



**MEETING OF THE  
PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
BOULDER COUNTY, COLORADO  
AGENDA**

**Thursday, October 24, 2024, 6:30 p.m.**

**Third Floor Hearing Room**

**County Court House**

**1325 Pearl Street, Boulder**

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- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of Last Month's Minutes**
- 4. Presentations**
  - 4.1 Trailhead Maintenance Program Overview**  
Staff Presenter: Emily Ruff, Civil Construction Field Supervisor  
  
**Action Requested: Information Only**
  - 4.2 Community Engagement Team Update**  
Staff Presenters: Emma Dhimitri, Community Health Specialist  
  
Montserrat Alvarez, Bilingual Partnership Specialist  
  
Sully Tun-Ake, Park Ranger, Community Engagement  
  
Whitney May Taylor, Planner II, with support from Carlos Lerma and Juan Ocampo  
  
**Action Requested: Information Only**
  - 4.3 2024 Youth Corps Season in Review**  
Staff Presenter: Luiz Bertolo, Youth Corps Program Manager  
  
**Action Requested: Information Only**
- 5. Public Comment Period for Items Not on Agenda**
- 6. POSAC Members Comment Period for Items Not on Agenda**

7. Director's Update

8. Adjournment



**MEETING OF THE PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**BOULDER COUNTY, COLORADO**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**August 22, 2024, 6:30 p.m.**

**Third Floor Hearing Room**

**County Court House**

**1325 Pearl Street, Boulder**

Members Present: Janet George  
Tony Lewis  
Trace Baker  
Paula Fitzgerald  
Jackson Moller  
Kristine Johnson  
Derek Turner  
Drew Adams

Members Excused: Carol Byerly

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1. **Call to Order**
  2. **Roll Call**
  3. **Approval of Last Month's Minutes**

**Moved by** Paula Fitzgerald

**Seconded by** Trace Baker

Tony Lewis and Jackson Moller abstained.

**APPROVED**

**4. Presentations**

4.1 Adler-Fingru – 2024 Xcel Easement Taking

Staff Presenter: Don Durso, Land Officer

**Action Requested: Recommendation to BOCC**

Q: Can the bore pit in the center of the property be retained with this easement?

Response: Yes, it should be about 5x5 feet.

Q: What types of disturbances to wildlife or introduction of noxious weeds could result from this work?

Response: Concerns from other workgroups wasn't high when they were consulted, but we'll have those staff come out to the site and make recommendations. We have seed that can be spread after the work is complete.

Q: If at some future time maintenance requires the surface to be disturbed, will the same requirement for reclamation still be in place?

Response: Yes; theoretically they shouldn't need to disturb the surface again, but if there is a reason for it, we would issue them a temporary access easement with conditions of restoration.

Q: What is your formula for negotiating what Xcel pays? Is staff time considered?

Response: We are looking at \$35k per acre for unirrigated land, so that is what is was based on. Our county attorney had previously determined we cannot charge for our staff time because that is considered part of our public service.

**Moved by** Paula Fitzgerald

**Seconded by** Janet George

**APPROVED**

4.2 Boulder County Comprehensive Plan Overview

Staff Presenter: Aaron Clark, Land Officer

**Action Requested: Information Only**

Q: You said the Comp Plan is advisory in nature. I see both "does", "should", and "shall". How are those interpreted?

Response: I see "shall" as "you need to do this", although the Plan it does not have the force of law.

Q: A section of the Plan is a Telecommunications element that mentions cell towers, etc. Is there a similar concern for energy distribution, such as powerlines or solar and wind farms, is that addressed anywhere in the Comprehensive Plan?

Response: These questions relate to how the Boulder County Planning & Permitting department manages the county's reaction to requests. It's usually part of a larger planning process.

Q: Is there a ranking of Real Estate acquisition priorities, or do you use a matrix of land acquisition goals?

Response: They are looked at on a case-by-case basis, and all open space priorities bear equal weight. One property might be really important for a trail connection, and another might have three or four values that makes that property really special.

Q: When the list was determined, was it based on staff or community input?

Response: These are pieces of the Comp Plan that came through a community process in the late 1960s and early 1970s. The county occasionally does community surveys. The Open Space element was updated a few years ago and we did a large public input process for that at that time. We don't do a rank order because we want to do all of it. The Long Range Planning division at CP&P makes the determination for when the elements get updated.

Q: Can we have a presentation from CP&P about Comprehensive Plan updates?

Response: I will make that request.

Public comments: None

## 5. **Public Comment Period for Items Not on Agenda**

Molly Hardman, rural Boulder County. She stated that she has always supported the mission and purpose of Parks & Open Space, but she does not support the Red Hill elk hunt. She doesn't feel safe in her neighborhood while the hunt is happening. She has not received a response to her inquiries to learn the science behind this decision.

**6. POSAC Members Comment Period for Items Not on Agenda**

Jackson Moller: Carol Byerly has an author hour at the Boulder Bookstore on Sept. 3 to discuss her book *Mosquito Warrior*.

Derek Turner: Will POSAC get an update on the current budget requests to get a better understanding of the BCPOS decision-making process?

Response: Janis Whisman will pass POSAC's request to Therese Glowacki. Our department starts budget discussions early in the year. In September, all department budget requests are presented and then in November the commissioners start making those decisions. The county passes the budget by the end of the year.

Tony:

- Perhaps the annual POSAC retreat is a good time to learn about the BCPOS budget.
- I'd like to thank staff for today's site visit to Heil Valley Ranch. It was very informative.
- Congratulations to Trace Baker and Conrad Lattes for each being chosen to receive a Parks & Open Space Conservation Award. The ceremony will be on Sept. 18.
- There may not be a quorum for the September 26 meeting because several members will be gone.
- Update on farm working housing: A group is meeting on Sept. 9 and Tony will report back to POSAC.
- Regarding the comments from Molly Hardman, I hope that someone on staff will reply to her questions. It's always the desire that public inquiries will be responded to.

**7. Director's Update**

BCPOS does have a standard to reply promptly to public inquiries. Staff will look into what happened in Molly's case.

- The Boulder County fair had a record-breaking year with more than 160,000 in attendance.

- Trailhead work at both Stearns Lake and Hall Ranch continues with significant improvements with drainage and accessibility.
- Youth Corps finished another very successful season with over 120 youth.
- The Anne U. White trailhead restroom is in place and operational.
- On Aug. 1, Education & Outreach helped make sure Nederland's 150th Anniversary celebration weekend went well, with a kickoff event at the Nederland Mining Museum, in partnership with the Nederland Area Historic Society, the Nederland Public Library, and the Buffalo Bill Museum in Golden.

**8. Adjournment**

7:35 p.m.

This is only a summary of the meeting. The meeting video is viewable on the [POSAC webpage](#).



**MEETING OF THE PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**BOULDER COUNTY, COLORADO**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**September 26, 2024, 6:30 p.m.**

**Third Floor Hearing Room**

**County Court House**

**1325 Pearl Street, Boulder**

Members Present: Janet George  
Trace Baker  
Kristine Johnson  
Derek Turner

Members Excused: Tony Lewis  
Paula Fitzgerald  
Drew Adams  
Jackson Moller  
Carol Byerly

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- 1. Call to Order**
  - 2. Roll Call**
  - 3. Approval of Last Month's Minutes**

Tabled to next month.

- 4. Presentations**

#### 4.1 Boulder to Erie Regional Trail (BERT) Plan

Staff Presenters: Tonya Luebbert, Regional Trails Planner, Community Planning & Permitting and Justin Atherton-Wood, Principal Planner, Parks & Open Space

##### **Action Requested: Information Only**

Q: You say this plan will go to the BOCC in October. Will POSAC ever be asked to make a recommendation on this plan?

Response: No, I don't believe so.

Q: One theme from the public comments submitted are that some perceived risks may not be known until the design process. Can you address those concerns?

Response: There is more environmental work to be done in the next phases of the project. There is still a lot of data from multiple agencies to work through. Once we have an approved document, we will try to get further funding from outside sources.

Q: Will there be an assessment of contamination along the railroad corridor? Will that be part of your environmental work?

Response: I assume there will be, but I don't know what kind of survey that will entail.

Q: What is Boulder County's connection to this project? Will it be paid for with open space tax dollars?

Response: It's not an open space project, so open space tax won't pay for it. About 15% of the transportation sales tax goes to regional trails and bikeways, so that is what we would use for our local match. Town of Erie and City of Boulder may contribute to the local match. Then we would look for grant opportunities.

Q: What does Rails with Trails mean?

Response: When rails are officially abandoned, trails can use that corridor. In this case, the rails are not officially abandoned. It's not being used and there are no plans to use it, so it makes more sense to not put the trail on the rail bed. We are leaving the rails there.

Q: If this is used as a regional trail, and if there are seasonal closures, would you close the trail?

Response: At this point, the county is not making recommendations about seasonal closures. We are still working OSMP, CPW, and BCPOS staff to see what mitigation efforts would be if we don't have seasonal closures.

Q: I also share the ecological concerns, but you seem to assume these concerns can be mitigated. Are there any possibilities to look at other routes?

Response: CPW doesn't make recommendations this early in a project, because things can change. That is one of the reasons for phasing a project, so we can be flexible. We might have a different preferred alignment later, but right now we need to have one preferred to start the design phase.

Public Comment:

Karen Hollweg, representing PLAN Boulder County. They support implementation of the BERT, with revisions to preserve environmental resources. They are concerned with the portion of the plan from 75th to the Teller-White Rocks Trail due to the biodiversity areas. They encourage consideration of an alignment running on land south of the critical resources.

Suzanne Bhatt, Boulder. She is troubled by the untenable choice between environmental protection and safety. She would like staff to take time to find a better alignment and asks POSAC to not approve the current plan.

Cathern Smith, Louisville. She believes the recommended route is the most environmentally detrimental option.

Bev Baker, Louisville, speaking Boulder County Audubon Society. They ask staff to find a less ecologically harmful alignment. They would like to see portions of the Valmont route to be reevaluated.

Tabitha Farrer, Boulder County, She lives north of the railway section, between 75th and 95th and has a conservation easement on her property. She states the proposed BERT would undo the goals of the CE.

Iayana Rael. She commented that the area near Valmont Butte is a culturally important site.

4.2 Cultural and Natural History School Programs

Staff Presenters: Angela Borland, Natural History Program Specialist and Jim Drew, Agricultural Heritage Center Volunteer Coordinator

**Action Requested: Information Only**

4.3 Update on Soil Health Activities

Staff Presenter: Mike Foster, Agricultural Resources Division Manager

**Action Requested: Information Only**

Q: Will you measure carbon sequestration during this pilot?

Response: Partnering with NRCS, we have measured soil organic matter to build a baseline. This pilot is more about seeing a behavior change with our tenants and getting them to try something new. Once tenants are committed to a new practices, then we will start measuring carbon sequestration.

Q: I would like to hear some speculation about where you see this going 5 years down the line.

Response: Within 5 years, we will definitely be measuring on a more regular basis. Right now we don't want to have rigorous measuring of metrics. We want our tenants feel more comfortable applying these practices.

5. **Public Comment Period for Items Not on Agenda**

None

6. **POSAC Members Comment Period for Items Not on Agenda**

Derek asked about the possibility of having a budget presentation next month.

Therese Glowacki replied that there will be a budget presentation at an upcoming POSAC meeting.

7. **Director's Update**

- Some POSAC members attended a site visit to Congo Mine NMM and Cardinal Mill on Sept. 20

- Upcoming POSAC Site Visits:
  - Oct. 17: Hall 2 after reclamation
  - Oct. 24: Spruce Gulch (before POSAC meeting)
- Bear Safe Trash Cans: Used a grant and started distributing cans in Jamestown. Program was extended to distribute Bear Cans to the Nederland Area (241 so far with another 54 reserved)
- Colorado Open Space Alliance (COSA) conference is next week
- Monday, Sept. 30: Event at Heil Valley Ranch to celebrate Shared Stewardship successes.
  - The State of Colorado and the USFS signed an MOU in 2019 to vow to improve a Shared Stewardship Strategy for Colorado.
    - “Colorado's forest landscapes and watersheds face increasing challenges. Overly dense forests, fire suppression, widespread insect and disease impacts, population growth and climate change all pose unprecedented threats and contribute to increasing wildfire risk. Increased use impacts recreation infrastructure and wildlife. We must manage Colorado's forests at much larger scales to meaningfully address these challenges. Shared Stewardship brings together national, regional, state, tribal and local players to plan together, prioritize together, and act together.”
  - Governor Polis, Director of DNR Dan Gibbs, Commissioner Stolzmann, and Rep. Joe Neguse are expected to speak, along with Chiara Forrester, representing our local partnership known as the St Vrain Forest Health Partnership.
  - CO Strategic Wildfire Action Plan (COSWAP) funding was used in Boulder County for cross boundary forest management (Hall Ranch, Button Rock Preserve, Private Land) that incorporated a strong collaborative effort.
  - Scott Golden, Jarret Roberts, and Jeff Hiebert will represent BCPOS
- Haystack Mountain Auction Purchase was Tuesday of this week. Boulder County paid \$6.2M for land, water, and minerals. Closing will be on Oct. 22.

**8. Adjournment**

8:52 p.m.



# Parks & Open Space

5201 St. Vrain Road • Longmont, CO 80503  
303-678-6200 • POSinfo@bouldercounty.gov  
www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org

## PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Time/Date of Meeting: 6:30 p.m., Thursday, October 24, 2024

Location: Boulder County Courthouse  
1325 Pearl Street, Third Floor, Boulder

<b>TO:</b>	Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee
<b>FROM/PRESENTER:</b>	Emily Ruff, Civil Construction Field Supervisor
<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	<b>Trailhead Maintenance Program Overview</b>
<b>ACTION REQUESTED:</b>	Information Only

The Boulder County Park and Opens Space (BCPOS) Trailhead Maintenance (THM) program has evolved significantly since the very first trailhead was built in 1985. Since the onset of managing trailheads for public use, we now service 39 different locations all around the county that are frequently utilized by community members and visitors alike. The built structures often found at our trailheads, such as restrooms, picnic shelters, information kiosks, and trash and recycling receptacles, require continuous attention and care by our staff to provide visitors a safe and welcoming experience. This includes routine sanitation and restocking efforts and general maintenance upkeep such as painting, staining, hardware replacement, and more.

As the need for serving and maintaining user amenities grows, so does the multifaceted THM program. Finding the balance between providing a high standard of cleanliness at our trailheads, implementing new strategies and innovations, and keeping up with our maintenance backlog is a challenge. However, this small but mighty team works hard to address the combination of needs. This overview will share some of the history that has led the team to the high level of output we are supplying today and what the future of our open space trailheads will look like.

This presentation on the BCPOS Trailhead Maintenance program will provide an overview, including:

- Brief Introduction of the Presenter: Emily Ruff, THM Field Supervisor
- Background: The history of the THM program from its beginning
- Current Programing: What are the prominent priorities, objectives, and core duties
- Projections for the Future: What to expect in the next five years



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Time/Date of Meeting: 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024

Location: Boulder County Courthouse  
1325 Pearl Street, Third Floor, Boulder

<b>TO:</b>	Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee
<b>FROM/PRESENTER:</b>	Community Engagement Team: Emma Dhimitri, Community Health Specialist; Monserrat Alvarez, Bilingual Partnership Specialist; Sully Tun-Ake, Park Ranger, Community Engagement; Whitney May Taylor, Planner II; With support from Carlos Lerma, Natural History Program Coordinator; Juan Ocampo, Park Ranger; and Luiz Bertolo-Blanco, Youth Corps Program Manager.
<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	<b>2024 Community Engagement Team Update</b>
<b>ACTION REQUESTED:</b>	Informational Only

### Introduction

The Boulder County Parks and Open Space Community Engagement team was formed at the end of 2023 in response to the need to better coordinate and support ongoing BCPOS community engagement work across multiple work groups. The team’s work is focused by our Desired Future Condition, which was developed during the 2023 team retreat:

*Boulder County Parks & Open Space cultivates approachable, meaningful, and sustainable community engagement opportunities and programs with (co-created) and for the community with a focus on historically marginalized communities that leverage the community’s assets, build upon trusted partnerships, and make people feel they are a part of Parks & Open Space.*

### Why Does Parks & Open Space Need a Community Engagement Team?

In response to feedback received from community partners and BCPOS staff, it became clear there was a need for increased communication and support for ongoing and emerging community engagement programs. As a result of this feedback, BCPOS employees who regularly lead community engagement programs formed a team to reduce silos between work groups, offer support to one another for larger events, and build reciprocal and sustainable relationships with our community partners. The Community Engagement team works to coordinate community engagement efforts across five different work groups and divisions: Recreation and Facilities, Resource Protection and Rangers, Education and Outreach, CSU Extension and Planners.

### **Community Engagement in 2024**

In the year that this team has existed, BCPOS community engagement events and collaborative programming has more than tripled – from nine events in 2023 to over 31 events in 2024. This work would not be possible without the support of community partners:

- Boulder County Public Health
- Cal-Wood Education Center
- Casa de Esperanza
- City of Longmont: Longmont Youth Center
- Cottonwood Institute
- Harvest of All First Nations
- Inspire Youth Connections
- Latino Outdoors
- Luna Cultura
- Nature Kids Programs (Thorne Nature Experience)
- San Lazaro Mobile Home Community
- Sister Carmen

Our team will highlight a few events and programs from 2024:

- Casa de la Esperanza partnership and overall support
- A la Montaña con la Familia
- Aventuras de San Lazaro
- The Zone Afterschool Program's Wellness Wednesdays
- Harvest of All First Nation's Corn Festival

### **Summary**

The Community Engagement team will present the formation of the team and the goals the team aims to achieve. This presentation will also include highlights from the BCPOS community engagement events and programs of 2024.

This is an 'information only' item and no action by POSAC is needed.



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Location: Boulder County Courthouse  
1325 Pearl Street, Third Floor, Boulder

<b>TO:</b>	<b>Parks &amp; Open Space Advisory Committee</b>
<b>FROM/PRESENTER:</b>	Luiz Blanco-Bertolo, Program Manager
<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	<b>2024 Youth Corps Season in Review</b>
<b>ACTION REQUESTED:</b>	<b>Information Only</b>

The 2024 Youth Corps season was a successful one, bolstered by many returning Corpsmembers and Leaders from the previous season. In addition to a second season for the LGBTQ+ Affinity crew, we also launched our inaugural BIPOC Affinity crew.

I will present a Season in Review that will dive into some of the significant accomplishments, highlights, and challenges experienced across the 12 Youth Corps teams that we had working throughout Boulder County this past summer.

I will also share some video content taken in the field this summer that gives insight into the work being done and the unique individuals who make a successful season happen.