

Open Space Advisory Board

Agenda

**Wednesday, May 11th, 2016
Louisville Public Library
1st Floor Meeting Room
951 Spruce Street
7:00pm**

- I. 7:00 pm Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Agenda
- IV. Approval of Minutes
- V. Staff Updates
- VI. 7:15 pm Board Updates
- VII. 7:20 pm Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda (more time as needed)
- VIII. 7:30 pm Discussion Item: OSAB Operational Budget Recommendations
- IX. 8:00 pm Discussion Item: Format/Process Alterations to the Candidate Open Space Rubric
- X. 8:30 pm Discussion Item: Review of Ranger Mission
- XI. 8:45 pm Discussion Item: Interpretive Education Visual Preferences (Kiosk)
- XII. 9:10 pm Discussion Item: Propose Date & Topics for Joint Meeting with Lafayette and Superior Open Space Boards
- XIII. 9:15 pm Discussion Items for Next Meetings
 - a. June 8th
 - Candidate Open Space Field Trip & Property Ranking
 - The Grove at Harper Lake Fence Proposal
 - b. July 13th - Introduction of Kelsey Harter, Ranger Naturalist and The Ranger Program
 - c. August 10th – Joint Meeting with Parks and Public Landscapes Advisory Board
- XIV. Adjourn

City of Louisville

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Open Space Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 13th, 2016

6:30- EARLY START at Lake Park Open Space

7:15- Louisville Public Library

1st Floor Meeting Room

951 Spruce Street

- I. Walking tour at Lake Park Open Space and Walnut Park.** One City Council member attended but no citizens came. The group discussed current management standards.
- II. Call to Order-** Helen called the formal meeting to order back at the library at 7:24 pm.
- III. Roll Call-**
Board Members Present: Helen Moshak, Mike Schantz, Christopher Smith, Laura Scott Denton, Linda Smith, Spencer Guthrie, Graeme Patterson
Board Members Absent: Missy Davis
City Council Members Present: Jeff Lipton arrived at 9:23.
Staff Members Present: Ember Brignull, Harlan Vitoff, Joe Stevens arrived at 9:30.
- IV. Approval of Agenda-**
Linda moved to approve the agenda as written. Christopher seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.
- V. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes-**
Linda moved to approve the previous meeting's minutes as written. Graeme seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.
- VI. Staff Updates-**
A. Ember presented each board member with the new City of Louisville Open Space pocket maps. She made a small initial order for them, because it is still a pilot program. Ranger Kelsey will be handing them out as an icebreaker and a way to introduce the wayfinding initiative to citizens. Ember felt it would be important for Kelsey to explain the trail gaps shown on the map, and tell citizens how to support funding for trail connections, if they are interested.
B. Ember showed two full-scale examples of the icon buttons for the Farmers Trail according to the wayfinding design templates. One (the yellow-and-white, high-pressure laminate example) had better contrast between the color and the words, seemed to have better durability, and was also cheaper to produce. The other one (the yellow-and-silver example) seemed to be already chipping, and was harder to read. Laura commented that she felt a sans-serif font or more spacing between the letters might also make the words easier to read.
C. Last Friday, Open Space staff presented a coyote program to Louisville Elementary School. They held two separate assemblies: a K-2nd grade "kids program"

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assembly and a 3-5rd grade “mixture of adults and kids program” assembly. Ember is hoping that LES will want this to be an annual event and that other local schools will want to do it, too. Catherine did the presentation and Ranger Kelsey assisted.

D. There was an Insect Lore event put on by the Butterfly Pavilion. There were 9 participants.

E. There was a “How we grow” lifecycle presentation for preschoolers. There were 11 participants.

F. This Friday will be the City of Louisville Family Fishing Frenzy at Warembourg Open Space. Ember is looking for more volunteers so if any OSAB members want to participate please let staff know.

G. There will be a bird walk on the Coal Creek Golf Course on April 23rd. Joe Stevens is looking for ideas to get non-golfing citizens involved and invested in the golf course.

H. Coyotes seem to be denning on Davidson Mesa, on the slope to the south. There was an incident where a coyote growled and followed a runner. The runner attempted to intimidate the coyote and it didn't back down. Laura asked if the Coyote Management Plan kicked into gear with the report of this incident. Ember reported that the procedures put in place by the Coyote Management Plan were implemented as prescribed and worked great, as everyone knew immediately what to do and to whom to report.

I. Geese are nesting at Harper Lake and citizens have reported that they are being aggressive. Staff has put up signs to alert visitors.

J. Raptors are nesting in the grove at the northwest corner of Warembourg. For the last two years raptor nests have failed there and staff are concerned this may be due to heavy recent social trail use in the grove. Staff put up a sandwich board with information about nesting raptors, asking citizens to stay off those social trails.

K. There are three great horned owl nests with chicks in the city.

L. Staff has started an intensive sign campaign about how dogs are not allowed at Harper Lake. Larger sandwich boards have been placed on the property and will remain up for two weeks.

M. Ember asked if the board was interested a tour of the Harney Lastoka property, reviewing the history and the status of the current CIP projects. The board was very interested. The board thought May would be a good month for this tour. Ember said she'd also invite City Council, the Historic Preservation Commission, and the open space and historical boards from Lafayette. The board preferred after-work times, either on Mondays or Tuesdays.

N. The new ranger, Kelsey Harter, is on her second week of work. Kelsey has a lot of experience and training, including EMT and police academy training. She will come to the May OSAB meeting, where Ember has asked her to present a baseline report on open space enforcement data based on 2015 police department data. She isn't in uniform yet, but she's already on Open Space properties monitoring conditions and learning about the properties. Ember is very pleased with the new hire and had complimentary words to share about Kelsey's professionalism.

O. Cost estimates for the Harper Lake educational sign are due Friday. The aeration project contract for Hecla Lake is coming up soon.

P. The bird blind is up at Helca Lake and the developers have rebuilt the trail that connects Hecla to South Boulder Road. Mike asked if there is space at the bird blind for informational signs and Ember said there was.

Q. Ember was on a panel to review Fort Collins' prairie dog management plan, which was interesting and informational. She learned a lot about urban prairie dogs and how managing them is very different from managing rural prairie dogs.

R. Ember also attended a Bureau of Land Management workshop on re-seeding wild lands.

S. CIPs go to the finance department this week.

T. The City is having a hard time recruiting seasonal employees this year. Golf and Parks are both less than half-staffed. Apparently this is also a problem for surrounding communities, not just Louisville.

VII. Board Updates-

A. Graeme is starting a new position as Vice President for Conservation and Research at the Denver Zoo. His wife is the new Director of Early Education.

B. Graeme has been seeing lots of foxes.

VIII. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda-

A. Todd Olinger (1026 Meadow Ct) & Terry Davis (816 Pike's Peak Ct) gave a presentation about a fencing proposal for the City. Mr. Olinger is the HOA president of the Grove at Harper Lake, which includes 89 houses. There is a fence between the Harper Lake property and twelve of the Grove's houses, that was built by the City in 1986. The fencing on the east side of Harper Lake was replaced a few years back, but the fence on the south side, abutting the Grove houses is in very poor repair. Most of the homes at Harper Lake have gates in their fences, and satellite photos show social trails between most of the gates and the lake. The HOA found a consensus for this proposal amongst the 12 homeowners who abut the Harper Lake fence on the south section.

This is the proposal: The city removes the old fence. The HOA partners with the City to build a new fence, splitting the cost 50/50. They have a design in mind that includes wire for dog enclosures, but they would seek the City's design input. Once the fence is built it would become the twelve home-owners' responsibility to maintain it and enforce the design guidelines. Private owners who want gates through the fence must pay 100% of the cost of the gate. Mr. Olinger pointed out that this plan would ensure style consistency around the lake and eliminates maintenance and liability for the City.

Ember reminded the board that questions for Mr. Olinger and Mr. Davis are fine, but formal discussion must wait until next month, when it can be listed on the meeting agenda as a discussion item. Christopher asked who owns the fence itself and the land that the fence is on. Mr. Olinger replied that the fence seems to be right on the property line and that it took 6 months to determine that the fence is actually owned by the City. Ember said that the City attorney confirmed this. Spencer asked if the City is required to have a fence there at all. Spencer asked whether the split rail fence on the western side of Harper Lake has an enclosure wire design. Ember answered yes. Mike asked whether there is any sort of City policy about gates into Open Space. Ember said there is no gate prohibition, but building social trails and trampling vegetation would be a violation. Mr. Davis pointed out that there may be some legal distinction between "building a trail" with mowing and gravel and "building a trail" by wearing a pattern with use. Laura asked if the HOA wanted to match the split rail design built by the City on the west side of Harper Lake. Mr. Davis replied that the HOA had concerns about durability issues for that style and preferred a "California fence" style. Spencer asked whether the homeowners could build their own fences. Mr. Olinger replied that any homeowner would have to come to both the HOA and the City for approval. The twelve homeowners

agreed that they want consistency. Spencer asked if the City could build a fence without any gates. Mr. Olinger suggested that if it is a property line fence, then both parties would have some say in it. Mr. Razor asked if the City would formally own the fence. Todd replied that if the HOA built it and maintained it, then it must be on the boundary. Helen asked for clarification about who would replace the fence when it ultimately needed to be replaced again. Ember suggested that these details might be issues for the Director and attorneys to address before the next meeting. Christopher asked Mr. Olinger about cost estimates. Todd replied that the HOA had gotten several estimates, and he thought it would end up being around \$70,000 for removal and replacement. Spencer asked Ember if there were City precedents for this sort of arrangement. Ember had an example on Davidson Mesa related to the Dog Off-leash Area. She suggested that there might be more City precedents not having to do with Open Space. Ember said she'd email the board the relevant municipal code before the May meeting. Joe will supply the staff's opinion on the proposal. Linda also asked for a more formal bid, to put a more precise price tag on the fence.

IX. Discussion Item: OSAB Recommendations on Property Designations for Lake Park Open Space and Walnut Park-

Ember gave some background on the designations of these two land parcels and issues that are being discussed now. Additionally, a few weeks ago, there was a flier on the property asking neighbors to discuss the issue of how Lake Park is being maintained. Last year Ember also attended a community meeting, and it seemed to her that the attendants generally liked the way it was currently being managed. Citizens seemed to be interested in more weed control and algae control, but they were concerned about the use of herbicides. Ember has not heard many citizen complaints herself, but in general staff is hearing contradicting opinions on how citizens would like to see Lake Park Open Space maintained. On the Lake Park Open Space site visit earlier in the evening, City Council member and close neighbor, Jay Keany, communicated that several of his neighbors have expressed complaints about maintenance levels to him.

Currently Lake Park Open Space is zoned as Open Space-Visitor and every management plan Ember could find consistently referred to it as an Open Space (not a Park). In the 2004 Master Plan, the stated long term goal was to reclassify it eventually to a Park. PROST classifies it as Open Space, as well. In the historical minutes for the City Council's meeting about the neighborhood's original development, there is some discussion of whether the land would be a Park or an Open Space parcel. Ember said that to change the designation from Open Space-Visitor classification to the more lenient (and maintenance-permissive) Open Space-Other classification would take a recommendation from OSAB and a 2/3 vote from Council. Moving its designation from "Open Space" to "Park" would likely take a citizen vote as staff understands the language currently. The City Attorney is currently reviewing the issue.

Graeme made the comment that if you saw it in its current position, with its irrigated perennial shrub beds, etc., you might call it Open Space-Other. Spencer felt that there isn't a need to change its designation to Park. Ember asked the board to decide how they would like to see the land maintained. Ember and the board agreed that this all pretty much all comes down to mowing schedules. Helen asked whether mulching the beds and more mowing would count as a CIP. Ember thought not. Helen asked whether the Park Department has any plans for Lake Park Open Space. Ember said there aren't any specific future plans but for 2016 the plan is to continue the mowing practice that we saw on the field trip (2 times per month with more curb appeal) and doing more weed control (chemical and mechanical). Laura asked whether the current

“shaggy” look of Lake Park wasn’t simply a function of the reduction of City mowing that the whole City has experienced as a result of the economic downturn. Mike felt Lake Park Open Space should remain as Open Space, but perhaps the City could change the classification to Open Space-Other to allow for more aggressive weed control, more frequent mowing, and perhaps better maintenance of the shrub beds. Linda asked if the City was being too influenced by the opinions the adjacent neighbors rather than the whole city, and expressed concern about how increased maintenance at Lake Park Open Space might tax the total Open Space budget. Helen revisited the Open Space classifications’ legal description and pointed out that the current Open Space-Visitor designation was flexible enough to allow a bit more manicured maintenance. Laura agreed with Helen that the Open Space-Visitor designation still fits and mowing could be increased, but the debate may really come down to weed and algae control. Graeme felt that algae is probably inevitable in a pond like this because of the high nutrient load of the area but the current aeration bubblers should keep the pond from destructive anoxia.

Helen proposed a motion: *Keep Lake Park Open Space designated as Open Space-Visitor. Keep the current maintenance routine of mowing, but make incremental improvements such as mulching and grooming the beds and introducing some weed control.* Linda seconded the motion. The board voted on this motion with six votes for, no votes against, and one abstention.

Walnut Park has been designated as a Park, but maintained as an Open Space, with weed control and volunteer projects. Raptors routinely nest in the area and there are plenty of reports of coyotes using the land. Previous Open Space staff even put a sign on the property that refers to it as an Open Space. There haven’t been any citizen complaints about the way the land is maintained. Spencer made a motion: *the City should re-designate Walnut Park as Open Space.* Linda seconded. The board passed the motion unanimously. Ember will take recommendation to Joe Stevens. Ember suggested that OSAB also discuss this issue with the new Parks Board (PPLAB).

X. Discussion Item: Trail Updates

a. Davidson Mesa National Trails Day Volunteer Project—Presented by Harlan Vitoff, Open Space Technician

Harlan presented a trail project planned for Saturday, June 11, 8-12am, at the Northwest corner of the the Davidson Mesa property. National Trail Day is officially June 4th, but there were so many things going on in the City on that day that staff changed the date of the event. Last year only one person showed up to this event, but this year Harlan has a business signed up for an organized work event. More volunteers are still needed, however. Harlan showed photos of the highly eroded current trail conditions and shared some of its current statistics (see meeting packet). The repair goals are to reduce water erosion and create water bars, so that water doesn’t run down the trail and further erode it. Harlan thought that logs might be the most effective materials for the water bars. Harlan listed all the materials that would be needed and presented a plan for deploying all the materials on the day of the event. Helen asked how many volunteers would they need to move all that material with buckets. Harlan thought 20-25 people, working for four hours, would be sufficient.

Ember pointed out that this is an unusual project since these two trails are essentially non-conforming social trails, and repairing them may be construed as tantamount to endorsing them. Also, be aware that the “primary trail” has been on City Open Space maps for years. The board felt there should to be a single trail, not both of these trails in use. Board members initially preferred repairing the less steep

“secondary” trail and restoring/reseeding the very steep, “primary” trail. Laura suggested that we’d need signage to direct people to the “secondary” trail to the north (and possibly physical blockage), since the secondary trail isn’t immediately obvious from the east-west trail south of the Dog Off-leash Area. She confessed that she has always taken the “primary” trail from the official trail, since it forms a direct line. Board members suggested that the easiest solution may be to move the gate from the Dog Off-leash Area from the northwest corner towards the southwest corner, which would eliminate the secondary trail as a connector all together. Spencer asked whether there even needed to be a gate in the western side of the Dog Off-leash Area. Helen made a motion: *staff should focus this upcoming event on the primary trail only and staff should recommend approaches to the elimination and restoration of the secondary trail all together.*

b. Overlook Underpass Trail—Prepared by Allan Gill, Project Manager

The City is exploring the proposed Overlook Underpass Trail, which is a trail connection between the recently-built Overlook Underpass under Hwy 36 and the Mayhoffer-Singletree network of Boulder County trails to the west. Allan’s memo, included in the meeting packet, summarized the current status of this project. One of the major points of concern is how the trail will cross the City of Louisville’s water treatment facility property. There is also a need for a bridge over the canal, which will add substantially to the trail’s cost. Laura expressed her gratitude for this comprehensive memo and commented how easy it was to understand and how much meeting time memos like this save. Allan is in the process of laying out potential trail alignments, along with their rough costs. He will then send to OSAB what he considers the top three potential alignments, letting OSAB make recommendations. This trail alignment will then be submitted to the City and Boulder County. Ember reported that Boulder County doesn’t believe that this connection creates a “regional trail,” which means they are less enthusiastic about helping with funding than staff and OSAB had initially hoped. Superior has received a grant to create a trail going south from the Overlook Underpass towards Costco, so their support for this project is unknown at this time.

c. Dyer Road Trail Connection to US 36 Bikeway—Prepared by Allan Gill, Project Manager

The Dyer Road Trail Connection would be a 600 foot long, 10 foot wide concrete trail that would connect Dyer Rd. to the Hwy. 36 Bikeway. Loris and Associates will do the design, costing the City \$21,000. The trail’s cost will be about \$100,000. Design review will be at the end of June. This project will completely eliminate the gravel service road that previously existed here. The board asked why the City is paying for this connection, since Boulder County maintains Dyer Rd. Mike commented that this area used to be easily navigable by bike, and if the road surface no longer permits biking, it is due to the CDOT’s activities using this as a staging area. Joe clarified that the City is planning to use the Open Space & Park Fund to pay for this project. The board was confused and concerned about this fact, since the trail connection doesn’t cross any Open Space or Park property. Mike pointed out that this connection is within half a mile of two other Hwy. 36 Bikeway access points: at Davidson Mesa and at the Louisville Park ‘n Ride. Spencer proposed the motion: *OSAB does not object to the trail connection as described but objects to funding the project through the Open Space & Park Fund.* Christopher seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Discussion Item: Debrief from Study Session with City Council-

Mike, Linda, Helen, and Christopher all attended the City Council Study Session on April 12th. Mike noted that he was gratified by the amount of time City Council allocated for this study session. Mike felt that the Council showed sensitivity about the OSAB's ongoing discussions of problems at Davidson Mesa. Mike thought that the big piece of feedback he got from the meetings was that resource management and wayfinding priorities seemed to be out of whack, and that there should be more emphasis on resource management and particularly restoration. Helen noted that the Council seemed to like the board's recent strategic listing of priorities. There was discussion about OSAB's suggestions for the Davidson Mesa parking lot surface. Apparently there was some confusion that OSAB was advocating for short-term parking lot closures during/after large storm events to prevent damage, rather than any long-term lot closures. Jeff felt that there was a lot of alignment between City Council and OSAB's priorities (wayfinding, resource management, and dog issues). Chris felt that Helen did a good job of presenting the material and concurred that there was good agreement with Council. Ashley Stolzmann and Susan Loo both felt that OSAB was proposing to spend a lot on wayfinding rather than resource management. Helen reported that Ashley asked for suggestions about how to get landowners and neighbors involved in open space management (e.g. how to get permission and instruction for mowing near the property line, etc.). Council felt that OSAB needs to revisit the property acquisition target list, and that the process may evolve a little now that there is an advisory board for Parks (PPLAB). The board felt that there may be extra properties to include on the list this time around. Laura asked whether the board could include commercially zoned, but undeveloped properties on the OSAB target list. Jeff thought the City would have to be careful about that, since it could have a freezing effect upon the property owners. Mike suggested that if this is alarming to specific landowners, there could be a more regional approach, e.g. "we should buy more open space in the Centennial Valley" area rather than targeting a specific property. Spencer asked whether PPLAB would be reviewing target properties for park acquisition. Joe answered that it would. Helen asked the board about whether it agreed it was time to re-rate the OSAB property acquisition target list. The board agreed it should be done this year. Joe thought that perhaps a list of potential properties could be generated by a local realtor. The board was interested in this suggestion. Helen said OSAB could plan for rating the properties this fall.

XII. Discussions Items for Next Meeting on May 11th-

- A. The Grove at Harper Lake HOA fence proposal (for either May 11th or June 8th).
- B. Changes in status of any of the trails discussed tonight.
- C. Operations budget review with Ember.

XIII. Adjourn—

The meeting adjourned at 10:27 pm.

**City of Louisville, Colorado
Open Space & Parks Fund
2016 Budget**

Account Number	Account Description	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Budget	2015 Estimated	2016 Budget
	Beginning Fund Balance	7,898,898	7,340,069	5,253,147	5,253,147	2,750,547
028-001-41200-00	Sales Tax	1,129,209	1,227,792	1,287,660	1,287,640	1,332,710
028-001-41205-00	Use Tax - Consumer	163,768	144,024	181,520	146,900	149,840
028-001-41210-00	Use Tax - Auto	121,595	132,397	137,690	135,710	138,420
028-001-41220-00	Use Tax - Building Materials	127,896	140,308	104,960	217,400	174,440
028-001-41240-00	Use Tax - Site Improvements	1,922	2,074	-	-	-
028-001-43199-00	FEMA & State Grants - 2013 Flood	26,865	217,471	-	9,760	-
028-001-43250-00	State Grant - GOCD	-	66,189	-	-	-
028-001-43299-00	Grant Revenues	-	-	258,000	258,000	-
028-001-46100-00	Miscellaneous Revenues	-	-	-	2,780	-
028-001-46105-00	Real Property Rental Income	-	-	-	-	40,210
028-001-46110-00	Interest Earnings	30,708	26,204	25,000	20,000	15,000
028-001-46110-01	Net Increase (Decrease) in Fair Value	(9,386)	(4,474)	-	-	-
028-001-46150-00	Land Dedication Fee	-	95,666	-	30,000	-
028-001-46161-00	Memorial Contributions/Gifts	1,200	1,583	-	2,700	-
028-001-46166-00	North End Development Reimbursement	2,638	14,840	-	-	-
028-001-47100-00	Sale of Assets	123,905	3,475	202,770	202,770	-
028-001-48010-00	Transfer from General Fund	-	-	570,120	256,560	280,000
028-001-48043-00	Transfer from Impact Fee Fund	515,140	408,480	192,000	161,000	739,000
	Total Revenue	2,235,460	2,476,030	2,959,720	2,731,220	2,869,620
OPEN SPACE ↓						
028-150-53105-00	Legal Services - General	-	34	-	2,700	-
028-750-51100-00	Regular Salaries	611,732	797,941	255,430	252,540	299,430
028-750-51110-00	Temporary Salaries	124,535	139,940	29,320	30,160	12,480
028-750-51120-00	Overtime Pay	18,436	31,569	1,400	4,000	2,920
028-750-51200-00	FICA Expense	56,446	72,527	21,890	21,930	24,080
028-750-51210-00	Retirement Contribution	34,337	45,440	14,130	14,110	16,630
028-750-51220-00	Health Insurance	91,735	134,476	48,560	48,320	56,590
028-750-51230-00	Workers Compensation	13,043	17,951	5,000	2,500	2,500
028-750-52100-00	Office Supplies	-	990	-	-	250
028-750-52120-00	Non-Capital Furniture/Equipment/Tools	1,553	10,994	1,500	1,960	2,500
028-750-52200-07	Operating Supplies - Signs	1,584	576	500	350	500
028-750-52200-09	Operating Supplies - Safety	-	432	-	-	-
028-750-52220-01	Auto Expense - Parts & Repairs	973	9,814	1,000	740	1,000
028-750-52220-02	Auto Expense - Tires	-	1,699	400	-	400
028-750-52220-03	Auto Expense - Gas & Oil	-	38,515	2,500	3,110	2,500
028-750-52230-00	Uniforms and Clothing	538	7,523	1,320	1,870	1,920
028-750-52250-00	Miscellaneous Supplies	1,161	32,895	1,000	1,000	-
028-750-53100-11	Professional Services - Mowing	53,462	59,554	-	-	-
028-750-53100-16	Professional Services - Mosquito/Pest Control	-	8,925	4,050	4,050	4,050
028-750-53100-17	Professional Services - Weed Control	14,326	24,157	17,000	24,600	32,000
028-750-53100-18	Professional Services - Pruning & Landscape Maintenance	4,593	14,227	-	-	-
028-750-53100-23	Professional Services - Investment Fees	5,051	3,504	2,500	2,500	2,500
028-750-53100-24	Professional Services - Bank Fees	1,072	1,098	600	600	600
028-750-53100-72	Resource Management	-	-	10,000	14,000	20,000
028-750-53100-99	Professional Services - Other	10,597	19,484	13,000	10,270	13,000
028-750-53200-02	Utility Services - Electricity	-	21,127	-	-	-
028-750-53200-03	Utility Services - Trash	-	2,884	250	260	250
028-750-53200-06	Utility Services - Water	-	74,733	3,000	140	100
028-750-53300-02	Communication Services - Cellular	362	548	180	400	300
028-750-53500-01	Parts/Repairs/Maintenance - Buildings/Facilities	-	2,907	-	-	-
028-750-53500-03	Parts/Repairs/Maintenance - Equipment	-	10,266	-	-	-
028-750-53500-04	Parts/Repairs/Maintenance - Grounds	4,976	24,144	10,000	5,140	14,500
028-750-53500-21	Parts/Repairs/Maintenance - Grounds - Flood	724	14,672	-	-	-
028-750-53500-29	Parts/Repairs/Maintenance - Memorials	-	2,447	1,400	4,600	1,500
028-750-53500-31	Parts/Repairs/Maintenance - Irrigation Systems	-	36,622	-	-	-
028-750-53600-01	Equipment Rental	-	11,401	-	-	-

**City of Louisville, Colorado
Open Space & Parks Fund
2016 Budget**

Account Number	Account Description	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Budget	2015 Estimated	2016 Budget
028-750-53700-03	Volunteer Recognition	174	1,179	1,000	500	500
028-750-53829-01	Open Space Advisory Board	177	162	500	60	100
028-750-53801-00	Education Expense	1,268	2,279	750	1,040	1,250
028-750-53802-08	Boulder County Youth Corp	12,175	12,550	6,400	6,400	6,680
028-750-53805-01	Insurance	-	-	5,590	5,590	5,000
028-750-53808-00	Travel	-	95	-	-	-
028-750-53809-00	Business and Auto Allowance	-	-	-	1,000	-
028-750-53813-00	Ditch Assessment	1,280	260	1,500	1,120	-
028-750-53899-00	Other Services and Charges	923	1,664	1,700	1,350	-
028-750-53950-00	Vehicle/Equipment Replacement	29,370	34,340	2,220	2,220	1,660
	Total Open Space Administration & Operations	1,096,602	1,728,545	465,590	471,130	527,690
PARKS						
028-751-51100-00	Regular Salaries	-	-	638,350	632,540	730,960
028-751-51110-00	Temporary Salaries	-	-	134,060	138,660	164,000
028-751-51120-00	Overtime Pay	-	-	26,200	30,000	30,000
028-751-51200-00	FICA Expense	-	-	61,100	61,290	70,760
028-751-51210-00	Retirement Contribution	-	-	36,550	36,440	41,850
028-751-51220-00	Health Insurance	-	-	134,860	133,680	146,840
028-751-51230-00	Workers Compensation	-	-	10,000	15,000	15,000
028-751-52100-00	Office Supplies	-	-	850	850	850
028-751-52120-00	Non-Capital Furniture/Equipment/Tools	-	-	4,500	4,500	4,500
028-751-52200-07	Operating Supplies - Signs	-	-	1,000	500	1,000
028-751-52200-09	Operating Supplies - Safety	-	-	1,500	1,500	1,500
028-751-52220-01	Auto Expense - Parts & Repairs	-	-	13,000	6,000	13,000
028-751-52220-02	Auto Expense - Tires	-	-	2,750	2,750	2,750
028-751-52220-03	Auto Expense - Gas & Oil	-	-	23,750	23,750	23,750
028-751-52230-00	Uniforms and Clothing	-	-	6,400	6,400	6,400
028-751-52250-00	Miscellaneous Supplies	-	-	18,000	18,000	18,000
028-751-53100-11	Professional Services - Mowing	-	-	90,000	90,220	110,000
028-751-53100-16	Professional Services - Mosquito/Pest Control	-	-	4,050	4,050	4,050
028-751-53100-17	Professional Services - Weed Control	-	-	18,000	5,000	33,000
028-751-53100-18	Professional Services - Pruning & Landscape Maintenance	-	-	26,000	26,000	26,000
028-751-53100-23	Professional Services - Investment Fees	-	-	2,500	2,500	2,500
028-751-53100-24	Professional Services - Bank Fees	-	-	600	600	600
028-751-53100-99	Professional Services - Other	-	-	5,000	5,000	5,000
028-751-53200-02	Utility Services - Electricity	-	-	19,000	19,000	19,000
028-751-53200-03	Utility Services - Trash	-	-	2,750	2,750	2,750
028-751-53200-06	Utility Services - Water	-	-	165,320	90,000	232,730
028-751-53300-02	Communication Services - Cellular	-	-	360	360	360
028-751-53500-01	Parts/Repairs/Maintenance - Buildings/Facilities	-	-	2,500	2,500	2,500
028-751-53500-03	Parts/Repairs/Maintenance - Equipment	-	-	8,000	10,320	8,000
028-751-53500-04	Parts/Repairs/Maintenance - Grounds	-	-	12,000	12,000	12,000
028-751-53500-29	Parts/Repairs/Maintenance - Memorials	-	-	1,400	1,400	1,400
028-751-53500-31	Parts/Repairs/Maintenance - Irrigation Systems	-	-	40,000	30,000	40,000
028-751-53500-32	Parts/Repairs/Maintenance - Trails	-	-	-	-	12,500
028-751-53600-00	Equipment Rental	-	-	9,000	9,620	9,000
028-751-53801-00	Education Expense	-	-	2,750	5,000	5,000
028-751-53802-08	Boulder County Youth Corp	-	-	6,400	6,400	6,400
028-751-53805-01	Insurance	-	-	13,740	13,740	13,740
028-751-53808-00	Travel	-	-	260	260	260
028-751-53809-00	Business and Auto Allowance	-	-	-	1,000	-
028-751-53899-00	Other Services and Charges	-	-	500	200	500
028-751-53950-00	Vehicle/Equipment Replacement	-	-	32,120	32,120	22,110
	Total Parks Administration & Operations	-	-	1,575,120	1,481,900	1,840,560
028-799-55110-04	City Services Facility Site Improvements (25%)	2,363	-	-	-	-
028-799-55110-05	Environmental Site Assessment (25%)	-	-	-	-	3,750
028-799-55120-04	Property Acquisition	-	1,363,502	23,530	23,530	-
028-799-55210-04	City Services Facility (25%)	491,393	369,469	2,680,600	2,760,600	-

OSAB 2016 Goals Brainstorming Results

January 14, 2016

All brainstorming ideas were grouped into the following categories:

1. Acquisition (6 Votes):

- a. One new open space
- b. Gain traction on Mayhoffer property
- c. Encourage diverse acquisition methods to Council
- d. Make a City priority
- e. City proactive
- f. Conoco Phillips public access

2. Resource Management (6 Votes):

- a. Evaluate open space expenditures vs. other municipalities
- b. Agricultural lands well preserved
- c. Target wildlife wins (Burrowing owls)
- d. Native Species & Urban Environment Management Plan
- e. Collection of flora & fauna baseline data
- f. Prioritize land management (inventories/surveys)
- g. Plant & animal survey
- h. Resource management discussion & advocacy
- i. Properties managed in a way that insures future health
- j. Land remediation
- k. Research & inventory

3. Wayfinding (5 Votes):

- a. Push for wayfinding trail linkages
- b. Finalize Plan in coordination with planning and begin implementation
- c. Dedicated on-street bike lanes throughout old town
- d. Wayfinding network
- e. Make progress on trail connectivity
- f. Working with staff and council to phase the project more and raise public awareness

4. Dog Issues (4 Votes):

- a. Increase code enforcement
- b. Acquire off-leash area & close Davidson Mesa
- c. Resolve Davidson Mesa off-leash area issues
- d. Enforcement/education/remediation/alternatives
- e. Excel property for dog off leash
- f. Reduce dog poop in off leash

5. Ranger/Education (2 Votes):

- a. Education
- b. Support education & enforcement
- c. Support successful full time ranger program
- d. Hire a full time ranger
- e. Education programs
- f. Ranger programs
- g. School education outreach & field programs

6. Other (no votes):

- a. Parks board collaboration/partnership (2)
- b. Dedicated cross country ski trail on Harney Lastoka
- c. Joint meeting with other boards

OSAB Recommended 2017 Operations Budget

Item #	Increase or Decrease Spending/Effort	Management Areas
A		
Natural Resources		
1		Example: Baseline Surveys
2		Vegetation Survey
3		Bird Survey
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
B		
Acquisition		
1		Example: Contract with a Real-estate Agent
2		
3		
4		
C		
Wayfinding		
1		
2		
3		
3		
D		
Dog Issues		
1		Example: Increase enforcement
2		Example: Dog waste pick up in off leash area
3		
4		
E		
1		
2		
3		
4		
F		
1		
2		
3		
4		

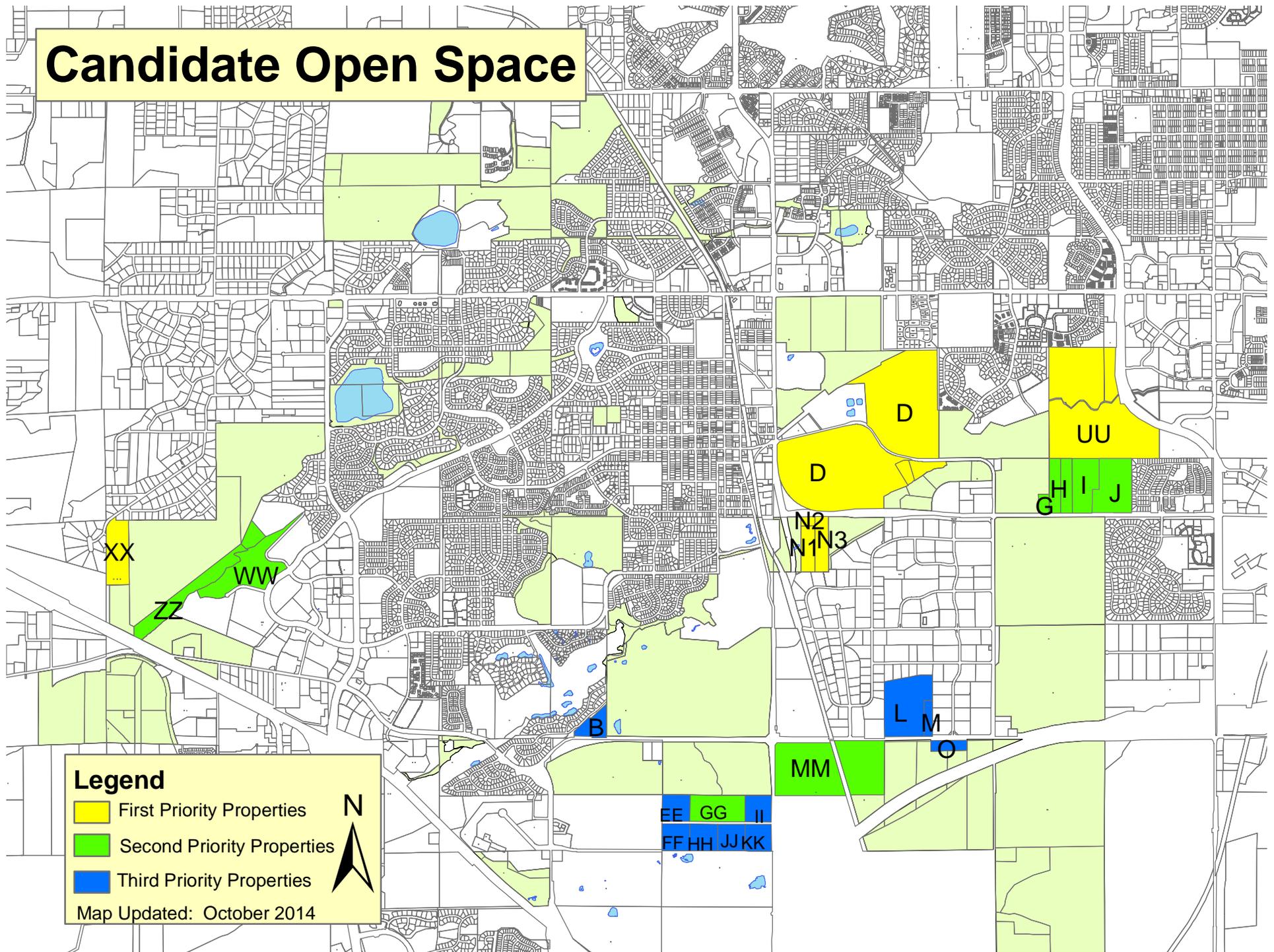
City of Louisville Candidate Open Space

I.D. #	Tier	Properties	Vegetation	Wetlands	Riparian	Wildlife Habitat	Connectivity	Open Water	Topographic & Geological Significance	Size	Total for Resource Values	Public Visibility	Scenic	View	Historical Significance	Agricultural Significance	Recreational Preservation	Existing Potential	Threat of Development	Buffer	Potential for Partners	Undefined Unique Features	Comp. Plan	Total for Cultural Values	Total Score
1	1	D Mayhoffers	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	16	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	22	38
2	1	N Rural Preservation (contains N1, N2, N3)	1	2	2	2	2	2	0	1	12	2	2	1	0	2	2	2	2	1	0	2	2	18	30
3	1	UU Hwy 287 (rating of west section) w/	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	2	14	1	1	2	0	0	2	1	2	2	2	1	0	14	28
5	1	XX Large Lots W. of Davidson Mesa	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	1	6	2	2	2	0	0	2	0	1	2	1	1	2	15	21
4	2	MM 96th St. Ag. Lots	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	4	2	1	2	0	2	1	2	2	2	0	0	0	14	18
13	2	WW Western Centennial Valley	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	5	2	1	2	0	0	1	1	2	2	0	0	1	12	17
11	2	J Hwy 42 Ag. Lots	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	4	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	1	2	1	0	0	12	16
12	2	I HWY 42 Ag. Lots	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	4	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	1	2	1	0	0	12	16
17	2	ZZ Xcel/PSCO Corridor	2	1	2	2	2	0	0	1	10	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	6	16
10	2	H Hwy 42 Ag. Lots	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	4	2	1	1	0	2	1	0	1	2	1	0	0	11	15
6	2	GG Rural Preservation	1	2	2	2	1	0	0	0	8	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	6	14
14	2	G Hwy 42 Ag. Lots	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	4	2	1	2	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	10	14
18	3	O Dillon Road Lots	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	5	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	6	11
7	3	EE Rural Preservation	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	4	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	6	10
8	3	II Rural Preservation	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	4	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	6	10
9	3	FF Paradise Lane	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	5	8
16	3	JJ Paradise Lane	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	5	8
19	3	KK Paradise Lane	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	5	8
21	3	HH Paradise Lane	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	5	8
15	3	B Xcel (off of Dillon adjacent to Warembourg)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	0	0
22	3	L&M Dillon Road Lots	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	6	8

Although listed in numerical order, preference for acquisition will be based on the tier level.

Tier one (in yellow) reflects the highest priorities for acquisition followed by tier two (in green) and tier three (in blue).

Candidate Open Space

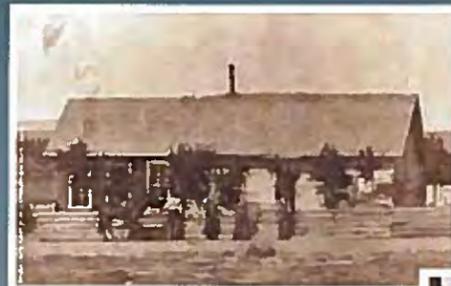


Welcome to 17 Mile House Farm Park

This old farm has stories to tell ...

During the 1860s and 1870s, gold-seekers and settlers flocked to Colorado's Rockies, many of them passing by this farm on the Cherokee and Smoky Hill trails. Early owners operated an inn here—one of six "mile houses" along Cherry Creek. How much farther to the frontier town of Denver? Just 17 miles to Colfax and Broadway.

With arrival of the railroad in 1882, pioneer traffic along the wagon trails ended—so did the need for the mile houses. But the name stuck. For over 100 years, hardworking Coloradans lived on the land here at 17 Mile House.



17 Mile House, circa 1875
LeGrande Gould, Nellie Mae Doud, Susan and Nelson Doud (owners: 1876-1881)

A Home for Generations

The earliest home here dates back to 1860—a log structure measuring just 17 feet by 27 feet. Over time, residents added on to accommodate their needs, building up and out, covering over the log house. The farmhouse, barn and other buildings you see today look much as they did in the late 19th century.



John and Dorothy Race family, circa 1934, on porch (owners: 1936-1976)

Life Along the Creek

On Colorado's arid plains, creeks and rivers meant life to native people and homesteaders. Follow the trail to the right to explore the banks of Cherry Creek, like generations of travelers before you.

Cherry Creek →
Trail



George Cummings family and friends, circa 1880, west side of house (owners: 1881-1906)

About 1860 Original clapboard-clad log house with left built	1870 Susan Doud purchases property—continues inn and tavern operation	Mid-1880s George Cummings buys property, and adds to barn and west side of house	1975 E.J. Lindholm purchases farm for dairy, and adds bunkhouse and front porch to house	1948 20,000 people attend day-long demonstration event held by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service: "Fitting a Farm for the Future"
1865 Mary Highwater cultivates 40 acres—operates inn and tavern along the trail	Mid-1870s Nelson Doud builds barn and south addition to house	1891 Cummings holdings at 2,800 acres—family runs large-scale cattle breeding and trading operation	1992 John and Dorothy Race purchase the farm at 360 acres—run dairy and then beef cattle operation	2001 Arapahoe County takes ownership with help from the Trust for Public Land, Douglas County, Town of Parker, City of Aurora, Great Outdoors Colorado and Colorado Historical Foundation

 **Protect. Connect. Enjoy.**

Barn

The center section of this historic barn was built by Nelson Doud in the 1870s. A later owner, George Cummings, added the wings between 1881 and 1891. The north wing became the cow "milking parlor" and the south section housed farm equipment.

House

Nested inside this historic home is the original log structure, built about 1860. A series of additions follow the site's purpose: from homestead shelter to wayfarer's inn, then ranch house to farmhouse.

CHANGING HANDS

FROM WORKER TO OWNER

After the winter of 1886-1887 most ranches had to let their help go. Some of these newly unemployed cowboys used their intimate knowledge of the cattle industry to begin **small ranches of their own.**



Inside Facts

Though difficult to prove, the suspicion of rustling, or cattle stealing, created tension between ranchers. Large ranchers even began to use the term "rustler" interchangeably with "small cattlemen."

THE MAVERICK LAW

The Maverick Law, dictated by the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, allowed roundup foremen to sell mavericks at auction. But only members of the Association, an exclusive organization, could bid. Large ranchers almost always gained ownership of mavericks, increasing their herds even more. The Maverick Law kept **small ranch owners at a disadvantage.**

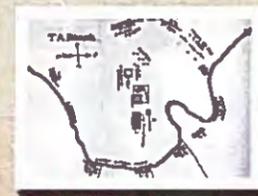


HOW DID THE JOHNSON COUNTY WAR END THE CATTLE KING ERA?

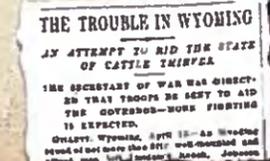
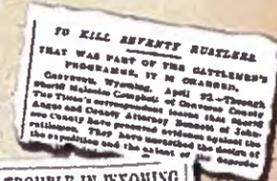
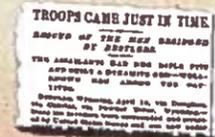
BEFORE

AFTER

The end of the Cattle King reign had been coming for a long time. They overstocked the Basin's ranges, and their bottom lines suffered after the winter of 1886-1887. Declining cattle prices limited profits. The monarchs were already weakened: the Johnson County War simply **pushed the kings off their thrones.**



The T. A. Ranch where the Johnson County invaders hid out.





Pleasure Trips

Savage Camp was the gateway to the park from 1923 through 1938. Visitors explored the surrounding landscape by stagecoach, touring car and bus, on horseback, and from the air.

Excursions could be arranged by the hour, for a day or two, or as long as eight days for a horseback trip to Copper Mountain (now Mount Eielson).



The first flights into the camp touched down on a gravel bar of the Savage River. Later, a landing strip was built to handle the growing demand for air tours.



Ongoing construction of the Park Road provided additional views of wilderness farther into the park for visitors on bus and motorcar tours.



Guests signing up for the "Big Game Drive" enjoyed a nine-mile stagecoach ride along the Savage River to see the sights and watch for sheep, caribou, foxes, and bears.

Park Trips

All rates approved by the National Park Service

BY AUTOMOBILE

1. McKinley Park Station to Savage Camp, view of Mt. McKinley round trip (incl. gas) 1.75
2. Savage Camp to head of Savage River, bus and gas, round trip (incl. gas) 6.00
3. Savage Camp to Baker Pass and Polychrome Pass, round trip (incl. gas) 10.00
4. 24-hour All Expenses Trip, McKinley Park Station to Savage Camp, Savage Camp to Polychrome Pass, horse meals and lodging at Savage Camp and return to railroad 22.00
5. One-day All Expenses Trip, McKinley Park Station to Savage Camp, Savage Camp to Polychrome Pass, horse meals and lodging and return to railroad 10.00
6. Two-day All Expenses Trip, McKinley Park Station to Savage Camp, Savage Camp to Polychrome Pass, horse meals and lodging and return to railroad, 154 miles round trip, including gas meals and five nights lodging 42.00

SPECIAL TRIPS

1. Horseback Trip from Mt. Eielson to McKinley Park, two-day trip:
 - 1 person 12.00
 - 2 persons each 17.00
 - 3 persons, each 22.00
 - 4 persons, or more, each 28.00
2. Horseback Trip from Mt. Eielson to McKinley Park, day round trip, same as above except including first afternoon of the month of October, optional periods, see rates, etc., at a cost of \$7.00 per person additional to 5-day trip.
3. Fishing Trip, for trout and steelhead, from Mt. Eielson to Wonder Lake of Chumley Lake, of three or more days, may be taken at rates comparable to those at McKinley Park.
4. Special Trip from Mt. Eielson to Mt. McKinley, Mt. Fairweather and other interesting points in the Park may be arranged.

AIRPLANE SERVICE

1. Round Flight from Savage Camp to Mt. Eielson and Polychrome Pass, over the base of Mt. McKinley, passing over Baker Pass, Polychrome Pass and Thule Pass. Gas, meals, drinks 10.00

CAMPS See Camps, (American Plan)
Trips accepted by two persons, per person, per day, \$2.00.

Non-Party periods of heavy travel, and times at low season will not be reserved for the exclusive use of our parties. The Company reserves the right to discontinue these packages.

MEALS	Room Charge	Public Camps
Breakfast	\$1.00	\$0.50
Luncheon	1.00	0.50
Dinner	1.00	0.50

Weekly Rates to all Camps:
All meals, each 1.00
Lodging, per night 1.00

RATES FOR CHILDREN

Under 5 years (unless occupying individual bed, in which case one-half adult rate will be charged), no charge.
From 5 to 17 years, One-Half Adult Rate
Twenty years and over, Full Adult Rate.
(Above rates for children apply to both camp accommodations and continental accommodations, but not to horseback trips at various points.)

OTHER RATES

Saddle horse, per hour	\$ 2.00
Saddle horse, mounted day	5.00
Saddle horse, per day	6.00
Trick horse, per day	1.00
Trick service, per day	10.00

Hunting and Fishing

While hunting or fishing is not prohibited in McKinley Park, grazing and forest killing may be found and freely enjoyed in practically all open areas and lands of the Park. However, no special license is required for hunting or fishing in the Park, subject to the usual laws of the State of Alaska and the Federal Government, and to the laws of the State of Alaska and the Federal Government.

Chances for hunting for moose, mountain sheep (wild sheep), caribou and black bear may be had by other of same areas.

The Wind River country is mostly accessible, the heart of the same country being reached the second day's travel from McKinley Park Station or from our Savage River Camp.

For hunting like no other anywhere—grain, pasture, forest, game, all camp and other equipment, except horse's gear, ammunition and his feeding items.

Traveling information and rates will be furnished upon application. Reservations should be made early for fall hunting trips.

Trips offered in 1935 by the Mount McKinley Tourist and Transportation Company.



Melting Ice, Rising Oceans

The evidence is clear: Earth's warming temperatures are causing glaciers and ice sheets to shrink, sending record levels of melt water into rivers, lakes, and bays. Our planet's oceans are also heating up, causing their waters to expand. The result: Global sea levels are rising nearly 1.5 inches each decade. Scientists expect these trends to continue and even increase, if we don't take steps to reduce the carbon in our atmosphere.

Effects of sea level rise are felt around the world. Higher seas create damaging floods and storm surges, and warmer oceans intensify storms. Roughly a third of the US population lives in coastal areas and over 80 of our national parks and monuments lie along shorelines. What impacts will sea level rise have where you live?

Bear Glacier



Impacts Around the World

Shishmaref, Alaska
People have lived in the northern Alaska village of Shishmaref for 400 years. But today's residents face evacuation. Rising global temperatures are melting sea ice, allowing higher storm surges to reach the shore—a shore made vulnerable by thawing permafrost. More homes, roads, and infrastructure are being damaged as coastline washes away.

Dry Tortugas National Park, Florida
Since construction of this Civil War-era fort in the late 1800s, sea level has risen nearly a foot. That rise continues at an accelerated pace—due in large part to fossil fuel emissions. Already, storm surge crashes over the fort's sea wall, damaging the 150-year-old masonry.

Malé, Capital of the Maldives
With an average elevation of just 4 feet above sea level, the Maldives' 1,200 islands are at risk of being completely submerged by rising seas. The government is constructing concrete barriers along shorelines, but only a drastic cut in worldwide carbon emissions will save this low-lying nation.

Bangladesh
Bangladeshis are accustomed to flooding: Two-thirds of their land measures less than 15 feet above sea level. Yet generations of successful adaptations to coastal flooding are falling now—in the face of sea level rise. Damage to homes and communities increases every year.

Photo taken in August 2005

Flood of the Century

South Platte River Becomes a Seething Torrent

Destructive Power

Floodwaters through Littleton peaked at 110,000 cfs (cubic feet of water per second). That's more than the typical flow of the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon! At this spot, the deluge reached 14 feet high and nearly a mile wide. Can you picture muddy, rolling water to the top of the sculpture here?



June 16, 1965 began as a regular summer day in Littleton. But the raging flood that tore through the metro area that evening was like nothing ever seen. The usually placid South Platte, carrying huge amounts of rain from the south, became a "knife of mud" slicing through bridges and buildings. Floodwaters rose and receded in a matter of hours, yet the impacts of this natural disaster endure today.



Colorado is famous for severe weather. But 10-14 inches of rain in four hours? The freak June storm quickly filled normally dry creeks and gulches around Palmer Lake. All this water surged into Plum Creek, thundering north toward the South Platte—in Littleton and beyond.

Evacuate! Evacuate!
Knocking on doors, blaring loudspeakers on patrol cars—police officers and firefighters urged residents to safety. About 1,600 people left their homes and businesses, with no guarantee of what they would find on their return.

Somber Summer Spectacle

Littleton residents gathered on high ground at Jackass Hill and St. Mary's Church to watch the flood—like the Denverites at Ruby Hill pictured here. It was close to nightfall when the wall of water hit this area.




The Columbine Country Club neighborhood was especially hard-hit. Residents returned to homes filled with mud and filth, and emptied of treasured possessions.

Timeline:

- 2:00 pm Douglas County Sheriff sends warning of flood threat via Colorado State Patrol
- 2:45 pm 10-foot wall of water on Plum Creek sweeps through Castle Rock
- 5:15 pm Littleton gets official word of impending flood
- 6:00 pm Littleton police and fire departments begin evacuating low-lying areas
- 8:15 pm Blaring sound of sirens heard as floodwaters approach
- 8:30 pm 14-foot crest of water rises through Littleton (same height as sculpture here)
- Midnight: Floodwaters begin to subside

Rewards and Risks of Life on the River

Over many centuries, the Cache la Poudre River has drawn countless people to its banks—seekers and settlers of all types. George Robert Strauss was one such character. He homesteaded nearby, building a cabin in the 1860s. When the great flood of 1864 destroyed his first home, Strauss moved downstream and constructed another cabin on higher ground.



Strauss Cabin, May 1907, with the Cache la Poudre River in flood.



The famed Council Tree used by Arapaho and other tribes as a gathering place was located on land farmed by Strauss. The homesteader welcomed the Native Americans and was especially friendly with Chief Friday who spoke fluent English.



Poudre River homesteader George Robert Strauss



THE FLOOD THAT TOOK HIS LIFE

Floods cause changes, but they're natural and beneficial for the river. Sometimes people are negatively impacted like in 1904 when the Poudre surged over its banks and left 73-year-old Strauss stranded. The old farmer succumbed from this ordeal.



The Strauss Cabin was destroyed by arsonists in 1990. These ruins show where it stood for more than 100 years.

Strauss Cabin circa 1907



The Council Tree—Gathering Place of Peace

The great cottonwood that once stood near this spot held special significance for native peoples. During the 1800s, Arapaho and Cheyenne tribal members met in the shade of this imposing tree to "hold council," discussing issues in a deliberate and peaceful way. The Council Tree towered 100 feet above the Poudre River.



The Arapaho wrapped their dead in buffalo robes and tied them with bright cloth in the Council Tree—a custom intended to hold them fast in eternal sleep.

BRIDGING TWO WORLDS

In 1831, a Rocky Mountain trader discovered a starving Arapaho boy on the Plains. The trader adopted him, naming the child Friday for the day he was found. Friday attended Catholic school, where he learned English and European-American customs. This unusual upbringing gave him a unique perspective—and the ability to communicate between his people and the settlers.



Chief Friday (born circa 1822; died 1881) dedicated his life to working for peace on the western frontier.



Sign partially funded by the Poudre Heritage Alliance. Scan the QR code to learn about other historical sites along the Poudre River.

Interpretive Signage Promoting Wildlife Viewing and Identification

Take note:

ECOS often includes prompts in our interpretive writing and designs. No matter the content, our goal is to draw visitors into the resources around them—to engage them in the stories and messages of the site or experience.

LISTEN!

Your ears can detect creatures you can't see, like a kingbird's noisy chatter or the splash of a carp. As you walk through this marsh environment, tune in to the sounds all around you. Learn to use your ears, eyes ... even your nose. It's sense-sational!

PEEELLEEED! - chorus frog ah HONK! - Canada goose
 coo-ah NEE! - red-winged blackbird hoots out on oo-oo-mourning dove

Tune Your Ears

Close your eyes and listen to the sounds around you. Can you name three sounds you hear? Even silence tells a story. Who might be listening to you?

Over the Rise... a Surprise

You're about to come to a pond—home to waterfowl, coots, muskrats, frogs and more. As you crest the hill, be sneaky! Move like a fox on the hunt, quietly and slowly. Pause often to look and listen. If you're with a group, stay together. Keep a low profile so you don't scare away wildlife.

Observations: by BonMa Watanna Day: 42-73

Hey Kids! **LOOK FOR TRACKS**

Why would so many different animals come to the same place?

Asian elephant Muntjac Greater one-horned rhino
 Malayan tapir Sarus Crane Clouded leopard

Location: Observation Tent Field Study #: B-867

City of Boulder: Doudy Draw Trail

Take note:

Custom contour-cut graphic panels provide visual interest and can help highlight particular images and/or messages. In this project, we used colored borders that might appear static and predictable in a rectangular format. However, the protruding elements in this design turn the borders into an interesting visual "capture." These irregular shapes also pair nicely with the kiosk's wire mesh.



A Landscape in Miniature

The secret to seeing the prairie is to slow down and look carefully. Stoop over, or maybe get down on your hands and knees. A hidden world awaits you!

Look for delicate flowers tucked among the grass, or a grasshopper methodically chewing a leaf. You may find the hill of a harvester ant colony, a tiny ball cactus with green flowers, or a stone encrusted with centuries-old lichens.

STAY ON TRAIL
A Fragile Place

ENJOY PROTECT

Fragile! Treat with Care

Delicate wildflowers grow along these trail edges. Birds nest in the meadows, shrubs and trees nearby. Mice and voles scurry through prairie grasses, trying to evade hunting hawks. This is home to them all! Remember, you are the guest here.

Please stay on designated trails to protect the only home these plants and animals have.

STAY ON TRAIL
A Fragile Place

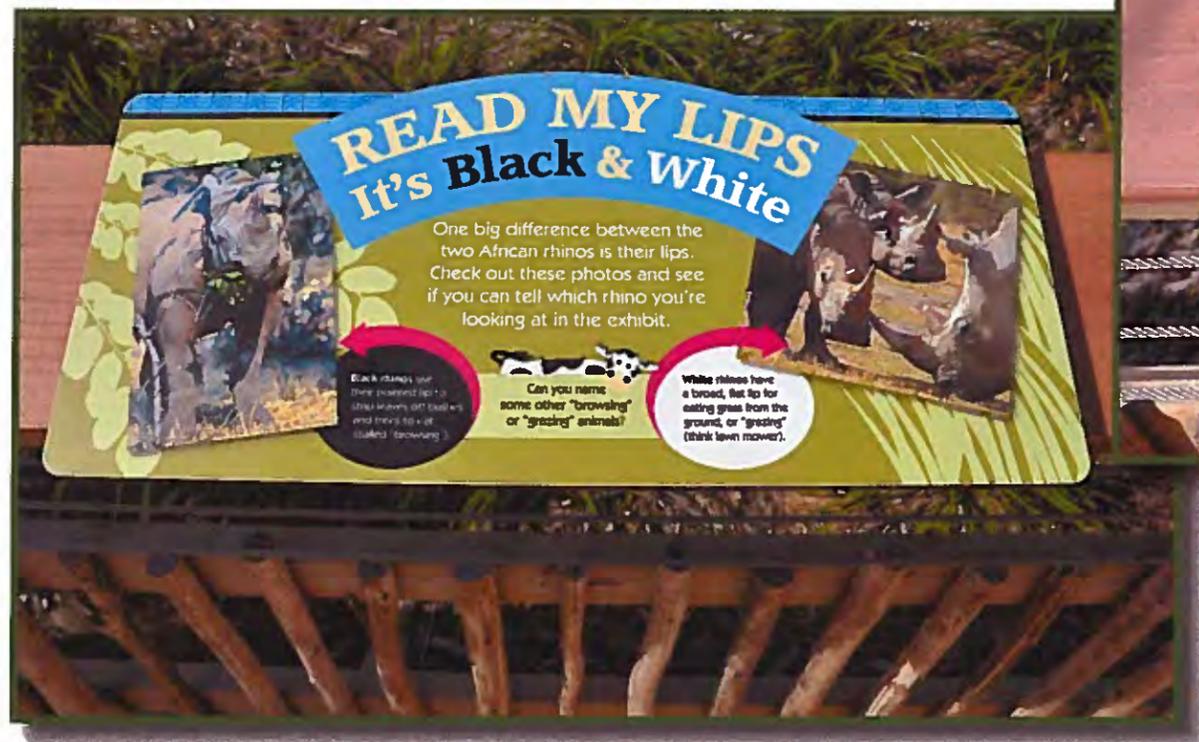
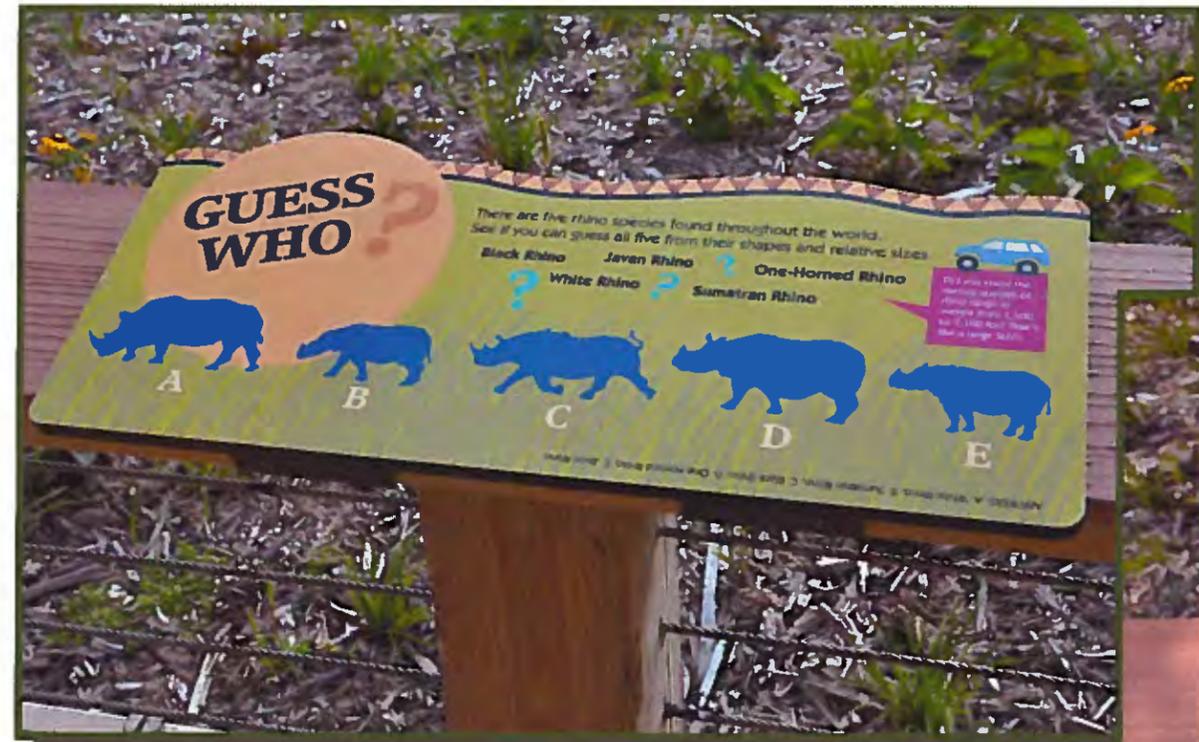
ENJOY PROTECT

City of Fort Collins: Cattail Chorus Kids Trail



Take note:
Simple illustrations and silhouette graphics can help visitors connect quickly to the resources in front of them. This project was intended to appeal to children and their families. We used child-height markers, question-and-answer jokes, and comparison prompts.





Take note:

Sometimes, a bold and colorful graphic design treatment that is unexpected serves to attract visitors and "lighten up" scientific or potentially upsetting content.



City of Fort Collins: Thematic sculptural elements and surprise tactiles

