



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

February 13, 2019 – 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

Public Comment

Approval of Meeting Minutes: January 9, 2019

City Council Liaison Report

Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board Report

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

1. 2019 Open Lands Advisory Commission Goals
2. Re-Authorization of Land and Water Conservation Fund
3. Open Lands and Trails Policies

6:45-7:30 pm – Reports/Correspondence:

4. 2018 Open Lands & Trails Annual Report
5. Property Acquisition Updates
6. Open Lands Project Report
7. 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:

February 15 – [Art in Nature Journaling](#) at High Plains Env. Center (HPEC), 9:00-11:00 am

February 16, 17, 23, 24 – [Certified Interpretive Guide Training](#) at HPEC, 8:30 am-5:00 pm (32-hr course)

February 21 – PEEPs “[Those Dandy Ducks](#)” at Loveland Library, 9:30 and 11:00 am

February 26 – [Volunteer Open House](#) at Parks & Rec. Office, 5:00-7:00 pm (informational; drop-in format)

March 2 – [Guided Bird Walk](#) at River’s Edge Natural Area, 9:00-10:30 am

Annual Boards and Commissions Summit will be a fall event in 2019

All events and programs are posted on Offero (<https://offero.cityofloveland.org>)

Commission Member Discussion Topics

Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting: March 13, 2019

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CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes – January 9, 2019

Parks & Recreation Conference Room, 500 E. 3rd St., Loveland, CO 80537

Commissioners Present: Gale Bernhardt, Rick Brent, Mike Hinterberg, Scott James, Ross Livingston, Darren Pape, Jim Roode, Jean Whittaker, Bill Zawacki, Cindy Ticer (alternate), Don Overcash (City Council Liaison).

Commissioners Absent: None.

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

Guests: David Vornholt, Nan Daniels, Curt Cole.

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

Approval of November 14, 2018 Meeting Minutes. Jim Roode made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Jean Whittaker seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comment. None.

City Council Liaison Report: Don Overcash reported that: 1) Council held a study session on a potential sales tax for items outside the normal budget, such as underpasses and other infrastructure and community needs; 2) Community broadband service is on track, with construction bonds to be issued in February; 3) A regional police training facility is planned for the Boyd Lake area, including trail connections to the city's trail system; 4) The new Foundry building is 100% leased for residential units, and the plaza, movie theater and hotel are still under construction; 5) A future study session will be planned for open lands and trails to discuss funding mechanisms; 6) County commissioners are open to collaborating with Loveland to keep the Devil's Backbone Open Space free.

OLAB Liaison Report: Marilyn Hilgenberg reported that: 1) OLAB recommended a \$6 entrance fee for Devil's Backbone, and the county commissioners passed all other fees changes except this one; 2) Daylan Figgs has been selected as the county's new Natural Resources Director; 3) A representative from OLAB/LCDNR to OLAC will be discussed with staff; 4) OLAB representation changed on January 1 with implementation of the new ballot language. The board will likely change as terms expire. OLAC would prefer to have staff representation on OLAB, or an OLAC member who is familiar with Loveland issues and concerns. The county commissioners will make the decision about appointments to OLAB.

Discussion/Action:

1. Election of Officers. The commission elected Gale Bernhardt as Chair, with a motion by Darren Pape seconded by Bill Zawacki. The commission elected Jim Roode as Vice Chair, with a motion by Darren Pape seconded by Rick Brent.

Reports/Correspondence:

2. Review of Handbook for Boards and Commissions. The Open Lands Advisory Commission is guided by the City of Loveland Handbook for Boards and Commissions (rev. Sept. 2017). Board

member expectations regarding attendance and board responsibilities were reviewed, including an expectation for at least 70% attendance and participation in meetings and other events. Staff relies on commission input, questions and feedback in the decision-making process.

3. Review of 2019 Capital Projects. Marilyn provided an update on planned projects and acquisitions for 2019, including river restoration projects with Big Thompson Watershed Coalition, new trails, connections and opportunities to access open lands throughout the community, acquisitions in the Big Thompson River corridor, trail easements for future connections, management plans including opportunities for public input, and site improvement projects.

4. Property Acquisition Updates. Brian reported that the Wagner and Bonser properties in the east Big Thompson River corridor are scheduled to close by the end of the week.

5. Open Lands Projects Report. Staff provided the following project updates.

Properties/Facilities/Projects/Maintenance/Operations

Boise Bend Natural Area, 1225 S Boise Avenue, is open for public access. This small open land parcel on the south side of the Big Thompson River has a 0.25-mile soft-surface trail and Big Thompson River access including fishing. Volunteers cleaned up the site of significant flood debris and constructed the soft-surface trail. A new kiosk displays a map of the area and rules and regulations.

Partnerships, Planning and Grants

The Loveland birding community, including several Open Lands volunteers, once again participated in the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count on Jan. 1, recording a total of 100 species throughout the 15-mile diameter “count circle.” Volunteers counted birds at open and closed Open Land properties, parks, golf courses, and private properties during the 24-hour count. Unusual sightings included a gyrfalcon and northern mockingbird. High counts were noted for wild turkeys, song sparrows, and brown creepers.

Work has begun on both river restoration projects along the Big Thompson River corridor. The projects will have significant positive impacts on two reaches of the river from the Glade Rd. area to Wilson Ave. including work on the Wild property, Oxbow Natural Area, Medina’s Crossing, and Namaqua Park and Natural Area. The projects are being funded by grant funding and address several implementation projects identified in the Big Thompson River Master Plan. Additionally, the Coalition and City have received restoration funding from Great Outdoors Colorado (\$84K), Colorado Water Conservation Board (\$10K), and Northern Water (\$50K). Temporary trail closures are currently in place at Oxbow for construction of a new overflow channel. In addition, cones have been placed in several osprey nests within the project area, to prevent nesting during the construction projects and avoid possible nest abandonment or failure due to the projects. Active nests could cause the projects to be delayed, jeopardizing more than \$4M of grant funding.

The City of Loveland was granted GOCO funding for 2 weeks of Larimer County Youth Corps saw crew time to help remove invasive species from Willow Bend Natural Area next summer.

5. Trail Updates. Staff provided the following trail updates.

The unpaved trail section between Namaqua and Wilson Ave. has been graded and improved with crusher fine materials to level the surface and increase safety of this section for trail users.

Seeding of the Long View Trail Corridor has been completed and stormwater monitoring of the project is now underway.

A new trail signage program is underway to improve the signs on Loveland’s trails and provide better information for users. The improved signage will provide more consistent information and a better trail

experience for citizens and visitors. Ten new kiosks have been ordered to provide communications and wayfinding signs will be added to better guide users.

In order to comply with ADA regulations, sections of the paved trail are being replaced where cracks and dips exceed required measurements. Accessible surfacing material is also being added around all trash cans to meet ADA requirements.

Commission Member Discussion Topics: None.

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

/s/ Ross Livingston, Chair



LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM: 1

MEETING DATE: February 13, 2019

DESCRIPTION: 2019 Open Lands Advisory Commission Goals

SUMMARY:

At the beginning of each year, the City asks that each Commission establishes goals to provide a framework for staff and Board members. Each spring, these goals are presented at a Boards and Commissions Summit. Due to other City priorities, the 2019 annual Boards and Commission's Summit will be held in the fall.

Listed below are some ideas for Commission goals that coincide with staff work plans for 2019. The Commission will discuss what goals they feel best represent the desires of the community and the goals of the City's Open Lands and Trails program.

Ideas for 2019 Open Lands Advisory Commission Goals:

- 1) Development of additional policies to guide operations and management practices.
- 2) Development of management plan for Skyline Natural Area and make significant progress on the completion of the Big Thompson River Corridor Management and Stewardship Plans.
- 3) Evaluate and prioritize potential open land acquisitions.
- 4) Participate in public outreach opportunities on the viability of a Sales Tax Initiative that could help fund pedestrian underpasses throughout town on the recreation trail.
- 5) Conserve priority Open Lands to provide connectivity to existing open lands, address fragmentation of wildlife habitat, and balance resource protection and public access on city open lands.
- 6) Maximize public benefit from the open space sales tax, capital expansion fees and general funds, as well as grant and partnership funding sources.
- 7) Continue to increase public outreach, environmental education programming, and volunteer opportunities.
- 8) Active participation in City of Loveland's update of the Transportation Plan including the Bike and Pedestrian Plan.

Commission Action Recommended: Discussion & determination of 2019 Commission goals



LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM: 3

MEETING DATE: February 13, 2019

DESCRIPTION: Land and Water Conservation Fund Re-Appropriation

SUMMARY:

The U.S. Senate has not approved a critical package of public lands legislation that includes a permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). LWCF provides one of America's most important conservation programs for the protection of parks, forests, watersheds and open spaces. Funding for the current program ended in September and the program now remains in limbo, losing \$2.5 million per day needed for community-driven projects. Loveland has benefitted through the years from this funding including projects at North Lake Park, the Recreation Trail and more than \$260,000 in funding for Prairie Ridge Natural Area improvements.

The LWCF Coalition has requested that local agencies send a letter to their state senators requesting action to re-appropriate funding for this valuable program. The Loveland Parks and Recreation Commission supports this effort and has drafted a letter of support for the re-appropriation. As a Commission, would you be interested in drafting a letter of support for this program and its value to communities like ours?

Additional information can be found at: www.lwcfcoalition.com

Commission Action Recommended: Discussion & determine support of re-appropriation.



LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM: **3**

MEETING DATE: February 13, 2019

DESCRIPTION: Open Lands and Trails Policies

SUMMARY:

Since the inception of the Open Lands Program, OLAC has worked with staff to develop a series of policies to manage the Open Lands Program and sites. As Loveland has acquired more properties and provided growing public access opportunities, the need for additional or refined policies has also grown. In addition, in 2016 there was an organizational change moving Loveland's Trail Program under the management of a renamed "Open Lands and Trails" Division. Until 2016, trails were managed by the Parks Division so the structure for policy development was handled differently and less formal.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan provides the broadest level of policies for open lands and trails and provides guidance in how we operate. The following policies are identified in the 2014 Parks and Recreation Master Plan to guide our management of the open lands and trails.

Open Lands Service Levels and Distribution

- B1. The City will acquire, develop, operate and manage open lands using dedicated funding for this purpose.
- B2. The City will prioritize specific open lands acquisitions, projects and services according to resident priorities and City goals, with consideration of regional goals noted in the *Our Lands – Our Future* regional open lands study.
- B3. The following opportunity areas within the City's Growth Management Area will be considered first in the allocation of resources for open lands acquisition, development, restoration and management:
 - **Urban Open Land and Trails:** Provide open lands that enhance passive recreation, connectivity, urban aesthetics and the character of the city.
 - **Natural Resource and Wildlife Areas:** Support resource and habitat conservation or protection in areas that provide an ecological or environmental benefit to the community. Significant natural resource opportunities are identified in this Plan.
- B4. Special and unique opportunities outside of the City's Growth Management Area may be considered secondarily when allocating resources for open lands acquisition, development, restoration and management. This may include:
 - **Regional Open Lands and Trails:** Support open lands that enhance connectivity to regional trails, protect view sheds or unique landmarks, or otherwise provide a unique benefit to City residents.

- B5. The City will provide public access to open lands where compatible with resource protection goals. Sites will be assessed in terms of capacity for public access and development prior to acquisition.
- B6. The City will regularly reassess community priorities for open lands acquisition and use this information to update long-range acquisition plans and guide the provision of services.

Open Lands Acquisition

- B7. Open lands may be acquired through a variety of methods, including purchase, warranty deed, conservation easement, right of-way easements, or partnership.
- B8. The City will set aside up to 10% of annual open lands tax revenues for partnerships with other agencies primarily for properties outside the GMA.
- B9. The City will attempt to acquire land before sites are annexed to the City or planned for development.
- B10. An ownership and encumbrance search shall be conducted for potential acquisition sites. Appraisals may be obtained when needed to determine the fair market value of the potential acquisition property.
- B11. A title commitment will be required for each potential acquisition. If the site is acquired, a survey and title policy in the amount of the acquisition will be supplied to the City.
- B12. Potential acquisitions will be evaluated using the Open Lands Property Evaluation Form. This evaluation process will be updated periodically to account for changing open lands priorities.
- B13. Potential acquisitions will be evaluated against other City and regional long-range plans, such as transportation plans, that may affect future site use and development.
- B14. The City will acquire any water shares or rights tied to open lands properties when feasible.

Open Lands Development

- B15. Development guidelines for open lands will be followed to address factors such as levels of access, and appropriate types and levels of development.
- B16. Site management plans will be prepared prior to site development to ensure that critical natural resources are protected.
- B17. The City may provide open lands in several development classifications, as well as considering other unique opportunities.

Open Lands Management

- B18. Loveland will set aside a minimum of 15% of annual Larimer County open space tax revenues for long-term management, maintenance and operations of its open lands system.
- B19. Intergovernmental agreements or negotiated contracts will be created to define management agreements for properties and conservation easements acquired with partner entities.
- B20. Site management plans will be prepared for City-owned open lands. The Plan will describe the overarching management philosophy for the property, permitted uses, targeted service levels for access, development and restoration, and appropriate strategies for operations, programming, maintenance and enforcement. The City will provide citizens with an opportunity to be involved in the site management planning process.

B21. Site management plans will be prepared by the landowners for City-held conservation easements. Plan development will include conducting a baseline inventory assessment of resources at the time of acquisition. The Plan will describe the overarching management philosophy for the property, permitted uses, and appropriate strategies for operations, programming, maintenance and security.

B22. Site management plans may set forth additional site-specific rules and regulations for site uses compatible with management goals for the property and its resources. Public notice (signage) will be provided where access may be limited, restricted or not allowed.

B23. Site management plans are adaptive and will be updated over time based on changing resources, priorities, and site conditions.

B24. The Parks and Recreation Director may designate open lands exempt from the City's weed ordinance (Section 7.16.040 of the Loveland Municipal Code). Noxious weed management and revegetation using native species will be addressed in site management plans.

B25. Farm leases for actively farmed agricultural properties owned by the City of Loveland or encumbered with a Conservation Easement shall be kept on file at the City of Loveland, Department of Parks and Recreation, Open Lands Division.

B26. The Open Lands Division will review any proposed utility easements through open lands, while easements are being negotiated, to identify potential resource impacts.

Trails Service Levels and Distribution

E1. The City will provide off-street hard- and soft-surfaced trails for off-street, non-motorized, and non-equestrian recreation uses.

E2. Trails may be provided in parks, open lands and golf courses to support recreation use or in corridors to provide access to community destinations and connectivity to the trail system.

E3. The City will establish service level guidelines for the City's provision of trails. The City may provide hard-surfaced trails based on a guideline of 1 mile per 3,000 residents and soft-surfaced trails based on a guideline of 1 mile per 5,000 residents.

E4. The City will inventory hard- and soft-surfaced trails separately, counting the following:

- City trails in acquired corridors (land ownership or conservation easement); and,
- Loop or elongated recreation trails in parks, open lands or golf courses (Note: this does not include pathways designed to provide access to facilities or golf paths at golf courses.)

E5. To improve access, new community parks and specialized recreation facilities (e.g., a new recreation center) will be connected to Class I Bikeways (off-street trails) where feasible. The City may connect other parks and developed open lands to trails.

E6. The City will emphasize trail access for citizens inside the City's Growth Management Area. Future connections to regional or statewide trail systems will be done in cooperation with public, multi-agency and private entities.

Trail Acquisition

E7. The City will locate the Recreation Trail and any connector trails within existing or newly negotiated easements, where feasible.

- E8. The City will seek conditions of approval to require that developments provide land, access or easements for the City's trail system when development proposals are submitted.
- E9. The City may acquire parkways or greenways by warranty deed for trail development and other park uses.
- E10. Trail underpasses (or walkways) will be constructed and maintained at all four crossings of the State/ Federal Highways within the City. Other major arterials and railroad crossings will also be considered for underpasses to provide safe crossings and easy access to the trail.

Trail Development

- E11. Trails will be designed and developed to reflect the character of surrounding corridor, park, or open lands. The recreation trail system will be designed as an off-street, non-motorized, urban recreation trail.
- E12. Trailheads will be developed where feasible and where adequate parking and services can be provided. New community parks or open lands will include trailheads where these sites connect to the trail system.
- E13. The development of trail linkages or spur connections will be the responsibility of new developments desiring a connection to the Recreation Trail system. Responsibility includes development and maintenance.

These policies identified in the 2014 Parks and Recreation Master Plan will be updated every 5-10 years to assure they still meet the goals and operations of the Department. The Parks and Recreation Department anticipates an update of its Master Plan in the next few years. In addition to these Master Plan policies, more detailed policies have been developed with regards to Loveland's Open Lands Program. The following open lands policies have been developed by staff and OLAC and are reviewed annually by staff and every 5 years by OLAC or as needed.

- OL-1 Naming Policy
- OL-2 Conservation Easement Costs Policy
- OL-3 Fee Simple Costs Policy
- OL-4 Easement Request Policy
- OL-5 Weed and Non-Native Species Policy
- OL-6 Signage Policy
- OL-7 Memorial Policy
- OL-8 Financial Contributions Policy
- OL-9 Neighborhood Access Policy
- OL-10 Water Rights Policy
- OL-11 Acquisition and Due Diligence Process
- OL-12 Conservation Easement Phasing Policy
- OL-13 Conservation Easement Enforcement Policy
- OL-14 Conservation Easement Amendment Policy
- OL-15 Conservation Easement Contingency Plan
- OL-16 Conflict of Interest Policy
- OL-17 Public Input and Process
- OL-18 Management & Stewardship Policy
- OL-19 Permit Policy

In addition to the approved Open Land Policies, the following have been identified as possibilities for additional policies that we should formalize, specify, amend or create:

1. E-Bikes
2. Use of drones
3. Use of paragliders
4. Allowance of scooters
5. Prairie Dog Management
6. Commercial operations on Open Lands or Trails
7. Expulsion from Open Lands and Trails
8. Disposition of Property
9. Environmental Studies for Open Land Properties
10. Trigger Policy for Management Plan Updates

Are there other policies the Commission would like to explore or formalize? In order to have time to prepare background information for policy discussion, staff recommends that the Commission consider one policy issue per month. Does the Commission support the idea of bringing one policy per meeting for discussion?

In addition to Policies, attached are the Rules and Regulations for Loveland Open Lands and Trails. Policies can often be communicated quickly and effectively through our rules and regulations.

Open Lands and Natural Areas Rules and Regulations

- Hours of operation are from 6:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., except [Morey Wildlife Reserve](#) and [Mariana Butte Trail](#), which are open from dawn until dusk. Overnight parking or camping is prohibited at all sites.
- Pets must be leashed and under human control at all times. Owners must pick up and remove pet waste. Dogs are not permitted at Morey Wildlife Reserve, in accordance with the approved conservation easement.
- Fishing is regulated by Colorado State Regulations. Site-specific regulations apply. All persons age 16 and older are required to have a Colorado Fishing License.
- Float tube/"belly boat" fishing permitted at River's Edge ponds (*except Jayhawker North Pond*). All other boating, swimming, wading, ice fishing, bow fishing, and ice skating are prohibited.
- Alcoholic beverages are not permitted. Glass containers/bottles are prohibited.
- No open fires or flames. No gathering or cutting firewood.
- Bicycling permitted on designated trails only. Bicycles are not permitted at Morey Wildlife Reserve or Mariana Butte Trail. Bicyclists yield to other trail users.
- Horses (except police) are not permitted on City of Loveland Open Lands or trails.
- Motorized vehicles (except authorized) are not allowed outside of established streets and parking areas. Parking allowed in designated areas only.
- Remote control (RC) motorized vehicles are not allowed.
- No littering, graffiti or markings on property or facilities.
- No discharge or use of firearms, projectiles, or fireworks.
- No feeding, trapping, hunting, or disturbing wildlife.
- Collecting, removing, destroying, or defacing any natural or manmade object is prohibited.
- Shade structures are available for drop-in use and are not reservable.
- Smoking is prohibited.
- Noise Ordinance is strictly enforced.
- Commercial, retail and vending activities are not allowed in City Parks, Open Lands or trails without a permit from the Parks and Recreation Department.
- Private landscaping or use of open lands, including extensions of backyard landscaping, trash or rubbish dumping, or other unauthorized use, is prohibited.

- Any encroachment or storage of privately owned items on open lands is prohibited.
- Call 911 in case of Emergency. Non-emergency Police: (970) 667-2151
- Parks & Recreation Dept. Admin. Office (970) 962-2727
- On-call Parks & Open Lands Maintenance (970) 962-2730 (*seasonal*)

Recreation Trail Rules, Regulations, and Guidelines

- Hours of operation are from 6:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.
- Overnight parking or camping is prohibited along the Recreation Trail System.
- Glass containers/ bottles are prohibited.
- No open fires or flames.
No gathering or cutting firewood.
- Smoking is prohibited, except in designated areas.
- Motorized vehicles (except authorized) are not allowed on the trail system.
- Parking allowed in designated areas only.
- Littering, graffiti or markings on the trail are prohibited.
- Alcoholic beverages are not permitted.
- Noise Ordinance is strictly enforced.
- Pet owners are required to pick-up and remove pet waste.
Pets must be leashed and under human control at all times.
Pets are NOT Allowed in environmentally sensitive areas.
- Horses (except police) are not permitted on the trail.
- Feeding, trapping, hunting, or disturbing wildlife is NOT permitted.
- Discharge or use of firearms, projectiles, or fireworks is prohibited.
- Fishing is regulated by Colorado State Regulations.
All persons age 16 and older are required to have a Colorado Fishing License.
- Collecting, removing, destroying, or defacing any natural or manmade object is NOT permitted.
- Vending is not allowed in City Parks, Open Land areas or trails without prior permission from the Parks and Recreation Department.
- Private landscaping or use of trail system, including extensions of back yard landscaping, trash or rubbish dumping, or other unauthorized use, is prohibited.
Any encroachment or storage of privately owned items on the trail system is prohibited.
- Report accidents and emergencies on the trail directly to the Police Department (Dial 911). Report maintenance concerns or vandalism to the Parks and Recreation Department at (970) 962-2727.

EPAMD Policy

The Department authorizes a person with a mobility disability to use an electronic personal assistance mobility device (EPAMD) in City parks, and on hard and soft surface trails, sidewalks, outdoor recreation facilities and open lands maintained by the Department, subject to the following conditions:

1. Individuals with mobility disabilities shall be allowed to use:
 - a. Wheelchairs;
 - b. Manually-powered mobility aids (e.g. walkers, crutches, canes, braces or similar devices designed for use by individuals with mobility disabilities); and
 - c. Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices that are EPAMDs and meet all other conditions of this policy.
2. The following may not be used:
 - a. Gas or fuel powered devices or internal combustion engine vehicles;
 - b. Devices heavier than 500 pounds; and
 - c. Other power-driven mobility devices that exceed more than 32" in width measured from the outside of each tire.
3. EPAMDs may only be used in City parks and on hard and soft surface trails, sidewalks, outdoor recreation facilities and open lands maintained by the Department, so long as such use does not cause damage to such park, trail, sidewalk, outdoor recreation facility or open land.

4. The EPAMD:

- a. Must be designed to travel on two or more low-pressure tires;
- b. Must operate by an electric powered engine or motor with a maximum decibel level of 55 or less;
- c. Must not be driven into wet, ecologically sensitive or hazardous areas which are posted as prohibited areas by the Department or Open Lands Divisions;
- d. Must not carry more than one person on the frame or carry any object on the frame that may make the EPAMD unstable;
- e. Must not be operated in a dangerous or reckless manner, or at speeds that jeopardize the safety of the operator, or other persons; and
- f. Must only be operated between 6 AM and 10:30 PM.

5. The EPAMD is allowed only in areas of the park, or on hard and soft surface trails, sidewalks, outdoor recreation facilities and open lands maintained by the Department in which the general public is allowed.

6. A driver or operator of an EPAMD shall be subject to the same statutory restrictions regarding consumption of alcohol and/or drugs and operation of a motor vehicle or vehicle.

7. An individual without a mobility disability is prohibited from using an EPAMD under this policy, regardless of whether or not he or she is accompanying an individual with a mobility disability who is using an EPAMD.

8. Neither the Department nor the City shall be responsible for the EPAMD, including, but not limited to, storage, security, maintenance, loading or unloading of the EPAMD.

9. Neither the Department nor the City shall be responsible for damage to the EPAMD, or injury to the operator, whether caused by the operator, another park, trail, sidewalk, outdoor recreation facility or open land user or visitor and preserves all defenses under law, including but not limited to governmental immunity.

10. The Department reserves the right to suspend or place additional restrictions on the use EPAMDs in its parks, and on trails, sidewalks, outdoor recreational facilities or open lands maintained by the Department, if doing so is in the best interests of the City, the Department, or users of such parks, trails, sidewalks, outdoor recreational facilities or open lands.

11. Users of Mobility Devices are subject to all other City park, trail, outdoor recreation facility and open land policies and regulations.

12. The operator of the EPAMD must be a person with a mobility disability, and proof of such disability may be requested by Department personnel or law enforcement officers in accordance with ADA regulations.

13. An individual using a Mobility Device authorized pursuant to this policy may be asked to provide "credible assurance" that the Mobility Device is required because of the individual's disability. Credible assurance may include: showing a valid State-issued disability parking placard or card or other State-issued proof of disability. In lieu of a valid State-issued disability parking placard or card or other State-issued proof of disability, a verbal representation, not contradicted by observable fact, that the Mobility Device is being used for a mobility disability shall constitute credible assurance.

14. A person using a Mobility Device may not be asked about the nature and extent of the person's disability.

Commission Action Recommended: Discuss review of Open Lands & Trail Policies



LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM: 5

MEETING DATE: February 13, 2019

DESCRIPTION: Open Lands Project Report

SUMMARY:

Properties/Facilities/Projects/Maintenance/Operations

- ❖ The Big Thompson Watershed Coalition's Rossum to Wilson river restoration project is making excellent progress, generally working from west to east creating new overflow channels, bank stabilization, and reconnected floodplains. The Rist-Goss Ditch diversion structure across the river has been demolished and removed, allowing for better fish passage and natural river flows. The new diversion point will be located within 500' upstream and will be less of a barrier. The Namaqua Bridge structure has also been removed by the Larimer County project and the two contractors are coordinating on dewatering and diversion for both projects in the river.
- ❖ Permits have been secured for the Big Thompson Watershed Coalition's Reach 28 river restoration project at Wild Natural Area and adjacent river properties. The project is expected to begin in the next few weeks and has received an extension until December 2019.



Partnerships, Planning and Grants

- ❖ The Colorado Native Plant Society was awarded a \$3,000 grant from the Larimer County Small Grants program to restore and enhance areas of River's Edge Natural Area with native plants using all volunteer efforts. A soil science class from CSU will assist with soil coring and testing as a learning experience. Volunteer planting projects will begin this spring and opportunities for volunteers to assist with watering, monitoring, and maintenance will continue through fall.

Programs/Environmental Education/Volunteer Program

- ❖ Michele Van Hare, Environmental Education Coordinator, will be teaching Interpretive Guide Training in February for the National Association for Interpretation. The training allows volunteers and professionals to become an interpretive guide (those who give nature talks and walks, teach environmental education courses, or give talks at open spaces).

- ❖ Raptor nesting season is active again, and volunteers have begun monitoring known nests and searching for new activity throughout open lands. Nest cams are also active and barn owls can be seen roosting in the nest box during the day and perching on the box to hunt at night. Watch live on our [Nest Cams](#) web page.
- ❖ Volunteers play a significant role in Loveland's ability to provide environmental programming and complete Open Lands & Trails stewardship projects, donating nearly 6,000 hours of volunteer time in 2018. <https://offero.cityofloveland.org.>





LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM: 6

MEETING DATE: February 13, 2019

DESCRIPTION: Trail Updates

SUMMARY:

- ❖ Engineering work has been completed to install and improve three bridges over local ditches to allow for future trails and pedestrian access at Old St. Louis Natural Area from Madison Avenue, Boise Bluff Natural Area, and Oxbow Natural Area. Agreements have been signed with the ditch companies and all bridge work will be complete by year-end. Work is underway at the Madison Ave. bridge, with abutments being poured.
- ❖ Final design and environmental clearances for the Prairie Ridge Trail project will be complete in February and the project will be put out for bid early Spring. We hope to be under construction by May with completion by year-end.
- ❖ Staff continue to work on closing the missing trail gap at 57th Street and the BNSF Railroad. Design is complete for the section at Sunset Vista Natural Area and we are beginning the process of permitting with the BNSF Railroad. Lastly, the Copper Ridge Development is coming through the City's development review process including trail connections.
- ❖ The first signs and new kiosks are being installed as part of Loveland's new trail signage program to improve communications and provide better wayfinding for trail users. The ten new kiosks and more than 230 signs will provide more consistent information and a better trail experience for citizens and visitors.



**BIG THOMPSON
RIVER TRAIL** City of Loveland

↔ ROSSUM AVE

← OXBOW
NATURAL AREA

← MARIANA BUTTE
TRAILS

Commission Action Recommended: Informational.

OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>TELEPHONE</u>	<u>APPOINT- MENT DATE</u>	<u>EXPIRA- TION DATE</u>
Jean Whittaker whittaker303@hotmail.com	1715 Hitch Wagon Dr Loveland CO 80537	H 669-2196	2/3/15 12/18/18	12/31/22
Scott James wsj1997@bellsouth.net	101 Scenic Ct Loveland CO 80537	H 775-2519	12/18/18	12/31/22
Michael Hinterberg mahinter@yahoo.com	1773 Sphene Place Loveland CO 80537	H 720-525-9961	12/19/17 12/18/18	12/31/22
Gale Bernhardt gale@galebernhardt.com	2433 Logan Dr Loveland CO 80538	H 667-8009 B 663-6356	10/16/07 11/20/07 12/20/11 1/5/16	12/31/19
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City Council Alternate Kathi Wright Kathi.Wright@cityofloveland.org	500 E 3 rd St Loveland CO 80537	P 667-5486 VM 962-2193		

Nine Members, four year term

Meet Monthly, second Wednesday, 5:30 p.m., in the Parks and Recreation Conference Room 1/30/19