

Parks & Open Space

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PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Time/Date of Meeting: 6:30 p.m., Thursday, June 27, 2024 Location: Boulder County Courthouse

1325 Pearl Street, Third Floor, Boulder

TO: Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee

FROM/PRESENTER: Mike Foster, Agricultural Resources Division Manager

AGENDA ITEM: Update on Soil Health Activities

ACTION REQUESTED: Information Only

The Agriculture and Water Resources Division within Parks & Open Space (POS) manages approximately 25,000 acres of agricultural land and leases them to private farmers/ranchers to help steward those properties.

A significant focus of the Division has been on improving soil health on BCPOS leased agricultural properties and will be for the foreseeable future. Staff will provide an overview of soil health and some of the key activities the Division is doing to advance this work.

Since this effort began in 2023, nearly \$800,000 in grants and pilot efforts have been invested on 4,200 acres of ag lands. Some of the key initiatives include: application of compost on approximately 1,400 acres, growing cover crops on 600 acres and installing approximately 2 miles of fencing to facilitate livestock grazing.

Staff will provide additional details about some of the key accomplishments and early trends in this effort.