



## 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 – REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

October 11, 2017 – 5:30 PM

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

[www.CityofLoveland.org/OpenLands](http://www.CityofLoveland.org/OpenLands)

**4:45pm – NOTE Special E-bike Demonstration/Testing – meet at Xeriscape Garden at 1<sup>st</sup> & Washington**

**Notice of Meeting Posted**

**Call to Order**

**Public Comment**

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** June 14, 2017 and September 13, 2017

**City Council Liaison Report**

**Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board Liaison Report**

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

1. Colorado E-Bike Regulations and Loveland's Local Consideration (*attached*)

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

2. Property Acquisition Updates (*verbal*)

3. Open Lands Projects Report (*attached*)

4. 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:**

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 [JA Park](#), 8:00 am-2:00 pm

October 19 – [PEEPs "Field Mouse, Pumpkin House"](#) at [River's Edge Natural Area](#), 9:30 and 11:00 am

October 21 – [CSI Critter Scene Investigation](#) at [Morey Wildlife Reserve](#), 10:00 am-1:00 pm

October 28 – [Guided Bird Walk](#) at [River's Edge Natural Area](#), 9:00-10:30 am

October 28 – [Halloween Festival at Loveland Museum](#) – Open Lands Booth, 10:00 am-2:00 pm

**Commission Member Discussion Topics**

**Adjournment**

**Next Regular Meeting:** November 8, 2017

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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 OLAB 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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. 1<sup>st</sup> St. Natural Area.** More than 75 names were submitted by the public for the new E. 1<sup>st</sup> 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. 1<sup>st</sup> 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. 1<sup>st</sup> 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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### CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes – September 13, 2017

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

**Commissioners Present:** Ross Livingston, Rick Brent, Bill Zawacki, Andy Hawbaker, Darren Pape, Jim Roode, Kerri Rollins (LC OLAB Liaison), Don Overcash (City Council Liaison).

**Commissioners Absent:** Jean Whittaker, Nathan Thompson, Gale Bernhardt.

**Staff Present:** Brian Hayes, Marilyn Hilgenberg, Kelly Smith, Shanen Weber.

**The public meeting was called to order at 5:34 pm.**

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

**Approval of August 9, 2017 Meeting Minutes.** Rick Brent made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Bill Zawacki seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**City Council Liaison Report.** Don Overcash reported that it is budget season and the Council has been working hard to balance resources.

**Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board Report.** Kerri Rollins reported on the following items: 1) There will not be a Larimer County Open Land Advisory Board meeting in September; 2) The water deal on Malchow Farm has been completed and it involved extensive analysis and research. All of the background information regarding this unique water transaction can be found on the Larimer County Natural Resources web pages. Tours of the Malchow farm will begin in October; 3) The County is hiring a consultant to assist with a new Database application called Locate to manage all data related to properties, easements, etc.; 4) The Colorado Open Space Alliance (COSA) annual conference is being held next week in Breckenridge; 5) Larimer County & Fort Collins have a closing scheduled on a very significant property in the Horsetooth Mountain area preserving 1,000 acres.

**Regional Open Lands Meeting.** The Commission discussed the planned November 8<sup>th</sup> Regional Meeting date and potential topics of Regional Trails and Connecting communities, or Project Outdoors and engaging youth in the outdoors. The Commission supported both of these theme ideas.

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

##### **1. Sunset Vista Natural Area Concept Review & Historical Structure Recommendation.**

Kelly Smith, Parks and Recreation Planner, provided the Commission with an update on Loveland's Management Plan process for Sunset Vista. The Commission was provided with an updated concept plan which incorporated the two original design concepts into a final design concept. The Commission reviewed the historical analysis, site resources, trails, land uses and schedules. There was also discussion about the missing trail link from Sunset Vista east through Copper Ridge and the intense requirements of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad for easements and crossings. Staff will now start the process of formalizing the draft management plan for the site.

**2. Prairie Ridge Natural Area Initial Concept Review.** Staff reviewed this 785-acre open lands site purchased in 2000. Loveland manages this property but it is jointly-owned by Loveland and Fort Collins, and Larimer County and Colorado Open Lands co-hold a conservation easement on the site to protect conservation values. Loveland has been receiving pressure to provide public access on Prairie Ridge in the way of a trail system and trailhead similar to Fort Collins' Coyote Ridge. Goals for this site include protection of natural resources, public access, and retaining agricultural heritage. A public meeting has been scheduled for September 25<sup>th</sup> to present this initial concept plan to the community and solicit feedback. Loveland is applying for two trail grants (GOCO & CPW) this fall to help fund this new trail and promote regional connectivity. Loveland has submitted a request to Fort Collins to connect to the Coyote Ridge Trail system but has not yet come to agreement on the location and details of that regional connection. Commission members feel it is critical to make the connection to either the Coyote Ridge or Larimer County's Rimrock Trail system.

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

**3. Property Acquisition Updates.** Obsorn property is scheduled to close September 19<sup>th</sup> providing river access and a trail corridor off of Boise Avenue. Parkside Addition open space land/trail corridor on the north shore of Boedecker Lake is under contract. Before the closing will occur, the City needs a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment completed, a ditch crossing easement with the Buckingham Reservoir Company and the land requires a minor sub-division by the City Planning Department to create the open lands as its own outlet.

#### **4. Open Lands Projects Report.**

**Busy Summer Maintenance.** It has been a very busy summer for staff with trails, trash, weed management and mowing. **River's Edge Sink Hole.** There is a sink hole at River's Edge near the recreation trail that has been caused by the failure of a drainage pipe. Staff is working with the ditch company and their engineer to address the issue. **Updated Trails and Bikeways Maps.** The City's Trails and Bikeways map has been updated and is available for public distribution. **Ward Trust Natural Area Demo of Structures.** Old structures on the Ward Trust open lands property are being removed following City environmental requirements.

#### **5. Trail Updates.**

**Front Range Trail.** Construction of the Front Range Trail is progressing well with a planned completion of early October. A tentative October 18<sup>th</sup> Ribbon Cutting is being scheduled.

**Long View Corridor Trail.** The bid process is underway for the construction of the Long View Trail system. Larimer County will be managing the construction and grant administration for the project. Construction should begin late November and run through September 2018.

**Rossum Drive Connection to the Recreation Trail.** Construction of a new concrete trail connection from Rossum Drive to the Recreation Trail system near Namaqua Avenue is underway and should be completed by year-end.

**Commission Member Discussion Topics.** No additional topics.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.



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### LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

#### AGENDA ITEM: 1

**MEETING DATE:** October 11, 2017

**DESCRIPTION:** Colorado E-Bike Regulations and Loveland's Local Consideration

#### SUMMARY:

Earlier this summer, the State of Colorado approved House Bill 17-1151 amending the classification of electric bikes. An **electric bicycle**, also known as an **e-bike** or **booster bike**, is a bicycle with an integrated electric motor which can be used for propulsion. There are a great variety of e-bikes available worldwide, from e-bikes that have a small motor to assist the rider's pedal-power to more powerful e-bikes which tend closer to moped-style functionality. Each e-bike option retains the rider's ability to pedal and are therefore not classified as a motorized vehicle. E-bikes use rechargeable batteries and the lighter varieties can travel up to 25 to 32 km/h (16 to 20 mph). There are also models that are more high-powered and can reach speeds up to 45 km/h (28 mph).

Effective August 9, 2017, Type I and II electric bikes are allowed on designated paved trails in Colorado unless prohibited by the local jurisdiction. Therefore, Type I & II electric bikes are allowed in Loveland on the City's Recreation Trail since the City has not specifically restricted them by regulation.

Effective January 1, 2018, bicycle manufacturers are required to label each electric bicycle by type (I, II or III).

The Commission will discuss the new Colorado House Bill 17-1151, the pros and cons of e-bikes on municipal trails, what other communities are doing with regards to e-bikes, and whether Loveland should allow the use electric bikes. The discussion will also focus on community outreach techniques to educate local bicycle riders to safe bicycle and trail practices on both paved and unpaved roads.

**Commission Action Recommended:** A motion recommending that the City allow or prohibit Type I Electric Bicycles on municipal trails.





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### LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

#### AGENDA ITEM: 3

**MEETING DATE:** October 11, 2017

**DESCRIPTION:** Open Lands Project Report

#### SUMMARY:

##### Properties/Facilities/Projects/Maintenance/Operations

- ❖ Staff presented the updated concept plan for Sunset Vista Natural Area to the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) on September 18. The plan incorporated the two original trail design concepts into a final design concept and considered the historical analysis and other site resources and uses. The farm structures were surveyed as part of the permitting required for the Long View Trail project and were not considered historically significant by the State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. HPC provided feedback on potential historic interpretive opportunities and information on available grant funding. Demolition of some of the farm structures has begun on the north side of the Loudon Ditch.
- ❖ Brian Hayes passed the Real Estate Broker exam and received his Real Estate Broker's license through the State of Colorado.

##### Partnerships and Planning

- ❖ The City conducted a public meeting on September 25 to present a concept plan for the development of a trailhead and trails on Prairie Ridge Natural Area in northwest Loveland. Prairie Ridge is a 785-acre open space jointly purchased by Fort Collins, Larimer County and Loveland in 2000 and is the largest open space Loveland manages. The parcel is co-owned by Loveland and Fort Collins, and Larimer County and Colorado Open Lands co-hold the conservation easement. Since the purchase, the property has remained inaccessible to the public. The eastern two-thirds of the property is farmed in dryland wheat while the remaining one-third is short-grass prairie. The Open Lands Division intends to continue its farming lease with the local farmer for the next several years. The farmer is amenable to the proposed trailhead and trail system, and is agreeable to work around the development. The proposed project includes a soft-surface trail system comprised of a 1-mile ADA accessible trail segment, a 3-mile easy trail loop, a restroom and a parking lot. Potential regional connections to Coyote Ridge, Rimrock Open Space, and Loveland's Recreation Trail will be developed later. The City of Loveland, City of Fort Collins and Larimer County have been cooperating throughout the planning process to develop the Trail Master Plan. About 30 residents attended the public meeting and provided feedback and more than 250 people have responded to the on-line survey regarding this project. Survey feedback to





date shows that the majority of respondents (75%) use Coyote Ridge trails to access other open spaces and trails (Blue Sky Trail, Rimrock OS, Devil's Backbone OS and Horsetooth Reservoir). Also, 90% of visitors surveyed travel 4 miles or more during an average visit. Only 3% of survey respondents indicated that they would *not* use the proposed Prairie Ridge trail system. A large majority of respondents would also use trail connections to other open spaces and trails if available. Nearly half indicated that they would use the proposed 3-mile loop system at Prairie Ridge as well.

- ❖ Great Outdoors Colorado staff, board members and peer reviewers completed 17 site visits statewide to review Tier 2 Inspire Initiative projects. The GOCO Youth Initiatives Committee will review projects in October and notify coalitions in early November whether they will be recommended for funding. Coalitions recommended for funding will present to the committee on November 15.



### **Programs/Environmental Education/Volunteer Program**

- ❖ The fall school environmental education program is underway and will run throughout September and October, providing experiential learning to grade school children at River's Edge Natural Area. The popular year-round preschool environmental education program PEEPs continues to have strong attendance and provides an excellent opportunity for young children to be exposed to outdoor learning topics.
- ❖ Volunteer training sessions for Environmental Educators and Trail Hosts in September recruited and trained 10 new volunteers for public outreach and education programs.
- ❖ A very successful "Mariana Butte Trail Guided Hike" was held in September. It was a beautiful evening with more than 30 participants taking advantage of this opportunity to discover this new community trail and learn more about wildlife, plants and nature.
- ❖ Loveland had great participation in its dedication ceremony for the new High Water Mark Sign at Fairgrounds Park on September 9. The Parks and Recreation and Storm Water Departments worked together 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, river hydrology and flood safety.





## **LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**AGENDA ITEM: 4**

**MEETING DATE:** October 11, 2017

**DESCRIPTION:** Trail Updates

### **SUMMARY:**

#### **Recreation Trail Projects:**

- A new connection to the City's Recreation Trail from Rossum Drive to the new W US 34 underpass and trail to Namaqua Ave. is under construction by Colt and Steel contractors. This trail will directly link Mariana Butte neighborhoods to the City's Recreation Trail System for the first time. The project will be completed by year-end.
- The contract for construction of the Long View Corridor Trail will be awarded shortly. This joint trail project with Larimer County and City of Fort Collins will provide a vital trail connection from Sunset Vista Natural Area to Cathy Fromme Prairie in Fort Collins. Grant funding expires summer of 2018 so trail work will begin in November and be complete summer 2018.
- Construction of the Front Range Trail in north Loveland is nearing completion and a ribbon cutting ceremony will be scheduled for later this fall. This trail will provide an off-street trail connection from the Recreation Trail near Boyd Lake to Fort Collins on the east side of town.
- A License agreement between the Greeley-Loveland Irrigation Company (GLIC) and the City will be going before the GLIC Board on October 3<sup>rd</sup> to request unpaved trail access along the ditch road between Namaqua Avenue and Wilson Avenue along the Big Barnes Ditch. This temporary trail connection will close a significant missing gap in the City Recreation Trail loop until a permanent trail solution is secured.

**Commission Action Recommended:** Informational.