



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

May 8, 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: April 17, 2019 (*April 10 meeting rescheduled due to weather*)

City Council Liaison Report

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

5:45-7:30 pm – Discussion/Action Items:

1. Drone Policy
2. 2019 YTD Financial and Proposed 2020 Open Lands and Trails CORE Budgets
3. City Manager Steve Adams, Boards & Commissions Survey Results
4. Land Conservation, Planning, Projects & Programs Work Plan

7:30-8:00 pm – Reports/Correspondence:

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:

Ongoing – [Native Plant Gardening Opportunities](#) at River's Edge, flexible times for watering and weeding

May 4 – [Guided Bird Walk](#) at Boise Bend Natural Area, 8:30-10:00 am

May 5 – [Astronomy Night with NOCO Astronomical Society](#) at Ward Trust, 8:30-10:30 pm

May 6 – [Skyline Natural Area Open House](#) at Group Publishing, 5:00-6:30 pm

May 16 – PEEPs Programs “[Of Trees and Stars](#)” at River's Edge Natural Area, 9:30 and 11:00 am

May 17 – [Sketch Hike Nature Journaling](#) at Boise Bend Natural Area, 9:00-11:00 am

May 18 – [Guided Mariana Butte Hike](#), 9:30-11:30 am

May 19 – [Volunteer Trail Host Training](#) at River's Edge Natural Area, 1:00-5:00 pm

June 1 – [National Trails Day Project](#) at Willow Bend Natural Area, 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Commission Member Discussion Topics

Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting: June 12, 2019

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CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Special Meeting Minutes – April 17, 2019

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

Commissioners Present: Gale Bernhardt, Rick Brent, Scott James, Ross Livingston, Darren Pape, Jim Roode, Jean Whittaker, Bill Zawacki, Cindy Ticer (alternate).

Commissioners Absent: Mike Hinterberg, Don Overcash (City Council Liaison).

Staff Present: Bryan Harding, Marilyn Hilgenberg, Dave Klockeman, Debbie Eley.

Guests: Nan Daniels and Curt Cole, Colorado Native Plant Society; Diane Kristoff, Vice President of Foothills Audubon.

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

Approval of March 13, 2019 Meeting Minutes. Jean Whittaker made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Bill Zawacki seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

OLAB Liaison Report: Marilyn Hilgenberg reported that: 1) Loveland and Larimer County continue to discuss management costs, in-kind assistance, and possible user fees at Devil's Backbone; 2) Marilyn's term as a Board member expires in May; she has re-applied. The OLAB bylaws are being updated to reflect the changes in ballot language that took effect on January 1, which will impact board membership and representation.

Discussion/Action:

1. Connect Loveland – Transportation Plan Updates. Dave Klockeman, Senior Civil Engineer in Public Works, presented the Connect Loveland project, which will update 3 existing plans – the 2012 Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan, 2012 Transportation Plan, and 2009 Transit Master Plan. Connect Loveland will incorporate multi-modal transportation, transit, ridesharing, trail connections, and regional considerations. Two types of committees will help guide the planning process – the Connector committee will meet with the Transportation Advisory Board regularly and will provide a means for information sharing between the project team and each board/commission, and the CLSC committee will include a broad representation of the community via stakeholder groups such as Larimer County, CDOT, local clubs, major employers, MPO, Thompson School District, etc. Jim Roode volunteered to represent OLAC on the Connector committee, and Mike Hinterberg will serve on the CLSC committee.

2. City Manager Steve Adams, Boards & Commissions Survey Results. (postponed to May)

3. Skyline Natural Area Concept Plan. The Skyline Natural Area Management Plan process will provide opportunities for stakeholders, experts and the public to be involved in the formulation of a plan to provide public access while assuring protection of resources. Staff presented information gathered since the property was acquired in 2015, from studies of natural, cultural, historical, and visual resources. Concept ideas for the site were presented, with options for providing public access. Commissioner comments and questions included loop trail options, multi-use trails vs. separated uses, protection of wildlife habitat, impact of potential fees at Devil's Backbone, trail connections to Devil's

Backbone, dogs, enforcement, and hours of operation. A public open house meeting will be held on May 6 to share initial findings, alternatives, and proposed management practices, and gather input from the community, stakeholders and neighbors.

4. Long View Farm Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CCRs) Amendment and Policy

Update. Long View Farm is jointly owned by Loveland, Larimer County, and Fort Collins and is protected by CCRs as a requirement of GOCO grant funding. An amendment to the CCRs in 2016 corrected a legal description error and removed 0.071 acres for a CDOT project at Hwy 287 and Carpenter Rd. However, the correction did not fix all of the legal description errors, and a second amendment is needed. The current Open Lands Policy #14 regarding Conservation Easement Amendments does not address CCR Amendments. The proposed revised policy incorporates CCR Amendments into Open Lands Policy #14. Bill Zawacki made a motion to recommend the Second Amendment to the Long View Farm CCRs. Darren Pape seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Bill Zawacki made a motion to recommend the updated Conservation Easement Amendment Policy #14 as presented. Darren Pape seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

5. Intergovernmental Agreement with Larimer County Weed District for Vegetation

Management Services. An IGA with the Weed District will allow contracting for weed control, vegetation management, and restoration projects, as needed. The Water & Power Department will also have the ability to contract with the District for weed control on properties they manage. The IGA will not prohibit the city from contracting with other service providers. Open Lands currently spends approximately \$20K annually for weed control on 2,500 acres.

6. GOCO Habitat Restoration Grant at Medina's Crossing. Loveland was awarded a grant for \$84,309 from Great Outdoors Colorado for habitat restoration in conjunction with the Big Thompson Watershed Coalition's river restoration project at Medina's Crossing. Funding will help cover the cost of native plants, trees, and shrubs, invasive species removal, and design/planning services. Volunteers will help install and maintain the native plantings. Ross Livingston made a motion to recommend approval of the GOCO Habitat Restoration grant agreement in the amount of \$84,309. Jean Whittaker seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Reports/Correspondence:

3. Property Acquisition Updates. Marilyn reported that staff is still pursuing options for acquisition of the inholding property at Skyline with a clear title.

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

Properties/Facilities/Projects/Maintenance/Operations

- Hoff Construction has completed the bridge abutments at the Farmer's Ditch just south of Madison Avenue for a future trail connection into Old St. Louis Natural Area. The bridge was placed on April 4 and the trail connection will be constructed late spring.
- Heavy construction continues in the Big Thompson River near and west of Namaqua Avenue. Larimer County has started constructing the new bridge over the Big Thompson River (Flat Iron Constructors). ECI has completed significant in-channel improvements from Namaqua to Rossum as a result of grant funding through the Big Thompson River Coalition. In the west Big T corridor, a separate project by Tezak Construction is realigning 0.5 mile of the river channel to be more resilient and similar to pre-flood conditions. Changes to the river corridor align with the goals of the Big Thompson River Master Plan and improve the sustainability of the Big Thompson River.

Partnerships, Planning and Grants

- Staff from Loveland and Fort Collins finalized the north-south trail alignment of the Prairie Ridge/Coyote Ridge Trail connection. Final design and environmental clearances for the Prairie Ridge Trail project are complete and the City is now working with Larimer County for site permitting. We anticipate the project will be put out for bid late spring. We hope to be under construction by May with completion by year-end.

Programs/Environmental Education/Volunteers

- Seasonal volunteers have begun raptor monitoring on Loveland's Open Land Sites. There are a number of active nests and a healthy raptor population. Data collected helps us assess locations and numbers and allows for environmental analysis and more accurate monitoring and protection of raptors on Open Lands Sites throughout town. Additionally, we will once again have live owl and kestrel cams available on-line to help educate the public and allow the community to experience nature up close, thanks to a partnership with the Colorado Avian Research and Rehabilitation Institute (www.carriep.org).
- Staff is busy providing annual training to volunteers who assist with environmental education, trail monitoring, and assisting with community events. The open lands and trails programs rely heavily on volunteers to assist with providing quality, no-cost programming, events and stewardship projects. Currently, there are more than 1,000 registered volunteers that provide some 7,000 volunteer hours per year.
- Environmental education programs for 25 school groups are scheduled for April and May. These outdoor experiential learning programs are offered for grades pre-K through 5th grade and meet state education standards for each grade.

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

- Staff continue to work on closing the missing trail gap, known as the Copper Ridge Connector, at 57th Street and the BNSF Railroad. Design is complete for the section at Sunset Vista Natural Area and we have begun the process of permitting with the BNSF Railroad. Staff has worked with the Copper Ridge Development through the City's development review process to secure the last stretch of missing trail connection.
- Crews have started updating and installing new Recreation Trail Kiosks. Maps will be added in the next couple of weeks to improve communications and provide better wayfinding for trail users. 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.

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

/s/ Gale Bernhardt, Chair



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LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM: 1

MEETING DATE: May 8, 2019

DESCRIPTION: Discussion on Development of a Drone Policy

SUMMARY:

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), also known as drones, are remotely piloted aircraft that first started being used by the military when manned flights were considered too dangerous. Chronologically, drones first appeared in military operations starting in 2000, but have since gained civilian popularity. Because drone popularity has skyrocketed, local regulations regarding the use of drones for recreation have not kept up. The lack of regulations has resulted in issues regarding safety, privacy concerns, encroachment on private property and others, thereby warranting discussion regarding development of policy and regulations in Loveland. Development of a policy will involve each of the citizen Boards and Commissions related to Parks and Recreation.

New technology and the thrill of unmanned flight have made drones incredibly popular. They offer entertainment, scientific, and education value for all ages, kids and adults alike. The idea of a future where packages and pizzas are delivered to doorsteps or in parks by drones is now a reality. People take their drones to public spaces, from state parks and wilderness areas to local public parks down the block as the best open areas to fly.

An appeal of drone flying is the ability to take photos from perspectives that have never been done before except by professional photographers in a plane or helicopter. Fueling the excitement is posting such pictures on social media. The temptation of having drones for the perfect picture is high. People like to use their drones to get aerial shots of landscapes, get up closer than normal to wildlife, and catch action shots, all of which can be problematic on public lands if done irresponsibly.

There are many positive aspects to having drones in public spaces for their use in helping to manage lands and facilities. Drones can be used in conservation efforts, public safety and natural resource management. They can be used in search-and-rescue operations, wildlife monitoring, monitoring endangered areas, creating more extensive maps and managing invasive species. They truly can be a resource for assisting in research focusing on environmental threats and expanding scientific knowledge.

A law passed by Congress in July 2018 granted the FAA control over all airspace, a law that supersedes local or state law. There are no other entities that can dictate where a drone can fly. However, cities, states and other types of public agencies can regulate where a drone can take off and land. It is the responsibility of each jurisdiction to enact its own policies or regulations surrounding access for takeoffs and landings.

The Commission will discuss the development of a Drone Policy to guide the use or restriction of unmanned aerial vehicles on Loveland Parks and Recreation lands and facilities. To address the growing popularity of drones, we will explore setting in place stronger guidelines and policies about flying drones on public spaces.



OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM: **2**

MEETING DATE: May 8, 2019

DESCRIPTION: 2019 YTD Financial and Proposed 2020 Open Lands and Trails
CORE Budgets

STAFF PRESENTER: Marilyn Hilgenberg

SUMMARY:

Staff annually evaluates and analyzes the Open Lands and Trails budget and identifies budget issues for discussion with the Open Lands Commission. At the March meeting the Commission packet included Open Lands and Trails Capital Plans based on priority acquisitions and projects. Based on those projects, find below the CORE 2020 Operating Budgets for Open Lands and Trails and proposed "Decision Packages".

2A. Open Lands – 2020 Proposed Budget

The Parks & Recreation Department administers and manages the Open Lands Program to identify, acquire, and maintain areas in conformance with the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the City's Capital Plan. Funding is from Loveland's portion of the Larimer County Open Space sales tax of $\frac{1}{4}$ -cent, which is approved through 2043, and through Capital Expansion Fees. More than 8,000 acres of lands have been conserved in and around Loveland through Loveland's Open Lands Program.

The Parks & Recreation Department also administers and manages public trails in conformance with the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the City's Capital Plan. Funding is from Loveland's portion of Colorado Lottery Proceeds and Capital Expansion Fees. Currently the Recreation Trail runs 22 miles through Loveland.

The following is the CORE operating budget for Open Lands and Trails. Wages have been adjusted by 3.0% increase, operating supplies and services are budgeted at 2019 levels, and transfers for General Liability, Workers Comp and Administrative charges have been assigned to the budget by the Finance Department.

OPEN LANDS

EXPENSE BY DIVISION/Program	'18 Actual	'19 Revised Budget	'19 Actual (Thru 4-30-19)	'20 Budget Proposed
PERSONNEL SERVICES	599,081	732,597	147,948	754,575
SUPPLIES	49,409	84,200	6,123	90,400
PURCHASED SERVICES	317,944	450,806	90,819	480,000
CAPITAL – OS Tax Fund	144,979	3,932,100	999,433	1,525,000
CAPITAL - CEF	<u>50,000</u>	<u>2,545,000</u>	<u>2,525,794</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Expense	1,161,413	7,744,703	3,770,117	2,849,975
REVENUE				
INTERGOVERNMENTAL	2,755,981	2,333,320	649,681	2,200,000
CAPITAL EXPANSION FEES	375,350	453,000	75,080	397,201
INTEREST	81,109	124,130	33,285	70,143
OTHER	<u>143,219</u>	<u>467,000</u>	<u>10,474</u>	<u>75,000</u>
Total Revenue	3,355,659	\$3,377,450	768,520	\$2,742,344
FTE	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0

TRAILS

EXPENSE BY DIVISION/Program	'18 Actual	'19 Revised Budget	'19 Actual (Thru 4-30-19)	'20 Budget Proposed
PERSONNEL SERVICES	203,878	241,816	51,589	249,000
SUPPLIES	47,949	17,900	1,663	17,900
PURCHASED SERVICES	40,481	55,367	7,756	55,367
CAPITAL – Con Trust	202,803	4,670,751	46,142	500,000
CAPITAL - CEF	<u>35,109</u>	<u>1,129,746</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>705,020</u>
Total Expense	530,220	6,430,663	107,150	1,527,287
REVENUE				
INTERGOVERNMENTAL	769,395	740,000	286,212	770,000
CAPITAL EXPANSION FEES	226,996	270,000	46,408	236,000
INTEREST	69,506	54,200	18,997	55,425
OTHER		<u>600,000</u>	<u>506,620</u>	<u>600,000</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 1,065,897	\$1,664,200	\$ 858,237	\$1,661,425
FTE	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75

2B. Open Lands and Trails 2020 Supplemental and Capital Requests

The following is a list of the anticipated new operating and capital items the Open Lands and Trails Division intends to submit for the 2019 Budget.

Operations:

1. Personnel & Operations

<i>Additional Operations of new OL & Trails</i>	\$ 65,278
Environmental Education/Volunteer Mgt	\$ 33,922
Vegetation Mgt/Supplies	\$ 10,000

Capital:

2. Trails (<i>Namaqua/Wilson Connection, Copper Ridge, North Wilson and Boyd Lake</i>)	\$1,205,020
3. Open Land Acquisitions and Development <i>Meadowbrook, Oxbow, Skyline, Willow Bend, Sunset Vista, East Big T</i>	\$1,175,000

COMMISSION ACTION RECOMMENDED: Informational and Budget Discussion



OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM: **4**

MEETING DATE: May 8, 2019

DESCRIPTION: Land Conservation, Planning, Projects & Programs Work Plan

STAFF PRESENTER: Marilyn Hilgenberg

SUMMARY:

Staff has been incredibly busy with a wide variety of work projects and programs. Each staff member fills a unique and valuable role within our team, allowing us to balance a number of conservation and planning projects, and community stewardship and education.

Land Conservation, Planning, Projects & Programs



Planning and Capital Projects by Site

Wild Natural Area

Reach 28 River Restoration Project - River realignment
Realignment of entrance to Glade Road
Parking/Trailhead/soft-surface river access trail/picnic area

Oxbow Natural Area

Reach 30 River Restoration Project – Overflow channel
River bridge railings
Soft-surface trail connection to Mariana Butte Trail
Picnic Area
Parking Area

Medina's Crossing

Reach 30 River Restoration Project - Improved river hydrology
Replace Rist-Goss diversion and alignment
Removal of Invasive tree species along project area
New irrigation pump and wet well
Re-Vegetation of project area (GOCO & Northern Water Grants/HPEC)
Larimer County replacement of river-road bridge/underpass trail

River's Edge Natural Area

Spring EE School Programming
Native Plant Society planting project
Fishing Clinic

Kings Crossing Natural Area

Hazard Tree Removal

Old St. Louis Natural Area

Madison Avenue connector trail
Farmer's Ditch crossing
Stormwater project - Madison Outfall
Activating inter-generational opportunities - UC Health Grant

Boise Bend Natural Area

Youth Corps - Invasive Species Removal
Moved Osprey Nest to adjacent property - No Parking Signs
Monthly Bird Walk

Willow Bend Natural Area

Spring Clean-up
Soft-surface trail loop
Fishing Dock with ADA access - CPW Fishing is Fun Grant
Applied for Disney Play grant for fishing access project
Removal of Invasive Species - Front Range Community College & Youth Corps
Harvesting of Willows for river restoration projects
Concept Plan for development of both open lands and park areas

Wagner/Bonser Open Lands

Property Acquisition
Resolving issues with restrictions on sole water tap
Lease of buildings
Reports to structures - fencing, roof, etc...
Signage
Agricultural Lease
Applied for CWCB Youth Corps and Forest Service Grants for Invasive Species
Discussion with Larimer County on connection/CE management for Kauffman CE

Boedecker Bluff

Weed treatment and annual maintenance of cut trail
Installation of ditch-bridge
Rossum Avenue pedestrian crossing

Mariana Butte Trail

Weed treatment and annual maintenance of cut trail
CPW Fishing Clinic on Buckingham Reservoir
Donation Bench

Morey Wildlife Reserve

Hazard Tree Removal
Update of bird lists
Astronomy Nights

Devil's Backbone

Discuss non-financial options with Larimer County

Sunset Vista/Long View Trail

Restroom

Soft-surface trail connection to 57th Street

Restoration of native grass with Larimer County Weed District

Restoration of Historical Old Stone Building & Interpretive Signage

Fence Repair

Storm water monitoring

Prairie Ridge Natural Area and Trail

Restroom

Parking Lot/Trailhead

Construction of 2.3 miles of soft-surface trail

Youth Corps projects to remove fencing, trail build and assist with vegetation

Grant administration (\$460K)

Skyline Natural Area and Trail

Public Meeting and Management Plan

Trail alignment and begin trail construction

Louden Ditch Bridge

South trailhead/parking

Trails

- Namaqua to Wilson Trail Connection (Namaqua Underpass Grant Funding)
- Wilson Avenue Road Project - added parking and trail connections
- Copper Ridge/RR Trail Connection at 57th Street
 - Concept Paper for GO CO Connect Grant
 - Trail and wetlands crossing design
 - RR Permitting and Approvals
 - Approval of Copper Ridge Development through City Planning
- Boyd Lake to Denver Ave Trail Connection and Underpass
- Wayfinding Sign Project - signs, kiosks, maps, striping
- ADA Modifications
- Hazard Tree Removal
- Removal of barrier gates on North Trail
- Long View Trail - Starburst Award
- I-25 Replacement bridge over the Big Thompson River including trail underpass
- Safe Routes to School Grant along north Wilson Ave. and underpass planning

Other Land Management

- Long View Farm Legal Description Amendment
- TWB Land Acquisition at Skyline Natural Area
- Conservation Easement Monitoring
- Request to amend Walden West CE
- Management and research on mineral rights, new regulations & implications

Programming and Community Events

- Owl and Kestrel Cams
- Research for future eagle cam
- Renovation of Viestenz-Smith EE Cabin
- Raptor monitoring

Planning

- Skyline Management Plan
- 402 Corridor Plan
- Big Thompson River Corridor Master Plan and Maintenance Program
- Big Thompson River Management Plan for Open Lands
- Development Review
- Connect Loveland – Transportation Plan Updates
- Design Standards
- GIS Mapping

Volunteers

- Training
- Scheduling and recruiting volunteers

Administrative and Finance

- City Strategic Planning
- Applied for NRPA Innovation Award for Quick Win Projects
- CO State Forest Service Invasive Species Grant Application for Wagner
- Strategic Planning/Performance Standards
- Budget and Capital Improvement Plan
- Sales Tax Initiative for Community Projects including Rec Trail Underpasses (8)
- Department Culture and Leadership Initiatives
- Department National Parks and Recreation Certification
- Signage

Maintenance

- Weed and Vegetation Management
- Hiring of part-year staff positions
- Homeless camp issues and removal

COMMISSION ACTION

RECOMMENDED: Informational and Discussion of Staff Work Projects



LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM: 6

MEETING DATE: May 8, 2019

DESCRIPTION: Open Lands Project Report

SUMMARY:

Properties/Facilities/Projects/Maintenance/Operations

- ❖ Heavy construction continues along the Big Thompson River near Namaqua Avenue. ECI has completed significant in-channel improvements from Rossum to Wilson as a result of grant funding through the Big Thompson Watershed Coalition. The county's Namaqua bridge replacement project includes a new underpass for a future trail connection.
- ❖ River work also continues in Reach 28 along the Wild Natural Area. The river has been re-channeled back closer to the original alignment and will provide fishing opportunities for the public from Wild Natural Area in the near future.
- ❖ A new vault restroom has been ordered for Sunset Vista Natural Area and the trailhead for the regional Long View Trail. The restroom will be delivered and installed later this summer.



Partnerships, Planning and Grants

- ❖ Science classes from Front Range Community College are getting in-field environmental experience by removing invasive tree species from Loveland's open lands properties every Friday during the spring semester. Thanks to their efforts, hundreds of trees have been removed and treated at Willow Bend Natural Area.
- ❖ Utilizing GOCO grant funding, more than 200 invasive trees have been removed from the Medina's Crossing Natural Area in conjunction with the other restoration projects.



Programs/Environmental Education/Volunteers

- ❖ The barn owl camera is live on the City's Web page to allow citizens to watch live the activity of barn owls. Five eggs were laid by this pair and the first egg hatched on May 3. The kestrel nest box web cam is also live, and eggs should be laid soon.
- ❖ More than 60 volunteers helped on April 20 building a trail, cleaning up trash & debris, and removing invasive species at Willow Bend Natural Area. It was the first public event on this not yet opened site, and volunteers were very excited to get a sneak preview of this scenic property along the Big Thompson River corridor.
- ❖ In association with the Colorado Native Plant Society, volunteers planted shrubs at River's Edge on April 20 funded by a grant from Larimer County Department of Natural Resources. This project will continue in May with watering by the community and the planting of native grasses and plants.
- ❖ Staff participated in the annual Colorado Parks and Recreation Association Trade Show to share best practices and talk with vendors.
- ❖ The annual Fishing Loveland Open Lands event was held at River's Edge on April 27, with more than 50 participants learning about good fishing stewardship, invertebrate identification to see what fish are eating, fishing skills, and where to fish in Loveland.
- ❖ We have had a very robust spring for our environmental education program for school groups coming to River's Edge. Hundreds of volunteer hours have been donated by trained and certified education guides.





LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM: **7**

MEETING DATE: May 8, 2019

DESCRIPTION: Trail Updates

SUMMARY:

- The Prairie Ridge trail project will be bid for construction in May. This natural area property in northwest Loveland will provide citizens with a 2.3-mile soft-surface trail system and the north-south trail alignment will connect to Fort Collins' Coyote Ridge Trail. We hope to be under construction in June with completion by year-end.
- Staff continue to work on closing the missing trail gap, known as the Copper Ridge Connector, at 57th Street and the BNSF Railroad. Permitting with the BNSF Railroad is underway and plans will be submitted to BNSF and PUC. The Copper Ridge Development has started rough grading and installed a ditch crossing. This last stretch of missing trail will be constructed by the developer with their subdivision.
- Trail crews continue to implement ADA site improvements with regards to trip hazards on the trail, surfacing around benches and trash cans, and signage.

Commission Action Recommended: Informational.