

Open Space Advisory Board Agenda

Wednesday, November 13th, 2024 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 Board will accommodate public comments during the meeting. Anyone may also email comments to the Board, preferably 24 hours before, the meeting at EmberB@LouisvilleCO.gov.

- 1. 7:00 pm Call to Order
- 2. Roll Call
- Approval of Agenda
- 4. Approval of Minutes
- 5. 7:05 pm Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda (5 minutes, more time as needed)
- 6. 7:10 pm Staff Updates (5 Minutes)
- 7. 7:15 pm Board Updates (15 Minutes)
 - Joint Meeting with Lafayette- Select Dates 3/13 or 3/20

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

Agenda November 13, 2024 Page 2 of 2

- 8. 7:30 pm Discussion Item: Water Rights. Presented by Susan McEachern, OSAB Chair and Cory Peterson, Deputy Director of Utilities, Public Works (30 Minutes)
- 9. 8:00 pm Update Item: Overview of 2024 Interpretive Educational Panels. Presented by Catherine Jepson, Open Space Specialist (15 Minutes)
- 10. 8:15 Discussion Item: Acquisition Tiger Team Update. Presented by Michiko Christiansen and Brad Pugh, OSAB Board Members (30 Minutes)
- 11. 8:45 pm Discussion Item: Grants Tiger Team Update. Presented by: Jessamine Fitzpatrick and Andy Dorsey, OSAB Board Members (15 Minutes)
- 12. 9:00 pm Discussion Item: Wayfinding Map Review. Presented by Ember Brignull, Open Space Superintendent (20 Minutes)
- 13. 9:20 pm Discussion Items for Next Meeting December 11th:

Review 2024 OSAB Work Plan OSAB Mentors for Incoming Members Board Positions 2025 Tiger Teams Education & Volunteer Program Review Friends of Coal Creek- Pollinator Presentation

14. Adjourn



Open Space Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 9, 2024, 7:00pm Library 1st Floor Meeting Room 951 Spruce St.

1. 7:00 pm Call to Order

2. Roll Call

Board Members Present: David Blankinship, Michiko Christensen, Charles Danforth, Susan McEachern, Mark Poletti, Brad Pugh, and Andy Dorsey (remote)
Board Members Not Present: Jessamine Fitpatrick
City Staff Present: Ember Brignull and Rafael Gutierrez, chief of police (remote)

3. Approval of Agenda

Charles motioned to approve and Mark seconded. The board unanimously approved.

4. Approval of Minutes

Charles motioned to approve and Mark seconded. The board unanimously approved.

5. 7:05 pm Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda (5 minutes, more time as needed)

Tamar Krantz commented on the trail recommendations that the Open Space Advisory Board (OSAB) made for Redtail Ridge and wanted the board to follow-up with city staff since the trail recommendations were not presented to Council in their review of Redtail Ridge in August. A city engineer needs to approve the trail recommendations. No park is planned yet. She also recommended that we follow up on the developer's promise to not use rodenticide. In response, Susan said that OSAB is going to be re-submitting the rodenticide-related memo to Bryon with the intent of Council seeing it.

6. 7:10 pm Staff Updates (5 Minutes)

- Fall contracts are underway
- Non-native Siberian elm removal is being performed at North Open Space, off
 Centennial Dr in the meadow. Removing dead standing and downed material within the
 stand, leaving some for wildlife habitat. Mail has been sent to nearby homeowners,
 which includes a FAQ and map. On-site signs will provide a QR code that links to a web
 site with more information, which allows for outreach to the larger community of users
 that might not live in the immediate area.
- Fencing at Hecla Lake is being installed for wildlife habitat protection. This was something that was recommended by the Louisville Open Space Advocates (LOSA) and approved through the Budget Amendment process.
- An emergency gate project is being planned for the Coal Creek Trail corridor. Gates will be installed near primary access points so that they can be closed if access is not allowed in flood and other emergency situations.
- Filling Warembourg Fishing Pond.

- Applied for a grant for Lake to Lake Trail wayfinding project.
- OSAB"s quasi-judicial (QJ) training meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

7. 7:15 pm Board Updates (15 Minutes)

- Charles: conversation with a local citizen wayfinding stuff is cool, somebody found out they live on Powerline Trail after living in the city for 14 years
- Charles: stepping down from OSAB in December with one year left on his term.
- David: stepping down from OSAB in December since his term ends and he has chosen not to reapply.
- Citizens have asked about both the fun routes to school project listed in the transportation master plan (TMP) and the bike pump track idea recently. David encourages people to contact the recreation advisory board (RAB) if they support either of these projects since neither has received much traction so far.
- Susan met with Grant Smith, Lafayette Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) chair.
 There was miscommunication with Lexie, the staff liaison, regarding the scope and
 timing of the joint meeting with OSAB scheduled for October, which explains why the
 joint meeting was canceled. Tentative plans are for a less formal meeting between
 OSAB and the Lafayette OSAC in February or March 2025.
- Susan: made a rodenticide presentation at an August Council meeting. She made a plea for early QJ training, which seemed to help push it forward. There was a 6-1 vote in favor of the revised QJ process for OSAB and the Parks and Public Landscaping Advisory Board (PPLAB).
- Ember: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) training for board members is scheduled for October 24 and 30.
- 8. 7:30 pm Action Item: OSAB Recommendation Regarding the Acquisition Reserve 2025-2026 Budget Proposal. Presented by Susan McEachern, OSAB Chair (30 Minutes)

Council decided that 30% of the annual 2C sales tax revenue will go to the open space acquisitions reserve. Council can periodically revisit the reserve and determine how much should go into it, so this figure is not set in stone. The total amount to be collected should be about \$2.6 million by 2030. The acquisitions reserve is not being seeded with any money from the general fund or parks, recreation, and open space (PROS) fund. Can look for grants to expand the pool of money or rein in the timeline. Per Susan's meeting with Grant, the Lafayette OSAC chair, Lafayette creates an acquisition priority list and meets directly with the city manager. The use of acquisition reserves in Louisville for other purposes requires the action of Council. Note that maintenance, trail, etc., budgets are tracked separately from this fund. Cannot purchase city land or park land with this acquisition fund only open space land is allowed. Will not go into effect until 2025, so no money collected from the 2C sales tax during 2024 will make it into this fund. The 30% represents a reasonable value given the budget tightening. Susan asked for clarity on the future of the

Open Space Advisory Board
Minutes
October 9, 2024
Page 3 of 4

acquisitions fund after 2030. David requested a list of where the rest (70%) of the 2C money is going and Ember said that she would look into it.

We are potentially discussing the dividing of money in the December OSAB meeting, which would follow a report from the acquisitions tiger team in the November OSAB meeting. We will have a desk meeting on acquisition priorities in November and will review the acquisition process in preparation for the new city manager. A field trip to visit the sites of potential open space acquisitions will take place in 2025.

9. 8:00 pm Discussion Item: E-Bike Regulations on Trails. Presented by Ember Brignull, Open Space Superintendent (30 minutes)

Although one can argue that there is an issue of trail etiquette in general, the discussion focused primarily on the e-bike component of Council's recommendations. Susan mentioned that she feels that it is very important to have consistent e-bike regulations across neighboring communities. Lafayette has a 15 mph speed limit and class 1 and 2 e-bikes are allowed. Erie and the City of Boulder also allow class 1 and 2 e-bikes. Boulder County allows class 1 and 2 e-bikes and in addition does not allow any e-bikes regardless of class on certain trails in the foothills and mountains.

Council directed the police to address behavioral issues rather than focusing on the types of bikes that people are riding. The police are working with the school district, Girl Scouts Troops, and retailers to discuss the law and etiquette as it relates to e-bikes. They are instructing on what constitutes an e-bike as opposed to low powered scooters and motorcycles/unclassified motorized bikes. Class 2's typically have throttle assist, but they are seeing hybrids where throttles are seen on class 3's as well. A 750 Watt motor is the limit for an e-bike and above that, they are considered low power scooters. Police are able to enforce state traffic codes related to e-bikes right now.

Charles mentioned that he was impressed with the safety of the vast majority of e-bike riders coming and going from Louisville Middle School (LMS), whereas Brad thought that the majority were not demonstrating safe riding behavior. A parent attending the meeting as a member of the public also echoed that the students are generally exhibiting unsafe riding behavior. Police Chief Gutierrez says the police force is trying not to be too heavy handed with enforcement. The 15 mph speed limit signs that are being proposed for the city trails and paths are primarily for encouraging good behavior and are helpful when it comes to safety regardless of the level of enforcement. He also reiterated that for right now we are enforcing state laws, which include no class 3-bikes on trails and paths and no e-bikes of any class allowed on sidewalks.

David mentioned that he served on the Boulder Mountain bike Patrol and found that the educational, but not enforcement, nature of the volunteer bike patrol is something that was found to work very well on City and County of Boulder trails. It could be something to explore in Louisville. Students attending the meeting inquired about whether the speed or behavior of e-bikes is the primary issue. They also mentioned that they have seen unsafe e-

bike riding behavior around Old Town Louisville. They also thought that those buying e-bikes in Louisville could sign a safety statement when buying a bike.

Michiko noted that e-bikes are important for people with mobility issues. She was also concerned about more powerful e-bikes potentially creating more off-trail damage and affecting wildlife negatively.

Susan will draft a memo to Council relaying OSAB's recommendations, which primarily consist of the installation of 15 mph speed limit signs and retaining the current policy where class 1 and 2 e-bikes are allowed on trails and paths, but not class 3 e-bikes.

10. 8:30 pm Discussion Item: Criteria for Wayfinding Review. Presented by Ember Brignull, Open Space Superintendent (15 Minutes)

The Powerline Trail wayfinding work is complete and the Lake to Lake Trail is next. The colors and fonts for the signs and striping are locked in right now. Paint is more affordable than other striping options, so a decision was made to go with that rather than a more logobased approach. Also, one piece of feedback that has already come in from the board and others is that the 104th St. trail should be listed in the map. The board should come back with other comments on wayfinding at the November meeting. Ember mentioned that she has received citizen feedback that some of the signs should be moved farther from the trails. Also, David mentioned that mileages would be helpful (per what Superior and the US 36 Bikeway signs have on them), but they were discussed earlier on in the wayfinding design and it was decided that they would not be included.

11. 8:45 pm Discussion Items for Next Meeting November 13th:

- i. Acquisition Tiger Team, and larger discussion on acquisition priorities and process
- ii. Grant Tiger Team (look at 2025 CIPs and grant opportunities)
- iii. Wayfinding
- iv. Water Rights (Coal Creek and Hecla Lake)
- 12. Adjourned: 8:53 p.m.



MEMORANDUM

To: Open Space Advisory Board

From: Open Space Division Date: November 13, 2024

Re: Information Item 6: Staff Updates

Natural Resources:

1. The Warembourg fishing pond was refilled.

- 2. Staff mowed select areas on Dutch Creek with annual and biannual weeds, these areas were then seeded with the City Open Space Division restoration mix.
- 3. Staff mowed in the CU study plot located at Damyanovich, partnership with University of Colorado Boulder.
- 4. Staff represented COL Open Space at the Boulder County Fire shed quarterly meeting
- 5. City of Louisville Open Space Mitigation story map is fully up to date with all GIS data and mitigation totals including mowing, grazing, etc.
- 6. Phase I of vegetation surveying data collection and mapping, pertaining to possible future trail alignments, has been completed.
- 7. Herbicide treatments by the Open Space contractor took place on select Open Space properties in October.
- 8. The City has changed service providers for the e-notification system and this has temporarily delayed notification regarding herbicide notifications. The City is working to rectify this concern. Those who would like to receive information regarding upcoming Open Space herbicide applications should contact Catherine Jepson at CatherineJ@louisvilleco.gov.
- 9. Staff installed a line of straw bales along the trail on Daughenbaugh Open Space to help prevent prairie dog dispersal to Parks land.
- 10. Prairie Dog relocation work was completed on Davidson Mesa Open Space in October. Prairie Dog Management work will continue through December on Davidson Mesa depending on weather. A total of 123 prairie dogs have been relocated to Pueblo and the Black Footed Ferrett Program. City Prairie Dog Management work on jointly owned Warembourg was canceled due to potential Bald Eagle nesting behaviors.
- 11. Staff is working with an electrician to fix the solar-powered aeration system at Hecla Lake which is currently not working.
- 12. Siberian Elm removal work has been contracted and set to begin in November. Mailers with project information have been sent to adjacent homeowners.

Open Space Advisory Board

Information Item 6: Staff Updates Continued November 13, 2024 Page 2 of 4

13. The Library Herbarium will debut this week at the entry of the City of Louisville Library!! Plants found on Open Space will be highlighted and seeds collected by staff will be available for the public.

Maintenance & Trails:

- 1. Staff has begun restoration efforts on encroachment areas that have been identified throughout the year.
- 2. Staff installed two additional "Keep It Clean" Partnership signs along the Coal Creek Trail.
- 3. The Hecla Lake shoreline fencing project is underway. This fence was requested to be installed to provide protection to shoreline and ground-nesting birds and was approved by the Finance Committee, OSAB, and the City Council via the budget process.
- 4. Staff has awarded Whitestone Construction Services, INC. to complete the "Installation of Trail Access & Emergency Closure Infrastructure Project 2024" Capital Improvement project. The project is tentatively scheduled to begin in November.
- 5. Staff has replaced and updated twenty-two damaged, or out of date signs, as a part of Phase I Sign Replacement project. Phase II of the Sign Replacement project will include inventory and prioritization of regulatory and educational signage.
- 6. Trail corridor and fire perimeter mowing has been completed for the 2024 season.
- 7. Staff has continued to repair damage to soft-surface trails, with an increase in observed damage from e-bikes at Davidson Mesa.

Resource Protection:

- Both rangers completed e-bicycle patrol training hosted by the Police Department with instructors from the Law Enforcement Bicycle Patrol Association (LEBA). This intensive class covered slow-speed maneuvers, prevention of common cycling injuries, and effective riding skills. As part of the course, both rangers rode approximately 85 miles on roads, concrete and gravel trails using electric bicycles provided by the Police Department.
- Rangers presented two sessions at the Colorado Open Space Alliance (COSA) conference in October in collaboration with South Suburban Parks and Recreation District and the City of Longmont.
- 3. Environmental Hazmat Services, Inc. (EHS) successfully removed debris and trash from the illegal encampment on Olson Open Space in October. The EHS staff bagged and removed two large trailers full of material for disposal.



Education/Volunteer:

- 1. Adopt volunteers completed dead branch and trash removal on Hillside Open Space.
- 2. Adopt volunteers removed Russian olive sprouts on CTC Open Space.
- 3. Eagle Scouts installed 120 feet of dowel fencing at Walnut Park with staff assistance.
- 4. The City hosted a City-wide volunteer appreciation breakfast.

Education Events Upcoming:

- 1. Thursday, November 14, 2024 from 6:30 to 8:00 PM, Louisville Native American History at the Louisville Library.
- 2. Tuesday, December 3, 2024 from 6:30 to 7:30 PM, Owls of Northern Colorado at the Louisville Library.
- 3. Sunday, December 8, 2024 from 4:30 to 6:30 PM, Open Space Stargazers: Holiday Starlight at Aquarius Open Space.

Education Events Past:

- 1. Saturday, October 12, 2024 from 9:00 to 10:30 AM, Native Shrub Planting at Harper Lake Open Space. 12 participants.
- 2. Sunday, October 13, 2024 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM, Open Space Stargazers: Fall Moongazing at Aquarius Open Space. 30 participants.

Open Space Advisory Board

Information Item 6: Staff Updates Continued November 13, 2024 Page 4 of 4

- 3. Friday, October 18, 2024 from 9:00 to 10:00 AM, Migratory Bird Walk and Leaf Peeping at Hecla Lake Open Space. 12 participants.
- 4. Wednesday, October 30, 2024 from 6:00 to 7:30 PM, Spooktacular Critters at the Louisville Recreation Center. 75 participants.
- 5. Saturday, November 9, 2024, from 12:00 to 3 PM, Adaptive Cycling event at Davidson Mesa in partnership with Boulder OSMP and National Sports Center for the Disabled. Attendance not available at time of publication.
- 6. Sunday, November 10, 2024, from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM, Louisville During the Great War at Harney Lastoka Open Space. Attendance not available at time of publication.



Memorandum

To: Open Space Advisory Board

From: Catherine Manian, Open Space Specialist

Date: November 13, 2024

Re: Discussion Item 9: Overview of 2024 Interpretive Educational Panels

Purpose:

The purpose of this discussion item is to review the proposed artwork and layout of two interpretive signs.

Background & Request of OSAB:

The Open Space Division has allocated funding in 2024 to develop two interpretive panels for installation at the Daughenbaugh and Davidson Mesa Open Space properties. Staff has been collaborating with a contractor on the artwork and layout for these signs, with fabrication planned for late 2024.

Staff initially presented theme ideas for the panels at the January OSAB meeting. In March, staff returned to share the locations of existing interpretive signs and to propose new sign locations and the themes for these signs. OSAB approved the placement of a Noxious Weed sign at Davidson Mesa and a Prairie Dog sign at Daughenbaugh and members also reviewed the proposed text for both signs.

Please be aware that the artwork for the signs is largely finalized, as the contractor has completed the primary illustrations. While small adjustments can still be made, extensive changes or a complete redesign are no longer feasible.

Staff is requesting OSAB's review and comments for the layout for the two final drafts provided: Noxious Weeds and Prairie Dogs.

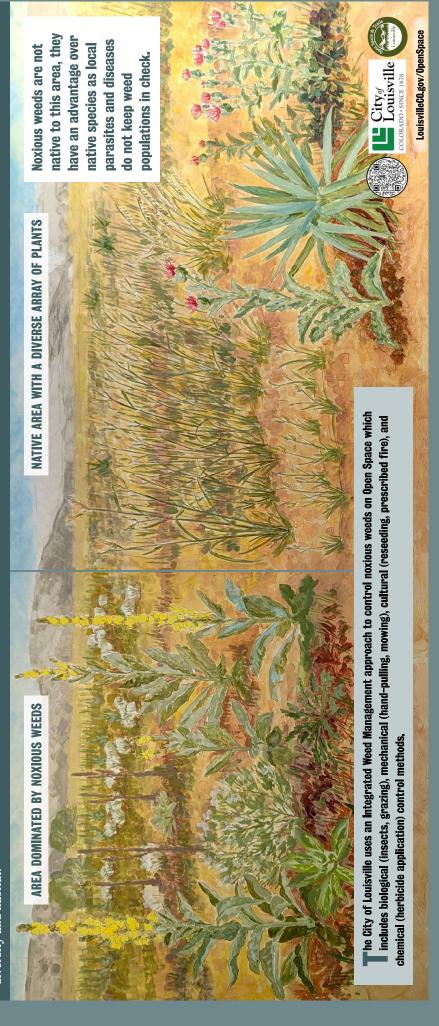
Next Steps:

Staff will consider OSAB recommendations for the interpretive panel layout and art work with the contractor to finalize the signs for fabrication. Staff will provide an update to OSAB when signs have been finalized and placed in the field.

problem? Noxious weeds and why are they a problem? Noxious weeds are non-native and invasive plants which have been introduced by accident or spread from gardens. Historic remnants of short grass prairie are found here on Davidson Mesa. Noxious weeds pose a real threat to these native plants and can significantly decrease wildlife and plant diversity and habitat.

Noxious weed management is an important component of prairie restoration. Without management, noxious weeds can often become a "monoculture", preventing the establishment of native species and depleting wildlife habitat by reducing available food and shelter. The Colorado Noxious Species Act requires management of these weeds.

Seeds from noxious weeds can easily spread by hitchhiking on animals, people, vehicles, and by wind and water. Please stay on maintained trails and leash pets while enjoying Open Space, to help prevent the spread of weed seeds.

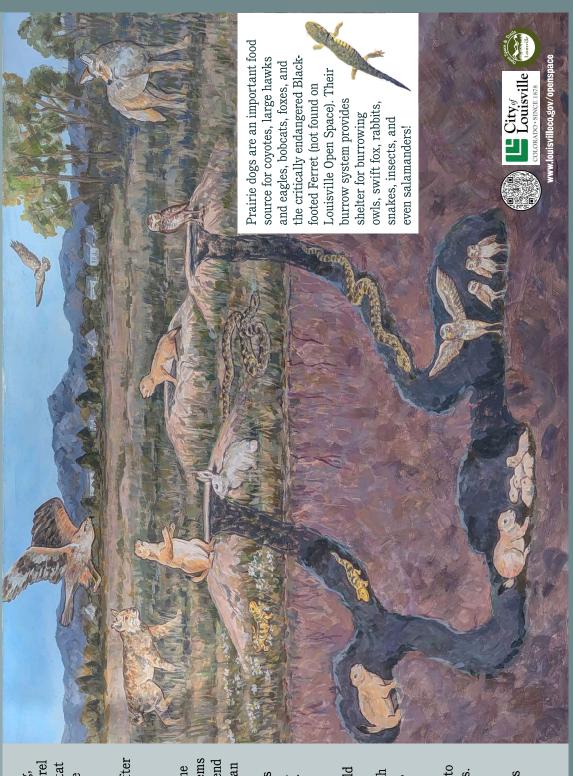


Prairie Dogs in the Urban System

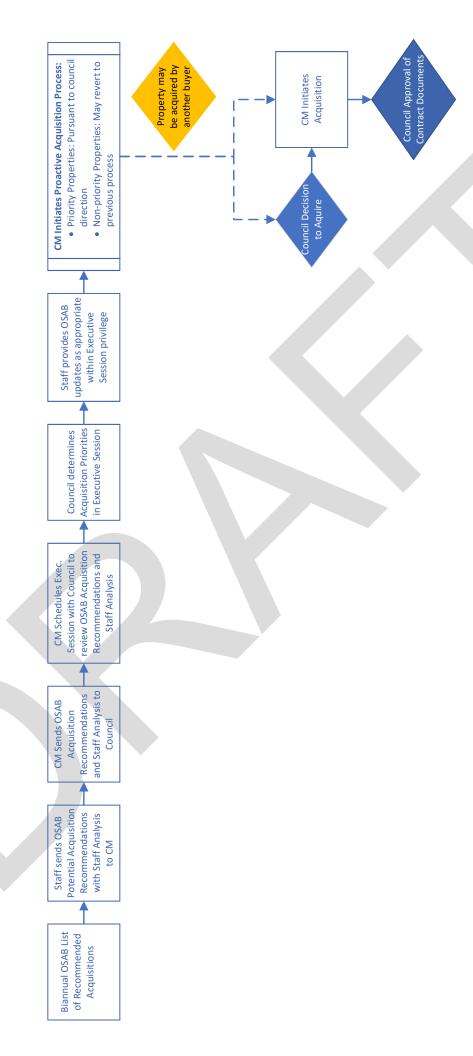
ehold the black-tailed prairie dog, very social members of the squirrel family! These cute rodents' habitat once covered thousands of acres of the High Plains. Prairie dog populations have declined significantly from their original size along the Front Range after decades of habitat loss, disease, and poisoning.

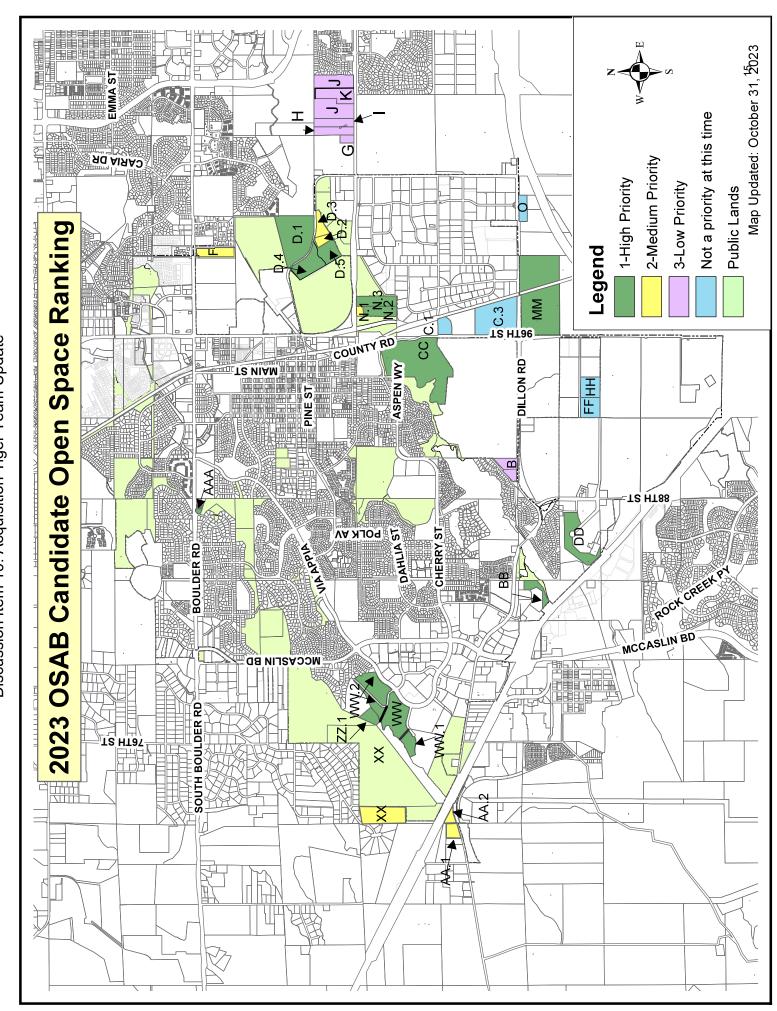
Prairie dogs are considered a "keystone species" of healthy grassland ecosystems due to the number of species that depend on them. Prairie dog colonies provide an important food source and habitat for a variety of wildlife. However, in areas where non-native species have created unsuitable vegetative conditions, their burrowing can create barren land.

Historically, prairie dog towns would gradually move across the plains, stimulating new native plant growth with their digging activities. Today, many prairie dog towns in cramped urban areas cannot move, causing them to graze the same area down to bare ground and encouraging weeds. Conflicting views about species protection vs. over-crowding and dispersal concern, create challenges for land managers to maintain healthy populations.



Proposed Open Space Acquisition Process





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October 11, 2023

16

2023 OSAB Candidate Open Space Ranking

Parcel2	Notes/comments/observations
ည	cultural & historical &iconic value, riparian, wooded
DD	good connectivity to other open space, habitat
MM	contiguous to Davidson Mesa, ag ditch, works best in conjunction with other WW & ZZ properties, habitat
WW.1	contiguous to Davidson Mesa, ag ditch, works best in conjunction with other WW & ZZ properties, habitat
ZZ.1	contiguous to Davidson Mesa, works best in conjunction with other WW & ZZ properties, habitat
D.1	wetlands, riparian area, has house, "lost cause", works best in conjunction with other D properties
BB	adjacent to Coal Creek Trail, corridor, & Creek, wetlands, pretty, detention pond
N.2	Coal Creek crosses the land, adjacent to other open space, large house, zoned agricultural, need other N properties to make worthwhile
N.3	Coal Creek crosses the land, adjacent to other open space, several buildings, zoned ag, need other N properties to make worthwhile
D.4	adjoins other open space, house & barn, connect to further properties to the east
MM	buffer to Broomfield, currently ag land, buildings on land, divided by road/railroad, limited recreational potential
WW.2	works best in conjunction with other WW & ZZ properties, hemmed in by roads and houses, good view
D.5	zoned agriculture, has house, Coal Creek crosses the land, works best in conjunction with other D properties
D.2	zoned agriculture, has house, Coal Creek crosses the land, works best in conjunction with other D properties, may already be eased
AA.1	adjacent to HWY 36, okay habitat, close to Overlook Underpass and Boulder City/County open space land, social trails
AA.2	only worthwhile if also conserve AA.1, degraded habitat, close to Overlook Underpass & Boulder City/County open space land, social trails
D.3	zoned agriculture, has house, riparian, works best in conjunction with other D properties, adjacent to Aquarius
N.1	adjacent to Coal Creek Trail and CTC Trail, zoned agricultural, need other N properties to make worthwhile
XX	adjacent to Davidson Mesa, great view
ч	adjacent to Lafayette, already trail to the west, house on property
В	small, between houses and road, may need soil remediation, land degraded, zoned agricultural
-	J is the best-looking ag land of all of these, zoned agricultural, houses, need other properties to make worthwhile
9	zoned agricultural, houses, need other properties to make worthwhile
Ŧ	zoned agricultural, houses, need other properties to make worthwhile
-	zoned agricultural, houses, need other properties to make worthwhile
Х	zoned agricultural, houses, need other properties to make worthwhile
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October 11, 2023

17

2023 OSAB Candidate Open Space Ranking

ID2	Possible goals
ည	trail easement along creek, trail to south towards Dillon, possible city cultural facility, no further development
DD	trail to 36 Bikeway,ensure conservation if Avista leaves, hilltop buffer, no further development
MM	trail connectivity to Lake-to-Lake Trail, buffer, no/low further developemnt, 4H
WW.1	trail connectivity to neighborhood, buffer, no/low further developemnt
ZZ.1	trail connectivity, buffer, no/low further developemnt
D.1	easement around house, CC Trail re-route to follow creek, buffer, agricultural site, no further development
88	purchase, ensure buffer around CCT, no further development
N.2	protect creek, reroute trail corridor along creek (though many members thought this was unlikely)
N.3	protect creek, reroute trail corridor along creek (though many members thought this was unlikely)
D.4	easement, CC Trail re-route to follow creek, buffer, edcuational site, no further development
MM	agricultural easement or partnership acquisition with County, prairie dog relocation site, 4H, goats
WW.2	trail connectivity to rec center, no/low further developemnt
D.5	buffer to Aquarius, conservation easement, agricultural uses, no further development
D.2	buffer to Aquarius, conservation easement, agricultural uses, no further development
AA.1	only worthwhile with partners, trail connection from underpass to other trail networks, safe crossing?, highway buffer
AA.2	only worthwhile with partners, trail connection from underpass to other trail networks, safe crossing?, highway buffer
D.3	buffer to Aquarius, conservation easement, agricultural uses, no further development
N.1	protect creek, reroute trail corridor along creek (though many members thought this was unlikely)
X	trail easement, buffer to DM and its trail, no further development
Ь	trail buffer, dog park in partnership with Lafayette, ag use, trail buffer, no further development
В	dog park? Trail head/connection to other trails? Road buffer, no further development
ſ	agricultural easement? Remediation with partnership? Low value to board
ŋ	agricultural easement? Remediation with partnership? Low value to board
Τ	agricultural easement? Remediation with partnership? Low value to board
_	agricultural easement? Remediation with partnership? Low value to board
К	agricultural easement? Remediation with partnership? Low value to board
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October 11, 2023

8

