

Open Space Advisory Board

Agenda

March 11, 2020

Library 1st Floor Meeting Room

951 Spruce Street

7:00 PM

1. 7:00 pm Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Approval of Agenda
 4. Approval of Minutes
 5. 7:05 pm Staff Updates (5 Minutes)
 - Administrative Regulation Repealing Restrictions on Access to Open Space
 6. 7:10 pm Board Updates (5 Minutes)
 - A. OSAB Study Session with City Council on May, 26 2020
 7. 7:15 pm Discussion Item: Update from the Integrated Weed Management Plan/Herbicide Use Discussion at City Council Special Meeting from February 25, 2020. Presented by Nathan Mosley, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (20 Minutes)
 8. 7:35 pm Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda (5 minutes more time as needed)
 9. 7:40 pm Discussion Item: Trail Capital Improvement Planning. Presented by Allan Gill, Project Manager (40 Minutes)
 10. 8:20 pm Discussion Item: Warembourg Fishing Pond Master Plan. Presented by Allan Gill, Project Manager (20 Minutes)
 11. 8:40 pm Discussion Items for Next Meeting on April 8, 2020
 - A. OSAB Study Session with City Council
 - B. 2020 OSAB Goals
 12. Adjourn
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City of Louisville

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Open Space Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 12, 2020, 7:00pm
Library 1st Floor Meeting Room, 951 Spruce Street

1. **7:00 pm Call to order**
Helen called the meeting to order at 7:00.
2. **Roll Call**
Board Members Present: Laura Scott Denton, Peter Gowen, Helen Moshak, David Blankinship, Tom Neville, Charles Danforth, Jessamine Fitzpatrick
Board Members Absent: Missy Davis
Staff Members Present: Ember Brignull, Nathan Mosley, Steve Roels
3. **Approval of Agenda**
Laura suggested we add Board Updates to the agenda. Peter moved to approve the agenda with Board Updates added as item V. Tom seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **Approval of Minutes**
Last meeting's minutes were lost and the minutes in the packet represent a reconstruction from Ember and Nathan's memory. Peter had two comments on the minutes. First, the minutes report that Helen was present at the meeting, which was not true. Also, in Discussion Item 11 the board did not approve staff's plan to close social trail to the south of Hecla Lake. The board agreed with Peter, saying they had wanted to delay restoring the trail south of Hecla and to further consider this particular social trail closure. Jessamine was concerned that the minutes didn't convey the board's enthusiasm to meet with PPLAB. The board suggested adding a sentence to the section about meeting with PPLAB: "OSAB is still interested in meeting PPLAB soon." Peter moved for approval of the minutes with the aforementioned changes and corrections. Jessamine seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
5. **Staff Updates**
 - A. Staff needs a volunteer for a volunteer for the snowflake program at the Library Feb. 19th. Laura volunteered.
 - B. Ember reminded the board about a required meeting for Referral Development Reviews training for boards being consulted about the current Redtail Ridge/Nawatny/Philips66 development proposal on Feb. 27, at 6:30. Laura questioned the sudden need for this training and Nathan explained on where it came from. Helen asked if this meeting would count as the boards' mandatory open ethics training, and Nathan answered that it would.
 - C. Meeting Conflict: November 11, 2020 will be Veterans Day and all City buildings will be closed. The OSAB meeting will be canceled. Nathan suggested that might be a good month to do the PPLAB joint meeting. The board generally wanted to meet with PPLAB sooner if possible, but that thought it might be a good second option.
 - D. There is a tentative date for a study session with City Council on May 26, 2020. Helen said that Council has a template for the board to work with, and we will work on it during the March meeting.
 - E. Peter asked if the 95th Street underpass is on schedule. Nathan answered that he thought so.
 - F. Helen asked whether the 51 memorial benches listed in the packet were total sites, some of which are already taken, or if they were 51 available sites. Ember clarified that

these were total sites, some of which were taken. David and Jessamine asked for and received some clarification about the memorial bench program.

- G. Ember passed out the board contact list for the city.
- H. See further Staff Updates on page 5 of the meeting packet.

6. Board Updates

None

7. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

Kelly Bartell (563 West Cedar Place) came to the meeting because she wanted to hear about the biodiversity study (Agenda Item VIII). She lives adjacent to North Open Space and doesn't see much biodiversity and wildlife there and she would like to see it increased. She added that in the summer she hears lots of crickets and frogs and at some point in the summer it suddenly "goes quiet," and she finds that alarming. Helen commented that the board has prioritized resource management and is very interested in good scientific practice of this information. Ember clarified that on North Open Space all weed control is spot-spraying (single plant) rather than broadcast spraying. Charles suggested the sudden silence could do with ditches running dry. Nathan and Ember added that they didn't know of any mosquito spraying on the property and that it would always include notification, but said they'd look into it further.

8. Open Space Biodiversity Database. Presented by Steve Roels, Senior Natural Resource Specialist (see page 9-14 of the meeting packet)

Steve is originally from Michigan. He has worked for a land trust doing conservation easement work. He has his Master's Degree from University of Kansas studying milkweeds and his PhD from Michigan State where he focused on restoration ecology of birds in Panama.

He is currently working on a database to consolidate and format all existing records and studies for the Louisville Open Space properties. He shared the basic structure of the database and his process and he explained how a relational database makes the existing data searchable, updatable, and much more valuable.

He gave a summary of what species are on our Open Space land and considered the data's context and sampling bias (both by location and by taxonomy). He also summarized the sort of data and information he has already amassed. He also gave examples of how this database can be used and the division plans for the future. One plan is the integration of citizen science data into the database. He has already figured out how to upload citizen scientist data from iNaturalist and eBird on City properties. Laura said she was very excited about this work. Charles suggested an app called Seek. Steve will present to the public about citizen science in the fall. Helen suggested a learning guide for the tools so citizens can learn to use it. Peter asked if the database will be publically accessible, suggesting it could be popular for citizens and valuable for stake holders. Steve pointed out that there could be implications for sensitive species. Ember said there could be a summary-type document produced at the end of the year. David commented that Steve collaborate with neighboring communities. He added that he would be interested in having Steve's input on our assessment/acquisition process. Nathan asked if there are ways to do biodiversity surveys without trespassing on private land. Steve suggested there were some ways to infer certain things about plant communities from satellite imagery. Jessamine was hoping for another update from Steve in the fall. Helen added that the database should be the new standard for any future contracting work.

9. Discussion Item: Discuss and Approve OSAB 2020 Goals (see pages 16-18 of the Meeting Packet)

Helen and Ember filled in the goals table after the January meeting. Helen's plan is to tackle one Goal Area for about 10 minutes each meeting, rather than do them all in one meeting. The board started with the Resource Management's Goal Area. Laura will discuss Education and Outreach Goals in March.

David led the discussion. He started by talking about the value of having OSAB present at a few of the Davidson Mesa DOLA clean-up and similar events. He thinks education is really important to keeping rumors at bay; he cited the education about the pond at Community Park as an example of good job of explaining. Ember mentioned that past member Mike Schantz was able to clear up some misconceptions on Facebook, but that staff is not permitted to engage the public on social media. Helen suggested a FAQ on the City's webpage that might address some of the recurring dog off-leash questions. Nathan agreed. David suggested that it is hard for citizens to dig important documents out of the meeting minutes and packets. Laura agreed, adding that it is hard for board members to dig some of these documents out as well. She suggested staff maintain an easily accessible digital folder to house frequently-needed documents. Helen suggested that each board member suggest important documents in their Goal Area as we discuss them in turn.

10. Discussion Item: OSAB Recommendations Regarding the 2021-2022 Operational Budget and 2021-2027 Capital Budget (see pages 1922 of the Meeting Packet)

The discussion began on the capital improvements budget. Ember ran through the list of proposed CIP projects. Some of the projects are already planned and/or mapped. Peter suggested adding building the railroad underpass at Bullhead Gulch, that project was made #20. Charles suggested adding a third trail type designation as a CIP. Laura asked if this suggestion would be a trails plan or a social trails plan. David thought there was a lot of fatigue about too many master plans. The board decided to add Trails Master plan (that includes a third trail type designation and social trail plans) as #21. The board ranked their priorities on paper copies and submitted them to Helen. Results: (see following spreadsheet with results).

Next, the board looked at operational budgets. The operational budget is split into five subprograms. Ember walked the board through the subprograms and asked for places to increase or decrease emphasis and for suggestions for more activities. Peter would like to see an increase in signage in trail maintenance and more new trail connections. Laura suggested that she'd like to see Steve have a chance to look at the acquisition list and advise on it. Peter agreed. David would like to see the Fun Routes to School initiative to stay on the agenda. He is also concerned about the loss of the Walking with the Mayor program. Laura would like to see better Open Space public communication. Charles and David agreed. Ember asked that OSAB feed ideas of fun Open Space anecdotes to staff. David asked for ideas to interface with various user groups. A lot of groups have interest in volunteer hours.

Part of the operational budget is personnel proposals. Nathan and Ember presents three possible positions: 1) a full-time maintenance position (this has traction from the City, but would need a vote for 2021); 2) a trails planning and construction coordinator (potentially a term position, eg. a five-year position to build out the current plans). 3) an education/volunteer coordinator. Helen asked if the volunteer coordinator could be a City-wide position. Peter thought between the second two positions he thinks the trail coordinator is a higher priority, and the volunteer coordinator could be a lower priority, maybe a part time position. Laura asked if these position would be redundant to Alan and Catherine's positions. Ember and Nathan suggested that these positions reflect the increase in workload in the past several years. Jessamine expressed concern about the increase maintenance load of new trails, as the City has a trouble with maintenance work load already. Charles asked if there was a way

to combine some of these positions with Parks. Ember thought the maintenance position needs to be solely an Open Space position. Charles' made a motion to rank priorities for the positions as follows (highest to lowest): the maintenance position, the trails coordinator, the volunteer coordinator. Peter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Discussion Item: Cottonwood Park Master Plan Task Force

Nathan is putting together a City task force to discuss the Cottonwood Park and adjacent properties. They want two members from OSAB, PPPLAB, and the Recreation Advisory Board. The board nominated Jessamine and Laura. Peter moved to approve these two representatives for the task force. Charles and Tom seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Discussion Items for Future Meetings (see page 24 of the meeting packet)

A. The next meeting is March 11th. Ideas to discuss include revisiting 2019 goals, the fishing pond plan, trail alignments, and preparation for study session with council.

13. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:46 pm.

Minutes Continued for February 12, 2020: Discussion Item 9 OSAB Recommendations Regarding the 2021-2022 Operational Budget and 2021-2027 Capital Budget

PLANNING WORKSHEET- OSAB Recommendations for 2021-2027 OSAB Capital Improvement Projects -PLANNING WORKSHEET

OSAB Priority (1-24)	Potential CIP Projects	Brief Description
1	Open Space & Parks Trails	Design and construct primary, regional, and neighborhood trails
2	Open Space & Parks Signs	Construction and Installation of primary trail signs
3	Open Space Masterplan	To include property management and policy updates
4	Implement Cottonwood Master Plan	Implement vision for property use at Lake Park, Cottonwood, and Church Property. Evaluate: natural areas, open space areas, park areas, trails, and park amenities
5	Develop and Implement Leon Wurl Wildlife Sanctuary (Harper Lake) Master Plan	Develop and implement wildlife enhancements at Harper Lake in coordination with Public Works. One year of design and the second year would be implementation
6	Trail Master Plan	OSAB Recommendation at the February 2020 Meeting
7	Implement Warembourg Fishing Pond Master Plan	Implement vision for the fishing pond. Evaluate: landscaping, amenities, water quality, etc.
8	Equipment Replacement	Replacement schedule for aging equipment and/or new equipment. Vibratory roller, dump truck, backhoe, hotsy pressure washer
9	Vault Restroom	Vault restroom at Aquarius parking lot on the regional Coal Creek Trail and consider Daughenbaugh
10	Trail Regrading	Heber, Davidson Mesa
11	Open Space Zoning	2020 Zoning: Warembourg, Dutch Creek, Olson, Walnut, CCT (US 36 to Dillon) 2021: TBD
12	Develop and Implement Damyanovich Master Plan	Develop vision for property use. Evaluate: agriculture, water conveyance, 4-H, bees, trails, shelter, parking, vault restroom
13	Interpretive Education Displays	Design, fabricate, and install environmental information on kiosks, free standing signs, etc.
14	Bullhead Gulch Underpass	OSAB Recommendation at the February 2020 Meeting
15	Boundary Identification	Build fencing, install bollards, and/or place signs to restrict access to multiple Open Space properties to prevent illegal vehicle
16	Replacement of Retaining Walls	Replace retaining wall on Hillside, Coyote Run, and North Open Space due to age and deterioration over time
17	Replace Aging Site Furnishings	Replace old deteriorating and oxidizing metal benches on Open Space properties to prevent hazards
18	Pollinator "Garden" Installation	Increase forb plantings to encourage pollinators communities
19	Russian Olive Control	Remove large Russian olive trees on needed properties and install replacement trees on Warembourg
20	Trail Counters	To capture number of users, time of use, high/low use areas, use on social trails, etc.
21	Pole Camera	Citizens can view the D. Mesa and Harper parking lots to determine how full the lots are & also for theft prevention
	Multi-Purpose Field	PARKS
	Community Dog Park	PARKS-Improve Community Park Dog Park to include small dog area
	Recreation Center Campus Master Plan	PARKS
	Playground Replacement	PARKS
	Arboretum Improvements	PARKS
	Median Landscape Renovations	PARKS

Memorandum

To: Open Space Advisory Board
From: Ember Brignull, Open Space Superintendent
Date: March 11, 2020
Re: Staff Updates

General:

- March interviews are being scheduled for the Ranger Naturalist position.
- The Director of Parks, Recreation, and Open space has begun to identify priority Capital Improvement Projects (CIP's) to move forward in the CIP process.
- Open Space is working with a volunteer GIS student to digitize hard copies of weed management maps from 2018 and 2019. The project is collaboration with the GeoEx program at Front Range Community College, which seeks to give students real-world experience in GIS.
- It is mud season at the Dog Off-Leash Area (DOLA). As precipitation alternates with above-freezing daytime temperatures, staff expects conditions at the DOLA to become muddy. If precipitation events remain frequent and lead to muddy conditions then City residents can anticipate temporary mud closures to allow the DOLA to dry. The DOLA will be monitored frequently and temporary closures lifted as soon as conditions allow.
- Open Space staff continue to monitor reports of several sick or injured coyotes in the City. As per direction from Colorado Parks and Wildlife, City staff will not attempt to interfere in the natural lives of these animals.
- Open Space will be beginning its public outreach to inform citizens of the new pilot project to close and restore several social trails.

Education:

Past:

- Sunday, February 16th, 2020 from 10:00 to 11:00 am, Davidson Mesa Dog Waste Pick-up Event. Davidson Mesa Dog Off-Leash Area. 22 participants.
- Wednesday, February 19th, 2020 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm, The Science of Snowflakes. Louisville Library, 1st floor meeting room, 951 Spruce Street. 9 participants.

Upcoming:

- Monday, March 23rd from 6:30 to 7:30 pm, The 8 Key Points to Developing Soil Health. Louisville Library, 1st floor meeting room, 951 Spruce Street. Adults.
- Saturday, March 28th from 10:00 to 1:00 pm, Harney Lastoka Farm Tour. 7th Generation Farm located on Harney Lastoka Open Space. All ages.
- Friday, April 3rd from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, Wild Louisville. Louisville Historical Museum, 1001 Main Street. All ages.



PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE DEPARTMENT

**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION REPEALING RESTRICTIONS ON
ACCESS TO CITY OPEN SPACE**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Louisville Municipal Code (“LMC”) § 4.04.060, the Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space (the “Director”), as the City Manager’s designee, is authorized to adopt administrative rules and regulations not inconsistent with and that supplement the provisions of Chapter 4.04 when such rules or regulations are determined necessary for wildlife, vegetation, or public safety concerns; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to such authority in LMC § 4.04.060, on February 26, 2020, the Director adopted a temporary Administrative Regulation Concerning Access to City Open Space; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Administrative Regulation was to address wildlife and vegetation concerns and to protect and preserve the City’s open space lands consistent with the City Charter and Municipal Code by restricting construction of gates in fences along private property abutting City open space land; and

WHEREAS, the Administrative Regulation was effective upon adoption and was to remain in effect for ninety (90) days in order to allow the City Council the opportunity to review potential amendments to the City’s open space, building, and zoning codes to address the issue as it deemed appropriate, with input from the Open Space Advisory Board, the Planning Commission, and the public during such legislative process; and

WHEREAS, following the adoption of the Administrative Regulation on February 26, 2020, members of the community expressed to the staff and City Council strong opposition to that regulation; and

WHEREAS, based on additional information received by staff, including from the public comment and regarding current and past open space management and wildlife practices, City staff is assessing measures to preserve and protect the open space lands by addressing the concerns raised by additional accesses to open space, other than by restricting gates on private property.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION CONCERNING ACCESS TO CITY OPEN SPACE IS HEREBY REPEALED.

ADOPTED this 6th day of March, 2020.

Nathan Mosley, Director
Parks, Recreation and Open Space

City staff is repealing the temporary administrative rule that was adopted on February 26, 2020 by the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department (“Temporary Rule”). The Temporary Rule was intended to address wildlife and vegetation concerns and to protect and preserve the City’s open space lands consistent with the City Charter and Municipal Code by restricting construction of gates in fences along private property abutting City open space land. It was also intended to initiate a formal process for staff to bring forward potential updates to open space and building codes to address private access and fences on properties that abut open spaces in Louisville.

A recent request to add additional gates abutting open space precipitated the issuance of the Temporary Rule. City staff found that request to be inconsistent with the current Municipal Code regarding protection of open space. The administrative regulation was meant to clarify the Municipal Code regarding access of open space and allow for a broader citywide conversation over the course of the next several months.

Based on additional information received by staff, including recent public comment and current and past open space management practices, City staff is assessing measures to preserve and protect the open space lands. City staff is addressing concerns raised by additional accesses to open space through measures other than by restricting gates on private property.

The Temporary Rule issued did not change then-current operational procedures. The City did not issue citations or fines or further restrict residents regarding current access into open space.

We appreciate the community’s strong interest in these issues and their engagement with City staff and City Council to share their concerns. If you have follow-up questions, please contact the City at 303.335.4735.

Memorandum

To: OSAB
From: Nathan Mosley, Parks, Recreation and Open Space Director
Date: March 11, 2020
Re: Discussion Item 8: Update from the Integrated Weed Management Plan/Herbicide Use Discussion at City Council Special Meeting from February 25, 2020

Summary

Parks, Recreation and Open Space staff recently meet during a special meeting with City Council to discuss and receive initial direction on updates to the City's Integrated Weed Management Plan and the use of herbicides within our parks and open space properties.

Based on the initial conversation staff will look to bring back refined options that incorporate the following direction from City Council:

- Continued prohibition on neonicotinoids
- Elimination of Roundup (Glyphosate) and 2, 4-D as management tools available
- Continued effort to minimize the use of herbicides through the use of integrated weed management philosophies

Currently staff is scheduled to discuss this topic with City Council again on April 17th.

Next Steps

Staff would welcome any initial feedback on the direction provided from City Council as well as any communication efforts OSAB feels would be helpful with informing the public about these changes. Staff will keep OSAB informed as this discussion moves forward and will bring final changes and/or operational plans for discussion and feedback at future meetings.

**SUBJECT: DISCUSSION/DIRECTION – INTEGRATED WEED
MANAGEMENT PLAN/HERBICIDE USE**

DATE: FEBRUARY 25, 2020

**PRESENTED BY: NATHAN MOSLEY, PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE
DIRECTOR
EMBER BRIGNULL, OPEN SPACE SUPERINTENDENT
DEAN JOHNSON, PARKS SUPERINTENDENT**

SUMMARY:

Primary Objective

Staff requests direction from City Council regarding proposed updates to the Integrated Weed Management Plan (IWMP). Additionally staff requests direction from City Council on operational alternatives highlighted in this memo. Council direction will allow staff to further explore preferred approaches and bring additional information for Council consideration and final policy direction in the near future. This approach will ensure that there is alignment between future operations and City Council policy direction.

History

The use of herbicide within communities has come under additional scrutiny based on a growing number of lawsuits related to herbicide exposure, recent lawsuit verdicts, and large amounts of data that are informing resident concerns about the use of herbicides in their community.

In the spring, staff often receives communications from concerned residents about the use of herbicides in the City. Staff works to address those concerns by implementing best management practices around vegetation management activities, such as posting signage and offering e-notifications which exceeds the notification requirements of the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA). In addition, staff follows specific application guidelines for each individual herbicide applied. Staff also receives resident contacts asking to increase the amount of weed control within the City.

Balancing conflicting requests from the community is challenging. Thus staff requests City Council review current operations and potential options for herbicide use to ensure staff and City Council are in alignment related to the use of herbicides on public properties.

Staff and City citizen advisory boards, Parks and Public Landscaping Advisory Board (PPLAB) and the Open Space Advisory Board (OSAB), have reviewed City operations generally on an annual basis to provide feedback to staff on day to day operations related to herbicide use. Here are some highlights regarding herbicide use in Louisville:

- 2008, Herbicide use was discontinued for a period of time. Community reaction about the condition of public spaces resulted in a reversal of this practice.
- 2016, PPLAB recommended the discontinuation of spraying herbicide in playgrounds within the City. This was incorporated into operations in 2017 and continues to this day.
- 2019, PPLAB supported a pilot project to eliminate herbicide use at Elephant Park.
- 2020, PPLAB and OSAB discussed herbicide use and operations in January and provided additional feedback to staff related to the IWMP and operations. OSAB approved of the proposed IWMP updates and staffs current approach to weed control. PPLAB supported continued reduction of herbicide use in turf parks.

Integrated Weed Management Plan (IWMP)

The IWMP was originally drafted in 2008 in response to citizen concerns regarding the use of herbicides on City owned properties. The IWMP was peer reviewed, revised, and supported by the State Weed Coordinator with the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Boulder County Open Space, Colorado State University, Jefferson County Open Space and Lafayette Open Space.

Minor revisions were made in 2016 to the Plan and since that time the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Department has continued to use the IWMP as a guiding document related to the use of herbicides on City owned properties.

The IWMP considers the environmental, economic, and social impacts of different methods and helps staff identify appropriate control options. The IWMP currently does not specify the use of or prohibition on any particular control method, but rather speaks to a process for evaluating different control options. City Council may make changes to the IWMP to specifically prohibit or limit the use of certain control methods or herbicides on City property, by herbicide type, property type or location type or in any other desired manner.

Current Operational Practices

Parks

Primarily, herbicides are used in parks, streetscapes, and the Cemetery in two different types of applications, spot spraying and broadleaf control.

- Spot spraying is conducted on an as-needed basis for weeds in areas such as shrub beds, cracks in concrete, baseball infields, etc. The type of herbicide used in this application is non-selective (kills all vegetation).
- Broadleaf control is conducted on turf to eliminate weeds in grass. The type of herbicide used in this application is selective. It selectively targets broadleaf weeds and leaves grass undamaged. This type of application is conducted at

most two times per year but in trying to reduce herbicide use, the City for many years has only conducted one application per year.

For these types of herbicide applications, two types of chemicals account for the majority of use.

- Glyphosate is the non-selective herbicide primarily used in the City's parks for spot spraying. "Roundup" is a common Glyphosate brand people associate with this chemical. Glyphosate is one of the most commonly used non-selective herbicides. In 2019, Parks staff and contractors used approximately 14 gallons of Glyphosate City wide.
- 2, 4-D (2, 4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid) is the selective herbicide primarily used in the City's parks for broadleaf control. There are many choices for selective control but 2, 4-D remains one of the commonly used and most effective herbicides. In 2019, Parks staff used 12 gallons of 2, 4-D.

Herbicide use has been reduced by only applying one selective broadleaf application each spring. This application helps control highly visible weeds such as dandelions, but also controls weeds such as puncture vine, bindweed, and a variety of thistles in addition to a long list of other weeds. This approach allows staff to effectively control a wide variety of weed populations with a relatively small amount of herbicide strategically applied.

Herbicide use has also been reduced by applying mechanical control (mowing) instead of herbicides to control weeds in the City's greenways. Greenways are the non-irrigated park properties within the City. Not to be mistaken with open space properties, greenways are routinely mowed (open space properties are primarily left un-mowed) and thus herbicide applications are greatly reduced on many of these properties.

Whichever application is used, all herbicides are applied in compliance with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations. The City only uses herbicides that are legally registered by the EPA and applied in compliance with EPA regulations. All City applicators are either licensed or monitored by a qualified supervisor licensed by the CDA for applying pesticides.

Open Space

Open Space staff rely heavily on the principals of the IWMP as a means to find the most appropriate and responsible method of control for noxious and nuisance weeds on open space properties. Different types of weeds (annual, biennial and perennial) require different approaches for successful control and eradication. The Colorado Department of Agriculture mandates eradication of List A species, containment of List B species and supports municipal control of List C species.

In 2019, Open Space staff treated 130.5 acres of weed infestations on 16 different properties. The Open Space division completed a total of 591.25 hours of weed control in 2019 with 493.5 hours of mechanical control such as mowing or hand pulling. Herbicides used on open space in 2019 include a variety of herbicides to effectively control different weed species. The open space division used a total of 12 ounces of Glyphosate in 2019 and did not use any 2, 4-D. The division also spent an additional 150 hours on restoration (re-seeding) work in an effort for native seed to outcompete weed seeds.

Open Space also utilizes controlled burning as a weed mitigation measure. In 2020, Open Space staff is working with Rocky Mountain Fire Protection district to complete a controlled burn at Davidson Mesa. Prescribed burns mimic the natural process of fire that grasslands have adapted to over thousands of years on the Colorado Front Range. Prescribed burns are a tool within the IWMP that promotes healthy communities of native vegetation. This is just one of many types of control methods that staff will employ in 2020.

Open Space regularly solicits volunteer assistance for mechanical weed removal through the Adopt an Open Space Program, Weed Whackers, HOA and corporate group weed pulls, and one-time community events such as Pull-4-Colorado. City staff as well as the Boulder County Youth Corps are also engaged in mechanical weed control. Additionally, staff hosts educational booths on weed identification and control options.

All of these efforts are ongoing in an attempt to allow native species to out-compete the non-native noxious weeds and allow for a more diverse and healthy ecosystem that benefits the entire community.

Advisory Board Feedback and Options:

Based on discussions with OSAB and PPLAB, staff has prepared the following options for consideration for next steps.

- 1. Overall recommendations - No major changes to the IWMP. Minor changes are proposed in attachment 1.**
 - OSAB supports the proposed minor changes to the IWMP.
- 2. Potential Options regarding herbicide use in Open Spaces**
 - Status Quo, continued use of IWMP for guiding decisions regarding noxious weed control on open space properties.
 - Allow 2, 4-D and Glyphosate for minimal use on Open Space.
 - Allow 2, 4-D and Glyphosate for use on only certain Open Spaces (or prohibit its use on certain Open Spaces).
 - Full Ban on 2, 4-D and Glyphosate on our Open Space properties.

OSAB supported the current approach being used by Open Space staff regarding noxious weed management. (The first two bullets above.)

3. Potential Options regarding herbicide use in Parks

- Status Quo, continued contain approach with minimal use of herbicides and continue with Memory Square and Elephant Park as herbicide free pilot parks and monitor impacts.
- Targeted Reductions
 - Identify additional herbicide free Parks.
 - Eliminate 2,4D applications in Parks but continue using Glyphosate in plant beds, ROW, etc.
- Full Ban on 2,4D and Glyphosate in our Parks and Public Landscaping properties.

PPLAB provided the following statement for City Council consideration:

“We as a board feel strongly about reducing the application of herbicides in playgrounds and surrounding turf. We recommend the development of a marketing campaign to foster public awareness and support as we move towards herbicide reduction and elimination in selected parks”.

Cons of the current approach include not further limiting herbicide use, potential impact to adjacent private property and not adequately addressing resident concerns. Some pros of the current approach include a consistent, cost-effective approach and strategic use of herbicide application, as well as effectively controlling noxious weeds.

Additional Resources:

<https://www.epa.gov/ingredients-used-pesticide-products/glyphosate>

<https://www.epa.gov/ingredients-used-pesticide-products/24-d>

<https://www.iarc.fr/featured-news/media-centre-iarc-news-glyphosate/>

https://www.iarc.fr/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/pr236_E.pdf

<https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2020/february/weeding-through-the-thorny-debate-on-glyphosate/>

FISCAL IMPACT:

Fiscal impact of the different options has not been calculated at this time. Depending on direction provided by City Council staff can look at potential cultural alternatives to minimize the impact of adjustments to herbicide use. Alternatives could require additional staff and/or contractors dedicated to mechanically and manually controlling weeds. Additional staff may also be needed to support more robust cultural practices around turf management (i.e. more aeration, over seeding and fertilization).

PROGRAM/SUB-PROGRAM IMPACT:

Decisions related to herbicide control could impact a number of programs and sub-programs including: Streetscapes, Parks, Cemetery, Open Space and Trails, and athletic fields. The ongoing maintenance and management of our properties will need to adapt as well as people’s expectations regarding the look and feel of properties if changes are implemented.

RECOMMENDATION:

Integrated Weed Management Plan

Staff requests direction from Council on the proposed edits for the IWMP. Staff plans to bring the final document to City Council for formal adoption with an expectation that the plan would then be formally updated every five (5) years and approved by City Council.

Open Space Properties

OSAB has recommended no changes to practices on City properties managed as Open Space. Staff requests Council concur or discuss the other options presented above.

Parks Properties

PPLAB has recommended the City continue reductions in the use of herbicides. Staff requests Council concur or discuss the other options presented above.

Any changes in the City’s use of herbicides resulting from Council policy direction would be communicated through onsite signage as well as a coordinated effort to inform residents and guests through all communication channels available to staff (social media, website, quarterly newsletters, etc).

ATTACHMENT(S):

- 1. Integrated Weed Management Plan – Redline

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Financial Stewardship & Asset Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Reliable Core Services
<input type="checkbox"/>		Vibrant Economic Climate	<input type="checkbox"/>		Quality Programs & Amenities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Engaged Community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Healthy Workforce
<input type="checkbox"/>		Supportive Technology	<input type="checkbox"/>		Collaborative Regional Partner

Memorandum

To: OSAB
From: Allan Gill, Parks Project Manager
Date: March 11, 2020
Re: 2020 Trail Priorities & 2021 through 2026 Trails CIP, Staff Update

Purpose:

Staff will provide an update on recently completed trails and transportation projects and lead OSAB through an exercise to prioritize trail projects as high, medium and low to help staff in identifying future trail projects for submission through the biennial budget process. Staff would also like feedback on any trails that are not included in the current TMP off-street projects list that should also be considered. Please review the off-street trail list and come prepared to discuss and prioritize the trails.

Background:

Parks, Recreation and Open Space staff has been working with other city departments on a Transportation Master Plan (TMP), which has identified numerous improvements across the City to improve circulation and safety for all modes of transportation. The TMP includes proposed trails among other amenities to support effective transportation. City Council will be discussing potential projects that could be funded by the TMP allocations in 2020 on March 31st.

Through the City's Wayfinding Trails Project Open Space staff, OSAB and residents identified proposed trail improvements and connections that would complete and improve the network of primary trails in Louisville and provide a wayfinding system to help users navigate the system

In order to complete missing connections, enhance the trail system and deploy our wayfinding signage, we need to make consistent progress over time. Many of the trail connections that were identified in 2014 have still not completed. Because of this and the recent effort to complete the TMP, staff would like to discuss the projects and have OSAB prioritize the trails to ensure we have support and can use OSAB's recommendation when advocating for projects as part of the budget process.

Trail Updates:

The following are projects that should be of interest to OSAB:

Completed

- Coyote Run – Trail Realignment and additional sidewalk
- Griffith Street – Additional sidewalk

Under Construction

- Hwy 42 Underpass/Kestrel Trail
- Hwy 42 Sidewalk Improvements

2020 Priorities

- 104th Regional Trail Connection – Design
- Powerline to Coal Creek Trail Connection/HAWK (Reconsideration)
- Fun Routes to School – Pilot Design

Trail Prioritization Exercise:

OSAB members should review the off-street network project list prior to the meeting. During the meeting we will touch base on each trail project for a brief discussion and then have OSAB members rank each trail project as a high, medium or low priority.

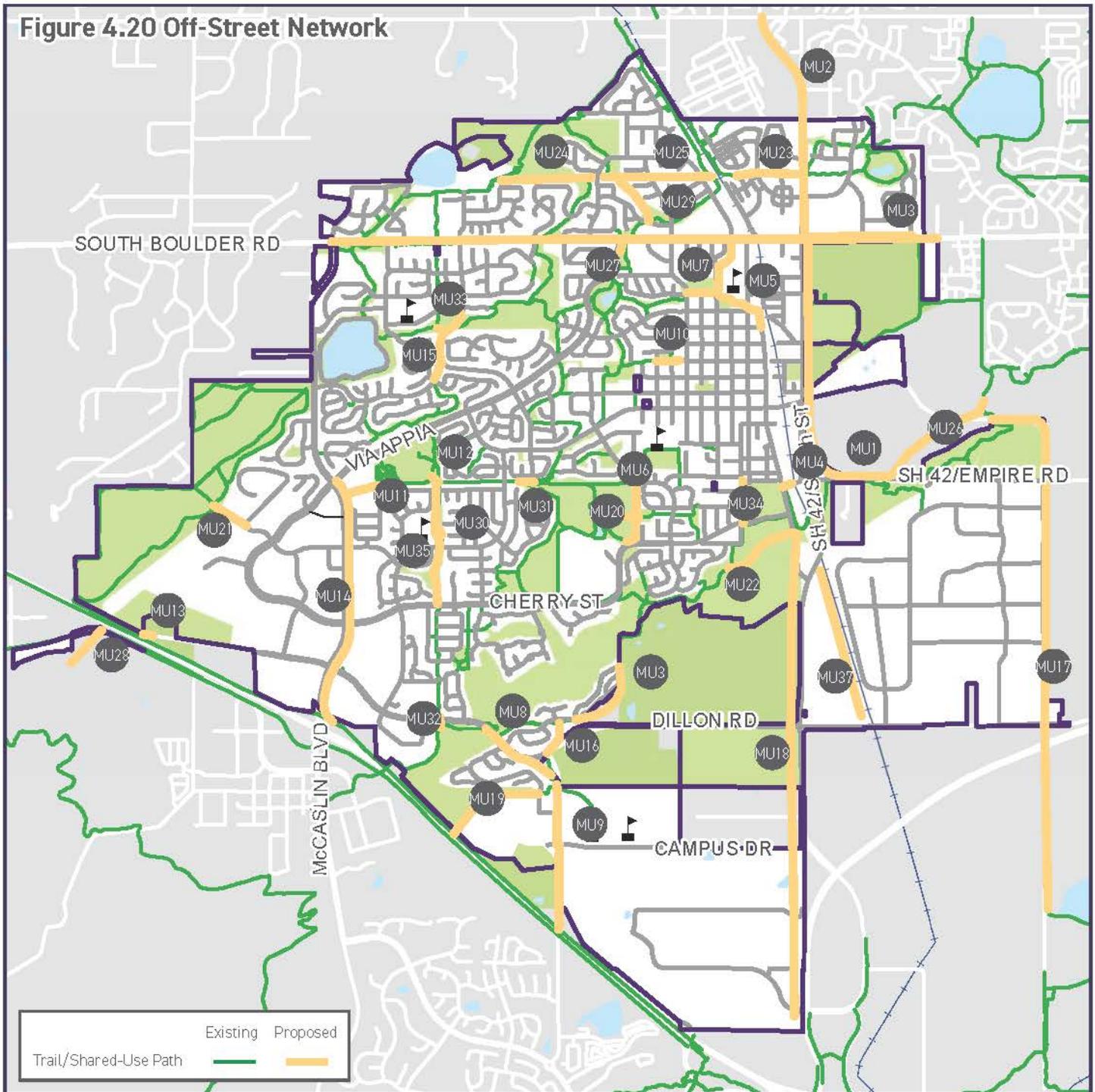
Next Steps

Staff will provide updates regarding the outcome of the March 31st meeting with City Council at the April meeting and will periodically update OSAB on the 2021-22 biennial budget process related to trails.

TMP Off-street Network Projects are listed below and can be seen on the TMP Map below.

Project ID	Description	Location	Cost	Priority	Timeframe	Partner/Coordination	Benefit(s)	Notes
MU1	Off-Street Shared Path	SH 42 to CTC	\$780,000	High	Long	Boulder County	Regional access, connections, safety	Seperated multi-use trail along the east side of hwy 42 adjacent to the Harney Lastoka property and the louisville sports complex.
MU2	Off-Street Shared Path	SH42 N of South Boulder Rd	\$100,800	Medium	Short	-	Connectivity, safety	This is to fill in missing connections between SBR and Hwy 7 on Hwy 42. Long term goal would be to have a seperated multi-use path.
MU3	Off-Street Shared Path	N of South Boulder Rd E of SH42	\$276,000	Low	Long	-	Business access, safety	This project contemplates widening of the sidewalk on the north side of SBR east of Hwy 42. Likely would occur when redevelopment happens.
MU4	Off-Street Shared Path	Lock St to Community Park	\$20,000	Medium	Medium	BNSF Railroad	Network connectivity	New 10' trail with rail crossing, requires RR coordination (Not going to happen, RR will not allow)
MU5	Off-Street Shared Path	LMS Connection	\$360,000	Low	Long	Boulder Valley School District	Safety, school access	Do not own ROW, cost will be higher
MU6	Off-Street Shared Path	Warembourg N/S Trail	\$145,000	Medium	Short	-	Network connectivity	currently a social trail on the east side of warembourg
MU7	Off-Street Shared Path	Griffith St	\$60,000	Medium	Long	-	Safety, school access	COMPLETE! Sidewalk installed on North side of griffith to Lincoln in 2019.
MU8	Off-Street Shared Path	St Andrews to 88th Underpass	\$120,000	High	Short	-	Safety, school access	This would formalize a social trail from coal creek trail @ st. andrews, south to Dillon Road.
MU9	Off-Street Shared Path	88th to US 36	\$60,000	High	Short	-	Network connectivity	Likely to occur as part of the Redtail Ridge development
MU10	Off-Street Shared Path	McKinley Park	\$60,000	Medium	Medium	-	Network connectivity	Would provide a trail connection along the south side of McKinley Park
MU11	Off-Street Shared Path	Arboretum Trail	\$80,000	Medium	Medium	-	Network connectivity	Arboretum Trail, connectivity to McCaslin
MU12	Off-Street Shared Path	Powerline to Mining connection	\$30,000	Low	Short	-	Network connectivity	Formalize social trail on the south east corner of rec center complex.
MU13	Off-Street Shared Path	US36 to Dyer Connection	\$10,000	High	Short	-	Network connectivity	Need to check to see if this is complete (county was going to do it)
MU14	Off-Street Shared Path	McCaslin Blvd	\$609,600	High	Medium	-	Safety, economic access	Improvements to the seperated multi-use trail. Likely to happen when redevelopment occurs.
MU15	Off-Street Shared Path	Washington Ave	\$154,000	Low	Medium	-	Trail connectivity	Widen sidewalk to be mixed-use trail south to Powerline Trail, add new trail to the north- has this connection been completed?
MU16	Off-Street Shared Path	St. Andres (Coal Creek Bypass) to Dillon	\$92,400	Medium	Medium	-	Network connectivity	Formalize social trail across the property at the south west corner of 88th and Dillon road.
MU17	Off-Street Gravel Trail	104th regional connection	\$158,334	High	Short	Boulder Co., Lafayette	Regional connectivity, safety	\$950,000 total cost, \$158,333 Boulder County, \$158,333 Lafayette and \$475,000 TIP
MU18	Off-Street Gravel Trail	Coal Creek to US36 West of 96th	\$500,000	Medium	Long	Boulder Co., Broomfield	Regional connectivity, safety	Dillon to Coal Creek west of 96th St., conceptual alignment
MU19	Off-Street Shared Path	US36 to St. Andrews aka "Avista Trail"	\$280,000	Low	Medium	-	Network connectivity	Requires coordination and partnerships with Avista Hosp.
MU20	Off-Street Gravel Trail	Warembourg E/W Trail Big Social Trail from Tennis Court to pond.	\$21,000	Low	Short	-	Trail connectivity	
MU21	Off-Street Gravel Trail	Centennial Parkway to Davidson Mesa Trail	\$90,000	High	Medium	-	Network connectivity	Potential Connection off W. Pine Ct. Would likely need to purchase the property or a trail easement.
MU22	Off-Street Gravel Trail	Reroute Coal Creek Trail to follow creek (Includes private property)	\$125,000	High	Short	-	Enhanced trail experience	East side of street.
MU23	Off-Street Shared Path	Kestrel Trail to SH 42 Underpass. Part of the current HWY 42 project.	\$125,000	High	Short	-	Trail connectivity	Should already be doing with underpass
MU24	Off-Street Shared Path	North Open Space Trail - West (Pipeline)	\$220,000	Low	Long	-	Trail connectivity	Trail connection along pipeline property
MU25	Off-Street Shared Path	North Open Space Trail - East (Pipeline)	\$220,000	Low	Long	-	Trail & network connectivity	Trail connection along pipeline property
MU26	Off-Street Gravel Trail	Coal Creek Trail Connection north of Empire Rd aka Mayhoffer Trail	\$80,000	Low	Long	-	Enhanced trail experience	New route through open space
MU27	Off-Street Gravel Trail	Cottonwood Park connection. Shouldbe part of the Cottonwood Master Plan.	\$27,500	Medium	Medium	-	Trail connectivity	
MU28	Off-Street Shared Path	Overlook underpass conceptual connection	\$85,000	Low	Long	Superior, Boulder County	Trail connectivity	Requires coordination and partnerships
MU29	Off-Street Shared Path	Via Appia (Centennial Park) to North Open Space	\$165,000	Medium	Medium	-	Trail connectivity	Connection along ditch
MU30	Off-Street Shared Path	Fireside Realignment	\$300,000	Low	Long	-	Enhanced trail experience	
MU31	Off-Street Shared Path	Warembourg, Mining to Goodhue Realignment	\$75,000	Low	Medium	-	Enhanced trail experience	
MU32	Off-Street Shared Path	Powerline to Coal Creek Trail	\$35,000	High	Short	-	Trail connectivity	Shovel ready, HAWK and trail connection (PW)
MU33	Off-Street Gravel Trail	Coyote Run	\$30,000	High	Short	-	Safety, trail connectivity	Complete!
MU34	Off-Street Shared Path	Coal Creek to Downtown Connection	\$77,500	Medium	Short	-	Safety, trail connectivity	
MU35	Fun Route	Powerline Trail Fun Route	\$150,000	High	Short	-	Quality-of-life, multimodal options	
MU36	Off-Street Shared Path	Coal Creek Trail	\$225,000	Low	Long	Boulder County	Enhanced trail experience	Reroute trail out of neighborhood; grade issues
MU37	Off-Street Gravel Trail	Dillon to Coal Creek East of 96th	\$500,000	Medium	Long	Developer	Regional connectivity, safety	Connection along railroad
MU - New	Off-street paved Trail	Dutch Creek Park	TBD	TBD	TBD	-	Trail connectivity	Would install path across park to connect to pedestrian crossing into Watrembourg Open Space

Project 2: All Ages & Abilities Bicycle Network, Cont.



Memorandum

To: OSAB
From: Allan Gill, Project Manager
Date: February 12, 2020
Re: Discussion Item 11: Warembourg Fishing Pond Master Plan

Property History

The 90 acre Warembourg property was purchased in 1994 for \$2,000,000. Fifty acres were purchased in fee by the City of Louisville and the remaining 40 acres are preserved through a conservation easement.

The Warembourg parcel is classified as Open Space – Visitor Land under the City of Louisville Open Space Master Plan. This classification denotes a property generally characterized by low relative ecological significance, relatively high levels of habitat fragmentation, and provides for passive recreation. Currently, this property provides for wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities. Recreation consists of pedestrian traffic along the established trails as well as fishing activities at the Fishing is Fun pond. Wildlife habitat largely consists of the pond, stock pond, riparian ditch corridors, and tree grove and associated habitat as well as non-native grassland habitat. The pond may provide some habitat resources for waterfowl, assorted wading birds, and various other avian species. The pond provides for various birds as well as assorted small mammals such as mice, fox, raccoons, skunks, and coyotes.

Current Project History

- Resident Martin Ogle presented concepts/ideas of improvements at Warembourg to OSAB in September of 2018 for consideration.
- Project is included in the 2019-2020 biennial budget
 - 2020 - \$35,000 for master planning
 - 2021 - \$180,000 for construction (Part of the 6 year CIP. Project will need to be approved as part of the 2021-22 biennial budget.)

Project Scope

Staff has listed a number of items for consideration as part of the scope for the project. They include:

- Baseline assessment of infrastructure and ecological habitat
- Hydrological Improvements (Dredging and deepening, new liner)
- Ecological Improvements (Habitat restoration and improvement)
- Recreation Improvements (fishing infrastructure, boardwalks, outdoor classroom, natural playground, site amenities such as vault bathrooms, benches, shade structures, etc.

Next Steps

Based on the discussion with OSAB and staff will use the outcomes of this meeting to draft an RFP for master plan design services.

Attachments

1. Martin Ogle Presentation

Initial proposal: Warembourg Fishing Pond Rehabilitation & Improvement

Current situation: Warembourg Fishing Pond is located in the Warembourg Open Space in Louisville (see photo at right). Over the past many years, the pond has silted in significantly. The shallow depth (and nutrient loading?) has resulted in rampant growth of algae and water plants to the point that fishing is almost impossible during most of the year. The pond's esthetics are poor, sometimes bordering on being an "eyesore."



Beyond the pond itself, the immediate surroundings, while fairly attractive, hold much potential for being even more esthetically pleasing and functional.

Solution: The only tenable solution for making the Warembourg Fishing Pond fishable for most of the year is dredging or digging it out to remove muck and silt and establish water depths that do not permit easy plant growth. Sizable parts of the pond should be dredged or dug to sufficient depths to prevent rooted water plants from growing for a number of years. There are other many other habitat improvements that could be made simultaneously (see below), and various water treatments may help to maintain the pond. However, without increasing the depth of the pond, the conditions described, above, will continue to worsen. **It is proposed that pond improvements and improvements to immediate surroundings be combined as a single project to enable large scale interest, participation, support / funding etc. Together, we can create a wonderful destination for Louisville residents. My initial recommendation is that interested citizens convene with Louisville Open Space staff and advisory board (and, perhaps the sustainability advisory board) to further explore this project.**

Characteristics of Pond:

- Size is about 1 1/3 acres.
- There is a path around the pond with trees and shrubs between path and shoreline. Trees are limited to the pond-side of the path.
- A small island in middle of pond is great wildlife habitat, but is starting to fall apart.
- The pond is very shallow with growths of water plants reaching the surface most of the way around the edges and much algae growth.
- Two aerators are in the pond. Only the one on the north side has been working during 2017.



What it looks like now



Less plant growth, very little algae growth, fishing access points and other improvements

What we'd like it to look like



Deeper pond, less leakage, more vegetation on bare shores



More vegetation on both sides of the trail on the west side of the lake

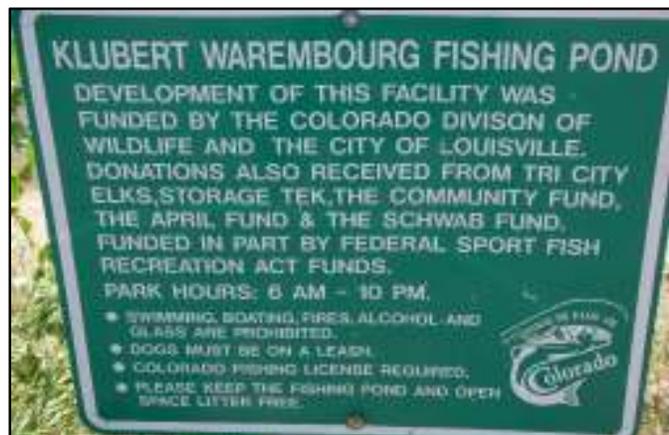


Options for digging out / dredging:

1. One option would be to have all work done by a commercial enterprise. This would be the simplest option in terms of the “basic job” of deepening the pond. However it would also be the most expensive option, and, perhaps, the most inflexible in terms of our ability to do a range of associated actions and projects.
2. Another option is possible – that of using a combination of physical labor and “in-house” equipment (and possibly smaller scale involvement of a commercial outfit).
 - In this option, the pond would be well-drained and allowed to dry out. Excavation would be done by “in house” (Louisville) equipment along with a large number of volunteers. The volunteers would contribute a significant amount to this effort and would allow certain features that equipment, alone, could not accomplish.
 - Many of the other improvements around the pond could be done through community involvement as well, thus adding to this effort as a community involvement / ownership activity.

Support and funding

- Since this pond was originally established as a fishing pond, the sources of funding and support are potentially large.
- The “Fishing is Fun” grant through Colorado Parks and Wildlife is a potential large source of funding <http://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/FishingIsFunProgram.aspx>
- **Original funders** (including Tri-city Elks, the Community Fund, the April Fund, the Schwab Fund and others) **could be reapproached.**
- There are **many other potential funders** that could be interested in this as a project that addresses the following concerns and issues (and others):
 - Getting kids outdoors / introducing kids to fishing
 - Educational purposes
 - Community building
 - More
- In addition to the “Fishing is Fun” grant, **Colorado Parks and Wildlife** can help out in other ways, ranging from moving, storing or stocking fish to fish habitat improvements.



Some features to help improve the esthetics, functionality and use of the area:

- Additional trees and shrubs (i.e., across trail on west and north sides)
- Rock “landings”
- Simple wood platform fishing piers
- Fish habitat improvements in pond
 - Deeper holes
 - Rock and other structures for cover for small fish
 - A couple shallow areas where plants **can** grow for fish cover
 - Gravel spawning bed in area that can be maintained clear of muck
 - Other
- Habitat island in middle of pond rebuilt
- Picnic table with shade. Shade sails with imprints of heron, bass, and goldeneye duck.
- Educational features (a few small displays; displays along fence; near picnic table; as examples)
- 1-2 simple play features (not to serve as a playground, but simply a place that small children can be occupied while parents sit quietly, birdwatch, fish, etc.)



Open Space Advisory Board TENTATIVE* Board Items Calendar
 (Updated March 5, 2020)

April 8, 2020	May 13, 2020	June 10, 2020
<p>Action Items:</p> <p>Updates/Discussion from the Department:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trail Alignment Ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Hecla to Waneka -Lake to Lake Prepare for Study Session with City Council <p>Updates/Discussion from the Board:</p>	<p>Action Items:</p> <p>Updates/Discussion from the Department:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize Materials for Study Session with City Council <p>Updates/Discussion from the Board:</p>	<p>Action Items:</p> <p>Updates/Discussion from the Department:</p> <p>Updates/Discussion from the Board:</p>
July 8, 2020	August 12, 2020	September, 9 2020
<p>Action Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize Key Performance Indicator Surveys <p>Updates/Discussion from the Department:</p> <p>Updates/Discussion from the Board:</p>	<p>Action Items:</p> <p>Updates/Discussion from the Department:</p> <p>Updates/Discussion from the Board:</p>	<p>Action Items:</p> <p>Updates/Discussion from the Department:</p> <p>Updates/Discussion from the Board:</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.