, 700 Clubhouse Drive, Loveland, CO 80537

Commissioners Present: Gale Bernhardt, Rick Brent, Andy Hawbaker, Ross Livingston, Jim Roode, Jean Whittaker, Bill Zawacki, Steve Olson (City Council Liaison), Jennifer Almstead (LC OLAC Liaison Alternate).

Commissioners Absent: Darren Pape, Nathan Thompson.

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

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

Approval of April 12, 2017 Meeting Minutes. Rick Brent made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Jim Roode seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board Report. Jenn Almstead reported that the county's visitor use study is moving forward with surveys this summer.

City Council Liaison Report. Steve Olson has been appointed as City Council Liaison to the Open Lands Advisory Commission. However, Steve also serves on the Citizen's Finance Advisory Board, which meets at the same time as OLAC.

Discussion/Action:

1. Discussion of Mariana Butte Trail. A discussion with members of the Golf Advisory Board was held following a joint site visit to Mariana Butte Trail. Commission and board members discussed ways to improve communication, signage, and public access management strategies for the Mariana Butte Trail System, to incorporate into the trail analysis and signage plan.

2. 2018 Proposed Open Lands and Trails CORE Budgets. The proposed budgets for Open Lands and Trails were presented and will be submitted to the Budget Office in May. The base numbers are assigned based on the previous year and an automatic 3.5% increase is applied. Any other changes or additions must be justified. Open Lands Sales Tax revenues have been tracking higher than expected, but will decrease when the new ballot language takes effect at the end of 2018. Capital Expansion Fees are only used for capital projects, to address increased growth. Open Lands projects are identified from the 10-year capital plan. Additional operating costs are based on adding more than 800 acres to the Open Lands portfolio in the last two years, and the associated increases in maintenance costs. Other increases in operating costs address additional management and programming needs. Conservation Trust funds come from Lottery proceeds at about \$700-800K per year and are used to pay for Trail System capital projects and operations. A trail sign program is proposed for the Recreation Trail System, including wayfinding, directional and identification signage. Additional trail expenses also include the design of the Namaqua Ave. bridge and underpass.

3. Project Outdoors Prioritization. Staff developed a prioritization exercise for the options identified during the Project Outdoors planning process, for public input to rank potential components to include in the GOCO Inspire implementation grant. Commission members were asked for their input to help prioritize Places, Programs and Pathways to connect youth and families to the outdoors.

Reports/Correspondence:

4. Property Acquisition Updates. The 12-acre Ward river property east of Old St. Louis Natural Area is expected to close in June. The Osborn parcel east of Boise Ave. should also close in the next 30-60 days. A June closing is also anticipated for the remaining parcel at Namaqua West. The Parkside development at Boedecker Reservoir will be required to provide street crossings from the north through the development review planning process as well as a trail easement for a public trail. If agreements to use the Home Supply Ditch for trail connections to the east and west can be secured, the Parkside trail corridor could be purchased.

5. Open Lands Projects Report. The new parking area and trail access projects at River's Edge Natural Area is close to completion, and will provide additional access to Dragonfly and Jayhawker Ponds. Volunteers helped spread and tamp trail material during an Earth Day project, and completed several hundred feet of new trail. Volunteers from the Colorado Addicted Trailbuilders Society (CATS) continue to work on trails in the Mariana Butter area. Another volunteer project in May was a successful restoration planting day at Morey Wildlife Reserve, where 200 additional wetland plants were installed and protected. The contract with Squarei for the new Offero software has been approved and signed.

6. Trail Updates.

Trail Segment 10b – Namaqua Rd. to West US 34 Underpass – This new trail segment should be open in the next week.

Wilson Bridge and Taft/Wilson Trail – The railing at the new bridge needs to be installed, but the trail and bridge should be open by June 3 for the National Trails Day event and bridge ribbon-cutting.

Front Range Trail – Bid opening was 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.

Long View Corridor Trail – The CDOT review went well and only minor plan changes were required. 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.

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



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LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM: 1

MEETING DATE: June 14, 2017

DESCRIPTION: Recommendation on GOCO Inspire Grant to City Council

SUMMARY:

The Larimer County Inspire Coalition consists of Loveland, Larimer County, Fort Collins and the Boys & Girls Club of Larimer County. The coalition received a \$65,000 GOCO Inspire Planning Grant to develop a youth-led, community-driven plan to encourage more youth and families to connect with nature. The Loveland focus area includes the southeast quadrant of the city, including a hub at the Boys & Girls Club on E. 1st Street, the adjacent park/natural area acquired in May 2016, and connections to the Big Thompson River corridor.

The coalition has been working with numerous community partners to develop a plan identifying places, programs and pathways to connect more youth and families with the outdoors. Implementation grants are due in July 2017 and will focus on implementing improvements and programming that will increase access to nature and provide a continuum of experiences for youth to develop a deeper connection with the outdoors. The State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund requires a resolution approved by the governing body supporting the grant application.

Commission Action Recommended: A motion recommending that City Council approve a resolution supporting Loveland's grant application for an Inspire Initiative Implementation Grant from the State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund.



LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM: 2

MEETING DATE: June 14, 2017

DESCRIPTION: Property Naming – E. 1st Street Property

SUMMARY:

The E. 1st Street Property was acquired in May 2016 for open lands and park purposes and consists of 79 acres of upland, wetland, and floodplain lands along the Big Thompson River corridor. A public naming contest was held in May 2017 to solicit name suggestions, resulting in 75 unique names submitted by more than 30 individuals.

In accordance with the Open Lands Naming Policy, priority consideration should be given to names that reflect the site's unique ecological features, such as plants or wildlife native to the foothills and hogback area, geological features, habitat types, or physical identifying features. Proposed names should not create confusion with existing parks, streets, or subdivisions.

The area provides important habitat for songbirds, mammals, and reptiles/amphibians. Wildlife found in the river corridor include white-tailed and mule deer, coyote, mink, wild turkeys, red-tailed hawks, western meadowlarks, killdeer, red-winged blackbirds, song sparrows, chorus frogs and numerous others.

The following proposed names meet the naming policy criteria and are presented for consideration by the commission:

1. Blue Heron
2. Pioneer
3. River Bend / South Bend / Thompson Bend
4. Songbird Meadow
5. Valley View
6. Willow Grove / Willow Winds

Due to the shared use of the property for open lands and park purposes, the selected name will apply to both the natural area and planned neighborhood park.



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LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM: 4

MEETING DATE: June 14, 2017

DESCRIPTION: Open Lands Projects Report

SUMMARY:

Projects/Operations:

- **Weed Management**

A research project at Wild Natural Area is underway to study the efficacy of various control methods for feral rye, an aggressive non-native grass species.



- **River's Edge Additional Parking Area Now Open**

A new parking lot and trail access have been opened at River's Edge Natural Area to provide additional access to this popular outdoor use area. The parking area at 970 W. 1st Street includes 25 parking spaces, two accessible parking spots, and new trail connections for convenient access to Jayhawker and Dragonfly Ponds.

- **High Plains Environmental Center Grand Opening**

Open Lands staff supported the May 13th Grand Opening of the new High Plains Environmental Center. The City contributed \$400,000 toward the construction of the new center and is collaborating with High Plains on environmental education and local stewardship and restoration projects.



- **Game Camera**

Open Lands staff installed a game camera and has documented numerous wildlife species using city natural areas.



03:02PM 06/01/17 102F STEALTH CAM

Partnerships and Planning:

- Staff supported the City's National Trails Day and Bike Event on June 3rd and volunteer Trail Hosts staffed a booth with information about trail guidelines and etiquette. The new Pedestrian Bridge at Wilson Avenue was also dedicated during the event. The City has designated June as Bike Month and there will be public events throughout the month to celebrate.
- Two Barn Owl Boxes have been built and installed on City open land properties to encourage additional owl nesting. One of the boxes has an active nest with four eggs (as of May 27). The owls are monitored and banded in partnership with the Colorado Avian Research and Rehabilitation Institute.



Public Outreach/Environmental Education/Volunteer Program:

- Implementation of the new Offero data management software is moving forward. Staff is working with the software developer to configure and customize the system for Loveland, and to convert existing Open Lands volunteer data to the new system. The volunteer and program registration software will be rolled out later this summer.



Awards and Recognition:

- Colorado Addicted Trailbuilders Society (CATS) received a 2016 Environmental Stewardship Award from Larimer County for the new trail system at Mariana Butte. The Larimer County Commissioners and Environmental and Science Advisory Board presented the award to honor CATS' dedication and accomplishments pertaining to the new sustainable trails at Mariana Butte. The award will be presented at the County Commissioners meeting on July 10 at 3:00 pm.
- Loveland Open Lands received a 2017 Columbine Innovation Award from the Colorado Parks & Recreation Association for "Quick Wins for the Community," for providing new public access to five neighborhood natural areas throughout the community in 2016. The award will be presented and showcased at the CPRA Awards Banquet on October 5, during the CPRA Annual Conference in Keystone.





LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM: 5

MEETING DATE: June 14, 2017

DESCRIPTION: Trail Updates

SUMMARY:

Recreation Trail Projects:

- **Wilson-Taft Recreation Trail Project**

Reconstruction of the Recreation Trail from Taft to Wilson Avenue is complete and the trail and new Wilson Pedestrian Bridge are open for public use. This was a major flood restoration project resulting from the 2013 flood and the completion was celebrated with a ribbon-cutting on June 3, National Trails Day.



National Trails Day events on June 3

- **Trail Segment 10b – Namaqua Rd. to West US 34 Underpass**

This project is complete and the trail and new bridge opened to the public in May.

- **Front Range Trail**

The IGA was approved in May and construction will begin in June. Larimer County is managing the construction and contracting for the project. Construction is scheduled for completion in late August 2017.

- **Long View Corridor Trail**

Final bid packages are being prepared. Staff has been working with Larimer County and Fort Collins to finalize the IGA. Larimer County will be managing the construction and grant management for the project. Anticipate the IGA will be brought to City Council in early July with construction to commence this fall. Grant funding expires Summer of 2018 so all work must be complete over the winter and spring.