



Open Space Advisory Board

February 11, 2026
Packet Addendum #1



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GUIDING THE FUTURE
 of Louisville Parks, Open Spaces, Trails,
 Recreation & Senior Center, and Golf Course

PROS GUIDEBOOK
OSAB / Trails Subcommittee Meeting

February 11, 2026

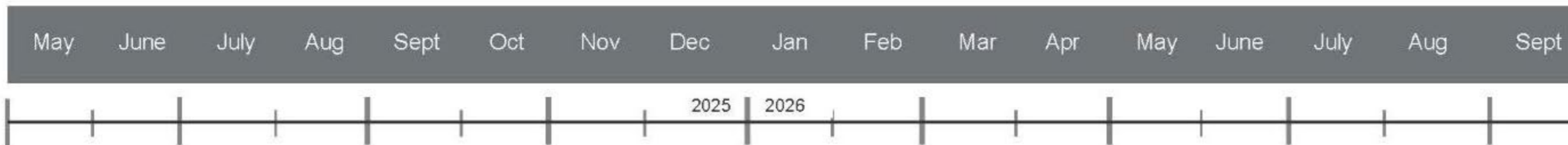
Workshop Agenda



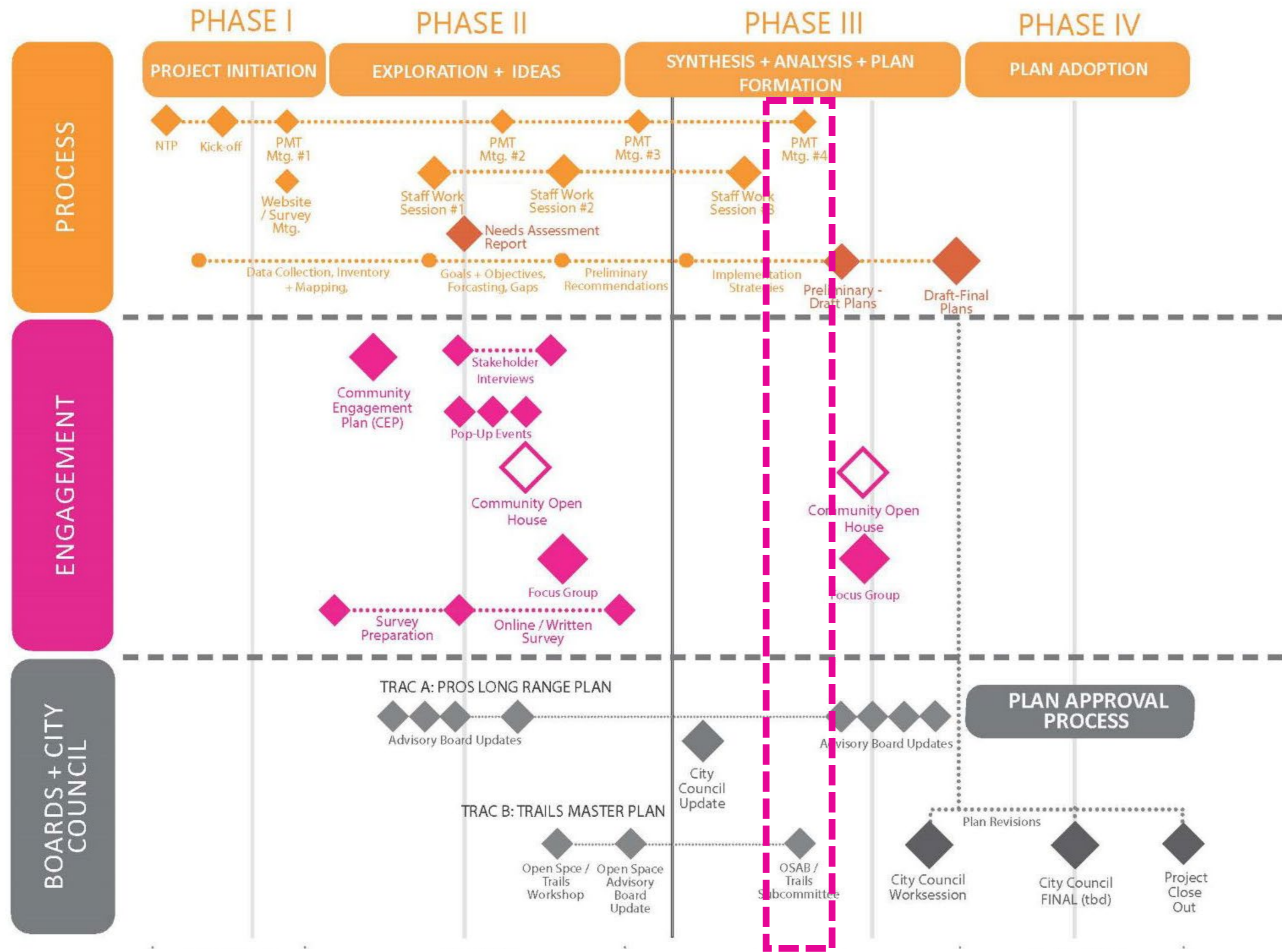
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Confirm High, Med, Low Trail Priorities
Review Guiding Principles + Plan Goals
Discussion + Next Steps





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PROJECT SCHEDULE

Purpose

Establish a roadmap for Trails System Plan Priorities

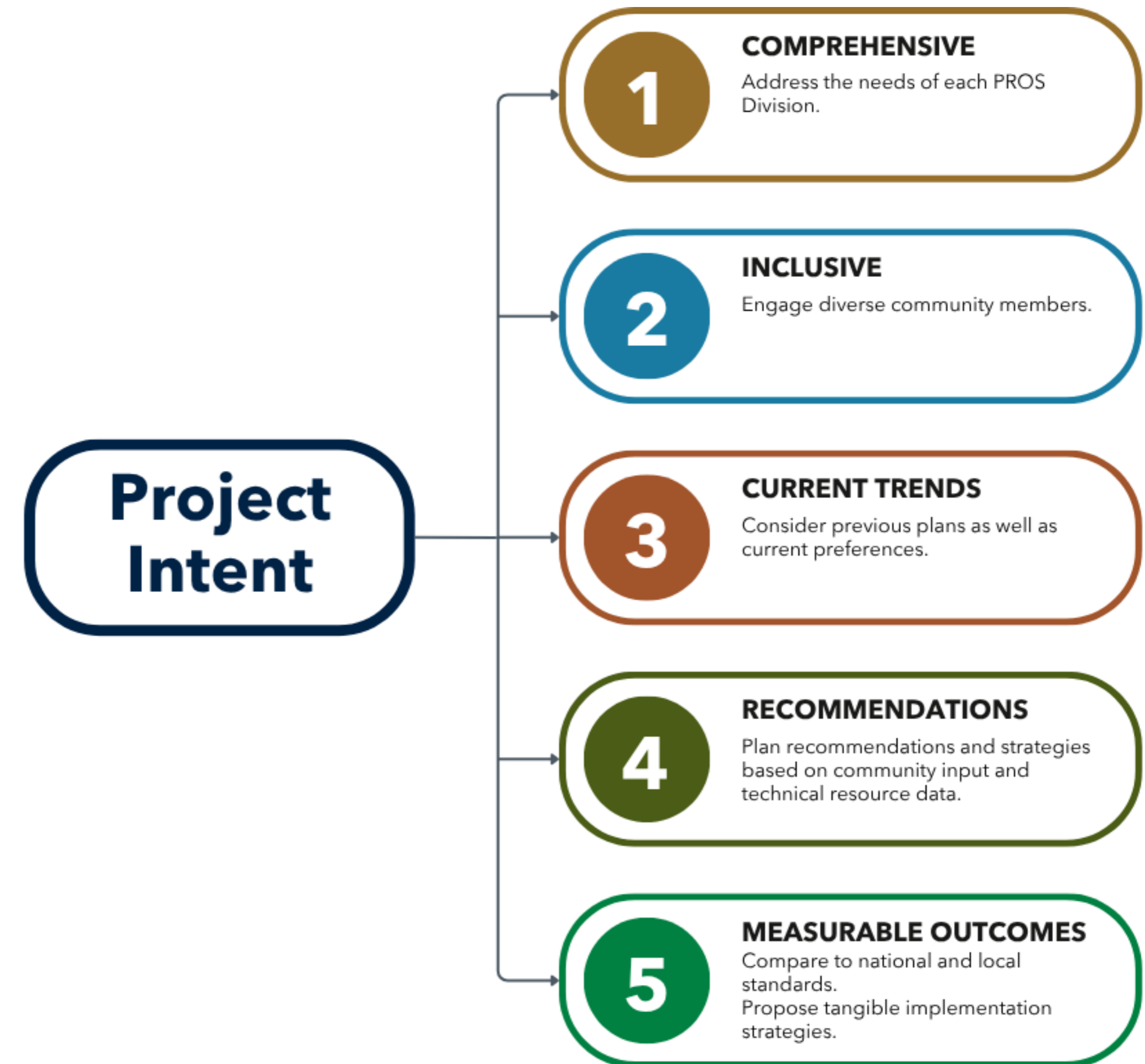


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- Confirm gaps in the trails system
- Provide descriptions for future improvements
Specifically, what is needed?
- Prioritize improvement projects based on:
Preferences and Need
Safety

Further evaluations of recommended projects will be conducted based on:

- Funding availability
- Staff capacity
- Other department priorities



Trails System Plan



- **Address Recreational and Shared Pathway System**

- Connect Origins and Destinations
- Eliminating Barriers
- Wayfinding and Signage

- **Open Space Land Classification System**

- Land Management Practices

- **Decision-Making Framework**

- Capital Improvement Programming
- Maintenance and Operations

Trail Design Standards

- National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)
- AASHTO Standards
 - American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
- MUTCD Standards
 - Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices
- Boulder County Trails Standards
- USFS Recreation Trails Standards

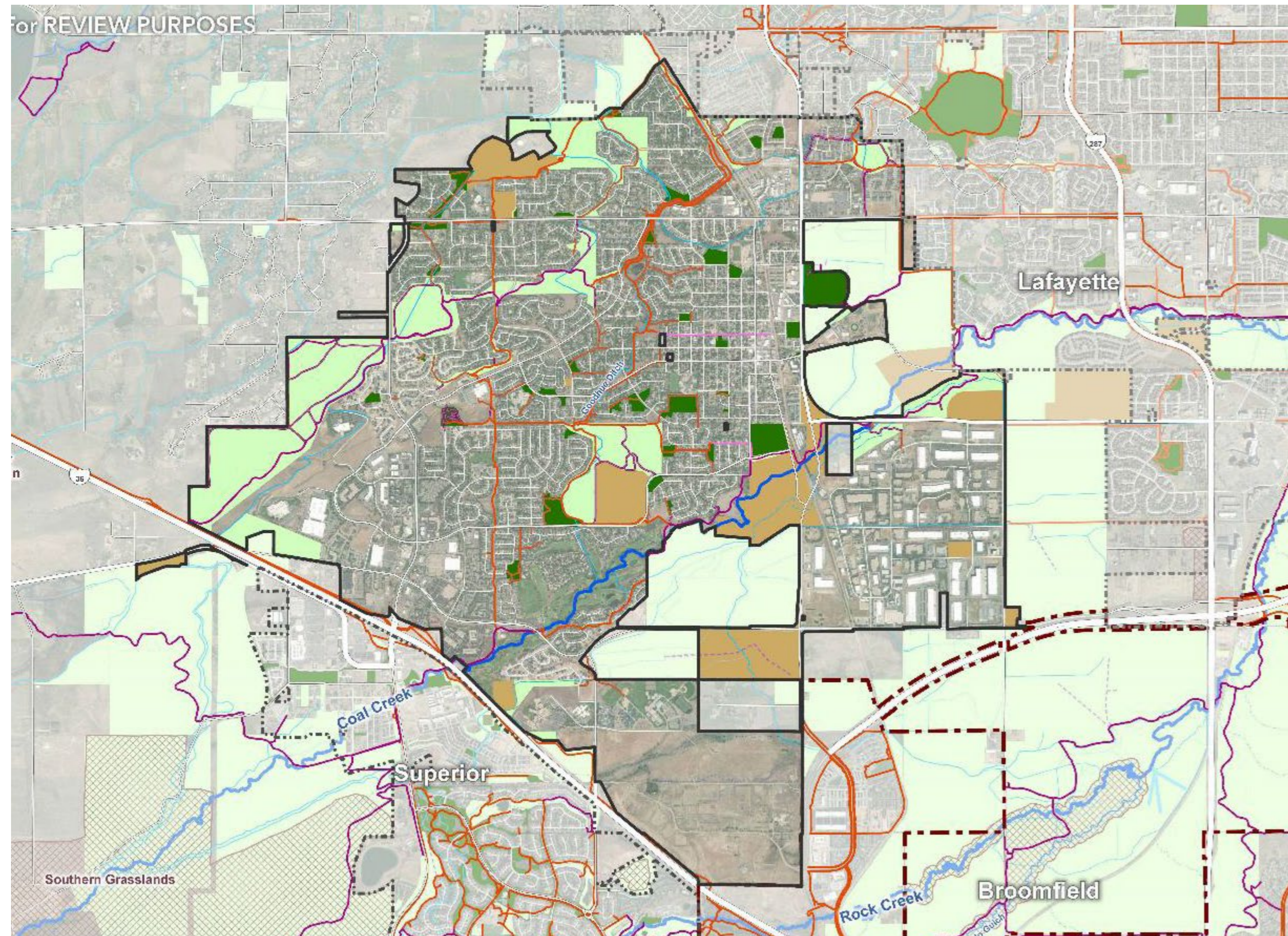


Takeaways to Date

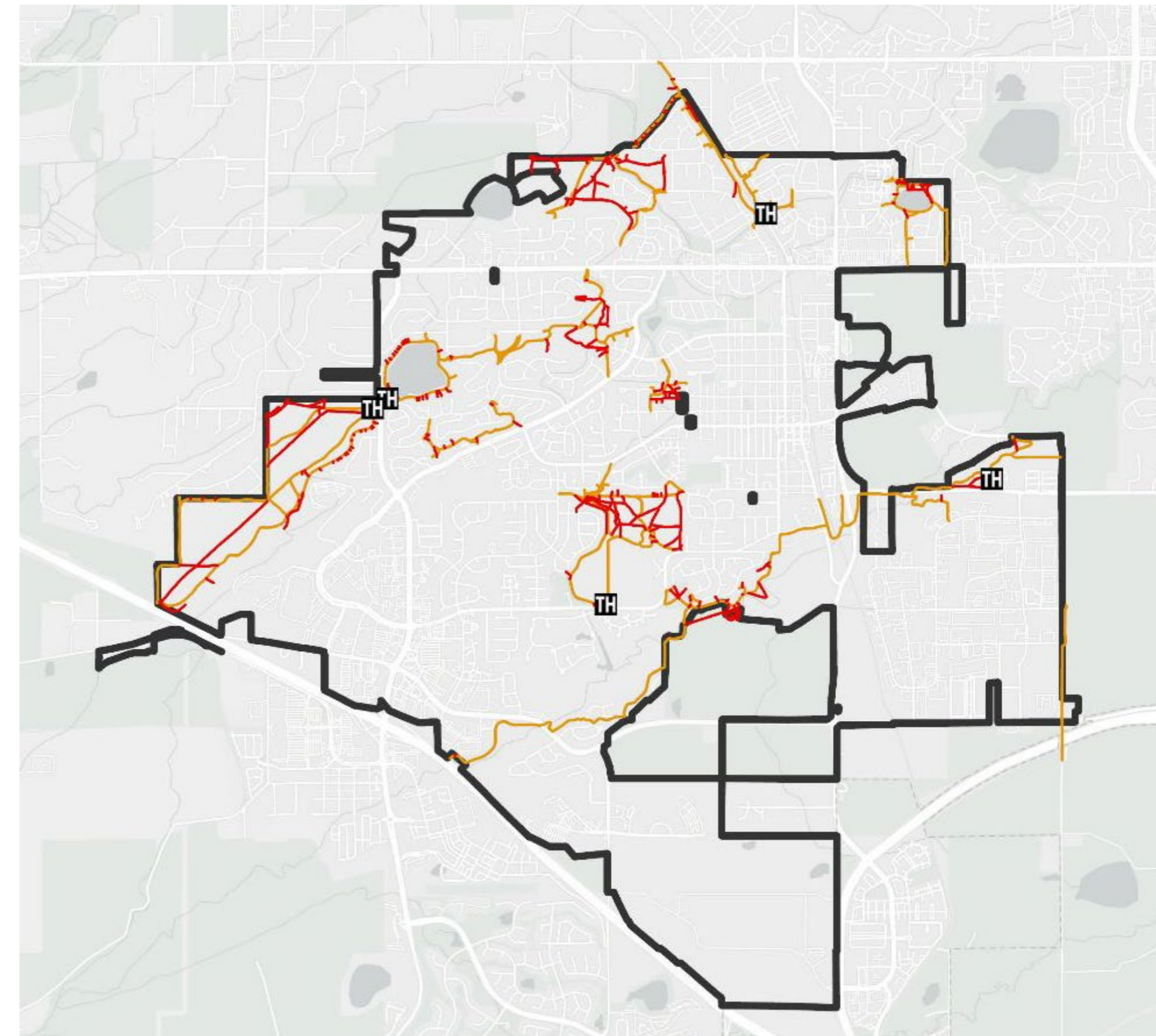
- Trails are the city's most used asset
- Residents want better regional links
- Safety and crossings are top concerns
- Social trails reveal missing connections



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Existing Open Space and Trails System



2014 Social Trails Inventory (Source: City of Louisville)

Big Ideas

Input from Nov 14 Workshop

Connectivity + Wayfinding

- Create safe, clear connections between neighborhoods, downtown, and regional trails.
- Address barriers like railroad crossings, South Boulder Road, and steep grades.
- Improve wayfinding with maps, signage, and consistent trail standards to help trail users.

Policy + Standards for Trails

- Develop a policy for social/unauthorized trails: decide which to close, restore, or integrate.
- Adopt appropriate trail standards for Louisville's recreational trails.
- Include enforcement and education to support compliance and stewardship.

Habitat + Ecosystem Protection

- Prioritize eco-diverse areas and sensitive habitats in planning.
- Implement buffers and restoration strategies to minimize fragmentation.
- Balance recreation with conservation through science-based land assessments and monitoring.



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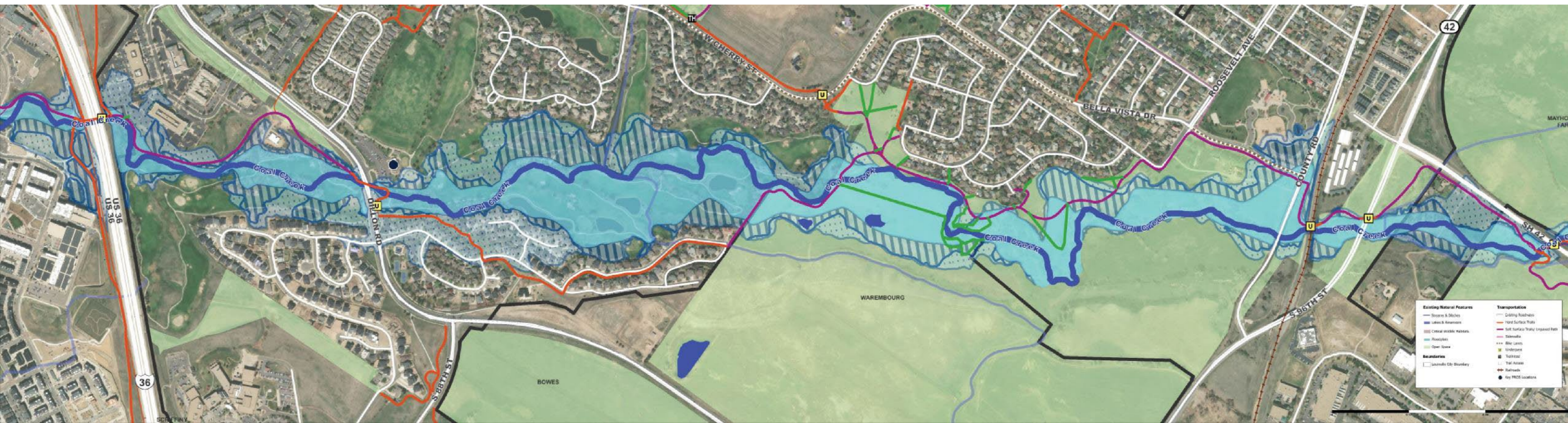


Trails System Program Priorities



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- Promote a balanced ecosystem of open lands and recreational trail uses
- Implement high priority and cost-effective trail access improvements
- Review trail regulations and enforcement practices
- Create consistent trail design standards
- Update data management and open lands classifications
- Develop educational and awareness campaigns



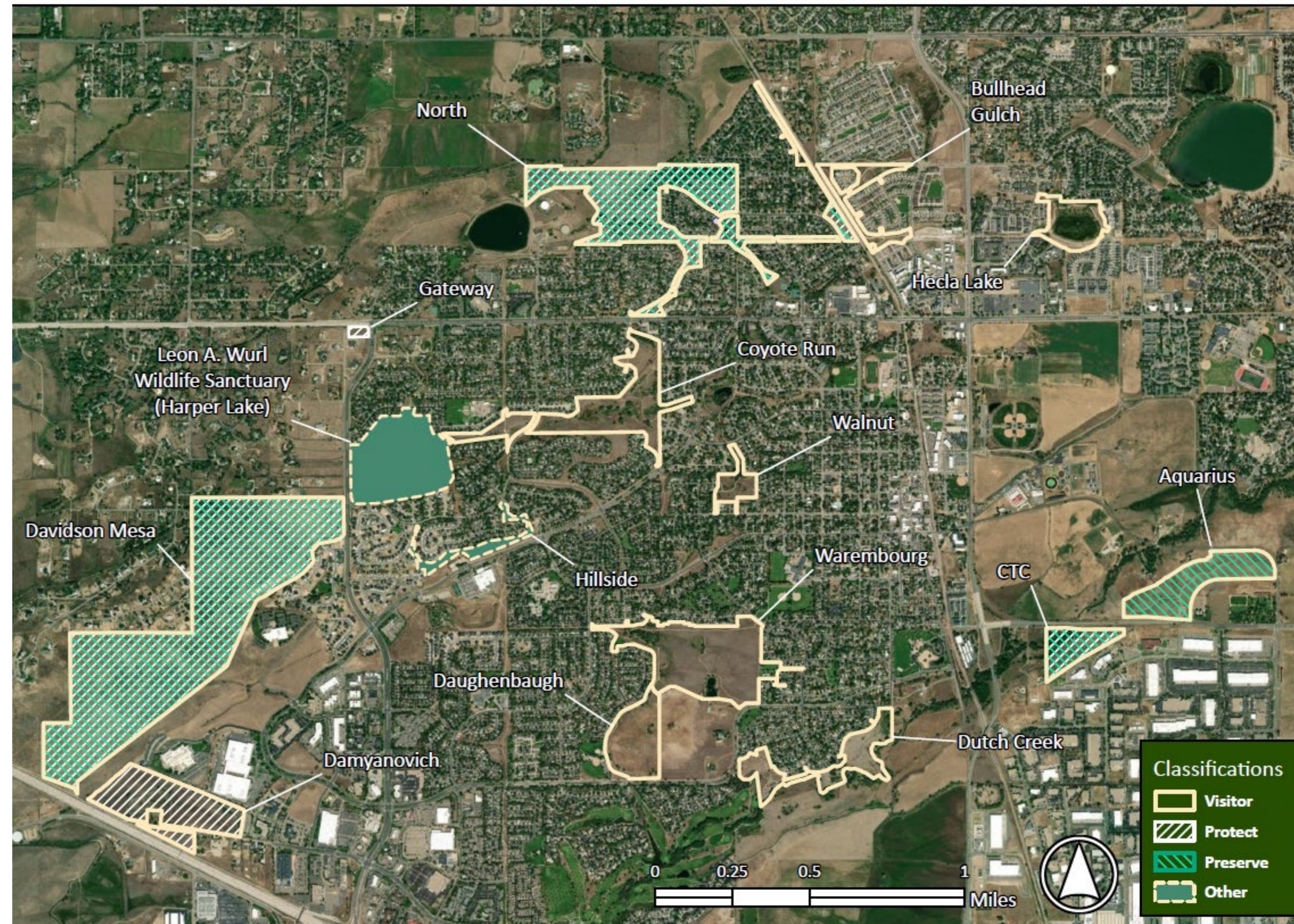
Other Messaging Points

Input from various sources

- Promote inclusivity and equitable access
- Ensure safe routes to schools
- Develop an interconnected trail system
- Identify additional funds for trail improvements
- Promote recreational value - Louisville as a regional trail's destination
- Update habitat and land management plans
- Acquire more open space



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Open Space Classifications in Louisville, CO

Trail Gaps

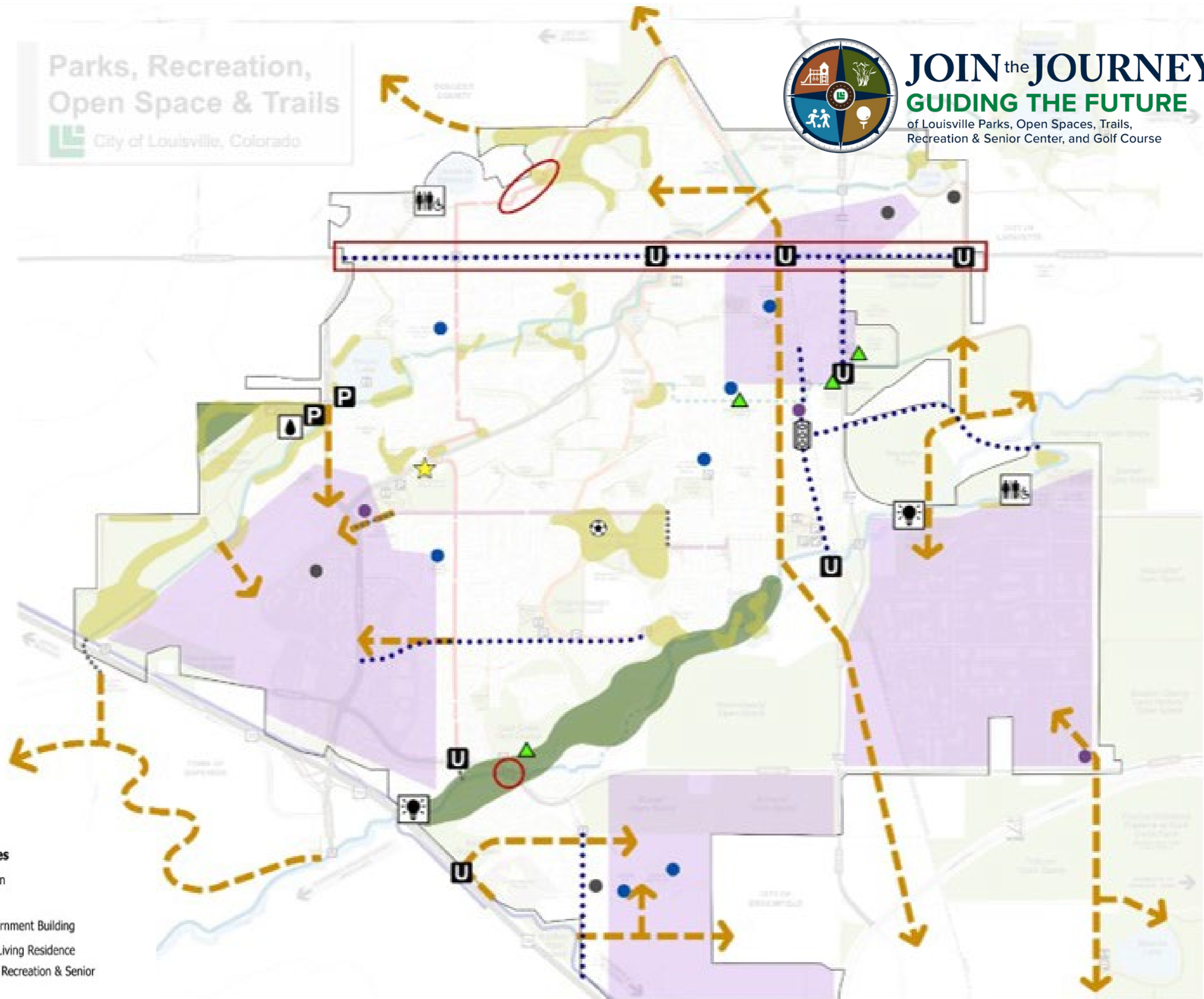
Map identifies findings from the Nov 14th workshop

Request:

Confirm key gaps and/or safety concerns in the current trail system.

Be as specific as you can

What are the concerns and needs?



Guiding Principles (draft)



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Department-wide core values

Provide direction to both the PROS Long-Range Plan and Trails System Plan

NORTH

Nurture Existing Assets

- Maintain and invest in existing assets to ensure their continued success and quality, while thoughtfully planning new opportunities that reflect evolving community interests, needs, and priorities.

Optimize Connections Between People and Places

- Strengthen the connections that link people, places, and experiences to further provide safe, easy, and equitable access to amenities, programs, and services.

Reinforce Commitment to Health and Wellness

- Foster inclusive programs, spaces, and engagement opportunities that support a sense of belonging and promote physical, mental, and social well-being for people of all ages, interests, and abilities.

Tailor Systems for Sustainability and Resilience

- Shape plans and practices to steward the community's ecological, financial, and social interests and strengthen the long-term resilience of both natural and built environments.

Honor Community Resources

- Provide high-quality services and community benefits through fiscal responsibility, operational efficiency, proactive leadership, and informed decision-making.

Draft Goals



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- Goal 1** **Improve trail connectivity**
- Goal 2** **Establish trail design standards to guide trail implementation**
- Goal 3** **Improve user safety**
- Goal 4** **Protect and restore natural resources**
- Goal 5** **Address undesignated social trails**
- Goal 6** **Strengthen management, funding, and partnerships**



Draft Plan Strategies



Goal 1: Improve trail connectivity

Strategies

- T 1.1:** Prioritize missing trail connections to improve access between neighborhoods, PROS facilities, schools, commercial areas, and regional trail corridors
- T 1.2:** Identify maintenance, rehabilitation, and safety upgrades
- T 1.3:** Carry out the trail and multimodal mobility improvements identified in the 2019 Transportation Master Plan
- T 1.4:** Pursue a trail network that improves local connectivity and supports regional connections through coordinated planning and partnerships
- T 1.5:** Maintain accurate mapping and inventory of existing and planned trail corridors, and use this information to inform system improvements
- T 1.6:** Continue to utilize, monitor, and expand trail counters at strategic locations and leverage available technology to collect trail use data
- T 1.7:** Promote use of the trail system to support recreation, health and wellness, and alternative transportation options

Draft Plan Strategies



Goal 2: Establish trail design standards to guide trail implementation

Strategies

T 2.1: Develop formalized guidelines defining trail types, accessibility, maintenance needs, and amenities.

T 2.2: Apply adopted trail design and maintenance standards consistently across the system.

T.2.3: Ensure trail infrastructure is planned, designed, and managed in a predictable and equitable manner.

T 2.4: Apply appropriate regional and national standards (such as USFS, MUTCD, AASHTO, etc.).

T 2.5: Apply sustainable trail design techniques—such as contour alignment and context-appropriate materials

T.2.6: Reduce environmental impacts, improve durability, and minimize long-term maintenance needs.

Draft Plan Strategies



Goal 3: Improve user safety

Strategies

- T 3.1:** Monitor trail conditions and identify safety and deferred maintenance needs
- T 3.2:** Track crash data, criminal activity and flooding incidents
- T 3.3:** Reduce conflicts between different user groups through signage, trail markings, education, and trail design.
- T 3.4:** Coordinate with Public Works to implement shared use pathway improvements
- T 3.5:** Expand community education and outreach efforts related to trail safety
- T 3.6:** Implement the wayfinding and signage program
- T 3.7:** Explore technology to improve user safety and minimize unintended safety and environmental impacts
- T 3.8:** Improve trail visibility (sightlines, lighting needs, vegetation, and other physical conditions)

Draft Plan Strategies



Goal 4: Protect and restore natural resources

Strategies

- T 4.1:** Align trail design, construction and maintenance decisions with Open Space Division goals and policies
- T 4.2:** Apply current Open Space land classifications and best practices to guide trail development
- T.4.3:** Address undesignated social trails that may impact habitat areas
- T.4.4:** Establish appropriate buffers or setbacks to minimize natural resource impacts
- T 4.5:** Evaluate municipal code provisions to clarify off-trail use on Open Space properties
- T 4.6:** Implement seasonal closures during sensitive breeding or migration periods in accordance with federal/state law

Draft Plan Strategies



Goal 5: Address undesignated social trails

Strategies

T 5.1: Adopt a City Council approved framework that establishes criteria regarding the management of undesignated trails

T 5.2: Ensure undesignated trails evaluations apply ecological data, land classifications, and habitat protection strategies

T 5.3: Determine whether trails should be improved, closed, or restored

T 5.4: Update the social trail data based and prioritize trail improvements as part of the Capital Improvement Program

T 5.5: Communicate program decisions through public outreach campaigns, signage, and mapping

Draft Plan Strategies



Goal 6: Strengthen management, funding, and partnerships

Strategies

- T 6.1:** Foster collaboration with internal City departments to support coordinated trail planning, delivery, and maintenance
- T 6.2:** Build upon external partnerships with surrounding counties, advocacy organizations, and potential funding partners
- T 6.3:** Evaluate ongoing staffing capacity needs to implement trail program, operations, and capital projects
- T 6.4:** Utilize department resources for communication and administrative support to ensure program implementation
- T 6.5:** Clarify roles and responsibilities for building and maintaining shared-use path and recreational trails throughout the city

Next Steps

- Revised - Draft Plan Strategies + Priorities
- Draft PROS Long Range Plan + Trails System Plan

Feb-March
March-April

Upcoming Dates

- Advisory Board Updates (PPLAB, YAB, RAB, OSAB)
- Community Open House
- OSAB Mtg.
- City Council Update
- Focus Group (Recreational)

March 4-23
March 12
April 8
April 14
TBD



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Thank you!



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