

Open Space Advisory Board Agenda

March 8th, 2023 Library 1st 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

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.

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Roll Call
- 3. Approval of Agenda
- 4. Approval of Minutes
- Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda
- 6. 7:05 pm Staff Updates (10 Minutes)
- 7. 7:15 pm Board Updates (10 Minutes)
 - Volunteering Updates
 - Sales & Use Tax Task Force Updates

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. 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.

Open Space Advisory Board

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- 8. 7:25 pm Discussion Item: City of Louisville E-Bike Rebate Program Presented By Kayla Betzold, Sustainability Coordinator (20 Minutes)
- 9. 7:45 pm Discussion Item: Past Trail Etiquette Educational Materials
 Presented by, Ember Brignull Open Space Superintendent (20 Minutes)
- 10. 8:05 pm Discussion Item: 2023 Open Space Education & Volunteer Program Staff Recommendations. Presented by Catherine Jepson, Open Space Specialist (20 Minutes)
- 11. 8:25 pm Discussion Item: Brainstorming Potential Agenda Topics and Start Time for Joint Meeting with Superior in May. Presented by David Blankinship, OSAB Chair (10 Minutes)
- 12. 8:35 pm Discussion Item: Social Trails Brainstorming Process Solutions for Director Consideration. Presented By Charles Danforth, OSAB Member (20 Minutes)
- 13. 8:55 pm Discussion Items for Next Meeting
- 13. Adjourn



Open Space Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2023 Library 1st Floor Meeting Room 951 Spruce Street 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order

David called the meeting to order at 7:00.

2. Roll Call

OSAB Members Present: David Blankinship, Laura Scott Denton, Charles Danforth, Jessamine Fitzpatrick, Susan McEachern, Helen Moshak, Jojo Follmar, and Michiko Christiansen

OSAB Board Members Absent: none

Staff Members Present: Ember Brignull, Bryon Weber, Brendan Close

3. Approval of Agenda

Susan moved to approve the agenda as written. Laura seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

Laura moved to approve the January OSAB meeting minutes without edits. Susan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

-none-

6. Staff Updates

See Staff Updates on pages 30-22 of the January OSAB Meeting packet.

Ember said that there had been a Wildfire Risk Assessment open house meeting held earlier this week. About 20 people attended in person and more people attended online.

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Ember felt it went well. There was a lot of discussion of striking a balance between managing open space for wildfire vs managing the land for habitat and recreation. There was discussion about fencing. There was also discussion about how some parcels of undeveloped land that look like open space are actually privately-owned lands. Ember reported that the Planning Department intends to try to work with private landowners on fire mitigation. Ember added that she thought it was very helpful and interesting to hear what concerns the residents had on this topic. For example, attendees were curious about the role underpasses had played in the spread of the Marshal Fire. Ember felt like attendees were relieved to hear that the City had been busy, as there had been some perception that the City wasn't doing anything pro-active after the Marshall Fire.

Ember said that the City's consultants would visit an OSAB meeting to discuss their report on fire mitigation in May. It will include maps, newly collected data, and mitigation recommendations. Another public open house will follow the OSAB meeting in early summer. After receiving feedback from public and boards, the report will go to City Council. OSAB will also receive the final version of the report at a meeting near the end of summer.

Ember has reviewed the newly published city council annual workplan and noted topics that may overlap with open space for the board. She flagged a few items that might be of interest to OSAB, including: The Wildfire Hazard & Risk Assessment work, the Open Space & Parks Sales and Use Tax renewal work, and the City Comprehensive Plan, which includes the Transportation Master Plan (TMP). The TMP discusses the Future Highway 42 Improvement plan, which might include a proposed trail on Harney Lastoka Open Space. She added that the board might be curious about work on a dark skies initiative.

David added that council is planning to discuss improving communication between advisory boards and council in March, and he will be keeping an eye on that topic on behalf of the board. Michiko asked David for more information about this issue. She wondered if OSAB is recommending making presentations to council. David answered that council is considering re-appointing council liaisons who would come to board meetings. However, he thought the most helpful thing might be a re-appraisal of how written memos from the board get communicated to council, but he agreed that sending board members to speak to council directly might be helpful. Helen commented that the board's memos should show up in the public record, whereas now they don't seem to, using the board's recent memo to council about paving a section of Coal Creek Trail as an example. She remarked upon how strange this is, considering that individual emails from residents do show up in the city council public packets. Helen reminded David that Jeff Durbin (the City Manager) said he wanted to have a committee of open space chairs to discuss these issues. David said it hasn't happened yet, but he is also curious about it.

The Louisville Citizen Action Council, a grassroots citizen group that is interested in city government issues, met on February 4th. Ember reported that Adam gave them a presentation about the City's open space program, the staff's vision, current statutes, and land management priorities. Helen asked for the board to be given a copy of Adam's presentation.

7. Discussion Item: Introduction of New Staff Members

Ember announced two new Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department staff members and asked them each to introduce themselves to the board.

Bryon Weber, Project Manager—Bryon began in January. His desk is physically located in the Public Works office, but he is a Parks and Open Space employee. He will be working on projects across the Department. His background is in urban planning and landscape architecture. He has a list of roughly 70 projects and is currently figuring out how to prioritize them. His first project will be median landscaping, particularly in fire-affected areas, then park and playground improvements, then work on storage at the Golf Course. His first Open Space project will be a trail re-surfacing and regrading project at Coyote Run. He is hoping there will be a RFP for this project released within a week or so.

Helen asked if he had been asked to work on wayfinding yet, and Bryon replied that he had not been.

Charles asked for more information about the Coyote Run project. Bryon said that the trails need to be leveled and graded so they don't flood or run off, and reassured the concerned board that they would remain crusher fines trails. He said they would also address a few problematic social trails that are causing washouts on the main trail. David asked Bryon for his recommendations about the social trails at Coyote Run and asked him to keep his eye out for that issue. Michiko asked for a definition of social trails and Ember said social trails are trails caused by people going off formal trails, often as short cuts. On Coyote Run, two social trails do damage to the actual trails because they are so steep, causing runoff and washouts. Jessamine said that these Coyote Run social trails might represent a nice test case for dealing with social trails using neighborhood engagement, as they are used almost entirely by locals, which might simplify public outreach.

Brendan Close, Senior Natural Resource Specialist—Brendan has a degree in forest and range management from CSU. He has done a lot of work on botanical inventories and management. He is interested in weed control and restoration of natural ecosystems. He previously worked for the City of Westminster. He is working on the Wildfire Hazard & Risk Assessment project. He is also working on getting grazers on city open space land for weed and vegetation control. He added that another benefit of grazers is soil organic material amendment that can improve the water-holding capacity of the soil, which is particularly helpful after a fire that burnt away a lot of the soil organic matter. He pointed out that having grazers on the land is actually quite expensive, as it requires temporary fencing, transportation, herding dogs, and trucking in water for the animals. Ember added that she might come to the board with education materials to get help anticipating citizen concerns about these grazing projects. Susan asked about the success of previous grazing projects at Harper Lake. Ember said one time it was very effective at knocking back weeds and stimulating natives, but one time it was not, though both times the program was popular with locals. She emphasized that this kind of work requires adaptive management (timing the program to match conditions in the field) so she is happy to have Brendan actively leading the project. Brendan cautioned the board to have patience, as prairie restoration work takes around 5 years.

8. Board Updates

Dogs Tiger Team:

Susan introduced Patricia, her Dogs Tiger Team counterpart from PPLAB. Susan and Patricia worked together to visit several sites where future dog parks could possibly be located. They prioritized each location and considered advantages and pitfalls of each. The site they ranked the highest was the Cottonwood Park/Church site. Their #2 site, was the catchment bowl below the Recreation/Senior Center, which is currently used by cyclocross cyclists. Their #3 site was a weedy piece of land at the sports complex between the community gardens and the ball fields. Ember said that land is jointly owned by Boulder County, Lafayette, and Louisville, so acquisition of that parcel for a dog park is unlikely to be approved. Their #4 site is on the land north of the new 7-11 on 96Th. Their #5 site is the sliver of land on the Lafayette border east of Harney Lastoka. Susan added that since this land was on the Lafayette border, this project would be best as a joint project with the City of Lafayette. Their #6 site was the former Xcel storage site on Dillon. They ranked this parcel last, as its soil is potentially contaminated by Xcel.

Susan said that she and Patricia presented this memo also to PPLAB at their February meeting. At that time PPLAB members suggested land west of McCaslin and Via Appia as a potential site, and expressed concern that Cottonwood Park was too close to houses for a dog park. Patricia added that PPLAB would like to hear the Recreation Advisory Board's proposal for the Cottonwood Park Master Plan before they made a recommendation about a potential dog park there.

Helen suggested re-wording the introduction to the memo, being careful to make the distinction that Community Park has a "dog park" and that Davidson Mesa has a Dog Off-leash Area (DOLA), not a dog park, thus implying that residents should not anticipate further amenities being developed on land that is legally zoned as open space.

Charles asked if there was a plan for the current dog sites. Ember said the impetus for this work has never been to close the Davidson Mesa DOLA, since it is well-loved, but to take the strain off the heavily used and impacted location by providing alternatives.

Laura said that she was grateful that Susan and Patricia were careful to consider locations that would best serve Louisville residents vs. residents from other communities. Specifically, she thought that making a dog park the land east of Harney Lastoka contingent on a partnership with Lafayette was a good approach.

Laura wondered if there could be issues about contaminating run-off and drainage to the nearby ditch by putting a dog park in the Rec Center catchment bowl, though she liked the location for other reasons. Jessamine echoed her concerns about runoff in the bowl. Charles and David pointed out the bowl's importance to cyclocross riders, and recommended including the area to the west, near the Police Department as a potential location that cyclocross riders might be more willing to discuss.

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Michiko asked if adding user fees for dog parks might help defray the cost of their upkeep. Jojo said they were concerned that fees for dog parks might present an economic barrier for some families.

David asked Susan what would constitute a useful deliverable from OSAB on this topic for this meeting. Susan asked the board if there were any sites that should be taken off the list entirely, and for any additional input on the language in the memo. She also clarified that there is currently no budget or plan for a new dog park in the City, but that this work was performed to give the City locations to consider before the Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan gets underway.

Jessamine recommended removing the land by the sports complex from the list.

Susan said by April they will have input from PPLAB and the RAB on the Cottonwood Park Property.

The board thanked the team for their thoughtful work.

Wayfinding Tiger Team:

Ember reported that the tiger team gave the consultant several pages of revisions for the trail map. The final bid packet for fabrication and installation is in planning phase. Staff have consulted with Public Works about crosswalks where trails cross streets. Public Works shared some feedback from cyclists, saying concrete striping is slippery and dangerous when wet. Their staff thought it might be better to simply paint the concrete.

General Updates:

David announced that Barbara Hamlington and Dietrich Hoefner have been appointed as the new Ward 3 City Council members.

Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) is looking for public feedback in the next two weeks on grant proposals pertaining to the City of Louisville. One proposal is to change Via Appia from four car lanes to two car lanes plus median-protected bike lanes. Another proposal is a protected bike route from Boulder to eastern Boulder County, either along Arapahoe, Baseline, or South Boulder Rd. Charles added that there is also a proposal for an underpass at Short Street. David recommended that Board members give feedback to the DRCOG website as individual citizens (not as ambassadors of the board). David will send board members a link.

David said that Adam Blackmore is planning to come to the OSAB meetings in May, August, and November, so the board should plan accordingly.

David announced that the Coal Creek Trail will be closing at 120th Street until the bridge's structure and safety can be evaluated and possibly remediated by the City of Lafayette. Charles observed that the underpass there often gets washed out, noting that there are a lot of engineering issues at that spot.

9. Action Item: Select and Vote on two OSAB Members to Join the Open Space and Parks Sales & Use Tax Task Force

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Helen and Jessamine attended the recent city council study session about forming a task force to help study and pass the Open Space and Parks Sales & Use Tax. Helen reported that a consultant talked about how maintenance and operation is so important to a city Parks department, and Helen and Jessamine had pointed out that Open Space departments also needs maintenance and operation funds, and that investment should be across the departments. Jessamine noted that the open space-focused portion of the meeting was quite short. She reported that the City Council was very much in support of the tax renewal being on the fall ballot and that they were in favor of forming the renewal task force with representative board members from OSAB, PPLAB, the Sustainability Board and EDI members. Council has asked these boards to select representatives at their February meeting so the task force could be formalized at the end of February by council. The city council wants this work to have an EDI lens and to also consider residents who lost their homes. David added that his chat with Mayor Maloney led him to believe that getting some sort of renewal of the tax passed was council's highest priority, rather than making changes to the ballot language. The task force will meet twice monthly, in the evenings.

Susan nominated Jessamine and Helen as OSAB's representatives to the task force, citing Jessamine's experience with TPL and Helen's legal background and long-term perspective on the issue. Laura seconded the nominations. The nominations passed unanimously.

10. Discussion Item: Review 2023 Open Space Advisory Board Goals

The board discussed the OSAB 2023 Goals documents, going through each goal area one at a time.

Acquisition: Actions 1.1 & 1.2 were accomplished in the January meeting, so their status can be updated to "complete."

Trails: Charles said that he had added Actions 2.1 & 2.3. He is hoping they could be slotted into a quiet month. Action 2.1 is about developing an equitable process for one-off requests from citizens. Action 2.3 is about developing a process to provide board input to council decisions about trail user experience changes, such as changing surface type. Ember mentioned that Public Works has included paving Coal Creek from Hwy 36 to Dillon Rd as an add-alt project for some concrete work. The board was very animated in discussing how much they dislike this project and reminded new members about the board's pointed memo to council about this very project. Charles would like to also bring up social trails and a trail wish-list with the new project manager, Bryon.

Wayfinding: The board thought this goal area looked good as written.

Education & Outreach: Jojo mentioned creating a BVSD outreach project. Ember recommended that if Jojo had specific connections to use that would be great. She also reminded the board that they would hear all of staff's education plans for 2023 at the March meeting. Ember said staff is working on an "I love Open Space" video campaign. The board could add an Action 1.5 about working on school outreach. David asked about Action 1.3 and whether it was still relevant. Ember said she thinks it could be changed to "other city departments" rather than "other municipalities."

Tax Renewal: The board thought this goal area looked good as written.

General Business: David highlighted a few Actions he had added. Action 1.2 is to have a better OSAB work plan. Action 2.2 means getting feedback from city council about how to best communicate with them. David asked if board members wanted a joint meeting with another city's open space board (Action 3.1). Charles recommended Superior's board as the cities share fire issues and interest in the Overlook Underpass. Ember suggested we could invite them to the meeting where the report from the Fire Management consultants is presented. Helen asked if there could be a connection to the Sustainability Board. Laura recommended sending an ambassador (or two) rather than scheduling a joint meeting with the Sustainability Board. Helen and Charles volunteered to visit one or two of that board's meetings.

Resource Management: The board thought this goal area looked good as written. Susan added that John from PPLAB said that the Bee City USA application is very close to being finished.

11. Action Item: Update to the Annual Boulder County Parks and Open Space Acquisition and Trails Request

David sent members an email from Adam and the City Attorneys explaining that due to the quasi-judicial status of Redtail Ridge, all references to its acquisition for open space must be omitted in this document. However, the proposed trail south, connecting downtown Louisville to the Redtail Ridge area could be mentioned.

The board looked back at the acquisition map and considered several properties that the board likes but does not think that Boulder County would assist with. Charles recommended simply removing the Redtail Ridge parcel from the document rather than adding an alternative. Jessamine moved to strike the Redtail ridge properties off the request, but to leave the trails requests as currently written. Helen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Jessamine requested that if the board is asked to comment on a quasi-judicial parcel, like last year, that the city attorney could attend the meeting to explain to the board what our role is. Ember said she has asked for this in past and will continue to ask this for this sort of guidance or training. Ember and Helen both pointed out that the specific guidance seems to shift and evolve over the years with new city attorneys and training would help to ensure the board and staff are following the most current direction.

12. Discussion Items for the Next Meeting March 8th, 2023.

- 1. 2023 Open Space Education & Volunteer Plan
- 2. Discussion Item about Sales Tax Task Force
- 3. Discussion Item about one-off social trails issues: brainstorming process solutions.
- 4. Board Update from Susan about volunteering issues.

13. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:56 pm.



MEMORANDUM

To: Open Space Advisory Board

From: Open Space Division

Date: March 8, 2023

Re: Information Item 6: Staff Updates

Marshall Fire Updates Pertaining to Open Space:

1. The Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment of Louisville Public Lands Project: Staff has been coordinating bi-weekly with Lynker Corporation and The Ember Alliance to provide necessary maps and files to develop a comprehensive Hazard and Risk Assessment of Louisville public lands. The second Public Open House is tentatively scheduled for the week of May 22nd; presentations to OSAB in May and July; and presentations to City Council in June and July.

General:

2. The Open Space & Parks Sales and Use Tax Task Force was adopted by City Council.

Trails & Maintenance:

- 3. The 104th St Trail is approximately 65 percent completed for earthwork and construction. The contractors are finishing the trail connecting to Aquarius Open Space. The projects reclamation seed mix has been agreed upon and obtained.
- 4. Staff has been assisting with review of the RFP and scope of work for the Coyote Run Open Space trail resurfacing project.
- 5. Staff has begun planning and implementing the approved CIP's for this calendar year including ordering a new mower deck and grading Aquarius Parking lot.

Natural Resources:

- 6. 2023 Goat Grazing RFP will be published March 1st, to solicit vendors which are experienced with wildland fuels reduction and invasive plant management through implementation of flash grazing. Planning to graze 4-8 days this spring at North OS and possibly Coyote Run OS. Fall grazing (TBD) will be based on recommendations of Hazard and Risk Assessment of Louisville Public Lands.
- 7. 2023 Regenerative Grazing RFP planned to be published March 8th, to solicit vendors who are experienced with grazing strategies which benefit soil health, increase soil water holding capacity, reduce non-native species, and reduce fine fuel loads. Planning to graze 5-8 days in Spring and Fall at Davidson Mesa Open Space.

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Information Item 6: Staff Updates Continued March 8, 2023 Page 2 of 2

Resource Protection:

- 8. Rangers attended Ice Rescue training at Harper Lake with Louisville Fire. Staff assisted with shoreline recovery and reviewed ranger role in ice rescue operations.
- 9. Rangers will be attending a Colorado Parks and Wildlife training event on March 8th. The purpose is to provide training on wildlife, wildlife calls, wildlife disease and immobilization, an introduction to CPW and Area 2, and a framework for dispatching Wildlife Officers to calls.
- 10. The Rocky Mountain Ranger Association's training about mental health resilience and traumatic stress has been rescheduled for March 29th. Louisville rangers played a key role in planning this training, which will welcome nearly 50 rangers representing 15 agencies from across Colorado.

Education/Volunteer:

- 11. Education Events Upcoming:
 - a. Scheduled Raptor Monitoring Training for March 1st has been cancelled and will be rescheduled, TBD.
- 12. Education Events Past: None

Open Space

Are You Passionate about Open Space?

We need your help! Join the Weed Whacker volunteer group to control invasive noxious weeds on Open Space! Come and help the Open Space Division with noxious weed control by becoming a member of our <u>Weed Whackers Program</u>! Members will learn about the importance of noxious weed control and participate in organized group weed pulls where participants learn to identify noxious weeds and how to control them. Please contact the Open Space Division at <u>catherinej@louisvilleco.gov</u> to learn more!











749 Main Street • Louisville, Colorado 80027 • TEL 303.335.4742 • www.LouisvilleCO.gov

Open Space

PLEASE EXCUSE OUR MESS

OPEN SPACE VOLUNTEERS ARE WORKING HARD TO REMOVE WEEDS IN THIS AREA

PULLING FOR LOUISVILLE EVENT

For information on upcoming Pulling for Louisville events, please visit our "Fans of Louisville Open Space and Parks" Facebook page or contact Catherine at catherinej@louisvilleco.gov or 303-335-4742.



Louisville Open Space Advisory Board

E-bike Pilot Program

Kayla Betzold Sustainability Coordinator

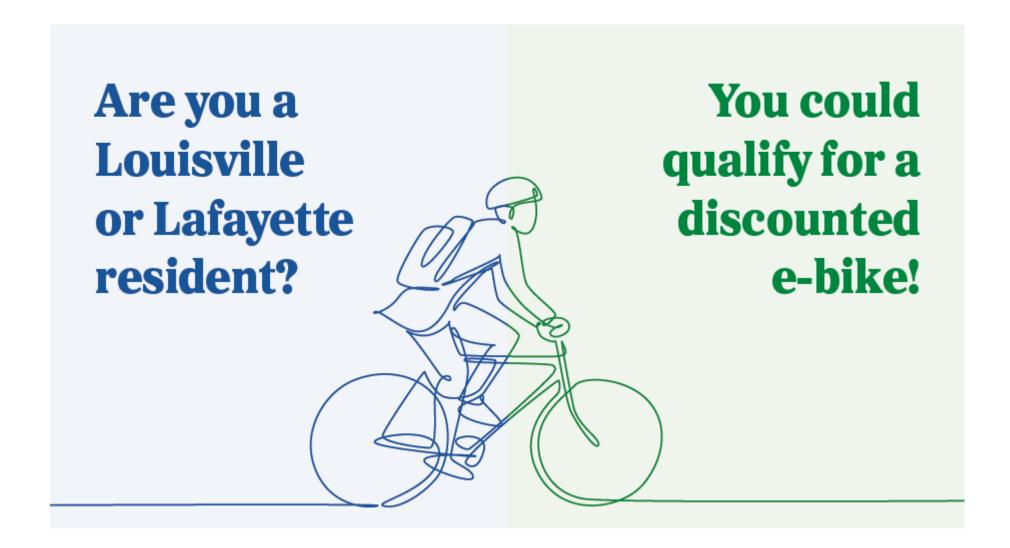






Overview

- City is partnering with Lafayette on 2023 pilot program
- Sustainability funding for 10-15 rebates
- Class 1 and 2 e-bikes eligible
- Community Cycles hosts educational classes – is willing to host a class in Louisville in early summer
- Point-of-sale rebates at local retailers
 - \$300 rebate
 - \$600 income-qualified





Eligibility

- Louisville resident
- 18+

Limit one e-bike per household.

To be eligible for an income-qualified rebate you must provide proof of enrollment in one of the below:

- Energy Outreach Colorado's Colorado Affordable Residential Energy Program (CARE)
- Xcel Energy's income-qualified Community Solar Gardens Program
- State of Colorado's Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP)
- State of Colorado's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)



Participating Retailers

- Cyclerie 777 Flatiron Meadows Blvd., Erie
- E-Bike Colorado 544 Front St., Louisville
- Lectrice eBikes online retailer with a service and repair location in Boulder: REI
- Louisville Cyclery 1032 E. South Boulder Rd. Ste. 103, Louisville
- Pedego Boulder 2512 Broadway, Boulder

Eligible E-bikes

Two classes of e-bikes equipped with an electric motor are eligible:

- Class 1: electric motor provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling. The motor also stops
 providing assistance once the bike reaches a speed of 20 mph.
- Class 2: electric motor provides assistance at all times, regardless if the rider is pedaling. The motor stops providing assistance once the bike reaches a speed of 20 mph.

Eligible e-bikes must have:

- A motor of 750 watts or less
- Two or three wheels
- Fully operable pedals



Timeline

- April 3: Application for an e-bike rebate opens
- April 29: Visit Lafayette's Earth Day Every Day to test drive e-bikes from participating bike shops and apply in person for a rebate
- May 5: Application for an e-bike rebate closes
- May 15: Applicants are notified if they received an e-bike rebate
- June 21: Applicants are encouraged to participate in Bike to Work Day and stop by Louisville's breakfast station for a photo at 7:30am

Application

• Residents may apply for a rebate anytime during application period. City will select recipients via a lottery system, as there is a limited number of rebates available.



MEMORANDUM

To: **Open Space Advisory Board**

From: **Open Space Division**

Date: March 8, 2023

Discussion Item 9: Past Trail Etiquette Educational Materials Re:

Purpose:

Recently, a Trails Tiger Team member reported that bike trail speeds have been excessive and dangerous on the trail system. The purpose of this discussion item is to share concerns about improper/dangerous trail use and to review past education and outreach materials related to Trail Etiquette. If desired, the Trails Tiger Team could work with staff to alter, or build upon, past educational materials to create an updated 2023 Trail Etiquette Education Program.

Background:

The most recent Louisville Open Space trail etiquette campaign was a response to the dramatic increase of visitation on City-owned lands during the first year of the coronavirus pandemic. In addition to the traditional trail etiquette problems, such as cyclists failing to announce their intent to pass and pedestrians not leaving enough space on the trail, the pandemic brought a host of new challenges. These included compliance with mask mandates, people trampling trail edges in an attempt to maintain social distance from each other, crowding of trail corridors, and many others.

In the late summer of 2020, Louisville rangers attempted to replace a variety of piecemeal signage and responses to trail etiquette concerns with a more cohesive strategy, dubbed the "Protect and Preserve Campaign." The stated goal of the campaign was to educate the public to "protect and respect each other and the land."

The campaign included two main phases. First, in late September and early October, 2020, rangers posted educational signage at about 50 locations around the city. These signs announced public health mandates and also included messages encouraging proper trail etiquette.

Second, Rangers hosted booths at ten Open Space sites from mid-October through mid-November, 2020. Rangers distributed stickers, brochures, and face masks created for the campaign and asked visitors to sign a pledge to



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During these two phases of the campaign, Rangers conducted about 300 educational contacts and collected approximately 200 pledges. The reaction of trail users who visited the booths was generally positive, with many people expressing particular approval of the Open Space face mask. The campaign signage remained on Open Space through the summer of 2021, when changes to public health orders necessitated removing the signs that had survived weather and vandalism.

Protect and Preserve Campaign signs and materials

from 2020 as well as educational signs from 2015 follow this memo.

Next Steps:

At the March OSAB meeting, members will discuss concerns related to trail use and determine if a Trail Etiquette education and outreach program is desired for 2023. If the board determines to move forward with an education and outreach campaign, the Trails Tiger Team will participate in developing concepts for educational materials and a timeline for implementation. Depending on the scope of the project, OSAB members may be asked to volunteer with field implementation.

RANGER TOM RECOMMENDS



BE A COURTEOUS TRAIL USER







"Passing on your Left"





ANNOUNCE YOURSELF BEFORE PASSING ON THE LEFT

TRAIL ETIQUETTE



REMOVE ONE EARBUD

TRAIL ETIQUETTE



PLEASE RIDE SINGLE -FILE





TRAIL ETIQUETTE



KEEP DOGS ON LEASH











FACIAL COVERINGS



DO: Always bring a facial covering with you anytime you go outdoors, whether or not you think you might need one.

DO: Wear a facial covering if you cannot maintain 6' social distance, such as along a crowded trail during peak visitation.



DON'T: Use the trails if you are sick or have symptoms of COVID-19.

DON'T: Encroach on the social distancing space of others, just because you are wearing a facial covering.



PROTECTING NATURAL RESOURCES



DO: Stop and step to the edge of the trail and let others pass.

Most designated trails allow single file passing on trail while maintaining social distance.

DO: Visit during off-peak times.
Consider visiting parks and open spaces during times when fewer people are present, such as mid-morning or early afternoon.

DON'T: Trample vegetation by walking or riding next to the trail.

Going off the trail widens the trail corridor, promotes erosion, and helps the spread of noxious weeds.

DON'T: Create new social trails to avoid passing others on the trail.

DON'T: Swim or wade in Harper Lake or any other City-owned body of water. Harper Lake is our reserve drinking water and is sensitive to contamination by body contact.





DON'T: Leave bags of pet waste along the trail (there is no poop fairy!)

DON'T: Leave pets in a hot car.

TRAIL ETIQUETTE

DO: Call out your intent to pass.

You may need to signal multiple times for the person to hear you over traffic, a conversation, or their music.

DO: Pass single file.

Move to a single file line at the trail's edge to let people pass.

DO: Slow down!

When passing on your bike slow down and give ample room.

DO: Free your ears.

Leave one ear free of any earbuds or other devices so you can hear others signal.

DO: Treat everyone with respect!

DO: Throw it out.

Dispose of garbage and recycling at appropriate facilities.

DO: Stay 6' apart when possible.

DO: Be kind and considerate.

TRAIL ETIQUETTE

DON'T: Walk with two or more people abreast when passing.

DON'T: Play loud or amplified music. If others can hear it, it's too loud!

DON'T: Congregate off trail in vegetation.



Memorandum

To: Open Space Advisory Board

From: Catherine Jepson, Open Space Specialist

Date: March 8, 2023

Re: Discussion Item 10: 2023 Open Space Education and Outreach

Program Staff Recommendations

Purpose:

The purpose of this Discussion Item is to review the Draft 2023 Education and Outreach Programming schedule. For the development of the 2023 schedule, staff considered the following: staff roles, evenly distributed programming categories, providing both adult and child focused programs, addressing material creation, and continuing to provide high quality programming to the citizens of Louisville.

Background:

In 2022, the Open Space Division conducted a total of 39 Education and Outreach programs throughout the course of the year, compared to 57 in 2021. These totals include all education programs and opportunities provided to the public (29), and volunteer events (10). A total of 5 programs were canceled due to low-registration numbers and/or inclement weather. The DOLA Dog Poop Pick-ups were also canceled this year due to the DOLA closure for repairs from the Marshall Fire.

For the 2023 season, staff is proposing a total of 39 programs, which includes 10 volunteer events. It is important to note that 2 of the 39 total programs are currently reserved for local BVSD school outreach programs, which have not yet been assigned on the 2023 schedule provided. Of the 37 programs listed on the attached Proposed Education and Outreach Programs 2023, 5 are designated for adults, 3 are kids-specific, 12 are for ages 10 or 12+, 1 is for seniors, and the remaining 16 programs are for all ages. A total of 6 new programs have been proposed for 2023. Roughly half of the education and outreach programming will fall under the responsibility of the Ranger Naturalists, and the remaining programming will fall under the responsibility of Natural Resource staff.

In order to allow staff the time to develop programming during the winter months, fewer monthly programs will be held January - March and November - December. Conversely, more monthly programs will be held April - October. This will concentrate the majority of programming to the middle of the year when weather is more favorable and events are more likely to attract higher attendance numbers.

Staff addressed the distribution of programming categories by developing a monthly programming skeleton to be used for programs scheduled for the year. Each month's programming was assigned to address the following categories: Wildlife, Outdoor Skill, Volunteer, Resource, and Other (painting).

In early 2022 and 2023, staff hosted two meetings with interested Divisions to check-in and share upcoming programming in order to identify any scheduling conflicts and/or co-programming opportunities and interests.

In 2022, Open Space staff continued to post education and volunteer program information on the Fans of Louisville Open Space and Parks Facebook page, City calendar, and posted flyers on Open Space. In addition, staff posted event information on EventBrite for participants to easily RSVP for upcoming events.

Staff has discussed low registration and/or attendance for programs provided and will implement a required confirmation from participants to try and ensure that people cancel their registration through Eventbrite.

Staff has noticed an increase in participants not attending some events and not cancelling their registrations through EventBrite. This has caused some frustrations with presenters who would have canceled the program if they had known only a few people would come to the event. To curtail this issue, staff will send an email to registered participants of programs with full registration, or programs with low registration numbers, a day in advance of programming to encourage people who no longer plan to attend to cancel their registration to open up new spaces for those who may be on a waitlist or give the presenter the opportunity to cancel the presentation.

Next Steps:

Staff will develop, schedule, and contact partners for the planned education and outreach programs.

As OSAB works on creating 2023 OSAB Goals, staff encourages board members to consider participating in the following volunteer events:

- Earth Day Volunteer Event Saturday April 22nd, 53rd Earth Day Celebration "Invest in Our Planet", Davidson Mesa Open Space 9-11 AM
- o Pulling for Louisville events (7) April through September
- National Trails Day Saturday June 3rd, Location TBD 9-11 AM
- o Pocket Prairie planting Saturday September 2nd, Davidson Mesa Open Space 8-10 AM
- Spooktacular Critters-end of October (date TBD)

LEGEND (Color Code)	Cross-promoted		Partnership not yet	ducation and volunteer Program Staff Recommendations	Sta
LEGENT (COIOI COUC)	Programs		confirmed		М
Event Name	Category	Target Audience	Partnership(s)	Description	1
February		<u> </u>			
Volunteer Raptor Training	Resource	Adults		Interested in volunteering for the Raptor Monitoring Program? Join Open Space Specialist for a required training to learn about the program, local raptor species, and monitoring procedure	C1
Owls of Northern Colorado	Resource	Adults	CARRI	Join Scott Rashid with the Colorado Avian Research & Rehabilitation Institute for a program on owls of Northern Colorado. (2/15)	C1
March	•	•			
April					
Earth Day Volunteer Event	Volunteer	All Ages	Sustainability	Help celebrate Earth Day with staff to enhance Davidson Mesa native plant communities. Please join City of Louisville Open Space staff digging up non-native plants to help reduce their impact on native ecosystems and distribute native seed throughout disturbed areas to minimize re-establishment of weeds. Reminder to weather appropriate clothing and work gloves (bring sunscreen, long-sleeved shirt, pants, hat, sunglasses, NO open toed shoes).	d r
Pulling for Louisville	Volunteer	All Ages	None	The Open Space Division is working hard to remove weeds on TBD Open Space and we need your help! Come and learn about the targeted noxious weeds and then we will be clipping and bagging seed-heads of noxious weeds on the property. Please bring gloves and hand clippers (if you have them) and be prepared for the elements (bring sunscreen, long-sleeved shirt, pants, hat, sunglasses, NO open-toed shoes).	า
Family Fishing Frenzy	Resource	Kids	Recreation Center, CPW	Bring your kids and your fishing gear and head on down to the Warembourg fishing pond for a fishing clinic sponsored by Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Louisville Parks & Recreation Department.	CJ
Open Space Stargazers - Inner Planets Cavalcade	Resource	Ages 10 and up		April 16-22 is International Dark Sky Week, when people around the world take time to appreciate the night sky! Join the Open Space Stargazers at Aquarius Trailhead to see all the inner planets at once, with Mercury, Venus, and Mars visible just after sunset. Bring binoculars or a telescope, a red astronomy flashlight, and warm layers!	
May	T	T			4
Noxious Weed ID Training	Resource	Adults	None	Come and look at noxious weed samples and walk on Daughenbaugh Open Space with Open Space staff to see and learn about some of Colorado's noxious weeds and why we need to control them.	CJ
Ranger Mystery Party (New for 2023)	Wildlife	Ages 8 and up	None	As Ranger Naturalists, we receive a lot of calls and emails that require us to do a little sleuthing to uncover what may be going on. These mysteries can range from simple questions to legitimate crimes on Open Space and today you can help us discover the truth behind some of them. Join the rangers on a hunt to solve some of Louisville's mysteries.	t y
Hummingbirds of Colorado (New for 2023)	Resource	Adults	CARRI	Join Scott Rashid with the Colorado Avian Research & Rehabilitation Institute for a program on hummingbirds of Colorado. (5/24)	f CJ

LEGEND (Color Cod	de) Cross-promoted	_	Partnership not yet	Lucation and volunteer Program Stan Recommendations	Staff
	Programs		confirmed		Meml
10 Coyote Run on Canvas (O		Ages 12 and up	Arts and Events	Coyote Run Open Space is a critical wildlife corridor, urban drainage asset, and also a great landscape to paint	
Space Plein Air Painting Se	eries)			Come capture the colors of spring with your fellow artists and enjoy this unique property. All skill levels welcome	
				Please note: we are not providing any formal instruction, but this is a great way to meet other painters and share	e
				tips.	BWP
11 Pulling for Louisville	Volunteer	All Ages	None	The Open Space Division is working hard to remove weeds on Daughenbaugh Open Space and we need your help	
				Come and learn about the targeted noxious weeds and then we will be clipping and bagging seed-heads of noxiou	
				weeds on the property. Please bring gloves and hand clippers (if you have them) and be prepared for the	e
				elements (bring sunscreen, long-sleeved shirt, pants, hat, sunglasses, NO open-toed shoes).	CJ
June		1			
12 Free Fishing Weekend	Resource	All Ages	None	Visit the booth at Harper Lake and learn about fishing on Free Fishing Weekend. Learn about fishing regulations,	
				live bait, how to tie on hooks and lures.	вм
13 National Trails Day	Volunteer	All Ages	Sustainability	Please join the Open Space Division in celebrating National Trails Day by repairing trail on TBD Open Space	2.
				Volunteers will be Due to the anticipated high number of volunteers, please bring your own tools.	
					NP
L4 Wildflower Hike	Resource	All Ages	Volunteer	Join Open Space Volunteer, Tamar Krantz, to search for and identify wildflower blooms on Gateway Open Space.	
				Once you know a flower by name, you can easily learn more; either by reading more about it on the internet, o	r
				just observing its distribution, seasonal changes, and relationships with other organisms. We'll work together on	а
				flower checklist prepared in advance for the property.	
45	Out of	10121	A 1 15	North distributed the site of	BC
Warembourg on Canvas (-	Ages 12 and up	Arts and Events	Nestled in the middle of the city, Warembourg Open Space is a hidden gem of Louisville. Join other Louisville artist	
Space Plein Air Painting Se	eries)			to paint the scenic meadow north of the fishing pond. All skill levels welcome! Please note: we are not providing	g
				any formal instruction, but this is a great way to meet other painters and share tips.	BWP
16 Noxious Weed ID Training	Resource	Adults	None	Come and look at noxious weed samples and walk on TBD Open Space with Open Space staff to see and learn	n
				about some of Colorado's noxious weeds and why we need to control them.	CJ
17 Senior Water Conservatio	n Resource	Seniors	Sustainability/Senior	Learn about North America's historic drought and ways you can have a positive impact on reducing wate	er
(New for 2023)			Center	consumption at home.	вм
18 Noxious Weed ID Booth	Resource	All Ages	None	Come and look at noxious weed samples on TBD Open Space to see and learn about some of Colorado's noxiou	s
				weeds and why we need to control them.	CJ
19 Pulling for Louisville	Volunteer	All Ages	None	The Open Space Division is working hard to remove weeds on TBD Open Space and we need your help! Come and	
				learn about the targeted noxious weeds and then we will be clipping and bagging seed-heads of noxious weeds or	n
				the property. Please bring gloves and hand clippers (if you have them) and be prepared for the elements (bring	g
				sunscreen, long-sleeved shirt, pants, hat, sunglasses, NO open-toed shoes).	CJ
July					L.
Building Bat/Bird/Bee Hou	uses Wildlife	Kids	Home Depot	Register for a free kids workshop at Home Depot. Construct a home for wildlife and learn the importance o	of
(New for 2023)				promoting local wildlife with rangers.	BM

	LEGEND (Color Code)	Cross-promoted Programs	Volunteer Events	Partnership not yet confirmed		Staf Me
L	Pulling for Louisville	Volunteer	All Ages	None	The Open Space Division is working hard to restore Davidson Mesa Open Space and we need your help! Come and learn why noxious weed management is important during weed identification training and then help clip seed heads and dig up noxious weeds that are threatening Davidson Mesa Open Space. FREE native plants, refreshments and snacks will be provided. Please bring gloves and be prepared for the elements (bring sunscreen, pants, hat, sunglasses, NO open-toed shoes).	d ;,
	Noxious Weed ID Booth	Resource	All Ages	None	Come and look at noxious weed samples on TBD Open Space to see and learn about some of Colorado's noxious weeds and why we need to control them.	s CJ
	Wildflower Hike	Resource	All Ages	Volunteer	Join Open Space Volunteer, Tamar Krantz, to search for and identify wildflower blooms on TBD Open Space. Once you know a flower by name, you can easily learn more; either by reading more about it on the internet, or just observing its distribution, seasonal changes, and relationships with other organisms. We'll work together on a flower checklist prepared in advance for the property.	e t
	Pulling for Louisville	Volunteer	All Ages	None	The Open Space Division is working hard to remove weeds on TBD Open Space and we need your help! Come and learn about the targeted noxious weeds and then we will be clipping and bagging seed-heads of noxious weeds on the property. Please bring gloves and hand clippers (if you have them) and be prepared for the elements (bring sunscreen, long-sleeved shirt, pants, hat, sunglasses, NO open-toed shoes).	า
	August					
	Pulling for Louisville	Volunteer	All Ages	None	The Open Space Division is working hard to remove weeds on TBD Open Space and we need your help! Come and learn about the targeted noxious weeds and then we will be clipping and bagging seed-heads of noxious weeds on the property. Please bring gloves and hand clippers (if you have them) and be prepared for the elements (bring sunscreen, long-sleeved shirt, pants, hat, sunglasses, NO open-toed shoes).	า
	Water Conservation Event (New for 2023)	Resource	All Ages	Sustainability	Learn about North America's historic drought and ways you can have a positive impact on reducing water consumption at home.	_
	Open Space Stargazers - Saturn by Starlight	Resource	Ages 10 and up	None	We take it for granted that we can see the stars at night, but did you know that true darkness is an endangered resource? Parks and Open Space areas play a vital role in preserving pools of darkness in our urban landscape. Join the Open Space Stargazers for a nighttime hike of North Open Space and an easy science project. Stay for some casual stargazing, with great views expected for Saturn and some of our favorite summer constellations. Bring binoculars or a telescope, and a red astronomy flashlight.	n e

	LEGEND (Color Code)	Cross-promoted		Partnership not yet	ducation and Volunteer Program Staff Recommendations	Staff
		Programs		confirmed		Membe
	Lake Park on Canvas (Open Space Plein Air Painting Series)	Other	Ages 12 and up	Arts and Events	Fall is almost here! Celebrate the tail end of summer by capturing the beauty of Lake Park, a hidden jewel in Louisville's Open Space and Parks system! All skill levels welcome! Please note: we are not providing any formal instruction, but this is a great way to meet other painters and share tips!	
	Pocket Prairie planting at Davidson Mesa OS (New for 2023)	Volunteer	Ages 10 and up	None	Help Open Space staff enhance pollinator habitat on Davidson Mesa Open Space by planting wildflowers. Come prepared to get into the dirt with garden trowels and gloves.	
30	Pulling for Louisville	Volunteer	All Ages	None	The Open Space Division is working hard to remove weeds on TBD Open Space and we need your help! Come and learn about the targeted noxious weeds and then we will be clipping and bagging seed-heads of noxious weeds on the property. Please bring gloves and hand clippers (if you have them) and be prepared for the elements (bring sunscreen, long-sleeved shirt, pants, hat, sunglasses, NO open-toed shoes).	
	October					
	The Old Windmill on Canvas (Open Space Plein Air Painting Series)	Other	Ages 12 and Up	Arts and Events	(Tentative: will require permission from Boulder County). In addition to preserving wildlife habitat, Open Space protects a cultural landscape. The old Windmill on the Warembourg agricultural property that Louisville jointly owns with Boulder County is a perfect example of this. Join your fellow Open Space painters and artists to capture this scenic structure. All skill levels welcome!	,
	Open Space Stargazers - Halloween Moongazing!	Resource	Ages 10 and up	None	Halloween is nearly here! Join fellow Open Space Stargazers to enjoy the nearly full Hunter's Moon. Saturn and Jupiter will also light up the night sky. Bring binoculars or a telescope, a red astronomy flashlight, and warm layers!	BWP
33	Spooktacular Critters	Wildlife	Kids	Library to advertise, Natur	Spooktacular Critters is a fun Halloween event for the young and the young at heart. Please join us for Truths-n- Treats. Learn the real truths about snakes, spiders, bats and bones and treat yourself and create a critter craft to make and take home. Wear your best Halloween costumes!	
	November					
34	Track and Scat ID	Wildlife	All Ages		As we move into the colder months, learn the different ways you can ID wild visitors even if you never actually catch a glimpse of them. Learn about tracks, scat, and other evidence left by wildlife.	BM
35	Louisville During the Great War	Other	Ages 12 and Up	Louisville Museum	The Great War of 1914-1918 changed the world. Learn how this conflict affected people, coal, agriculture, and mining in Boulder County and the Louisville area. Join the City's Ranger Naturalist and Louisville Historical Museum staff for a walking tour of traces from the industries that fueled Louisville's contributions to the war effort. The tour leaves from Kerr Gardens.	
	December					
	Open Space Stargazers - Jupiter, Saturn, and the Geminids	Resource	Ages 10 and Up	None	The best holiday lights are the ones in the sky! Jupiter and Saturn will be visible most of the night, and keep a sharp eye for the annual Geminid meteor shower. Bring binoculars or a telescope, a red astronomy flashlight, and warm layers!	

	LEGEND (Color Code)	Cross-promoted	Volunteer Events	Partnership not yet		Staff
		Programs		confirmed		Member
_	Open Space on Canvas - Plein Air Art Exhibit	Other	Ages 12 and Up		(May move to Nov) Celebrate the beauty of Open Space as we showcase the work of artists who have participated in our plein air painting programs in 2023. The artists themselves will be in attendance to share their work, so this is	BWP



Memorandum

To: Open Space Advisory Board

From: Charles Danforth and David Blankenship

Date: February 28, 2023

Re: Discussion Item 12: Social Trail Brainstorm Process Solutions for

Director Consideration

Social Trails Background:

Louisville OS has only two official trail surfaces: concrete and crusher fines (gravel). Any dirt-surfaced trails are unofficial and not part of the City trail inventory. OSAB did formally recommend a new dirt trail type, but it hasn't changed any City policy yet to our knowledge. Despite their unofficial status, some of these "social" trails have been in use for decades and have become a de facto part of the trail network.

In 2021-22, the Trails Tiger Team conducted a survey of "social" trails in Louisville and created a fairly complete inventory map. Minor changes occur to the network, but the major social trails have been fairly stable over the years.



Social trail network in the Warembourg Open Space

The Trails Tiger Team defined four possible social trails classes based on the desired final state of any given trail. These are

- 1. **Restore** to wild state (close the trail)
- 2. Ignore
- 3. **Designate** as an official network trail but otherwise leave alone (would require designating a third trail type)
- 4. **Upgrade** and designate (convert to crusher fines or concrete).

Current situation: There is little appetite for any comprehensive social trail policy overhaul or master plan. Staff attention and budget are limited to higher-priority items.



One-off social trail decision framework:

In July 2022, OSAB discussed an issue in which a very popular social trail was impacted by an ongoing pipeline project. Pipeline work south of Hecla Lake disrupted a short section of trail (near 2 in the figure above, from the July 2022 packet) and workers wanted to know whether they should a) restore the area to its natural state, or b) restore the dirt trail to the way it was previously.

Discussion Goals: Devise a framework for dealing with similar future events where a decision about an existing trail must be made. This framework should be

- <u>Equitable</u> balance conservation and sustainability concerns with current use patterns and staff resources.
 - How are utility and use patterns measured?
 - How are sustainability and conservation concerns identified?
 - How is public input gathered?
- Responsive the timeline for individual decisions may be extremely short (weeks). There may not be time to convene an OSAB meeting. General guidelines we agree on as a board may need to be applied to different specifics.
 - What kind of time scale is reasonable for an informed decision?
 - What is the process by which issues are identified and decisions made?