



Parks & Open Space

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PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

TO: Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee

DATE: Thursday, Feb. 24, 2022

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Parks & Open Space Resource Planning Schedule and Program

PRESENTER: Jeff Moline, Planning Manager

ACTION REQUESTED: Information Only

Summary

The Boulder County Parks & Open Space (BCPOS) Resource Planning Division prepares a schedule of planning projects that includes three time horizons, current, near-term, and long-term. The division prepares and maintains this document for internal work planning and shares it with POSAC and the public so that the community understands the work and priorities of the department. Staff appreciates your review and any feedback.

Background

The Resource Planning Division is comprised of 19 full-time staff and two part-time staff spread across several work groups including Data Solutions, Business Analysis and IT, Project Management and Design, and Planning as well as Cultural Resource Management. The division supplies the staff to lead and coordinate all the projects and processes that require planning and project management services. These range from relatively small, internal tasks (e.g. meeting facilitation, permitting) to leading large property management processes.

The planning schedule is maintained by the planning staff and division manager. It summarizes the planning work conducted by staff—identifying which division staff are involved in a project (not part of the attached version of the schedule) and what timeframe work is designated for it. While planning staff organize the projects into the schedule, extensive consideration from a variety of sources is given to listing and prioritizing their order and arrangement in the document. While the prior year's schedule naturally forms the basis for the following one, there is some capacity for highlighting and activating particular tasks based on input from the Board of County Commissioners and their Strategic Priorities, the department's strategic plan, the annual request to cities for their open space and trail priorities, the department's capital and stewardship plans, the feedback from our staff based on land management actions in the field, the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan and relevant elements, and, last but not least, the public's input into our processes and surveys.

The 2022 Planning Schedule

Overview

This year's schedule is a confluence of these various prioritization efforts and inherited projects from the recent past. After several years of strategic planning work at both the department and county levels, planning staff is currently focused on several multi-objective projects to resolve overarching organizational and community needs that were identified through those efforts. These include the asset management project as well as the implementation of the Cultural Responsiveness and Inclusiveness Plan (CRISP). These

projects give the department the biggest return on investment for the resources it stewards, the programs it leads, and the services it provides. Thus, the planning staff's dedication to these projects is reflected in the schedule.

Another important component of open space planning in 2022 and the future is the consideration of regional geographies—the context of BCPOS lands and programs within natural areas, watersheds, and the Front Range landscape. Coupled with projected climate impacts are population and transportation changes (forecast by the State Demography Office and included in the county's Transportation Master Plan) that will alter the region and county in the decades to come. Ongoing strategic planning efforts and participation in regional collaboratives such as NoCo Places 2050 (<https://www.nocoplaces2050.com/>) are addressing these challenges.

Ultimately, the outcome of this strategic work has been an emphasis of a number of ongoing efforts that tie equity, climate action, and land and water stewardship together. Initiatives working to connect our properties to regional trails and municipalities is an important way to address these related goals. Providing recreational opportunities that not only incorporate our open space properties but find ways to get people to those opportunities in a manner supportive of communities and climate action. The county is working on several initiatives in this regard: the Rocky Mountain Greenway, the Boulder-Erie Regional Trail, and the St. Vrain Greenway. The department is also reassessing access opportunities to improve the connectivity of Lyons to Heil and Hall Ranches. Since these efforts can occur outside of existing property ownership and require the involvement of multiple agencies, their progress isn't as quick as efforts to add facilities within our properties. Another related, but not yet started, project will be a master planning effort that will examine how to address access and parking issues for some of our busiest properties.

Property Management Plans

Property management plans are crucial for the department. They document its work on a property so that all of a site's environmental values and ecological/agricultural resources can be managed in a way to maintain and improve them while at the same time balancing their conservation with the community's use of an area, often through passive recreation. These planning processes are critical for the intersection of public input and staff recommendations. At this time, there are several areas that warrant the depth of planning that accompanies these processes: South St. Vrain Creek especially in the Hall 2 area, the St. Vrain Greenway between Lyons and Longmont especially in the 61st Street/Hygiene Road area, and the Kenosha Ponds area at the confluence of Coal and Boulder Creeks.

Policies

Starting 12 years ago, BCPOS devoted considerable effort to the development of resource policies (cropland, forestry, and water) and these remain crucial for their guidance to the department regarding its land management practices. More recently, the department's policy approach has been to develop smaller documents to address specific issues such as Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS, a.k.a. drones) and climate adaptation and mitigation efforts (e.g. the Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Plan - CAMP). Currently, the planning division does not anticipate extensive time available to work on policies apart from one on cultural resources in the long-term planning horizon.

Trails and Other Projects

As noted above, trail planning has focused on efforts to connect existing properties and trails to communities. Additionally, staff works with municipalities to partner on a trail projects with common goals and destinations. The planners remain involved in a variety of departmental and intergovernmental processes and projects which are noted in the schedule as well, including disaster recovery work which is very time intensive.

POSAC Action Requested

Informational item. Staff looks forward to a discussion concerning the Planning Schedule for the department.

Attachments

1. Planning Schedule

Resource Planning Schedule 2022

Planning Project Name	2022	2023	2024-2025	Notes	Priority
Property and Area Management Plans					
Carolyn Holmberg Preserve @ Rock Creek Farm Management Plan Update	x	x	x	Implementation/Design	H
South St. Vrain Corridor	x	x	x	Planning Process includes: 1. Lyons Quarry Reclamation; 2. Creek Restoration at Hall 2 and at Hall Meadows; 3. Lyons trail requests for connection to Hall Ranch TH 4. Future management planning/co-creation with Latinx community	H
St. Vrain Corridor	x	x	x	1. Regional trail connections (Lyons/Pella); 2. Site planning for public access at Braly including public amenities and co-creation with Latinx community; 3. Corridor planning including Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse conservation, ag uses, and greenway recreation. 4. gravel mining application review	H
Boulder and Coal Creek Confluence	x	x	x	1. Howell Ditch Diversion; 2. Resilience planning w/Erie, Mile High Flood, and City of Boulder; 3. management planning including co-creation with Latinx community	M
Reynolds Ranch Management Plan				Trail and access planning in tandem with adjacent USFS lands	L
Ron Stewart Preserve @ Rabbit Mountain				Existing elk management plan to protect natural resource issues. Separate access and parking plan to address overcrowding.	L
Policies and Subject Area Plans					
Access and Parking Study	x	x	x	Study long-term solutions to access andcrowding; identify short-term solutions for some parking problem areas.	H
Cultural Responsiveness and Inclusion Strategic Plan (CRISP)	x	x	x	Coordination of Working Group and project implementation	H
Indigenous Ways & Land Commitment Team	x	x	x	Creating a "land commitment" with planned actions that demonstrate that commitment and connection to Indigenous Ways of understanding and caring for the landscape holistically	H
Public Amenities & Infrastructure	x	x	x	Discovery phase and implementation of an Asset Management System; joint project with Public Works (PW), Community Planning and Permitting (CPP), and IT Departments	H
Regional Land & Water Planning	x	x	x	Discovery phase for a system wide landscape analysis to proactively find cooperative strategies to protect, improve, and sustain the open space values of our land and water and meet our multiple resource objectives	M
Science, Research, & Data Policy	x	x	x	bi-annual project charter review	M

Resource Planning Schedule 2022

Strategic Planning	x	x	x	Implementation, prioritization, capacity planning	M
Cultural Resources			x	The next subject area policy	L
Departmental Projects with Resource Planning Lead or Involvement					
FEMA flood fencing	x			Complete reconstruction of fencing on 5 properties	H
FEMA Reservoirs Project; Lake 4, West Lake, and A-Frame Lake	x			FEMA project; complete Lake 3 outlet construction; complete LOMR; finalize operations agreement and easements with SVLHWCD; FEMA Close-out	H
Hall II - Lyons Quarry Reclamation	x	x	x	Reclamation work starting-Part of S. St. Vrain Planning effort	H
Howell Ditch Diversion Reconstruction and Boulder Creek Restoration	x	x	x	Partnership w/ Mile High Flood District and City of Boulder; CWCB grant funding?; permitting	H
Niwot Ditch Fish Passage	x	x		implementation	H
PMJM - Site Conservation Team (SCT)	x	x		SCT is considering St. Vrain/South Branch as potential focus area for PMJM conservation	H
Prince Lake No. 1 Dam Reconstruction	x	x	x	FEMA Scope change and other grant funding; permitting	H
Braly Property Planning for A-Frame Site/Trailhead		x	x	St. Vrain Corridor	M/H
Land Use Code Changes for Environmental Resource Element	x			Finishing commitment to institute code changes to address ERE update	M
Big Springs Egress				Fire Access Review	As needed
Trail Alignment Planning					
104th Street	x			Finishing Phase I design in early 2022. Phase I construction complete in 2022	H
Rocky Mountain Greenway (RMG)--Coalton Rehabilitation	x	x		Raising Coalton Trail to RMG standards; pending outcome of grant request	H
Tolland - Magnolia Trails with USFS	x	x		Connectivity and management collaboration	H
Trail Requests - Municipalities, Transportation, & Others	x	x	x	Municipal Collaboration and Scoping	H
BERT: Boulder - Erie Regional Trail	x	x		CPP leading study effort along with OSMP and others. POS at table.	M
Future 42: Large project with impacts to Harney-Lastoka and Mayhoffer Farm	x			Louisville-initiated transportation planning process.	M
RMG-Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge State Highway 128 Underpass	x	x		Site planning review of US Fish and Wildlife Service/Jefferson County lead project	M
Rock Creek Grasslands Trail--Broomfield to Lafayette	x	x	x	Management planning complete. Parties need to make project for funding/design	M
US 36 Trail Corrdior Planning Study from Lyons to Boulder	x			CPP leading effort study effort along with Cyclists 4 Community and others. POS at table.	M

Resource Planning Schedule 2022

ATTACHMENT 1

Column
Key for
Current
Priority: H
= High; M =
Medium; L
= Low