



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Civic Center • 500 East Third Street, Suite 200 • Loveland, Colorado 80537
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www.cityofloveland.org

LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

November 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: October 9, 2019

City Council Liaison Report

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

Joint Regional Open Space Boards Meeting – February 19, 2020, combined with Feb. OLAC meeting

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

1. Connect Loveland Update, Katie Guthrie, Public Works Transportation Planner

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

2. Property Management Updates
3. Open Lands Project Report
4. Trail Updates
5. Connect Loveland Updates
6. [“Why We Volunteer” Video](#)

Executive Session (24-6-402(4)(a)C.R.S.) *For information/discussion of the purchase or acquisition of real property*

Events/Reminders/News (all events on <https://www.offero.cityofloveland.org>):

Nov. 17 – [Astronomy Night with NoCo Astronomical Society](#) at Sylvan Dale Ranch, 6:30-8:30 pm

Nov. 21 – [PEEPs "The Bear Necessities"](#) at Namaqua Park, 9:30 or 11:00 am

Nov. 22 – [Art in Nature Sketch Hike](#) at High Plains Environmental Center, 9:00-11:00 am

Nov. 29 – [#OptOutside Hike](#) at Mariana Butte, 8:00-10:00 am

Dec. 4 – [Volunteer Appreciation Dinner](#) at Chilson Recreation-Senior Center, 6:00-7:30 pm

Commission Member Discussion Topics

Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting: December 11, 2019

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CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes – October 9, 2019

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

Commissioners Present: Scott James, Ross Livingston, Darren Pape, Jim Roode, Cindy Ticer, Jean Whittaker.

Commissioners Absent: Gale Bernhardt, Mike Hinterberg, Bill Zawacki, Don Overcash (City Council Liaison).

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

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

Public Comment: Nan Daniels, member of Colorado Native Plant Society, was in attendance.

Approval of September 11, 2019 Meeting Minutes. Ross Livingston made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Scott James seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

City Council Liaison Report: Not present.

OLAB Liaison Report: Marilyn reported on several recent items: 1) A visitor to Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park was bitten by a rattlesnake while hiking off-trail. A Larimer County Ranger assisted. An emergency call box is being looked into for the canyon where cell phone service is limited. 2) The County is in discussions with Home Supply Ditch Company about the Boedecker Reservoir lease and a potential partnership with CPW and Loveland, as an adjacent landowner (Boedecker Bluff and West).

Discussion/Action:

1. Skyline Natural Area Management Plan Update. Staff provided an update on the management plan process for Skyline. Public comment was taken into consideration from the May open house and online comment period, along with resource conservation and potential recreational uses. Recommendations include trail connections to adjacent natural areas/open lands and neighborhoods, and dawn to dusk operating hours. Staff will continue to study site conditions and resources to determine the best use of the property to limit impacts to the area.

2. Open Lands and Trails Financial Update. The four sources providing Open Lands and Trails funding were reviewed, including the Open Lands Sales Tax, Open Lands CEF, Conservation Trust Fund for Trails, and Trails CEF. 2019 year-end and 2020 anticipated capital projects were presented for each fund, including trails and open lands resource management and site development projects.

3. Madison Ave. Trail Adoption Proposal. The Madison Street Arbor Meadows HOA voted to adopt the section of the new Madison trail connecting to Old St. Louis Natural Area in honor of Donn Conn. The HOA will help pick up trash and pull weeds along the 200' section of trail north of the new bridge. A sign will be placed along the trail stating the HOA's adoption and a bench will be installed for neighbors to enjoy the area and views. Darren Pape made a motion to accept the Arbor Meadows HOA's adoption of the Madison Ave. trail in honor of Donn Conn. Jean Whittaker seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

4. Walden West LLP Conservation Easement Amendment Request. *Tabled until more information is available from landowner.*

Reports/Correspondence:

5. Property Acquisition Updates. Brian reported that easements and acquisitions for trails, bridges and other development projects are in progress, working with landowners, ditch companies, attorneys, City Attorney's Office, other city and county departments, surveyors, engineers and title companies.

6. Open Lands Project Report. Staff provided the following project updates.

Properties/Facilities/Projects/Maintenance/Operations

- Hoff Construction has completed the paved trail connection from Madison Avenue into Old St. Louis Natural Area and is finalizing the grading and seeding by mid-October. The trail will now allow neighbors from the Mirasol Senior Community and the neighborhoods adjacent to Winona Elementary to safely access Old St Louis Natural Area. The majority of this trail connection was made possible by funding from partner funding (Colorado Health Foundation, a private donor, and Larimer County). Additional work is planned this winter at this location to re-build the storm water outfall and add connectivity east to the Big Thompson River via an additional soft-surface trail.
- A new vault restroom will be installed at Sunset Vista Natural Area and the trailhead for the regional Long View Trail in October. In addition, Loveland has contracted with the Larimer County Weed District to treat weeds and re-plant the southern portion of Sunset Vista Natural Area with native grass in order to restore the landscape. A cover crop was planted this summer to enhance the soils and assist with weed management. Native seed will be planted this fall.
- Transpan Bridges is scheduled to install a new pedestrian bridge over the Loudon Ditch to provide a southern connection with the future development of the Skyline Natural Area near Namaqua Hills in late October.
- Signage, structures and environmental education improvements are underway at Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park. Several small projects to finalize the repairs and renovation of the historical Mountain Park are being completed in-house by parks and open lands staff. Improvements include signage, kiosks, learning stations, an exploration zone of natural materials, AV equipment, benches, etc. Projects will allow for the return of environmental education programs to the site, interpretive signage, wayfinding signage, and security and lighting improvements. The Colorado Addicted Trailbuilders contributed by building a new trail connection from Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park to the Round Mountain Trailhead. Round Mountain trailhead is closed the remainder of the year for a Water Department project to decommission the old water lines through the property, a condition for FEMA flood funding.
- Development of a trail from Rossum Drive at 1st Street south over the Buckingham Ditch is out to bid for winter construction on Boedecker Bluff Natural Area. Volunteers constructed a soft-surface trail that runs east-west along the shore of Boedecker Reservoir and this project will include a connector trail to Rossum Drive and a bridge over Buckingham Ditch. Currently, there is a great deal of noise going on that the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) lease for Boedecker Reservoir expires next summer but Home Supply Ditch Company has not agreed to renew the surface rights lease. The Ditch Company has contacted some of the adjacent neighborhood HOAs on their interest in purchasing the lease. Since the City purchased the Boedecker Bluff Natural Area for public access and natural values, we would like to continue public access and support CPW's continued management.

Partnerships, Planning, Awards and Grants

- The Colorado Native Plant Society held a fall planting on Sept. 21 to supplement the two areas it has successfully re-vegetated at River's Edge Natural Area with native species. Volunteers will continue to monitor, water and weed these areas and plant in-fill plants this fall. The plantings were made possible through Larimer County's Natural Resources Small Grant program.

- Loveland's Open Lands and Trails were awarded the Blue Grama Award from the Colorado Open Space Alliance for organizational excellence. Loveland was recognized for its flood projects, acquisitions, volume of projects and programming. In addition, Loveland was also recognized with its partners by the Colorado Lottery with the Starburst Award for the success of the Long View Trail.
- A bio-blitz to monitor the progress of flood projects was completed by volunteers on Sept. 28 to provide a baseline of the success of the river restoration from Rossum Drive to Namaqua Avenue in Loveland. Big Thompson Watershed Coalition led the monitoring effort to evaluate habitat types and conditions in the streambed, measure sediment sizes, and analyze macro-invertebrates.
- The Loveland Fire Rescue Authority successfully completed wildfire training in September for its new recruits utilizing Boise Bend and Meadowbrook Natural Areas. The collaboration was a win-win in that it provided a great opportunity for the recruits and a great opportunity for natural vegetative management and re-seeding efforts.

Programs/Environmental Education/Volunteers

- Some 20 volunteers worked building a trail and cleaning up trash at Willow Bend Natural in September. Now the project will change over to include a contractor installed fishing dock using grant funding, and a temporary trail to a small parking area off 1st Street until Willow Bend Natural Area is fully developed in conjunction with the Park.
- Fall environmental education programming and volunteer training is underway, with schools signed up for programs for grades pre-K through 5th grade and a homeschool group of varying grades.

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

- The Prairie Ridge Natural Area trail project is underway by Delfalco Construction. This natural area property in northwest Loveland will provide citizens with a 3.3 mile soft-surface trail system and the north-south trail alignment will connect to Fort Collins' Coyote Ridge Trail. Construction will require the installation of a left-turn lane on Wilson Avenue which will cause some traffic delays this fall.
- Work will begin this winter on a trail connection from the Sunset Vista Natural Area parking lot to the BNSF railroad tracks on 57th Street. In addition, the BNSF Railroad has approved our design and will complete the work across the RR right-of-way next summer. The Copper Ridge Development has indicated that they plan to construct their trail portion to 57th St. in late 2019 which means we are planning to have complete trail connectivity in this area by next summer.
- Planning work has begun on the future trail connection between Denver Avenue and Boyd Lake Avenue. With the construction of a new pedestrian underpass at Boyd Avenue over the winter, Parks and Recreation is working with landowners to secure easements and a trail corridor to connect Loveland's trail system with the Centerra trail system.
- To coincide the future construction of a pedestrian underpass with Public Works' "Safe Route" new sidewalk on Wilson Avenue, an RFP for design services and project management is being released to find an engineering company to design and manage the planning components of this project.

6. Connect Loveland Updates. Members were not able to attend recent meetings announced on short notice.

Commission Member Discussion Topics: None.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

/s/ Jim Roode, Vice Chair



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LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM: 3

MEETING DATE: November 13, 2019

DESCRIPTION: Open Lands Project Report

SUMMARY:

Properties/Facilities/Projects/Maintenance/Operations

❖ The paved trail connection from Madison Avenue into Old St. Louis Natural Area is open for public access. The stormwater outfall improvement project is planned for this winter and will include a trail crossing over the outfall and new soft-surface trail to the east. Additional work is planned this winter at Old St. Louis Natural Area to re-build the storm water outfall and add connectivity east to the Big Thompson River via an additional soft-surface trail.



❖ Staff is working with the Big Thompson Watershed Coalition and contractors on the final completion of contract projects for Reach 30-31 and Reach 28 river projects. Good fall weather and the availability of irrigation water allowed for a good start in the establishment of grasses, trees and shrubs along the corridor. The Coalition will monitor the projects for several years, including stream morphology, vegetation establishment, and river health. Utilizing additional grant funding, the City will continue the restoration of additional areas of the site in 2020.

❖ A new vault restroom was installed at Sunset Vista Natural Area and the trailhead for the regional Long View Trail. The restroom will be available for public use once Larimer County checks off on the permits. In addition, the Larimer County Weed District will plant native seed in the southern portion of Sunset Vista Natural Area in order to restore these areas to native conditions.

❖ Transpan Bridges is awaiting approval from the Loudon Ditch Company engineer to install a new pedestrian bridge over the Loudon Ditch to provide a southern connection with the future development of the Skyline Natural Area in late November.



❖ Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park is closed for the season but signage, structures and environmental education improvements are underway. The Colorado Addicted Trailbuilders built a new trail connection from Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park to the Round Mountain Trailhead, and restored a social trail from the east parking area. Round Mountain Trail is expected to re-open at the end of November following the decommissioning of the water line from the original hydro plant.

❖ Development of a trail from Rossum Avenue south over the Buckingham Ditch has been awarded to Delfalco Construction for a winter construction on Boedecker Bluff Natural Area. Staff is working with Larimer County and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) to advocate that the lease for surface rights remains with CPW. The overriding goal is to protect the natural environment and retain passive recreation uses for the public.



Partnerships, Planning, Awards and Grants

❖ A group of local volunteers helped divide and prepare wetland plants in the High Plains Environmental Center greenhouse for future plantings at Medina's Crossing along the River.

❖ Excess soil from the Prairie Ridge Natural Area project was trucked to Willow Bend Natural Area to fill in an old agricultural pit along the proposed ADA trail alignment.

❖ Members of the Colorado Native Plant Society are working with staff to develop interpretive signage for the native plant demonstration gardens installed this year at River's Edge Natural Area. Signage is funded by the Larimer County Small Grant and will be installed this winter.

Programs/Environmental Education/Volunteers

❖ The project to install the Willow Bend fishing dock and a temporary trail to a small parking area off 1st Street is out to bid. This project is grant funded with a CPW Fishing is Fun grant.

❖ Fall environmental education programming and volunteer training has wrapped up for the season. Critter Scene Investigation programs for early grade school groups are becoming more popular with local pre-K through 2nd grade groups.

Commission Action Recommended: Informational.



LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM: 4

MEETING DATE: November 13, 2019

DESCRIPTION: Trail Updates

SUMMARY:

- ❖ The Prairie Ridge Natural Area trail project is proceeding and Delfalco Construction has been able to complete the widening of Wilson Avenue to support the addition of a left turn lane. The project will move to construction of the accessible east-west trail alignment next.
- ❖ Staff is pursuing grants and easements on the future trail connection between Denver Avenue and Boyd Lake Avenue. With the construction of a new pedestrian underpass at Boyd Lake Avenue over the winter, this trail will connect Loveland's trail system with the Centerra trail system.



Commission Action Recommended: Informational.