



Parks & Open Space

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PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Time/Date of Meeting: 6:30 p.m., Thursday, June 22, 2023

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

TO:	Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee
FROM/PRESENTER:	Scott Nissen, Professor Emeritus, Colorado State University
AGENDA ITEM:	Behavior of Cheatgrass and associated impacts to open space and natural areas
ACTION REQUESTED:	Informational

Introduction

The purpose of this presentation is to provide information on cheatgrass behavior and how it negatively impacts our native open space ecology and is a wildfire risk. Cheatgrass is an invasive weed that has impacted millions of acres across the west in addition to the Front Range of Colorado.

Background

Cheatgrass has long been known to have negative impacts on our native ecosystems. It reduces native plant diversity, impacting resources for wildlife including native pollinators and increasing the risk for negative outcomes during wildfires. Scott Nissen, Professor Emeritus, Colorado State University, has worked extensively researching cheatgrass and will provide further information on the behavior and impacts of cheatgrass on the local ecosystems.