



## 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 12, 2018 – 5:30 PM

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

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

Notice of Meeting Posted

Call to Order

Public Comment

Approval of Meeting Minutes: August 8, 2018

City Council Liaison Report

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

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

1. Property Naming – 3 Natural Areas
2. Initiatives for Innovation
3. Exemption from Open Lands Memorial Policy

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

4. Property Acquisition Updates
5. Open Lands Project Report
6. Trail Updates

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:

Loveland Reporter-Herald: [“Trail Connects Loveland and Fort Collins”](#) (August 19)

September 12 – [Volunteer Educator Training: Critter Scene Investigations](#) at Namaqua Park, 9:00 am-12:00 pm

September 13 – [Volunteer Information Open House](#) at Civic Center Foote Lagoon, 4:00-7:30 pm

September 14 – [Art in Nature Sketch Hike](#) at River’s Edge Natural Area, 9:30-11:00 am

September 16 – [Astronomy Night with NoCo Astronomical Society](#) at Ward Trust, 7:30-9:30 pm

September 19 – [Volunteer Educator Training: PEEPs Preschool Programs](#) at River’s Edge, 9:00-10:30 am

September 20 – [PEEPs Preschool Program “Autumn Leaves are Falling”](#) at Fairgrounds Park, 9:30 and 11:00 am

September 28 – Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park Grand Opening (*invitation only*), 10:00 am-12:00 pm

October 6 – [Guided Bird Walk](#) at Oxbow East Natural Area, 9:00-10:30 am

October 1-November 2 – [Fall Recruitment for Boards & Commissions](#) (3 OLAC term expirations)

Commission Member Discussion Topics

Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting: October 10, 2018

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### CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes – August 8, 2018

Parks & Recreation Conference Room, 500 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Loveland, CO 80537

**Commissioners Present:** Andy Hawbaker, Ross Livingston, Darren Pape, Jim Roode, Jean Whittaker, Bill Zawacki, Rick Brent, Don Overcash (Council Liaison), Kathi Wright (Alternate Council Liaison).

**Commissioners Absent:** Gale Bernhardt, Mike Hinterberg.

**Staff Present:** Brian Hayes, Marilyn Hilgenberg, Debbie Eley, Bryan Harding, Janet Meisel-Burns.

**Guests:** Scott James – CO Addicted Trailbuilders Society (CATS) and open lands & trails advocate. Nan Daniels, Curt Cole, and Kathy Maher – CO Native Plant Society and volunteers helping with native planting areas at River's Edge Natural Area.

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

**Introduction of Bryan Harding, Parks & Recreation Planning Manager.**

**Approval of June 13, 2018 Meeting Minutes.** Ross Livingston made a correction to the minutes to show that Astronomy Night on May 25 was cancelled due to weather. Ross Livingston made a motion to approve the minutes with this correction. Rick Brent seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**Public Comment.** None.

**City Council Liaison Report:** Don Overcash reported that the 2019 budget process is underway with a detailed review by Council and final approval scheduled for October. The addition of a sidewalk on the west side of N. Wilson Ave. has been discussed. Options include building the sidewalk now as close to where future plans will call for sidewalk (est. \$100K), applying for Safe Routes to School grant funding, or delaying until development occurs, since a sidewalk exists on the east side of Wilson. Other items include median improvements along US 34 south of Lake Loveland. An infrastructure needs list and price tag of valued amenities should be developed. The cost of a regional police training facility has increased and grants are being sought to cover the \$1M shortage. The facility is scheduled to open in fall 2019. A police records system is being developed with Larimer County and Fort Collins. A proposal for increasing police reaction time for non-emergency situations is being reviewed. The new parking garage downtown by the Foundry will open in September and the first floor of the hotel is completed.

**Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board Liaison Report:** Marilyn Hilgenberg had the following report from OLAB: 1) Meegan Flenniken has been appointed as Land Conservation, Planning & Resource Program Manager. She has been with the county for 15 years and was formerly the Resource Program Manager. 2) Larimer County and Fort Collins purchased the Gallegos property at Red Mountain Open Space that to avoid development of the Table Mountain inholding. The 800-acre ranch was acquired for \$2.25 million. 3) Applications for Small Grants for Community Partnering are being accepted until August 30.

## **Discussion/Action:**

**1. Recreation Trail Wayfinding Signage Program.** Janet Meisel-Burns presented a draft plan and concepts for an updated wayfinding and trail identification signage program for the Recreation Trail System. A detailed inventory of the trails system was completed in 2017, identifying existing signage and locations of needed signage. Safety and information for users are the highest priorities for this signage update. The 22-mile “loop trail” around the city is nearly complete and consists of 5 sections logically separated by geography, major roadways and other landmarks: the Big Thompson River, Civic Center, Boyd Lake, North, and Westside Trails. Additional regional trail connections include Long View, Front Range, and the future Centerra Trail. Identification of these sections on signs and maps will help trail users know their location and find their destination. Kiosk “arches” are proposed to be re-used, with updated paint and new sign panels. Commission members favored concepts with minimal text and logos, reducing clutter and simplifying signage. Trails should also be clearly identified as multi-use and bikers should be reminded to signal their presence to other trail users. Commission members were also in favor of the proposed trail section names, including the colors for each section and all bike trails and routes on maps, keeping the trail mile marker system, and re-using the kiosk arches with new signs in blue with white text/graphics.

**2. Development of a Department Drone Policy.** Parks & Recreation has received requests for drone use over parks, open lands and trails from photographers, real estate agents, families, etc. Motorized vehicles are already prohibited and a drone policy guided by FAA rules would clarify allowed uses and operators. Considerations for drone use include disturbance and impacts to wildlife, birds, environmentally sensitive areas, and the safety, privacy and disturbance of visitors. Allowed uses could include research, monitoring, inventories, emergency activities, and promotion. Any proposed use would need to justify the use and purpose and would be evaluated using a permit application process. Commission members suggested that any proposed policy be available to the public for review and comment.

## **Reports/Correspondence:**

**3. Property Updates.** Brian Hayes reported that two properties along the east Big Thompson River are under contract, with closings scheduled for January. The Wagner property would close first and the Bonser property would close contingent on the Wagner property. These properties are critical for the east Big T trail and an underpass at I-25. Surveys and due diligence are underway.

**4. Open Lands Projects Report.** Staff provided the following project updates.

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

A naming contest is underway to name 3 properties: Boise Avenue, Boedecker North, and Ryan's Gulch. Name suggestions are being accepted until August 31.

### Partnerships, Planning and Grants

A \$30K Fishing is Fun grant was awarded by Colorado Parks & Wildlife for a new fishing dock at Willow Bend Natural Area.

A new program with the Loveland Municipal Court sentenced juvenile defendants to work on open lands and trail projects this summer, providing more than 250 hours of community service.

A new van for Environmental Education programming was purchased thanks to a generous donation to the Open Lands program, to help improve staff and volunteer efficiency for public outreach programs.

Members of the Colorado Native Plant Society have been working with staff on a request for funding from Larimer County's small grant program to establish two new native plant pollinator garden areas at River's Edge. Plants could possibly be grown in cooperation with High Plains Environmental Center.

#### Programs/Environmental Education/Volunteer Program

Raptor nest boxes installed and maintained by CARRI were very successful this season, with barn owl and kestrel nests each fledging five young. Live webcams allowed the public to watch the birds during the nesting season. The adult females and all young were banded for tracking purposes.

Public outreach events have included Dog Days of Summer, Storytelling at the River's Edge amphitheater, astronomy nights, bird walks, orienteering, and critter scene investigations.

Stewardship opportunities have included weed warriors, "Week of Hope" youth service groups, planting projects, trailbuilding, and cleanup projects.

#### **3. Trail Updates.** Staff provided the following trail updates.

The Grand Opening of Long View Trail will be held on August 18 at Sunset Vista Natural Area, highlighting the opening of the new regional trail connection, and three new natural areas (Sunset Vista, Fort Collins' Colina Mariposa and Hazaleus Natural Areas, and Larimer County's Long View Open Space).

The Colorado Health Foundation awarded Loveland \$129,000 for a neighborhood trail connection from Madison Avenue into Old St. Louis Natural Area and the Big Thompson River corridor.

A new trail corridor is being developed at the north Boecker Reservoir property, which will require a bridge across the Buckingham Ditch. Engineering and installation of the bridge are planned for fall/winter 2018-19 and the site will be open once safe access is established.

The Recreation Trail at Wilson Ave is closed temporarily for work on Wilson Avenue. The trail underpass, parking lot, and access to Wilson Ave. from the river trail will be closed for the duration of the project, expected to last until the end of 2018.

City staff have been working with CDOT to include the replacement of the Big Thompson River bridge at I-25 in order to improve river flows and allow adequate space for a future trail underpass.

City staff is working with CDOT on their PRK Study of Highway 34 from west Loveland to Kersey, to ensure that CDOT is aware of community desires for sidewalks, trails and underpasses for safety.

Parks and Recreation helped sponsor Bike to Work Day with stations at Civic Center, Mehaffey and Seven Lakes Parks.

#### **Commission Member Discussion Topics:**

1. Rick Brent noted that private property owners have access to assistance from CSU extension, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Larimer County Weed District.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

**/s/ Ross Livingston, Chair**



## **LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

### **AGENDA ITEM: 1**

**MEETING DATE:** September 12, 2018

**DESCRIPTION:** Open Lands Property Naming

### **SUMMARY:**

Open Lands properties are named in accordance with the Open Lands Naming Policy. Proposed names for three new sites were solicited from the public from July 25 through August 31. Name suggestions for the sites are attached for commission consideration and recommendation. The three sites being considered for naming are referred to as:

1. East Big Thompson River – 13-acre parcel on S. Boise Ave., across from Old St. Louis Natural Area
2. North Boedecker– 17-acre site adjacent to Boedecker Reservoir on W. 1<sup>st</sup> St.
3. Ryans Gulch – 185-acre parcel in SW Loveland along Ryans Gulch

The Open Lands Naming Policy includes three levels of priority criteria. *Priority 1* criteria apply to donations or contiguous areas. Donors may select a name for sites where a significant charitable donation was made. Contiguous areas will be known by the name of the existing adjacent natural area.

*Priority 2* criteria include names that reflect a site's unique ecological or geological features, habitat types, or historical references. Proposed names should not create confusion with existing parks, streets, or subdivisions.

*Priority 3* criteria include naming after persons other than donors, or naming after subdivisions. These criteria are considered on a case-by-case basis.

### **Background Information**

The properties have been acquired over the past two years with Open Lands and CEF funding and each falls under a different priority level.

East Big Thompson: Acquired in June 2017 and adjacent to Old St. Louis Natural Area, this site is bisected by the Big Thompson River. The northern portion of the property will be the location of the future east Big Thompson Trail and will be known (and managed) as part of Old St. Louis. The portion of the property south of the river will have a separate entrance and soft-surface trail system and as such, a distinct name is recommended to avoid confusion. The site offers healthy riparian habitat, including mature cottonwoods and other trees, native shrub

canopy and a diverse herbaceous understory, to support a variety of wildlife species. The river contains several large point bars that support upland and wetland vegetation, important waterfowl resting habitat and potential breeding areas. The river itself provides very good aquatic habitat for a healthy fish population

North Boedecker: Acquired in November 2017, this parcel is on the north side of Boedecker Reservoir and State Wildlife Area. A trail corridor will be developed along the Buckingham Ditch for access from the wildlife area and W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street to provide a neighborhood natural area in west Loveland. The ditch and reservoir support large cottonwood trees and a healthy shrub understory, benefiting raptors, songbirds, and a variety of mammals that use the area for foraging, nesting, cover, and as a movement corridor to and from the lake.

Ryans Gulch: Purchased in 2016, this site is in southwest Loveland, adjacent to three privately-owned conservation easements held/co-held by the City of Loveland. The property is located along the southeast shoreline of Southside Reservoir and contains upland prairie habitat, two irrigation ditches (Southside and Lake Ditch), associated riparian vegetation, and an active golden eagle nest. The south Front Range Trail is planned to traverse the property, connecting the trail systems of Loveland and Berthoud. The large upland site provides grazing land for elk and deer, and food and cover for small and medium size mammals. Vegetated ditch corridors provide a means for wildlife movement and cover, as well as foraging and nesting habitat for raptors and songbirds.

**Commission Action Recommended:** Review and recommendation of names for three identified Open Land properties.

<b>East Big Thompson Property</b>
1. Antlered Run
2. Arparian Natural Area (arbor + riparian)
3. Big Heron Waterway
4. Big Thompson Park
5. Big Thompson Riparian Preserve
6. Boise Bend
7. Clover Basin Trail
8. Deer Hollow Run
9. Deer Lane Run
10. East Big T at Boise
11. Footsteps Hollow
12. Heron Cove
13. Heron Hollow
14. Herons Bend
15. Herons Roost
16. Mink Crossings Open Space
17. Nature's Trail
18. Open Spaces Foot Trail
19. River Hawk Run
20. Rod Bender
21. Swallow Wallow Trail
22. The Rookery

North Boedecker property	
1.	Angler's Dream
2.	Boedecker Bluff
3.	Boedecker Landing
4.	Boedecker Shore
5.	Boedecker Trailway
6.	Boedecker View
7.	Boedecker Wildlife Refuge
8.	Chokecherry Blossom Lane
9.	Elk Meadow
10.	Mariana Nook
11.	Mariano Shores (Boedecker Lake was originally named Mariano Reservoir)
12.	Reservoir Ridge
13.	Toad Hollow
14.	Wild Rose Walkway



<b>Ryans Gulch Property</b>
1. Aquila Ridge
2. Bird Paradise
3. Eagle Gulch
4. Eagle Landing
5. Eagle Perch
6. Eagle Ridge
7. Eagle Vista
8. Firefly Marsh/Fields
9. Golden Eagle Walk
10. Golden Plains
11. Golden Prairie
12. Long Draw
13. Loveland Gulch
14. Meadowlark Grassland
15. Meadowlark Plains
16. Meadowlark Retreat
17. Path of the Red-tailed Hawk
18. Prairie Dale
19. Prairie Valley Vista
20. Rabbits Tail Run
21. Raptors Range
22. Raptors Roost
23. Ryan's Gulch Natural Area
24. Ryans Gulch Park
25. South Loveland Ridge
26. Valley Triangle



## **LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**AGENDA ITEM: 2**

**MEETING DATE:** September 12, 2018

**DESCRIPTION:** Initiatives for Innovation

### **SUMMARY:**

In 2017, City Council and staff developed “Initiatives for Innovation” to improve services to Citizens and the Community. The Initiatives were designed to communicate the strategic commitments, benefits and priorities set by City Council for the community. The City Manager has asked that each of the Boards and Commissions be aware of these initiatives.

The following City Council “Initiatives” were identified:

1. **Citizen Engagement** – Encouragement of citizens’ participation in policy making governance.
2. **Utilities and Transportation** – The components of our transportation system and delivery of utility services.
3. **Economic Vitality** – Process of creating wealth through the mobilization of human, financial, capital, physical & natural resources to generate marketable goods and services.
4. **Public Safety** – Protect the public, provide safety from crime and other threats to person or property.
5. **Quality of Life** – General well-being of our people and livability of the community.
6. **Capacity and Organizational Health** – An organization’s ability to develop strategies for efficient performance, a culture of innovation and valuing the development of our staff.
7. **Efficiency and Improvement** – Producing the required outcome with the appropriate amount of resources, time and cost to enhance our mission, goals and service to our customers.

### Analysis of Each Priority from an Open Lands and Trails Perspective:

For each initiative, strategies were identified. Although some of the strategies may not specifically relate to Open Lands and Trails, we have identified ways in which each initiative relates to the vision, goals, work plans of the Open Lands and Trails Division. This list is not intended to be all-inclusive but a reflection that our Commission and Division accomplishments coincide with the initiatives and strategies identified by City Council.

## Citizen Engagement

*Encouragement of citizens' participation in policymaking governance*

### Strategies:

1. Pursue marketing opportunities that match citizen desires
2. Listen to our citizens and provide opportunities for response
3. Find and use the best tools for communication, including listening, learning and distribution of valid and accurate information.
4. Continuously improve the transparency and accountability of City processes.

### Projects/Action Items/Accomplishments:

1. Public input meetings on Sunset Vista and Prairie Ridge Natural Area Management Plans.
2. Public naming contests for new open land areas purchased.
3. Active Open Lands Advisory Commission.
4. New Offero volunteer and participant software system improved communications.
5. Increased use of Social Media to communicate with Citizens.
6. Improvements to Department marketing, website and annual reports.
7. Annual reports, new Open Lands Amenity Matrix, new pamphlets (Fishing, Dogs & Trails).

## Utilities and Transportation

*The components of our transportation system and delivery of utility services.*

### Strategies:

1. Identify transportation projects that offer the greatest benefits to the most people.
2. Make getting around Loveland easier for people who either do not have or do not want cars by investing in public transportation and bikeways.
3. Continue to upgrade aging infrastructure.
4. Think regionally while acting locally on City Transportation improvements.

### Projects/Action Items/Accomplishments:

1. Completed Front Range and Long View Regional Trails providing transportation alternatives between Loveland and Fort Collins.
2. ADA Evaluation Plan. Addressed inconsistent heights with signage and dog-waste bag stations, and corrected 100+ concrete trip hazards along the Recreation Trail.
3. Designed and constructed trails to provide access to those with disabilities.
4. Quarterly meetings with Public Works to discuss projects and connectivity throughout town.
5. Weekly participation in CRT and DRT to assure trails and connectivity to open land sites.
6. Evaluation of e-bike and EPAMD Policies for Loveland to offer recreation for those who have mobility challenges.
7. Work with CDOT on I-25/Big Thompson River Bridge to include future pedestrian underpass.
8. Work with CDOT on Highway 34 Plan and impact proposed designs have on Parks & Recreation Department.
9. Recreation trail was repaired in several areas where the concrete has settled, cracked or deteriorated.

10. Successful partnerships with Larimer County, Fort Collins, Berthoud, Windsor, NOCO Ped and Bike Collaborative, etc...in having a regional approach on the work we are doing with trails and open lands.
11. Active participant in the City's update of the Uniform Development Code (UDS) to ensure that Parks and Recreation facilities are developed to standards and consistently co-exist with other infrastructure in the community.

## Economic Vitality

*Process of creating wealth through the mobilization of human, financial, capital, physical & natural resources to generate marketable goods and services.*

### Strategies:

1. Enact the goals and action of Highway 287 and 402 Strategic Plans for safer and more attractive corridors for business and residential projects.
2. Evaluate the 2012 Strategic Plan for Economic Development and update the goals, tactics and metrics with stakeholders group.
3. Review the historic incentive projects by studying their ROIs and outcomes for business.
4. Revise the current Incentive Policy to add efficiencies in the process.
5. Enact the goals for the HIP Street Plan to make the downtown safe and attractive for citizens and businesses.
6. Redevelop the Pulliam Building with citizen support to bring it up to code and standards.
7. Enact a Metro District Policy that sets a standard for this financial tool.

### Projects/Action Items/Accomplishments:

1. Parks and Recreation assets contribute to the economic vitality of Loveland by increasing property values, improving quality of life for the work force, bringing in tourism, etc.
2. Promoting wellness improves the health of our community and reduces health costs.
3. Loveland has purchased or has contracts for open lands in the Highway 287 and 402 areas and is master planning for an East Big Thompson River corridor trail system that will contribute to safer and more attractive development in this area of town.
4. Participating in 402 Corridor planning processes.

## Public Safety

*Protect the public, provide safety from crime and other threats to person or property.*

### Strategies:

1. Speed implementation of Loveland Police Departments Data Approach.
2. Ensure the highest quality training for Loveland Police by building a Police Training Facility.
3. Support the Loveland Fire and Rescue Authorities continued improvement philosophy.
4. Pursue a property abatement program that strikes a sensible balance between public health and safety and rights of owners.
5. Capitalize on completed grant-funded projects to reduce hazards from flooding and other natural perils by investing in recommendations.

Projects/Action Items/Accomplishments:

1. Flood clean-up and site repairs have been completed at Wild, Morey, Oxbow, Cottonwood Run, River's Edge, Kings Crossing, Old St. Louis, and Ward Boise Natural Areas.
2. The Department is working with the Big Thompson River Coalition on two significant river restoration projects in the Big Thompson River corridor from Wilson Ave. west to US 34 valued at more than \$3 million paid from grant funding.
3. The Open Lands and Trails Division has submitted a GOGO grant to help with river restoration for the Medina's Crossing Natural Area.
4. We are proactively working with the Police Department on issues with homelessness and illegal camping along the recreation trail and on Loveland's Open Lands.
5. Vandalism and damaged amenities are cleaned up, repaired or replaced quickly.
6. Old buildings, abandoned structures and structures in the floodplain have been removed from open land sites.

## Quality of Life

*General well-being of our people and livability of the community.*

Strategies:

1. Study the effects of homelessness on the citizens and economy of Loveland through data collection and current programming and recommend programs to address.
2. Continue to contribute via sponsorships to community events that boost the quality of lives of our citizens.

Projects/Action Items/Accomplishments:

1. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan had a high level of community involvement and input. The number one take away from this plan was that citizens want more outdoor opportunities and trails.
2. Quick Win Open Land projects have provided more open land areas that are publically accessible and provide new soft-surface trails.
3. New Open Land programs provide more opportunities for public engagement including Dog Days, Bird Walks, Star Gazing, Storytelling, volunteer stewardship projects, trail building, preschool and grade school environmental education, orienteering & use of iPads for field study, and participation in community-wide events.
4. Provide the community with 15 publically accessible areas, 22 miles of paved trails and 8 miles of soft-surface open land trails.
5. Have acquired 20 open land properties in the last 5 years to conserve valuable properties and provide more outdoor opportunities.
6. Studies show that communities that participate more in the outdoors are healthier- physically and mentally.
7. Have received grant funding to further reach out to youth and seniors in the community and find new ways to engage them in the outdoors.

## Capacity and Organizational Health

*An organization's ability to develop strategies for efficient performance, a culture of innovation and valuing the development of our staff.*

### Strategies:

1. Increase education, marketing and communication for the benefits of employee programs.
2. Standardize a Succession Planning Model for the organization.
3. Perform a gap analysis for safety standards and assessments.

### Projects/Action Items/Accomplishments:

1. The City places a high priority on safety for staff, participants and the community.
2. In order to meet work demands of new open land sites and additional trails, the Division was able to hire one additional full-time maintenance worker and add hours to environmental education position.
3. The Parks and Recreation Department has committed to making its employee culture a focal point to have a joint vision and shared values.

## Efficiency and Improvement

*Producing the required outcome with the appropriate amount of resources, time and cost to enhance our mission, goals and service to our customers.*

### Strategies:

1. Budget for technology enhancements.
2. Engage all stakeholders in technology implementations.
3. Update the IT Strategic Plan.
4. Continually update processes to achieve efficiencies and current standards.
5. Utilize existing technology and consider future technology for process improvement.

### Projects/Action Items/Accomplishments:

1. Maintenance crews have added amendments to water truck and spray rig to improve efficient delivery of water and chemicals.
2. Staff is utilizing technology for mapping, web and social media, record keeping, site monitoring, etc.
3. Through grant funding, the Division was able to purchase Offero software to manage volunteers and program participation online. On-going annual funding for this technology was included in the 2018 base budget.
4. Mission, goals and outcomes are communicated through annual reports, monthly financial monitoring, monthly meetings with the citizen advisory commission and weekly staff meetings.
5. Utilize more than 5,000 volunteer hours per year to complete public outreach and stewardship projects. Accommodated all volunteer project requests for the last 5 years.
6. Maximize alternative funding sources including grants, partnerships, and donations.

**Commission Action Recommended:** Review, discussion and understanding of how Open Lands and Trails fit into the City Council's Initiatives for Innovation.



## **LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

### **AGENDA ITEM: 3**

**MEETING DATE:** September 12, 2018

**DESCRIPTION:** Exemption from Open Lands Memorial Policy

### **SUMMARY:**

This summer, Gavin Meyer, a 13-year old seventh grader at Irwin Middle School, was struck and killed by a vehicle when walking home from a fishing adventure at River's Edge Natural Area. Friends of the family asked the Department if they could donate a bench and tree in Gavin's honor to be placed at River's Edge Natural Area, Gavin's favorite place to fish.

Loveland Open Lands has the following memorial donation policy:

#### *Open Lands Policy for Memorials on Open Land Properties (OL-7)*

- 1. The Open Lands Division will not permit the placement of plaques, markers, gravesites or other visible markers on natural area properties. Any existing gravesites or markers in place at the time of acquisition will be permitted unless changed through the negotiation process.*
- 2. The spreading of cremated ashes is not permitted on open lands or natural areas*
- 3. If memorial requests are made while working with a landowner during land negotiations, staff will notify OLAC during the property review process. These requests will be discussed during a regularly scheduled OLAC meeting.*

The Open Lands Advisory Commission discussed allowing a one-time exemption from this policy at its August meeting, based on the community impact losing this young life has had. The bench and tree would be placed near North Jayhawker Pond with a small memorial plaque if the Commission votes to allow this exemption. The bench and tree will be utilized by the community as a whole and be valued assets on-site.

**Commission Action Recommended:** Vote to allow a one-time exemption to OL Policy #7 and allow the placement of a memorial bench and tree at River's Edge Natural Area.





## **LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

### **AGENDA ITEM: 5**

**MEETING DATE:** September 12, 2018

**DESCRIPTION:** Open Lands Project Report

### **SUMMARY:**

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

- ❖ Staff is working with Larimer County on an IGA to add a pedestrian trail underpass with the County's bridge replacement project on Namaqua Avenue at the Big Thompson River.
- ❖ The City of Loveland holds conservation easements on 2,365 acres in and around our community. Annually, staff is required to monitor each of these 14 sites to evaluate that the conservation values are continuing to be protected. Staff has completed 7 of the monitoring visits and will complete a review of all sites by early fall.
- ❖ Wildlife has been abundant this summer. Staff reports seeing elk, deer, racoon, owls, mink, badger, fox, eagles, bear, bobcat, coyote and moose.



#### **Partnerships, Planning and Grants**

- ❖ A private donor has donated \$100,000 to assist with purchases of open lands and development of soft-surface trails in Loveland.
- ❖ The City is moving forward on two significant capital/grant projects with the Big Thompson River Coalition to improve and restore two reaches of the Big Thompson River upstream from Namaqua Avenue that run through City open lands and private properties. The projects are being funded by grant funding and address several implementation projects identified in the Big Thompson River Master Plan completed last year.
- ❖ The race course for this year's Valley 5000 was modified and included utilizing Meadowbrook Natural Area and the Recreation Trail. Runners enjoyed the new course and variety of terrain it provided.
- ❖ In preparation for the re-opening of Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park, volunteers spent time on August 10<sup>th</sup> cleaning the old turbines. The historical turbine display was in the path of the 2013 flood and has been restored for historical interpretation.





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

- ❖ It was another busy month of environmental programming and activities including a bird walk, storytelling, pre-school programs, an astronomy night & hike, and an Old Fashion Community Picnic.
- ❖ Fall volunteer recruiting is underway for environmental education, trail hosting and stewardship projects. A volunteer information open house is scheduled for September 13. Training opportunities are listed in Offero.
- ❖ Fall field trips for Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes are available to public schools, charter schools, private schools and homeschool groups.





## **LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

### **AGENDA ITEM: 6**

**MEETING DATE:** September 12, 2018

**DESCRIPTION:** Trail Updates

### **SUMMARY:**

- ❖ The new Long View Regional Trail and Sunset Vista Natural Area were opened for public access on August 18<sup>th</sup>. Hundreds of citizens came out for the grand opening, to get information and to enjoy this new 4.4-mile off-street paved trail that runs between Loveland and Fort Collins. The total cost of this trail was \$4 million (Loveland, Fort Collins and Larimer County) with about \$2 million paid from grants (CDOT TAP and GOCO Trails). The new trail is very popular and has been used by scores of Loveland and Fort Collins residents since its opening.
- ❖ The recreation trail signage program continues to be refined, with research on implementation costs, sign graphics, and numbers/locations of signs needed for identification and wayfinding. Input from staff and commissions has been incorporated into the plans, including simplifying new signs and graphics, identifying trail sections by name, and re-using kiosk arches with new signs in blue with white text/graphics. Implementation is expected to begin by the end of 2018. With two new regional trail connections opened in 2018, the timing and importance of improved signage is relevant and will provide economic benefit.
- ❖ CATS volunteers and BioLife employees have completed about 90% of the new trail along the north side of Boedecker Reservoir. Staff is working with consultants to design the bridge crossing, which will also need to be approved by Buckingham Ditch Company.
- ❖ Parks & Recreation and Public Works staff meet quarterly to discuss and work on issues related to safe pedestrian and bicycle connectivity throughout the community.
- ❖ Youth volunteers from Group Publishing's "Week of Hope" program helped with trailbuilding and other stewardship projects this summer at the Ward Boise property, in anticipation of opening this site to the public. A small parking area is being developed to provide access to this river corridor site.



**Commission Action Recommended:** Informational.