



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

September 13, 2017 – 5:30 PM

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

www.CityofLoveland.org/OpenLands

Notice of Meeting Posted

Call to Order

Introduction of Shanen Weber, Senior Parks and Recreation Planner

Public Comment

Approval of Meeting Minutes: June 14, 2017 and August 9, 2017

City Council Liaison Report

Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board Liaison Report

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

1. Sunset Vista Natural Area Follow-up Concept Review & Historical Structures Recommendation
2. Prairie Ridge Natural Area Initial Concept Review

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:

Offero Launch News Release; Link to Offero online: <http://offeroloveland.org>

Environmental Education Volunteer Training – Reporter-Herald article, September 7

September 15 – Guided Evening Nature Walk at Mariana Butte, 6:00 pm

September 16 – Guided Bird Walk at Morey Wildlife Reserve, 8:00 am

September 18-20 – Colorado Open Space Alliance (COSA) Annual Conference, Breckenridge

September 21 – PEEPs “Duck, Duck, GOOSE!” (Canada Geese) at River’s Edge, 9:30 and 11:00 am

September 22 – Volunteer Trail Host Training at River’s Edge, 8:30 am-1:30 pm

September 25 – Prairie Ridge Natural Area Public Meeting, 5:00-7:00 pm

October 7 – Annual Waterway Cleanup, Ward Boise property, 1231 S. Boise Ave., 9:00 am-12:00 pm

October 14 – KaBOOM Playground Volunteer Build Project at Jr. Achievement Park, 8:00 am-2:00 pm

Commission Member Discussion Topics

Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting: October 11, 2017

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CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Special Meeting Minutes – August 9, 2017
Sweet Heart Winery, 5500 W. Hwy 34, Loveland, CO 80537

Commissioners Present: Rick Brent, Ross Livingston, Darren Pape, Jim Roode, Nathan Thompson, Jean Whittaker, Bill Zawacki, Jennifer Almstead.

Commissioners Absent: Gale Bernhardt, Andy Hawbaker, Don Overcash.

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

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

Approval of May 10, 2017 Meeting Minutes. Jim Roode made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Rick Brent seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of June 14, 2017 Meeting Minutes. Tabled until a quorum of members is present.

Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board Report. Jenn Almstead reported on the following items: 1) A wildfire at Chimney Hollow Open Space was started by a lightning strike on July 23. Forest treatments by the county helped keep the fire on the ground. 2) The ATM agreement for Malchow Farm water was signed with the City and County of Broomfield, as a model for farmers and municipalities to keep water with farms. 3) The annual Colorado Open Space Alliance Conference will be held in Breckenridge September 18-20. Commission members are welcome to attend and the city will pay the conference fee for members. 4) Applications for the county's Small Grants for Community Partnership program are due Sept. 7, with a maximum request of \$3,000 and a total amount available of \$20,000.

Discussion/Action:

1. Financial Update. Marilyn presented a financial update for the Open Lands and Trails funds. Each program has two funding sources. The county Open Space Sales Tax provides about \$2.5M/year in the Open Lands fund, and other funding sources include investment income, grants, partnerships and leases. Expenses in 2017 have included the Ehrlich and Ward Boise acquisitions. Remaining 2017 budget is allocated for purchases of the Boedecker (Parkside) and Osborn parcels. The maintenance reserve is set at \$3M. Open Lands Capital Expansion Fees brought in \$171K in 2017 to date, for a fund balance of \$2.4M, of which \$2M is earmarked for capital projects. For Trails, the primary funding source is Conservation Trust Funds, Loveland's share of state lottery dollars, which provides about \$700K/year in revenue. Capital expenditures year to date included \$403K primarily for construction of the Namaqua trail section. Trail CEFs have brought in about \$100K, and \$422K was expended for the Rossum and Front Range trail projects. Commissioner comments included questions about "Purchased Services," and the potential for selling developable land acquired with the Ehrlich property to provide funding for other acquisitions. Purchased Services include interdepartmental transfers for Human Resources, City Manager's Office, IT, etc., along with outside contracts for weed control, property surveys and other services. The final parcel of the Ehrlich property closed recently and plans for the property will be evaluated as part of the management plan.

Reports/Correspondence:

2. Property Acquisition Updates. The Ward property on Boise Ave. closed at the end of June. The final piece of the Ehrlich property closed the first week of August. The Parkside property at Boedecker Lake will be acquired after annexation and zoning are approved by City Council. The Greeley-Loveland Irrigation Company has agreed to lease the gravel ditch road for temporary trail access from Namaqua to Wilson.

3. Open Lands Projects Report. The following updates were provided:

Properties/Facilities/Projects/Maintenance/Operations:

Crews have been busy with summer maintenance including mowing, weed and vegetation management, and maintenance of public use areas.

There is a sink hole at River's Edge Natural Area, just west of the Recreation Trail, that has been caused by a failing ditch pipe. The pipe will be replaced this fall when the ditch is not running but will require a trail closure during construction and reroute through River's Edge.

The City's Bikeways and Trails map has been updated and will be available for public distribution in mid-August.

Staff participated in annual training for compliance with the "Migratory Bird Treaty Act." In addition, to support wildlife in and around Loveland, barn owl and kestrel boxes have been installed on Open Land sites. In late July, researchers from the CO Avian Research and Rehabilitation Institute (CARRI) banded a young barn owl at a Loveland site.

Structures on the Ward West Open Land property have been mitigated for asbestos in order to prepare for demolition in the near future.

Partnerships and Planning:

Colorado Addicted Trailbuilders Society (CATS) volunteers have completed their work on the Hidden Hogback Trail at Mariana Butte, which runs along the hogback and the river and connects to Oxbow Natural Area. A ribbon cutting was held on July 20 to celebrate this amazing trail and recognize all the hard work of these volunteers. Feedback for this new community trail has been very favorable.

Loveland has submitted a GOCO Inspire grant application for Project Outdoors Loveland, an initiative aimed at providing more places and opportunities for youth and families in southeast Loveland to connect with the outdoors. Loveland has requested \$2.3M through this grant program, with matching funding from numerous local resources and partners.

Staff have been working with the consulting team and the river coalition on the Big Thompson River Master Plan and a project to remove the irrigation diversion structure in the river west of Namaqua Road. In addition, the City is working with Larimer County on plans to replace the bridge at Namaqua Road to include a future underpass at Namaqua Park and Natural Area.

Employees from KeySight Technologies are planning a trail restoration project at River's Edge Natural Area to connect the Rocky Mountain Center for Technology into the River's Edge trail system.

Parks and Recreation and Stormwater Departments are working with FEMA to install "High Water Mark" signage at 4 park and open land sites to educate the public about the impacts of the 2013 Big Thompson Flood and river hydrology. The public unveiling event with FEMA is September 9 at 1:00 pm at Fairgrounds Park.

Programs/Environmental Education/Volunteer Program:

The new Offero software program will make it easier for citizens to participate and volunteer for environmental opportunities in Loveland. This user-friendly system is also used by Fort Collins and Larimer County to communicate with citizens, volunteers and program participants. Funding for the new software was provided by a grant from Colorado Health Foundation. Training for staff and volunteers on the new software will be held in early August, with a public rollout on Aug. 15.

A second "Week of Hope" youth camp through Group Publishing performed volunteer clean-up at Sunset Vista Natural Area in July. These 10 youth and adult sponsors removed more than 60 cubic yards of debris from the site.

A group of more than 30 volunteers from a local church volunteered on National SERVE Day to help with stewardship projects at River's Edge Natural Area including resurfacing of a trail section, weed removal and trash clean-up.

Weed Warrior volunteer projects have been held at Kings Crossing and Willow Bend, to help remove noxious weed seed heads from these sites. An additional Weed Warrior project is scheduled for August 12 at Willow Bend.

A July Critter Scene Investigation (CSI) event at Kings Crossing attracted 50 enthusiastic participants. Volunteers assist visitors with clues along the trail to help solve a wildlife mystery. The next CSI event will be held on October 21 at Morey Wildlife Reserve.

A Stargazing Event was held at the Morey Wildlife Reserve parking area on west Cedar Valley Drive on July 31. Skies cleared just in time and 23 participants enjoyed views of the moon, stars, planets, and galaxies through a telescope provided by a NOCO Astronomical Society member. An additional program is scheduled for August 27 at 8:00 pm.

4. Trail Updates.

Construction began on the Front Range Trail which will connect Loveland's recreation trail to Fort Collins' trail system from the Boyd Lake area. Larimer County is managing the construction with a planned completion by September 2017. Loveland is working with Larimer County and Fort Collins on a maintenance IGA for this new trail section for consistency and efficiencies in trail maintenance.

Bids closed this week on a new connection to the City's Recreation Trail planned from Rossum Drive to connect to the new West US 34 underpass and trail to Namaqua Road. Construction on this project is scheduled for fall with a year-end completion. This trail link will directly link Mariana Butte neighborhoods to the City's Recreation Trail System for the first time.

Long View Corridor Trail is under final reviews and planned for an August/September bid project with construction to commence late fall. This joint trail project with Larimer County and City of Fort Collins will provide a vital trail connection from Sunset Vista Natural Area at 57th and Taft to Cathy Fromme Prairie in Fort Collins. The IGA for funding of this project and grant funding was approved by City Council on August 2nd. Grant funding expires Summer of 2018 so all work must be complete over the winter and spring.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.



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CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes – June 14, 2017

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

Commissioners Present: Gale Bernhardt, Rick Brent, Andy Hawbaker, Darren Pape, Jean Whittaker, Kerri Rollins (LC OLAC Liaison).

Commissioners Absent: Ross Livingston, Jim Roode, Nathan Thompson, Bill Zawacki, Don Overcash (City Council Liaison).

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

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

Approval of May 10, 2017 Meeting Minutes. Postponed until a quorum of members present.

City Council Liaison Report. Don Overcash has been appointed the City Council Liaison to OLAC.

Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board Report. Kerri Rollins reported on the following items: 1) the Reservoir Parks Plan is online for a 60-day public comment period; 2) the county received a \$1.3M DOLA grant for Phase I of the River Bluffs restoration project; 3) the Fossil Creek Management Plan will be updated with Fort Collins Natural Areas; 4) the visitor use study is underway at Horsetooth Mountain and Red Mountain Open Space, and at Fort Collins' Soapstone Prairie Natural Area; 5) park restorations are underway at Lions Park and River Bluffs on the Poudre River.

Photo Contest – Molly Elder, P&R Administrative Business Manager, presented the photos submitted for the 1st Annual Parks & Recreation Photo Contest, in the Open Lands & Trails and Wildlife, Nature & Landscape categories. Commission members helped select the top 3 photos in each category.

Discussion/Action:

1. Recommendation on GOCO Inspire Grant to City Council. The GOCO grant application requires a resolution from City Council approving the submittal of the grant to GOCO. Rick Brent made a motion that the commission make a recommendation to City Council to approve a resolution for a grant submittal in the amount of approximately \$2.5M, with a potential match of up to 25%. Gale Bernhardt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2. Naming of E. 1st St. Natural Area. More than 75 names were submitted by the public for the new E. 1st Street property that will serve as a neighborhood park and natural area for east Loveland. Staff presented the name suggestions and commission members discussed the choices. Rick Brent made a motion that the site be named Willow Park and Natural Area. Darren Pape seconded the motion and it failed. Rick Brent made a motion that the site be named Willow Bend Park and Natural Area. Darren Pape seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Reports/Correspondence:

3. Property Acquisition Updates. The Ward property on Boise Ave. is scheduled to close by the end of June. The Osborn boundary line adjustment/acquisition is still in progress. The Namaqua West

boundary line dispute is likely to be resolved soon for a summer closing. The Parkside annexation at Boedecker Lake will go to Planning Commission this month, with a condition that safe crossing/ pedestrian access be provided from the north side of W. 1st St. If the annexation is approved with this condition, the open space property can be acquired.

3. Open Lands Projects Report.

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. A new parking area and trail access have been opened at 970 W. 1st Street, with 25 parking spaces, two accessible parking spots, and new trail connections for access to Jayhawker and Dragonfly Ponds. **High Plains Environmental Center Grand Opening.** Open Lands staff

supported the May 13 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, including deer, elk, wild turkeys, coyotes, and many others. **Partnerships and Planning.** In

partnership with the Colorado Avian Research and Rehabilitation Institute, 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 will be monitored and banded for future identification and research. **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 Larimer County Environmental Stewardship Award to honor CATS' dedication and accomplishments pertaining to the new sustainable trails at Mariana Butte. The Larimer County Commissioners and Environmental & Science Advisory Board will present the award on July 10. Also, 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 during the CPRA Annual Conference in Keystone in October. **Youth Representation on Boards & Commissions.** The city is looking into adding youth members on boards and commissions. OLAC members are in favor of having a youth member on the commission. **Boards & Commissions**

Member Survey. Staff distributed a city survey for members to provide feedback on various aspects of the commission. **Raptor Ridge Habitat Conservation Plan.** The new owners of Raptor Ridge Equestrian (Lazy J Bar S Conservation Easement) are working with partners including Loveland Open Lands, Audubon Society, Colorado Open Lands and consultants on a plan to protect and improve the conservation values of the property.

4. Trail Updates.

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. **Trail Segment 10b – Namaqua Rd. to West US 34 Underpass.** This project is complete and the new trail and 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 administration for the project. The IGA will be brought to City Council this summer with construction to commence this fall. Grant funding expires Summer of 2018 so all work must be complete over the winter and spring.

Commission Member Discussion Topics.

- 1) Rick Brent suggested that a future OLAC meeting be held at Sweet Heart Winery. The owners have given their OK.
- 2) Jean Whittaker noted that she nominated Bob Trout from the Loveland Initiative for Monarch Butterflies (LIMB) for a Larimer County Environmental Stewardship Award and Bob will also be receiving this award on July 10.

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



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LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM: 4

MEETING DATE: September 13, 2017

DESCRIPTION: Open Lands Projects Report

SUMMARY:

Properties/Facilities/Projects/Maintenance/Operations

- ❖ A sink hole has developed at River's Edge Natural Area caused by a failing ditch pipe. Staff is working with a local engineer and the ditch company to determine a long-term solution. The pipe will be replaced this fall when the ditch is off but will require a trail closure during construction.
- ❖ The City's Bikeways and Trails map has been updated with all new trails and bikeway connections and is available to the public on-line, at the Parks and Recreation Administration office, Chilson Recreation Center, Chamber of Commerce and local bike shops.
- ❖ The demolition project is out to bid for removal of the old residence and maintenance structures on the Ward West Open Lands property.
- ❖ Marilyn Hilgenberg, Open Lands and Trails Manager, has been re-certified as a Parks and Recreation Executive through the National Parks and Recreation Association. Currently, there are 14 individuals in Colorado who have earned this certification.



Partnerships and Planning



- ❖ Great Outdoors Colorado staff, board members and peer reviewers attended a site visit on August 29 to learn about the vision of Project Outdoors Loveland, to provide more places and opportunities for youth and families to connect with nature. Staff from Open Lands and Planning, along with partners from Larimer County, the Boys & Girls Club, local schools, Youth Advisory Council members, and program providers helped demonstrate the depth and breadth of the Loveland Inspire Plan. The \$2.3 million grant request



involves development of Willow Bend Natural Area, trail connections into Old St. Louis Natural Area, new and expanded opportunities for programs and career pathways for youth, and improvements at Winona Elementary School.



Programs/Environmental Education/Volunteer Program

- ❖ Michele Van Hare, Environmental Education Coordinator, attended certification training to “Train the Trainer.” This will continue to allow the City to utilize volunteers for the majority of its Open Lands programs and to properly train and prepare these willing volunteers.
- ❖ Offero, a new online system allowing citizens to register and volunteer for Open Lands programs and project opportunities in Loveland, was officially launched on Aug. 15. Training for staff and volunteers on the new software was offered in August and the site is live with a link from the City of Loveland website. <https://offeroloveland.org/>
- ❖ A very successful public “Stargazing” Event was held on Sunday night, August 27 at the Morey Wildlife Reserve parking area off of Cedar Valley Drive. Five enthusiastic members of the Northern Colorado Astronomical Society brought their scopes and knowledge to share with the public. It was a clear night with lots to see and more than 40 participants and volunteers attended.
- ❖ Training for new and returning Environmental Education Volunteers was held the first week of September, in preparation for school field trip programs at River’s Edge Natural Area. Trail Host Training will take place on Friday, September 22 for new and returning Trail Host Volunteers.



- ❖ The “High Water Mark” sign has been installed at Fairgrounds Park, to educate the public about the impacts of the 2013 Big Thompson Flood and to be “High Water Ready.” A public sign dedication event was held on Saturday, September 9 at 1pm at Fairgrounds Park, in conjunction with sign unveilings in the Big Thompson Canyon and Fort Collins.



LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM: **5**

MEETING DATE: September 13, 2017

DESCRIPTION: Trail Updates

SUMMARY:

Recreation Trail Projects:

- The construction project for the new Rossum Drive trail connection has been awarded to Colt and Steel. This trail segment will connect to the new West US 34 underpass and trail to Namaqua Road and will link Mariana Butte neighborhoods to the City's Recreation Trail System. Construction is scheduled to begin on September 25.
- Construction is nearly complete on the Front Range Trail which will connect Loveland's recreation trail to Fort Collins' trail system from the Boyd Lake area. The project should be wrapped up by late September 2017. A dedication ceremony is planned for October 18.
- Long View Corridor Trail is planned for a September bid with construction to commence late fall. This joint trail project with Larimer County and City of Fort Collins will provide a vital trail connection from Sunset Vista Natural Area at 57th and Taft to Cathy Fromme Prairie in Fort Collins. Grant funding expires summer of 2018 so all work must be completed over the winter and spring.

Commission Action Recommended: Informational.