



Parks & Open Space

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

PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING Time/Date of Meeting: 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2023

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

TO:	Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee
FROM/PRESENTER:	Tina Nielsen, Special Projects Coordinator
AGENDA ITEM:	2024 Capital and Stewardship Projects
ACTION REQUESTED:	Recommendation to BOCC

Introduction

The Boulder County Parks & Open Space 2024 budget request includes \$3.324 million from county open space sales tax revenues to fund 34 capital and stewardship (CAST) projects. The purpose of this memo is to provide an overview of these projects and request POSAC’s recommendation of approval to the Board of County Commissioners.

Discussion

Each year, on top of ongoing annual work funded through each work group’s operating budget, the department strategically plans a number of capital and stewardship projects. These projects are prioritized based on the department’s 2025 strategic priorities (Cultural Responsiveness and Inclusion, Resilience, Maintenance Backlog, and Safety), community requests, management plan commitments, funding, readiness, and other practical considerations. The table below shows the CAST summary. Attachment A provides project details by division.

2024 Capital & Stewardship Projects			
Division	Boulder County	Grant/ Partner	Total
Ag Resources	\$401,000	\$240,000	\$641,000
Recreation & Facilities	\$772,000	\$0	\$772,000
Resource Management	\$610,000	\$580,000	\$1,190,000
Resource Planning	\$1,541,876	\$6,462,437	\$8,004,313
Total	\$3,324,876	\$7,282,437	\$10,607,313

Thanks to grant and partner contributions, the department will leverage the \$3.324 million county investment by over \$7 million, resulting in a total investment of \$10.6 million. These grant and partner funding sources include:

- Natural Resource Conservation Service grants of \$240,000 to Ag tenants on three properties for center pivot sprinklers
- Boulder County Parks & Open Space Foundation \$25,000 grant for the Prescott Wetlands restoration project

- Colorado Division of Mining and Safety grant of \$227,500 for the Conger Mine restoration
- Colorado State Forest Service - Incentive for Local Government grant of \$327,500 for the Riverside Ranch Fuels Reduction project
- History Colorado State Historical Fund \$30,000 grant for Tucker Cabin rehabilitation construction documents
- Grants from the Mile High Flood District (\$2M), Colorado Water Conservation Board (\$250,000) and FEMA (\$429,068) for the Howell Ditch Diversion Upgrade, along with support from partner and co-owner City of Boulder Utilities Dept. (\$900,000)
- A FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant of \$2,833,365 is anticipated through the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management for the Prince Lake No. 1 Dam Retrofit Project

Staff welcomes your questions and comments about the projects proposed for the coming year and request your recommendation for approval to the Board of County Commissioners.

POSAC Action Requested

Recommendation to the Boulder County Commissioners for approval of 2024 Capital and Stewardship Projects as described above and as further described by staff at the POSAC meeting.

Suggested motion language: I move approval of the 2024 Capital and Stewardship Projects as staff has described.

Attachment

A. 2024 Parks & Open Space Capital and Stewardship Projects Summary and Descriptions

2024 Parks & Open Space Capital and Stewardship Project Details

Capital & Stewardship Projects		Boulder County	Grant/ Partner	Total
Ag Resources				
1	Hygiene Dairy Pipeline	\$88,000	\$0	\$88,000
2	Deberry Revegetation and Bridge	\$85,000	\$0	\$85,000
3	Canino 7M Center Pivots	\$80,000	\$100,000	\$180,000
4	IBM Center Pivots	\$60,000	\$70,000	\$130,000
5	Warner Center Pivot	\$50,000	\$70,000	\$120,000
6	Goodhue Ditch Diversion Reconstruction	\$38,000	\$0	\$38,000
Ag Subtotal		\$401,000	\$240,000	\$641,000
Recreation & Facilities				
1	Legend Ridge Trail Resurfacing	\$250,000	\$0	\$250,000
2	Boulder Canyon Trail Retaining Structure	\$90,000	\$0	\$90,000
3	Sign Standards Update for 500 Permanent Signs	\$75,000	\$0	\$75,000
4	Harney-Lastoka Garage Reroof	\$75,000	\$0	\$75,000
5	Hall Ranch - Nelson Loop Bridge Decking	\$65,000	\$0	\$65,000
6	Hall Ranch - Access Road Upgrade	\$62,000	\$0	\$62,000
7	Hall Ranch - TH improvements	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
8	Trailhead and Facilities ADA Compliance Upgrades	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
9	Anne U. White Restroom	\$55,000	\$0	\$55,000
RAF Subtotal		\$772,000	\$0	\$772,000
Resource Management				
1	Wheeler Ranch Russian Olive Removal	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000
2	Prescott Wetland Restoration - Construction Phase	\$65,000	\$25,000	\$90,000
3	Sherwood Creek Restoration at the Conger Mine	\$62,500	\$227,500	\$290,000
4	Carolyn Holmberg Preserve/Rock Creek Farm Native Grassland Seeding	\$35,000	\$0	\$35,000
5	Assay Office Museum Master Plan Phase 1	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
6	Riverside Ranch Fuels Reduction Project (component of Phase 2: SVFHPP)	\$327,500	\$327,500	\$655,000
RM CAST Subtotal		\$610,000	\$580,000	\$1,190,000
Resource Planning				
1	Parks HQ Outdoor Shelter	\$225,000	\$0	\$225,000
2	Lagerman Trailhead Expansion	\$150,000	\$0	\$150,000
3	Stearns Lake Parking Lot Expansion	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000
4	Adaptive Management for Multi-Objective Stream Projects	\$74,580	\$0	\$74,580
5	Ethel Harrold Design & Engineering	\$70,000	\$0	\$70,000
6	Indigenous Ways Land Commitment: Web Pages + Educator	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
7	S. St. Vrain Creek Restoration	\$45,000	\$0	\$45,000
8	Tucker Cabin Asbestos Abatement	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
9	Tucker Cabin Construction Documents	\$15,000	\$50,000	\$65,000
10	Cardinal Mill Lightning Strike prevention	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000
11	Prairie Run infrastructure Year 1	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000
12	Howell Ditch Diversion	\$61,296	\$3,579,068	\$3,640,364
13	Prince Lake #1 Dam Rehabilitation	\$216,000	\$2,833,369	\$3,049,369
RP CAST Subtotal		\$1,541,876	\$6,462,437	\$8,004,313
CAST TOTAL		\$3,324,876	\$7,282,437	\$10,607,313

Agricultural Resources Division: Agriculture and Water

1. Hygiene Dairy Pipeline: install 1,500' new pipeline to minimize current 50% water loss in ditch that is difficult to maintain.
2. Deberry revegetation and bridge: The Deberry property is a dryland grazing property that has been severely degraded with prairie dog activity and overgrazing compounding a depleted native seedbank, a history of soil erosion, and limited water availability. The property needs a new bridge over the New Ish Ditch to maintain safe access to the entire property and a full revegetation plan.
3. Canino 7M Center Pivots: 2 new pivots to increase efficiency and yield and reduce flooding on private property in the middle of the field; also decrease maintenance on 1000s of feet of open dirt ditches.
4. IBM Center Pivots: install 2 new center pivot sprinklers to increase efficiency and vegetation, improve prairie dog control and decrease ditch maintenance.
5. Warner Center Pivot: replace flood irrigation with pivot to improve efficiency of water use.
6. Goodhue Ditch Diversion Reconstruction- Warembourg Louisville: replace Goodhue diversion structure as requested by Goodhue Ditch Supervisor. Includes removing old structure and ditch regrading.

Recreation and Facilities Projects: Trails, Buildings and Historic Preservation, Grounds, Urban Forestry

1. Legend Ridge Trail Resurfacing: The Legend Ridge Trail in Niwot is due for substantial maintenance. Resurfacing the entire 1.5 mile loop with 4" of recycled asphalt is recommended due to the steep grades in sections. The project may include installing culverts, ditches, and/or swales to catch and divert the water in the most impacted sections.
2. Boulder Canyon Trail Retaining Structure: A short section of the Boulder Canyon Trail is eroding badly creating a steep drop-off into Boulder Creek, causing a safety hazard. In 2023 the department contracted an engineering firm to design a retaining structure to address this issue. In 2024 the department will seek qualified contractors to build and install the structure. The structure will be approximately 40 feet long and 2 feet high and will be in the flood way with necessary permits secured.
3. Sign Standards Update for 500 Permanent Signs: Year one of a four-year plan to implement the Sign Standards and Messaging Manual. The plan is to install approximately 500 new signs each year. Updates include regulatory, wayfinding, warning, and accolades at parking and access points as well as along trails. Not included are interpretive trailside signs. POS Sign Inventory to be updated: Carolyn Holmberg Preserve, Walker Ranch, Twin Lakes, Bald Mountain, Grassytop, Kerr Gardens, Dodd Lake, Cardinal Mill, and AHC.
4. Harney-Lastoka Garage Reroof: Repair and replace shingles, cedar breather and underlayment. This garage is not only historic to the Harney Lastoka property but it is used

daily by the current ag tenant for their operations running the 7th Generation Farm. The current roof system is failing due to the nails which secure the shingles being rusted away.

5. Hall Ranch - Nelson Loop Bridge Decking: The bridge on the Nelson Loop at Hall Ranch is approaching 30 years old and is extremely weathered. The railings and decking need replacement before it becomes a safety hazard.
6. Hall Ranch Access Road Upgrade: This project will upgrade the Hall Ranch Access Road to improve the drainage, road surface, and functionality; many sections have eroded and need repair to reduce further damage to the road, allow reasonable vehicle access, and minimize the impacts to surrounding area.
7. Hall Ranch Trailhead improvements: Water pooling in parking spots has caused wood timbers to deteriorate over time. The project will replace wood parking timbers with new standard stone curbing for sustainability and to improve drainage in the upper and lower trailheads. Stone curbing is a more sustainable product and will be installed with drainage gaps which would prevent water pooling. The trailhead access road will also be reengineered in areas to improve drainage. Engineering is being completed in 2023. Demolition, grading, and installation will be completed in 2024.
8. Trailhead and Facilities ADA Compliance Updates: A county-driven review of facilities concluded that 1,000 specific items need to be addressed at BCPOS trailheads to meet ADA compliance. While no specific timeline was required, the county has asked the department to make progress toward addressing these issues. This funding would provide needed material as well as support from a contractor to address nearly 25% of the issues on the list.
9. Anne U. White Trailhead Restroom: This capital project will complete upgrades to the AUW trail and trailhead necessitated by the 2013 flood by installing a restroom. The restroom will be different from our typical design in that it will be a prefabricated concrete structure that will be more resilient to flood impacts. Land Survey work in 2019 identified a location at the trailhead suitable for the restroom in the floodplain. A retaining wall was built in 2023 and the restroom installation will be complete in 2024.

Resource Management Division: Forestry, Plant Ecology, Public Education, Wildlife, and Weeds

1. Wheeler Ranch Russian Olive Removal: There are 2,500 to 3,000 Russian Olive trees identified on Wheeler Ranch Property, primarily along the Boulder Creek riparian corridor. This project would allow for a multi-year removal program of this State List B Weed (List B = Management for control of spreading) and the re-establishment of native riparian trees, shrubs, and vegetation within the riparian corridor. This stewardship project involves removal followed by stump treatment to prevent regrowth of approximately 25%-30% of existing trees through contracted services.
2. Prescott Wetland Restoration: Construction Phase, continued from 2023: This project aims to restore a high quality wetland on the Prescott II property that was historically ditched. The ditch caused a lowering of the groundwater on the site and a subsequent negative impact to the

associated fen vegetation community. Design was completed in 2023. This phase will fund the construction. The wetland has deep, organic peat soils that are highly important for carbon sequestration, and one of the most diverse plant communities found in the recent County-wide wetland assessment. The Boulder County Parks & Open Space Foundation is granting \$25,000 to this project.

3. Sherwood Creek Restoration at the Conger Mine: Restoring Sherwood Creek and the Conger Mine site has long been a target for the Department. We are working with the Colorado State Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, to restore a 735 foot stretch of Sherwood Creek, 185 feet of which is completely buried in mining overburden. The DRMS will provide the majority of funding and manage the contract, design, permitting, and construction. POS staff will provide design input, revegetation planting and seeding specifications. Surveys and design work were completed in 2023. The requested funds will be used as a match to the construction and revegetation work (excluding design costs), anticipated for the fall of 2024.
4. Carolyn Holmberg Preserve at Rock Creek Farm (CHP/RCF) Native Grassland Seeding: As part of the recent CHP/RCF Management Plan process, approximately 125 acres of the property were identified for restoring native grassland to promote wildlife habitat and eventual grazing use by the tenant. Staff is working on weed control and cover cropping before seeding to native grasses and forbs in 2024. Work would be completed by staff and/or tenant.
5. Assay Office Museum (AOM) Master Interpretive Plan Phase 1: The 2023 Master Museum Interpretive Plan for AOM identified the tremendous educational opportunity outside the museum through informal experiences. Enhancing amenities in the picnic area and front lawn of AOM will not only provide more space for museum visitors to learn about the area's history, but also for those who travel up Fourmile Canyon when the museum is closed. The improvements include enhancing the picnic area with crusher fine material, two- to four picnic tables, two bike racks, interpretive signs that include cast molding of mining artifacts, added benches for seating and updated exterior interpretive signs to provide a welcoming experience.
6. Riverside Ranch Fuels Reduction Project (component of Phase 2: SVFHPP): Riverside Ranch is a 560 acre property that was acquired by Boulder County in 1990, with an additional 80 acre parcel referred to as the Hansen Property added in 2000. It is an integral component of the Saint Vrain Forest Health Partnership's focus treatment areas within the St. Vrain Watershed. This ~250 ac. fuels reduction project will build on prior work on the adjoining landscape, and further mitigate future impacts from wildland fire to Ralph Price Reservoir, Longmont's Municipal water supply. A grant from the Colorado State Forest Service - Incentive for Local Government is funding the project.

Resource Planning Division: Planning, Project Management and Design, Cultural Resources, Data Solutions, GIS

1. Parks HQ Outdoor Shelter: The Parks and Open Space building hosts numerous community, volunteer, and staff events throughout the year designed to promote the mission of BCPOS. This shelter house on the grounds of Parks will host Youth Corps and volunteer trainings, public celebrations, public meetings, events, and staff gatherings.
2. Lagerman Trailhead Expansion: Expand and modify trailhead with particular attention to horse trailer and boat trailer parking spaces. We will create a more user-friendly design to

allow equestrian trailers, vehicles, and pedestrians to move in a safe manner when entering and exiting the parking lot. This project was previously funded through CAST in 2020 but postponed due to the pandemic.

3. Stearns Lake Parking Lot Expansion: This project will expand the current trailhead to add an additional eleven parking spaces to the main trailhead.
4. Adaptive Management for Multi-Objective Stream Projects: This is a request to continue Adaptive Management for two recent stream restoration projects: the Niwot Fish Passage on the Golden Fredstrom property downstream of Pella Crossing, and the Longmont Supply Passage, on the Western Mobile 2 property. When BCPOS invests in stream projects with many stakeholders, multi-year attention is crucial to achieve goals, learn lessons, and to maintain relationships. We aim to support project successes, including carbon sequestration, while minimizing impacts on staff and budget. These types of projects require long-term support: year 0-2 watering/weeding, warranty/permits & Operations and Information Management (OIM) plan development; years 2-4 multi-aspect monitoring; years 5+ monitoring to continue informed, purposeful and strategic management.
5. Ethel Harrold Design & Engineering: This project provides engineering and design work for the Ethel Harrold parking lot and restroom infrastructure upgrades. A full redesign is needed to promote visitor interaction and help reduce yearly maintenance due to poor drainage. The restroom at Ethel Harrold will need to be demolished and rebuilt per our mountain restroom standards and to be compliant with ADA standards.
6. Indigenous Ways Land Commitment: web pages + educator: The IWLC Team has been developing a Parks & Open Space Land Commitment informed by three Indigenous Principles: Natural Reason, The Collective, and The Futures, to bolster and guide POS decisions about the land we steward. The Land Commitment includes a departmental commitment to educate staff and subsequent inclusion of these three Indigenous Principles. Funding will be used to develop a public-facing website, create an internal SharePoint site, and hire an Indigenous educator to help staff learn and to fold these concepts into their goals and work plans (inclusions). Providing resources for staff is instrumental to the success of this effort.
7. South St. Vrain Creek Restoration at Hall Ranch 2: Engineering, design and permitting for the stream restoration project will continue in 2024. In addition to completing 80% design, planned tasks include initiating a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) application with FEMA for work in the floodplain and seeking preliminary county land use approval of the project.
8. Tucker Cabin Asbestos Abatement: The Tucker Cabin asbestos abatement project will develop a RFP to hire one of the continuing services asbestos abatement contractors to remove the asbestos containing material in the cabin's living room ceiling. Terracon Consultants completed the asbestos testing in June 2022 and confirmed the presence of asbestos containing materials. This project is important to complete in 2024 in advance of any future rehabilitation work (tentatively projected to start in 2025-2026) in order to remove the asbestos containing material and provide a safe working environment for contractors and staff.

9. Tucker Cabin Construction Documents: The Tucker Cabin project is a request for cash match funds to leverage with an October 2023 State Historical Fund (SHF) grant award to complete architectural and structural construction documents. This is a once a year grant opportunity that is the next strategic step towards addressing the building's serious structural deficiencies after the SHF historic structure assessment grant is completed at the end of 2022. The BOCC landmarked the cabin in 2021 for its historic architectural significance. The construction documents are critical to have completed before applying for future rehabilitation grants due to the extremely competitive grant program.
10. Cardinal Mill Lightning Strike prevention: The Cardinal Mill Lightning Protection System will hire a contractor to install a lightning protection system on the building in order to safeguard against a lightning strike initiated fire. A lightning protection system is designed to intercept a lightning strike, provide a conductive path for the harmful electrical discharge to follow and disperse the energy safely into the ground. As the department's most costly historic preservation project at over \$1M, the small cost of a lightning protection system provides an effective mitigation measure to defer a lightning initiated fire that could damage or destroy the building.
11. Prairie Run (East Boulder Creek) Site Implementation: Begin permitting and design based on forthcoming approval of the Prairie Run Site Management Plan.
12. Howell Ditch Diversion and Boulder Creek Restoration: install a new water diversion structure and water delivery system on the Howell Ditch (Doniphan property) as mandated by the Colorado Division of Water Resources. Along with the new infrastructure, one-half mile of Boulder Creek will be restored to improve ditch functioning and creek resiliency. The project funding of \$61,296 is a cash match for the \$429,068 FEMA grant. The City of Boulder Utilities Department is contributing \$900,000, and the project is also receiving partner funding of about \$2M from the Mile High Flood District and a grant of \$250,000 from the Colorado Water Conservation Board.
13. Prince Lake No. 1 Dam Rehabilitation: the hazard rating of the dam at Prince Lake No. 1 (Eddy property) was increased by the State Engineers Office (SEO) from low hazard to significant hazard. Rehabilitation of the dam is required to comply with the SEO's dam safety rules. Grant funding of \$2,833,365 is being secured through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to offset 75% of the total estimated cost of the project of \$3,777,820.00.