



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

Thursday, November 21, 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 **Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan Overview and 2025 Major Update**
Presenters: Hannah Hippely, Long Range Planning Division Manager (CP&P) and Ron West, Resource Planner (Parks & Open Space)

Action Requested: Information Only
 - 4.2 **2024 Youth Corps Season in Review**
Staff Presenter: Luiz Bertolo, Youth Corps Program Manager

Action Requested: Information Only
 - 4.3 **BCPOS Budget 2025**
Staff Presenter: Therese Glowacki, Director

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

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

Third Floor Hearing Room

County Court House

1325 Pearl Street, Boulder

Members Present: Janet George
Paula Fitzgerald
Drew Adams
Tony Lewis – arrived 6:56 p.m.
Kristine Johnson
Derek Turner
Carol Byerly

Members Excused: Jackson Moller
Trace Baker

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- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**

3. Approval of Last Month's Minutes

Minutes for Aug. 22 were approved unanimously. Carol Byerly abstained.

Minutes for Sept. 26 were approved unanimously, after requesting a typographical correction. Paula Fitzgerald and Drew Adams abstained.

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 - Tabled to the November 21 meeting

Staff Presenter: Luiz Bertolo, Youth Corps Program Manager

Action Requested: Information Only

5. Public Comment Period for Items Not on Agenda

Tess McDonald, Lyons. She spoke against the use of drones to spray herbicides. She asked POSAC to retract their prior recommendation.

6. POSAC Members Comment Period for Items Not on Agenda

Derek Turner requested a recap of the BERT decision by BOCC earlier today by Therese Glowacki.

7. **Director's Update**

- Hispanic and Latinx Heritage Month runs from September 15 to October 15. BCPOS held community events, and Therese highlighted a [video](#) of those events.
- BERT plan was presented to the BOCC today. County commissioners voted 2-1 in support to proceed with the BERT.
- Two trailheads were recently improved:
 - Hall Ranch upgrades to make it more ADA accessible and to improve drainage.
 - Stearns Lake parking lot added 11 new spaces.
- 90% of Soil Health grant money has been distributed to incentivize our agricultural tenants to improve their soil health.
- The Left Hand Outdoor challenge is starting up again. Twenty-eight youth will participate this year.
- The elk management hunt is taking place through January at Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain.
- The 352-acre forestry contract is complete on the Hall, Hanson, and Riverside properties, within the Button Rock watershed. This was in collaboration with the City of Longmont. There was a media event with Gov. Polis, Rep. Joe Neguse, and Commissioner Stolzmann to recognize this shared forest stewardship.
- The Prescott Wetland Restoration project off Bunce School Road is complete.
- Boulder County closed on the Haystack Mountain purchase this week. The property is currently closed to the public.

8. **Adjournment**

8:22 p.m.

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



Community Planning & Permitting

Courthouse Annex • 2045 13th Street • Boulder, Colorado 80302 • Tel: 303.441.3930
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 471 • Boulder, Colorado 80306 • www.bouldercounty.org

Memo

To: Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee

From: Hannah Hippely, Long Range Planning Division Manager

Date: November 21, 2024

RE: Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan 2025 Update INFORMATIONAL ITEM

PACKET CONTENTS

Item	Pages
Staff Memo	1 - 3
Planning Area Map (Exhibit A)	A1
County Open Space within the BVCP Planning Area (Exhibit B)	B1

PURPOSE

Staff will provide an overview of the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan, the major update process, as well as to introduce the project plan and timeline as developed to date.

BOULDER VALLEY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (BVCP)

The [BVCP](#) is the jointly adopted City of Boulder and Boulder County Comprehensive Plan for the Boulder Valley. This plan and its associated intergovernmental agreement (IGA) have shaped the development of the Boulder Valley. The Plan's core Service Area framework has not changed since its adoption in 1977 (see Exhibit A Planning Area Map). This framework directs urban development to those areas where urban services can be provided creating a compact urban form. Within the maps areas designated as Area I are those areas already within City limits, where additional growth and development is expected. Areas designated as Area II are areas which could be annexed into the City and where urban services could be provided (in many cases the City of Boulder already provides some urban services within these areas). Area III lands are areas which are to remain rural and under county jurisdiction and these are appropriated delineated as Rural Preservation. A subset of these areas are City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks lands that have been annexed and are shown as Area III - Annex. The effect of this simple and clear framework is reflected in the current municipal boundaries of the City of Boulder which have grown intentionally, incrementally outward, and in a manner where the growth can be fully supported while preserving the rural character of the lands outside of the City Service Area. Rural preservation efforts have been supported by the investments in open space preservation within the planning area, primarily by the City of Boulder (see County Open Space within the BVCP Planning Area Exhibit B). This framework has been a bulwark against uncoordinated development and sprawl and has relieved the county of filling the role as a competing development option for property owners. With the recent annexation of the CU

South property, there exist one remaining large undeveloped area within the BVCP planning area that the Plan has designated as an option for future service expansion and development. This is designated as Area III, Planning Reserve and is located east of North Foothills Highway roughly between Jay Road and the North Broadway/ North Foothills Highway intersection. The Plan requires a Baseline Urban Services Study to be completed prior to considering a service area expansion into the Area III, Planning Reserve.

The urban service framework establishes the Plan’s big picture vision however the BVCP also guides development within the City and includes a number of addition layers and lenses. The Plan includes a set of Core Values and 7 Focus Areas which were identified during the last major update including Housing Affordability & Diversity, Growth – Balance of Future Job & Housing, Design Quality & Placemaking, Resilience & Climate Commitment, Subcommunities & Area Planning, Arts & Culture, and Small Local Business described in Chapter 2. In Chapter 3, there are 10 policy sections that cover intergovernmental cooperation and growth management, the quality of the built environment and neighborhood character, the natural environment, energy climate action and waste minimization, economic vitality, transportation, housing, community well-being and safety including culture and the arts, agriculture and food, governance, and community engagement. Chapter 4, includes a description of 25 land use designations which are shown in detail on the [Future Land Use Map](#). Chapter 5 provides guidance on subcommunity area planning and identifies the subcommunities. Chapter 6 includes a summary of adopted master plans and trails map. Chapter 7 details the urban services standards and “adequacy standards are included for those urban services that are required for urban expansion in Area II. These include public water, public sewer, stormwater and flood management, urban fire protection and emergency medical care, urban police protection, multimodal transportation and developed urban parks”. Appendix B is the text of the Intergovernmental Agreement and includes the amendment procedures for the Plan.

Major Update Process

The BVCP, requires that a major update occurs at least every 10 years to ensure the document continues to reflect the communities needs and vision for the future. The Plan provides a few specific guidelines regarding the details of how a major update is to be completed. According to the Plan, the process is initiated by City and County staff who establish a tentative update process and schedule, which is revised as necessary throughout the process. The Plan requires that policy changes be considered before map changes and that the process include an opportunity for change requests to the plan from landowners, the public, staff, and City and County approval bodies to be considered. The Plan is then required to be considered at public hearings and is adopted by all 4 decision making bodies; City Planning Board, City Council, County Planning Commission, and the Board of County Commissioners.

The 2025 Major Update

City and County staff have been developing the 2025 Major Update process. The official public launch of the BVCP major update project will occurred at a kick-off event held October 19th, 2024. Next, staff will be working on an existing conditions analysis which will provide a clear picture of where the Boulder Valley is today. Community engagement will largely be conducted throughout 2025. During this time, the community will help guide the creation of the BVCP vision, values, and priorities as well as review how different future land use options could support the vision (scenario testing). Beginning in late 2025, staff will begin drafting policies based on the feedback from the

community, city and county departments, and decision-makers. The first half of 2026 will be focused on preparing the draft plan and public request process, followed by plan adoption in late summer. August 2026 is the adoption goal for the BVCP. After the content is adopted and the project is complete, staff will then work towards creating a published, likely web-based, version of the BVCP.

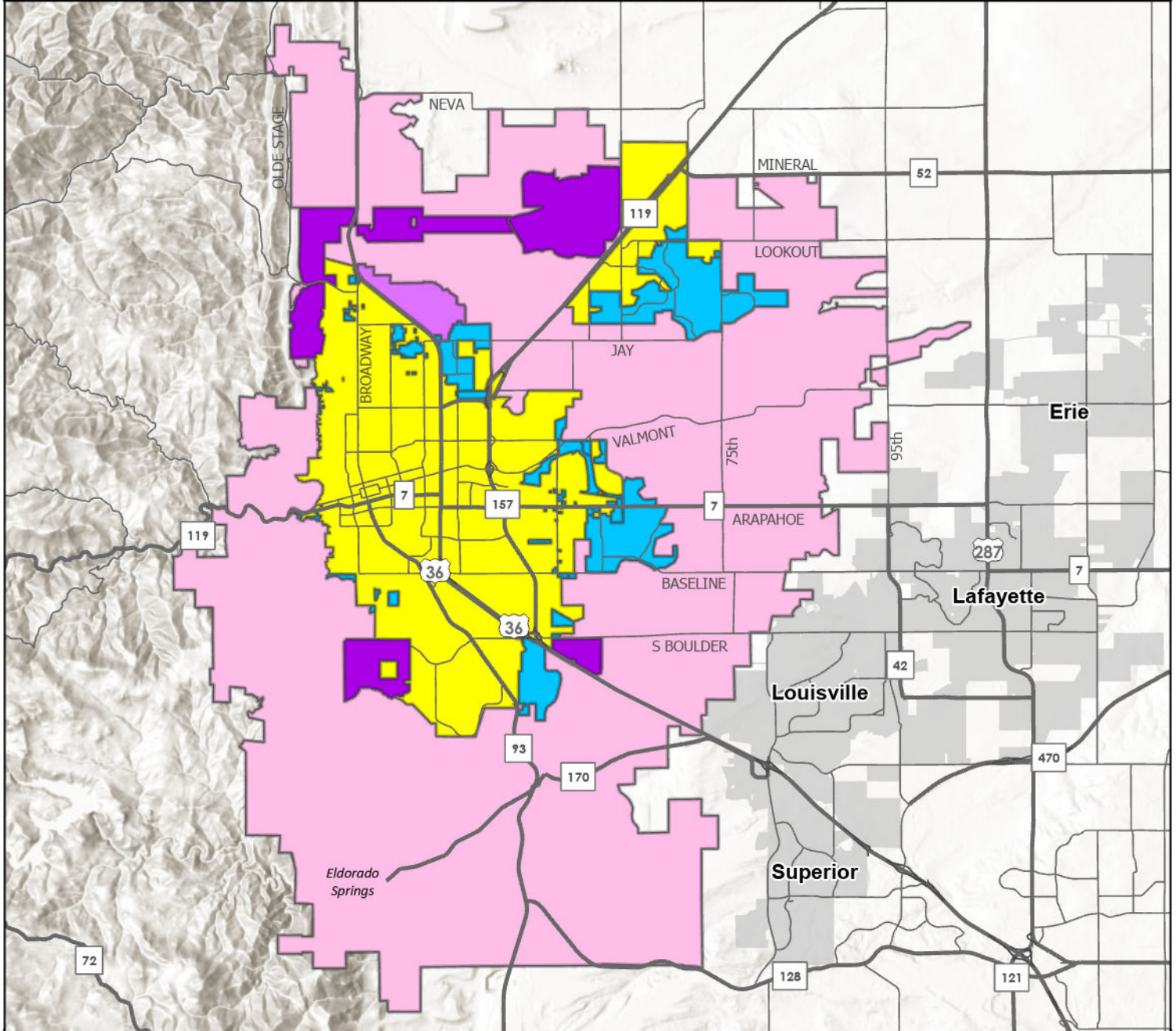
As shown in the project schedule, a large component of the BVCP update is focused on community engagement. The engagement plan includes many commonly used engagement techniques such as open houses, workshops, focus groups, etc. Additionally, in an effort to try new approaches to community engagement, hear from a diversity of voices, have an opportunity for meaningful and in-depth engagement an additional innovative strategy called a Community Advisory Committee (CAC), or Community Assembly is proposed.



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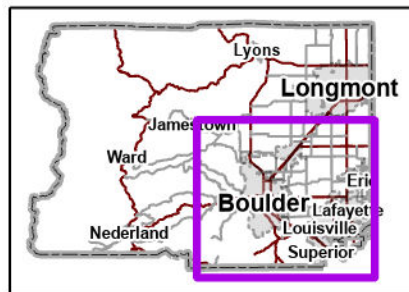
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Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan Areas



Area of Detail

Date: 9/24/2024



Legend

BVCP Area

Area I

Area II

Area III Rural Preservation

Area III Planning Reserve

Area III Annex

Municipalities

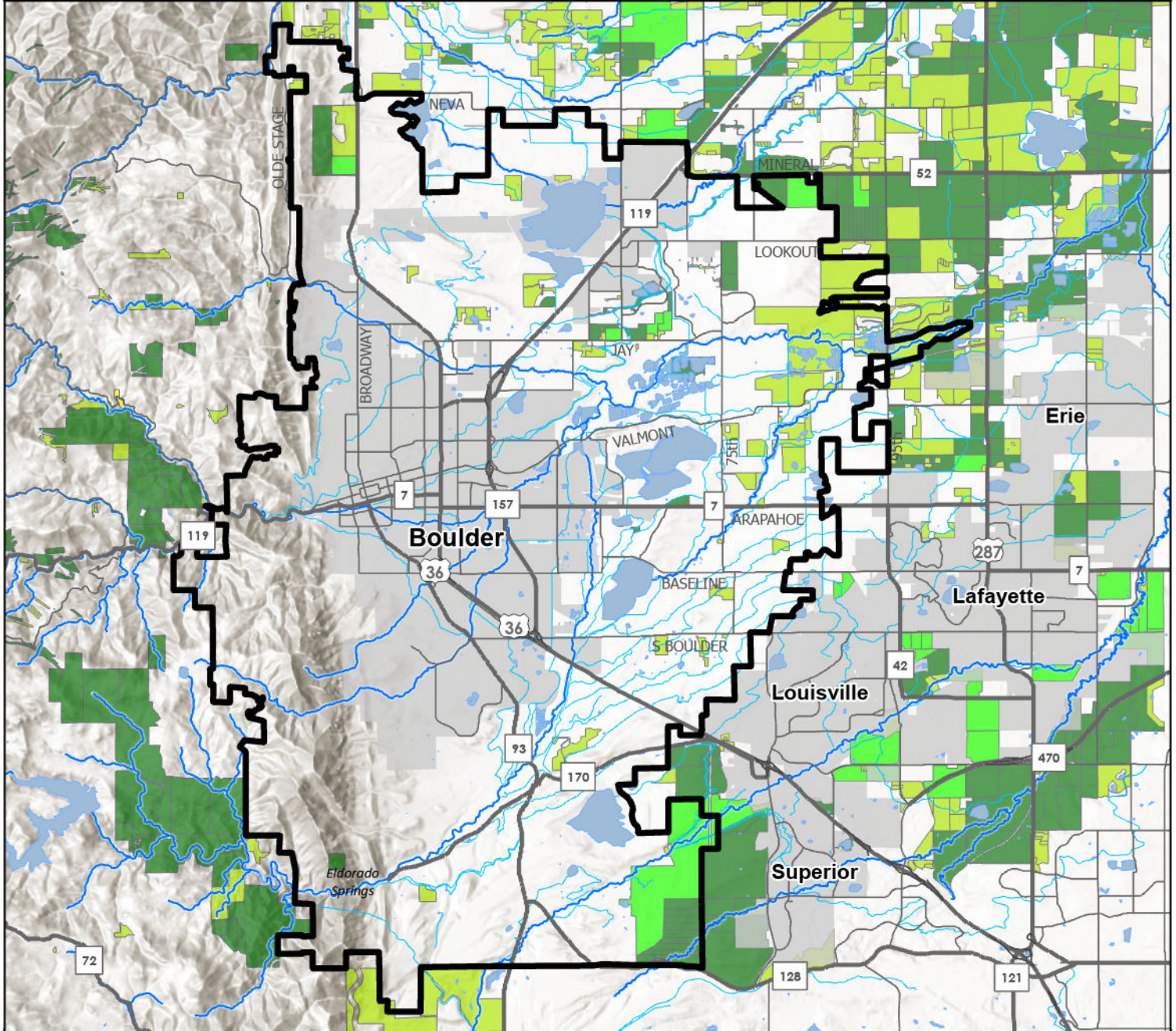
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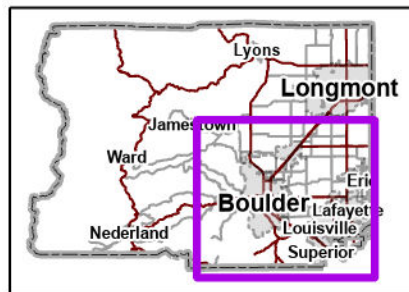
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Boulder County Open Space in BVCP Area



Area of Detail

Date: 10/4/2024



Legend

- BVCP Area
- County Open Space
- Joint County and Municipal Open Space
- County Conservation Easement
- County Miscellaneous Easement
- Open Space Option
- Conservation Easement Option
- Municipalities



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Parks & Open Space

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PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Time/Date of Meeting: 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024

Location: Boulder County Courthouse

1325 Pearl Street, Third Floor, Boulder

TO:	Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee
FROM/PRESENTER:	Ron West, Natural Resource Planner
AGENDA ITEM:	Resource Planner Role in CP&P Development Review
ACTION REQUESTED:	Information Only

Summary

When the Land Use Department (now CP&P) started the Site Plan Review process in 1996, a POS Resource Planner position was established. The role of this position is to review all CP&P development proposals across the unincorporated county in three arenas: 1) four Comprehensive Plan Elements -- Environmental Resources, Open Space, Agriculture, and Cultural Resources; 2) any previously unrecognized ecological or environmental concerns raised in review and site visits; and 3) possible impacts of the developments to POS lands and trails, and any other public lands in the county.

Most Comprehensive Plan Elements have associated mapping where previous work has identified sub-elements in the field or from cartography. These include: wetland areas, riparian, Environmental Conservation Areas and Riparian Habitat Connectors, High Biodiversity Areas, Critical Wildlife Habitats, Preble’s meadow jumping mouse habitat, bald eagle nest sites, Significant Natural Communities, Rare Plant Areas, Natural Landmarks, Natural Areas, View Protection Corridors, Archeologically Sensitive Areas, Agricultural Lands of National/Statewide/or Local Significance, and Agricultural Ditches, among others.

Staff visits the site and overlays these sub-elements with the parcel’s boundaries, and the actual construction sites, to summarize potential resource impacts. Changes in locations, designs, and mitigating measures are recommended.

Attachments

Review Concerns Notes

POS Review Concerns, November 2024

Three arenas – Comprehensive Plan; ecology/environmental issues; POS/public-land specific

Four Comp Plan Elements – Environmental, Open Space, Agriculture, Cultural

Elements from Comprehensive Plan

“Fine” filter:

Critical Wildlife Habitats ~96

Wildlife Migration Areas – based on elk field/collar data

Preble’s meadow jumping mouse; federally threatened, categories, USFWS review

Significant Natural Communities

Rare Plant Areas

Riparian Areas

Wetlands

Natural Landmarks – 26

“Coarse” filter:

Environmental Conservation Areas (ECAs)

Overland Habitat Connectors/Stream Habitat Connectors (for ECAs)

High Biodiversity Areas (HBAs)

Natural Areas -- 10

Other:

Adjacent to, or visible from, open space/public lands, and visual impacts to neighbors

View Protection Corridors – scenic concerns along public roads/rights-of-way

Trails – existing or proposed

Archaeologically Sensitive Areas, and Travel Routes

Important Agricultural Lands of National, Statewide, and Local Significance

Historic sites and structures

Additional Concerns

Re-vegetation – native species, techniques

Spiranthes diluvialis; Ute Lady’s Tresses; federally threatened, USFWS review

Bald eagle nest sites (~15), and wintering areas

Wildlife Species of Special Concern ~180 species

Plant Species and Communities of Special Concern, 100+

County-listed noxious weeds – 13 species; and Russian-olive

State-listed noxious weeds – 58 species

Agricultural ditches – large county holdings

Water wells/uses – irrigation, etc.

Mining claims/BLM lands

Oil & Gas wells/infrastructure – huge changes in recent years



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PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Time/Date of Meeting: 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 21

2024 Location: Boulder County Courthouse

1325 Pearl Street, Third Floor, Boulder

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

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.



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Time/Date of Meeting: 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024

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

TO:	Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee
FROM/PRESENTER:	Therese Glowacki, Director
AGENDA ITEM:	BCPOS Budget Overview 2025
ACTION REQUESTED:	Information Only

At a recent POSAC meeting, staff was asked to bring back specific information on the overall BCPOS budget, and the details of what BCPOS is requesting for 2025.

The normal budget cycle for Boulder County begins in early summer when departments start assessing their needs for funding for the following year. BCPOS looks at 5 different funding needs: 1) Ongoing operating budgets; 2) One-time project funding (mine clean-up, etc.); 3) New staff requests; 4) Seasonal budgets; and 5) Capital and equipment. In POS, we discuss these among divisions and get a priority list for the whole department.

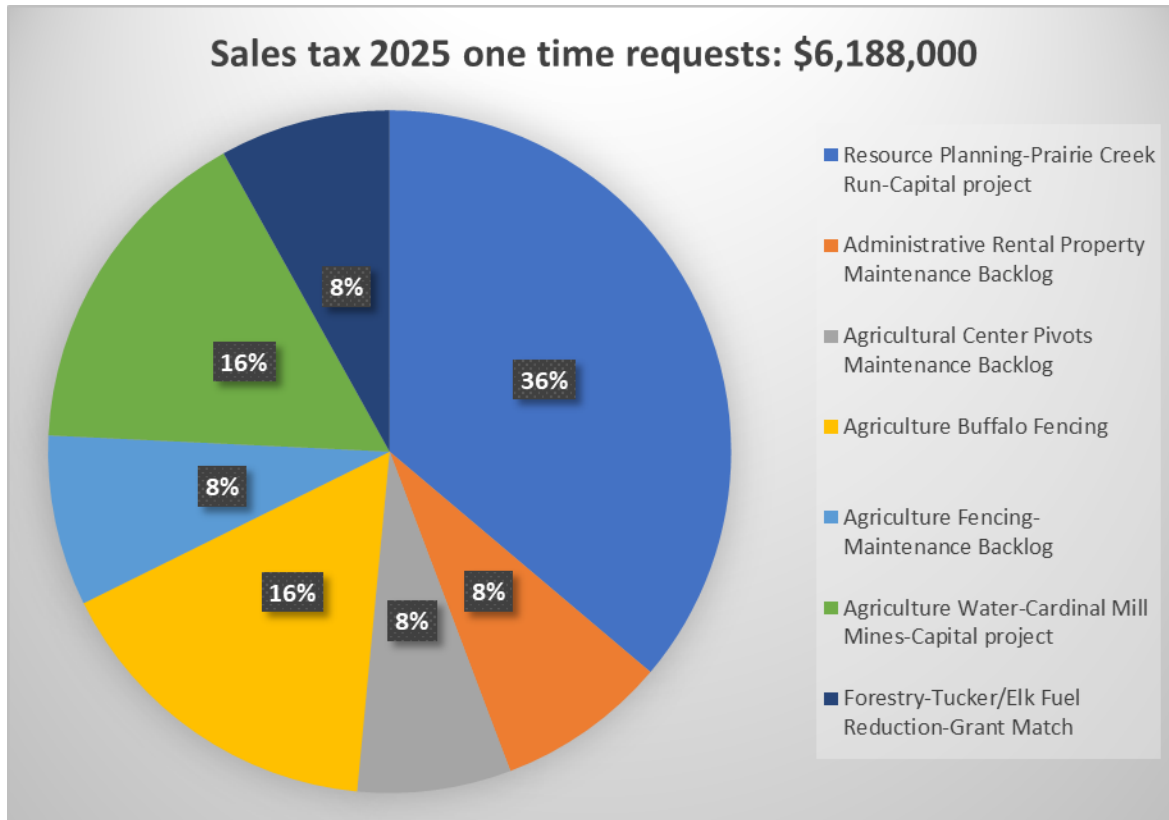
Our funding for BCPOS comes from three main sources. The first is the general fund, generated from property taxes. This is the largest source of income for the county and funds most county functions like administrative, IT, and human resources. The second is our open space sales and use tax. These are dedicated revenues that can only be used on open space and are for acquisitions, management, and maintenance. The third source is grants. We typically are successful in securing grant funding for restoration projects, trail construction, and historic preservation.

Our general fund operating budget is \$2.4 million dollars annually. Our sales tax operating budget is \$12.4 million annually, with an additional \$17 million for potential acquisitions. Our one-time, large project requests for 2025 are \$6.2 million. This includes over \$2 million for Prairie Run open space riparian restoration and park development, and the Cardinal Mill water contamination cleanup. Our grant funding for 2025 will be several million dollars for forestry, stream restoration, and mine clean up.

This presentation will provide more details on individual project requests, open space sales tax revenues, and County Commissioner decisions on 2025 open space budget requests.

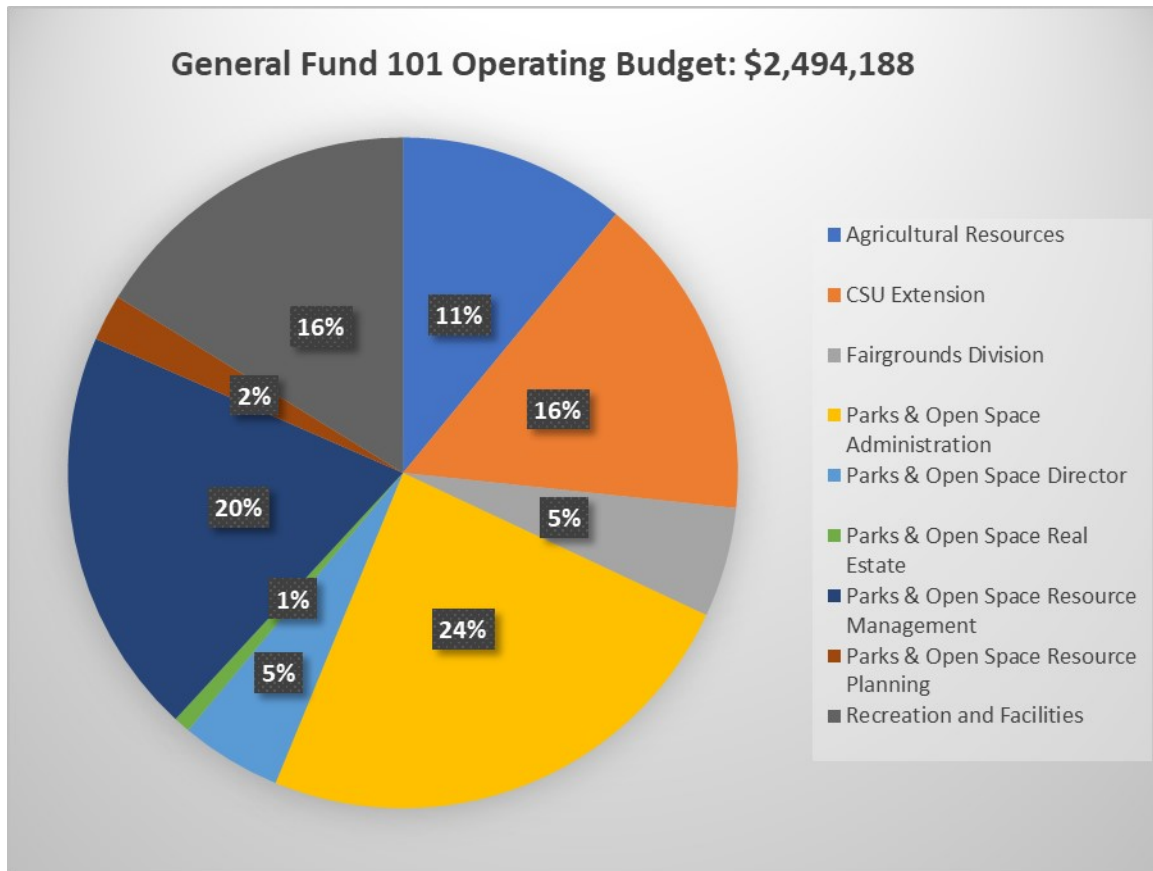
Attachment: Charts of BCPOS Operating Budget and Requests

Budget Pie Charts for POSAC



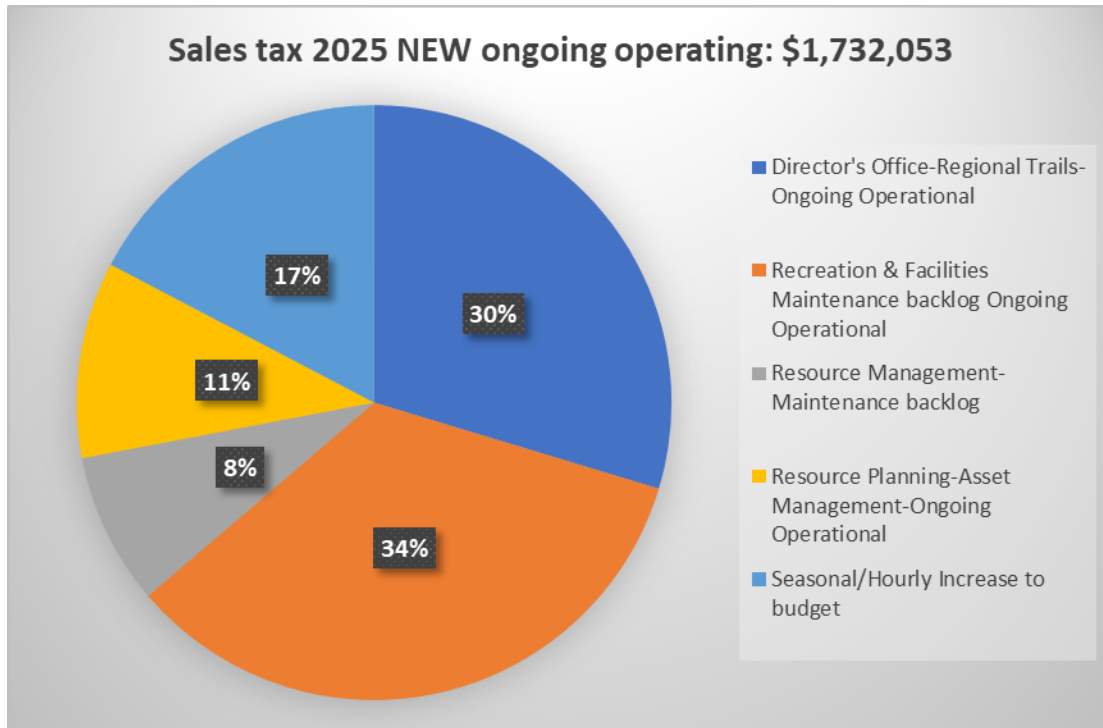
Sales Tax One Time Request	Amount
Resource Planning-Prairie Creek Run-Capital Project	\$ 2,238,000
Administrative Rental Property Maintenance Backlog	\$ 500,000
Agriculture Center Pivots Maintenance Backlog	\$ 450,000
Agriculture Buffalo Fencing	\$ 1,000,000
Agriculture Fencing-Maintenance Backlog	\$ 500,000
Agriculture Water-Cardinal Mill Mines-Capital Project	\$ 1,000,000
Forestry-Tucker/Elk Fuel Reduction-Grand Match	\$ 500,000
Total	\$ 6,188,000

Budget Pie Charts for POSAC

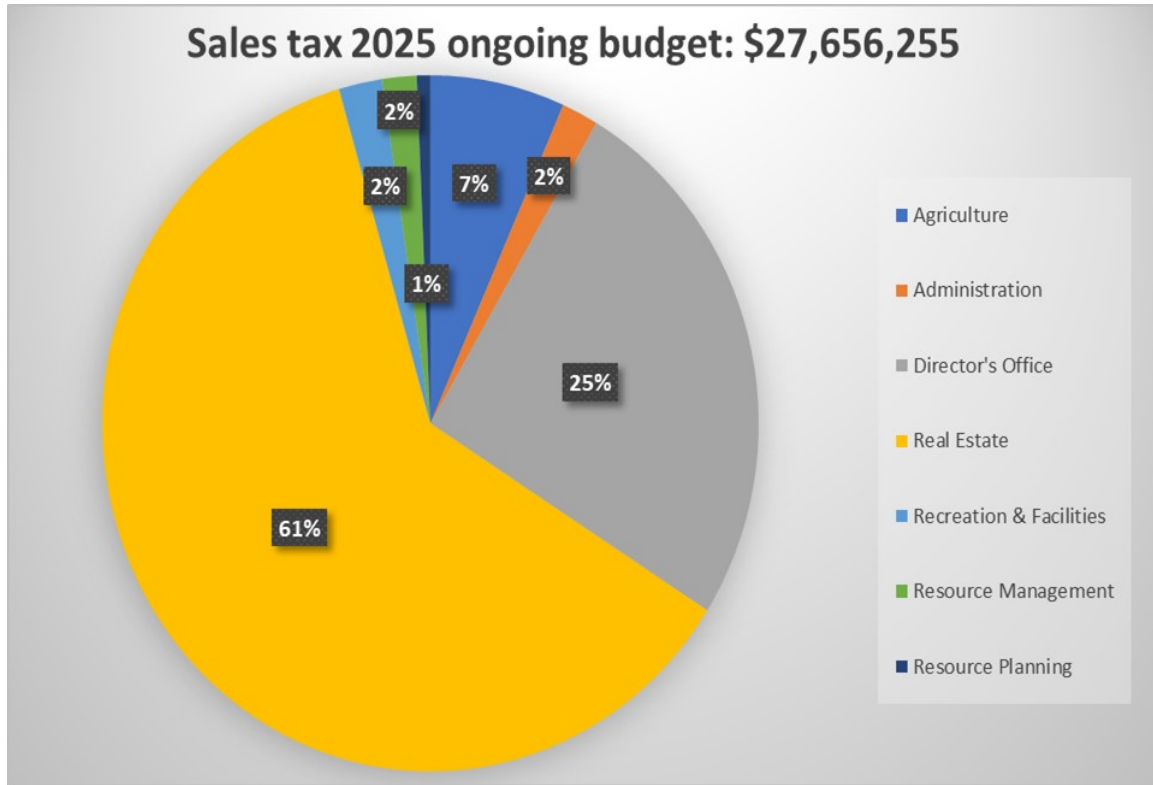


General Fund Budget Item	Amount
Agricultural Resources	\$ 273,734
CSU Extension	\$ 391,733
Fairgrounds Division	\$ 132,000
Parks & Open Space Administration	\$ 604,572
Parks & Open Space Director	\$ 121,324
Parks & Open Space Real Estate	\$ 20,000
Parks & Open Space Resource Management	\$ 490,475
Parks & Open Space Resource Planning	\$ 55,975
Recreation & Facilities	\$ 404,375
Total	\$ 2,494,188

Budget Pie Charts for POSAC



Sales Tax New Budget Item	Amount
Director's Office-Regional Trails-Ongoing Operational	\$ 514,053
Recreation & Facilities Maintenance Backlog Ongoing Operational	\$ 590,000
Resource Management-Maintenance Backlog	\$ 143,000
Resource Planning-Asset Management-Ongoing Operational	\$185,000
Seasonal/Hourly Increase to Budget	\$ 300,000
Total	\$ 1,732,053



Sales Tax Ongoing Budget Item	Amount
Agriculture	\$ 1,834,180
Administration	\$ 500,000
Director's Office	\$ 7,077,075
Real Estate	\$17,000,000
Recreation & Facilities	\$ 590,000
Resource Management	\$ 470,000
Resource Planning	\$ 185,000
Total	\$ 27,656,255