

# ***Open Space Advisory Board***

## ***Agenda***

**Wednesday, November 13, 2019**  
**Library 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Meeting Room**  
**951 Spruce Street**  
**7:00 PM**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes
5. 7:05 pm Staff Updates (5 Minutes)
  - A. Update on the Process Regarding OSAB Review of the Nawatny Development
6. 7:10 pm City Council Liaison Updates (10 Minutes)
7. 7:20 pm Board Updates (10 Minutes)
8. 7:30 pm Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda (5 Minutes, more time as needed)
9. 7:35 pm Discussion Item: Priorities, Goals, and Action Items for Future Management of City Open Space. Presented by The Management of Open Space for Tomorrow (MOST) OSAB Tiger Team (30 Minutes)
10. 8:05 pm Discussion Item: Social Trails on Open Space. Presented by David Blankenship, OSAB Member (30 Minutes)
11. 8:35 pm Discussion Items for Next Meeting on December 11th (5 Minutes)
12. 8:40 pm Adjourn

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***City of Louisville***

*Parks & Recreation Department 749 Main Street Louisville CO 80027*  
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**Open Space Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**  
Wednesday October 10, 2019, 7:00pm

Louisville Public Library: First Floor Meeting Room  
951 Spruce Street

**1. Call to Order**

Laura called the meeting to order at 6:59 pm.

**2. Roll Call**

Board Members Present: Laura Scott Denton, Peter Gowen, Fiona Garvin, Helen Moshak, Missy Davis, Mike Schantz, David Blankinship, Tom Neville

Board Members Absent: none

City Council Members Present: none

Staff Members Present: Ember Brignull, Nathan Mosley

**3. Approval of Agenda**

Peter moved to approve the agenda as written. Tom seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**4. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes**

Laura proposed to revise the September 2019 minutes as follows: In item 6, Board Updates, revise start of first sentence from "Laura reported that Bob would like to help OSAB craft a document for longer-term goals and priorities for Open Space management..." to "Laura reported that Mayor Bob Muckle would like to help OSAB craft a document for longer-term goals and priorities for Open Space management..."

Peter moved to approve the minutes with the aforementioned change(s). Helen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**5. Staff Updates— Ember**

See updates provided by Ember on page 7 of the October 2019 OSAB Meeting packet.

A. Community Park Dog Park Pond update: Colorado Department of Health & Environment has required irrigation be done with potable water, not reclaimed water as has been used in the past. The pond was a reservoir for reclaimed irrigation for park; it was closed for several days to drain & has been replaced with potable water.

B. Ember reported that "Walk & Talk with the Mayor" has been re-scheduled from Sat. 10/19 to Sat. Oct 26; still planning to take place at Mayhoffer Open Space.

**6. City Council Liaison Update**

None.

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**7. Board Updates**

- A. Laura reported that Nawatny Ridge developers (Conoco-Phillips property) are doing another meeting Wed. 10/16/2019 at 6:00pm at the Rec Center to update the public on development plans. Laura encouraged OSAB members to attend.
  
- B. Dark Skies: Laura described a public awareness campaign about decreasing light pollution in our community; there is some scientific evidence that light pollution affects insects and other life on open space. Peter commented that it's out of our "jurisdiction" as Open Space is not lighted. Mike noted that it does affect Open Space, especially light from houses that border Open Space. David noted that insects may not be the best selling point. Fiona noted that a summary of research & how it affects nature would make sense for OSAB to contribute to this effort. Mike asked if planning board is leading this effort. Nathan and Ember confirmed. Missy suggested having the City do a review and audit of their own impact on light pollution before moving forward with this initiative, and suggested partnering with Xcel energy re: businesses and homes. Helen suggested an update from planning department as to their efforts in this area. Laura said she would ask for this update from Planning.
  
- B. Joint Meeting with PPLAB and/or Dog Park Siting Hand-Off  
Laura suggested a more formal hand-off of this document to PPLAB. Mike concurred. Laura noted that a joint meeting with PPLAB should be evaluated for early 2020, to discuss this and other joint issues such as Nawatny Ridge development and Cottonwood Park options. Mike suggested adding a discussion about "Nature Play" areas, and re-naming options for Lake Park Open Space and Walnut Park. David mentioned Wayfinding efforts overlap as well. Laura will develop list of agenda items and work with PPLAB to schedule.
  
- C. David noted meeting with Nick Potopchuk, Open Space Technician & John, Open Space seasonal re: slippery wood bridge (Coal Creek underpass under 42). They are looking at option of solar to provide lighting and options for surfacing to improve traction for cyclist. Ember noted that Urban Drainage has an interest in this particular underpass and efforts will need to be coordinated with them.
  
- D. David noted that Steel Ranch railroad underpass indefinite delay should be discussed re: Lake to Lake trail work-around, and proposed making this an agenda item for a future meeting. Laura suggested asking Planning Dept. to look at options.

**8. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda**

None.

**9. Discussion Item: Extending the Duration of Annual and Biennial Weed Control on City of Louisville Open Space Properties with Esplanade Tank Mixes (Presented by Shannon Clark, Postdoctoral Researcher, CSU) (pgs. 10-63 in the October 2019 OSAB Meeting packet)**

Shannon reviewed the Weed Control research materials (provided in the October packet). She noted that project funding is from multiple sources: Municipal and County

organizations, CSU, and manufacturers of Esplanade, a cellulose biosynthesis inhibitor. Selective uptake occurs in the top layer of soil, above the level of perennial plants roots. Of note, Cheat Grass control lasts longer with Esplanade (as shown by lower levels of weeds in test plots 30 months after treatment), that with "Plateau", the past standard for cheat grass treatment. Interestingly, these results were also observed on Aquarius Open Space after the controlled burn took place. Shannon stressed that targeting the seed bank of invasive annual grasses and broad leaf weeds and the subsequent spread (or reseeding of native species) is the most effective strategy. Ember asked if the aesthetic look of bare ground caused by weed removal was concerning to OSAB. Helen noted that interpretive signs explaining the process and likely outcomes would help public understanding. Laura noted how helpful this work has been, and Shannon expressed a desire to train City staff in seed bank control procedures.

**10. Discussion Item: Update from Management of Open Space for Tomorrow (MOST) Tiger Team Regarding Proposal to City Council to Develop Priorities and Goals for Future Management of City Open Space and OSAB Feedback (pgs. 64-76 in the October 2019 OSAB Meeting packet)**

Laura reported that Council members are supportive of the general concepts she presented to them last month and had 3 comments:

- Concern about costs, especially regarding wayfinding signs.
- Recommended a review each property's Open Space category designation (Missy suggested adding a column for these categories to our Acquisition matrix. Board agreed.)
- Add mention of Davidson Mesa Dogs Off-Leash Area (DM-DOLA) management plan.

Mike suggested writing a short summary of OSAB position on the DM-DOLA for the MOST document which notes the non-conforming use of this Open Space area for intensive recreation, recaps the short- and long-term management steps OSAB has recommended, suggests that the City and PPLAB work collectively to meet needs of dog owners for recreation within the city, and mentions the option to ask citizens to vote on the zoning question (revise DM-DOLA from Open Space to Park).

Fiona suggested placing one sentence in the Resource Management section noting the low priority of DOLA management, and referring readers to the Appendix to read the full summary. Mike agreed to write this appendix.

Missy suggested reframing some of the brainstormed priorities in terms of human wellness & quality of life in order to help Council set budget priorities.

Other brainstorming ideas:

- Work with neighboring communities to promote connectivity and wildlife corridors
- Work with rec center/senior center to increase sense of connection in the community to promote public health
- Promote citizen health & "get out of cars" initiative (related to Transportation Master Plan)

Next step: Tiger Team will meet to review & revise the MOST document. Mike will draft the DM-DOLA appendix by mid-November.

- 11. OSAB 2019 Goals & Accomplishment Review** (pgs. 77-79 in the October 2019 OSAB Meeting packet)  
Ember reviewed the past years' minutes and made some initial updates to the "When accomplished" and "Status" columns. Board members made additional updates. The Goals & Accomplishments document will be finalized at the end of 4th quarter (December)
- 12. Discussions Items for the Next Meeting on Wednesday, November 13, 2019**

  - A. Storm Water Management Plan (Public Works)
  - B. Discussion: Social Trails on Open Space
  - C. Nawatny Ridge Development proposal
  - D. MOST document: review Tiger Team work and develop action items
- 13. Adjourn**  
The meeting adjourned at 9:32 pm.

# Memorandum

**To: Open Space Advisory Board**  
**From: Ember Brignull, Open Space Superintendent**  
**Date: November 13, 2019**  
**Re: Staff Updates**

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## **General:**

- Steve Roels has been selected for the Senior Natural Resource Specialist Position. Steve will begin work on Tuesday, November 12 2019.
- Coyote Run Trail work is underway.
- Contractors will be replacing and install additional diffusers in the Warembourg fishing pond to increase circulation and decrease algae.
- Staff has completed follow-up fall reseeding for areas impacted during the Encroachment campaign.
- Staff is awaiting cost estimates for fence installation at Dutch Creek Open Space and County Road & 96<sup>th</sup> Street.

## **Education:**

### Past:

- Monday, October 14, 2019 from 9:30 to 11:30 am (sessions held at 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, and 11:00), Astronomy: Tour the Night Sky by the Fiske Planetarium. Louisville Recreation Center (900 W. Via Appia). 116 participants.
- Saturday, October 19, 2019 from 9:00 to 10:30 am, Walkin' and Talkin' with the Mayor. Mayhoffer Open Space. 15 participants.
- Wednesday, October 30, 2019 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm, Spooktacular Critters. Louisville Recreation Center, Senior Center (900 W. Via Appia). 80 participants.

### Upcoming:

- Thursday, November 21, 2019 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm, Learn to Navigate. Louisville Library Meeting Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor (951 Spruce St.). Ages 12 and up.
- Tuesday, December 3, 2019 from 7:00 to 8:00 pm, Birds of Prey. Louisville Library Meeting Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor (951 Spruce St.). All ages.

# Memorandum

**To:** Open Space Advisory Board

**From:** Laura Scott Denton, Open Space Advisory Board Member

**Date:** November 13, 2019

**Re:** The Management of Open Space for Tomorrow (MOST)  
Priorities & Goals for City of Louisville Open Space

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Prepared by the Open Space Advisory Board & MOST Tiger Team (Laura Scott Denton and Helen Moshak) with input from Mayor Bob Muckle and Ember Brignull, Open Space Superintendent Fall, 2019

*Plan for the organization of the final document:*

**Section 1:** A high-level summary memo that includes purpose, process, timeline, intended audiences, etc., for the document. It will emphasize that acquisition/conservation is still high priority for OSAB, but this document is about management.

**Section 2:** A table/spreadsheet of Goals, Objectives, and Action Items organized and assigned short/medium/long-term priority.

**Section 3:** A document listing 3-4 “Goals” and 3-5 “Objectives” nested under each Goal, with a short description. Each Objective will include several specific Action Items.

## YOUR JOB FOR THE NOVEMBER MEETING!!!!

Look through the following pages. These are the Goals and Objectives you saw at the October meeting, just organized better. This will evolve into Section 3 of the document.

Come to the meeting with ideas for 6-10 possible Action Items. We will write them onto Post-It notes, then organize/combine/discuss them. Finally, we will use sticker voting to select our favorites. I put in a couple “sample” Action Items to help you get started.

Please don’t worry about wordsmithing at this time—I don’t want to get bogged down. We’ll have time to fuss over those sorts of details later.

## LOOK AHEAD FOR DECEMBER MEETING:

The Tiger Team will take the results of our November meeting, and use them to finish Section 3 of the document. We will then vote whether each Action Item is a short, medium, or long-term priority.

**Goal: Manage Natural Resources**

Historically the City’s Open Space spending priority has been acquisition. As Louisville has been built up, most of the land suitable for Open Space has been developed or already acquired. Therefore, spending emphasis has begun to shift towards maintaining and enhancing the land that is already set aside. Given the historical and current demands on our land, benign neglect is akin to allowing the land to degrade. Our Open Space land is a finite resource that must serve our City in perpetuity.

**Objective 1: Wetlands**

- Sample Action Item (from Laura): Change management at Harper Lake to enhance habitat quality of the Wildlife Preserve. Currently management practice is that land outside of the trail is managed by Open Space and land inside of the trail is managed by Public Works. Public Works mows the land down to the water’s edge. This promotes the growth of alfalfa and other weeds and prohibits the growth of riparian species. Riparian species such as rushes and cattails provide nesting coverage for waterfowl. The intent of the land was to provide a wildlife preserve, so management should serve that purpose.
- Action Item
- Action Item

**Objective 2: Grasslands**

- Action Item
- Action Item

**Objective 3: Agricultural Lands**

- Action Item
- Action Item

**Objective 4: Using scientific best practices for management study and records-keeping**

- Action Item
- Action Item

**Goal: Enhance User Experience**

Citizen surveys report that Open Space land and trails are consistently ranked among the most valued of the City’s amenities. Trail use promotes health for diverse users. Providing an easy-to-use and well-networked trail system also provides an alternative to car use for commuters and city dwellers, which can attenuate traffic and parking congestion. A well-functioning Open Space system must also involve some level of enforcement and maintenance of this shared resource.

**Objective 1: Wayfinding**

- Action Item
- Action Item

**Objective 2: Rules & Regulation**

- Action Item
- Action Item

**Objective 3: Maintenance**

- Action Item
- Action Item

**Objective 4: Trails**

- Action Item
- Action Item

**Objective 5: Serving Diverse User Types (nature play, access, accessibility)**

- Action Item
- Action Item

**Goal: Foster Citizen Engagement**

Part of Open Space's mission should be to encourage citizen's healthy use of the property and respect for the land. This includes communicating to users the reasons for regulations and involving citizens in the land's upkeep, whenever possible, with a robust and meaningful volunteer program. Citizens should be kept informed of the state of the land and management decisions.

**Objective 1: Education**

- Action Item
- Action Item

**Objective 2: Volunteers**

- Action Item
- Action Item

**Objective 3: Communication**

- Action Item
- Sample Action Item (from Laura): Use the City's marketing resources to build an Open Space presence on social media. It should include updates and information, as well as helping citizens feel pride and connection to the land.

# David Blankinship & Tom Neville Recommendation to OSAB for Discussion

## Memorandum

**To:** Open Space Advisory Board

**From:** David Blankinship, Open Space Advisory Board Member

**Date:** November 16, 2019

**Re:** Social Trail Policy Recommendation

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### **Purpose:**

In the April 2019 OSAB meeting, Tom Neville and I volunteered to serve on a Tiger Team to review data and assess options with respect to social trails on City of Louisville open space. There has been some recent discussion among board members as well as members of the public at the OSAB meetings expressing concern about the number of social (sometimes called “undesigned”) trails. The Tiger Team was formed to come up with a social trails policy.

### **Background:**

The City of Louisville has traditionally had just two classifications for trails: paved multi-use paths and crusher fine gravel soft-surface multi-use paths. However, there are a large number of social, or “undesigned”, trails that have a natural dirt surface that doesn’t fit either of these categories. Since the open space department doesn’t recognize these social trails as part of the trail system, this leaves us with a decision on how to proceed. The three primary courses of action could be any of the following:

1. Identify which of the social trails would be formally designated and converted to either a crusher-fine or paved surface. All other trails would be closed and restored to a natural appearance.
2. Designate a new trail type (for the sake of argument, let’s call this “singletrack”) and evaluate which social trails will become singletrack. A trail inventory would still be taken to determine whether some social trails would be converted to crusher fines or closed.
3. Go through an open space system-wide trail master plan effort. What comes out of this process would then guide how social trails are handled.

Tom and I are proposing that we pursue option #2 above. There are a few reasons for advocating this proposal. First of all, there has been some excitement about the prospect of fun route(s) to school within the city. The proposal to add a biking singletrack trail to one or more schools in the city, probably on parks as opposed to open space property, is leading us down the direction of having formal trails

with a natural dirt surface. There has also been some discussion of expanding the trail network to include purpose-built trails for biking, hiking, etc., where dirt would be the most logical surface. Whether this be hiking trails through nature corridors, hiking trails on steeper slopes such as the northwest part of Davidson Mesa, singletrack biking trails, or a simple bike park, dirt would be much preferred over crusher fines for these uses. Lastly, there is an existing network of social trails in the city system (e.g., Davidson Mesa, North, Callahan, and Warembourg Open Spaces) that function well as they currently are and neither the conversion to crusher fines nor full closure seems appropriate.

Now, it is true that option #2 would require more of a formal advocacy effort by OSAB and ultimately running the policy change through the city council or some other public process. The same could be said for option #3, but it seems that kicking off a trails master planning effort on the heels of the transportation master plan and small area plans could result in some planning fatigue. Going with option #2 and working alongside the team responsible for the trails component of the transportation master plan makes the most sense as it strikes a balance between flexibility and efficiency. As noted above, the fact that a number of trails seem to function very well in dirt form steers us away from pursuing option #1. Making changes to what could be a significant number of existing dirt trails could be a politically charged and unpopular move.

### **Next Steps:**

OSAB needs to determine if there is agreement on the proposal to proceed with option #2 on handling social trails on city open space. That is, are we comfortable designating a new type of trail called “singletrack” (or potentially something similar to avoid the biking-specific connotation of singletrack)? If so, we would then need to work with city council and/or the public to determine whether this approach makes sense. If there is support, then we would need to work with city staff to update our trail inventory map (for internal, not public, consumption) and break the trails into the following categories for action:

1. existing singletrack to formally designate and maintain
2. existing singletrack to leave as is
3. existing singletrack to close and restore (with a focus on shortcuts and areas that are environmentally sensitive)
4. new singletrack trails to be built

**Open Space Advisory Board TENTATIVE\* Board Items Calendar**

(Updated November 6, 2019)

December 11, 2019	January 8, 2019	February 12, 2020
<p><b>Action Items:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalize OSAB 2019 Accomplishments</li> </ul> <p><b>Updates/Discussion from the Department:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trails                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hecla to Waneka</li> <li>Lake to Lake</li> </ul> </li> <li>Dutch Creek/Elephant Park Design and Potential Impacts to Open Space (Allan Gill/Nathan Mosley)</li> </ul> <p><b>Updates/Discussion from the Board:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board Recommendations for OSAB 2020 Goals</li> <li>Social Trails</li> <li>Dog Park Siting Guidelines Handoff to PPLAB</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action Items:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agenda Posting Locations</li> <li>Officer Elections</li> <li>Finalize OSAB 2020 Goals</li> </ul> <p><b>Updates/Discussion from the Department:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce New Board Members</li> <li>Update OSAB Member Contact List</li> <li>Distribute Open Government &amp; Ethics Pamphlet</li> </ul> <p><b>Updates/Discussion from the Board:</b></p>	<p><b>Action Items:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dog Park Siting Guidelines Handoff to PPLAB</li> </ul> <p><b>Updates/Discussion from the Department:</b></p> <p><b>Updates/Discussion from the Board:</b></p> <p>Joint Board Meeting with PPLAB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social Trails</li> <li>Nature Play</li> <li>Dog Siting Guidelines</li> <li>Nawatny Ridge</li> <li>Renaming Lake Park and Walnut</li> <li>Wayfinding</li> </ul>
March 11, 2020	April 8, 2020	May, 2020
<p><b>Action Items:</b></p> <p><b>Updates/Discussion from the Department:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review Department Trail Priorities &amp; Make Recommendations on New Trails (Allan Gill)</li> <li>OSAB Review 2020 Operational and Capital Budget</li> </ul> <p><b>Updates/Discussion from the Board:</b></p>	<p><b>Action Items:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OSAB Recommendations for Future Operational and Capital Improvement Projects</li> </ul> <p><b>Updates/Discussion from the Department:</b></p> <p><b>Updates/Discussion from the Board:</b></p>	<p><b>Action Items:</b></p> <p><b>Updates/Discussion from the Department:</b></p> <p><b>Updates/Discussion from the Board:</b></p>

\*All items are subject to change. A final version of the agenda is posted on the web during the week prior to the OSAB meeting.