

## ***Open Space Advisory Board***

### ***Agenda***

**February 11, 2026**  
**Library 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Meeting Room**  
**951 Spruce Street**  
**7:00 PM**

*Members of the public are welcome to attend and give comments remotely; however, the in-person meeting may continue even if technology issues prevent remote participation.*

- *Call in to: +1 346 248 7799 or +1 408 638 0968 or 877 853 5247 (Toll Free)  
Webinar ID: 883 3175 6380 or*
- *You can log in via your computer. Please visit the City's website here to link to the meeting: [www.louisvilleco.gov/osab](http://www.louisvilleco.gov/osab)*

*The Council will accommodate public comments during the meeting. Anyone may also email comments to the Council prior to the meeting at [EmberB@LouisvilleCO.gov](mailto:EmberB@LouisvilleCO.gov).*

1. 6:45 pm Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes
5. 6:55 pm Staff Updates (5 Minutes)
6. 7:00 pm Board updates (5 Minutes)
7. 7:05 Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda (5 Minutes, more time as needed)
8. 7:10 pm Discussion Item: Parks Recreation and Open Space Long Range Plan. Trail Focused Work Session. Presented by Keith Walzak, DTJ Design (45 Minutes)

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Persons planning to attend the meeting who need sign language interpretation, translation services, assisted listening systems, Braille, taped material, or special transportation, should contact the City Clerk's Office at 303 335-4536 or [MeredythM@LouisvilleCO.gov](mailto:MeredythM@LouisvilleCO.gov). A forty-eight-hour notice is requested.

Si requiere una copia en español de esta publicación o necesita un intérprete durante la reunión, por favor llame a la Ciudad al 303.335.4536 o 303.335.4574.

- Part A: Confirm High, Med, Lower Trail Priorities
  - Part B: Review Draft Guiding Principles, Open Space and Trails Goals and Action Items
  - Part C: Discussion + Next Steps
9. 7:55 pm Action Item: 2025 OSAB Accomplishments & Draft OSAB 2026 Work Plan.  
Presented by Susan McEachern, OSAB Chair (30 Minutes)
  10. 8:25 pm Discussion Item: Comprehensive Plan Review and Recommendations.  
Presented by Susan McEachern, OSAB Chair (15 Minutes) [Comprehensive Plan](#)
  11. 8:40 pm Discussion Item: Form OSAB Tiger Teams. Presented by Susan McEachern,  
OSAB Chair (10 Minutes)
  12. 8:50 pm Discussion Items for Next Meeting
  13. Adjourn

## ***Open Space Advisory Board***

### ***Meeting Minutes***

**January 14, 2026  
Library 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Meeting Room  
951 Spruce Street  
6:45 PM**

**Call to Order** – Chairperson Susan McEachern called the meeting to order at 06:47 pm.

**Roll Call** was taken and the following members were present:

Board Members Present:

Brad Pugh, Andrew Dorsey, Daniel Rupp, Susan McEachern, Michiko Christiansen, Mark Poletti

Newly Appointed Board Members: Denise Montagu and Bud Talbot

Board Members Absent:

none

Staff Members Present:

Ember Brignull

**Approval of Agenda** – The agenda was approved by all members.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes** – Daniel provided a minor clarification regarding the previous meeting minutes. He clarified that he did not state, 'Daniel: Neighborhood parks should be mentioned as options.'

The minutes from the December 2025 meeting were approved as written.

#### **Introduction of board members:**

The existing board members re-stated their motivations and interests. The new board members introduced themselves:

Denise Montagu: Northern Colorado resident since 1979, active in city government and community, supports balancing recreation and preservation.

Bud Talbot: STEM professor, firefighter helper, passionate about recreation and conservation.

Every seat on the board has been occupied. Andy suggests new members review the last meeting packet for details on the vegetation survey.

***City of Louisville***

*Open Space Division 749 Main Street Louisville CO 80027  
303.335.4776 (phone) www.LouisvilleCO.gov*

**Mentorships:**

Andy & Brad volunteered.

**Staff updates:**

- Ember shared that a Community Open House for the upcoming Comprehensive Plan will take place on February 28th.
- The Parks Superintendent position remains vacant, with a tentative start date in late February.
- Andy inquired about the impact of Xcel outages on Open Space operations; Ember responded that there was no significant impact directly with coordination with Xcel, noting that Public Works was more impacted operationally.
- Ember updated that repairs to the Coal Creek water line break will be started soon now that Public Works work is complete.

**Board updates:**

Susan provided a Bird City update and mentioned the introduction of a new process for Advisory Boards, allowing each board an individual meeting with City Council. Susan said she talked with Council Member Dietrich Hoefner, who continues to advocate for the acquisition of Open Space.

**Public Comments – None**

**Posting Locations**

Agenda posting locations approved.

**Officer elections:**

The following officers were elected unanimously:

Chair: Susan

Vice-chair: Andy

Secretary: The group unanimously decided to continue rotating note-taking duties.

**2026 meeting dates**

Since November 11 is Veterans Day, the meeting day will need to be rescheduled. Ember will provide new potential dates.

**Housekeeping issues**

Board members will complete forms to record their estimated hours spent on board-related activities.

The board approved the start time of 6:45 and the meeting posting locations.

Personal contact details are being gathered.

The pamphlet on Open Government and Ethics was handed out.

The training session for new members has been arranged.

Ember asked if the property acquisition format in the latest packet is the one we want to present to city council. Brad and others agreed; it was approved.

#### Louisville Open Space Advocates (LOSA)

Green Paper Presentation by Matt Jones, Louisville resident:

- The deterioration of ecological conditions in Open Space was emphasized.
- Matt referenced key points from the Green Paper.
- Cathern Smith (Louisville resident) emphasized prioritizing efforts on riparian zones and prioritizing acquisition of other key properties (WW parcels).
- Daniel inquired whether a Bioblitz had been conducted on the WW properties.
- Cathern noted that the Goodhue Ditch Trail connector is currently included in the draft Comprehensive Plan. LOSA expressed concerns regarding the proposed trail along the ditch, given its location in a riparian area.
- Matt Jones suggested establishing an easement trail along the railroad track to connect downtown with Redtail Ridge.
- Riparian areas were identified as critical conservation priorities.
- Andy asked Ember about strategies for addressing issues related to social trails. Ember responded that the goal is to engage the community through educational initiatives and clarified that there is not presently any municipal code addressing this issue. This should be addressed as a component of the Trails Plan.
- Michiko stated that OSAB's involvement in the Trails Master Plan will be significant.
- Ember added that the comprehensive transportation master plan integrates trails alongside other transportation modes.

#### **Education Plan:**

Ember presented the Open Space Division's attendance numbers for Education programs for 2025 and proposed programs for 2026.

New initiatives include the 'Agents of Discovery' app (augmented reality engagement in Open Space), along with programs such as Wildlife in Winter, Seed Slingers, a coyote-focused program, bird and raptor education, the Butterfly Pavilion Web World program (featuring spiders), and dog ownership ethics.

The Wildlife Day event will be returning. Bee and Bird City signs will be installed soon.

Ebike safety etiquette programming has been requested.

Ecotoberfest will take place in Lafayette, with Sustainability representatives scheduled to attend.

Some planning challenges and gaps have arisen due to a shortage of Rangers. Brandon is leaving in February and will be replaced, but not immediately. Benjamin is going on leave in late summer.

Daniel suggested implementing a Google Calendar Subscription for open space events. Ember will explore this possibility, considering the Recreation Center is also offering it. OSAB approved the proposed 2026 programs

### **2025 Accomplishments List**

Susan has requested the following additions:

- OSAB input pertaining to bicycle regulations (speed limits and classes of e-bikes allowed)
- Development review process
- Site visits to parcels under consideration for acquisition

### **2026 Goals List**

- Susan: Advise on the Trails Master Plan.
- Ember: Today's session will focus on brainstorming; subsequent alignment with the City Council work plan will be required.

### **Social Trails**

- The group will discuss whether to include Social Trails as an agenda item.
- Ember: There is currently no Louisville Social Trail plan.
- Susan: Efforts regarding social trails are being coordinated by a group in Boulder County and beyond: NoCo Places.
- Andy: Recommends inviting the Boulder group's executive director to present to the committee.
- Brad: Suggests preparing a memorandum for the council outlining our position on social trails.

### **Wayfinding Project**

- Ember: Work is ongoing for Lake-to-Lake wayfinding, with Powerline trail signage completed.
- A budget review is scheduled.
- PROST consultants will deliver recommendations and plans for various domain areas.

### **Dark Sky Application**

- The application process is more complex than Bird City and unlikely to be supported by City Council given past votes on the issue.

### **Joint Board Meetings**

- Susan: Advocate for the continuation of annual joint board meetings with Lafayette and Superior open space boards.

### **PROST Community Feedback**

- PROST community feedback will inform staff decisions on capital projects.

**Summary re accomplishments and goals:** Susan will create a new draft document and share it with the board for feedback so we can finalize it at the next meeting.

**Discussion Items for Upcoming Meeting**

- Presentation by PROST consultant, initiating dialogue regarding social trails.
- For March: potential continuation of the discussion on social trails.

**Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 09:17 pm

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Open Space Advisory Board  
**From:** Open Space Division  
**Date:** February 11, 2026  
**Re:** Information Item 5: Staff Updates

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### General:

- Staff have begun the process of seasonal hiring with the City's Human Resources Department.

### Natural Resources:

- Staff have requested water to refill the Warembourg fishing pond.
- The BioBlitz report with results from monitoring efforts has been posted on our website: <https://www.louisvilleco.gov/local-government/government/departments/parks-recreation-and-open-space/open-space-division/bioblitz-2025>
- Staff completed woody debris removal from Dutch Creek corridor following windstorm damage.
- Staff removed junipers from Dutch Creek property line.
- Staff removed a dead duck from the Warembourg fishing pond which was hooked in its bill and wrapped up in fishing line.
- Staff have submitted both cattle and goat grazing addendums for the 2026 season, this will be the first year of the multi-year contract extension.
- Staff have worked with Parks, Recreation, and Open Space marketing team on website edits for the upcoming shift to a new website.

### Maintenance & Trails:

- Staff are preparing to complete the trail repairs and restoration needs along Coal Creek trail near Premier Members Credit Union in the upcoming weeks. The repairs will require the trail to be temporarily closed for safety reasons and equipment needs.
- The Daughenbaugh Open Space Parking Lot Resurfacing has been completed. Next steps will include the installation of perimeter fencing on the North and West sides of the

parking lot. This phase of the project will be completed with the help of the Boulder County Youth Corps during their upcoming 2026 season.

**Resource Protection:**

- Ranger Naturalist Brendon Meili ended his employment with the City of Louisville. Thanks to Ranger Meili for nearly four years of service to the city!
- Staff are working to update the Ranger Naturalist job posting to begin the recruitment and hiring process as soon as possible.
- Along with officers from the Louisville Police Department, Sr. Ranger Naturalist White-Patarino assisted with the response to a grassland wildfire near S. 104<sup>th</sup> Street and Dillon Road on January 5<sup>th</sup>. Rangers remain vigilant for smoke or other signs of fire during their standard patrols.

**Volunteers Needed:**

- Staff are looking for a few additional volunteers to join our Raptor Monitoring Program. Volunteers assist with monitoring an assigned nest during the breeding season to document nest success. All participants must attend training in late February to join the program. If you are interested in participating, please contact Catherine Manian at [cmanian@louisvilleco.gov](mailto:cmanian@louisvilleco.gov) .

**Education Events- Upcoming:**

- Sunday, February 15, 2026, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, Open Space Stargazers: Stargazing is for Lovers at Aquarius Open Space.
- Sunday, March 1, 2026, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, Open Space Stargazers: Gas Giants and Winter Constellations at Aquarius Open Space.
- Friday, March 6, 2026, from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM, Seed Slingers at Daughenbaugh Open Space.

**Education Events Past:**

- Friday, January 30, 2026, from 10:15 AM to 11:00 AM, Preschool Program: Wildlife in Winter at the Louisville Library. 18 participants.
- Sunday, February 1, 2026, from 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM, Open Space on Canvas: Plein Air Art Exhibit at the Louisville Recreation and Senior Center.

**Action Item 9: 2025 OSAB Accomplishments & Draft 2026 Work Plan**

<b>2025 ACCOMPLISHMENT</b>			
<b>OSAB 2025 Priorities</b>		<b>City Council Work Plan</b>	<b>Budgeted in 2025</b>
City Comprehensive Plan	Engaged with City reps, took survey as individuals. OSAB provided specific recommendations on incorporating open space issues.	Yes- Economic Vitality	Yes
Acquisition Policy	Great progress. Took our biennial field trip to evaluate potential properties and created a new streamlined recommendations list. Multiple points of engagement with City Manager, collaborated in a productive meeting with City Council, which approved new acquisition process and flow chart.	Yes- Core Services	
Restore Native Ecosystems and Grasslands	In progress. Vegetation survey completed. Awaiting next steps for Council approval.	Yes- Core Services	Yes
PROST Long Range Plan	Met with consultants, provided thoughts and feedback.	Yes- Core Services	Yes
Trails Master Plan	Designated OSAB members attended a Trails MP focus group and OSAB provided overall feedback to consultants.	Yes- Core Services	Yes
Review Interpretive Education Panels	Reviewed and provided feedback on multiple panels.		Yes
Wildfire Mitigation Communication Campaign	Susan and Andy provided feedback to consultant.		Yes
Short Street & Hwy 42 Urban Renewal Plan	na		Yes
Budget Review	Reviewed and provided feedback and guidance.		
Resource Management	Na		
Complete Wayfinding City Wide	Powerline Trail completed. Remainder budgeted for 2026.		Yes
Achieve "Bird City" Designation in Louisville	Accomplished!		No
Dark Sky Designation Adjacent to Open Space	Consider working with Sustainability Advisory Board in 2026 to recommend citizen education outreach. Awaiting Council Direction.		No
Joint Board Meetings with Lafayette LOSAC and Superior OSAC	Held joint meetings and agreed to establish a joint Tiger Team to work on Coal Creek restoration efforts		
Development Review	Held a quasi-judicial meeting to evaluate and approve transfer from Avista of a portion of DD property to city open space.		No
BioBlitz Biodiversity Evaluation	Complete!		Yes
City Wide Rodenticide Policy for Private Property	Confirmation that Redtail Ridge developers have agreed not to use rodenticides. Awaiting Council Direction.		No
Board/Tiger Team Collaboration with internal and external boards	In the process of establishing a joint Tiger Team with Lafayette and Superior to meet quarterly. Plan to meet annually with full boards.		
E-bikes and speed limits	Provided recommendations to city council, which were adopted in a new ordinance limiting e-bikes on city trails to class 1 and class 2, with speed limit of 15 mph. Signed Trail and completed education & outreach.		
<b>Individual Accomplishments/Tiger Teams</b>			
Weed Whackers	Organized 138 hours of open space weeding (Susan)		

<b>OSAB 2026 Goals</b>		<b>City Council Work Plan</b>	<b>Budgeted in 2026</b>
Review and recommendations on proposed social trails policy			
Provide feedback on PROST, including what individual plans (e.g., wildlife, weed control) should be developed next and how PROST recommendations should be implemented.			
Establish a Trails Tiger Team in 2026 to provide detailed feedback.			
Complete Wayfinding			
Review and provide feedback on 2027-2028 biennial budget			
Hold annual meetings with Lafayette and Superior open space boards			
Establish a joint Tiger Team with Lafayette and Superior open space boards to work on issues of mutual concern			
Review and potentially revise proposed Open Space Acquisition List			
Ensure progress on Warembourg Pond restoration through the CIP Process			

**Past Ideas for Goals:**

Implement a Mobile Education Trailer	
Advocate for 2C Permanent Renewal Vote in 2028. Begin discussion in 2027.	Dietrich Hoeffner is in favor of this idea. (Susan)
Obtain Water Rights to Enhance Coal Creek and Hecla Lake Environmental Health	Would require an outside consultant to analyze feasibility. (Graeme)
Restore Coal Creek Riparian Area	
Advocate for a Wildlife Plan	Advocate for a city ordinance protecting wildlife. (Michiko)
Work with RAB to Continue Program to Rewild Golf Course Roughs	
Open Space Management Plan	Will follow after PROS Plan is completed.

# **APPENDIX A**

## ACTION PLAN

# APPENDIX A: ACTION PLAN



The Action Plan identifies the major City-initiated policy, regulatory, and programmatic steps Louisville should take over the next ten years to implement the Comprehensive Plan’s vision, values, and goals. It highlights a focused set of high-impact initiatives such as updates to plans, codes, policies, and engagement practices. These items are strategic and do not include specific capital projects, which are addressed through separate plans, capital improvement programs, and City budgeting. While the strategies throughout the Comprehensive Plan provide broad direction, the Action Plan offers a clear roadmap for near- and mid-term implementation and should be reviewed and updated approximately every five years to remain responsive to community needs.

Action Item	Summary	Why It's Important	Responsibility	Timeline
Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Long-Range Plan Update	Review and update the City’s Parks and Recreation Department priorities for the next 10+ years.	Maintains the City’s high level of service for parks, open space, recreation, senior services, and golf.	Parks and Recreation	Near Term (1–3 yrs)
Development Code Update	Comprehensively update Louisville Municipal Code Titles 16-17 to modernize zoning and development standards and processes to support housing diversity and affordability, economic vitality, sustainability, natural hazard resilience, and a business friendly environment.	Implements plan goals through clear, predictable regulations; increases resilience and quality of development.	Community Development	Near Term (1–3 yrs)
Design Standards and Guidelines Updates	Update the City’s design standards and guidelines—including Commercial, Mixed Use, Industrial, Old Town Overlay, and the Downtown Design Handbook—and consider creating new Multifamily Design Standards and Guidelines. These updates should occur in tandem with the development code update for consistency across all regulations.	Provides clear, modern, and predictable design expectations; improves development quality; supports housing goals and compatibility with surrounding neighborhoods; and ensures alignment between zoning rules and design guidance.	Community Development	Near Term (1–3 yrs)

Action Item	Summary	Why It's Important	Responsibility	Timeline
Development Impact Fees Updates	Review and adjust fees so development contributes proportionally to infrastructure and service costs to enhance quality of life.	Supports fiscal sustainability for a high quality of City services, programs, events, public spaces, and equitable growth.	Community Development, Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Cultural Services	Near Term (1-3 yrs)
Utility Master Plan Updates	Incorporates new growth projections into recent utility strategies to enhance resilience and support long term infrastructure needs.	Ensures continued reliable service delivery and infrastructure adaptation to evolving climate risks.	Public Works	Near Term (1-3 yrs)
Community Engagement Framework	Develop a standing program for inclusive engagement on major city projects that impact the community.	Keeps community involved and builds trust in planning decisions.	Communications, Community Development	Near Term (1-3 yrs)
Downtown Vision Plan Implementation	Advance downtown improvements in public areas and mobility projects that enhance safety and vibrancy.	Supports economic vitality, beautification, placemaking, and opportunities for community connections downtown.	Public Works, Community Development	Near Term (1-3 yrs)
Sustainability Action Plan Updates	Refresh climate, energy, and waste goals and integrate resilience strategies from the Comprehensive Plan.	Reinforces community leadership in sustainability and climate adaptation.	Sustainability	Medium Term (3-5 yrs)
Transportation Master Plan Updates	Align transportation investments with land use, safety, and climate goals.	Reduces emissions, improves mobility options, and supports connected neighborhoods.	Community Development, Public Works	Medium Term (3-5 yrs)
Housing Plan Updates	Refresh Housing Plan needs assessment and responsive action items to address housing goals.	Addresses one of the community's top priorities by responding to changing market conditions.	Community Development	Medium Term (3-5 yrs)
Future 42 Implementation	Coordinate corridor improvements with regional partners to improve safety, transit, and design character.	Key multimodal and economic link for Louisville and the region.	Public Works, Community Development	Medium Term (3-5 yrs)



APPENDIX B  
COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

# Louisville Comprehensive Plan

Summary of Round Two of Boards and Commissions Input  
March-May 2025



City staff requested input on the Comprehensive Plan from eight City of Louisville boards and commissions in early to mid-2025. This was the second of two rounds of focused discussions with these groups. The first round was at project kickoff where they were asked about the most important things to address in the Plan. This document summarizes the input from the second round of recent discussions and does not include input from Planning Commission. Planning Commission is acting as the project’s primary advisory group and City Council.

## Round Two Boards and Commissions Meeting Topics

City staff provided a project update and asked both open ended and targeted questions of each group within their purview. The specific topics covered included:

- A summary and reminder of what a comprehensive plan is and isn’t, including areas where the Comprehensive Plan’s content intersects with the group’s purview;
- A summary of each board or commission’s input from the early 2024 project kickoff (round 1 of input);
- A summary of City Council’s policy direction to date on the Plan’s future land use framework, including the recommendations for future land use changes at certain locations;
- A summary of potential Comprehensive Plan goals and strategies that are within the group’s purview; and
- An overall project status update.

City staff asked each board or commission for input on the overall content of the Plan to date and for specific input on potential goals and strategies to inform the Plan’s drafting. The potential goals and strategies were presented at a topical level, with the intent of having the board or commission identify what is missing, what are the most important to include, and how best to articulate them in the Comprehensive Plan. The boards and commissions did not take a consensus vote on these items, so the comments address both themes and individual comments.

## **Parks and Public Landscaping Advisory Board (3/15/25)**

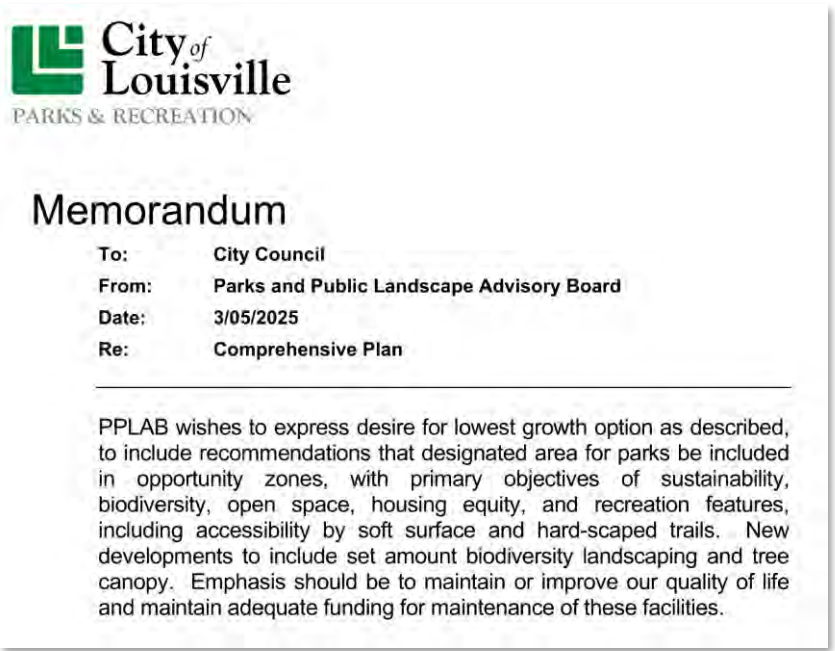
City staff shared the following potential goals and strategies with the PPLAB for input:

- Related to Placemaking and the Public Realm, to:
  - Support the Update to the PROS Master Plan
  - Encourage Enhanced Design of Public Spaces
  - Encourage Development of New Public Places
- Related to Environmental Sustainability and Decarbonization, to:
  - Encourage Water Conservation on Public and Private Property
  - Increase Louisville’s Tree Canopy on Public and Private Property
  - Encourage Biodiversity on Public and Private Property

- Related to Core Community Services, to:
  - Address Population Growth Impacts on Public Parks and Open Spaces

PPLAB Comments:

- Critical to maintain a high level of parks-related services to the community as population growth occurs; this should be addressed in both the Comprehensive Plan and forthcoming PROS master plan. This is one of Louisville’s best assets that sets us apart and makes us such a desirable place.
- Evaluate the City’s impact fees to understand how they are currently being used and opportunities for updates to such fees to ensure a continued high level of parks related services.
- Important to maintain biodiversity in our open space areas and ideally as part of any redevelopment on private property.
- The city needs a balanced approach to future development, and there were mixed opinions among PPLAB members about the right approach for future residential growth with recognition of the potential impacts on the community but also related to the city’s housing affordability and social equity goals.
- Important to implement water conservation measures and be ahead of related state laws.
- Climate change adaptation is a high priority that could be addressed in parks.
- Decrease in pesticide use in parks is important.
- Evaluate the areas near and adjacent to parks for their impact on the parks.
- Desire for enhancements to the arboretum.
- Desire for more activity based areas – e.g., play fields, playgrounds, etc.
- The PPLAB offered a memo to City Council following this discussion stating their position on growth and development in Louisville included below.



## **Open Space Advisory Board (3/12/25)**

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City staff shared the following potential goals and strategies with the OSAB for input:

- Related to Enhance Trail Facilities, to:
  - Identify priority trail connections, particularly in areas where redevelopment is likely to occur (e.g., near Davidson Mesa, Redtail Ridge)
  - Identify priority trailhead improvements
- Related to Protecting and Enhancing Open Space Areas, to:
  - Encourage Biodiversity in Open Space areas
  - Identify attributes of desirable open space acquisition areas
  - Support update to PROS Master Plan
- Related to Recovery and Resilience, to:
  - Address natural hazard areas that interface with potential new residential development
- Related to Core Community Services, to:
  - Address Population Growth Impacts on Public Parks and Open Spaces.

### OSAB Comments

- The goals and strategies should be more assertive than what was presented. For example, the City has already identified many of the priority connections and preservation areas – the plan should state that we need to implement, rather than identify.
- The community’s highest priority when asked in various surveys is acquiring and managing open space areas, and this should be evident in both the Comprehensive Plan and PROS plan.
- The Plan (or PROS plan) should promote biodiversity in our open space areas, and state why the goal is so important (e.g., healthy ecosystems for plant and animal life).
- Support for improving our tree canopy.
- Its important to clarify the distinction between different types of open space areas – e.g., grasslands, riparian areas, etc.
- The City’s Open Space division and OSAB have been working on identifying desirable future acquisition areas, and it is desirable if the Comprehensive Plan can help support the goal of acquiring these areas for open space. Such identification also includes criteria for prioritizing the most desirable open space areas that could be integrated into the Comprehensive Plan and PROS plan.
- Address that Louisville voters approved a 10 year extension of the 2C sales tax for open space and parks, and how that is a funding opportunity to capitalize on.
- The City needs to balance the management of open space properties with sometimes competing goals around recovery and resilience. E.g., between hazard mitigation and compromising the ecological value of these areas.
- Important to address growth impacts on open space areas.
- It is desirable to have a more established social trails policy that addresses any future population growth and to minimize or consolidate creation of social trails.

The existing social trails may be difficult to change, but the policy could address creation or management of new ones.

- Would love it if we could be a designated bee-friendly city.
- Any residential in Redtail Ridge is ok but should not encroach into any established open space areas. E.g., the open space area north of the existing hospital.
- The OSAB offered a memo to City Council following this discussion stating their position on growth and development in Louisville included below.



**MEMORANDUM**

**To: City Council  
Jeff Hirt, Planning Manager**

**From: OSAB**

**Date: April 9, 2025**

**Re: Comprehensive Plan**

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We appreciate Jeff Hirt’s presentation to us on March 12 regarding updates to the status of the Comprehensive Plan and how it aligns with OSAB’s purview. He listened carefully to our suggestions and concerns, but we wanted to convey them directly to City Council as well.

Our ongoing priorities:

- The Plan should emphasize the goal to protect, enhance, and expand open spaces and trails.
- The Plan should recognize the link between economic vitality and funding open space, both for the economic benefit open spaces provide in making the city an attractive destination and for the need for healthy sales tax revenues to cover open space expenses.
- The Plan should address climate change, resilience, and our decarbonization plan as policy priorities.

We support the draft strategy outlined by Jeff but wish to make the following specific points, which we raised in our March meeting:

- The land-use framework needs to emphasize Open Space acquisition
- Include Open Space acquisitions options in future land-use maps, especially in the focus areas around Centennial Pkwy and the area around the current Avista Hospital when it relocates. Both these areas have potential parcels that could be part of open space expansion, as envisioned in the passage of referendum 2C.
- Emphasize the importance of biodiversity, restoration, and protection in all of our Open Space properties, especially the Coal Creek riparian area as well as other valuable ecosystems, including North, Coyote Run, and Davidson Mesa.
- Take into account that Open Space resources are for the benefit not only of our citizens but our plant and animal life as well.

- Be more specific about the definition of “Green Corridors.” Are these Open Space properties or all planted areas (parks, medians, and the like)?
- Explicitly state in the Comp Plan that city policymakers and staff will take into account the recommendations of the PROS and Trails plans, which will be completed after the Comp Plan.

### **Louisville Revitalization Commission (3/12)**

City staff shared the following potential goals and strategies with the LRC for input:

- Related to a Vibrant Downtown, to:
  - Maintain and enhance ground floor activation through design and land use (e.g., ground floor retail).
  - Allow residential “by right” in some areas (e.g., above ground floor commercial) to implement City housing policies and support economic vibrancy.
  - Support a robust program of community events year round.
  - Integrate land use, development, and transportation recommendations with the Downtown Vision Plan.
  - Evaluate improvements to Downtown Framework Plan.
- Related to Vibrant Commercial Areas Outside Downtown, to:
  - Maintain the McCaslin Blvd and South Boulder Road frontages as primarily retail corridors within Comprehensive Plan defined opportunity areas.
  - Allow mixed use with some residential near McCaslin Blvd and South Boulder Road in areas currently zoned exclusively for commercial uses and other areas to implement City housing policies and support economic vibrancy.
  - Enhance transportation connections from nearby residential areas to commercial areas and within the commercial areas.
- Related to a Supportive Business Environment, to:
  - Update Development Code to streamline procedures where possible addressing new commercial projects and expansions of existing businesses.
  - Support local business retention and expansion.
- Related to Transportation and Mobility Improvements, to:
  - Provide enhanced transportation connections for all modes from residential areas to activity areas within Downtown Louisville, the McCaslin corridor, South Boulder Road, and Redtail Ridge.
  - Increase connectivity and comfort of on-street bike facilities, bike paths, and sidewalks.
  - Increase regional transit connections.